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## **The Cape Town Partnership launches Sustainable Cape Town Programme during Cape Town Green Week 19 – 23 October 2009**

### **[starts]**

This week in Cape Town, the Cape Town Partnership launches the Sustainable Cape Town Programme and one of the Programme's core initiatives - Reclaim Camissa - this week under the spotlight of the Cape Town Green Week, which runs from the 19-23 October 2009.

The Cape Town Partnership is joined by some of the City's key decision making organisations and international heavy weights in the spirit of the type of global partnerships needed to mitigate and adapt to the risks of climate change. Groups in Cape Town hope to put aggressive targets and strategies in place which will establish Cape Town as a flagship sustainability business district and city, and to encourage other African cities to follow suit.

The Cape Town Partnership has played a key role in urban renewal in Cape Town's Central City over the last decade, and the programme will enhance and strengthen sustainable development principles in a formal advisory and communications capacity in their Sustainable Cape Town programme. The programme will assist key city stakeholders in demonstrating leadership as a sustainable business district.

"It is crucial that cities introduce sustainable principles into planning and development," commented Alexis Scholtz, Sustainable Cape Town's programme coordinator. "Cape Town will face increasing stress as a result of dwindling resources, increased migration and unsustainable economic practices which will be further exacerbated by the effects of climate change and unsustainable resource use. We need to put interventions into place which follow the principles of sustainable development and which will safeguard the rights of our people to equitable use of resources. Time is really important, as the types of interventions and adaptation planning we make today, will determine how resilient our city and its citizens will be in the not so distant future."

One of the programme's key initiatives is Reclaim Camissa, a project that seeks to highlight the importance of water to Cape Town's sustainability. "Reclaim Camissa will increase public awareness and appreciation for the role of water in Cape Town through the creation of open spaces that connect people with the water that has been forced underground into our stormwater system," says Project Leader Caron von Zeil, "it will also help to integrate sustainable management of this vital resource in planning and economic development". The programme hopes to make public and private institutions that manage water and associated public assets realise that the business as usual approach to water and land management is inappropriate and unsustainable. By 2020, Reclaim Camissa aims at putting, a sustainable approach to water use, planning and design and management in place that is based on the intrinsic value of water as a significant public resource that is not separate from the value of land and landscape.

The programme will follow the Cape Town Partnership's core roles in facilitating the formation of private and public partnerships to further the sustainability agenda in the central city. "The



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programme will focus on five key sustainable development issues in the Central City – energy, water, waste, densification and transport,” said Scholtz. Using the Partnership’s key capabilities and core businesses as communicator and facilitator, the programme will honour this role, and aim to complement rather than compete with activities of other key players, notably the Province, City and civil society.

“To assist private, public and civil sectors in making a smooth transition to more sustainable practices,” said Scholtz, “Sustainable Cape Town will set up a Sustainability Desk which will become the go-to for assisting in facilitating partnerships, providing resources, case studies and information to assist with sustainable programmes.”

Core focuses will include enhancing the aims of the City’s 2010 Green Goal campaign, reinforcing communications with the public and assisting with the transition to the new IRT system and non-motorised transport routes. The programme will champion the already growing transformation to more sustainable buildings and “green” hospitality. In addition to this, it will also embark on the initiation of the long-term project Reclaim Camissa which will reintroduce the historic path of the Camissa into the city.

Reclaim Camissa project leader, Caron von Zeil and Sustainable Cape Town’s programme coordinator, Alexis Scholtz, have extended their assistance to Cape Town’s central city stakeholders. “It’s a really exciting and positive initiative and we look forward to being involved in future partnerships that will connect inner city stakeholders to work together to make Cape Town a world leader in the sustainable city movement.”

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