

African Astronomical Society (AfAS): the voice of astronomy in Africa



Dr. Charles Takalana
SAIP2022



What is AfAS?

AfAS is an organisation of professional astronomers in Africa

AfAS is governed by a constitution

Vision: Create a globally competitive and collaborative astronomy community in Africa

Mission: To be the voice of astronomy in Africa and to contribute to addressing the challenges faced by Africa through the promotion and advancement of astronomy

AfAS is registered as an NPO (235-890 NPO) / NPC (2020/223188/08)

The secretariat is hosted by South Africa through the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) and is based at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO).

Why AfAS?



Save the date!



XXXII IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 - 16 AUGUST 2024
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

<https://astronomy2024.org>

Save the date! 27 – 30 October 2021 Forum on
Astronomy in Africa and the IAU GA2024

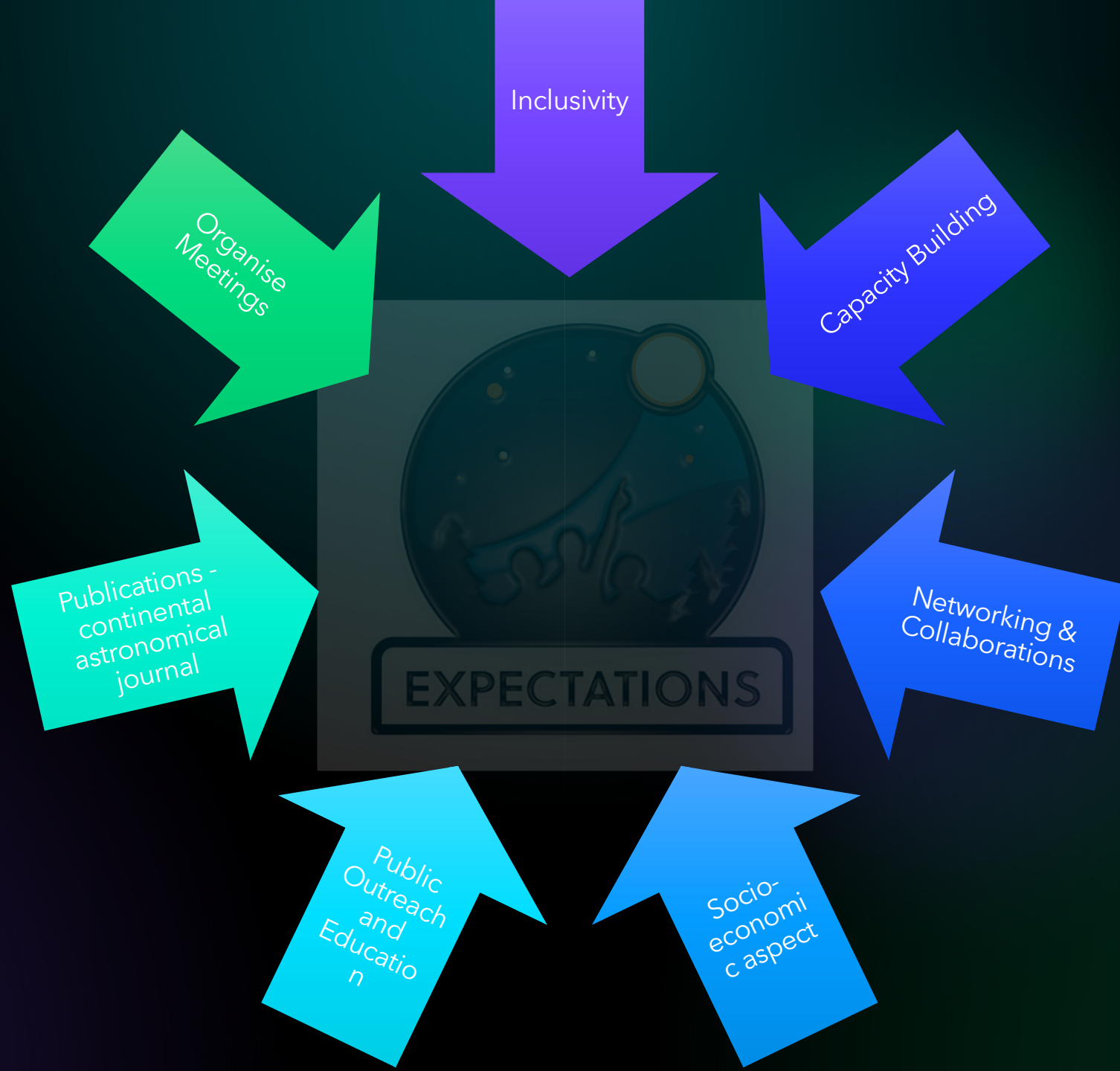
A brief history of AfAS



Professional Astronomers | Students | Government Officials | Key Stakeholders | Amateur Astronomers



- Call for a Pan-African professional society of astronomers (2009)
- Formed at the IAU Symposium 277 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (2010)
- AfAS was launched at the 2nd Mideast Africa Regional IAU Meeting (Cape Town, 2011) but AfAS faced challenges and became dysfunctional
- Middle East and Africa Regional IAU Meeting (Ethiopia, 2017) – raised concerns about AfAS and nominated a Working group to resuscitate AfAS
Africa-special session held at EWASS 2017 in Liverpool
- Astronomy in Africa Meeting (2019)
 - Adopted a new constitution for AfAS
 - The South African government (DSI) offered to host a staffed secretariat for the first 3 years
 - Meeting delegates accepted the offer from the DSI
 - Elected an Executive Committee



AfAS Today:



