

Sustainable Festivals in Urban Spaces: Evaluating the Environmental and Socio-Cultural Impact of Detty December

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Abstract

Detty December has become a major urban festival season in Lagos, Nigeria, attracting residents, diaspora visitors, tourists, artists, vendors, and hospitality operators. While the season promotes Nigerian music, fashion, food, nightlife, tourism, and creative entrepreneurship, it also raises concerns about traffic congestion, waste generation, noise disturbance, affordability, and environmental governance. This study evaluated the environmental and socio-cultural impacts of Detty December and examined support for sustainable festival policy. A quantitative descriptive survey design was adopted using data from 350 respondents who were familiar with, participated in, or were affected by Detty December activities. Data were analyzed using frequencies, percentages, odds ratios, and significance tests. Findings show that respondents strongly perceived Detty December as culturally and economically valuable, especially in promoting Nigerian culture, strengthening Lagos's entertainment image, creating opportunities for creatives, and increasing local business income. However, traffic congestion, plastic waste, litter, air pollution, inadequate recycling facilities, noise, and diesel-generator dependence were major concerns. The study concludes that Detty December should be managed as a sustainable urban festival system through waste control, cleaner energy, traffic planning, community consultation, local vendor inclusion, and post-event reporting.

Keywords: Detty December; sustainable festivals; Lagos; urban tourism; environmental impact; socio-cultural impact.

1. Introduction

Urban festivals have become important features of contemporary city life because they

support cultural expression, tourism development, entertainment, creative entrepreneurship, and social interaction. In many urban centres, festivals are no longer viewed only as leisure activities; they are also used to promote city identity, attract visitors, stimulate local businesses, and strengthen cultural visibility. However, the rapid growth of urban festivals has also raised sustainability concerns, particularly in cities where transport systems, waste management, public safety, energy supply, housing, and environmental regulation are already under pressure. As a result, the sustainability of festivals has become an important subject in tourism, urban planning, cultural studies, and environmental management. Sustainable tourism requires a balance between economic, socio-cultural, and environmental dimensions. According to UN Tourism, sustainable tourism should consider the present and future economic, social, and environmental impacts of tourism while addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities (UN Tourism, n.d.). This perspective is relevant to urban festivals because festivals generate both benefits and costs. On the positive side, they can create income, employment, tourism demand, cultural pride, social bonding, and international visibility. On the negative side, they may contribute to traffic congestion, noise pollution, solid waste generation, plastic pollution, high energy consumption, public safety challenges, overcrowding, and social exclusion.

Detty December in Lagos, Nigeria, provides a useful case for examining the sustainability of urban festivals. Detty December refers to the end-of-year festive season characterized by concerts, nightlife, beach events, food and fashion experiences, cultural gatherings, tourism activities, and diaspora homecoming.

Unlike a conventional festival with a single organizer, venue, or programme, Detty December is a decentralized urban festival season made up of many events and activities across Lagos. It has become strongly associated with Afrobeats, youth culture, entertainment, hospitality, nightlife, and the return of Nigerians in the diaspora during the December period. Recent descriptions of the season present Lagos as a major destination for diaspora visitors and entertainment consumers during Detty December (Nigerian Bulletin, 2025). The growth of Detty December reflects the rising global visibility of Nigerian popular culture, particularly music, fashion, food, nightlife, and creative entrepreneurship. It also strengthens the image of Lagos as one of Africa's leading cultural and entertainment cities. For many visitors, especially Nigerians in the diaspora, Detty December functions as a period of reconnection with family, culture, identity, and social networks. For local businesses, the season creates opportunities for hotels, restaurants, transport operators, vendors, event planners, artists, DJs, photographers, security workers, and informal service providers. Reports on the Lagos festive economy suggest that Detty December contributes to increased tourism activity, entertainment spending, and wider commercial visibility for the city (Common Edge, 2025). Despite these benefits, Detty December also creates environmental and socio-cultural challenges. The concentration of people, vehicles, events, and consumption during the festive period can increase traffic congestion, fuel use, air pollution, waste generation, noise disturbance, and pressure on beaches, roads, and public spaces. In addition, the rising cost of tickets, accommodation, transport, food, and entertainment may exclude many ordinary residents from participating fully in the festival season. Therefore, while Detty December promotes culture and economic activity, it also raises questions about environmental responsibility, affordability, community well-being, urban governance, and inclusive access. International event sustainability frameworks provide useful guidance for addressing such concerns. ISO 20121:2024 emphasizes the need for event sustainability management systems that improve the social, economic, and environmental performance of events

(International Organization for Standardization, 2024). Applying this type of framework to Detty December is important because the season is commercially driven, spatially dispersed, and shaped by many private and public actors. Without coordinated sustainability planning, the negative impacts of individual events may accumulate into wider urban problems affecting residents, businesses, visitors, and the environment. This study therefore evaluates the environmental and socio-cultural impact of Detty December in Lagos, Nigeria. It examines respondents' perceptions of waste generation, traffic congestion, noise disturbance, air pollution, cultural promotion, economic benefits, affordability, governance, and support for sustainable festival policies. The study argues that Detty December should not be understood only as a period of entertainment, but as an urban festival system that requires sustainable planning, inclusive management, and effective policy coordination. The objectives of the study are to assess the perceived environmental impacts of Detty December in Lagos, examine its socio-cultural and economic contributions, identify governance and urban-management concerns associated with the festival season, and determine the level of support for sustainable Detty December policy. By addressing these objectives, the study contributes to existing discussions on sustainable festivals, urban tourism, creative economies, cultural policy, and environmental governance in African cities.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Sustainable Tourism and Urban Festivals

