



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 <i>Mr Jurgens Deyssel & Ms Michelle Nxumalo</i>
09:00 – 09:20	Opening Remarks by Host <i>Ms Queen Ndlovu, QP Drone Tech (Pty) Ltd & South Africa Flying Labs</i>
09:20 – 09:50	Keynote Address: <i>UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction</i>
09:50 – 10:10	Keynote Address <i>Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Minister, Hon. Velenkosini</i>
10:10 – 10:30	Early Warnings for All (EW4All) <i>National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) CEO , Dr BE Sithole</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Premium Sponsor Address <i>Mr Carl Beck, ESRI</i>
10:45 – 11:15	Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing
11:15 – 11:35	Keynote: <i>WeRobotics, Ms Sonja Betschart</i>
11:35 – 11:50	Earth Observation & Satellite Data for Disaster Management <i>South African National Space Agency (SANSA), Dr Zakariyya Oumar</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Sponsor Address: <i>WFP - ECHO</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Science, Innovation & Research Enabling DRM <i>Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Mr Simphiwe Mkwelo</i>
12:30 – 13:15	Panel Discussion: Critical Infrastructure & Climate Positioning Moderator: Ms Evelyn Motsatsing (ARMSCOR) <i>Sasol- Dr P Mohlala , Passenger Rail Agency -Mr M Khumalo , AvenirHoldings - Ms T Mdebele and Kwa-Zulu -Natal Provincial Disaster Management Centre -Ms B Mngutshini</i>
13:15-14.15	Lunch and Networking
14:15 – 14:30	Leaving No One Behind in DRM Interventions <i>Ms M Chauke- Adonis(Member of the Parliament living with Disability)</i>
14:30 – 15:15	Panel Discussion: Climate Finance Moderator: <i>Development Bank of Southern Africa , University of Johannesburg , Presidential Climate Commission and COGTA</i>
15:15 – 15:45	Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing
15:45 – 16:30	Panel Discussion: Role of Insurance Sector within DRM Moderator : Dr K Mtsetfwa <i>ITOO- Mr Kopano Tholo, Santam- Dr Moses Khangale</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Day 1 Closing Remarks <i>[Programme Directors - Mr Jurgens Deyssel & Ms Michelle Nxumalo]</i>

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 <i>[Programme Directors - Mr Jurgens Deysel & Ms Michelle Nxumalo]</i>
08:45 – 09:15	Keynote Address: National Defence Force <i>BG A Barends</i>
09:15 – 10:15	Panel 1: Regulatory Perspective Moderator: AviComply <i>Panellists: South Africa Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)- and WeRobotics,</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing
11:00 – 11:30	RAPIDA for Cyclone Response and Recovery in Madagascar <i>UNDP and Madagascar NDMA</i>
Breakaway Sessions (Parallel Sessions)	
11:30 – 12:30	Panel 1: The Power of Glocalisation: Flying Labs Perspectives on Locally-led drone, AI and GIS in DRM Moderator: Mr Kenneth Ramah <i>Panellists: Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia Flying Labs</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Panel 2: Joint Use Cases – Humanitarian Agencies Moderator: COGTA-Ms Pumeza Tjali <i>Panellists: South Africa Flying Labs(SAFL) & ABSA, Alimdaad Foundation & SAFL, The South African Red Cross Society & SAFL</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Panel 3: Public Sector Perspectives in DRM Moderator: South African Local Government Association(SALGA)- Ms Dorah Marema <i>Panellists: KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Disaster Management Centre (KPDMC), eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, Amathole District Municipality and COGTA</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch & Networking
13:30 – 14:00	Presentation: STEM Initiatives in DRM: The Robogirl Rise Initiative <i>Lenovo and Zimbabwe Flying Labs</i>
Breakaway Sessions (Parallel Sessions)	
14:00 – 15:00	Panel 4: Global Perspectives – Drones, AI & GIS for Disaster Risk Management Moderator: Ms Sonja Betschart <i>Panellists: Jamaica Flying Labs, Esri, MapAction</i>
14:00 – 15:00	Panel 5: Technical Partners Moderator: Ms N Hlophe <i>Panellists: IAS, Delta Scan, Cloudline, Esri</i>
14:00 – 15:00	SHOC Ideation Session: Identifying GIS and training needs for the SHOC project stakeholders Moderator: Victor Olsen, iMMAP <i>Panellists: SHOC, DMMU Zambia, DoDMA Malawi, BNGRC Madagascar, Ministry of Local Government & Public Works Zimbabwe, JICA KANSAI Mozambique</i>
15:00 – 15:45	Networking & Refreshment Break / Exhibition Viewing
15:45 – 17:15	Report back on Resolutions/ Panel Discussions: Representations
17:15 – 17:30	Day 2 Closing Remarks <i>[Programme Directors - Mr Jurgens Deysel & Ms Michelle Nxumalo]</i>

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 <i>Esri</i>
09:30 – 10:30	GIS Workshop, Part 1: Mapping & Spatial Analysis for Disaster Risk Management <i>Esri</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Networking & Refreshment Break
10:45 – 12:15	GIS Workshop, Part 2: Hands-on Practical Session <i>Esri</i>
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch & Networking
13:00 – 16:00	GIS Workshop, Part 2: Hands-on Practical Session <i>Esri</i>
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 <i>Programme Director : QP Drone Tech</i> <i>Cloudline, Delta Scan, IAS and DroneLabs</i>
12:45 – 12:50	Vote of Thanks: <i>eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality</i>
12:50 – 13:00	Wrap-up, Key Takeaways & Conference Close <i>Programme Director - QP Drone Tech</i>
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 Tshidi Mdebele and Mr Tawanda Chihambakwe

18:30 – 19:00	Welcome Drinks
19:00 – 19:20	Starter Served & Welcome Speech <i>HOD: Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Disaster Management Centre</i> <i>Mr Sicelo Duma</i>
19.20-19.35	South African Aerospace Maritime and Defence Industries(AMD) : CEO <i>Mr Sandile Ndlovu</i>
19:35 – 19:40	Introduction of Keynote Speaker <i>MEC: Kwa-Zulu Natal Provincial Disaster Management</i>
19:40 – 20:00	Keynote Address <i>Minister Holomisa, Deputy Minister of Defence</i>
20:00 – 20:30	Dinner Is Served & Entertainment
20:30 – 20:45	Signing Ceremony MOU

20:45 – 20:50	Introduction of Awards Categories <i>QP Drone Tech</i>
20:50 – 21:10	Awards Presentation <i>Winners announced and awarded by various sponsor companies Lenovo, WeRobotics, Esri and ARMSCOR</i>
21:10 – 21:15	Dessert is Served & Entertainment
21:15 – 21:20	Premium Sponsor Address <i>Esri</i>
21:20 – 21:25	Celebratory Toast <i>SANTAM</i>
21:25 – 21:30	Vote of Thanks <i>Jack Shilubana, South Africa Flying Labs & QP Drone Tech (Pty) Ltd</i>
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.