

OGP Commitment Update Open Data Principles

24 April 2026



science & innovation

Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Agenda

- Introduction & Background
 - Open Data Project
 - OGP Commitment
- Stakeholder Engagements
 - Municipalities
 - National Govt - DPSA
- Policy and Regulatory Framework for Open Data
 - International
 - National
 - Provincial & Local
- Way Forward
 - Stakeholder Engagements

Why Open Data Policy

1. Provide a **common, reliable evidence base to inform city decision-making** and improve effectiveness and identifying opportunities, **improving services and sharing** with all levels of government and non-government organisations.
2. Strengthening **public understanding and trust** of city operations and other information concerning their communities and raising the bar on external scrutiny and accountability.
3. Encouraging the development of **innovative technology solutions and data analytics** by a **broader group of stakeholders** and thereby **creating new markets** and generating economic opportunities for individuals and companies that benefit from the knowledge and functions created by open data.
4. Anticipating and **capturing benefits from new digital technologies** such as the Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence, whilst proactively managing any potential downside and risks.

OGP Commitment – CSIR

Milestones	Expected Outputs	Dates	
1. Dialogue initiated with six metropolitan municipalities on the adoption on Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol	Consensus reached on a common Framework/ Protocol – Done	November 2024	<u>Metros & Munics</u> CoT, CoJ, CoCT, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Makana, Buffalo City, Nelson Mandela Bay, Mangaung, <u>Districts</u> Sarah Baartman District, Cape Winelands, Garden Route <u>Province</u> WCape Province, GP
2. Municipal Councils of all six metropolitan municipalities have endorsed Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol	All six metropolitan municipalities have the Open Data Sharing Framework /Protocol implemented - Done	2026	Same as above
3. National Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol dialogue initiated	Draft National Open Data Sharing Framework/ Protocol agreed with	November 2026	

Stakeholder Engagements

Category	Organisation Name	Progress to date
<p>Involved /Consulted / Informed</p>	<p>Municipalities</p>	<p><u>Municipal / Metro List</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. eThekweni Metro – City of Durban – Ongoing - AI 2. City of Cape Town Metro– IKM Office – AI 3. Western Cape Province – Provincial Data Office: Data Governance, Policy and Legislation 4. City of Johannesburg Metro– IKM - Smart City Office – CCTV –Safety Use Case, 5. City of Ekurhuleni Metro - 6. City of Tshwane Metro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Data Architecture Framework 7. Cape Winelands District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Municipalities • Grant Brown – DD: District & Local Performance Monitoring • Met with 10+ different Departments (BTO, SCM, IDP, ICT, SED, MHS, Transport Roads, Maintenance, Sport, Performance and Risk Mngt, HR) • Data Governance Model - CWDM - Data Governance Report - V1_zdt • Implementation – AI? 8. Garden Route District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Municipalities - Bitou Local Municipality, George Local Municipality, Hessequa Local, Municipality, Kannaland Local Municipality, Knysna Local Municipality, Mossel Bay Local Municipality, Oudtshoorn Local Municipality 9. Makana Municipality – Kagiso Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Baartman District • Nelson Mandela Bay Metro (ECDC) • Buffalo City Metro (ECDC) 10. Managaung Metro

Stakeholder Engagement

Category	Organisation Name	Progress to date
Involved	Kagiso Trust	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MoU signed with CSIR – Open Data added as an addendum 2. <i>Facilitated session with Makana, Buffalo City Metro and NMBM</i>
	Others NGOs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Cities Lab 2. GIZ (Germany) 3. FCDO (British High Commission) 4. Open Data Institute (UK)
Consulted	SALGA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SALGA – PULSE – Platform for Analytic Data 2. Municipal Sentiment Analytics – Data as a Service 3. Data Maturity Assessment Questionnaire 4. WCG utilises the Data Governance Assessment Tool (Stanford Model – 6x3) for Monitoring & Evaluation
	SACN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SACN has the Data Almanac and SA Smart Cities Framework
	DPSA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South Africa’s <i>Open Government Partnership</i> with DPSA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with NAP OGP 2023-2026 2. <i>Separate MoU signed between CSIR and DPSA</i>
	DCDT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Data & Cloud Policy</i> 2. <i>AI Policy</i>
	DCoG	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South African Smart Cities Framework makes reference to data as an important component for SMART decision-making. 2. Key points – Global South versus Global North ito infrastructure in cities are different. 3. Dr Kevin Naidoo. DDG: Policy, Governance and Administration
	Horizon Europe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Africa Initiative III: relating to GenAI for Urban Planning

SA Data and Cloud Policy

1. Officially published by South Africa's Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) on May 31, 2024 (GG No. 50741).
2. It focuses on data sovereignty, data center localization, and creating a digital economy through, amongst others, a ***National Data and Cloud Policy***.
3. The policy is currently in the adoption phase, moving from policy formulation towards implementation through consultations and the creation of regulatory frameworks

