



The 4th Southern African Drone, AI & GIS in Disaster Risk Management Conference & Workshop Programme



3rd - 5th
November 2025



Radisson Blue Hotel,
Durban, South Africa.



Co-funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



Day 1 - Monday, November 3, 2025

Radisson Blu Hotel, Umhlanga



08:30 – 09:00	Arrival, Registration & Badge collection
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome remarks by the Programme Directors <i>Mr. Dechlan Pillay & Ms. Michelle Nxumalo</i>
09:15 – 09:30	Opening Remarks by the Host <i>Ms. Queen Ndlovu, South Africa Flying Labs (NPO) & QP Drone Tech Pty (Ltd)</i>
09:30 – 09:45	Welcoming of the SADC, Conference Delegates, Partners and Sponsors <i>Mayor of eThekweni Municipality: Cllr Cyril Xaba</i>
09:45 – 10:15	Official opening address by the Minister of Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) <i>Hon. Mr. Velenkosini Hlabisa</i>
10:15 – 10:30	Linking the G20 Agenda to the DRM targets in the region by the G20 host in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) <i>Dr. Elias Sithole, NDMC Head in South Africa</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Keynote: Why geospatial data matters for DRM in the SADC region <i>Mr. Olivier Cottray, Director of Humanitarian Solutions – Esri, and Pradeep Mahabeer, Esri South Africa</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee & Tea break
11:00 – 11:20	Keynote: Localization: Determining the value of geospatial data in DRM <i>Sonja Betschart, Co-Founder & Co-Pilot, WeRobotics</i>
11:20 – 11:40	Strengthening SADC Preparedness: Supporting SHOC for Effective Disaster Response <i>Mr. Bertrand Rukundo (iMMAP) / Mr. Greg Fricz (MapAction)</i>
11:40 – 12:20	Panel: Best practices of using drones, AI and GIS for disaster preparedness and response by NDMAs Moderator: <i>Mr. Mayala Bwembya – Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (Zambia) and Ms. Pumeza Tyali (NDMC, South Africa)</i> Panelists: <i>Mr. Agnaldo Emanuel (National Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mozambique), Mr. Rasoanaivo Nalinirina Rindra (BNGRC, Madagascar), Mr. Sibusiso Ginindza (Eswatini NDMA), Mr. Daniel Magombo (Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Malawi)</i>



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12:20 – 12:40	The Role of Robotics & 3D data for complex engineering audits & disaster response <i>Mr. Darryl Epstein, CEO – Delta Scan</i>
12:40 – 12:50	Wildfire Risk Reduction & Recovery Using Drones and Geospatial Applications in Namibia <i>Mr. Charles Kamba, Namibia Flying Labs</i>
12:50 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:20	Fostering the role of Earth Observation Tools in DRM by South African National Space Agency (SANSA) <i>Mr. Humbulani Mudau – CEO</i>
14:20 – 14:40	Sponsor address: Bridging the Technology gap: geospatial tools and Applications in DRM <i>Mr. Charl Ihlenfeldt : Rectron – DJI</i>
14:40 – 15:10	Panel: Transforming emerging barriers into enablers: sustainable funding and insurance for DRM interventions <i>Moderator: Mr Michael Sudarkasa (UNDRR-Arise)</i> <i>Keynote Address (Sponsor): Mr. Kopano Tholo, ITOO Insurance</i> <i>Panelists: Dr. M Khangale (SANTAM), Wayne Dawson (Standard Bank), Mr. Philo Khosa (Merlin Gold)</i>
15:10 – 15:30	Sponsor address: Bridging the technology gap <i>Mr. Karsten Robbins, Wingtra</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee & Tea Break
16:00 – 16:30	Panel: Public sector interventions for DRM: regional, national, provincial and local governments <i>Moderator: Mr. Thembinkosi Nxawe (Head of Disaster – Amathole District Municipality – Eastern Cape)</i> <i>Keynote: Mr Clinton Heiman, Director General (Acting) – DALRRD</i> <i>Panelists: Ms. Lebogang Mosotho-Segage (Capricorn District and DMISA), Vincent Ngubane (Durban Metropolitan municipality), and Mr. Mzwandile Hadebe (KZN Provincial Disaster Management Centre), Sibusisiwe Goba (SALGA National Office)</i>
16:30 – 16:50	Sponsor Address – Lenovo <i>Mr. Mubeen Suleman, Lenovo</i>
16:50 – 17:00	Day 1 Recap: Tanzania Flying Labs, Mr. Leka Tingitana
17:00	End of Day 1



Day 2 - Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Radisson Blu Hotel, Umhlanga



