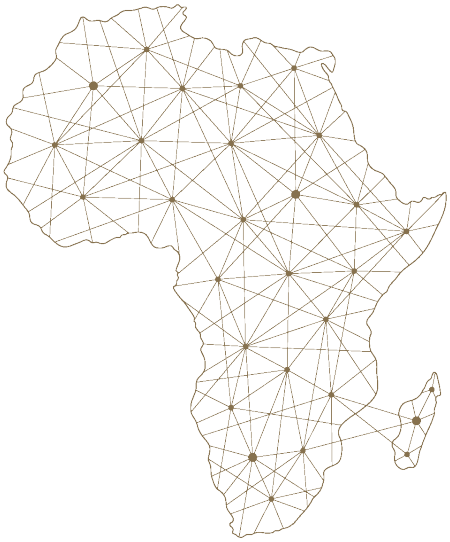


AFRICAN DATA SCIENCE CONFERENCE

24-26 JUNE 2026
WITS UNIVERSITY

Sponsorship Prospectus

African Data Science Conference 2026

Wits Science Stadium, University of the Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa

24–26 June 2026

Optional workshops: 23 June 2026

Conference theme: African Data Science, for Africa
ADSC 2026 invites organisations to partner in strengthening Africa's data science ecosystem, supporting postgraduate and early-career researchers, connecting academia and industry, and advancing responsible innovation in data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, statistics, analytics, and digital transformation.

Conference website: https://www.wits.ac.za/adsc2026/

Registration: https://adsconference.witsevents.co.za/register

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/african-data-science-conference/

Enquiries: adsc2026@easychair.org

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ADSC 2026 Sponsorship Prospectus

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ADSC 2026 at a Glance

MAIN CONFERENCE **24–26 June 2026**	OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS **23 June 2026**	HOST INSTITUTION **Wits University**
VENUE **Wits Science Stadium**	THEME **African Data Science, for Africa**	FORMAT **In-person conference**

Key Contacts

General enquiries	**adsc2026@easychair.org**
Conference & Programme Chair	Dr Farai Mlambo, University of the Witwatersrand **farai.mlambo@wits.ac.za**
Scientific Committee Chair	Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli, University of Pretoria **inger.fabris-rotelli@up.ac.za**
Organising Committee Chair	Dr Taariq Surtee, University of the Witwatersrand **taariq.surtee@wits.ac.za**
Fundraising Committee Chair	Dr Isaac Nyambiya, Great Zimbabwe University **inyambiya@gzu.ac.zw**

Message from the Conference Chair

The African Data Science Conference 2026 is convened under the theme **African Data Science, for Africa**. This theme reflects both a scholarly commitment and a developmental responsibility: to build platforms through which African researchers, students, institutions, industries, and public-sector actors can shape the future of data science in ways that respond meaningfully to African realities, aspirations, and opportunities. ADSC 2026 will bring together postgraduate students, academics, researchers, data scientists, industry practitioners, policy-makers, innovators, technology leaders, development partners, and institutional executives. The conference is intended to provide a space for rigorous research exchange, practical knowledge sharing, responsible AI dialogue, postgraduate development, and cross-sector collaboration. We invite your organisation to sponsor or partner with ADSC 2026. Your support will contribute directly to strengthening the African data science ecosystem, expanding access for students and early-career researchers, enabling high-quality workshops and programme activities, and deepening the interface between academia, industry, policy, and society.

Dr Farai Mlambo, PhD (Mathematical Statistics)
Conference Chair, ADSC 2026, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Senior Lecturer, Digital Business, Wits Business School
Fellow: Machine Intelligence and Neural Discovery Institute, University of the Witwatersrand
Associate (Statistics): The National Institute for Theoretical and Computational Sciences

