

SOIL Action Newsletter - European Soil Portal:

<http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu> Volume 21, September 2010

Atlas of Soil Biodiversity

The JRC published, for the first time, an indicator-based map of potential threats to soil biodiversity, in order to guide decision-makers in protecting this crucial resource. The biodiversity within our soils plays a vital role in agriculture and in the water and carbon cycle. The atlas brings to the public view the whole range of life in the soil and the crucial role it plays in maintaining other ecosystems. It also highlights areas within Europe where soil biodiversity is most at risk of decline relative to the current situation. The publication provides a comprehensive source of information for researchers, policy makers and teachers. This visually stunning publication, coordinated by the JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES), uses striking photographs, informative texts and maps to explain and illustrate the great diversity of life in the across Europe. Information about "How to get a Copy of the Atlas?" is also available. Free download of PDF version of the atlas.



http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/library/maps/biodiversity_atlas/

Sino-EU Panel on Land and Soil

Recognizing the interdependences between land resources and socio-economic systems in Europe and China, the leaderships of the European Commission and the Chinese Academy of Sciences launched a joint initiative to establish a formalized platform to discuss major issues of mutual interest in the land and soil domain. The Sino-EU Panel on Land and Soil (SEPLS) has been established on 29 June, 2010, in Ispra, Italy to serve this need. Leading soil scientist and land system researchers of China and the EU formed the Panel, which has the following mandate: "The Sino-EU Panel on Land and Soil is a scientific body with a goal to provide decision makers in Europe and China with a clear scientific view on the current state of land and soil resources and potential environmental and socio-economic consequences of their future utilization patterns."

<http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/InternationalCooperation/SEPLS/>

ESBN Plenary 2010

The annual European Soil Bureau Network (ESBN) plenary meeting was held on the premises of DG Environment in Brussels from the 21st-22nd September. The plenary focused on the presentation of the ESBN Working Groups and the harmonisation of soil data in Europe. The second day has focused on the presentation of projects related to data harmonisation (E-SOTER, GlobalSoilMap.net, GS-SOIL). The presentations of the 2-days plenary are available for internet users.

http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/esbn/esbn_meetings_plenary2010.html

Newsletter Spotlight

GlobalSoilMap.net



This project aims to make a new digital soil map of the world using state-of-the-art and emerging technologies for soil mapping and predicting soil properties at fine resolution. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (Italy) is the node for the Eurasia part. In September 2010, the Consortium Agreement has been signed by all node leading and supporting institutes.

<http://eusoils.jrc.ec.europa.eu/InternationalCooperation/GlobalSoilMap.net/>

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