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**Developing Astronomy Globally**  
Cornerstone Project  
International Year of Astronomy 2009



Partners for the International Year of Astronomy 2009



## Call for Proposals and Project Brief

18 March 2009

### Introduction

The vision of International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009), initiated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and UNESCO, is to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the universe through the wonders of astronomy. It serves as an opportunity to highlight the impact of astronomy and basic sciences on daily life and helps people to better understand how scientific knowledge can contribute to a more equitable and peaceful society. The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is endorsed by the United Nations and the International Council of Science (ICSU).

### Goals of IYA2009

The major goals of IYA2009 are to:

1. Increase scientific awareness.
2. Promote widespread access to new knowledge and observing experiences.
3. Empower astronomical communities in developing countries.
4. Support and improve formal and informal science education.
5. Provide a modern image of science and scientists.
6. Facilitate new networks and strengthen existing ones.
7. Improve the gender-balanced representation of scientists at all levels and promote greater involvement by underrepresented minorities in scientific and engineering careers.
8. Facilitate the preservation and protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage of dark skies in places such as urban oases, national parks and astronomical sites.

### Developing Astronomy Globally

To celebrate IYA2009 globally, 11 cornerstone projects have been chosen as well as a number of special projects and events. One of the cornerstone projects is entitled “Developing Astronomy Globally” (DAG)

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## Funding Conditions

- 1) A country is only eligible to submit proposals if it has completed the Global Astronomy Survey and self evaluation (see [www.developingastronomy.org/response.php](http://www.developingastronomy.org/response.php) to check if your country has completed it).
- 2) Funding will be limited to a maximum of 1000 Euro per proposal
- 3) Only one proposal per country will be selected.
- 4) The proposal has to be submitted through the country SPoC (single point of contact)
- 5) Only completed application forms will be considered
- 6) Successful applicants will be required to sign a Terms of Reference and abide by the grant's reporting criteria

## Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of projects.

- 1) Alignment with the goals of IYA2009 and DAG.
- 2) Quality and relevance of content.
- 3) Innovativeness and creativity of approach.
- 4) Clear timeline indicators.
- 5) Cost effectiveness of the project including a detailed budget.
- 6) Potential to raise funding from other sources
- 7) Range of stakeholder participation (e.g. partnerships with IYA2009 Cornerstone and Special projects/universities/industry/government)
- 8) Degree of impact of the project with potential for sustainability.

## Proposal Evaluation

The proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the DAG Task Group in consultation with the IAU IYA2009 EC WG.

## Proposal Requirements

All proposals must be submitted in completed application forms and sent by email to [ln@sao.ac.za](mailto:ln@sao.ac.za) or (failing email) by fax to +27214473639 (marked for the attention of Lolan). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposal has been received in order. All proposals received will be acknowledged by email.

## Closing Date

The deadline for submitting proposals is close of business on **3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**.

All applicants will receive feedback regarding the decision during April 2009.

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## Enquiries

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