About ADSC 2026

The **African Data Science Conference 2026 (ADSC 2026)** is a scholarly and professional platform for engagement across data science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, statistics, analytics, and related interdisciplinary domains. Hosted by the **University of the Witwatersrand** at the **Wits Science Stadium**, the conference is designed to stimulate high-quality research exchange, industry collaboration, methodological innovation, and responsible data-driven practice in African and globally relevant contexts. ADSC 2026 will bring together researchers, postgraduate students, academics, industry practitioners, policymakers, innovators, institutional leaders, and development partners. Its intellectual scope spans both technical and applied dimensions of data science, including responsible AI, statistical learning, business analytics, health analytics, geospatial data science, climate and sustainability analytics, fintech, digital transformation, data governance, data science education, and African-centred applications of intelligent systems. The conference has already attracted strong continental and cross-sector interest. To date, ADSC 2026 has received approximately **225 abstracts**, reflecting a vibrant response from contributors working across universities, research institutes, public institutions, and industry-facing environments. Following peer review and programme curation, the conference has accepted approximately **150 submissions for oral presentation**, with additional high-quality contributions accommodated as **poster presentations**. This response points not only to the scale of interest in the conference, but also to the growing maturity and breadth of the African data science ecosystem. The current profile of submissions suggests a geographically and institutionally diverse gathering, with participation expected from multiple parts of Africa and beyond, and with contributions spanning theoretical, methodological, applied, and policy-oriented work. ADSC 2026 is therefore positioned not merely as a technical meeting, but as a broader platform for dialogue across research, implementation, governance, and social impact.

Conference profile

Abstracts received: Approximately 225
Oral presentations accepted: Approximately 150
Additional presentations: Poster presentations included to accommodate further strong submissions
Participant base: Researchers, students, industry practitioners, policymakers, innovators, and institutional leaders
Core themes: Responsible AI, machine learning, statistics, analytics, digital transformation, governance, health, climate, fintech, education, and African-centred innovation

Strategic purpose

ADSC 2026 seeks to strengthen Africa's data science ecosystem by creating a high-quality platform for research presentation, postgraduate development, industry engagement, responsible AI dialogue, and collaboration across universities, industry, government, and development institutions.

Why Sponsor ADSC 2026?

Sponsoring ADSC 2026 positions your organisation within a growing African ecosystem of data science, artificial intelligence, analytics, and digital innovation. It provides visibility among highly engaged academic, institutional, industry, and policy audiences while contributing to research capacity, skills development, and responsible innovation.

Strategic visibility
Position your organisation among leading universities, researchers, practitioners, students, and institutional decision-makers.

Thought leadership
Associate your brand with responsible AI, data science excellence, digital transformation, and African innovation.

Talent pipeline
Engage postgraduate students, early-career researchers, emerging data scientists, and analytics professionals.

Research collaboration
Create pathways for collaboration with academics, research groups, laboratories, and applied data science teams.

Industry relevance
Showcase real-world use cases, tools, platforms, services, and strategic initiatives to a specialised audience.

Social impact
Support student participation, postgraduate development, African capacity building, and inclusive knowledge exchange.

Sponsorship Impact Areas

Sponsorship contributions will help ADSC 2026 deliver a stronger, more inclusive, and more impactful conference. Support may be directed towards the following areas:

Student participation
Registration support, student access, and participation by delegates from under-resourced institutions.

Registration waivers
Targeted support for postgraduate students, early-career researchers, and selected delegates.

Postgraduate development
Skills-building activities, mentorship, research presentation opportunities, and networking.

Workshops
Practical training in data science, LLM agents, spatial data science, publishing, and industry practice.

Keynote and panel sessions
High-level scholarly, policy, industry, and governance conversations.

Industry engagement
Lightning talks, exhibitions, applied sessions, and practice-oriented knowledge exchange.

Prizes and awards
Recognition of outstanding student, early-career, and applied research contributions.

Conference materials
Delegate materials, conference bags, branded assets, communication material, and programme support.

Exhibition activities
Sponsor showcases, institutional visibility, and engagement with participants.

Responsible AI capacity building
Support for ethical, accountable, inclusive, and context-sensitive data science practice.

Sponsorship Packages

The following sponsorship packages are available for organisations wishing to support ADSC 2026. Tailored arrangements may also be discussed with the organising committee.

Bronze Sponsor — R15 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- Logo placement on the conference website.
- Acknowledgement in the conference programme.
- Recognition during the opening session.
- One complimentary full conference registration.

An entry-level partnership for institutions and organisations wishing to support the conference and gain formal recognition.

