

Agenda: South African Geodesy Workshop

Dates: 1–2 October 2025 | Venue: SAAO | Hosts: DSTI & DLRRD | Support: SARAO, SANSA, universities

Day 1 — Overviews + Pillar 1 (Governance, Partnerships & Reporting)

Time	Item	Lead/Owner	Session chair/ moderator
08:30–09:00	Registration & Tea/Coffee	Thutho Ndlovu (DSTI)	
09:00–09:15	Welcome & Setting the scene	C. Mokonoto (Acting DDG DSTI) + S. Mdubeki (DDG DLRRD)	Takalani Nemaungani (DSTI)
09:15–09:30	What is Geodesy and Why is It Important?	Aslam Parker (DLRRD)	Roelf (SARAO)
09:30–09:45	The Geodesy Ecosystem (Globally, Locally, and Regionally)	Patrick Vorster (DLRRD)	Roelf (SARAO)
09:45–10:00	UN-GGCE: 1st Joint Development Plan (JDP)	Nick Brown (UN-GGCE)	Roelf (SARAO)
10:00–10:15	Towards a SAGWG and GGOS Africa: Building local and regional capacity	Aletha de Witt (DSTI)	Roelf (SARAO)
10:15–10:30	Panel Discussion / Q&A	All session speakers	Moderator: Roelf (SARAO)
10:30–11:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
11:00–12:10	Lightning updates from various institutions	Hubert Mathebula (DSTI), Aslam Parker (DLRRD), Roelf Botha (SARAO), Jonathan Ward (SANSA), Maroale Chauke (CSI)	Siphiwe (UCT)
12:10–12:30	Panel Discussion / Q&A	All speakers from this session	Moderator: Siphiwe (UCT)
12:30–13:30	Lunch		
13:30–13:45	Towards a National Strategy for Geodesy in SA	Aletha de Witt (DSTI)	Jonathan (SANSA)
13:45–14:00	Establishment and Structure of the SAGWG	Aslam Parker (DLRRD)	Jonathan (SANSA)
14:00–14:15	Laying the Foundations for GGOS Africa	Jack Radcliffe (UMan)	Jonathan (SANSA)
14:15–14:30	Panel Discussion / Q&A	All speakers from this session	Moderator: Jonathan (SANSA)
14:30–15:00	Breakout Session	All participants	Jonathan (SANSA)
15:00–15:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
15:30–15:45	Feedback from breakout session	Aslam Parker (DLRRD)	Pierre (SANSA)
15:45–16:00	What We Heard → What We'll Do	Aletha de Witt (DSTI)	Pierre (SANSA)

Day 2 — Implementation for Pillars 2–8 (overview and interactive sessions)

Time	Item	Lead/Owner	Session chair/moderator
08:30–09:00	Arrival & Tea/Coffee	Thutho Ndlovu (DSTI)	
09:00–09:05	Welcome, Recap & Objectives For the Day	Aletha de Witt (DSTI)	Patroba (UCT)
09:05–09:20	Pillar 3: Infrastructure & Operations	Roelf Botha (SARAO)	Patroba (UCT)
09:20–09:35	Pillar 5: Data, Standards & Open Access	Patrick Vorster (DLRRD)	Patroba (UCT)
09:35–09:50	Pillar 6: Reference Systems & Regional Frames	Aslam Parker (DLRRD)	Patroba (UCT)
09:50–10:05	Panel Discussion / Q&A	All speakers from this session	Mod: Mulemwa (UKZN)
10:05–10:30	Breakout Session	All	Mulemwa (UKZN)
10:30–11:00	Tea/Coffee Break		
11:00–11:20	Feedback from breakout session	Roelf Botha (SARAO)	Hubert (DSTI)
11:20–11:35	Pillar 7: People (HCD)	P. Odera & S. Mphuthi (UCT) & M.Akombelwa (UKZN)	Hubert (DSTI)
11:35–11:45	Pillar 2: Advocacy & Comms	Aletha de Witt (DSTI)	Hubert (DSTI)
11:45–12:00	Panel Discussion / Q&A	All speakers from this session	Moderator: Hubert (DSTI)
12:00–12:30	Breakout Session	All	Hubert (DSTI)
12:30–13:30	Lunch		
13:30–13:50	Feedback from breakout session	Siphiwe Mphuthi (UCT)	Aslam (DLRRD)
13:50–14:00	Pillar 4: Spectrum Protection	T. Mashile (DSTI) and S. Matlhane (SARAO)	Aslam (DLRRD)
14:00–14:15	Pillar 8: R&D & Next-Gen Supply Chain	A de Witt (DSTI), R Botha (SARAO) and N Mtethwa (RISS)	Aslam (DLRRD)
14:15–14:30	Panel Discussion / Q&A	All speakers from this session	Mod: Aslam (DLRRD)
14:30–15:00	Breakout Session	All	Aslam (DLRRD)
15:00–15:30	Tea/Coffee Break		
15:30–15:50	Feedback from breakout session	Aletha de Witt (DSTI)	Roelf Botha (SARAO)
15:50–16:15	Summary, Highlights of Workshop, and Way Forward	Aslam Parker (DLRRD)	Roelf Botha (SARAO)
16:15–16:30	Close & communiqué	DSTI + DLRRD	Takalani Nemaungani (DSTI)