



SIDE EVENT



Strengthening dryland research networks to accelerate land degradation neutrality and enhance synergies among the Rio Conventions

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

8:30-10:00

Blue zone MET-04

Achieving Land degradation neutrality requires more than the production of scientific knowledge. It depends on the capacity to generate, integrate, and mobilize knowledge across disciplines, sectors, and scales so that scientific evidence can effectively inform national and international policy frameworks and land management decisions. Despite substantial advances in ecological monitoring, restoration science, and the understanding of land degradation processes, a persistent gap remains between knowledge production and its application in policy and practice.

This side event provide a valuable opportunity to bring together representatives of dryland research networks and universities, national research institutions and observatories, the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface and the civil society.

Objectives of the side event

The overall objective of the side event is to highlight the strategic role of dryland research networks as long-term knowledge infrastructures for accelerating Land Degradation Neutrality and strengthening synergies among the three Rio Conventions. The discussion will deliberately bring together perspectives from different institutional levels and sectors to explore how research networks can move from knowledge production to knowledge mobilization and collective action.

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