

## **WORLD LEADERS TO VIEW TABLE MOUNTAIN AFTERMATH**

MUNICIPAL leaders from the world's major cities will be taken to the scene of the recent Table Mountain fires to observe how the City of Cape Town manages natural disaster and risk.

The delegation will be in Cape Town to attend the ICLEI World Congress on Sustainable Development which takes place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 27 February to 3 March 2006.

Hosted by the City of Cape Town, the triennial congress is expected to attract over 600 municipal leaders from all over the world.

"The ICLEI association of over 470 metropolitan governments convenes every three years, enabling mayors, councillors and municipal managers to review best practices in terms of global sustainable development," says Stephen Granger, convenor of the Local Organising Committee for the ICLEI World Congress 2006.

As part of the programme dealing with 'Resilient Cities and Communities: Disaster Risk Management', participants will visit the burnt out areas of Table Mountain and Lions Head to share lessons learned from response and pro-active risk reduction efforts as well as provide municipal leaders with tools for resilience management.

The January fires destroyed 700 hectares of vegetation, damaged several houses nearby and involved over 500 people in the firefighting effort, including the City of Cape Town's emergency services, South African National Parks, South African Air Force helicopters and numerous volunteers.

While the full extent of the damage has yet to be calculated, conservation authorities estimate that up to 50% of the world's silver leaf tree population, found only in that area, has perished.

"The ICLEI World Congress programme will reflect three main themes, namely the building of sustainable communities and cities, the protection of global 'common goods' such as climate, biodiversity and water, and the development of tools for implementation strategies," says Granger.

"Other topics include building resilient communities and cities; municipal opportunities for global carbon trading, progress made by municipalities in exploiting renewable sources of energy, integrated water resources management, the integration of biodiversity as a municipal resource, sustainable procurement, and a 'spending framework' for environmental resources".

ICLEI celebrates its 15th anniversary at the Cape Town event, which represents the first time the congress is being held in Africa - and in the southern hemisphere. The last one was held in 2003 in Athens.

For more information, contact ICLEI at [world.congress@iclei.org](mailto:world.congress@iclei.org) or visit [www.iclei.org/worldcongress2006](http://www.iclei.org/worldcongress2006)

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