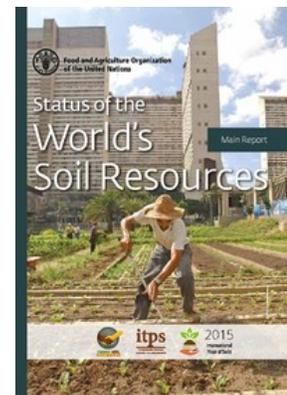


The Status of the World's Soil Resources

The world's soils are rapidly deteriorating due to soil erosion, nutrient depletion, loss of soil organic carbon, soil sealing and other threats, but this trend can be reversed provided countries take the lead in promoting sustainable management practices and the use of appropriate technologies. The Status of the World's Soil Resources produced by FAO's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) has been launched during the World Soil Day celebration and closure ceremony of the International Year of Soils. It brings together the work of some 200 soil scientists from 60 countries. Its publication coincides with World Soil Day which is celebrated on 4 December and also with the end of the UN International Year of Soils 2015, an initiative which has served to raise global awareness on what has been described as "humanity's silent ally". The European Commission, Joint Research Centre has contributed significantly to most parts of the Status of the World's Soil Resources. The Main Report(637pp), the Technical summary (94pp) and the Brochure are on:

<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/highlights/detail/en/c/357163/>



Agricultural policy: Govern our soils

Luca Montanarella published an article in NATURE with the title "Agricultural policy: Govern our soils". In this article, he calls for a voluntary international agreement to protect soil from erosion and degradation through a reinvigorated Global Soil Partnership (GSP). The GSP is the best current option for driving forward various recommendations, despite its shortcomings. The partnership needs to motivate all invested parties to develop commitments to specific actions. These should enshrine soil management in legislation tailored to each country's needs. The GSP needs to prove that it can be more than just a talking shop, and can generate political will and raise funding. The FAO has suggested an initial budget of \$64 million over five years for the GSP, mainly to help to develop a Global Soil Information System and to promote training and capacity building in developing countries.

<http://www.nature.com/news/agricultural-policy-govern-our-soils-1.18854>



European Geosciences Union (EGU) (17–22 April 2016, Vienna, Austria)

Abstract submission deadline: **13 January 2015**. The JRC is organizing 2 sessions:

[Causes and Consequences of Aeolian Processes and Wind Erosion](#): This session will stimulate discussion among researchers working broadly on wind transport from a range of perspectives.

[National inventories of soil related emissions and removals – looking for higher Tier approaches](#): This session constitutes a possibility for researchers to present novel approaches and ideas, datasets or modelling works and add to a discussion that needs to be fostered on the scientific level.

JRC soil erosion developments will be presented in the session "[Soil Erosion, Land Use and Climate Change: mapping, measuring, modelling, and societal challenges](#)", the Rainfall Erosivity Database (REDES) in the session Precipitation: "[Measurement, Climatology, Remote Sensing, and Modeling](#)"



More Details

Download the ESDAC Newsletter: [PDF Format](#). **Feedback:** panos.panagos@jrc.ec.europa.eu

ESDAC Alerts are e-mailed to more than 6330 scientists. Please forward the ESDAC Alerts to your colleagues.