AIDS 2014 Sustainability Programme
Selected Projects

At the 20th International AIDS Conference, the conference organizers offer delegates the opportunity to contribute to a sustainability programme by ticking a box on the registration form.

All donations given by AIDS 2014 conference delegates will support two different projects providing environmental, social and economic benefits.
CERES Community Environment Park
Melbourne, Australia

CERES Community Environment Park is a not-for-profit community organisation and a 4-hectare visitor centre in East Brunswick, Melbourne that attracts over 400,000 visitors per annum. CERES was established by members of the local community in the early 1980s ‘to initiate and support environmental sustainability and social equity, with an emphasis on cultural richness and community participation.’ CERES has become a cultural and environmental icon, featuring a vast collection of action-based sustainability projects and involving a diverse community. As such, CERES is a unique knowledge bank of theory, skill and experience, diverse cultural and social representation, sustainability design and technology and interactive learning.

The CERES site is a regenerated landfill. Many people volunteered their time and energy to plant and tend the land to turn it into an urban oasis.

100% of CERES’ profits is returned to CERES to support our programs and maintain our site. We are a large organisation made up of a number of smaller social enterprises including the Market and Shop, Cafe, Nursery, Education, Training, Propagation, Organic Farm and Fair Food. CERES Fair Food delivers organic groceries to homes and business around Melbourne. This ethical business supports farmers by buying direct and ensuring the farmer receives a fair price; it supports the environment by purchasing organic goods, and CERES Fair Food employs recent arrivals to Australia and long-term unemployed.

CERES is a demonstration site and aims to educate people about practical solutions to climate change through our education programs and retail enterprises, urban farm, multi-cultural education village and displays of renewable energy and efficient water use.

In the coming years CERES will continue to install new green technologies, offer meaningful work to volunteers, provide social programs, environmental projects and educational initiatives all working towards building a stronger and more cohesive community both locally and globally.

We are seeking funding to continue the regeneration of the site through re-vegetation and the removal of pest and weed species. CERES is on the banks of the Merri Creek and adds to the habitat corridor of the creek valley. We will plant indigenous species that will provide habitat for birds, amphibians and reptiles and that will reinforce our message of regeneration and the power of community action.

www.ceres.org.au
Township Patterns
Cape Town, South Africa

Township NPO is a Cape Town-based non-profit organization dedicated to the development of sustainable jobs for women from township communities primarily in the textile, fashion accessories-related sector. Today, Township NPO programs have resulted in the set-up of seven co-operatives employing 59 women. 6 cooperatives are legally registered enterprise composed of 8 to 11 members and are fully autonomous in terms of its operations and management. Each of them is at a different stage of their business development. According to their needs, Township NPO establishes a training program so that each member can improve and develop on a personal and business level.

In line with their mission of uplifting the communities, Township NPO evaluates the needs of each cooperative and establishes a training program. The aim is for each member to improve and develop on a personal and business level. The cooperative become more and more sustainable and can access various markets. IAS has been a great support for the past 4 years in this project. This is the 5th year that they will be contributing in the development of woman for South African communities.

IAS participation for 2014 will be enabling the creation of a new cooperative called AGANG (“built-it” in Sotho). A group of 4 women that is ready to start their own business and become entrepreneurs.

They already express their challenges “we have to be strict on transparency and rules with all members”, “we want to start saving for the day we will face financial difficulties”.

They also identified their objectives for 2014 “we want to buy our machines, find a suitable working place and recruit sustainable members” “we also want to expand our business in different sewing skills” and finally “get officialy registered”. Township NPO, with the financial support of IAS, will make sure that they have all the support needed for them to achieve their goal.