Legends

How does a legend work?

A legend explains the cartographic symbols used to construct a map and is intended to aid the understanding of the map content. Legends consist typically of a symbol or a series of symbols with specific colours or shades that are repeated on the map sheets in a consistent manner on all maps associated with the particular legend.

Construction of the legend

The 2006 version of the World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB) has been used to construct the legend of the soil maps in this atlas. The WRB recommends that the Reference Soil Group with a single prefix qualifier be used for small-scale maps (i.e. smaller than 1:1 million). This recommendation has been followed in the construction of the legend for this atlas with a few exceptions where key diagnostic information was lacking.

On this page, the Reference Soil Groups are listed alphabetically. The division within an individual Reference Soil Group follows the order of prefix qualifiers in the 2006 version of WRB (the same applies for the suffix qualifiers). A simple explanation of the main soil characteristic is presented on page 66.

For this atlas, the most prevalent soil type in each polygon is represented by a colour that corresponds to a specific WRB Reference Soil Group and a four-character code indicating the dominant characteristics of that soil (see pages 51 for a detailed descriptions of the specific soil characteristics). For example, the blue box that contains the code combination GLmo represents Mollic Gleysols on the soil maps which correspond to soils with a predominantly high water table for long periods of the year and have a nutrient- and organic rich, dark-coloured topsoil.

Cartographic symbols

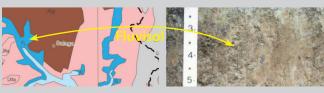|	
International boundary	—— — — —
Disputed boundary	- - - - - - - - - ·
National capital	☐ ABUJA
Locality (by population)	
5,000,000 +	○ LAGOS
1,000,000 – 5,000,000	○ Abidjan
200,000 – 1,000,000	○ Nampula
100,000 – 200,000	◦ Gweru

Soil Maps ▶

The next section in the atlas contains a series of maps showing the regional distribution of WRB Reference Soil Groups across Africa.

As illustrated by the diagram below, a soil map depicts areas where soil properties, according to the classification scheme used, are similar. Hence, the light blue tones on the map correspond to the soil profile shown while the pink areas on the map correspond to a different soil type.

It is important to realise that a soil map is a two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional object and that only the spatial or geographical change in soil properties is depicted.

Pages 64 - 66 present the legend to be used to interpret the regional maps while page 67 provides an index to the individual map sheets.

▦ Acrisols	
▦ Alisols	
▦ Andosols	
▦ Arenosols	
▦ Calcisols	
▦ Cambisols	
▦ Chernozems	
▦ Cryosols	
▦ Durisols	
▦ Ferralsols	
▦ Fluvisols	
▦ Gleysols	
▦ Gypsisols	
▦ Histosols	
▦ Kastanozems	
▦ Leptosols	
▦ Lixisols	
▦ Luvisols	
▦ Nitisols	
▦ Phaeozems	
▦ Planosols	
▦ Plinthosols	
▦ Podzols	
▦ Regosols	
▦ Solonchaks	
▦ Solonetz	
▦ Stagnosols	
▦ Technosols	
▦ Umbrisols	
▦ Vertisols	
▦ Water Body	

Acrisols	
AC	Undifferentiated Acrisols
ACfr	Ferric Acrisols
ACha	Haplic Acrisols
ACpl	Plinthic Acrisols
ACum	Umbric Acrisols
Alisols	
ALgl	Gleyic Alisols
ALha	Haplic Alisols
ALpl	Plinthic Alisols
ALum	Umbric Alisols
Andosols	
ANsn	Silandic Andosols
ANvi	Vitric Andosols
ANzm	Mollic Silandic Andosols
ANzu	Umbric Silandic Andodols
Arenosols	
AR	Undifferentiated Arenosols
ARab	Albic Arenosols
ARbr	Brunic Arenosols
ARca	Calcaric Arenosols
ARfl	Ferralic Arenosols
ARha	Haplic Arenosols
ARpr	Protic Arenosols
ARwl	Hypoluvic Arenosols
Calcisols	
CLha	Haplic Calcisols
CLlv	Luvic Calcisols
CLpt	Petric Calcisols
CLzy	Haplic Calcisols (Yermic)
Cambisols	
CM	Undifferentiated Cambisols
CMca	Calcaric Cambisols
CMcr	Chromic Cambisols
CMdy	Dystric Cambisols
CMeu	Eutric Cambisols
CMfl	Ferralic Cambisols
CMgl	Gleyic Cambisols
CMvr	Vetric Cambisols
CMzt	Eutric Cambisols (Takyric)
CMzy	Eutric Cambisols (Yermic)
Chernozems	
CHcc	Calcic Chernozems
CHlv	Luvic Chernozems