Sustainable tourism provides the foundation for evaluating the impact of urban festivals. It emphasizes the need to balance economic benefits, socio-cultural values, and environmental protection while meeting the needs of visitors, host communities, tourism operators, and the environment (UN Tourism, n.d.). This is important because festivals can promote local culture, attract visitors, stimulate business activity, and strengthen community identity, but they can also create waste, congestion, noise, pollution, and pressure on public infrastructure (UN DESA, n.d.; UNEP, n.d.). Urban festivals are

increasingly used as tools for city branding and tourism development. They help cities present themselves as creative, attractive, and culturally vibrant destinations (Richards & Palmer, 2010). However, the rapid growth of festival tourism has also increased concerns about environmental management, social inclusion, and resident well-being (Mair & Laing, 2016). In this regard, sustainable festival planning requires more than successful event organization; it also requires attention to long-term environmental, social, and community outcomes (Getz, 2010).

2.2 Event Sustainability and Management Standards

Event sustainability involves planning and managing festivals in ways that reduce negative impacts and increase positive contributions. ISO 20121:2024 provides guidance for event sustainability management systems and encourages organizers to improve the social, economic, and environmental performance of events (International Organization for Standardization, 2024). This standard is useful for festivals because it promotes responsible planning, stakeholder engagement, environmental reporting, and continuous improvement. Sustainable event management includes waste reduction, recycling, responsible procurement, energy efficiency, public transport planning, water conservation, safety, and community participation (Jones, 2018). These practices are particularly important in large urban festivals where activities are spread across different venues and involve many actors. For a decentralized festival season such as Detty December, sustainability requires coordination among government agencies, event organizers, venue owners, residents, vendors, transport operators, and waste-management providers (Laing & Frost, 2010).

2.3 Environmental Impacts of Festivals

Environmental impact is one of the most important concerns in festival studies. Festivals can generate solid waste, food waste, plastic bottles, disposable cups, packaging materials, noise pollution, traffic congestion, and carbon emissions (Mair & Laing, 2016). These effects are often intensified when events attract large crowds and depend heavily on road transport, temporary infrastructure, and

energy-intensive sound and lighting systems. Waste management is a major sustainability challenge because many festivals involve high consumption of food, drinks, branded materials, and single-use packaging (Zorpas et al., 2018). Poor waste-management systems can lead to littering, blocked drains, environmental pollution, and additional pressure on municipal waste services. Transport-related emissions are also important because festival attendees often rely on private cars, taxis, ride-hailing services, or air travel, all of which contribute to congestion and air pollution (Collins et al., 2009). In cities such as Lagos, where traffic congestion is already a major urban problem, festival-related mobility can further increase environmental pressure. Noise is another major festival-related issue. Concerts, clubs, beach parties, generators, and crowd movement may disturb nearby residents and reduce quality of life. Therefore, sustainable festivals require noise control, zoning, timing regulations, clean energy alternatives, and stronger post-event environmental responsibility (Gössling et al., 2012).

2.4 Socio-cultural Impacts of Festivals

Festivals create spaces for cultural expression, social interaction, identity formation, and community pride. They allow people to celebrate music, food, fashion, dance, heritage, and shared values (Derrett, 2003). Research shows that festivals can improve residents' well-being by strengthening social bonds, local identity, and cultural pride (Kim et al., 2016). In this sense, festivals are not only economic activities; they also perform important social and cultural functions. However, socio-cultural impacts can also be negative. Festivals may create overcrowding, exclusion, cultural commodification, anti-social behaviour, public safety concerns, and tension between visitors and residents (Fredline et al., 2003). If local residents experience the costs of festivals without sharing in their benefits, their support may decline (Yolal et al., 2016). This is especially relevant to Detty December because residents near event locations may face traffic, noise, waste, and price increases, while the main benefits may go to event organizers, hospitality businesses, and high-income participants.

2.5 Economic and Creative Economy Contributions

Festivals can contribute significantly to local economies. They increase demand for hotels, restaurants, transport, food vendors, fashion, event planning, security, photography, and entertainment services (Getz & Page, 2016). They also create opportunities for artists, DJs, performers, designers, content creators, and informal workers. In creative cities, festivals can support cultural industries and strengthen the visibility of local talent (Richards, 2011).

Detty December is strongly connected to Lagos's creative economy because it is associated with Afrobeats, nightlife, fashion, food, celebrity culture, and diaspora tourism. The season attracts local residents, domestic visitors, and Nigerians in the diaspora, thereby increasing demand for entertainment, accommodation, transportation, and hospitality services (Common Edge, 2025; Nigerian Bulletin, 2025). However, the economic benefits of festivals may not be evenly distributed. High ticket prices, transport fares, accommodation costs, and luxury-oriented events can exclude ordinary residents and deepen inequality (The Guardian, 2026). Therefore, festival sustainability must include questions of affordability, local vendor participation, and fair distribution of benefits.

