



science, technology  
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Department:  
Science, Technology and Innovation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INTEGRATED  
WORKSHOP

NEOSS COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP) WORKSHOP

## PROGRAMME

CSIR International Convention Centre,  
Pretoria, South Africa

23 June 2025

# Building Momentum, Driving National Uptake in EO and Space

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# Building Momentum, Driving National Uptake in EO and Space

The National Earth Observations and Space Secretariat (NEOSS) is a strategic initiative of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), hosted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). NEOSS provides coordination and networking platforms for South African communities working in Earth observations (SA-GEO), satellite navigation (SA-GSN), and satellite communications (SAGSC).

## NEOSS engages a broad community of users and providers of Earth observation and space-derived data, including:

- Decision- and policymakers across all levels of government (national, provincial, district, and local municipalities)
- Academics, researchers, and scientists conducting assessments and analyses using Earth observation and space-based data
- The commercial sector, which develops applications, products, and services using EO data for various market needs
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society actors play a vital role in translating EO insights into localised action, supporting community-based resilience and sustainable development, and
- Individuals and organisations who rely on EO products and services for diverse applications across sectors.

- Promote access to and awareness of technical support for the development and implementation of EO and space-based solutions to enhance early warning systems and climate action
- Support the localisation and uptake of global and national EO products and services at local and sub-national levels, and
- Encourage ongoing dialogue, learning, and collaboration among stakeholders to advance climate adaptation efforts and strengthen data-informed decision-making.

The 2025 NEOSS Communities of Practice (CoP) Integrated Workshop builds on the momentum of 2024, continuing efforts to strengthen the national Earth Observations (EO) and space innovation landscape. While training and CoP meetings will be conducted throughout the year, this flagship workshop focuses on strategic alignment, knowledge sharing, and advancing key national initiatives.

Taking place on 23 June 2025 at the CSIR International Convention Centre (CSIR ICC), Pretoria, the workshop will highlight progress on the SAGEO Knowledge Hub, South Africa's national platform for EO data access, knowledge exchange, and collaboration. It will also present the findings of the EO Maturity Indicator (EOMI) process, which assessed the country's EO capabilities across technical infrastructure, data availability, user engagement, and policy frameworks.

## The objectives for the Integrated Communities of Practice (CoP) session are to:

- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and foster interaction across the CoPs and the broader EO and space innovation community

# PROGRAMME | 23 JUNE 2025

08:00 – 09:00

ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

## OPENING SESSION

**Chairing: Flora Makgale**, Human Settlements And Spatial Planning Cop Co Chair

TOPIC		SPEAKER
<b>09:00 – 09:10</b>	Welcome, purpose and outline of workshop objectives	<b>MODERATOR: Flora Makgale</b> , Human Settlements and Spatial Planning CoP Co Chair
<b>09:10 – 09:15</b>	Safety Moment	CSIR ICC Safety Officer Safety
<b>09:15 – 09:25</b>	Recap of 2024 Workshop and Training Outcomes	<b>Lulu Makapela</b> , Manager, NEOSS
<b>09:25 – 10:00</b>	The GEO Knowledge Hub – A Global Perspective	<b>Paola De Salvo, Felipe Carlos, Kalamkas Yessimkhanova</b> , GEO Knowledge Hub Team, GEO Secretariat
<b>10:00 – 10:15</b>	South Africa's GEO Knowledge Hub Platform	<b>Tshisi Mphaphuli</b> , EO Infrastructure CoP Co-Chair and Chief Advisor, Geoscience, NTSA
<b>10:15 – 10:20</b>	SA-GEO Knowledge Hub Live Demonstration	<b>Kwanele Ngongoma</b> , Junior Systems Administrator, NEOSS
<b>10:20 – 10:30</b>	SA-GEO Knowledge Hub Launch Statement	<b>Itumeleng Makoloi</b> , Acting Chief Director, Space Science and Technology, DSTI
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	GROUP PHOTO AND SHORT BREAK	

## SESSION TWO: EO MATURITY OUTCOMES

**Moderating a panel: Ms Ndilisa Didiza**, Co-Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Cop Co-Chair and CEO Kgothatso Innovations

<b>11:00 – 11:10</b>	Welcome and Overview (combined)	<b>MODERATOR: Ndilisa Didiza</b> , Co-Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Cop Co-Chair and CEO, Kgothatso Innovations
<b>11:10 – 11:20</b>	EO Maturity Indicator Overview – Global Perspective	<b>Ernest Acheampong</b> , Capacity Development Coordinator, GEO Secretariat
<b>11:20 – 11:40</b>	<b>Pillar 1:</b> Policy and Institutional Frameworks	<b>Tumisang Modiole</b> , Director, Earth Observations, DSTI
<b>11:40 – 12:00</b>	<b>Pillar 2:</b> Infrastructure and Technical Systems	<b>Stewart Bernard</b> , Natural Capital Accounting CoP Co-Chair and EO Consultant and Hon Research Associate
<b>12:00 – 12:20</b>	<b>Pillar 3:</b> Ecosystem and Stakeholder Engagement	<b>Imraan Saloojee</b> , Natural Capital Accounting Co-Chair and Director, Executive Director, RIIS
<b>12:20 – 13:30</b>	<p><b>Panel Reflections: What Does the EOMI Tell Us?</b></p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b> <b>Ernest Acheampong, Tumisang Modiole, Imraan Saloojee</b> and <b>Stewart Bernard</b></p> <p><b>Additional:</b> <b>Phila Sibandze</b>, University of Fort Hare and Co-Chair of CE and Natural Resources Management and Lecturer, UFH and <b>Lesetja Mogoba</b>, Space Committee and ZASpace</p>	

13:30 – 14:30

LUNCH BREAK

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### SESSION THREE: COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT: MOVING FROM OUTCOMES TO ACTIONS

**Facilitating discussions: Drs Nale Mudau and Bolelang Sibolla,**  
Human Settlements and Spatial Planning Co Chair and Data Governance Co-Chair

	TOPIC	SPEAKER
14:30 – 16:00	Facilitated discussions on EOMI and SA-GEO Knowledge Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify resources for the Knowledge Hub</li><li>Apply EO maturity insights to CoP priorities</li><li>Discussions</li></ul>	CoP Co Chairs and Participants
16:00 – 16:30	Closing reflections and next steps	NEOSS/CoP Co Chairs/DSTI

END



### National Earth Observations and Space Secretariat (NEOSS)

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[www.spaceconference.co.za](http://www.spaceconference.co.za)