



Hydromet AFRICA

Johannesburg South Africa

POST-EVENT PACK



14th-16th
July, 2026

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Event overview

The fifth of Varysian's convenings for the continent, HydrometAFRICA 2026 brought together leaders from national meteorological and hydrological services, disaster management agencies, utilities, academia, development partners and the private sector to explore the future of hydrometeorological services across Africa.

Discussions highlighted the importance of modernising observation networks, strengthening data sharing and interoperability, embracing artificial intelligence responsibly, improving forecast-to-action systems, securing sustainable investment, and delivering climate services that better support communities and critical sectors.

While challenges remain, a consistent theme has been the need for stronger collaboration across institutions and borders to build more resilient, integrated and impact-driven hydrometeorological services for the continent.

Summaries and photos

Pictures taken at the event can be found [here](#).

Summaries from discussions can be found [here](#).

Thank you to our speakers, panelists and presenters!



Thank you to our event exhibitors!



Delegates in attendance

- Didier Kakpa, Director and Permanent Representative to the WMO, Météo-Bénin
- Charles Molongwane, Chief Meteorologist, Botswana Meteorological Service
- Abba Amazia, Meteorological Engineer, Head of Network Department, Direction de la Météorologie Nationale (DMN)
- Bafana Simelane, Meteorological Instruments Engineer, Eswatini Meteorological Service
- Eric Asuman, Director, Ghana Meteorological Agency
- Finou Diawara, Deputy Director, National Agency of Meteorology of Guinea
- Dinesh Hinduja, AEM
- Adele Small, Chief Financial Officer, Africa Weather
- Carel Pretorius, Head of Sales and Solutioning, Africa Weather
- Dr. Herb Chickwanda, Director, Africa Weather
- Fortune Kuene, Lead meteorologist, Africa Weather
- Phemelo Zonke, Head of Meteorology, Africa Weather
- Ryan Kobus, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Weather
- Sihle Kunene, Lead Meteorology, Africa Weather
- Judy Mumba, Programme Officer, Local Development Research Institute
- Mark Gachara, Programme Officer, Local Development Research Institute
- Charles Ts'eole, Meteorologist and Weather Forecaster, Lesotho Meteorological Services
- Mokoena France, Principal Meteorologist, Lesotho Meteorological Services
- Francis Chithila, Principal Meteorologist Engineering (PME), Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, Malawi
- Jose Sanwanguane, Senior Forecaster, Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INAM), Mozambique
- Elias Aiyambo, Chief Meteorologist, Namibia Meteorological Service
- Aphelele Mgabisa, Remote Sensing Scientist, Department of Water and Sanitation
- Charmaine Dibetle, Senior Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Collins Ramuthula, Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Daniel Fundisi, Hydrologist/ PhD Student, Digby Wells Environmental/ UNISA
- Deon Terblanche, Consultant, Makwa IT
- Dr. Dawn, Mahlobo, Senior Manager: Climate Services, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Elizabeth Mokotong, Ogembo
- Jeremy Naidoo, Production Scientist, Department of Water and Sanitation
- Jerry Lengoasal, Director & Founder, Isimo-Seemo NPC and Isimo Intelligence
- Josiah Kimani, Research Associate, AfriClimate AI
- Ken Nixon, Associate Professor School of Electrical and Information Engineering, University of the Witwatersrand and President, African Centres for Lightning Education Network
- Khathutshelo Joshua Rasifudi, Director, Water Management Integration, Department of Water and Sanitation
- Khomotso Motshekga, Electronic Engineer, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Koena Ngoepe, Chief Radar Specialist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Lebogang Mosotho, Disaster Management Officer, Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa
- Lebogang Makgati, Senior Manager: Marine, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Leo Chiloane, Manager: uLwazi Node (Data and Information Management), South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)

- John Bagiliko, Research Associate, AfriClimate AI
- Lethabo Gift Selala, Senior Data Quality Controller, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Mahlatse Kganyago, Senior Researcher, University of Johannesburg and Society of South African Geographers (SSAG)
- Professor Mary-Jane Bopape, Distinguished Professor, Centre for Augmented Intelligence and Data Science, College of Science, Engineering & Technology, University of South Africa
- Melato Tobatsi, Senior Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Mlungisi Shabalala, Hydrologist, uMngeni-uThukela Water
- Molatelo Selepe, Senior Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Mosibudi Sekgala, Irrigation Technician, Department of Agriculture
- Musa Nhlumayo, Senior Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Mxolisi Mukhawana, Scientific Manager, Department Of Water And Sanitation
- Natheer Tofa, Senior Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Ndumiso Siphosezwe Masilele, Hydrologist, Department of Water and Sanitation
- Nomvuzo Mjadu, Deputy Director: Water Management, Department of Agriculture
- Pallelo Lebaka, Intelligence Business Development Officer, Isimo
- Percy Sithole, Water Resources Planner, uMngeni-uThukela Water
- Pieter Rademeyer, Scientific Manager, Department Water Affairs and Sanitation
- Prof. Rendani Mbuva, Associate Professor School of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Witwatersrand and Director, AfriClimate AI
- Remember Dibakoane, Senior Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Sehlabi Hendrick Thulare, Climate Data, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Siviwe Mcako, Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Steadmores Musenyi, Environmental Specialist, Southern African Power Pool
- Tshepo Ngobeni, Executive, PeoIT
- Velelo Mazele, Senior Technologist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Webster Ngoepe, Radar Specialist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Xolelwa Ntoyanto, Technician, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Zamikhaya Magogoty, Radar Specialist, South African Weather Service (SAWS)
- Miyanda Syabwengo, Assistant Director for Infrastructure, Climate, and Advisory Services, Zambia Meteorological Department
- Cleophas Machipisa, Deputy Director, Aviation, Meteorological Services Department
- Anton Redelinghuys, Owner, Control Systems Technology (OTT)
- Christiaan Pelser, HoD:ATM, Hensoldt
- Clemencia Ongaki, Sales Manager, Vaisala
- David Godwin, GAMIC
- Dina Efsthathiou, Sales Director, Raymetrics
- Dr.-Eng. Marin Dimitrov, Senior Manager, EMEA Meteorology, OTT
- Eirini Drakopoulou, PM, Raymetrics SA
- Eric Baptiste, EEC Satellite Systems Manager, Leonardo
- Frikkie Botha, Hensoldt
- Gcobane Quvile, Business Development, Campbell Scientific
- Jay Pabustan, Head of Global Market Intelligence, OTT
- Johan Visagie, MD: Africa, Campbell Scientific
- Katie Barkans, Operations Manager, Varysian
- Kimmo Ristolainen, Sales Director, Vaisala
- Luke Pierce, Managing Director, Varysian