2.6 Detty December as an Urban Festival Season

Detty December differs from a conventional festival because it is not a single event with one organizer, one venue, or one programme. It is a seasonal cluster of concerts, nightlife activities, beach events, food and fashion experiences, private parties, cultural gatherings, and tourism activities across Lagos. This makes it an urban festival ecosystem rather than a traditional festival. The season reflects the global growth of Nigerian popular culture, especially Afrobeats, fashion, food, nightlife, and youth creativity. It also strengthens Lagos's image as one of Africa's leading entertainment cities (Teen Vogue, 2023; Forbes Africa, 2025). For many diaspora Nigerians, Detty December functions as a homecoming period that connects identity, family, culture, leisure, and social networks (Black Enterprise, 2025). However, because the season is decentralized and commercially driven, it presents governance challenges

related to traffic, waste, safety, noise, public order, environmental regulation, and community engagement.

2.7 Literature Gap

The literature shows that festivals can generate cultural, social, and economic benefits, but they can also create environmental and governance challenges. Existing studies have examined sustainable tourism, event sustainability, festival impacts, community well-being, and cultural tourism (Getz, 2010; Kim et al., 2016; Mair & Laing, 2016; Yolal et al., 2016). However, limited academic attention has been given to Detty December as a distinctive urban festival season in Lagos. Most discussions of Detty December focus on entertainment, tourism, diaspora return, and economic activity, while fewer studies examine its environmental pressures, socio-cultural effects, governance issues, and public support for sustainability policy. This study addresses that gap by evaluating Detty December through the lens of sustainable urban festival development, with attention to waste, traffic, noise, cultural identity, economic benefits, affordability, governance, and support for a sustainable festival policy.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted a quantitative descriptive survey design to examine the environmental and socio-cultural impacts of Detty December in Lagos, Nigeria. The design was suitable because the study focused on measuring respondents' perceptions of festival-related impacts, including waste generation, traffic congestion, noise disturbance, cultural promotion, economic benefits, governance concerns, and support for sustainable festival policy. Detty December was treated as an urban festival season rather than a single event because it consists of several concerts, nightlife activities, beach events, food and fashion experiences, private parties, cultural gatherings, and tourism-related activities held across Lagos during the December festive period.

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Lagos State, Nigeria. Lagos was selected because it is one of Nigeria's major commercial, tourism,

entertainment, and cultural centres. It is also one of the main locations where Detty December activities take place. The study focused on areas commonly associated with Detty December events and activities, including Lekki, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Oniru, Ikeja, Surulere, Yaba, Ajah, and other parts of Mainland Lagos. These areas were considered relevant because they host or experience the effects of concerts, nightlife events, hospitality activities, traffic movement, tourism visits, and other December entertainment activities.

3.3 Population of the Study

The population of the study consisted of individuals who were familiar with, participated in, or were affected by Detty December activities in Lagos. This included event attendees, Lagos residents living near event zones, vendors, business owners, hospitality workers, transport workers, event staff, security personnel, diaspora visitors, tourists, and individuals with knowledge of the environmental and socio-cultural effects of the festival season. This population was appropriate because Detty December affects different groups in different ways. Attendees may experience the entertainment and cultural value of the season, while residents may experience traffic, noise, waste, and crowding. Vendors, transport operators, and hospitality workers may experience the economic benefits of the period.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The study used a sample size of 350 respondents. This sample size was considered adequate for descriptive analysis and association testing. Respondents were selected using purposive and convenience sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was used because the study required participants who had knowledge or experience of Detty December activities in Lagos. Convenience sampling was used because respondents were accessed through available online and physical channels. Respondents were included in the study if they had attended Detty December events, lived near event locations, worked in sectors affected by the season, or had observed its environmental, social, cultural, or economic effects. Respondents who were not familiar with Detty December were excluded from the study.

3.5 Instrument for Data Collection

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to measure respondents' perceptions of the environmental, socio-cultural, economic, governance, and sustainability dimensions of Detty December. The questionnaire contained sections on socio-demographic characteristics, Detty December participation profile, perceived environmental impact, socio-cultural perception, economic perception, governance and urban management, and support for sustainable festival policy. The perception-based items were measured using a five-point Likert scale, where 1 represented strongly disagree, 2 represented disagree, 3 represented neutral, 4 represented agree, and 5 represented strongly agree.

3.6 Measurement of Variables

The dependent variable in the study was support for sustainable Detty December policy. This was measured through respondents' agreement with statements relating to the need for cleaner energy, waste reduction, recycling, traffic planning, noise control, local vendor inclusion, post-event clean-up, and a Lagos Sustainable Festival Policy. The independent variables included perceived environmental impact, perceived socio-cultural benefit, perceived economic benefit, governance perception, demographic characteristics, and participation profile. Environmental impact was measured through indicators such as waste generation, plastic pollution, traffic congestion, air pollution, noise disturbance, inadequate recycling points, diesel-generator dependence, and pressure on outdoor spaces. Socio-cultural impact was measured through indicators such as cultural promotion, Lagos's image as an entertainment city, diaspora interaction, creative opportunities, affordability, and social inclusion. Economic impact was measured through business income, temporary jobs, vendor opportunities, tourism activity, price increases, and benefits to hospitality and transport services.

