

ECI has been carefully monitoring the water shortage situation in Cape Town. We have been in close contact with management at the conference venue, the Century City Conference Center and Hotel, as well as representatives from the Cape Town Convention Bureau and other local contacts in the Cape Town area. At this time, the Conference Chairs, Organizing Committee members (particularly those from the Cape Town area) and ECI are confident that participants will not encounter any serious issues when attending the conference.

The region is suffering from a severe drought and **Day Zero**, the day when City officials will be forced to implement the next level of stringent controls and water restrictions, is now projected **for July 9**, after the conclusion of this conference. After this date, residents will get their water from collection points set up around the city. However, the city and its residents are working to avoid Day Zero altogether through conservation efforts.

The Conference Center has provided assurances that we will be provided a safe and secure environment for all of our attendees. The center is new and was designed to be green and sustainable (officially rated a 5-star Green Building). They have water storage tanks and a dual piping system that allows for grey water to be used for flushing toilets. The center is located outside of the downtown area and provides a very secure environment, with four entrances and exits that are monitored by security.

It still remains to be seen whether tourism-related institutions will in fact have their taps turned off in the event of Day Zero arriving. According to Tim Harris, CEO of the City and Province's official tourism, trade and investment promotion agency (Wesgro), authorities are planning to do what is necessary to protect tourism, as it is a critical pillar of the regional economy. Harris notes the current disaster management plan includes state authorities proclaiming hotels and conference venues to fall within "business protection zones" in the event that storage dams reach cutoff level. Please see here for further details: <http://city-press.news24.com/Voices/tourists-make-a-vital-contribution-to-economy-even-during-drought-20180201>

The conference center is also working to increase its water supply by drilling boreholes and establishing an on-site filtration plant. They have detailed contingency plans in place in the event Day Zero is reached to provide adequate water to both guests and all staff members.

All visitors to Cape Town will be reminded to conserve water during their stay by taking shorter showers instead of baths, foregoing daily sheet/towel washing, and other measures.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely and provide any updates when necessary. We look forward to seeing you in Cape Town.