



**International Astronomical Union**  
**Union Astronomique Internationale**  
**Office of Astronomy for Development**

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13 December 2023

To whom it may concern

**Subject: Letter of Endorsement from the IAU Office of Astronomy for Development for the project titled “CoAstro: @n Astronomy Condo”**

This serves as a letter of endorsement from the International Astronomical Union’s Office of Astronomy for Development (IAU OAD) for the project titled “CoAstro: @n Astronomy Condo” coordinated by Ilídio André Costa.

CoAstro was submitted in 2023 to the OAD’s annual call for proposals that use astronomy as a tool to further sustainable development. It was reviewed by a panel of experts appointed by the IAU who approved it to be placed on the OAD Recommended List of projects. The recommended list is prepared by the OAD each year to support those proposals that are highly ranked but we are unable to fund ourselves. Through this endorsement, we are supporting Ilídio’s efforts to seek funding and collaboration for the project.

CoAstro: @n Astronomy Condo is a citizen science (CS) project that engages primary school teachers, with research groups and the joint promotion, by teachers, astronomers, and science communicators, of astronomy communication/astronomy education initiatives. Supported by the conclusions of CoAstro 1st edition, we now want to take the CoAstro’s science communication and education (SCE) stage to students and teachers from Portuguese districts with lower involvement with science. The project involves free science dissemination initiatives: night sky and/or solar telescope observations, thematic hands-on activities, “questions and answers” (Q&A) with astronomers and the core activity – “Go Mobile” planetarium shows. Teachers will also be involved in teacher training initiatives, with the intent to work on key content and teaching methodologies in astronomy, but also to present concrete examples of how to use this field, in curricular terms, as a gateway science.

Please contact me for any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Govender', is written over a white background.

Kevin Govender

Director: IAU Office of Astronomy for Development

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*The global Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) is a partnership of the International Astronomical Union and the South African National Research Foundation with the support of its Department of Science & Innovation. The office implements programs and funds projects globally via its annual call for proposals in pursuit of its vision of using ‘Astronomy for a better world’. <http://www.astro4dev.org/>*