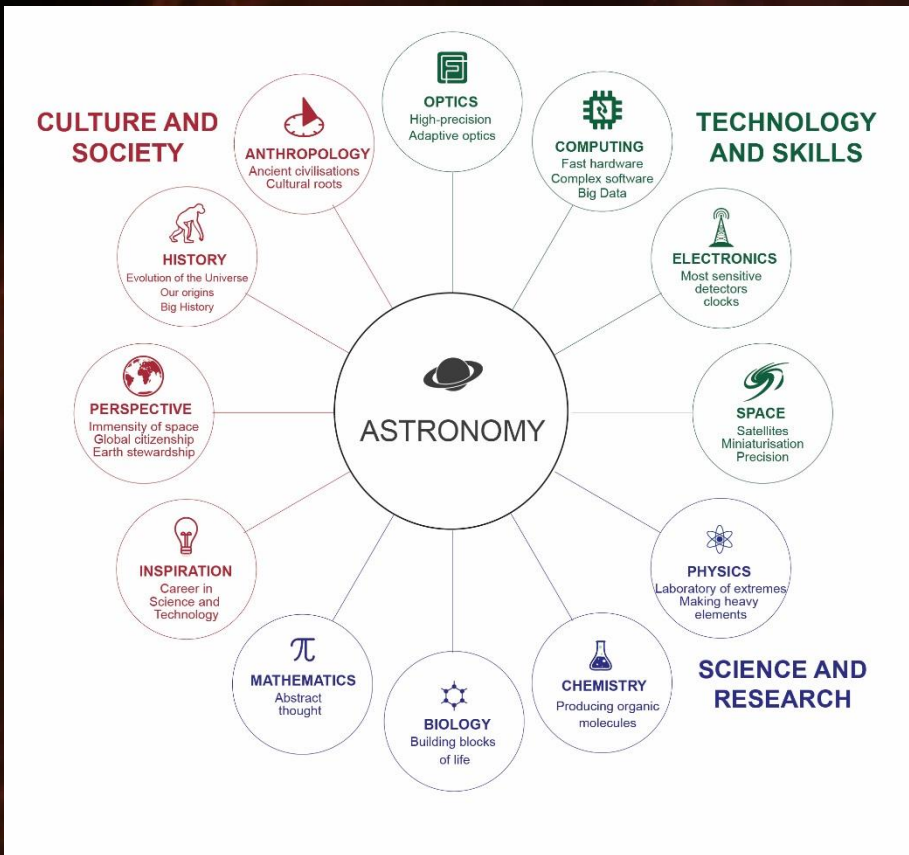




International Astronomical Union Office of Astronomy for Development

Astronomy for a better world

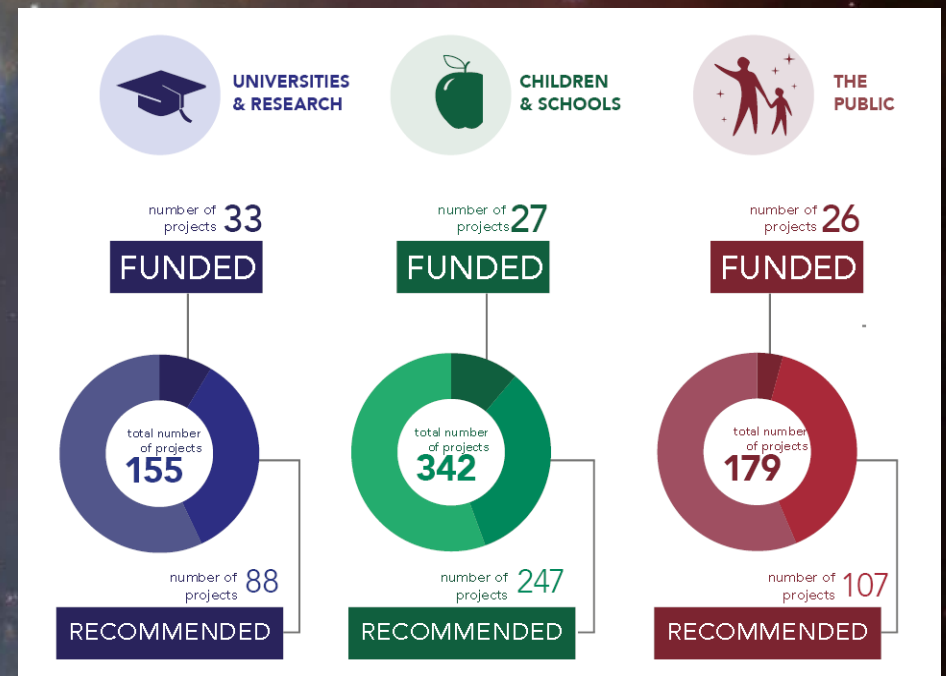


Astronomy is a field that combines science and technology with inspiration and excitement. As such it can play a role in facilitating education and human capital development. The skills related to the field of Astronomy can also be used to further sustainable development throughout the world.

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is the largest body of professional astronomers in the world. In August 2009, the IAU approved a strategic plan to utilize Astronomy as a tool to contribute to sustainable development.

The Office of Astronomy for Development was thus established by the IAU, in partnership with the South African National Research Foundation (NRF). Its mandate is to mobilise the necessary human and financial resources in order to realise the field's scientific, technological and cultural benefits to society. The OAD was officially opened on 16 April, 2011 at the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) in Cape Town, South Africa

In order to realise its vision, the OAD initiates, supports and funds projects in three main areas or Task Forces with guidance from experts in the field (i) Universities and Research (ii) Children and Schools (iii) Public. Since inception, the OAD has been involved in over 86 Astronomy-for-development projects worldwide.



The OAD prepares a Recommended list of high quality proposals that cannot be funded by the OAD grant. Browse through the list at <http://www.astro4dev.org/2016-wish-list-projects/>

ANNUAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS

A key part of the implementation of the IAU Strategic Plan is performed via the OAD annual Call for Proposals, in which individuals and organisations anywhere in the world are invited to propose projects that relate to Astronomy-for-development. The proposed project should address a problem or challenge related to development and should *use Astronomy as a tool* to address this problem. Projects are encouraged to think about development in relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The IAU earmarks approximately €110,000 per year for this open call, with individual project grants generally ranging between €500 and €15,000. The call for applications is open from June to September of every year. Visit <http://www.astro4dev.org/cfp/>

REGIONAL OFFICES

