The 6th International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS 2026)

Session Proposal Template

Session Title	Big Earth Data in Support of Land Degradation Neutrality	
Session Chair(s)	*Name*	Xiaosong Li/Barron Joseph Orr
	Affiliation	CBAS/UNCCD
	Profile (200-word limit)	Dr. Xiaosong Li is a researcher at CBAS. His research focuses on land degradation neutrality (LDN), biodiversity, sustainable land management, and Earth observation–based SDG monitoring. He has led and coordinated multiple international initiatives related to SDG 15 and UNCCD reporting support. CBAS serves as one of the regional technical support hubs for the 2026 UNCCD national reporting process, providing technical assistance and capacity-building support for countries in East, South, and Southeast Asia. Mr. Barron Joseph Orr is Chief Scientist of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), leading scientific support for global land degradation neutrality implementation and reporting processes. He has extensive experience in ecosystem assessment, sustainable land management, and science-policy interfaces under the Rio Conventions.
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Preferred Topics	Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Big Earth Data and Artificial Intelligence SDG 15 Monitoring and Reporting Rio Conventions Synergy Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development	

	National Reporting and Capacity Building
Session Description ***(200-word limit)***	Land degradation remains one of the most pressing global environmental challenges, directly affecting biodiversity, climate resilience, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) under the UNCCD requires timely, transparent, and scientifically robust monitoring and assessment systems. This session will showcase how Big Earth Data, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and digital technologies are advancing LDN monitoring, reporting, and decision support at global, regional, and national scales. Building upon the ongoing collaboration between CBAS and UNCCD, including the role of CBAS as a regional technical support hub for the 2026 UNCCD national reporting cycle, the session will highlight practical experiences in supporting countries through geospatial tools, Earth observation datasets, and capacity-building activities. The session will also explore how digital innovation can strengthen synergies among the Rio Conventions, particularly in linking land degradation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and climate action. Discussions will further address the development of next-generation digital indicator systems and AI-enabled decision-support frameworks for post-2030 sustainable development agendas.
Expected outcomes ***(50-word limit)***	The session will strengthen international collaboration on digital technologies for LDN implementation, promote the application of Big Earth Data and AI in UNCCD reporting and ecosystem restoration, and advance dialogue on Rio Conventions synergy and post-2030 digital monitoring frameworks.

Please submit filled session proposal to fbas@cbas.ac.cn before **April 20, 2026**