YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 5TH ANNUAL INSTALMENT OF THE

DRONES, AI & GIS FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Southern Africa Conference & Workshop

EVENT PROGRAMME

24 – 26 NOVEMBER 2026

Radisson Blu Hotel, Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal

www.drmconference.com

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DAY 1

Tue, 24 Nov

Keynote Addresses: Critical Infrastructure, Insurance & Funding

DAY 2

Wed, 25 Nov

Panel Discussions: Use Cases, Technology, Funding & Regional Perspectives

DAY 3

Thu, 26 Nov

GIS Workshop & Live Drone Demonstration

GALA

Thu, 26 Nov · 18:30

Gala Dinner Programme

HOW TO READ THIS PROGRAMME

KEYNOTE PANEL BREAKOUT SPONSOR BREAK

DAY 1 Tuesday, 24 November 2026

Keynote Addresses – Critical Infrastructure, Insurance & Funding

08:15 – 08:45 — **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

08:45 – 09:00 — **Welcome remarks by the Programme Directors**
Mr Jurgens Deysel & Ms Tshidi Mndzebele

09:00 – 09:20 — **Opening Remarks by Host**
Ms Queen Ndlovu, QP Drone Tech (Pty) Ltd & South Africa Flying Labs

09:20 – 09:50 — KEYNOTE
National Planning Commission Advisory: Integrated Disaster Management Feedback
Commissioner: Ms S Bannister

09:50 – 10:10 — KEYNOTE
Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)
Minister, Hon. Velenkosini Hlabisa

10:10 – 10:30 — **Early Warnings for All (EW4All)**
National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) Head, Dr BE Sithole

10:30 – 10:45 — SPONSOR
Premium Sponsor Address
Ms Lorien Innes, ESRI

10:45 — **Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing** 10:45 – 11:15

11:15 – 11:35 — KEYNOTE
WeRobotics
Ms Sonja Betschart

11:35 – 11:50 — **Earth Observation & Satellite Data for Disaster Management**
Eyes in the Sky: Integrating Satellites, Drones, AI and GIS for Smarter Disaster Management
South African National Space Agency (SANSA), Dr Zakariyya Oumar

11:50 – 12:10 — SPONSOR
Sponsor Address
World Food Programme (WFP), Malawi – Mr Pray Gwatinyanya

12:10 – 12:30 — **Science, Innovation & Research Enabling DRM**
Bridging the Gap Between Research and Reality: Science and Innovation for Smarter Disaster Management
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr Edwin Magidimisha

12:30 – 13:15

PANEL

Critical Infrastructure & Climate Positioning

From Climate Vulnerability to Climate Resilience: Repositioning Critical Infrastructure for the Future

Moderator: Ms B Mgutshini

Panellists: Sasol – Dr P Mohlala · Ethekwini Metropolitan Municipality – Mr B Zondo · Gamma Tech SA – Flyability · Department of Public Works and Infrastructure – Dr J Sukhnandan

13:15 — **Lunch and Networking** 13:15 – 14:15

14:15 – 14:30

Leaving No One Behind

Technology for Everyone: Who Gets Left Behind When Disasters Strike?

Ms M Chauke-Adonis (Member of the Parliament Living with Disability)

14:30 – 15:15

PANEL

Climate Finance

Financing the Future: Rethinking Climate Finance in an Era of Increasing Disasters

Moderator: Dr P Nkosi

Panellists: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) – Mr Thabang Phago · Climate Change Commission – Commissioner Errol Mlambo

15:15 — **Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing** 15:15 – 15:45

15:45 – 16:30

PANEL

Beyond Claims

The Evolving Role of Insurance in Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resilience

Moderator: Dr K Mtsetfwa

Panellists: ITOO – Mr Kopano Tholo · Santam – Mr Neptal Khoza

16:30 – 17:00

Day 1 Closing Remarks

Programme Directors – Mr Jurgens Deysel & Ms Tshidi Mndzebele

Note: Keynote topics cover critical infrastructure, emerging technologies and funding for disaster risk reduction.

DAY 2 Wednesday, 25 November 2026

Panel Discussions – Use Cases, Technology, Funding & Regional Perspectives

08:00 – 08:30 — **Morning Coffee & Networking**

08:30 – 08:45 — **Recap of Day 1 & Overview of Panel Discussions**
Programme Directors – Mr Jurgens Deysel & Ms Tshidi Mndzebele

08:45 – 09:15 — KEYNOTE
National Defence Force
Beyond Defence: Strengthening the Role of the SANDF in Disaster Preparedness, Response and National Resilience
Capt. (SAN) P. Jones

09:15 – 10:15 — PANEL
Regulation and Innovation
Future-Ready Regulations: Balancing Safety, Compliance and Technological Advancement in Disaster Risk Management
Moderator: AviComply, Ms Sonet Kock
Panellists: South Africa Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) – Mr D Khumalo · Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) – Mr Francois Barwise

10:15 — **Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing** 10:15 – 11:00

11:00 – 11:30 — **RAPIDA for Cyclone Response and Recovery in Madagascar**
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Arnold Njogu, Hajamihamina Rarivohelison and Sedra Ranaivoarimanana

11:30 – 12:30 · BREAKAWAY SESSIONS (PARALLEL) — Overall Chair: Mr Cliff Mulenga

PANEL 1	PANEL 2	PANEL 3
Flying Labs Perspectives on Locally-led drone, AI and GIS in DRM	**Joint Use Cases – Disaster Preparedness and Early Warning Systems**	**Public Sector Leadership in Disaster Risk Management** *Bridging Policy, Innovation and Implementation*
MODERATOR WeRobotics, Mr Kenneth Ramah PANELLISTS Mozambique Flying Labs – Mr Deyril Ibraimo Namibia Flying Labs – Mr Charles Kamba Namibia Flying Labs – Ms Virginie Uwimana Zimbabwe Flying Labs – Mr Tawanda Chihambakwe	*Leveraging Emerging Technologies for Coordinated Humanitarian Response* MODERATOR COGTA, Ms Pumeza Tyali PANELLISTS South Africa Flying Labs (SAFL) & ABSA – Liezl Knouwds Alimdaad Foundation & SAFL – Mr Jack Shilubana The South African Red Cross Society & SAFL – Ms Boipelo Moraka Ashraful Aid Foundation – Mr Ahmad K Namutamba	MODERATOR South African Local Government Association (SALGA) – Ms Dorah Marema PANELLISTS Kwa-Zulu Natal-COGTA – Mr N Ngubo eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality – Mr J Khumalo Amathole District Municipality – Mr T Nxawe National Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development – Dr S Shwababa

12:30 — **Lunch & Networking** 12:30 – 13:30

13:30 – 14:00

SPONSOR

Sponsor Address

Lenovo – Mr Mubeen Suleman

14:00 – 15:00 · BREAKAWAY SESSIONS (PARALLEL) — **Overall Chair: Mr Cliff Mulenga**

PANEL 4

Technical Partners and Innovation in Action

Beyond the Talk: Drones, AI and GIS in Action for Disaster Risk Management

MODERATOR

Ms N Hlophe

PANELLISTS

IAS – Dexter Tangocci

Cloudline – Spencer Horne

Gamma Tech – Jan-Albert Viljoen

Esri – Nannette Naude

PANEL 5

SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC): Ideation Session

Identifying GIS and training needs for the SHOC project stakeholders

MODERATOR

Mr Sibusiso Ginindza, SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Centre Operations (SHOC)

PANELLISTS

Disaster Management & Mitigation Unit (DMMU) Zambia – C Silva, M Musukwa

Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) Malawi – D Magombo

BNGRC Madagascar – R Rindra

Ministry of Local Government & Public Works Zimbabwe – N Chukugwe-Mugabe

National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction – W Manhique

Esri – Pauline Okeyo

15:00 — **Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing** 15:00 – 15:30

15:30 – 16:00

Report back on Resolutions / Panel Discussions

Mr Clifford Mulenga

16:00 – 16:30

Day 2 Closing Remarks

Programme Directors – Mr Jurgens Deysel & Ms Tshidi Mndzebele

Note: Panel line-ups are indicative; final panellists to be confirmed with each organisation.