Silver Sponsor — R30 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- All Bronze Sponsor benefits.
- Two complimentary full conference registrations.
- Exhibition space.
- Recognition on selected conference communication material.

A strong visibility package for organisations seeking direct engagement with conference delegates and institutional partners.

Gold Sponsor — R50 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- All Silver Sponsor benefits.
- Three complimentary full conference registrations.
- Premium logo placement.
- Promotional insert in conference bags.
- Sponsorship of a themed session, panel, or student activity.

A high-impact partnership for organisations seeking deeper association with conference themes and participant engagement.

Platinum Sponsor — R75 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- All Gold Sponsor benefits.
- Four complimentary full conference registrations.
- Premium recognition across conference branding.
- Brief speaking opportunity during a high-visibility session.

- Enhanced visibility across conference media platforms.
- Priority exhibition presence.

A premier sponsorship category for organisations seeking leadership-level visibility and strategic association with ADSC 2026.

Conference Bag Sponsor — R40 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- Logo branding on official conference bags.
- Exhibition presence.
- Promotional inserts in conference bags.
- Acknowledgement on the conference website and in the official conference programme.
- Two complimentary full conference registrations.

A highly visible branding opportunity connected directly to the delegate experience.

Workshop Sponsor — R45 000

SPONSOR BENEFITS

- Sponsorship of up to three workshop sessions.
- Acknowledgement in the workshop programme.
- Branding on selected workshop communication material.
- Two complimentary full conference registrations.

An ideal package for organisations interested in skills development, practical training, and knowledge transfer.

Tailored Partnership Opportunities

ADSC 2026 welcomes customised sponsorship and partnership arrangements aligned with organisational priorities. These may include support for student scholarships, registration waivers, workshop sponsorship, industry panels, thematic sessions, exhibition activities, research showcases, prizes and awards, postgraduate development, or sector-specific engagement.

Examples of tailored partnerships

- Student participation fund or postgraduate scholarship support.
- Sponsorship of a panel on AI governance, data science education, or responsible AI.
- Industry-hosted lightning talk session or applied data science showcase.
- Exhibition partnership for tools, platforms, programmes, or research initiatives.
- Support for awards recognising outstanding student or early-career research.
- Custom support for workshops, skills development, and professional training.

Programme Highlights

ADSC 2026 will feature a rich and carefully curated programme designed to combine scholarly rigour, professional relevance, interdisciplinary exchange, and strategic dialogue. The conference structure has been developed to create meaningful opportunities for research presentation, institutional engagement, industry participation, postgraduate development, and networking across the African data science ecosystem.

A major highlight of the conference will be a distinguished keynote platform featuring leading academic, research, and industry voices. Confirmed keynote speakers include **Prof. Loyiso Nongxa**, **Prof. Maurice Radebe**, **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli**, **Prof. Vukosi Marivate**, **Prof. Karin-Therese Howell**, and **Prof. Benjamin Rosman**. Together, these speakers reflect the conference's commitment to intellectual excellence, African relevance, methodological depth, and high-level engagement across science, technology, innovation, and leadership.

The broader programme will include keynote addresses, industry lightning talks, panel discussions, workshops, technical paper sessions, exhibitions, and networking opportunities. It is intentionally designed to balance scholarly depth, practical application, and forward-looking discussion on the future of data science and artificial intelligence in Africa.

Confirmed keynote speakers

- **Prof. Loyiso Nongxa**
- **Prof. Maurice Radebe**
- **Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli**
- **Prof. Vukosi Marivate**
- **Prof. Karin-Therese Howell**
- **Prof. Benjamin Rosman**

Planned themes and programme elements include:

- keynote addresses by leading scholars, institutional leaders, and data science experts;
- industry lightning talks showcasing applied data science, artificial intelligence, and innovation in practice;
- panel discussions on **AI Governance**, **Data Science Education**, and the future of responsible digital transformation in Africa;
- technical sessions covering data science, machine learning, artificial intelligence, statistics, analytics, and interdisciplinary applications;
- thematic conversations on responsible AI, data governance, digital transformation, and African-centred innovation;
- exhibitions and partner visibility opportunities for institutions, sponsors, and technology stakeholders;
- networking opportunities for researchers, students, practitioners, policymakers, funders, and sponsors.

