

ICC gets World Travel Award and gold status

SUREN NAIDOO

IT WAS double recognition for Durban's landmark Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex at the Indaba Travel Tradeshow with the centre retaining the title of Africa's Leading Convention Centre and being awarded Gold Classification by the Heritage Environmental Rating Programme.

The ICC secured the World Travel Award (WTA) for the ninth time at the glamorous second gala WTA African ceremony at Indaba – Africa's biggest annual tourism tradeshow – last night.

The gold Heritage Environmental Rating Programme recognition is for the centre's commitment to reducing the environmental impacts associated with the ICC and its operations.

The ICC first joined the Heritage Programme in 2007 and, since then, has shown a consistent reduction in energy and water consumption, as well as achieving positive results in its waste management systems.

It has also played an important role by increasing awareness among its clients and other organisations using the centre.

"We are ecstatic to have retained the title of the World Travel Award for Africa's Leading Convention Centre, but also the fact that Indaba has retained the title of Africa's Leading Travel Exhibition.

"We are partners in organising SA Tourism's big Indaba together with Tourism KZN and Durban Tourism, so we are all very happy to be part of the South African tourism industry's strong performance at the WTA African ceremony right here in Durban," said ICC chief executive Miller Matola.

"The Heritage Environmental Rating Programme recognition is reward for all the hard work our team has put towards achieving our environmental goals and it positions the ICC as an internationally responsible convention and exhibition facility," said Matola.

The decision to award the gold classification to the ICC was taken because of a number of noticeable improvements in the last year, including the introduction of event waste recycling stations; the



Durban's landmark Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre Complex retained the World Travel Award title of Africa's Leading Convention Centre in addition to being awarded Gold Classification by the Heritage Environmental Rating Programme at Indaba, which ended in Durban yesterday.

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replacement of polystyrene and plastic catering products with biodegradable and compostable products; and the reduced use of administrative paper through greater use of electronic communication and document management systems.

"The efforts of management in addressing its environmental performance over the past year has been particularly impressive, and while the ICC still has some way to go to achieve its objectives, we believe its upgrade to gold status is well-deserved," said Neal Dickinson, director of operations for Heritage.

World Travel Award (Africa) 2009 winners

- **Africa's Leading Airline:** South African Airways
- **Africa's Leading Airport:** O R Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Boutique Hotel:** Saxon Boutique Hotel & Spa, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Boutique Hotel Brand:** Mantis Collection
- **Africa's Leading Budget/Low-Cost Carrier:** 1 time
- **Africa's Leading Business Car Rental Company:** Avis
- **Africa's Leading Business Hotel:** Sandton Sun
- **Africa's Leading Business Travel Agency:** Travel with Flair
- **Africa's Leading Car Hire:** Europcar
- **Africa's Leading Casino Resort:** The Palace of the Lost City, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Conference Centre:** International Convention Centre Durban, South Africa

- **Africa's Leading Conference Hotel:** Kempinski Hotel Djibouti
- **Africa's Leading Conservation Company:** Shamwari Game Reserve, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Cruise Line:** Silversea Cruises
- **Africa's Leading Destination:** Cape Town
- **Africa's Leading Family Resort:** Sun City Resort, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Game Reserve Brand:** Mantis Collection
- **Africa's Leading Golf Resort:** Fancourt Hotel & Country Club, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Green Hotel:** Nairobi Serena Hotel, Kenya
- **Africa's Leading Hotel:** Mount

- Nelson Hotel, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Hotel Brand:** Starwood Hotels
- **Africa's Leading Luxury Hotel:** Arabella Western Cape Hotel & Spa
- **Africa's Leading Luxury Lodge:** Thanda Private Game Reserve, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Luxury Train:** The Blue Train
- **Africa's Leading Marketing Campaign:** South Africa Tourism, It's Possible
- **Africa's Leading Port:** Cape Town
- **Africa's Leading Resort:** Sun City Resort, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Responsible Tourism Company:** Nkwichi Lodge
- **Africa's Leading Safari Lodge:**

- Shamwari Game Reserve
- **Africa's Leading Sports Resort:** Zimbali Lodge & Country Club, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Spa Resort:** Pezula Resort Hotel & Spa, SA
- **Africa's Leading Suite:** Nelson Mandela Platinum Suite, Saxon Boutique Hotel & Spa, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Tourism Development Project:** Legend Golf & Safari Resort
- **Africa's Leading Tourist Board:** South Africa Tourism
- **Africa's Leading Town House Hotel:** Shamwari Town House
- **Africa's Leading Travel Agency:** Club Travel, South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Travel Exhibition:** Indaba
- **Africa's Leading Travel Management Company:** Travel with Flair South Africa
- **Africa's Leading Villa:** Queen Cleopatra Villa, Savoy Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt