

For immediate release
27 September 2005

Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges ICLEI World Congress 2006 Cape Town, 27 February to 3 March 2006

Over 600 senior representatives from local governments and their associations will convene in Cape Town, South Africa in February 2006 for the ICLEI World Congress “Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges”. It will be hosted by the City of Cape Town and organised by the international association ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. The congress will be a unique opportunity for local government representatives and associations to forge new relations, create and strengthen partnerships and exchange experiences across continents and cities.

With a focus on concrete action and measurable results the World Congress will provide local government participants with the information, best practice options, tools, and practical support necessary to overcome the barriers to sustainability. The program reflects the goal to build sustainable communities and cities whilst protecting global common goods such as climate, freshwater and biodiversity. New and expanded campaign and programme activities focusing on priority issues such as sustainable procurement, biodiversity, sustainability management instruments, disaster-resilience of communities and cities, and peaceful and secure communities will be presented at the event.

Pressing urban issues such as **climate protection, water resource management and sustainable transport** will also be discussed. Inter-relations of problems but also multi-benefits when searching for sustainable solutions will be highlighted in case studies from local governments that have been working with ICLEI for many years.

Some of the questions that will guide discussions at the congress include how do we reduce CO₂ emissions and start putting in place measures for adapting to climate change? How should we provide mobility services while reducing the consumption of oil and reliance on fossil fuels? How can we encourage “solar cities”, which base their energy consumption to a growing extent on **renewable energies**? How will we create “water sensible cities” that manage this scarce resource in a responsible way?

Special attention will be given to the topic of “**resilience**” of cities by looking at how cities and communities can be built and organised in such a way that they are more resilient and less vulnerable to global warming, natural threats and industrial disasters?

“**Eco-efficient cities**” will showcase how they set the course towards reduced consumption of energy as well as natural resources. They will also present how they view their “ecological footprints”, which is a useful tool to measure the cities’ impact on the surrounding environments and on the environments in other regions.



ICLEI World Congress 2006 for cities and local governments

Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges

Cape Town, South Africa • Monday 27 February – Friday 3 March 2006

“**Just, Peaceful and Secure Communities**” is another theme of the event. This will show how closely the social, economic and ecological aspects are interwoven.

In the “**Ambitious Cities**” section of the World Congress, responsible leaders will report on ambitious and integrated local planning processes towards “zero emission cities”, resilient cities, and eco-cities.

One of the keys to success is not only the right goals but also the appropriate instruments. A range of **sustainability management instruments** is available to local governments. Local leaders will learn more about their introduction and application at the Congress. Money is spent by each local government for procuring goods and services every day – local examples will show how **sustainable procurement** can take environmental and social concerns into account. Involving local stakeholders in decision making and the implementation of sustainability policies is another key to success.

Various approaches to **Local Agenda 21** for long-term planning toward sustainability will be presented at the congress.

Biodiversity will be a new issue for an ICLEI World Congress. Examples from South Africa and other parts of the world will show that intact nature makes it easier for local governments to provide services to their citizens. A pre-event “Urban Nature 2006” will allow for an intensive exchange of local experts in the biodiversity field.

The ICLEI World Congress will also provide possibilities for learning about the tremendous changes, which have occurred in South Africa, and how this country manages the challenges brought about by these changes. Pre and post events and a full congress day of technical tours to projects in and around Cape Town will showcase the cities sustainable development efforts.

The congress “Out of Africa: Local Solutions for Global Challenges” is organised by the global association ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and hosted by the City of Cape Town, South Africa. It will take place from 27 February to 3 March 2006.

ICLEI World Congress 2006
27 February - 3 March 2006
Cape Town, South Africa

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is a worldwide association of more than 480 cities, towns and countries dedicated to sustainable development. Its mission is to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with a special focus on environmental conditions through cumulative local actions. Previous international congresses of ICLEI have been held in cities such as New York, Toronto, Saitama, Dessau, Johannesburg and Athens.

Local governments, organisations and individuals interested in participating in this event are encouraged to contact ICLEI. Registration for the Congress is open.

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THIS CITY WORKS FOR YOU

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Announcement in different length

ICLEI World Congress 2006

ICLEI's next World Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa from 27 February to 3 March 2006. The congress will bring together local government leaders from around the world to discuss local solutions to global challenges. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments committed to achieving sustainability.

More information:

www.iclei.org/worldcongress2006

E-mail: world.congress@iclei.org

ICLEI World Congress 2006

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability will hold its next triennial World Congress in South Africa from 27 February to 3 March 2006 on generous invitation by the City of Cape Town.

The event will bring together an international selection of mayors, city managers, representatives of local governments and local government associations who are focused on local level solutions for global challenges. Over 600 participants are expected to attend.

The major themes of the event will be climate protection, sustainable water management, resilience of cities, sustainability management tools and the advanced application of Local Agenda 21 processes.

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ICLEI World Congress 2006

Out of Africa: Local solutions for Global Challenges

27 February - 3 March

Cape Town - South Africa

For more information

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