DAY 3 Thursday, 26 November 2026

GIS Workshop & Live Drone Demonstration, followed by the Gala Dinner

OPTION 1 · GIS WORKSHOP — Limited slots available · Facilitator: Ms Pauline Okeyo

09:00 – 09:15	**Morning Coffee & Networking**
09:15 – 09:30	**Welcome & Overview of GIS Workshop** Esri
09:30 – 10:30	**GIS Workshop, Part 1: Mapping & Spatial Analysis for Disaster Risk Management** Esri
10:30	**Networking & Refreshment Break** 10:30 – 10:45
10:45 – 12:15	**GIS Workshop, Part 2: Hands-on Practical Session** Esri
12:15	**Lunch & Networking** 12:15 – 13:00
13:00 – 16:00	**GIS Workshop, Part 2: Hands-on Practical Session** Esri
16:00	**Closing remarks and end of workshop**

OPTION 2 · LIVE DRONE DEMONSTRATIONS

09:00 – 12:45	**Live Drone Demonstration** Programme Director: Ms Virginia Uwimana – Namibia Flying Labs Presenters: Cloudline, IAS, DroneLabs, Gammatec-Flyability and Elistair
12:45 – 12:50	**Key Takeaways** Ms Queen Ndlovu
12:50 – 13:00	**Vote of Thanks** Mr Jack Shilubana – QP Drone Tech (Pty) Ltd
14:30	**Free Time / Delegate Check-in for Gala** 14:30 – 18:00

Note: Workshop is hands-on and limited to registered delegates with laptops; demo is open to all delegates.

GALA DINNER

Thursday, 26 November 2026

5th Annual Drones, AI & GIS for Disaster Risk Management Conference & Workshop – Southern Africa

Programme Directors: Ms Queen Ndlovu and Mr Tawanda Chihambakwe

18:30 — **Welcome Drinks** 18:30 – 19:00

19:00 – 19:20 — **Starter Served & Welcome Speech**
MEC: Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), KwaZulu-Natal
Hon. Rev. TD Buthelezi

19:20 – 19:35 — **South African Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries (AMD)**
CEO Mr Sandile Ndlovu

19:35 – 19:40 — **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**
MEC: Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Disaster Management

19:40 – 20:00 — KEYNOTE
Keynote Address
Hon. Deputy Minister of Defence Mr B H Holomisa

20:00 – 20:30 — **Dinner Is Served & Entertainment**

20:30 – 21:00 — **Awards Introduction and Presentations**
Winners announced and awarded by various hosting and sponsoring companies
Lenovo, WeRobotics, ATNS, ARMSCOR, Esri and AvenirHoldings

21:00 – 21:15 — **Dessert is Served & Entertainment**

21:15 – 21:20 — SPONSOR
Premium Sponsor Address
Esri

21:20 – 21:25 — **Celebratory Toast (5 Years Anniversary)**
WeRobotics: Ms Sonja Betschart

21:25 – 21:30 — **Vote of Thanks**
Jack Shilubana, South Africa Flying Labs & QP Drone Tech (Pty) Ltd

21:30 — **Entertainment & Networking** 21:30 – 23:00

Note: Live entertainment will run in the background throughout the Gala Dinner. Programme is a draft — session times, speaker names and running order are subject to confirmation and may change closer to the event.

5TH ANNUAL INSTALMENT

Thank you for joining us.

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SCAN TO VISIT

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Event information