



Soil issues at EU

Recent context

Recent high-level reports (**IPCC** , **IPBES**) have highlighted the need to address land degradation, which disrupts the capacity of soils to provide critical ecosystem services.

Left **unchecked**, land degradation will **aggravate many challenges facing the EU**; with the risk that SDG targets are not met.

Green Deal is explicit of the need **for the EU** to **address land degradation** and for healthy functional **soils** to address the challenges of **climate change** mitigation, protection of **biodiversity**, the reduction of **pollution** and human **health**.



Horizon Europe Missions (post 2021)

High **ambition**, high profile **initiatives** that aim to deliver a **transformative impact for society**, economy, environment, in relation to challenges faced by European citizens.

Inspiration Apollo Moon Mission!

Centered on **research and innovation** but **more...**

Communication and engagement critical!

Soil Health and Food Mission

- Adaptation to climate change
- Cancer
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland water
- Climate neutral and Smart Cities

Board and Assembly

Policy developments

European Court of Auditors reported that a coherent approach on **desertification** and land degradation in the EU was lacking. Due to the increased threat of climate change, they called for the **establishment of soil protection policies** to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation.

Post-2020 **Common Agriculture Policy** – soil impact indicators, farm nutrient tool, but...

LULUCF Regulation

CBD COP 15 (China, 2020) & Post-2020 EU Biodiversity Strategy

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services



- CAP/EU SDG Core Indicators on Soil Erosion and Soil Organic Carbon
- Integrated assessments of soil biodiversity (metagenomics) and soil pollution (**pesticides, antibiotics**, microplastics) and implications for soil ecosystem services land use.
- SOER 2020
- 2021 State of Soil in Europe Report (JRC/ENV/EEA/EIONET) > SWSR25s
- ESDAC EU Soil Dashboard & new Danube Soil database
- LUCAS 2022 – LUCAS x Africa (2020+)
- Economics of land degradation – soil in natural capital accounting
- Soil Atlas: Asia (2021?), Global Biodiversity Chinese (2020) & Spanish, Europe v2 (2020?)

Coming?

- Land degradation neutrality targets,
- Pollution and health
- soil and green infrastructure