



## CAPE TOWN STATEMENT

Co-Chair and Executive Planning Committee Final Conference Statement

8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement  
Cape Town, South Africa  
5-11 April 2008

### **Introduction**

1. At this 8th International Conference of the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE), 200 participants from more than 60 developing and developed countries gathered in Cape Town, South Africa, to affirm the benefits of environmental compliance and enforcement, to highlight progress made by the network, and press for further actions to improve compliance and enforcement around the world.
2. INECE is the only global network that develops, promotes, and implements practical activities to strengthen environmental compliance and enforcement at all levels of governance – local, national, regional, and international. The network links environmental compliance and enforcement efforts of more than 4,000 practitioners – inspectors, prosecutors, regulators, parliamentarians, judges, and representatives from international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector -- from 120 countries, through capacity building, awareness raising, and enforcement cooperation.

### **From Concepts to Action: Successful Strategies for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement**

3. The INECE Co-Chairs and Executive Planning Committee affirm their commitment and call on inspectors, regulators, legislators, judges, networks, negotiators, the media, businesses, prosecutors, scientists, engineers, financial experts, and non-governmental organizations, to realize the following actions that will be integrated into a post-conference program of action:
  - a. *Communicate* that environmental compliance and enforcement programs create value across all areas of society: public value through strengthened rule of law; protected ecosystem goods and services; improved human health and private value through increased investor confidence; reduced business risks; stimulated innovation; increased competitiveness; and new jobs and markets.
  - b. *Encourage* the development and growth of environmental compliance and enforcement networks in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa.
  - c. *Promote* transnational and intergovernmental cooperation for the management and protection of newly established transboundary conservation parks in Sub-Saharan Africa.
  - d. *Incorporate* proactive adjudication and assistance in environmental disputes at local, national, and regional levels in tribunals, courts, or arbitration panels, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa.
  - e. *Build* an informal community of practitioners that strategically manages environmental compliance and enforcement programs.
  - f. *Encourage* the use of performance measurement, including indicators of effective environmental compliance and enforcement.

- g. *Enhance* national capacity for detecting violations, emphasizing practical tools, including technological developments, to strengthen compliance and enforcement programs.
- h. *Improve* national compliance with, and enforcement of, laws protecting biodiversity and habitat, and develop further tools to enhance international compliance with multilateral environmental agreements.
- i. *Support* the further development of networks, such as the Network for Environmental Compliance Training Professionals and the Seaport Network to build capacity and curtail the illegal movement of goods, including hazardous waste, chemicals, ozone depleting substances, and flora and fauna.
- j. *Develop* recommendations for compliance and enforcement strategies and mechanisms for addressing climate change within existing and future climate regimes.
- k. *Promote* compliance with measures that restrict emissions that contribute to climate change including greenhouse gases, ozone depleting substances, and black carbon (or soot), and that protect carbon sinks, including forests and soils, with emphasis on measures that produce strong co-benefits, such as improvements in public health and ecosystem services.
- l. *Apply* environmental compliance and enforcement tools to protect ecosystems and their services as a basis for climate change adaptation.

### **Conclusion**

- 4. Environmental protection is nothing less than protecting the very sources of life – land, air, water, and ecosystems. These also form the basis of all economic activities. As such, these environmental resources must be given the highest priority in the global agenda of humankind. The laws that conserve, protect, and restore these elements of life must be implemented and their compliance assured. The rule of law is the basis for good governance and sustainable development.

### **Acknowledgements**

- 5. The INECE Co-Chairs and the Executive Planning Committee gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support of the South African Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, the South African National Parks, and the City of Cape Town. We deeply appreciate the generous hospitality provided by our South African hosts and the message of inspiration and resolve provided by Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai.
- 6. We also thank our sponsors and partner organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment; the United Nations Environment Programme; the Environment Agency for England and Wales; Environment Canada; Finland's Ministry of Environment; the International Fund for Animal Welfare; the British High Commission; the Danish International Development Agency; the U.S. Department of State; the European Commission; the World Bank; and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as the embassies of the United States and The Netherlands.

### **Supplemental Annexes**

- 7. Leaders of the various substantive tracks at the Cape Town conference are invited to work with the INECE Secretariat to prepare supplemental annexes corresponding to the strategies described above.