In keeping with the broader objectives of ADSC 2026, the programme is intended not only to showcase excellent work, but also to strengthen collaboration across universities, industry, government, and development institutions, while creating a strong platform for emerging scholars and next-generation African data science leadership.

Workshops

Optional workshops are scheduled for **23 June 2026**, ahead of the main conference programme. These workshops are designed to provide practical, scholarly, and professional development opportunities.

- **Beyond Vibe Coding: Building Trustworthy Data Science with LLM Agents**
  Naweed Khan and **Dr Ndivhuwo Makondo**, IBM Research.
- **Introduction to Spatial Data Science**
  Prof. Inger Fabris-Rotelli, University of Pretoria.
- **Publishing in Top Tier Journals**
  Prof. Moinak Maiti, Wits University.
- **Data Science in Industry**
  Prof. Charis Harley, University of Johannesburg.

Audience and Reach

ADSC 2026 is expected to attract a diverse and influential audience across academia, industry, government, development organisations, and professional communities. The conference is particularly relevant to:

Postgraduate students
Emerging researchers in data science, AI, statistics, analytics, business, health, climate, finance, and related fields.

Academics and researchers
Scholars working across machine learning, statistics, AI, analytics, digital transformation, and applied domains.

Industry practitioners
Data scientists, AI professionals, analytics leaders, consultants, technology teams, and business executives.

Policymakers
Public-sector actors and institutional leaders concerned with data governance, responsible AI, and evidence-based decision-making.

Institutional executives
University, research, industry, professional body, and development-sector leaders.

Development partners
Foundations, agencies, and organisations supporting African capacity, research, innovation, and digital transformation.

Governance and Credibility

ADSC 2026 is supported by a formal governance structure designed to ensure academic quality, operational accountability, programme coherence, and institutional credibility.

The governance framework includes the **Advisors**, **Scientific Committee**, **Programme Committee**, **Conference Proceedings Editors**, **Organising Committee**, and **Fundraising Committee**. These structures support strategic guidance, scientific oversight, programme development, proceedings quality, operational delivery, and sponsorship engagement.

The Scientific Committee provides academic oversight, peer review guidance, and scholarly direction. The Organising Committee supports practical planning, administration, venue coordination, communication, and delivery. The Fundraising Committee supports sponsorship development, donor engagement, and institutional partnerships.

Current Sponsors and Partners

ADSC 2026 gratefully acknowledges the support of its confirmed sponsors, partners, and institutional collaborators. Their contributions help strengthen the conference's mission while supporting research engagement, postgraduate development, industry collaboration, student participation, and responsible data science innovation across the continent.

How to Become a Sponsor

Organisations interested in sponsoring, exhibiting, supporting student participation, facilitating workshops, supporting prizes and awards, or entering into a tailored partnership with ADSC 2026 are invited to contact the organising committee.

Sponsorship enquiries

Email: adsc2026@easychair.org
Conference Chair: Dr Farai Mlambo, University of the Witwatersrand
Fundraising Committee Chair: Dr Isaac Nyambiya, Great Zimbabwe University
Wits Enterprise Contact Person: Ms Sibongile Horo, University of the Witwatersrand
Wits Enterprise Email: Sibongile.Horo@wits.ac.za

Payment and invoicing details

Sponsoring organisations may request an institutional invoice or payment guidance from the organising committee. Payment for sponsorships and related conference support should be made to the designated **Wits Enterprise** account reflected below.

Institution / Payee	*WITS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE (PTY) LTD*
Bank	First National Bank (FNB)
Account type	Public Sector Business Account
Account number	62053727304
Branch code	251905
Branch name	Braamfontein
SWIFT code	FIRNZAJJ
Invoice contact	Ms Sibongile Horo, Wits Enterprise
Reference	EUD006 + Company Name

Partner with ADSC 2026

ADSC 2026 offers organisations an opportunity to contribute to a growing African data science movement. By sponsoring the conference, your organisation will help support students, strengthen research capacity, enable cross-sector collaboration, advance responsible AI, and promote data science that speaks meaningfully to African contexts.
We invite you to partner with ADSC 2026 in shaping the future of African data science.

African Data Science, for Africa
adsc2026@easychair.org