The Regional Offices of Astronomy for Development (ROAD) are similar to the OAD, with a focus on activities in a specific geographic region. Language Centres or LOADs have a similar structure with a focus on a particular language or cultural region, which sometimes stretches across the entire world.

The OAD has nine Regional Offices – East Asia and Chinese language, South East Asia, East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa, Andean Region of South America, South West and Central Asia, Arab world and Arabic language, and Portuguese language regions. These offices, in addition to providing guidance and support to the OAD on regional matters, drive various activities in their respective regions.

If you are interested in hosting a Regional Node or Language Expertise Centre, please read the Announcement of Opportunity at <http://www.astro4dev.org/oadregions/>.

PARTNERS

The OAD collaborates with numerous international organizations who are proactive in the area of science for development. Our partners include International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Haus der Astronomie, Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, Royal Astronomical Society, University of Central Lancashire, Fiat Physica, Associated Universities Inc and Leiden University.

Get in touch to discuss partnerships and collaborations.

GET INVOLVED

Not only is the OAD team supported by its regional offices and partners, but also its global network of contributors. There are several ways to contribute to the OAD's goals: Volunteers – anyone from anywhere in the world can become a volunteer and contribute their skills

Interns – self funded university students from across the globe can apply for an internship focused on a specific project

Fellows – the OAD offers a limited number of fellowship grants each year to enable talented researchers to develop and implement innovative ideas

Visit the website or contact us for further details.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The OAD has been largely successful in its efforts over the last 5 years. In 2015, an independent review panel audited the OAD and commended its 'outstanding performance' and 'strongly recommended the continuation of the OAD'

In 2016, Kevin Govender, Director of the OAD, and the IAU were jointly awarded the prestigious Edinburgh Medal for the creation and practical establishment of the OAD, which integrates the pursuit of scientific knowledge with social development for and with those most in need.

CONTACT

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