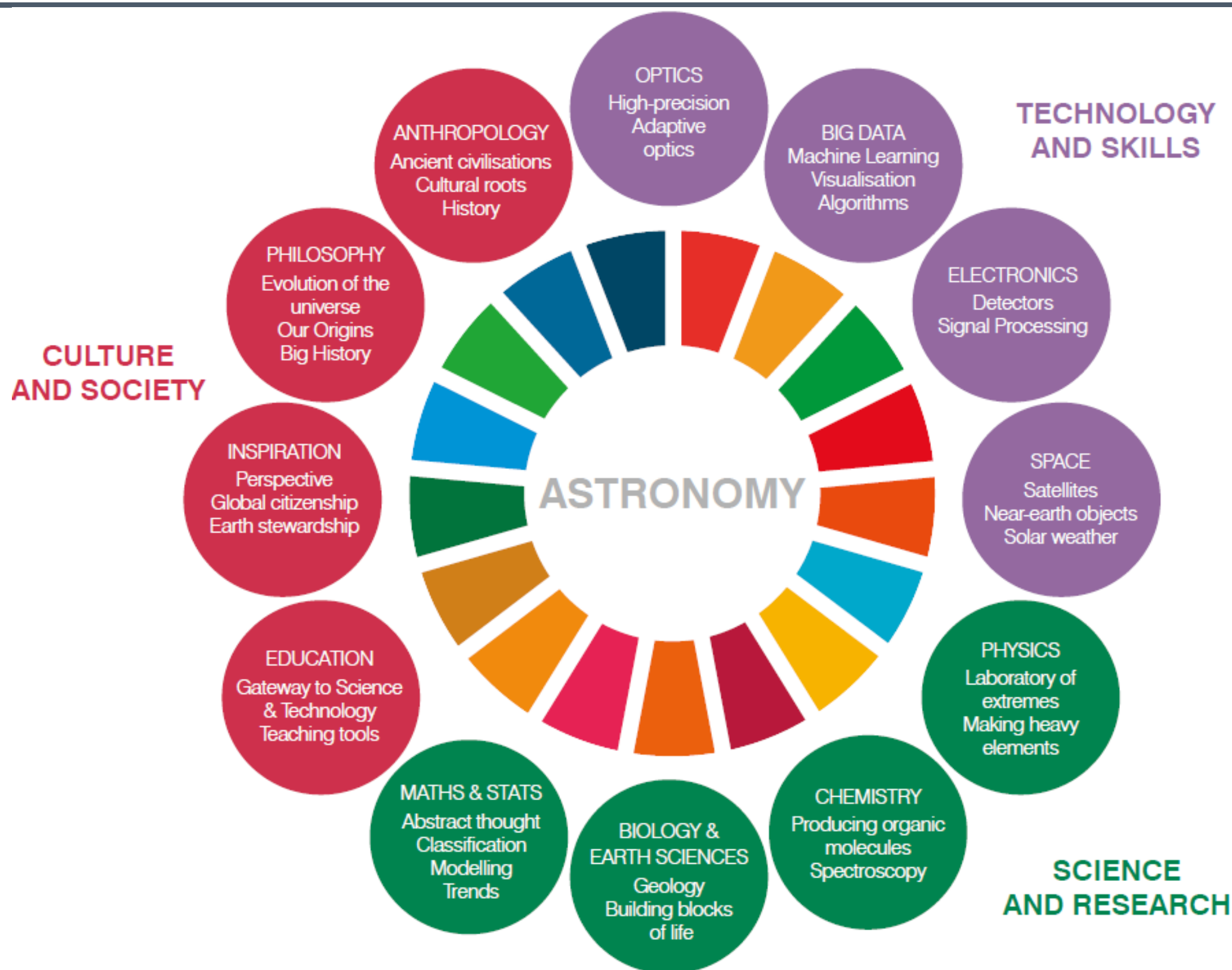




Astronomy for Development

The Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) is a global office that is mandated to use astronomy, including its practitioners, skills and infrastructures, to drive positive developmental change. The OAD's vision is "Astronomy for a better world" with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as broad objectives for global development. The OAD funds and coordinates projects that use Astronomy as a tool to address issues related to sustainable development. It also has 11 Regional Offices that focus on activities in specific geographic or cultural or language regions.



ASTRONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT

The OAD, through an annual, open call for proposals, funds ideas that employ astronomy in innovative ways to help solve a problem or challenge in a community and promote sustainable development. Since 2012, close to € 1 Million has been awarded to more than 200 projects across the globe. These projects have educated, inspired, and amazed children and adults, promoted dialogue and peaceful intention between communities, stimulated the local economy, targeted gender equity challenges in STEM, encouraged inclusive practices, and so much more. Despite the small scale, these projects have managed to reach thousands globally and benefited people by leveraging the strengths of astronomy. On the right are some of the ways in which past projects have tried to influence the SDGs and below are few specific examples of projects funded.



EXAMPLES



Astrostays

This flagship project takes a community centric approach to astro-tourism. People in rural or remote communities are trained on basic astronomy & hospitality so they may offer astro-tourism services to earn additional income. The OAD has partnered with the Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) to scale up this concept globally.



IDP Children's Astronomy Outreach, Nigeria

The project works with trained counsellors and uses astronomy as a tool to counsel, heal and educate children in an IDP (Internally Displaced People) camp who are traumatized by conflicts. An independent, solar powered learning hub has been setup to provide access to learning materials.



West African International Summer School for Young Astronomers

WAISYA schools (now the Pan African School for Emerging Astronomers) are an innovative short course for African university students, that aims to build a critical mass of astronomers in Africa and exchange ideas about teaching across continents.



Astro Molo Mhlaba, South Africa

In South Africa, girls in underserved communities are at great risk of violence, bullying, teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse leading to drop-outs between Grade 6 and 9. The project uses astronomy programs, taught and mentored by professional female astronomers, to encourage and support girls to pursue STEAM careers.