Key Aspects of the Policy

- **Data Sovereignty & Localisation:** The policy mandates that government data, particularly, "confidential/sensitive data", "secret", or "top secret" information, must be stored in digital infrastructure within South African borders.
- **Cloud-First Strategy:** It promotes a cloud-first approach for all government departments to improve service delivery, efficiency, and data-driven policy.
- **Data Privacy & Compliance:** It works alongside the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)
- **Digital Infrastructure & Access:** The policy highlights the need for a free basic connectivity grant to boost digital inclusion and encourages the deployment of, as noted in the National Policy on Data and Cloud 2024, reliable broadband, as outlined in the Overview of the National Policy on Data and Cloud 2024.
- **Implementation Mechanisms:** The policy aims to establish a data advisory council and a technical implementation task team to guide the process

SA National AI Policy - DCDT

- Officially moved from a framework to the **Draft South Africa National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**
- Approved by Cabinet and gazetted for public comment on 10 April 2026.
- The policy aims for finalization during the 2026/2027 financial year, with a phased implementation focusing on ethical AI development, job preservation, and infrastructure.

Progress to Date:

- **Public Consultation:** Written comments on the draft policy are open until 10 June 2026.
- **Structure:** The policy proposes an interventionist approach, including a **National AI Commission/Office**, an **AI Regulatory Council**, and an **AI Ethics Board**.
- **Implementation Plan:** A phased approach (2025–2028) is planned, starting with finalizing the policy and addressing high-risk AI, followed by sectoral strategies.
- **Focus Areas:** The policy prioritizes human-centred AI, ensuring AI complements rather than replaces labor, and develops a robust AI talent pool.
- The policy aims to balance innovation with regulation

Key Issues to address Open Data

1. Which OD principles and OD Policy?
 - Open Data Charter Principles
2. What are the Data Governance Policies
 - Open Data Policy
 - Data Sharing Policy
 - National - Province – District – Municipality
3. What Structure/skill sets should a Municipality adopt?
 - Data Steward
 - Data Custodian
 - Data Champion in each of the 13 LG Depts
4. Structures: Provincial Data Forum – Municipal Data Forum
5. Data Maturity Assessment Tools?
 - SALGA – Data Maturity Assessment Tool
 - WCG conducts an annual Data Governance Maturity Assessment (DGMA) based on Stanford Univ 6x3 model
- 6. Type of Use Cases?**
 - User Personas
 - Internal User Needs
 - External (citizen) User Needs
7. Any other hinderances for mass implementation of OD Policies

Ongoing - Municipalities

City of Tshwane, CoJ, Ekurhuleni

- OD Implementation
- Gen AI

eThekweni

- OD Implementation
- STRAT HUB
- Gen AI

City of Joburg

- OD Implementation
- Use Case: Safety and Services Provisioning
- CCTV data to be utilised for Safety and Services
- CoJ to be used as an example Use Case for other Municipalities
- **Gen AI**

Horizon Europe Africa Initiative III Call 2025/26

- Gen AI Africa Call

Horizon Europe Africa Initiative III Call

[\(EU Funding & Tenders Portal\)](#)

Scope:

Generative AI (GenAI) holds the potential of creating in Africa a rich ecosystem of transformative solutions and practical applications addressing the specific societal challenges and opportunities most of the countries are facing.

The proposals should address one or more of the following:

- 1. Agriculture optimisation:** GenAI can analyse satellite imagery and sensor data to monitor state of crops, soil conditions, and weather patterns, enabling farmers to boost crop yields and enhance food security through sophisticated predictive analytics and efficient resource management like water and pesticides. This is crucial to mitigate climate change and poor irrigation infrastructures in some areas of Africa.
- 2. Healthcare:** GenAI can diagnose diseases from medical images and patient data, enhancing healthcare in remote areas; forecast disease outbreaks and aid in preventive planning, and with the help of chatbots and virtual assistants can offer medical advice and connect patients with doctors, expanding telemedicine services, making healthcare more accessible to remote populations. Particular attention should be paid to the gender dimension in addressing AI biases, sex-specific healthcare needs, and intersecting gender and racial inequalities in health and access to health services.
- 3. Infrastructure and urban planning:** GenAI optimises energy usage, integrates renewables, and ensures efficient distribution, while managing water (including groundwater but also rainfall use) and waste (e.g. plastic reduction and reuse) effectively for sustainability, and enhancing safety with real-time incident detection. It also provides support for reconstruction following natural or human-made disasters. This is vital for some African communities with scarce natural resources like water and facing high temperatures by using Digital Twins on urban and rural areas. All these technological solutions depend strongly on the existence and quality of connectivity infrastructure, as a key enabler for unlocking the Digital and Green Transition.
- 4. Digital Skills and learning:** Generative AI can personalize learning paths, create multilingual educational content, and offer on-demand virtual tutoring, benefiting rural communities with low resources and fully relying on mobile phones to access online services. Additionally, adaptive learning platforms can use data analytics to tailor teaching, while engineers craft queries to help AI models understand local languages and nuances to set up conversational chatbots for local communities.

The background is a dark blue gradient. On the left side, there is a complex, semi-transparent graphic consisting of overlapping circles, lines, and geometric shapes in lighter shades of blue and white, creating a technical or network-like aesthetic. The text "Thank you" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Thank you