Virtual Conference Of
The African Astronomical Society
AFAS 2021
8-12 March 2021



science & innovation
Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



African Astronomical Society

Annual Conference and
General Assembly of the
African Astronomical Society



African Astronomical Society

AfAS-2022
HYBRID MEETING



- Inaugural AfAS Science Conference and business meeting (08 to 12 March 2021)
- Virtual meeting (± 250 Registrations)
- Second Annual Conference and General Assembly (14 to 18 March 2022)
- Hybrid meeting (± 350 Registrations)
- 230 members (Full, Associate, Student)
- Elected new Executive Committee

AfAS Structures: Executive Committee



President
Thebe Rodney Medupe
(South Africa)



Vice-President
Naomi Asabre Frimpong
(Ghana)



Officer
Elizabeth Naluminsa
(Uganda)



Officer
Alemiye Mamo
(Ethiopia)



Officer
Mirjana Pović
(Ethiopia)



Officer
Sinenhlanhla Precious Sikhosana
(South Africa)



Officer
Sthabile Kolwa
(South Africa)



Immediate Past President
Jamal Mimouni
(Algeria)



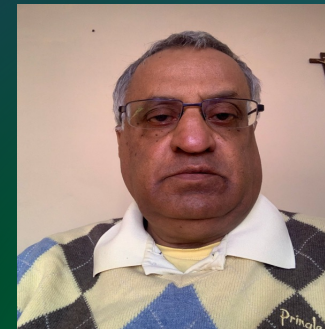
Head of Secretariat
Charles Takalana
(South Africa)



Takalani Nemaungani
Chief Director: Astronomy
Ex-Officio: DSI Representative



Kevin Govender
Director: IAU-OAD
Ex-Officio: IAU-OAD



Yunus Manjoo
Project Manager: AfAS
**Ex-Officio: Advisor
Consultant**

AfAS Structures: sub-committees and Umbrella Projects



AfAS
Sub-committees

- Science Committee
- Outreach and Education Committee
- African Network for Woman in Astronomy
- Membership Committee
- Fund-raising Committee
- Communication Committee



Our Objectives

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthening the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in schools and the public through the use of astronomy and related fields

Using astronomy to attract African youth into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics careers

Increasing the number of African astronomers as well as the number of astronomers working in Africa

Facilitating the use of existing international astronomical facilities, and, where necessary, the development of new astronomical facilities in Africa

Encouraging the use of astronomy for socio-economic development

Cultivating and supporting collaboration among countries in Africa as well as collaborations between Africa and the rest of the world

Encouraging governmental and intergovernmental (AU) investment in astronomy related activities

Inspiring and retaining underrepresented groups to study astronomy

The purpose: to bring together the complementary resources, networks, and expertise from AfAS and the OAD to better achieve common goals.

Collaboration:

- The implementation of special calls for proposals such as the 2020 COVID-19 call for projects that use astronomy to mitigate negative effects of the pandemic.
- Coordination of communication networks in Africa such that information on activities of each party is communicated as widely as possible among all communities.
- Coordination of fundraising related to the African continent, such as the inclusion of the OAD on the AfAS fundraising committee, and the inclusion of AfAS in the OAD's partnerships.
- The organisation, implementation and legacy aspects related to the IAU General Assembly in 2024, which will be the first ever held on the African continent, and which is being hosted by one of the OAD's coparent body, the NRF, with the support of the DSI.
- Other general areas of mutual interest in support of developing astronomy across the continent.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

THE AFRICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

(herein referred to as AfAS)

and represented by

Professor Jamal Mimouni

and

THE OFFICE OF ASTRONOMY FOR DEVELOPMENT

(herein referred to as OAD)

And represented by

Mr. Kevin Govender

Collaborative Sessions

- **AfAS-IAU-OAD session on Advancing Africa's Astronomy Agenda**
- **Africa-EU summit session - Resolutions:**
 - Coordinated human capacity building in science and technology based on the bi-directional exchange
 - Encourage collaborations and synergies for the mutual benefit of Africa and Europe in infrastructure projects
 - Access to the new facilities and infrastructure
 - Develop networks to share opportunities
 - Promote the use of Astronomy for Development as a tool to deliver socioeconomic benefits and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
 - Encourage African leadership in future astronomy initiatives.
- **Africa-Europe Collaborations - Road to 2024 - Focus:**
 - Large initiatives and research collaborations
 - Infrastructure development and site testing
 - Education, outreach, and public awareness





AfAS Science:

Guided by the Scientific Strategy developed at the Astronomy in Africa meeting in Ethiopia (October 2019)

Vision: An interlinked and world class African astronomy community contributing to the advancement of human knowledge

Mission: To advance astronomy through the development of strategies, facilitation of interdisciplinary collaborations, encouragement of cross border engagements, and stimulation of human capital development.

Objectives:

1. To support the development and sharing of national **strategies**
2. **To advance Astronomical Science and Technologies**
 - **Science Collaborations and research exchanges** e.g. joint research proposals
 - **Recognition of Excellence** prizes, etc
 - **Nurturing early career researchers**
 - **Exchange of knowledge through meetings and publications**
 - **Databases** of astronomy expertise, active research areas, infrastructures across Africa and African diaspora
 - Develop and/or disseminate (open source) **resources** which will benefit astronomy
3. **Human Capital Development**
 - **Teaching and research** - universities starting/expanding astronomy teaching
 - **Training opportunities and scholarships:** academic writing, schools, DARA, SKA, etc
 - Improving **quality** of trainings e.g. symposia, workshops, etc
 - Collaborations on Joint supervision, twinning
 - **Outreach** to help science and science to help outreach
4. **International and national engagements**
 - **Connect African community to international initiatives**
 - **Lobbying/interacting with** the AU, ASA, national science agencies and others to support astronomy research and training
 - **Infrastructure** support e.g. site testing optical, radio astronomy and dish conversion, high energy, AVN, EHT...
5. Facilitate **interdisciplinary collaborations** e.g. between modern and indigenous astronomy

AfAS Science



Dr. Hambeleleni Davids, Lecturer at the University of Namibia, Namibia, "Modelling globular clusters as multi-wavelength emitters".