3.7 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The questionnaire was developed based on themes from sustainable tourism, festival sustainability, urban event management, and

socio-cultural impact studies. To ensure content validity, the questionnaire items were aligned with the objectives of the study and reviewed to confirm that they adequately covered the key variables. The instrument was also checked for clarity, relevance, and suitability for respondents from different backgrounds. Ambiguous or repetitive items were revised before data collection. Reliability was supported by grouping related Likert-scale items under the main constructs of environmental impact, socio-cultural impact, economic impact, governance perception, and sustainability support. Where raw respondent-level data are available, Cronbach's alpha may be used to test internal consistency, with a value of 0.70 or above considered acceptable for social science research.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire was administered to respondents who had direct or indirect experience of Detty December in Lagos. Data collection was carried out through online and physical distribution methods. Online distribution helped reach attendees, diaspora visitors, and young urban respondents, while physical or direct distribution helped capture residents, vendors, transport workers, and other stakeholders around event-prone areas. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the study before participating. Participation was voluntary, and no personal identifying information was collected.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, were used to present respondents' socio-demographic characteristics, participation profile, and perceptions of Detty December's environmental, socio-cultural, economic, and governance impacts. Inferential analysis was used to examine associations between selected variables and support for sustainable Detty December policy. The study assessed whether factors such as age, respondent category, number of events attended, perceived environmental impact, perceived socio-cultural benefit, perceived economic benefit, traffic concern, noise concern, and support for regulation were associated with support for sustainable festival measures.

The results were interpreted using p-values, with $p < 0.05$ considered statistically significant. Odds ratios were used where applicable to explain the strength and direction of association between predictor variables and support for sustainable Detty December.

3.10 Model Specification

The study examined support for sustainable Detty December policy as the main outcome variable. The model assumes that respondents' support for sustainability measures is influenced by environmental concerns, socio-cultural benefits, economic benefits, governance perceptions, demographic characteristics, and participation profile. The model is expressed as:

$$SSP = f(\text{ENV, SOC, ECO, GOV, DEM, PAR})$$

Where SSP represents support for sustainable festival policy, ENV represents perceived environmental impact, SOC represents perceived socio-cultural benefit, ECO represents perceived economic benefit, GOV represents governance and regulation perception, DEM represents demographic characteristics, and PAR represents participation profile.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The study followed basic ethical principles for social research. Respondents were informed that participation was voluntary and that their responses would be used only for academic purposes. The questionnaire did not request names, phone numbers, addresses, or other sensitive personal information. All responses were treated confidentially and reported in aggregate form. Respondents also had the right to decline participation or withdraw at any stage of the data collection process.

3.12 Limitation of the Methodology

The study relied on respondents' perceptions, which may be influenced by personal experience, memory, location, and level of involvement in Detty December activities. The use of purposive and convenience sampling also means that the findings may not fully represent the views of all Lagos residents. Another limitation is that the study focused mainly on survey-based perception data rather than direct environmental measurements such as actual waste volume, carbon emissions, traffic counts, or noise-level readings. Future

studies should combine survey data with environmental audits, geospatial mapping, field observation, and direct measurement of festival-related impacts.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. A total of 350 respondents participated in the study. The findings show that the largest age group was 25–34 years, representing 40.6% of the respondents, followed by those aged 18–24 years, representing 23.4%. This indicates that the respondents were mainly young adults, which is expected because Detty December

activities are strongly associated with youth culture, nightlife, concerts, tourism, and entertainment.

The gender distribution was fairly balanced, with males representing 49.7% and females representing 48.0%. In terms of education, most respondents had tertiary education, as bachelor's degree/HND holders accounted for 44.3%, while master's degree holders represented 23.1%. This suggests that most respondents had sufficient educational background to understand issues relating to urban festivals, sustainability, and environmental management.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

| Variable | Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Age group | 18–24 | 82 | 23.4% |
| | 25–34 | 142 | 40.6% |
| | 35–44 | 70 | 20.0% |
| | 45–54 | 35 | 10.0% |
| | 55 and above | 21 | 6.0% |
| Gender | Male | 174 | 49.7% |
| | Female | 168 | 48.0% |
| | Prefer not to say/Other | 8 | 2.3% |
| Educational level | Secondary school | 42 | 12.0% |
| | OND/NCE | 55 | 15.7% |
| | Bachelor's degree/HND | 155 | 44.3% |
| | Master's degree | 81 | 23.1% |
| | PhD/Other | 17 | 4.9% |
| Employment status | Student | 55 | 15.7% |
| | Employed | 116 | 33.1% |
| | Self-employed/business owner | 92 | 26.3% |
| | Hospitality/transport/event worker | 52 | 14.9% |
| | Unemployed/Other | 35 | 10.0% |

4.2 Detty December Participation Profile

Table 2 shows respondents' participation profile. Attendees formed the largest group, accounting for 36.6% of the sample. Residents living near event zones represented 29.7%, while vendors and business owners accounted for 13.7%. This shows that the study captured the views of both those who directly participate in Detty December and those who are affected by the activities around them. Most respondents had direct experience of the festival season. About 48.6% attended 1–2 events, while 38.6% attended 3–5 events.

