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SPACE FIELD ATTRACTIVENESS FOR AFRICAN TALENTS

Abstract

Africa is blessed with tremendous natural and human resources. However, these resources are crying out for better management. Some of this better management can be provided by exploiting space-based tools and technology. According to the African Union Commission and its 2063 Agenda, one of the weaknesses identified of the continent is the lack of space skills that must be addressed. To respond to that need, raising awareness and attracting Africans to the space field becomes essential. This research comes as a study to understand and investigate what attracts African talents to the space domain and how it is done. To conduct this study, two methods are suggested: First of all, a survey submitted to a minimum of 20 Africans in the space field gives a quantitative idea about the main factors of attractiveness. Secondly, personal interviews are established for a qualitative analysis of the actions to drag Africans to the domain. Questions such as “Why did you choose the space field?”, or “How did you find out about this area?” are raised in both methods. Preliminary results show that African talents get interested from a young age through children-targeted programs. Therefore it is expected that action should be taken from an early stage to raise awareness about the domain. Hence, this research work becomes essential to clarify the reasons and actions to take in order to encourage African talents into the space field, and target one of the main needs of the continent in terms of human resources.