Mr. Trust Otto, Ph.D. Student at the Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Uganda, "Am Stars with Hump and Spike features in their amplitude spectra".



Ms. Mavis Seidu, Ph.D. Student at the Centre for Space Research North West University, South Africa, "Triggered Star Formation Rate in the Milky Way".



Mr. Ambrose Eze, Ph.D. Student & Assistant Lecturer at the Godfrey Okoye University, Nigeria, "Accretion flow and mass accretion rates/fluctuations in a Blackhole candidate: MAXIJ1535-571".

- Conference Science Programme
- Astronomy in Africa Survey
- AfAS Data Portal
- Annual Awards (e.g., Early Career researchers, PhD & MSc)
- AfAS Seed Research Grant supports research projects in Astronomy by postgraduate students and/or early career researchers based in Africa

Inaugural laureates of the AfAS Seed Research Grant

AfAS 2022 Seed Research Grant

APPLICATION INSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Application Deadline: 31 January 2022

The African Astronomical Society (AfAS) is the primary pan-African professional society representing astronomers from across the continent. AfAS aims to create and support a globally competitive and collaborative astronomy community in Africa and to be the voice of astronomy in Africa while contributing to addressing the challenges faced by Africa through the promotion and advancement of astronomy.

The AfAS Seed Research Grant

Launched in 2021 by the AfAS Early-Career Researcher Working Group, AfAS Seed Research Grant supports research projects in Astronomy (including Astrophysics and Space Science) conducted by postgraduate students and/or early career researchers that are based in Africa. Three (3) grants of up to €1 200 each will be awarded to outstanding applicants in 2022. The seed funding may be used for international/domestic travel, lodging, computer equipment and other research-related expenses.

Eligibility

- Applicants can be citizens of any country provided they are based in Africa during the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Applicants are currently conducting research in Astronomy (including Astrophysics and Space Science) at an academic or scientific research institute in Africa.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a postgraduate level or they must have received their PhD degree within the past three years (i.e. between November 2018 – November 2021).

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit the following documents combined in one single PDF to Dr Charles Takalana (charles.takalana@afasociety.org) by 31 January 2022:

- A detailed curriculum vitae including a full list of academic publications and contact details of two academic referees;
- A research proposal (maximum 3 pages), including (but not limited to) the research title and abstract, the scientific rationale and an introductory background, the methodology and expected results, as well as the proposed timeline and a budget breakdown;
- A motivation letter addressed to the AfAS Seed Research Grant Committee;
- Proof of registration (for postgraduate students) or a proof of employment (for early career researchers) at an academic or scientific research institute.

Applicants should also arrange for signed recommendation letters from two academic referees to be sent directly to Dr Charles Takalana by 31 January 2022. At least one letter must be from a senior scientist

(e.g. the advisor) familiar with the applicant's research work.

Incomplete applications or files received after the deadline, as well as applications which do not meet the conditions of eligibility will not be taken into consideration.

If you are submitting any supporting documents in your local language, you must attach at least an informal translation into English.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by the AfAS Seed Research Grant Committee which is composed of senior astronomers and members from the AfAS Science Committee. Applicants will be evaluated by the jury based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the research proposal (e.g. significance of the research statement);
- Publication track record, commensurate with the applicant's career stage;
- Excellence of the overall academic performance and achievements;
- Potential impact on growing research collaborations in Africa.

AfAS reserves the right not to accept any application in part or in whole.

Grant Awards Agreement

No funds will be released until AfAS has received the grant agreement signed by the successful applicants. The selected recipients are also required to submit a report including research updates and a financial report with expenses and scanned receipts of major expenses in the year following the award of the seed grant.

Estimated Timeline

- Opening of the call - 15 November 2021
- Closing of the call - 31 January 2022
- Application review process - during February 2022
- Notification of successful applicants - by mid-March 2022

Enquiries

Dr. Zara Randriamanakoto

Early Career Representative Officer, African Astronomical Society

Email: zara@saao.ac.za

Dr. Charles Takalana

Head of Secretariat & Assistant General Secretary, African Astronomical Society

Email: charles.takalana@afasociety.org

For more details on AfAS please visit: www.afasociety.org

Application deadline: 9 May 2022

The African Astronomical Society (AfAS) is the primary pan-African professional society representing astronomers from across the continent. AfAS aims to create and support a globally competitive and collaborative astronomy community in Africa and to be the voice of astronomy in the continent while contributing to addressing the challenges faced by Africa through the promotion and advancement of astronomy.

The AfAS MSc and PhD Prizes

Established by AfAS Early-Careers Working Group, the inaugural AfAS MSc and PhD Prizes aim to recognize and reward the outstanding accomplishments achieved by academically talented African students who recently defended their Master or PhD thesis in the field of Astronomy (including Astrophysics & Space Science). A total of 8 prizes (4 MSc, 4 PhD) to be shared over 4 African regions (North, South, East, and West Africa) will be conferred each year with a cash prize of \$400 for an MSc and \$800 for a PhD award, respectively.

Eligibility

To qualify for the award, you should fulfill the following conditions:

- Candidates must be a citizen of an African country.
- Candidates must have conducted their research degree in Astronomy (including Astrophysics & Space Science) at an academic or scientific research institute in Africa.
- Candidates must have successfully completed their degree (graduated or at least received a notification from their university) within a year of the call, i.e. between 30 April 2021 and 30 April 2022 for the 2022 MSc/PhD Prize. These which are submitted or in preparation but not yet defended are not eligible.