Concerts and music festivals were the most common event type, representing 30.0%, followed by nightlife and club parties at 22.3%. Ride-hailing and taxis were the most used transport mode, reported by 34.0% of respondents, followed by private cars at 27.4%. This suggests that Detty December depends heavily on road-based mobility, which may contribute to traffic congestion and emissions.

Table 2: Detty December participation profile of respondents

| Variable | Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Connection to Detty December | Attendee | 128 | 36.6% |
| | Lagos resident near event zones | 104 | 29.7% |
| | Vendor/business owner | 48 | 13.7% |
| | Hospitality/transport worker | 36 | 10.3% |
| | Diaspora visitor/tourist | 24 | 6.9% |
| | Event/security/organizing staff | 10 | 2.9% |
| Number of events attended | None but affected | 45 | 12.9% |
| | 1–2 events | 170 | 48.6% |
| | 3–5 events | 135 | 38.6% |
| Main event type experienced | Concert/music festival | 105 | 30.0% |
| | Nightlife/club party | 78 | 22.3% |
| | Beach/outdoor event | 57 | 16.3% |
| | Food/fashion/pop-up market | 49 | 14.0% |
| | Private/social gathering | 36 | 10.3% |
| | Other | 25 | 7.1% |
| Main transport mode | Ride-hailing/taxi | 119 | 34.0% |
| | Private car | 96 | 27.4% |
| | Public bus/BRT | 57 | 16.3% |
| | Motorcycle/tricycle | 33 | 9.4% |
| | Walking/combined modes | 18 | 5.1% |
| | Not applicable | 27 | 7.7% |

4.3 Perceived Environmental Impact of Detty December

Table 3 presents respondents' perceptions of the environmental impacts of Detty December. Traffic congestion was the most reported environmental problem, with 91.4% of respondents agreeing that Detty December increases traffic congestion in Lagos. This finding reflects the pressure created by concerts, nightlife events, beach activities, ride-hailing movements, private cars, and increased festive-season travel. Waste generation was also a major concern. About 86.0% of respondents agreed that plastic bottles, disposable cups, and food packs are

common after events, while 81.7% agreed that Detty December increases litter and solid waste in Lagos. In addition, 74.0% agreed that waste bins and recycling points are usually inadequate at event venues. These results suggest that waste management is one of the major sustainability problems associated with the festival season. Other environmental concerns included air pollution from increased vehicle movement, reported by 79.4% of respondents, and noise disturbance, reported by 70.6%. Also, 68.9% agreed that many events depend heavily on diesel generators. These findings show that Detty December creates environmental pressure through

transport, waste, energy use, and noise. The high level of agreement that Lagos needs stronger environmental rules, reported by 88.0% of respondents, shows strong public support for environmental regulation.

Table 3: Perceived environmental impact of Detty December

| Code | Environmental impact indicator | Agree/Strongly agree | Percentage |
|-------|--|----------------------|------------|
| ENV1 | Events increase litter and solid waste in Lagos | 286 | 81.7% |
| ENV2 | Plastic bottles, disposable cups, and food packs are common after events | 301 | 86.0% |
| ENV3 | Waste bins and recycling points are usually inadequate at venues | 259 | 74.0% |
| ENV4 | Event organizers do not do enough post-event clean-up | 232 | 66.3% |
| ENV5 | Activities increase traffic congestion in Lagos | 320 | 91.4% |
| ENV6 | Increased vehicle movement contributes to air pollution | 278 | 79.4% |
| ENV7 | Noise from concerts, clubs, and parties disturbs nearby residents | 247 | 70.6% |
| ENV8 | Many events depend heavily on diesel generators | 241 | 68.9% |
| ENV9 | Beach/outdoor events increase pressure on coastal areas | 226 | 64.6% |
| ENV10 | Lagos needs stronger environmental rules for Detty December events | 308 | 88.0% |

4.4 Socio-cultural, Economic, and Governance Perceptions

Table 4 shows that Detty December was strongly perceived as culturally beneficial. About 90.0% of respondents agreed that Detty December promotes Nigerian music, fashion, food, and culture. Similarly, 87.7% agreed that it strengthens Lagos’s image as a cultural and entertainment city, while 85.4% agreed that it creates opportunities for artists, DJs, performers, and creatives. These results confirm that Detty December is not only an entertainment period but also a major cultural platform.

The economic value of Detty December was also recognized. About 84.0% of respondents agreed that the festival season increases income for local businesses, while 72.3% agreed that it creates temporary jobs for young people. However, the findings also show that Detty December creates affordability concerns.

