

## Tackling transport and environment



TEST network partner meeting in Cape Town

The Transport and Environment – Science Technology (TEST) Network is led by the Stockholm Environment Institute at the University of York (UK) and the European branch of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP Europe), based in Germany.

ITDP Europe is one of the leading partners of an international initiative to tackle problems such as traffic congestion, air pollution and road safety in Africa. This project seeks to strengthen scientific and technological support to enable the implementation of sustainable transport policies in Sub Saharan Africa.

The network involves universities from six African countries, UN-Habitat, and the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD). It is funded by the EC African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Science and Technology Programme.

The three-year capacity building project will strengthen networking, share knowledge, and enhance research capacity on transport and environment science and technological issues.

Other African partners include the Centre for Transport Studies, University of Cape Town (South Africa), Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique), Ardhi University (Tanzania), Makerere University (Uganda), University of Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe) and University of Zambia (Zambia).

The Network's inaugural meeting at the University of Cape Town agreed a programme of activities including an assessment of research capacity and benchmarking good transport practice.

The TEST Network will contribute to the development of a knowledge data base on transport and environment issues, as well as holding national stakeholder meetings, seminars and training programmes.

A key component of the Network will be communicating science and disseminating knowledge to key stakeholders. The Network will hold a workshop on science communication for African researchers. The programme of activities will culminate in a UN Regional Policy Dialogue on Transport and Environment Science and Technology at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi in 2012.

Dr. Jürgen Perschon, ITDP Europe's TEST Network Coordinator explains that "Transport and mobility are key challenges in Sub Saharan Africa and only a fundamental policy change can achieve livable cities, economic development and poverty reduction"

"The Network is a major new initiative bringing together African and European researchers, international organizations and Universities. TEST aims to mount a determined effort to improve air quality, reduce death and injury on the roads, reduce greenhouse gases and widen opportunity and accessibility for all, but especially those on very low incomes. ITDP Europe is proud of taking part in such an important project."

For further information about joining the TEST Network contact the ITDP Europe office in Germany telephone 0049 (0) 40-53270083 email [info@itdp-europe.org](mailto:info@itdp-europe.org)

**Notes to editors:**

- The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy Europe (ITDP Europe) is a non-profit organization based in Germany that promotes sustainable transportation policies worldwide with a particular focus on developing and transition countries. Since its inception in 2003, ITDP Europe has supported transportation practices that tackle climate change, improve air quality, address gender disparities, create better access to healthcare, connect citizens to economic opportunities and improve overall quality of life.
- The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an international, independent environment and development research institute. It is a part of an international network of centres with the York centre based in the Department of Biology at the University of York.