

## AFRICA'S BEAUTIFUL CITIES

Africa has some stunningly beautiful cities, from historic Marrakesh and Timbuktu, Great Zimbabwe that was built and shone in the 11th century, to the modern skyscrapers and bright lights of Luanda and Lagos.

### What do you love about cities in your country?

#### Eco Cities

Eco cities or sustainable cities have a small ecological footprint. They are planned to have a low impact on the natural environment - the economy and business flourishes at the same time as being low carbon, resource efficient, fair and socially just. There are many different ways to do this.

- **Rensource energy in Nigeria provided solar generated electricity to the country's major urban markets.** Traders had been using diesel generators with power taking up to half of their income. The solar electricity was reliable, produced locally and reduced the money they spent on energy by a whopping 30%. Good for the environment, good for business!
- **Mariannahill landfill site near Durban in South Africa collects and treats liquid from the waste.** The treatment process means that the water can be reused for irrigation. It also collects methane gas produced by the landfill, and uses it to generate electricity - \$20,000 worth of electricity every month. That's a definite WIN-WIN - less climate pollution, locally generated electricity.
- **Africa's first waste to energy plant in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia incinerates city rubbish (domestic waste) and uses the heat to generate electricity** - waste is disposed of and 30% of the city's energy produced.
- **Taka Taka Solutions in Nairobi, Kenya, collects 30 tonnes of city waste every day, sorts it into 45 different categories (glass, metal, paper, plastic, etc.) and then sells 95% for re-use.** Good for business: good for the environment.

### did you know?

- In Singapore technology is already used to make sewage safe to drink.
- The world's cities have been producing 10 billion tonnes of waste each year!

- **Kigali in Rwanda has won international awards for providing water, sustainable energy and roads to informal settlements, and the way it cleared slums and upgraded services like housing, sanitation and refuse collection.**
- **Rwanda's largest new housing project has solar powered streetlights.** It has permeable roads that are strong but absorb water runoff, to prevent erosion and floods. Kigali's development plan includes preserving its hillsides, forests and wetlands to ensure vital ecosystem services continue.
- **By fitting efficient lighting and solar water heaters into low income housing in Cape Town, South Africa, the city reduced respiratory diseases by 75%, saved 6,500 tons of carbon emissions and cut people's energy bills.** Another WIN : WIN scenario for conservation!!

Creating good cities, that are fair, healthy and sustainable depends on governments and city councils doing the right things - just as we have seen in these examples. But there is a huge amount that each one of us can do, in our household, neighbourhood, our schools and places of work.

#### Ecosystem Services

Things provided by ecosystems and species, from providing a home for biodiversity to insects pollinating our crops, wetlands controlling floods, trees preventing erosion, forests regulating climate and keeping air fresh, to purifying water.

### something to think about

Which ecosystem services do people in your community often take for granted?  
How can these services be protected?