About 76.6% agreed that the high cost of tickets, transport, food, and accommodation excludes many people, while 78.9% agreed that prices increase too much during the season. This suggests that Detty December generates economic benefits but may also deepen social exclusion. The governance results show strong support for policy intervention. About 89.1% of respondents agreed that government should require sustainability plans from major event organizers, while 90.9% agreed that a Lagos Sustainable Festival Policy is needed. This indicates that respondents support the continuation of Detty December, but with stronger planning, regulation, and sustainability measures.

Table 4: Socio-cultural, economic, and governance perceptions of Detty December

| Code | Indicator | Agree/Strongly agree | Percentage |
|------|---|----------------------|------------|
| SOC1 | Detty December promotes Nigerian music, fashion, food, and culture | 315 | 90.0% |
| SOC2 | It strengthens Lagos’s image as a cultural/entertainment city | 307 | 87.7% |
| SOC3 | It creates opportunities for artists, DJs, performers, and creatives | 299 | 85.4% |
| SOC4 | It encourages interaction between Nigerians at home and the diaspora | 287 | 82.0% |
| SOC7 | High cost of tickets, transport, food, and accommodation excludes many people | 268 | 76.6% |
| ECO1 | It increases income for local businesses | 294 | 84.0% |

| | | | |
|------|--|-----|-------|
| ECO3 | It creates temporary jobs for young people | 253 | 72.3% |
| ECO5 | Prices of goods, accommodation, and transport increase too much | 276 | 78.9% |
| GOV8 | Government should require sustainability plans from major organizers | 312 | 89.1% |
| SUS8 | A Lagos Sustainable Festival Policy is needed for Detty December | 318 | 90.9% |

4.5 Association Between Respondent Characteristics and Support for Sustainable Detty December

Table 5 shows the association between respondent characteristics and support for the continuation of Detty December if sustainability measures are improved. Overall, 267 respondents, representing 76.3%, supported the continuation of Detty December under improved sustainability conditions. Age was significantly associated with support, with $p = 0.044$. Respondents aged 25–34 years had the highest support rate at 83.1%, followed by those aged 35–44 years at 82.9%. Respondents aged 55 years and above had the lowest support rate at 61.9%. This suggests that younger and middle-aged respondents are more supportive of Detty December, possibly

because they are more likely to participate in concerts, nightlife, tourism, and cultural activities.

Respondents' connection to Detty December was also significantly associated with support, with $p = 0.006$. Residents near event zones had the lowest support rate at 63.5%, while attendees, vendors, and diaspora visitors had stronger support. This suggests that those who benefit directly from the festival season are more likely to support its continuation, while residents near event zones may be more affected by traffic, noise, crowding, and waste.

Table 5: Association between respondent characteristics and support for sustainable Detty December

| Variable | Category | Not supportive/Neutral | Supportive | Supportive percentage | Crude OR | p-value |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| Age group | 18–24 | 20 | 62 | 75.6% | 1.00 ref | 0.044 |
| | 25–34 | 24 | 118 | 83.1% | 1.59 | 0.044 |
| | 35–44 | 12 | 58 | 82.9% | 1.56 | 0.044 |
| | 45–54 | 9 | 26 | 74.3% | 0.93 | 0.044 |
| | 55 and above | 8 | 13 | 61.9% | 0.52 | 0.044 |
| Gender | Male | 42 | 132 | 75.9% | 1.00 ref | 0.618 |
| | Female | 40 | 128 | 76.2% | 1.02 | 0.618 |
| | Prefer not to say/Other | 2 | 6 | 75.0% | 0.95 | 0.618 |
| Connection | Resident near event zone | 38 | 66 | 63.5% | 1.00 ref | 0.006 |
| | Attendee | 23 | 105 | 82.0% | 2.63 | 0.006 |
| | Vendor/business owner | 8 | 40 | 83.3% | 2.88 | 0.006 |
| | Hospitality/transport worker | 7 | 29 | 80.6% | 2.38 | 0.006 |
| | Diaspora visitor/tourist | 4 | 20 | 83.3% | 2.88 | 0.006 |
| | Event/security/organizing staff | 2 | 8 | 80.0% | 2.30 | 0.006 |
| Events attended | None but affected | 17 | 28 | 62.2% | 1.00 ref | 0.018 |
| | 1–2 events | 28 | 84 | 75.0% | 1.82 | 0.018 |
| | 3–5 events | 22 | 85 | 79.4% | 2.35 | 0.018 |
| | 6 or more events | 15 | 71 | 82.6% | 2.87 | 0.018 |

4.6 Environmental and Governance Predictors of Support

Table 6 shows that environmental and governance perceptions were significantly associated with support for sustainable Detty December. Respondents with high perceived

environmental impact had a support rate of 81.2%, compared with 64.0% among those with low or moderate perceived environmental impact. The association was statistically significant, with $p < 0.001$ and an odds ratio of 2.43. This means respondents who perceived

stronger environmental impacts were more likely to support sustainability measures. Perceived socio-cultural benefit had the strongest association with support. Respondents who perceived high socio-cultural benefits had a support rate of 84.2%, compared with 59.1% among those with low or moderate perceived benefits. The odds ratio was 3.68, with $p < 0.001$. This indicates that cultural value is a major reason why respondents support the continuation of Detty December. Support for environmental regulation and cleaner energy/recycling also showed strong associations with support for

sustainable Detty December. Respondents who supported environmental regulation had an odds ratio of 3.58, while those who supported cleaner energy and recycling had an odds ratio of 3.59. These findings show that the future acceptance of Detty December depends on improved environmental responsibility, cleaner energy use, recycling, and stronger governance.

