



South African National Space Agency

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24 October 2021

To: Nancy Searby
Working Group on Capacity Development (WGCapD) Chair
nancy.d.searby@nasa.gov

Nomination: Committee on Earth Observation Satellites Working Group on Capacity Development Vice Chair Role

Dear Ms. Searby

The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) vision of an integrated national space capability that responds to socio-economic challenges in Africa by 2030 positions the SANSA to play a leading role in the development and promotion of use of space-derived products and services in support of the aspirations of national and continental development agendas, such as Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want.

The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Capacity Development (WGCapD) mission to “increase the capacity of institutions in less developed countries for effective use of Earth Observation data for the benefit of society and to achieve sustainable development” aligns very well with the SANSA strategic objective to “support the development of a critical mass of skills and expertise needed to give effect to regional space initiatives”. SANSA uses this strategic objective to drive capacity development initiatives, with partners at national and regional level. SANSA’s leadership and engagement in the AfriGEO Initiative and Digital Earth Africa, are examples of such regional partnerships that SANSA leverages to drive this strategic objective.

It is against this strategic alignment and SANSA’s historic participation in CEOS and in particular WGCapD, that SANSA raises its hand for the WGCapD vice-chair role. SANSA puts forward its 4-year commitment of support to the candidate, understood to comprise of

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WGCapD vice-chair for 2 years (commencing at the close of CEOS plenary in November 2021), followed by a further 2 years as WGCapD chair (concluding at CEOS Plenary 2025).

SANSA recognizes the significance of the WGCapD vice-chair role and the need to maintain the good track record of WGCapD in developing capacity globally. In line with this view, SANSA nominates:

- Mr. Dan Matsapola, Science Engagement Manager at SANSA

With support from:

- Dr Phila Sibandze, Head of Department: GIS & Remote Sensing, University of Fort Hare

Both Mr Matsapola and Dr Sibandze are well known to the CEOS WGCapD community. SANSA commits to extend its Agency level support to Dr Sibandze for his services to this role. The collaboration between SANSA and University of Fort Hare is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement, aimed at executing SANSA's mission to foster the growth of the space sector in the country.

SANSA foresees an exciting journey ahead towards the realization of increased institutional capacities, globally, to tackle socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Kind Regards



Andiswa Mlisa
Managing Director Earth Observations
SANSA CEOS Principal

Cc: Karen M. St. Germain, CEOS Chair
Alex Held, CEOS SIT Co-Chair,
Adam Lewis, CEOS SIT Co-Chair,
Marie-Claire Greening, CEOS Executive Officer

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