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# Anti-trafficking using Satellite Technology for Uganda's Sustainability (ASTUS)



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## Introduction to ASTUS: *Discovery Phase*

**ASTUS Discovery Phase** is an 8-month International Partnership Programme project (until 31 March 2021) funded by the UK Space Agency seeking to tackle Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by supporting anti-trafficking efforts in Uganda.

As an **UN Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder country**, Uganda has demonstrated its commitment to meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7 to end TIP by 2030.

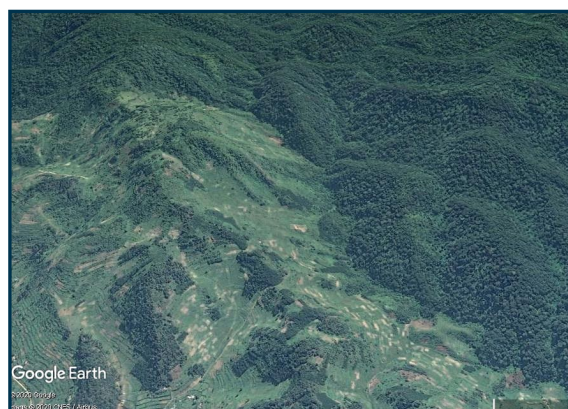
ASTUS believes it can **contribute to existing efforts** by helping to overcome data deficits in reliable prevalence mapping and estimation of TIP and associated indicators.

## Context: Trafficking in Persons

Around **40 million people** are affected by TIP globally (Walk Free Foundation, Global Slavery Index/GSI, 2016). The GSI ranks **Uganda 33 of 159 countries worldwide**, and #16 in Africa for estimated prevalence of TIP, with 7.6 people per 1000 affected (estimated number of people subject to TIP is **304,000**).

Over half of Uganda's population is below the age of 18; and Uganda also hosts one of the world's largest refugee populations. The combination of a **young, transient population** may contribute to a higher risk of exploitation or trafficking.

**Earth Observation (EO)** data have been proven to be a valuable tool in the fight against TIP in other countries, and now ASTUS seeks to harness this potential by developing a **Modern Anti-trafficking Support System (MASS)** with and for Ugandan stakeholders. This project builds on previous work by the project team on displaced communities, environmental degradation and sustainable livelihoods in Uganda and TIP in India, Greece, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Earth Observation can be used to rapidly identify landscape features associated with TIP



Funded by the UK Space Agency's  
International Partnership Programme

# The key role of stakeholders

As a **Uganda—UK partnership**, ASTUS will work with stakeholders to develop a **Modern Anti-trafficking Support System (MASS)**, underpinned by Earth Observation, with the aim of enhancing Uganda’s anti-trafficking efforts and progress towards SDG Target 8.7.

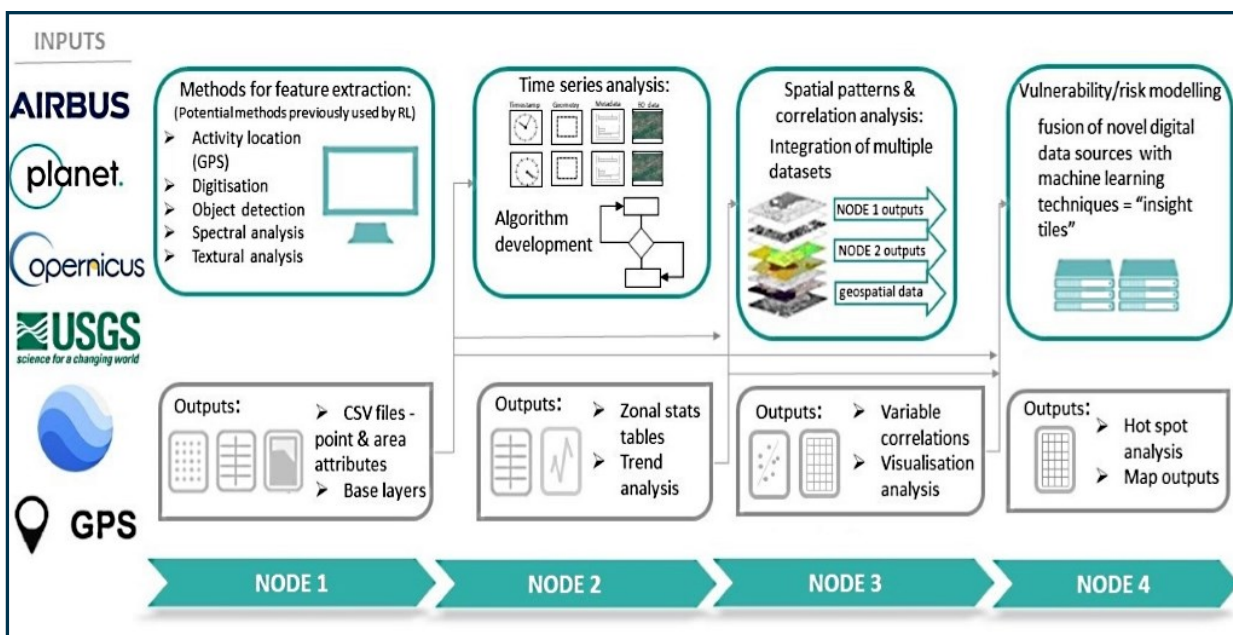
Stakeholders will play a key role during **this Discovery Phase** with regard to mapping vulnerabilities and understanding the needs and capacities that exist within Uganda for a MASS. By shedding light on practices associated with TIP, how this is and/or could be monitored, and in what circumstances a MASS will be useful stakeholder engagement is invaluable for the system’s sustainability.

Through innovative combinations of Earth Observation data and socially-informed datasets, the MASS aims to **provide actionable intelligence** for different categories of end-users, i.e. stakeholders.

**Stakeholders** – including government, CSOs, NGOs, communities, and international organisations – **are key** to developing the proposed MASS. Throughout the Discovery Phase the ASTUS team will engage with stakeholders to better understand Uganda’s country context and map out their user requirements.

Following a successful Discovery Phase, ASTUS will **seek further investment and support** from the UK Space Agency’s International Partnership Programme for its **Operational Phase**, in which stakeholders will again play a key role. In that 4-year phase, stakeholders will contribute to finalizing and implementing the design for the MASS and ultimately impact on the lives of people adversely affected by TIP.

## Outline Modern Anti-trafficking Support System (MASS)



Possible MASS model. Node 1: structures and events; Node 2: change analytics; Node 3: spatial analytics; Node 4: vulnerability modelling.

## Contacts and Further Information

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