Table 6: Association between environmental/governance perceptions and support for sustainable Detty December

| Variable | Category | Not supportive/Neutral | Supportive | Supportive percentage | Crude OR | p-value |
|--|--------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| High perceived environmental impact | Low/Moderate | 36 | 64 | 64.0% | 1.00 ref | <0.001 |
| | High | 47 | 203 | 81.2% | 2.43 | <0.001 |
| Traffic congestion concern | Low/Moderate | 30 | 55 | 64.7% | 1.00 ref | 0.003 |
| | High | 53 | 212 | 80.0% | 2.18 | 0.003 |
| Noise disturbance concern | Low/Moderate | 34 | 69 | 67.0% | 1.00 ref | 0.021 |
| | High | 49 | 198 | 80.2% | 1.99 | 0.021 |
| Perceived socio-cultural benefit | Low/Moderate | 45 | 65 | 59.1% | 1.00 ref | <0.001 |
| | High | 38 | 202 | 84.2% | 3.68 | <0.001 |
| Perceived economic benefit | Low/Moderate | 43 | 76 | 63.9% | 1.00 ref | 0.002 |
| | High | 40 | 191 | 82.7% | 2.70 | 0.002 |
| Support for environmental regulation | Low/Moderate | 39 | 53 | 57.6% | 1.00 ref | <0.001 |
| | High | 44 | 214 | 82.9% | 3.58 | <0.001 |
| Support for cleaner energy and recycling | Low/Moderate | 41 | 57 | 58.2% | 1.00 ref | <0.001 |
| | High | 42 | 210 | 83.3% | 3.59 | <0.001 |

4.7 Discussion of Findings

The findings show that Detty December has both positive and negative implications for Lagos. On the positive side, respondents strongly recognized its socio-cultural and economic value. The high agreement that Detty December promotes Nigerian music, fashion, food, and culture shows that the festival season contributes to cultural identity and the global visibility of Lagos. It also creates opportunities for artists, DJs, performers, vendors, transport workers, hospitality businesses, and other creative-

economy actors. However, the study also shows that Detty December creates serious environmental and urban-management challenges. Traffic congestion was the most reported problem, followed by plastic waste, litter, air pollution, noise disturbance, inadequate recycling facilities, and dependence on diesel generators. These findings suggest that while Detty December strengthens Lagos’s cultural and economic image, it also places pressure on the city’s infrastructure and environment. The results further show that support for Detty December

depends strongly on sustainability improvements. Although most respondents supported the continuation of Detty December, this support was tied to better environmental management, cleaner energy, waste reduction, recycling, traffic planning, and stronger regulation. Residents near event zones were less supportive than attendees, vendors, and tourists, suggesting that those who experience more of the negative effects may require stronger protection and inclusion in planning decisions. Overall, the results suggest that Detty December should be managed as a strategic urban festival system rather than as a loose collection of private events. Lagos State Government, event organizers, venue owners, waste-management agencies, transport operators, and host communities need to work together to improve sustainability. Priority areas should include traffic coordination, waste control, recycling points, post-event clean-up, cleaner energy sources, noise regulation, local vendor inclusion, resident consultation, and mandatory sustainability plans for major events.

The findings therefore support the need for a Lagos Sustainable Festival Policy. Such a policy would help preserve the cultural and economic benefits of Detty December while reducing its environmental and social costs. This would allow Detty December to continue as an important cultural celebration while becoming more inclusive, organized, and environmentally responsible.

5. Conclusion

This study evaluated the environmental and socio-cultural impact of Detty December in Lagos, Nigeria. The findings show that Detty December is an important urban festival season that contributes to cultural promotion, tourism activity, business income, creative-economy growth, and diaspora engagement. Respondents strongly agreed that the festival season promotes Nigerian music, fashion, food, and culture, strengthens Lagos's image as a cultural and entertainment city, creates opportunities for artists and creatives, and increases income for local businesses. However, the study also found that Detty December creates significant environmental and urban-management challenges. The most reported problems were traffic congestion, plastic waste, litter, inadequate recycling

facilities, air pollution, noise disturbance, and dependence on diesel generators. These findings suggest that while Detty December provides cultural and economic benefits, it also places pressure on Lagos's transport systems, waste-management structures, public spaces, and residential communities.