Application procedure

All applications must be submitted online by uploading the following documents to the AfAS submission form available [here](#):

- A detailed CV including list of scientific publications and contact details of two academic referees;
- A one page summary of the most important publications, if applicable;
- A thesis summary (maximum 2 pages) including (but are not limited to) the research title, the scientific rationale, the most significant findings and conclusions;

- A motivation letter addressed to the AfAS Science Committee explaining why the applicant deserves the prize;
- Copies of official academic records (transcripts);
- A certified copy of the most recent completed degree.

Applicants should also arrange for signed recommendation letters from two academic referees to be sent directly to Dr Charles Takalana by 9 May 2022. At least one letter must be from the thesis advisor who is familiar with the applicant's research work.

Incomplete applications or files submitted after the deadline, as well as applications which do not meet the conditions of eligibility will not be taken into consideration. If you are submitting any supporting documents in your local language, you must upload at least an informal translation into English.

Selection criteria

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by AfAS PhD Prize Committee based on the following criteria:

- Excellence of the overall academic performance and achievements;
- Relevance and originality of the MSc/PhD thesis;
- Publication track record, commensurate with the applicant's career stage;
- Participation in scientific meetings and research presentations;
- Impact of the research work in the advancement of Astronomy in Africa.

AfAS reserves the right not to award any prize in part or in whole.

Estimated Timeline

Opening of the call: 08 April 2022

Closing of the call: 09 May 2022

Applications review by the jury: during June 2022

Notification of successful applicants: by mid-July 2022

Enquiries

Dr. Charles Takalana

Head of Secretariat, African Astronomical Society

Email: charles.takalana@afasociety.org

For more details on AfAS please visit: www.afasociety.org

AfAS Science

- Webinars
- Workshops

Science flagships (also towards GA2024 and beyond)

- Developing/Providing HPC network for the astronomy African community
- Network of Optical telescopes
- African Radio Astronomy Network (Teaching and research)
- Astronomy Hubs (Partnering with OAD and GA2024)



The African Integrated Observation System (AIOS)

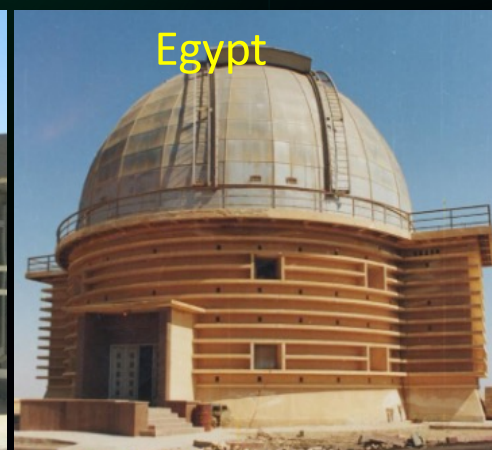


Aims:

- Develop collaborations within Africa and globally in optical transient/time domain studies and survey astronomy
- Motivate and support for development of new facilities in other African countries
- Support astronomy HCD programmes in Africa

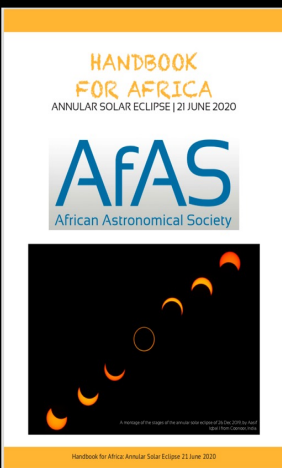
The Concept: An African-wide Optical Observation Network

- Expand an *Intelligent Observatory* concept into Africa
- Use existing facilities networked together
 - Morocco
 - Algeria
 - Egypt
 - Ethiopia
 - Burkino Faso
 - South Africa



AfAS Outreach and Education

- Conference EDO programme
- Support Amateur Astronomy Associations
- African Astronomy Map
- Pan-African Campaigns (Transit of Mercury, Annular Eclipse, etc.)
 - Provide support to outreach efforts
 - Create material
 - French and Portuguese speaker's network
 - Translations (Arabic, French, Kiswahili, Portuguese, isiXhosa, and isiZulu)
 - Hands on activities





AfAS
African Astronomical Society

Celebrating World Space Week 2020

AfAS Outreach Committee & APA

Seminar on
**Portable Planetariums
Innovations for Africa**

ندوة حول ابتكارات القباب السماوية المتنقلة لأفريقيا
Thursday October 08, 16:00 - 17:30 GMT
18:00 - 19:30 CAT

Thursday
08/10/2020
16:00-17:30
UTC
18:00-19:30
CAT

- The Nairobi Bambou Planetarium
Satan Mwarahona and D. Chus Omen
- Outreach with a portable Planetarium: The CCC
H. Gueganou & J. Mimonani
- Virtual visits to the Sutherland Planetarium and Zridi's portable planetarium
Nico Van der Merwe and Abdelatif Zridi

World Space Week 2020 OCT 08-13

ZOOM Meeting ID 860 3233 9844

AfAS Outreach and Education

- Affordable Mobile Planetaria
 - Designs and prototyping
 - Keep in mind the infrastructural and financial constraints of our community.
 - Online public seminar
 - Work closely with APA
- Proposed pan-African project of building a to-scale Solar System across Africa (Towards the GA2024)

AfAS
African Astronomical Society

A discussion on the Nobel Prize in Physics 2020
1300 GMT, Monday 19 October

For the "discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity", and "for the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy."

