

IAF EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
International Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions (1)

Author: Ms. Naledzani Mudau
South African National Space Agency (SANSA), South Africa, NMudau@sansa.org.za

TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING EARTH OBSERVATION LANDSCAPE IN AFRICA, PROVIDING
INFORMATION TO SUPPORT COLLABORATION, COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Abstract

Africa is faced with a number of challenges including high unemployment rates, slow economic growth, degrading natural environment, unsustainable rapid urbanisation, unsustainable land use practices and food insecurity. Earth observation technologies provide opportunities to effectively manage natural resources, environment and land use, provide services, develop new knowledge and economy. African Space Strategy values the contribution of Earth observation in improving the livelihoods of its people. The implementation of this strategies and national space strategies is highly dependent on the generation of knowledge and innovation for the development of fit-for-purpose space applications in the continent. Collaborations and Partnerships are key towards developing these applications to address social challenges in the continental level. This desktop study maps Earth observation related activities in Africa. The activities assessed include infrastructure development, research, products and services and funding instruments. The study will help in identifying gaps and creating opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in infrastructure, research and application development required to address social challenges.