

INTRODUCING THE AFRICA INITIATIVE FOR PLANETARY AND SPACE SCIENCES.

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Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences are not well developed in Africa, and only a few, small groups have emerged on the continent during the last two decades. These groups are not well connected, they are scattered, and underfunded, and their work is not visible enough. The benefits of a coordinated Planetary and Space Sciences (PPS) program for Africa's youth, and for the society at large, has motivated a call for international support and investment of an Africa Initiative for Planetary and Space Sciences [1]. PSS is a vast domain, and the focus is restricted here to the study of planetary material (meteorites) and planetary surface processes, including impact cratering. In this presentation, we will introduce the status of Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences in Africa and suggest a road map for its promotion and expansion. All members of the Meteoritical Society are invited to endorse (www.africapss.wordpress.com) and support this initiative. The roles that Meteoritical Society members can play in the various actions (research, training, outreach) related to this initiative will be emphasized.

[1] Baratoux et al. EOS, 2017 Africa Initiative for Planetary and Space Sciences.