

# **ASSESSING AND QUANTITATIVELY UNDERSTANDING ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITIES IN EARTH OBSERVATION: A CASE STUDY OF THE CSIR**

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A remote sensing audit was initiated in May 2006 across all operating units within the CSIR. The purpose of the audit was to establish a baseline survey of remote sensing skills and competencies in order to facilitate a response to national priorities concerning earth observation. The results showed that of the 67 known remote sensing users known at the time of the survey, 56 (84%) responded. Responses were received from a diverse group of users and took cognisance of the fact that the remote sensing activities in the CSIR were diverse and in some instances very specialised. In this regard it attempted to group together categories that provided an overall compositional view of remote sensing such as age profiles, academic qualifications, remote sensing data types and recently completed projects. To obtain additional perspective, the audit probed these categories further and focused on understanding the crucial relationships between these parameters. Overall, the audit captures the essence of remote sensing across the CSIR paying particular attention to primary and less frequent users of remote sensing, academic qualifications in certain fields, software usage and programming abilities. The audit represents an important quantification tool to assist the CSIR gauge its potential in earth observation and invest to improve the areas that will enable the organization to be a leader in earth observation technology both in the African continent and the world.