

2026 African Astronomical Society Conference

Monday, 23 March 2026

Education, Development & Outreach: Science Communication Challenges & Impact Evaluation (16:00 - 17:30)

-Conveners: Duduzile Kubheka

time	[id] title	presenter
16:00	[185] Challenges of science Communication in Africa	SIMPEMBA, Prosperity C
16:30	[126] Strengthening STEM Pathways Through Astronomy Outreach: Insights from Zambia's Community-Based Engagement Initiatives	ABBEY, Godson
16:45	[320] A story of two large scale projects in India - impact and learnings	RAMANUJAM, Niruj Mohan
17:00	[214] Communicating Astronomy in Underserved Nigerian Communities: The Adventure Thus Far	EGBUIM, Timothy
17:15	[262] The Impact of Stargazing Events on Students' Interest in STEM in Ethiopia	MOHAMMED, Nebiyu

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

Education, Development & Outreach: Outreach across Africa I (11:00 - 12:30)

-Conveners: Sally Macfarlane

time	[id] title	presenter
11:00	[94] Understanding awe, joy, and wonder in planetaria and informal astronomy experiences.	KUBHEKA, Duduzile
11:15	[211] Mobile Planetarium-Based Astronomy Education and Outreach in Nigeria: Its STEM and Socio-cultural Importance	EGBUIM, Timothy
11:30	[195] Scaling Astronomy Outreach: The "Madagascar Sous les étoiles" Festival Model	RAJAONARIVELO, Andoniaina
11:45	[346] Expanding Astronomy Outreach in Madagascar (2022–2025)	RAFIEFERANTSOA, Deralaza
12:00	[361] From Stars to STEM: Using Astronomy to Promote Science Education in South Western Uganda	MUHEKI, Priscilla
12:15	[364] From Grassroots to National Infrastructure: The ESSS Model for Space Sector Development	ALEMU, Kirubel Menberu

Education, Development & Outreach: Outreach across Africa II (14:00 - 15:30)

-Conveners: Prosperity Simpemba

time	[id] title	presenter
14:00	[300] Robotic Astronomy for an Inclusive Future: The Educational Mission of Oukaimeden Observatory	BENHIDA, Abdelmajid
14:30	[350] Building East-African Astronomical Capacity: The Sharing the Sky Programme — A Model for Sustainable Research Development	NKUNDABAKURA, Pheneas
14:45	[271] Revitalizing STEM Learning in Ethiopia: Cascade Astronomy Outreach Initiatives for Schools	MOHAMMED, Nebiyu
15:00	[47] Scaling Impact through the Cascade Outreach Model: Lessons from AWB Nigeria	FAGBEMIRO, Olayinka
15:15	[155] Astronomy Outreach in Sudan: A Current Overview	ALDOWMA, Tamador Khalil Mansoor

Education, Development & Outreach: Skills Development & Africa's 4IR (16:00 - 17:30)

-Conveners: Nikhita Ramkilowan

time	[id] title	presenter
16:00	[144] Building Tomorrow's Astronomers: A Circular Model for Lasting Impact in Data-Intensive Science	MACFARLANE, Sally
16:30	[163] A Gateway to 4th Industrial Revolution via Human Capital Development - PAP2SN	PHIRI, Saul Paul
16:45	[31] Empowering Public Engagement in Astronomy Across Africa through Interactive Digital Platforms	MZOLA, Cassandra
17:00	[215] From Astronomy to Earth Observation Innovation: AEOC as a Pan-African Engine for Science-to-Market Transformation	MTETHWA, Nandi

17:15	[268] Empowering Youth Through Robotics: An Africa-focused Outreach and Training Programme.	MATHISON, Chantel
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Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Education, Development & Outreach: Addressing Inequality / Indigenous Astronomy (11:00 - 12:30)