- Marianela Capozzi , INVAP
- Mariano Gonzalez, VP, INVAP
- Mark Barrett, International Business Development Support, Tomorrow.io
- Michal Najman, CEO & Founder, Meteopress
- Mikko Krapu, Product Line Manager, Vaisala
- Mnikeli Ndabambi, CEO, Ogembo
- Mo Check, Varysian
- Munyutu Waigi Africa, Business Development Manager, Tomorrow.io
- Paul Malkomes, GAMIC
- Phemelo Zonke, Head of Meteorology, Africa Weather
- René Grasselt, Sales Manager, Leonardo
- Richard Fellner, CEO, nowcast
- Roelof Bruntijes, Azania & Radiometrics
- Rozahn van Schalkwyk, Campbell Scientific
- Ryan Kobus, Chief Executive Officer, Africa Weather
- Sihle Kunene, Lead Meteorology, Africa Weather
- Simon Smith, Chargé de Développement Commercial - DAS Météo, Sterela
- Simon Willard , Varysian
- Stéphane PEDEBOY, Directeur Technique / Chief Technology Officer, Meteorage
- Vic Cruger, Managing Director, SME Monitoring (OTT)
- Zuzana Pestova, Head of Business Development, Meteopress
- Elizabeth Viljoen, Early Warning Specialist, World Food Programme
- Bridgette Setshedi, Manager: Climate Mitigation, Presidential Climate Commission

Missed a connection?

Reach out to **liam.smith@varysian.com** to get in touch with other delegates who you may have missed at the event.

Agenda and presentation files

Day 1: National Systems & Operational Realities

10:00 - 10:30 - Technical Presentations and Case Studies

- Michal Najman, CEO and Founder, Meteopress

12:00 - 12:30 - Technical Presentations and Case Studies

- [Mikko Krapu, Vaisala](#)
- [Marianela Capozzi, INVAP](#)

Day 2: Data, Technology & Innovation Architecture

Keynote Session: Hydromet Data Architecture: Why does hydromet data not flow effectively in Africa, and what realistically fixes it?

- [Leo Chiloane, Manager: uLwazi Node \(Data and Information Management\), South African Environmental Observation Network \(SAEON\)](#)

Technical Presentations and Case Studies

- [Dr. Roelof Brientjes, Radiometrics/Azania](#)
- [Richard Fellner, CEO, nowcat](#)

CASE STUDIES: Modernising Observation Networks in Complex Terrain

- [Mary-Jane Bopape, Distinguished Professor, Centre for Augmented Intelligence and Data Science, College of Science, Engineering & Technology, University of South Africa - Why Ground Observations Matter: Implications for Satellite Products and Numerical Modelling in Africa](#)
- [Miyanda Syabwengo, Assistant Director for Infrastructure, Climate, and Advisory Services, Zambia Meteorological Department, Modernising Observation Networks in Complex Terrain and Data-Sparse Regions \(A case Study of Zambia\)](#)
- [Bafana Simeane, Meteorological Instruments Engineer, Eswatini Meteorological Service](#)

11:45 - 12:30 - Technical Presentations and Case Studies

- [Raymetrics - From Observation Gaps to Operational Impact](#)
- [Campbell Scientific](#)

16:00 - 16:45 - PRESENTATIONS: Specific project presentations or case studies showing regional projects completed, ongoing, upcoming

- Professor Rendani Mbuyha, Associate Professor School of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Witwatersrand and Director, AfriClimate AI
- [Francis Chithila, Principal Meteorologist Engineering \(PME\), Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services](#)
- [José Sawanguane, Senior Forecaster, Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia, Mozambique](#)

Day 3: Cross-Sector Integration & Governance

Technical Presentations and Case Studies

- [Rene Grasselt, Sales Manager Leonardo](#)
- [Paul Malkomes, CEO, GAMIC](#)
- [Stephane Pedebay, Meteorage](#)
- [Marin Dimitrov, OTT, Kipp & Zonen](#)