Youtube: bit.ly/nobelafas
Zoom id: 930 7677 3201

PANELISTS
George Ellis Roger Deane
Roy Maartens Tana Joseph
Rituparno Goswami Rhodri Evans

MODERATORS
Amare Abebe Brenda Namumba

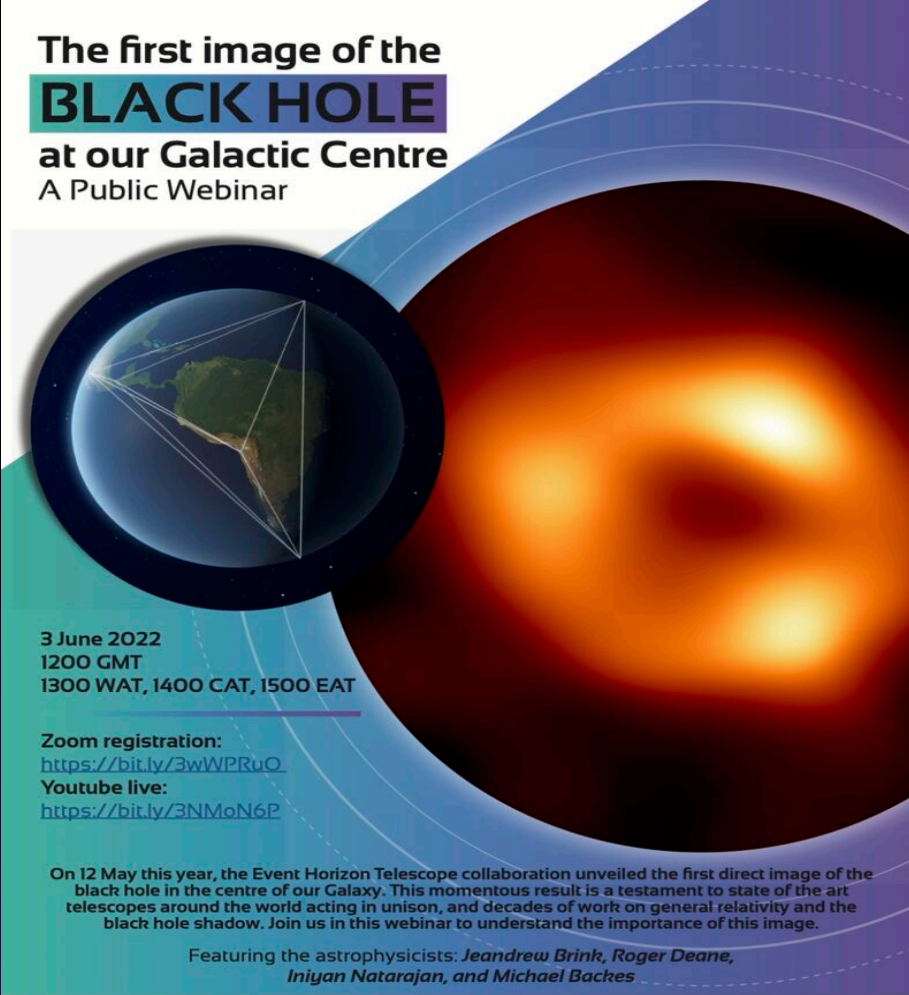
www.africanastronomicalsociety.org
@africanastronomy
AfAS2.0

Organised by: Outreach Committee, African Astronomical Society



AfAS Outreach and Education

The first image of the
BLACK HOLE
at our Galactic Centre
A Public Webinar





3 June 2022
1200 GMT
1300 WAT, 1400 CAT, 1500 EAT




Zoom registration:
<https://bit.ly/3wWPRuO>
Youtube live:
<https://bit.ly/3NM0N6P>

On 12 May this year, the Event Horizon Telescope collaboration unveiled the first direct image of the black hole in the centre of our Galaxy. This momentous result is a testament to state of the art telescopes around the world acting in unison, and decades of work on general relativity and the black hole shadow. Join us in this webinar to understand the importance of this image.

Featuring the astrophysicists: *Jeandrew Brink, Roger Deane, Iniyar Natarajan, and Michael Backes*

 **science & innovation**
Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

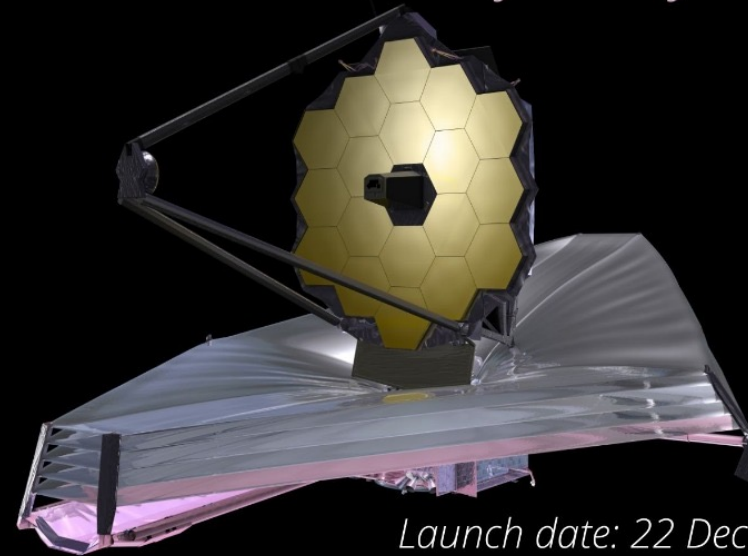
 **AfAS**
African Astronomical Society

 DSI: @dsigovza | AfAS: @AfricaAstronomy  DSI: @dsigovza | AfAS: @AFAS2.0  DSI: @dsigovza | AfAS: @africaastronomy

AfAS
African Astronomical Society
Outreach Committee

James Webb Space Telescope

Why is everyone excited?



