The South African Weather Service

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Current status

- **Data and communication**
  - Large observational network and models available
  - Available to forecaster via web portal and other
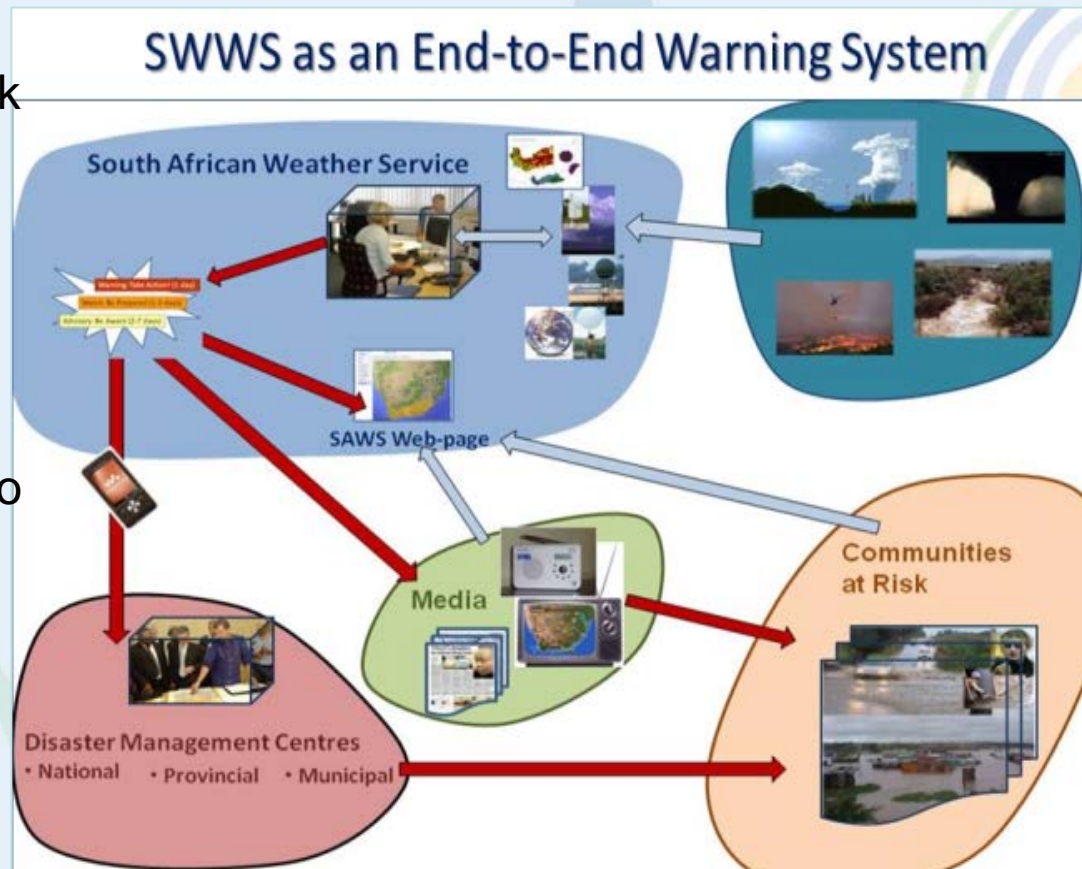- **Forecast and Decision support**
  - Alerts prepared according to standard work instructions
  - Alerts issued include watches, warning and special weather advisories

- **Warning Dissemination**
  - Disaster management, media, social media platform's and website
  - Alerts issued via sms, email or CAP messages
- **Feedback**
  - Disaster management reports and public

SWWS as an End-to-End Warning System

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SAWS Web-page

Media

Disaster Management Centres
· National   · Provincial   · Municipal

Communities at Risk

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Future Realistic State

- Increase and improve the current observational network
  - Better integration thereof
  - Better link to other sources of observational data (e.g hydrographs and web cams)
- Forecasting practices and information
  - Higher resolution model (UM 4km)
  - Hazard monitoring dash board and improved web portal
  - Forecaster display system to integrate use of models, observations etc.
- Impact based forecasting
  - Currently going into testing phase
- Increase public awareness and understanding
- Affective information sharing with disaster management through a web portal

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Gaps

- Observational network
- Forecaster display system – seamless use of all information available
- Warning dissemination
  - Message not always correct to be used by disaster management or public
  - Improved communication with disaster management required
  - Message does not always reach the general public, especially grass-roots
  - Community response low and more awareness required

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Major steps needed to fill the gaps

- Ensure funds always available to maintain and increase the observational network

- Forecaster display system

- Web portal for disaster management for information sharing

- Impact based forecasting (testing and implementation)

- System to get message out to grass-roots and community response
  - Improved technology
  - Improved use of social media
  - Community awareness programs

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Resources required

- Observational network
  - Costs: Increase network and network maintenance
  - Human: IT staff and maintenance

- Forecast display system
  - Costs: License cost
  - Human: Trained IT personal

- Web portal for Disaster Management
  - Human: IT personal

- System to get message out to grass-roots and community response
  - Costs: Community response technology
  - Human: IT and other (people to educate and local contacts)

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