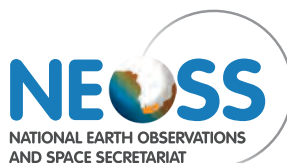




science, technology
& innovation

Department:
Science, Technology and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NEOSS COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP) INTEGRATED WORKSHOP AND TRAINING 2026

CSIR International Convention Centre,
Pretoria, South Africa

27 - 28 July 2026

PROGRAMME



INTEGRATED WORKSHOP

Advancing South Africa's Earth Observation and Space Ecosystem
through Partnerships, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange,
and Community Collaboration



DAY 1 | 27 JULY 2026

SA-GEO KNOWLEDGE HUB TRAINING

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITORS
08:00 – 09:00	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION	
OPENING SESSION		
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome and overview of the training agenda	Ms Michelle Harding, NEOSS
09:05 – 09:10	Safety moment	CSIR ICC representative
09:10 – 09:25	Implementation of the SA GEO Knowledge Hub	Dr. Bolelang Sibolla, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
TRAINING SESSION 1: SA-GEO KNOWLEDGE HUB		
09:25 – 11:00	• Introduction to Group on Earth Observations (GEO) • GEO data sharing and data management principles • Open knowledge statement • GEO data licensing guidance • Open science principles • Reproducibility and replicability • GEO Knowledge Hub • SA-GEO Knowledge Hub	Mr Felipe Carlos and Ms Kalamkas Yessimkhanova, GEO
11:00 – 11:15	SHORT BREAK	
TRAINING SESSION 2: CREATING AND PUBLISHING KNOWLEDGE PACKAGES		
11:15 – 13:00	Interactive Session – • Use of the Geo Knowledge Hub to preserve and share content • Knowledge package and knowledge resource concepts • User roles in the Geo Knowledge Hub • Datacite metadata schema • Persistent identifiers (i.e., Doi, Purl, others) concepts • File preservation and versioning • Tagging (e.g., country association) • Best practices, for metadata and reproducible content (including examples) • Interactive Session – Publishing knowledge packages • Interactive Session – Importing content to the national GEO Knowledge Hub	Mr Felipe Carlos and Ms Kalamkas Yessimkhanova, GEO
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	
TRAINING SESSION 3: LEVERAGING AI AND SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT		
14:00 – 15:00	• Onboarding with the GEO self-assessment dashboard • Creating knowledge packages using AI and curation • Keeping content updated using the GEO link checker • GEO knowledge hub documentation	Mr Felipe Carlos and Ms Kalamkas Yessimkhanova, GEO
15:00 – 15:15	SHORT BREAK (AFTERNOON)	
TRAINING SESSION 4: COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS AND NEXT STEPS		

DAY 2 | 28 JULY 2026

COP INTEGRATED WORKSHOP

SESSION OVERVIEW

Purpose: The Communities of Practice (CoPs) Co-chairs will present their draft strategic workplans, including their overall context, vision, and strategic goals. Presentations will outline key objectives, priority application areas and intervention domains, as well as the expected outcomes and impact sought through their activities. The session will further explore opportunities for collaboration across CoPs, highlighting areas of convergence, shared priorities, and potential joint initiatives.

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITORS
08:00 – 09:00	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION	
SESSION 1: OPENING SESSION		
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome and introduction of the new CoP Co-chairs	Ms Michelle Harding, NEOSS
09:05 – 09:10	Safety moment	CSIR ICC Representative
09:10 – 09:20	Opening remarks	Dr Kenny Tenza, DDG: TI DSTI and SAGEO Principal
09:20 – 09:40	AfriGEO Strategic Implementation Plan 2026–2036	Ken Kasera, AfriGEO Secretariat
09:40 – 10:05	Shaping the future of the Agriculture, Food and Security Community of Practice (CoP): Objectives, priorities and next steps	Ms Ndilisa Didisa, Kgothatso Innovations and Dr Yonwaba Atyosi, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
10:05 – 10:30	Shaping the future of the Climate Action Community of Practice (CoP): Objectives, priorities and next steps	Dr Brilliant Petja, Water Research Commission, Dr Thabani Mazibuko, South African Space Technology for Sustainable Development Foundation and Ms Tshisikhawe Mphaphuli, National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA)
10:30 – 11:00	SHORT BREAK AND GROUP PHOTO	
SESSION 2: COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ALIGNMENT		
11:00 – 11:25	Shaping the future of the Circular Economy and Natural Resources Management Community of Practice (CoP): Objectives, priorities and next steps	Dr Cecilia Masemola, SANSA and Ms Kershani Chetty, University of KwaZulu-Natal
11:25 – 11:50	Shaping the future of the Human Settlements and Spatial Planning Community of Practice (CoP): Objectives, priorities and next steps	Ms Flora Makgale, Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality and Dr Nale Mudau, SANSA
11:50 – 12:25	Shaping the Future of the Earth Observation Data, Infrastructure and Governance Community of Practice (CoP): Objectives, priorities and next steps	Mr Avin Mansookram, MFT and Dr Bolelang Sibolla, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
12:25 – 13:25	LUNCH	

CONTINUED OVERLEAF >>

DAY 2 | 28 JULY 2026

COP INTEGRATED WORKSHOP

SESSION 3:

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ALIGNMENT CONTINUES

13:25 – 13:50	Shaping the Future of the Satellite Communications and Navigation Community of Practice (CoP): Objectives, priorities and next steps	Dr Meena Lysko, Move Beyond Consulting and Mr Lesetja Mogoba, ZASpace
13:50 – 14:15	Shaping the Future of the South African Earth Observation and Space Youth Forum Community of Practice (CoP): Objectives, priorities and next steps	Dr Mncedisi Siteleki, University of Witwatersrand and Ms Sinesipho Ngamile, SANSA
CLOSING SESSION		
14:15 – 14:35	Summary and closing remarks	Ms Tumisang Modiole, DSTI
14:35 – 15:00	AFTERNOON TEA BREAK	

