

35th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
Is Space R&D Truly Fostering A Better World For Our Future? (2)

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TITLE: IS SPACE R&D TRULY FOSTERING A BETTER WORLD FOR OUR FUTURE?
TOPIC: THE ROLE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
IN ZULULAND, KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA

Abstract

Topic: The role of space technology for sustainable tourism development in Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa Author: Thabani Mazibuko*, PhD candidate at Durban University of Technology, South Africa Email: thabani@spacetechfoundation.co.za and mazibukothabani@yahoo.com Keywords: Space technology, sustainable tourism development, South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal tourism, Zululand Space technology and sustainable tourism. Space technology has a huge potential to provide valuable support through applications and satellite communication, reliable data and accurate information for informed decision making with respect to sustainable tourism especially around fragile world heritage sites and ecotourism potential. Earth observation from space is a cost-effective way of obtaining unbiased and essential data on the physical world and will allow decision makers to use this information to understand trends, evaluate needs, and create sustainable development policies and programmes for society. The application of space technology like remote sensing through satellite communication, satellite positioning and earth observation can assist countries to improve its tourism by easing processes like marketing attractions, reservations, online transactions, early warning systems, network connections, security and safety etc. This study discovered that space technology is still new and seldomly used in the district. The usage of space technology necessitates reasonable state of literacy and expertise for effective achieving the desired outcomes. Therefore, this study recommended significant efforts to be made in improving space technology particularly through public education.

The aim of this study is to assess the contribution of space technology as a potential to provide support for sustainable tourism development. A qualitative and quantitative research paradigm adapting a mixed method approach through the use of surveys and interviews is utilised. The sample is drawn from 150 key role-players and stakeholders from the Zululand district. Literature focuses on Global outlook, Space in Africa and South Africa as well as local frameworks and policies in space technology and sustainable development. It engages multi-disciplinary approach to space technology approaches, with lessons learnt towards interventions of space technology mechanisms for sustainable tourism development. It will add to the body of literature on the potential of space technology through the development of an integrated model for the tourism sector that could assist Governmental agencies in developing better support initiatives for the tourism sector. It will show the pace of space technology application in achieving sustainable development goals and solving socioeconomic challenges particularly sustainable tourism in answering if Space Research and Development is Truly Fostering A Better World For Our Future, adding value to this conference.