

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT:

21-23 August 2002
Cape Town, South Africa

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM IN DESTINATIONS:

Shaping sustainable spaces into better places

Maximising socio-economic benefits for local communities from tourism ventures while maintaining the quality of the environment is a major challenge facing all the stakeholders in the tourism industry. These issues will be focussed on during this hands-on, outcomes-based conference in Cape Town, in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). This is an official parallel event of the Johannesburg WSSD.

The Cape Town Conference Challenge

The emerging agenda of Responsible Tourism addresses global sustainability issues at the local level where tourists and local communities interact in specific socio-cultural and natural environments. In Cape Town international and domestic tourists interact with local people, some benefit more than others, some experience more negative impacts than others. During this conference, we shall use visits to sites in and around Cape Town to explore how tourism can be made to work better for visitors and the local communities and businesses alike. Partnerships to make better places for visitors and those visited are only possible at the local level. The challenge is to identify the best ways to achieve partnerships for change around the world – Cape Town is the laboratory to test out the theories and to produce learning for international application.

The purpose of the conference is:

- To consider the processes required for Responsible Tourism approaches across the triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- To debate the means by which the aspirations of Responsible Tourism can be achieved and partnerships can be forged between the public sector, private business and local communities.
- To consider the ways in which tourism projects can contribute to poverty elimination – how can tourism projects support social and economic development for local communities, while minimising negative social and environmental impacts.
- To enable delegates to debate responsible tourism guidelines and use them to evaluate the sustainability of projects around Cape Town. For this purpose, delegates will be visiting a selection of tourism sites and assessing the extent to which they match the aspirations of Responsible Tourism.

Outline programme:

Day 1: Global views and provocative discussions concerning the concept of Responsible Tourism.

Day 2: Workshops concerning the application of Responsible Tourism guidelines and field visits to sites in and around Cape Town.

Day 3: Continuation of field visits, feedback and finalisation of a Charter on Responsible Tourism.

Who should attend: Tourism companies and associations, tourism stakeholders, conservation NGO's, rural development organisations, National, Provincial and Local government officials, National Parks, Nature Reserves and Conservancies, Journalists, Educators.

Where: Holiday Inn, Strand Street, Cape Town

For further information and to register contact: Margi Biggs at Specialized Tours/ Tribal Continuum. Email: specialt@iafrica.com • Tel: 027 21 425 3259 • Fax 027 21 425 3329. Registration form overleaf.

Website address: www.capetourism.org

The conference is supported by The World Tourism Organisation (WTO), The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), the International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future, the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA), the Western Cape Provincial Government (PAWC), the Western Cape Tourism Board (WCTB), Cape Nature Conservation, the City of Cape Town, and Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E.).



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



C.A.P.E.

business communities environment

