

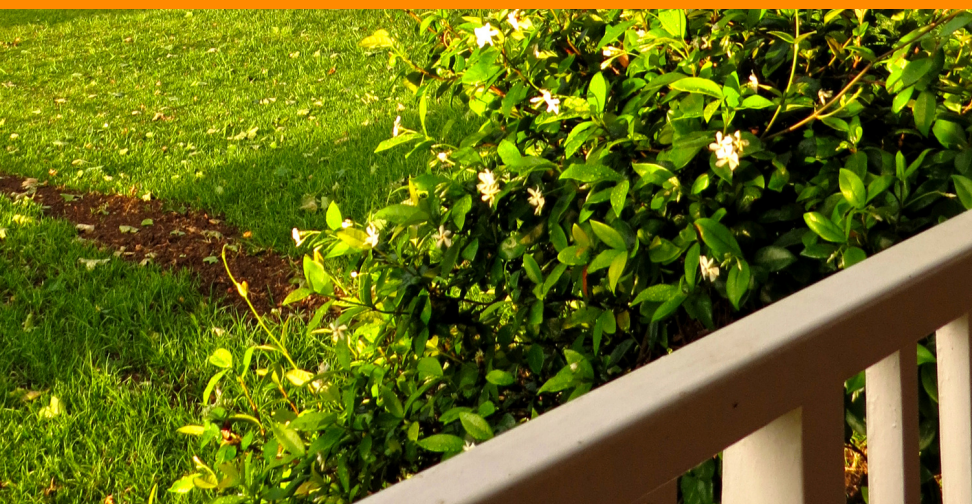


**7-9 July 2026
Johannesburg,
South Africa**

ArcX Programme Regional Workshop: Southern Africa

**Strengthening transboundary basin cooperation for
disaster risk prevention and preparedness**

Information Package



ArcX Programme Regional Workshop: Southern Africa

Dates: 7-9 July 2026

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Venue: Birchwood Hotel

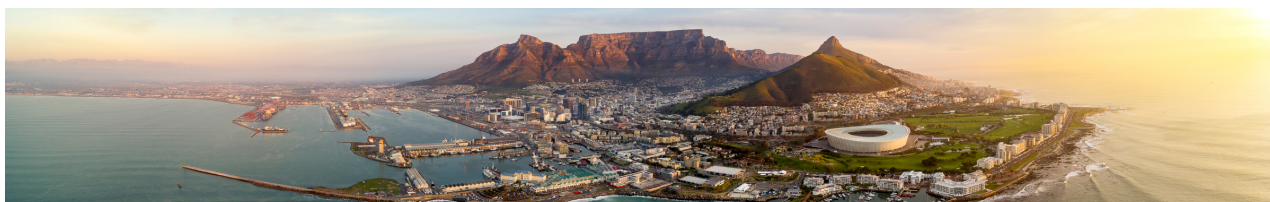
1. ABOUT THE ARCX PROGRAMME

The Africa Regional Centres of Excellence (ArcX) programme is an innovative initiative advancing sustainable development in Africa through Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI).

Launched in 2023, ArcX strengthens collaboration between African and European institutions, fostering inclusive green growth and supporting Africa's transformative agenda in key areas:

- Agroecology
- Biodiversity & Forests
- Water
- Ocean
- Climate Change Resilience

Learn more about the ArcX Programme ➡ www.arcx.green



2. EVENT OBJECTIVES

- Improve cooperation across transboundary river basins and build a shared regional vision,
- Advance and strengthen alignment across the ArcX thematic components,
- Facilitate the co-design of frameworks to promote science-policy-practice collaborations,
- Develop actionable solutions while identifying innovation and youth engagement pathways for the upcoming ArcX Forum.

3. VENUE & ACCOMMODATION

Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre

Offering both four-star and three-star hotel rooms, located near OR Tambo International Airport, the accommodation includes free high-speed WiFi. Birchwood offers over 60 conference venues, including multiple event venues and meeting rooms capable of hosting small and large events.



Preferential rate: for accommodation rates, please contact the hotel's Reservations Manager, Elishe Wagener, at ElisheW@birchwoodhotel.co.za or reservations@birchwoodhotel.co.za, or make a booking through the hotel website using the references below for a preferential rate:

- BB ID 2805948 for R1790.00 Single DBB &
- DBBBB ID 2805948 for R2200.00 Sharing DBB

Distance from airport: 10 min by car/taxi.



4. ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION CLOSE TO VENUE

Holiday Inn Johannesburg Airport

At Holiday Inn Johannesburg Airport, 151 modern rooms are designed for both business efficiency and leisurely relaxation. Speedy Wi-Fi and a 24-hour business centre make work seamless, while the inviting outdoor pool and gym cater to your downtime.

Distance from airport: 10 min by car/taxi.

Distance from venue: 3 min by car/taxi.



Euoprime Hotel

A short drive from OR Tambo International Airport, in the heart of Boksburg, this hotel offers services such as free WiFi and parking. There is 24-hour reception. The modern rooms and suites offer air conditioning, an in-room safe and LCD TV. The bathrooms have a shower and the suites also have a spa bath. Breakfast is served in the breakfast room every morning.

Distance from airport: 10 min by car/taxi.

Distance from venue: 1 min by car/taxi.



5. TRAVEL AND VISA

Visa requirement	Belgian passport holders do not need a visa to enter South Africa for holiday or business stays of up to 90 days. Travelers from other countries can check requirements on the South African Government Apply for a visa page: www.gov.za/services/temporary-residence/visa
Currency	South African Rand (ZAR); 1 EUR ≈ 19 – 22 ZAR (approx.) Preferred Payment Method: We recommend using card payments (Visa/ Mastercard), which are widely accepted. Mobile payment options such as SnapScan or Zapper are also commonly used in urban areas. Additional Tip: If possible, carry some South African Rand (ZAR) in cash for convenience, especially for small purchases, tips, or in rural areas where card or mobile payment options may be limited. It can also be useful to obtain a local SIM card on arrival to enable mobile connectivity and payments.
Airport Transfers	At the Birchwood Hotel, the hotel shuttle is the most convenient option from OR Tambo International Airport, with a journey time of around 10 to 15 minutes and scheduled pick-ups that can be arranged in advance. More information: https://www.birchwoodhotel.co.za/airport-hotel-free-shuttle-bus Official airport taxis are available outside the terminal and offer a direct transfer at any time, usually taking around 10 to 20 minutes. Ride-hailing services such as Uber or Bolt are also widely used and provide a quick, door-to-door alternative from designated airport pickup areas.
Vaccines	The CDC and WHO recommend the following vaccinations for South Africa: hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, rabies, and routine vaccines (such as polio and measles). Meningococcal vaccination may be advised in certain situations depending on risk.
Travel advice	For anyone seeking more detailed or official safety information about Johannesburg or South Africa in general, they can consult the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' travel advisory at: diplomatie.belgium.be

6. WEATHER & PACKING LIST

- **Period:** July
- **Average Temperature:** 5 – 20 °C
- **Conditions:** Dry cold season with sunny days and cold mornings and evenings. Rain is uncommon, and humidity is generally low. Johannesburg winters can be cool, but indoor heating is typically sufficient and centrally managed through in-room climate control rather than a separate heating system like in colder countries.
- **What to bring:** Warm layers, a jacket or coat for early mornings and evenings, and comfortable walking shoes.

7. LOCAL INFORMATION

Time zone: South Africa Standard Time (GMT +2)

Local SIM Cards: Vodacom, MTN, Cell C, and Telkom counters are available at airports and major shopping centres; passport/ID required.

Public transport: Minibus taxis and city buses are commonly used; ride-hailing services such as Uber and Bolt are recommended for visitors.

Safety: Avoid walking alone at night or in isolated areas. Always check updated local travel advisories.

Socket: Type M (and sometimes Type C/D/G in some locations). A travel adapter is recommended if your device uses a different plug type.

8. USEFUL LINKS

ArcX Portal: arcx.green

AKP Portal: <https://africa-knowledge-platform.ec.europa.eu/>

Joint Research Centre (JRC): <https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu>

EU DG INTPA & Global Gateway: <https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu>

9. CONTACTS

ArcX Technical Assistance (TA) Team: info@arcx.green

For logistics & accommodation: Erinç Ebinc - e.ebinc@aesagroup.eu

For communication matters: Prody Mwemena Mumba - p.mumba@stiaesa.eu

For Speakers & facilitators: Michela Paganini - m.paganini@stiaesa.eu



Produced with technical
assistance from the
AES Consortium