Launch date: 22 Dec

Date: 10 December 2021
Time: 1300 - 1500 GMT



Sarah Kendrew
European Space Agency & STScI, USA



Robel Geda
Princeton University, USA

Zoom regn: bit.ly/afasjwst

Youtube live: bit.ly/afasjwstyt

African Network of Women in Astronomy (AfNWA)

Connect women working in astronomy and related fields in Africa

<https://afnwa.org>

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen and promote female participation in astronomy in Africa,
- To bring together women that work in astronomy in Africa,
- To strengthen the links between female researchers, share in an easier way any relevant information, strengthen collaborations, etc.,
- To strengthen support and supervision between senior and young female astronomers,
- To explore the ways to retain women in astronomy,
- To promote astronomy, space science, and science in general within young girls for empowering them to do science,
- To give more visibility to the work that female astronomers are doing in Africa, and that African female astronomers are doing around the globe,
- To strengthen research and leadership capacities of female astronomers, and
- To ensure female participation in the current and future developments of astronomy and science in Africa.



African Network of Women in Astronomy (AfNWA)

Connect women working in astronomy and related fields in Africa

<https://afnwa.org>



Activities

- Virtual training organised for Network members on CV writing - Dr. Carolina Odman (UWC, South Africa)
- Celebrated the Women in Space under the Space World Week - Dr. Bonita de Swardt (SARAO, South Africa) - 'Growing a network of skilled professionals in astronomy - the story of the SKA South Africa'
- Award for Women in Astronomy (recognise and support the scientific achievements and contributions) - Collaboration with the International Science Programme (ISP), Uppsala University, Sweden, 2021 call opened in November



GROWING A NETWORK OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS IN ASTRONOMY - THE STORY OF THE SKA SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), formerly known as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) South Africa project, established a human capacity development programme in 2015 to grow the science and engineering skills base on the African continent for the construction and hosting of the SKA telescope. The programme has supported over 1300 grants since its establishment with a focus on the promotion of young African talent. In this talk, I will give an overview of these programmes and how well they have supported women in astronomy and in related fields, in growing a local high-tech skills base in South Africa and broader Africa. I will also explore the types of mechanisms put in place that can lead to the overall success of women in these fields based on our lesson learnt. This talk promises many inspiring stories of young African women who are now making their mark as leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs through their journey of self-discovery with the SKA playing a significant role.

ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83596490288?pwd=dW12N2VqYk1SMkRlU0JEUUVBxapFp6UT09>
MEETING ID: 835 9649 0288
PASSCODE: 56916250

DR BONITA DE SWARDT carried out her initial training in astronomy at Rutgers University in the US. She completed her PhD in 2009 working on science commissioning data of nearby dwarf galaxies observed with the 1 m Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) in Sutherland, South Africa. After completion of her PhD, she continued her research of studying the properties of nearby dwarf systems using SALT and various infrared observing facilities, which formed part of her postdoctoral fellowship at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). Bonita has always been passionate about developing human capacity in astronomy in South Africa. Following her postdoc, she was employed by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) under the Astronomy Desk in 2012. At the time, the Astronomy Desk was tasked with providing strategic advice and input to the Minister of Science & Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor, to inform astronomy governance and policy decisions within the South African context. Bonita joined the SKA South Africa – now known as the South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) – under its Human Capacity Development (HCD) division in 2014. She has developed and oversees a number of new strategic capacity development interventions that have been formally introduced into SARAO.

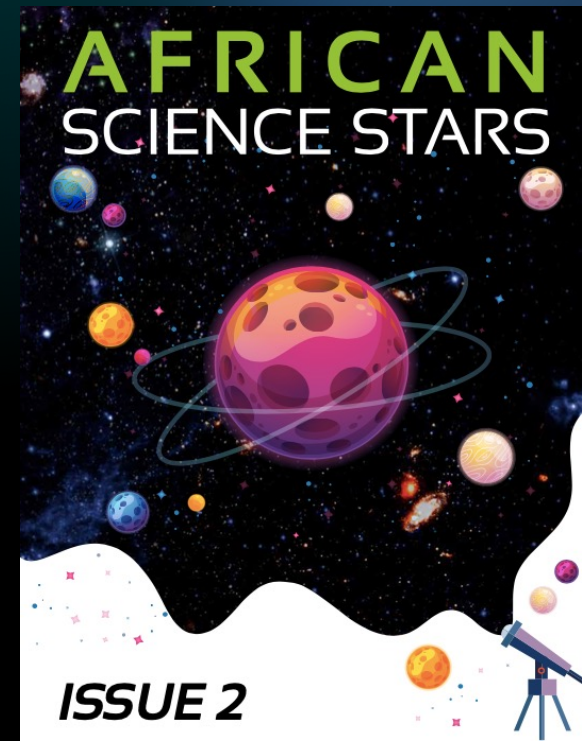
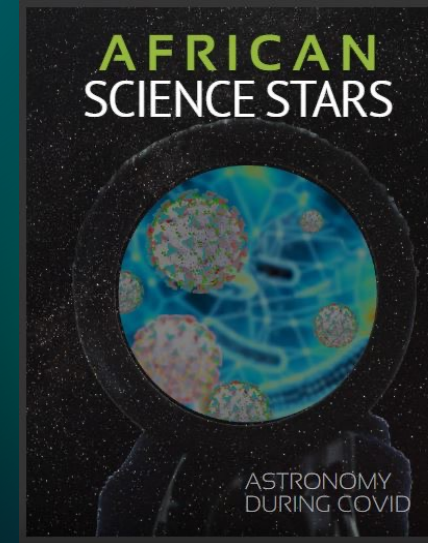


African Science Stars Astronomy Publication (ASSAP)

Produce a regular astronomy publication for Africa

<https://assap.co.za/>

- Profile African astronomers
- Profile astronomical sites, telescopes and facilities
- Profile universities astronomy programmes.
- Profile astronomy policy developments at a country level.
- Profile astro-tourism and astro-tourist sites and activities such as star gazing, astrophotography, telescope making, etc.
- Educate the public about the importance of preserving dark skies in the region.
- Communicate the benefits of astronomy to society, technology and socio-economic development.
- Promote the preservation of indigenous astronomical knowledge.
- Profile space science initiatives that have direct links and relevance to astronomy
- Share information on career guidance, bursaries and career opportunities
- Share information on astronomy funding opportunities, projects, competitions (Astro-Quiz), etc



African Science Stars Astronomy Publication (ASSAP)

CALL FOR CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

African Science Stars is looking for new voices!

