



## Planning for extreme events: uMngeni Resilience Project hosts Early Warning System workshop

The uMngeni Resilience Project recently hosted a two-day workshop focused on the development of Early Warning Systems for the uMgungundlovu District Municipality. The workshop was attended by approximately 80 stakeholders from around the country, including data generators (such as the South African Weather Service), data users (from various universities and institutions) and disaster management officials (from KwaZulu-Natal Municipalities and Government Ministries).

The first day of the workshop focused on understanding the state of South Africa's existing Early Warning Systems and the national vision for using climate information. The second day focused on how the uMngeni Resilience Project can build on what is already in place and fill the current gaps so that warnings can make their way to vulnerable communities in the District. Additionally, the Disaster Management capabilities in the uMgungundlovu District Municipality were discussed.



Left: Project Implementation partners; Right: Workshop participants

The workshop was successful in stimulating lively discussions about the best way to generate, package and send weather warnings to communities in high-risk areas. The importance of partnerships was stressed, as was inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in monitoring risks and sharing warning messages. Numerous lessons from other Early Warning Systems were shared and the important points were noted for inclusion in the uMngeni Resilience Project. An exciting outcome of the workshop was the strengthening of the partnership with the South African Weather Service, who is the custodian of climate data in the country.

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