

Capacity Building Workshop for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – Leveraging Big Earth Data to Evaluate the SDGs Progress

Date: September 1–8, 2025

Venue: Beijing, China (CBAS Building, Xijiao Hotel and the Int'l Convention Center)
Beijing, China.

Outcome Statement

We the participants at the 2nd Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Capacity Building Workshop entitled “Leveraging Big Earth to Evaluate SDG Progress”, held in Beijing, China, from 1 to 8 September 2025, representing all three regions of SIDS—6 from the AIS (African and Indian Ocean SIDS) region, namely Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Seychelles; 2 from the Caribbean SIDS, namely the Dominican Republic and Jamaica; and 3 from the Pacific region, namely Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa—acknowledge the value of the aforesaid workshop and present the following Outcome Statement:

Acknowledgment

1. Express sincere gratitude to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS) for their strong collaboration in organizing this workshop, with support from partner institutions including the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE), CAS-TWAS Centre of Excellence on Space Technology for Disaster Mitigation (SDIM), United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UNGKIC), and Aerospace Information Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences (AIR, CAS). The workshop effectively addressed SIDS’ critical needs in using data for sustainable development.
2. DESA and CBAS’s collaboration delivers a structured, practical, inclusive program—aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) and the Pact for the Future—that equips participants with actionable knowledge and tools to address longstanding data gaps in SDG monitoring for policies.

The Workshop

3. Over 8 days, the workshop provided targeted and hands-on training on:
 - (i) Applying SDGSAT-1 satellite data for monitoring environmental challenges and sustainable development pathways in SIDS.
 - (ii) Using geospatial information to support foresight and technology assessment for National Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for SDG roadmaps, aligning with SIDS National Development Strategies.

- (iii) Applying AI-powered Big Earth Data platforms and global SDG products (e.g., GLC_FCS30D, a 30m global land-cover dynamics product) to enhance SDG monitoring precision.
- (iv) Utilizing Big Earth Data for planetary resource sustainability (e.g., marine data mining, digital twins for marine SDGs) and disaster risk reduction.
- (v) Enhancing frameworks for international partnership and satellite data sharing (e.g., China's Natural Resources Satellites data platform) to improve SIDS' access to geospatial tools.
- (vi) Adopting Digital Earth technologies with special sessions for SIDS and South Pacific Island Countries (SPIC), alongside participation in the 5th International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS 2025).

Continued Capacity Support Needs

4. Building on the workshop's insights and lessons, participants formally request DESA and CBAS to provide sustained support in the following priority areas—aligned with the program's shared knowledge and tools:

- (i) *STI Roadmap Development*: Support designing and implementing national STI roadmaps that incorporate Big Earth Data and strategic foresight—including tailored guidance for mapping “drivers of change”, technology assessment and building context-specific scenarios (based on Session 2's hands-on training).
- (ii) *Technical Training on Big Earth Data Tools*: Expand training on AI-powered platforms, SDGSAT-1 data analysis, and global SDG products to enable SIDS institutions to independently use these tools for SDG monitoring and disaster risk reduction (aligned with Sessions 1, 3, 4).
- (iii) *Satellite Data Sharing Mechanisms*: Facilitate long-term satellite data sharing via platforms like China's Natural Resources Satellites and collaborate with the SIDS Center of Excellence and its Data Hub and where applicable, also with SIDS regional data exchange hubs—strengthening partnerships between SIDS and CBAS.
- (iv) *Digital Earth Technology Adoption*: Provide targeted support to SIDS and SPIC for integrating Digital Earth tools into national environmental monitoring and climate resilience planning (per the Special Session on Digital Earth).

5. Participants affirm this support will help institutionalize data-driven approaches in STI policy and other decision-making—ultimately advancing the ABAS commitments, the Pact for the Future and the SDG's “leaving no one behind” vision for sustainable development.

Date: September 8, 2025