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

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 Address:** *UN Office :* United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs **(**UNOOSA)
09:50 – 10:10	**Keynote Address** *Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Minister, Hon. Velenkosini*
10:10 – 10:30	**Early Warnings for All (EW4All)** *National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) CEO , Dr BE Sithole*
10:30 – 10:45	**Premium Sponsor Address** *Mr Carl Beck, ESRI*
10:45 – 11:15	**Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing**
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 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 Theme : Critical Infrastructure & Climate Positioning** *From Climate Vulnerability to Climate Resilience: Repositioning Critical Infrastructure for the Future* **Moderator: *Ms Evelyn Motsatsing (ARMSCOR)*** *Sasol - Dr P Mohlala, Passenger Rail Agency - Mr M Khumalo, Zulu Natal-COGTA - Ms B Mgutshini and Delta scan- Mr Darryl Epstein*
13:15-14.15	**Lunch and Networking**
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 with Disability)*
14:30 – 15:15	***Panel Theme: Climate Finance*** *Financing the Future: Rethinking Climate Finance in an Era of Increasing Disasters* ***Moderator:*** *Development Bank of Southern Africa, University of Johannesburg: Dr P Nkosi, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Mr Thabang Phago Climate Change Commission*
15:15 – 15:45	**Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing**

15:45 – 16:30	**Panel Theme: Beyond Claims** *The Evolving Role of Insurance in Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resilience* **Moderator :** *Dr K Mtsetfwa* *ITOO - Mr Kopano Tholo; Santam - Dr Moses Khangale*
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 Address: 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 Theme: 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) - and WeRobotics - Ms Sonja Betschart*
10:15 – 11:00	**Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing**
11:00 – 11.30	**RAPIDA for Cyclone Response and Recovery in Madagascar** *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Arnold Njogu, Hajamihamina Rarivohelison and Sedra Ranaivoarimanana*
Breakaway Sessions (Parallel Sessions) Overall Chair: Mr Cliff Mulenga	
11:30 – 12:30	**Panel Theme: *The Power of Glocalisation:*** ***Flying Labs Perspectives on Locally-led drone, AI and GIS in DRM*** ***Moderator: WeRobotics, Mr Kenneth Ramah*** *Panellists: Malawi Flying Labs – Mr Simon Tembo; Mozambique Flying Labs – Mr Deyril Ibraimo; Namibia Flying Labs – Mr Charles Kamba; Sierra Leone Flying Labs - Mr Ibrahim Bangura*
11:30 – 12:30	**Panel 2: Joint Use Cases – Humanitarian Agencies** *United in Crisis: Leveraging Emerging Technologies for Coordinated Humanitarian Response* ***Moderator: COGTA, Ms Pumeza Tjali*** *Panellists: South Africa Flying Labs(SAFL) & ABSA Liezl Knouwds-, Alimdaad Foundation & SAFL-Mr Jack Shilubana, The South African Red Cross Society & SAFL-Mr Jack Shilubana*
11:30 – 12:30	**Panel 3: Public Sector Perspectives in DRM** ***Moderator: South African Local Government Association(SALGA)- Ms Dorah Marema*** *Panellists: Kwa-Zulu Natal: Mr M Hadebe, eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality: Mr J Khumalo, Amathole District Municipality: Mr T Nxawe*
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch & Networking**
13:30 – 14:00	**Theme : STEM Initiatives in DRM:** *Building Tomorrow's Resilience: Empowering the Next Generation Through STEM in Disaster Risk Management* **The Robogirl Rise Initiative** *Lenovo and Zimbabwe Flying Labs*
Breakaway Sessions (Parallel Sessions), Overall Chair: Mr Cliff Mulenga	

14:00 – 15:00	**Panel 4: Global Perspectives – Drones, AI & GIS for Disaster Risk Management** **Moderator: Ms Sonja Betschart** *Panellists: Jamaica Flying Labs: Dr Valrie Grant , Esri: Carl Beck, and MapAction: Greg Fritz*
14:00 – 15:00	**Panel theme: 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 , Elistair Tethered Drones and Drone Labs- Preneshen Moodley*
14:00 – 15:00	**SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre (SHOC): Ideation Session** **Identifying GIS and training needs for the SHOC project stakeholders** **Moderator: Victor Olsen, iMMAP** ***Panellists:*** *SHOC - L Chunguane,C Silva, S Ginindza; DMMU Zambia - M Musukwa; DoDMA Malawi - D Magombo; BNGRC Madagascar – R Rindra; Ministry of Local Government & Public Works Zimbabwe – N Chukugwe-Mugabe; JICA KANSAI Mozambique – W Manhique*
15:00 – 15:45	**Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing**
15:45 – 17:15	**Report back on Resolutions/ Panel Discussions: Mr Clifford Mulenga**
17:15 – 17:30	**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)	
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 – 10:45	**Networking & Refreshment Break**
10:45 – 12:15	**GIS Workshop, Part 2: Hands-on Practical Session** *Esri*
12:15 – 13:00	**Lunch & Networking**
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	
9:00 – 12: 45	**Live Drone Demonstration: Data Capture, AI Processing & GIS Integration** *Programme Director : QP Drone Tech* *Cloudline, Delta Scan, IAS , DroneLabs and Hussair*
12:45 – 12:50	**Vote of Thanks:** *eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality*
12:50 – 13:00	**Wrap-up, Key Takeaways & Conference Close** *Programme Director - QP Drone Tech*
14:30 – 18:00	**Free Time / Delegate Check-in for Gala**

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

GALA DINNER PROGRAMME • Thursday, 26 November 2026

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

Programme Directors: Ms Brenda Talazo and Mr Tawanda Chihambakwe

18:30 – 19:00	**Welcome Drinks**
19:00 – 19:20	**Starter Served & Welcome Speech** *HOD: Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Disaster Management Centre* *Mr Sicelo Duma*
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 Address** *Minister Holomisa, Deputy Minister of Defence*
20:00 – 20.30	**Dinner Is Served & Entertainment**
20:30 – 20:45	**Signing Ceremony MOU**

20:45 – 20:50	**Introduction of Awards Categories** *QP Drone Tech: Ms Queen Ndlovu*
20:50 – 21:10	**Awards Presentation** *Winners announced and awarded by various hosting and sponsoring companies Lenovo, WeRobotics, ATNS , ARMSCOR , UNOOSA and AvenirHoldings*
21:10 – 21: 15	**Dessert is Served & Entertainment**
21:15 – 21:20	**Premium Sponsor Address** *Esri*
21: 20 – 21: 25	**Celebratory Toast(5 years Anniversary)** *SANTAM Insurance*
21:25 – 21: 30	**Vote of Thanks** *Jack Shilubana, South Africa Flying Labs & QP Drone Tech (Pty) Ltd*
21:30 – 23:00	**Entertainment & Networking**

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.