

ICLEI World Congress 2006 for cities and local governments

Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges

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Cape Town to host International Congress of Local Government Leaders

More than 500 municipal leaders from all parts of the world are set to convene in Cape Town in February 2006 for the 2006 ICLEI World Congress of cities and local governments. Executive Mayor of Cape Town, South Africa, Nomaindia Mfeketo welcomed ICLEI's Secretary General, Konrad Otto-Zimmermann to the Tygerberg Nature Reserve to sign the host agreement on the 2006 World Congress that will be held in the city. The 2006 meeting marks the first time an ICLEI World Congress will take place in the Southern Hemisphere, showcasing the achievements and challenges of this region. Executive Mayor Mfeketo stated: "I am delighted that Cape Town will be hosting an event as significant as the World Congress and look forward to welcoming local government leaders to Cape Town."

Executive Mayor of Johannesburg and ICLEI President, Amos Masondo spoke of the need to strengthen cooperation between cities and local governments worldwide and in particular local governments in Africa. The World Congress will provide an opportunity for local governments from around the world to interact and learn from each other. Konrad Otto-Zimmermann thanked Cape Town for their generosity in hosting the congress and looked forward to a fruitful congress focused on developing local strategies for achieving sustainability.

Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges will take place 27 February – 3 March 2006 at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. Local governments from around the world will exchange best practice experiences and solutions on issues of global importance: sustainable urban planning, water management, energy efficiency and climate protection, biodiversity conservation and other key topics. For example: What can local governments contribute to develop their communities sustainably while protecting global common goods? How can Local Agenda 21 be used to address poverty alleviation? How are local leaders working to overcome insecurity in their cities? Which tools and methods are available to local governments for becoming more sustainable? At the same time, high level speakers will bring an international and varied perspective to the local government community.

Participants will also have the opportunity to view sustainability in action at a number of site visits planned by the City of Cape Town. Cape Town is located within the 'Cape Floristic Kingdom' one of the richest areas of biodiversity in the world but also one of the most threatened. The city is taking this responsibility seriously and has developed an overarching framework for city-wide conservation and a coordinated approach to protecting local biodiversity. Cape Town is also well known for its innovative coastal zone management projects. The city is working to develop plans to sustainably manage the coastal zone in a more holistic manner. Participants will not only learn from these experiences but also have a chance to share their expertise with staff from the City of Cape Town.



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