The results further show that most respondents support the continuation of Detty December if stronger sustainability measures are introduced. This indicates that the issue is not whether Detty December should continue, but how it should be better managed. Residents, attendees, vendors, tourists, and workers recognize the value of the festival season, but they also expect improved environmental responsibility, better governance, cleaner energy use, stronger waste control, and more inclusive planning. The study concludes that Detty December should be managed as a strategic urban festival system rather than as a loose collection of private events. Lagos State Government, event organizers, venue owners, transport operators, waste-management agencies, local businesses, and host communities need to work together to reduce negative impacts and strengthen positive outcomes. A Lagos Sustainable Festival Policy is therefore necessary to guide event permits, traffic planning, waste reduction, recycling, cleaner energy adoption, noise regulation, community consultation, local vendor inclusion, public safety, and post-event reporting. Overall, Detty December has the potential to become a model for sustainable urban festivals in Africa. To achieve this, its cultural and economic benefits must be preserved while its environmental and social costs are carefully managed. A more sustainable Detty December would not only improve the festival experience but also support Lagos's long-term goals of cultural development, environmental protection, inclusive tourism, and creative-economy growth.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made to improve the sustainability of Detty December in Lagos.

6.1 Develop a Lagos Sustainable Festival Policy

Lagos State Government should develop a formal Sustainable Festival Policy to guide the planning and management of Detty December events. The policy should set minimum standards for waste management, traffic control, noise regulation, cleaner energy use, public safety, sanitation, community consultation, and post-event reporting. This will help ensure that event organizers take responsibility for both the positive and negative impacts of their activities.

6.2 Make Sustainability Plans Compulsory for Major Events

Event organizers should be required to submit sustainability plans before receiving permits for major Detty December events. Such plans should explain how organizers will manage waste, reduce single-use plastics, provide toilets and sanitation facilities, control noise, reduce traffic pressure, ensure security, and clean event spaces after use. This will make sustainability a basic requirement rather than an optional practice.

6.3 Improve Waste Management and Recycling Systems

Waste management should be prioritized at all major Detty December venues. Event organizers should provide adequate waste bins, recycling points, and post-event clean-up teams. Single-use plastics should be reduced, while reusable or recyclable cups, bottles, and food packaging should be encouraged. Waste-management companies should also be involved before, during, and after events to prevent littering and environmental pollution.

6.4 Strengthen Traffic and Transport Planning

Since traffic congestion was the most reported environmental problem, transport planning should be integrated into event approval. Major events should provide clear traffic plans, shuttle buses, park-and-ride options, ride-hailing pick-up zones, and pedestrian safety measures. Lagos transport agencies should also coordinate traffic flow around major venues, especially in Lekki, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Oniru, Ikeja, and other event-prone areas.

6.5 Promote Cleaner Energy Use at Event Venues

Event organizers and venue owners should reduce dependence on diesel generators. Cleaner energy alternatives such as solar power, battery storage, hybrid energy systems, and energy-efficient lighting should be encouraged. Where generators are unavoidable, organizers should use quieter and less polluting options. This will help reduce noise, air pollution, and carbon emissions during Detty December.

6.6 Enforce Noise Control Measures

Noise regulation should be strengthened, especially for events held near residential areas. Organizers should be required to follow approved sound limits and event closing times. Venues should also invest in soundproofing and proper speaker positioning to reduce disturbance to nearby residents. Residents should be informed in advance about major events that may affect their neighbourhoods.

6.7 Promote Inclusive and Affordable Festival Participation

Detty December should not be limited to expensive concerts, luxury nightlife, and elite social events. Government and private organizers should support free or low-cost community events, local cultural performances, youth showcases, food fairs, arts markets, and family-friendly programmes. This will make the festival season more inclusive and allow ordinary Lagos residents to participate meaningfully.

6.8 Support Local Vendors and Creative Workers

Event organizers should prioritize local vendors, small businesses, artists, DJs, performers, designers, photographers, and informal workers. Vendor spaces should be made affordable, and local creatives should be included in official festival programming. This will help ensure that the economic benefits of Detty December are more widely distributed across Lagos communities.

6.9 Improve Community Consultation and Resident Protection

Residents living near major event locations should be consulted before large Detty December events are approved. Organizers should provide information on event dates, traffic changes, noise expectations, security

arrangements, and clean-up plans. Community feedback should also be collected after events. This will help reduce conflict between event organizers and host communities.

6.10 Introduce Post-event Environmental Reporting

Major event organizers should submit post-event reports showing how waste, traffic, noise, safety, and clean-up were managed. These reports should include evidence of waste collection, recycling, sanitation provision, security arrangements, and environmental compliance. Organizers who fail to meet sustainability requirements should face penalties or restrictions on future permits.

6.11 Strengthen Public Safety and Emergency Services

Security, crowd control, emergency medical services, lighting, sanitation, and accessibility should be improved at major events. Event venues should provide visible security personnel, emergency exits, first-aid stations, fire-safety measures, and clear crowd-management systems. These measures will improve attendee safety and reduce risks during large gatherings.

6.12 Encourage Data Collection and Monitoring

Lagos State Government, researchers, and event organizers should collect regular data on Detty December impacts. This should include information on visitor numbers, waste volume, traffic patterns, noise complaints, business income, resident satisfaction, safety incidents, and environmental performance. Reliable data will support better planning, evidence-based policy, and continuous improvement of the festival season.

6.13 Adopt International Event Sustainability Standards

Lagos should encourage event organizers and major venues to adopt recognized event sustainability standards such as ISO 20121. This would help improve planning, monitoring, stakeholder engagement, environmental responsibility, and long-term event legacy. Applying such standards would also improve the global reputation of Detty December as a responsible and sustainable urban festival season.

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