-Conveners: Ann Njeri

time	[id] title	presenter
11:00	[134] From Timbuktu to SKA: Who Owns the Astronomy Knowledge Africa Produces?	KOCH, Rhea
11:15	[355] Closing Astronomy Education Gaps for Girls in Ethiopia Through Inclusive School Outreach	DINSA, Lidia
11:30	[343] Advanced Ethiopian Women in Physics and Astronomy Focus Group	AHMED, Mehbuba
11:45	[296] Cultural Astronomy in Zambia: Insights from Different Tribes	NJOBVU, Ariel
12:00	[371] Egypt and the Sky: A Legacy of Archaeoastronomy	ALI, Ola
12:15	[203] Shared Skies of East and North Africa: Cultural Astronomy, Planetary Nomenclature, and Public Engagement in Ethiopia	ALULA, Lealem Kinfu

Thursday, 26 March 2026

Education, Development & Outreach: Global Projects (11:00 - 12:30)

-Conveners: Charles Takalana

time	[id] title	presenter
11:00	[303] The OAD Flagships Ecosystem: Harnessing Astronomy for Inclusive Development in Africa and beyond	MDHLULI, Joyful Elma
11:30	[78] BRICS Astronomy: Building Skills, Science, and Societal Impact in the Global South	LEKOLOANE, Moleboge
11:45	[207] The Harambee Research Collective	SHETH, Kartik
12:00	[79] Creating an Enabling Policy Environment for African Astronomy to Support Global Collaboration	KIRRANE, Declan
12:15	[337] On the Moon Again: An International Framework for Public Engagement in Astronomy	BOULEY, Sylvain

Education, Development & Outreach: Astronomy Education (14:00 - 15:30)

-Conveners: Simphiwe Madlanga

time	[id] title	presenter
14:00	[351] Astronomy Teacher Training in Northern Kenya	BIWOTT, Goretti
14:30	[373] Addressing Astronomical Misconceptions Through Targeted Teacher Training Workshops	MANXOYI, Sivuyile
15:00	[105] BLUEshift Africa: Accelerating Towards the Future of Undergraduate Astronomy Education in Africa	STRUBBE, Linda
15:15	[50] Future Stars in Astronomy through School Astronomy Clubs.	MKWINDA, Rashidi

Education, Development & Outreach: Astrotourism & Community Development (16:00 - 17:30)

-Conveners: Joyful Elma Mdhuli

time	[id] title	presenter
16:00	[209] Astro-tourism as a Sustainable and Socioeconomic Development Strategy for the San Communities in Botswana	DICHABA, Keletso Bontle KEDUMELE, Tumo Fortunate
16:15	[249] Assessing Night-Sky Brightness and Light-Pollution Trends in East African Urban Centres.	WAKOLI, Franklyne
16:30	[99] The Night Sky as a potential tourism resource for Namibia	AUALA, Sisco
16:45	[183] A qualitative review of the HartRAO (SARAO) and SALT (SAAO) Visitor Centres' benefits of being located at research facilities.	Mr STUURMAN, Jeremy MADLANGA, Simphiwe
17:00	[232] Dissonances and Synergies of mega astronomy infrastructure projects on development in rural Northern Cape, South Africa	MOKHOHLANE, Daniel Manama
17:15	[238] Hammanskraal Astronomy Outreach Program	MOPHAHLANE, Koketso

Friday, 27 March 2026

Education, Development & Outreach: Innovative Outreach & Citizen Science (14:30 - 16:00)

-Conveners: Naomi Asabre Frimpong

time	[id] title	presenter
14:30	[77] Connecting Classrooms to the Cosmos: Democratising Space Communication through the ARISS Contact Experience in Nigeria	OLAYIWOLA, Joy
14:45	[239] The ESSS Citizen Science Project: A Model for Capacity Building, Scientific Discovery, and Science Communication	ALEMU, Kirubel Menberu
15:00	[148] Bridging Academic and Applied Astronomy: The Al-Azhar Global Center as a Model for Science Communication and Community Engagement in Africa	ABDELBAR, Ahmed
15:15	[24] INCLUSIVE ASTRONOMY: On the Prisoner's Reformation Programme in Nigeria	OFODUM, Chukwujekwu
15:30	[317] Nurturing Ethiopia's Next Generation of Space Scientists: The Ethio Space Kids Club Experience	WOGAYEHU, Meklit
15:45	[329] Singing the Skies of Africa: The Making of the Go Africa Astronomers' Anthem	SOTTIE, Stephen