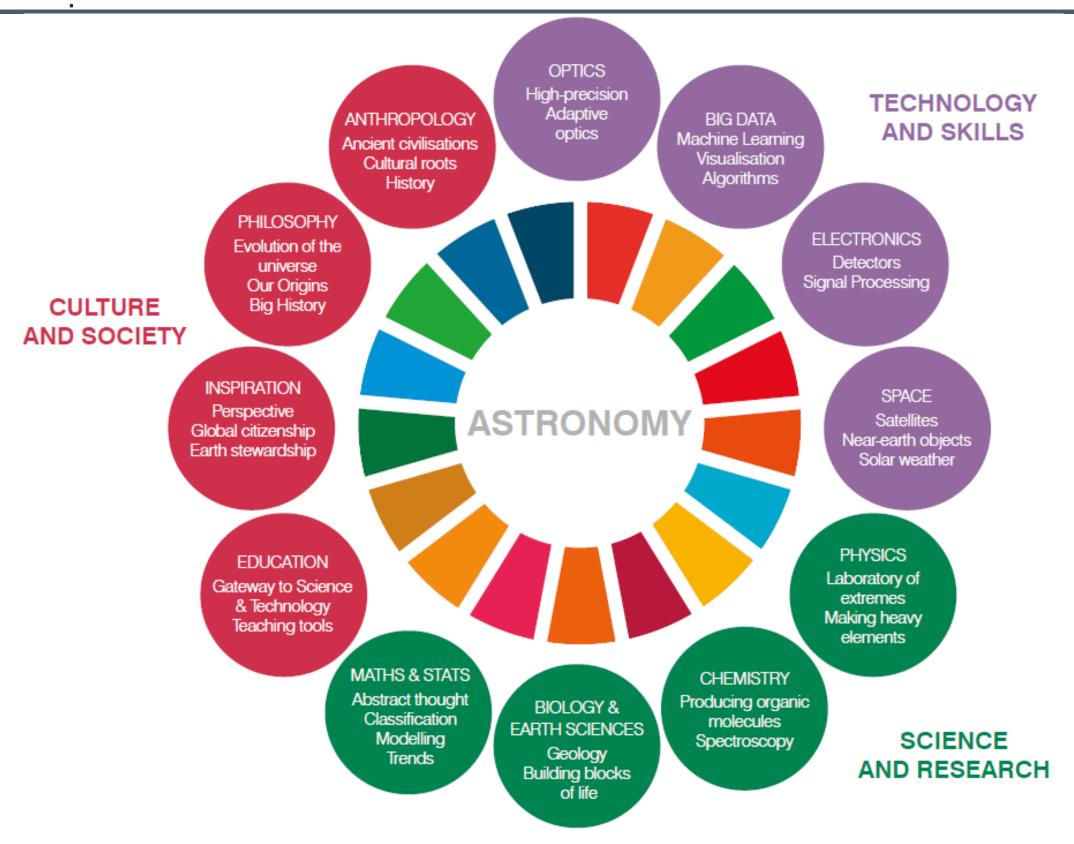


# **Astronomy for Development**

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.



### **WHY ASTRONOMY?**

Astronomy and space enjoy near-universal fascination. The study of the universe is deeply connected to what it means to be human. Questions on the origin of life, the existence of life outside Earth, and exploration of other worlds stoke fundamental curiosity in people, regardless of age, gender, geography or social and economic backgrounds.

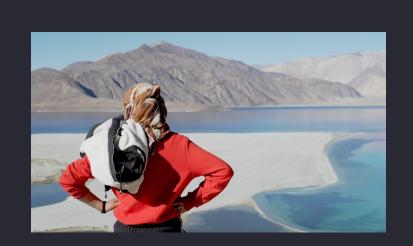
Astronomy has huge potential to be used for the benefit of society given that it connects science, technology, and culture. The diagram on the left shows the inter-disciplinary nature of astronomy.

#### Capacity building: Astro-tourism; Workshops with schools, workshops, instrument support gender equity focus teacher training. 4 QUALITY EDUCATION 1 NO POVERTY 2 ZERO HUNGER 3 COOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING GENDER EQUALITY AND SANITATION 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG 13 CLIMATE ACTION 14 LIFE BELOW WATER 15 LIFE ON LAND THE GLOBAL GOALS Community **Activities targeting Astronomy for** Light pollution, programs at disadvantaged, underdark skies **Diplomacy** observatory represented groups and

### **ASTRONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT**

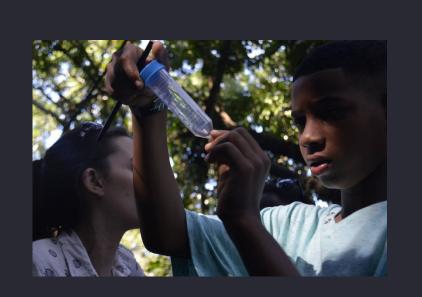
The OAD, through an annual, open call for proposals, funds ideas that employ astronomy in innovative ways to help solve a problem or challenge in a community and promote sustainable development. Since 2012, close to € 1 Million has been awarded to more than 200 projects across the globe. These projects 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

WAISSYA 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.







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