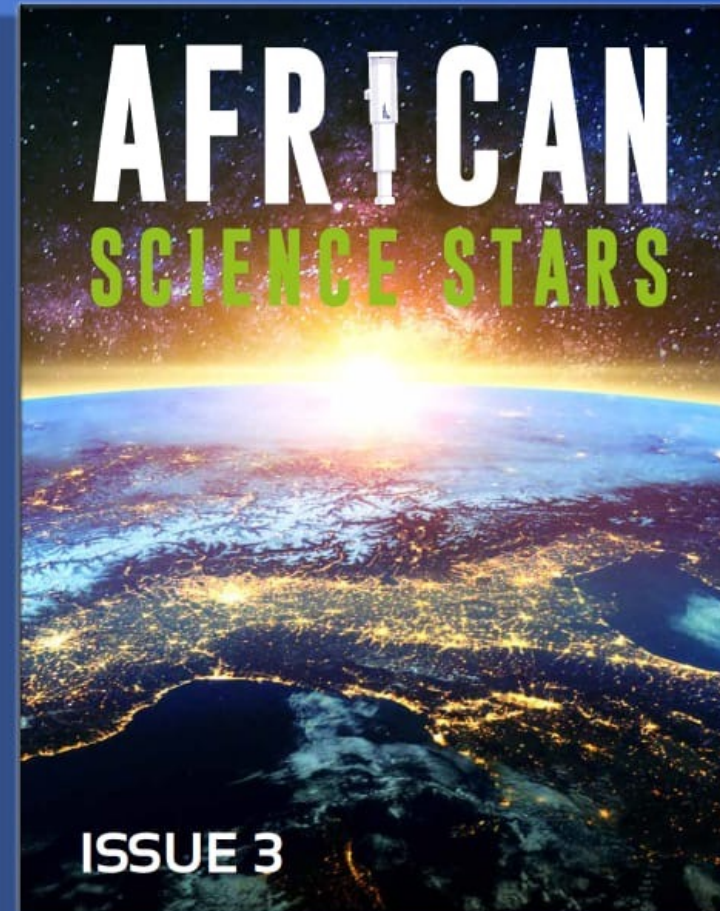
African Science Stars magazine is looking for articles and opinion pieces on:

African Astronomy developments in your country
Exciting research projects / reports on the go
Astrotourism travel articles
Space Science news
Events or pitch your own story

We encourage writers to de-jargonize science writing, make it accessible and simple as well as write in their own style, voice & even language.

We would also like to see a rise in content from women.

**Please email your letter of motivation to:
unathi@sciencestars.com or Whatsapp +27 82 619 8937**



The magazine is also available online: www.assap.co.za

African Science Stars magazine is a Pan-African publication that promotes Astronomy and Space Science in Africa. The publication promotes public awareness of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to young people, adults and stakeholders on the African continent.

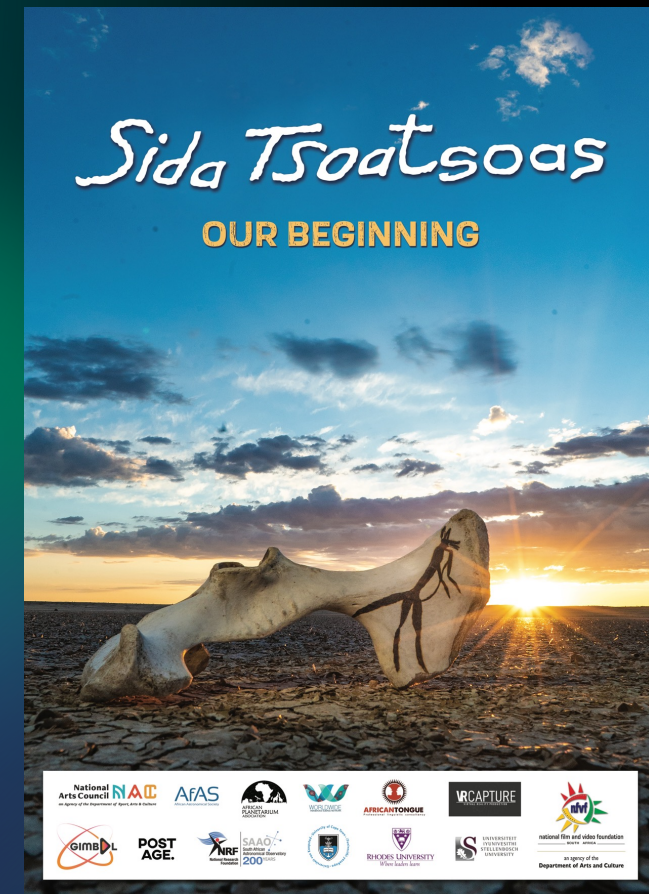


African Planetarium Association (APA)

