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Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NEOSS COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP)
WORKSHOP

Building Momentum, Driving National Uptake in EO and Space

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SA-GEO Knowledge Hub Platform



Launch of the Earth Observations Infrastructure CoPs (2022)

The Earth Observations Infrastructure Community of Practice was launched to lead national coherence on EO systems and standards.

- Promotes integration, harmonisation, interoperability, and dissemination of EO data and tools.
- Supports SAEOS, NSST, SDGs, etc
- Addresses fragmentation in national EO infrastructure.

This CoP exists to bring alignment and **community-driven coherence** to our EO ecosystem.



EO Infrastructure CoP Objectives

Our CoP objectives were clear from the outset : align efforts, increase accessibility, and support real-world impact.

- Promote data integration and harmonisation across institutions.
- Build interoperable platforms and improve discoverability of EO data.
- Facilitate alignment with international best practices and standards.
- Enable operational use of EO through shared infrastructure.

Each of these objectives directly shaped the design and purpose of the Knowledge Hub.

Defining the Problem – Fragmentation

Before solutions come problems — and fragmentation has long been one of our biggest challenges.

- EO systems in South Africa remain siloed and disconnected.
- Multiple institutions host independent platforms.
- No common framework for discovery, metadata standards, or reuse.
- Fragmentation led to inefficiencies, missed opportunities, and duplication of investment.

The SA-GEO Knowledge Hub aims to be the unifying solution that addresses this fragmentation head-on.

The SA-GEO Knowledge Hub

that challenge in mind, the SA-GEO Knowledge Hub was born.

- It's a digital platform that enables discovery, access, and contribution of EO resources.
- Built to support Knowledge Packages – structured sets of data, methods, and applications.
- Serves as a dynamic tool for learning, collaboration, and co-development.

This Hub is not just a website – it's a space for shared insight, purpose, and progress.

South Africa as a Pioneer

South Africa is not just participating in the global EO movement — we're leading in innovative implementation.

- SA is one of the first to develop a GEO-aligned national Knowledge Hub.
- Our platform links to **GEO GLAM**, **Digital Earth Africa**, and other global EO infrastructures.
- It bridges local needs with international platforms, making global tools more usable for local applications.

This positions us as pioneers — creating a national model others in Africa and globally can learn from.

Why the Knowledge Hub Matters

But why does this platform matter for you — and for the broader EO community?

- It enables centralised access to trustworthy EO resources.
- Link to local Priorities i.e agriculture, water, climate, and planning.
- Reduces duplication and enhances national resilience through shared access.
- Contributes to global efforts like SDG monitoring, GEO frameworks, and disaster risk reduction.
- Its fully open
- Its Has a **Market Place** for providers to provide solutions that might be valuable for the Country (SMEs, etc)

The Hub is critical infrastructure for informed decision-making, collaboration, and innovation.

Co-Ownership and Sustainability

To thrive, the platform needs more than users — it needs co-owners.

- This is not a top-down repository, but a shared community asset.
- You shape it by contributing, reviewing, and evolving its content.
- Co-ownership is essential to ensure the Hub remains relevant, representative, and sustainable.
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The SA-GEO Knowledge Hub will only succeed if we build and maintain it together.

How You Can Get Involved

Every part of the community has something to offer.

We are inviting:

- **Government departments** to contribute official data and tools.
- **Researchers and academia** to share methods, scripts, models.
- **Private sector** to showcase use cases and services.
- **NGOs and civil society** to add real-world applications.
- **Youth and innovators** to bring fresh thinking and build simple guides.

The more diverse the contributors, the richer the knowledge ecosystem we create.

Types of Contributions & Final Call

There are many ways to contribute — and each one makes a difference.

- Upload Knowledge Packages (data, workflows, apps).
- Share case studies, use cases, publications or lessons learned.
- Provide scripts, open-source tools, and AI models.
- Offer training resources or co-create guidance material.
- Develop region- or sector-specific solutions.

Let's take collective responsibility for making South Africa's EO infrastructure stronger. Together, we co-create, contribute, and elevate what's possible.



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Thank You

