



Hurricane Melissa Response

Locally Led, Globally Supported Drone
Response in Jamaica



Sonja Betschart
Co-Founder
sonja@werobotics.org



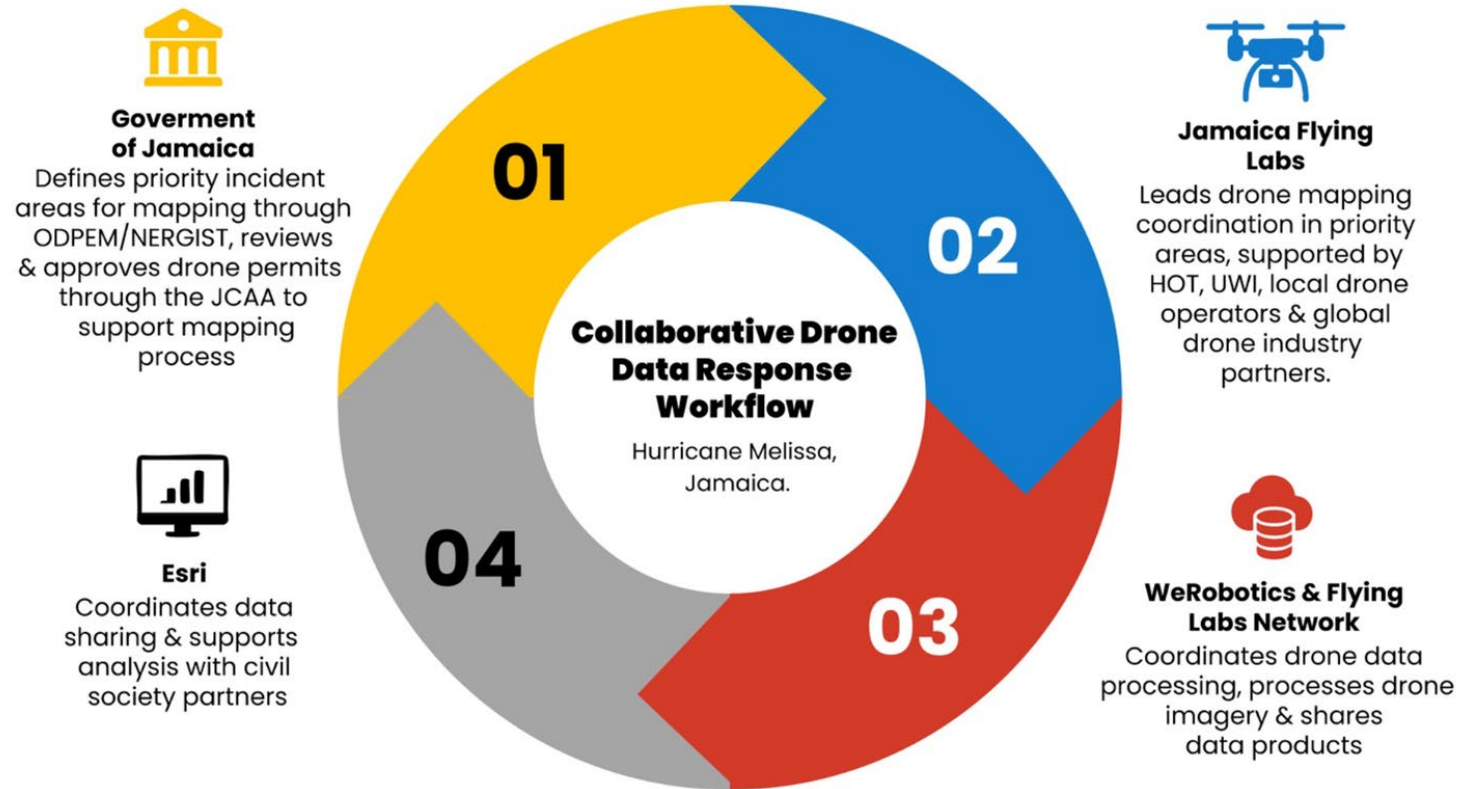
Hurricane Melissa Response in Jamaica



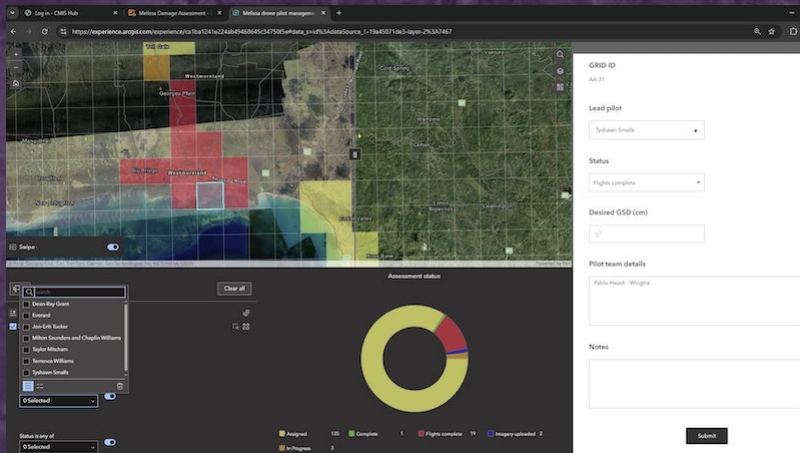
- > The largest locally -led, globally -supported drone response after a major disaster yet
- > Vast collaboration bringing together:
 - Local government, civil society, private sector
 - Global civil society, private sector
- > Opportunity to create a blueprint for replication



Hurricane Melissa Response in Jamaica



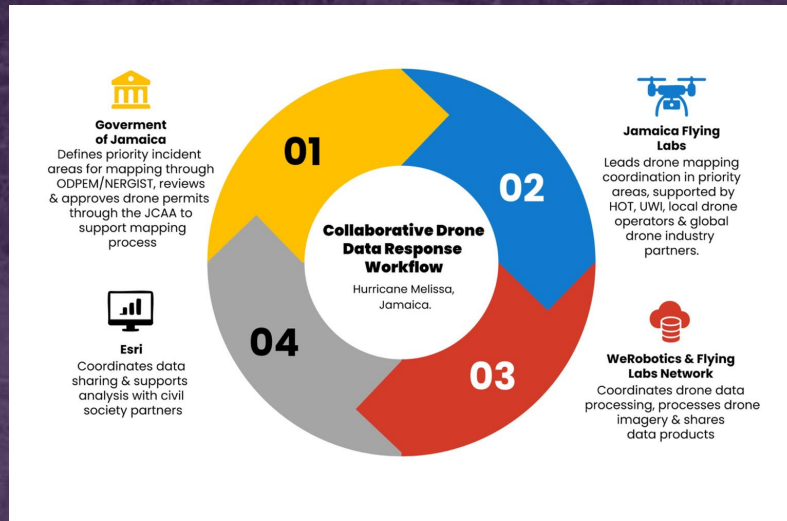
Creating a Blueprint for Locally - led Drone Response



What we built in 48h

- On ArcGIS
 - Dashboard for Overview & Flight Tasking
 - Drone Pilot Registry (Survey123)
- Data Management Infrastructure on (OneDrive & AWS Image Server)
- Workflows for collaboration:
 - Drone flight tasking, drone data acquisition, data upload, data processing, orthomosaic upload
 - Gov of Jamaica, Jamaica Flying Labs, 20+ drone pilots, JCAA, Esri, WeRobotics, Flying Labs from 6 countries, Drone Deploy

First Outcomes, Learnings & What's next



Collaboration bringing together:

- **Local lead:** GoJ (ODPEM/NERGIST), Jamaica FL
- **20+ Drone pilots from** Jamaica Flying Labs, National Land Agency, Spatial Innovision, Wingtra, HOT OSM, Skydio, Yassuh, Next - Gen Sortie, Treasure Beach Turtle Group, Atlas Logistique/UNDAC, Smith Warner International, Drone Inspection Services & individuals
- **Other local / regional actors:** Jamaica CAA, CDEMA
- **Global support:** Esri, WeRobotics, University of the West Indies, Drone Deploy, Costa Rica Flying Labs, Panama Flying Labs, Brazil Flying Labs, Tanzania Flying Labs, Cameroon Flying Labs

First Outcomes, Learnings & What's next



- **Some Key Learnings**

- Bottleneck = Data Management (including infrastructure)
- Missing tracking of key workflow data (more Survey123 forms)
- Building blueprint during emergency: MVP / no over - engineering
- Tech & human limitations
- Additional values of drone response

- **MVP Infrastructure & Blueprint**

- Great base for improvements
- Replication for more learnings & improvements