08:30 – 09:00	Arrival, Exhibition and Networking
09:00 – 09:20	Keynote: The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) <i>Mr. S. Mkwelo, Optronics Sensor Systems and Impact Manager</i>
09:20 – 09:50	Panel: National Contingency Plans including Drones, GIS and AI <i>Moderator: Moderator: Mr. Agnaldo Emanuel (National Institute for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mozambique)</i> <i>Panelists: Panel: Mrs. Judith Nyamutenha (Department of Civil Protection, Zimbabwe), Mr. Daniel Magombo (Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Malawi), Mr. Mayala Bwembya (Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, Zambia), Ms. Pumeza Tyali (NDMC, South Africa)</i>
09:50 – 10:30	Panel: Scaling regionally: harmonizing regulations, standards & certification <i>Moderator: Mr. Sam Ntsu Twala from Ntsu Aviation</i> <i>Keynote address: Ms. Poppy Khoza (The CEO of South Africa Civil Aviation and the ex-Chairperson of the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO's))</i> <i>Panelists: Ms. Sonet Kock (AviComply), Ms. Sonja Betschart (WeRobotics), and Namibia Flying Labs (Mr. Charles Kamba)</i>
10:30 – 10:50	Keynote: 2022 KwaZulu-Natal floods: Reflections, lessons learned and the future <i>Ms. Barbara Mgutshini - Deputy Director General (DDG)</i>
10:50 – 11:20	Coffee & Tea break
11:20 – 11:50	Panel: Industry-specific DRM interventions <i>Moderator: Ms. Queen Ndlovu, South Africa Flying Labs & QP Drone Tech</i> <i>Panelists: SASOL-Dr. P Mohlala, Randwater, ARMSCO: Mr. Kingsley Ntshosho - Wits University -Prof. Stephanie Enslin</i>
11:50 – 12:10	Sponsor's address: <i>Mr. Leonard Balakisten - DroneLabs</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Keynote : Enhancing National Defense Through Geospatial Tools and Technologies <i>Brigadier General A. R Barend (Defense)</i>
12:30 – 13:00	Panel: User experience panel, Early anticipatory action in DRM <i>Moderator : Ms. Sibusisiwe Goba, (SALGA National office)</i> <i>Panelists: South African Red Cross Society: Mr. Siyabonga Hlatshwayo, Ashraf AID: Mr. Ahmad Namutamba and Alimdaad Foundation: Mr. Irfaan Ahmed</i>



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13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14.30	BREAKOUT SESSIONS Option 1: Beyond natural disasters: a focus on geospatial interventions for man-made disasters <i>Keynote: Mr Trevor Abrahams, Working on Fire (WOF)</i> <i>Moderator: Ms. Jamila Ndovela (sinkhole)</i> <i>Panelists: Gauteng Province-GOGTA: Ms UAV -Aerial Works: Ms. Kim James (mines) and SALGA: Kwa-Zulu Natal- Ms. Xolile Dube</i> Option 2: Panel on building sustainable cities and communities through the Power of Local – SDG 11 <i>Moderator: Ms. Diana Banda, Zimbabwe Flying Labs</i> <i>Panelists: Flying Labs (Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, eSwatini, and Mozambique)</i>
14:40 – 15:00	Technical and Sponsor presentation: GIS Solutions for DRM <i>Mr. Carl Beck, Business Development Manager, Esri</i>
15:00 – 15:20	The Strategic Role of Weather Service in DRM <i>Mr. Rudzani Malala (SAWS)</i>
15:30 – 16:00	BREAKOUT SESSIONS Option 1: Panel on inclusion, Diversity and Equity <i>Moderator: Ms. Gcina Madonsela : SMME- SA and Business Runaway</i> <i>Panelists: International Disability Advocate: Ms. Esihle Mhluzi, Kgothatso Innovations, Ms. Ndilisa Didiza (CEO and Founder -SMME-GIS), South Africa Flying Labs Drone Pilot (youth) – Ms. Boipelo Moraka, QP Drone Tech Carl Spies (AI)</i> Option 2: Technical partners' presentations <i>Moderator: Ms. Kim James</i> <i>Panelist: Mr Dexter Tangocci (IAS), Mr. Spencer Horne (Cloudline), Mr. Karsten Robbins (Wingtra), and Ms. Carel Engelbrecht (DJI)</i>
16:00 – 16:20	Closing remarks of the Conference <i>Mr. Jack Shilubana South Africa Flying Labs and QP Drone Tech</i>
16:20 – 16:30	End of Day 2 Recap and Conference Program Closure <i>Mr. Dechlan Pillay & Ms. Michelle Nxumalo – Programme Directors</i>



Day 2 - Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Gala Dinner



18:00 – 22:30	VENUE: Capital – Zimbali Lodge GALA DINNER SPONSORED BY DJI and ITOO Insurance <i>Programme Director. Tshidi Mndzebele, CEO-AvenirHoldings Pty Ltd</i> 18:30 – Gala dinner arrival, photo sessions and Welcome drinks 19:00 – Starter is served 19:30 – Gala dinner Sponsor Address (DJI) 19:45 – Entertainment 20:00 – Dinner is served 20:30 – Guest Speaker: Mr. Mbulelo Tshangana (DG: DcoG) 21:00 – Gala dinner Sponsor Address (ITOO) 21:15 – Dessert is served 21:30 – Entertainment and networking
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Day 3 - Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Various Locations



Option 1: Hands-on GIS Workshop (*Limited capacity - maximum 50 participants*)

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Umhlanga

08:30 – 09:00: Arrival & Registration
09:00 – 10:00: ArcGIS Online Collaboration set up
10:00 – 10:30: Coffee & tea break
10:30 – 12:30: ArcGIS hands-on session
12:30 – 13:30: Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00: Co-creation session and next steps
15:00: End of workshop
15:30 – 16:30: Individual follow-up discussions

Option 2: Co-creation session and Drone Demonstrations

Venue: Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban

08:30 – 09:00: Arrival & Registration: Moses Mabhida Stadium
Programme Director for the Drone DEMOs: Mr. Preneshen Moodley

09:00 – 10:00: Co-creation session by WeRobotics: The value of data
10:00 – 10:15: Entertainment: Traditional Dancers
10:15 – 10:30: Guest Speaker : Mr. Jotham Khumalo (eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality)
10:30 – 13:00: Drone Demonstrations
13:00 – 14:00: Lunch
End of Day 3