Create network of planetaria on the continent

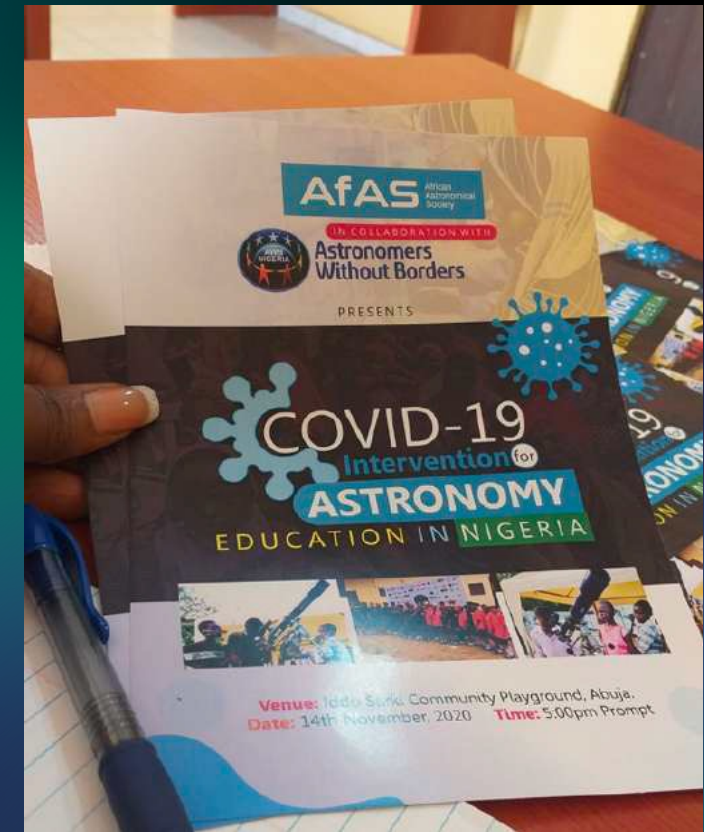
<https://africanplanetarium.org/>

- APA was launched at the Iziko museum and Digital Dome in Cape Town in March 2019
- Affiliate of the International Planetarium Society (IPS)
- Share information on planetarium software and hardware, full dome videos and films, and educational resources
- Promoting the creation of local African planetarium contents to be showcase both in Africa and internationally;
- Create awareness of available planetarium resources within the APA community and develop resources of special relevance to the African contexts
- Promote creation of local African planetarium content to be showcased both in Africa and internationally
 - Starlore Film Production (Sida Tsoatsoas)



Covid-19 related efforts: AfAS

- Collaborated with Astronomers Without Borders (AWB) Nigeria
 - Reach out to kids in Abuja during lockdown to educate them about Covid-19
 - Distribute astronomy outreach material
 - Distribute foodstuff, face masks, hand sanitizers, and face shields
- Support five projects to a sum of 100,886 ZAR (approximately €5,000) of the OAD Extraordinary Call for COVID-19 related Proposals
 - Distance Learning for Home-Bound Students Amid COVID-19 (Tanzania)
 - e-Amanar: Under the same sky connection (Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria)
 - Astro-Art Contest for Schools Kids (Nigeria)
 - Providing astronomy inspiration & Hygienic Supplies to underserved families at high risk of infection from Covid-19 (South Africa)
 - Protect Our Stars (POS) (Burkina Faso)



Covid-19 related efforts: APA

Four additional projects funded through the APA :

- Solar Powered Foot-activated Hand Washing Water Dispensers (**Kenya**)
- Development of online astronomy lessons for students in Ghana (**Ghana**)
- Teacher Training on Teaching Science (Physics) and Mathematics using Astronomy and Astrophysics (Uganda)
- New Planetarium shows in the era of Coronavirus (Arabic speaking countries)



AfAS visit to Sahelian countries (Chad & Niger)

L' African Astronomical Society (AfAS)
organise en coordination avec
l'Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey

**Portes Ouvertes
sur l'Astronomie**

du 21 au 23 février 2022

Participation du Président
de l'AfAS Pr Jamal Mimouni,
avec le concours de la
Faculté des Sciences



L' African Astronomical Society (AfAS)
en partenariat avec
l'Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD)
organisent du 14 au 19 février 2022 (SEDA-Tchad)

**La Semaine de Découverte
de l'Astronomie au Tchad**

الجمعية الفلكية الإفريقية، بالتعاون
مع مكتب علم الفلك من أجل التنمية
تنظم
أسبوع التعارف
على علم الفلك في تشاد

Pr Jamal Mimouni
Astrophysicien
Président de AfAS

Mr Mamadou M Djabbi
Doctorant en Mathématique
Coordonnateur National
de OAD, OAE et OAO



astronomietchad@gmail.com /+23569713130



- **Chad:** 18 activities
- **Niger:** 10 activities
- Universities and Schools
- Outreach
- Public lectures, conferences and meetings with faculty
- Meetings with Education officials
- Radio and national TV interviews





AfAS Membership and Categories



Full Membership



Associate Membership



Student Membership



Honorary Membership



Institutional Membership



National Membership

- **Membership Committee has been established**
- **Call for Membership Applications!!!**
- **Review of first two batch of applications concluded**
- **Membership is currently free**

AfAS

African Astronomical Society

<https://africanastronomicalsociety.org>



JOIN US

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN



SCAN ME

Membership Applications Open:

Full Membership

Associate Membership

Student Membership

For more information and application:

<https://www.africanastronomicalsociety.org/membership/membership-registration>

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Conference
13 - 17 March 2023
AfAS-2023

[READ MORE](#)

Annual Conference:

OBJECTIVES

- Share astronomy research from across Africa and promote discussions on research topics for the future.
- Foster collaborations within the African Astronomy Community and the rest of the world
- Showcase recent developments in Astronomy in African countries.
- Provide a platform for policymakers, funders, researchers, outreach officers, and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered, and solutions adopted.
- Discuss continental, regional, and national plans including flagship projects and the idea of astronomy hubs leading up to the IAU General Assembly in 2024, and the envisaged legacy thereafter.
- Elect a new Executive Committee and approve the proposed constitutional changes
- Discuss and accept membership fees and benefits, and its introduction from April 2023

AfAS
African Astronomical Society

science & innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

science
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XXXI IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2022-2023

Thank you

Contact us:



<https://afasociety.org>



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