

EU Soil Policy Overview of recent activities and research needs



The Soil Thematic strategy COM(2006) 231



- ❖ Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection adopted in September 2006, incl. proposal for a Soil Framework Directive, COM(2006)232
- ❖ Overall objective is protection of **soil functions** and **sustainable use** of soil, based on key principles:
 - ❖ Prevention of soil degradation
 - ❖ Restoration of degraded soils
- ❖ **four pillars** of which three non-binding
- ❖ To be implemented by MS
- ❖ 2012 Report from the Commission on the implementation of the STS COM(2012)46



Soil threats considered



Sealing



Organic matter decline



Salinisation+Acidification



Contamination

Erosion



Compaction



Landslides



Achievements under the Thematic strategy research and monitoring



- *EU-funded research projects*
 - **FP6, FP7, Horizon 2020**
 - *LIFE/LIFE+: 147 projects on Soil Protection*
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/pdf/LIFE%20and%20Soil%20protection.pdf>
 - *Monitoring – soil data collection*
 - **A lot of soil data at national level**
 - **JRC European Soil Data Centre**
 - **LUCAS database**
 - >20,000 soil samples collected in 2009-2012 and analysed (physico-chemicals properties, Heavy Metals)
 - New campaign in 2015
 - **Land cover/land use monitoring: LUCAS, Corine, Copernicus at EU level**
- > However lack of systematic soil monitoring system accross EU and lack of harmonisation**

Achievements under the Thematic strategy Integration



Soil in CAP

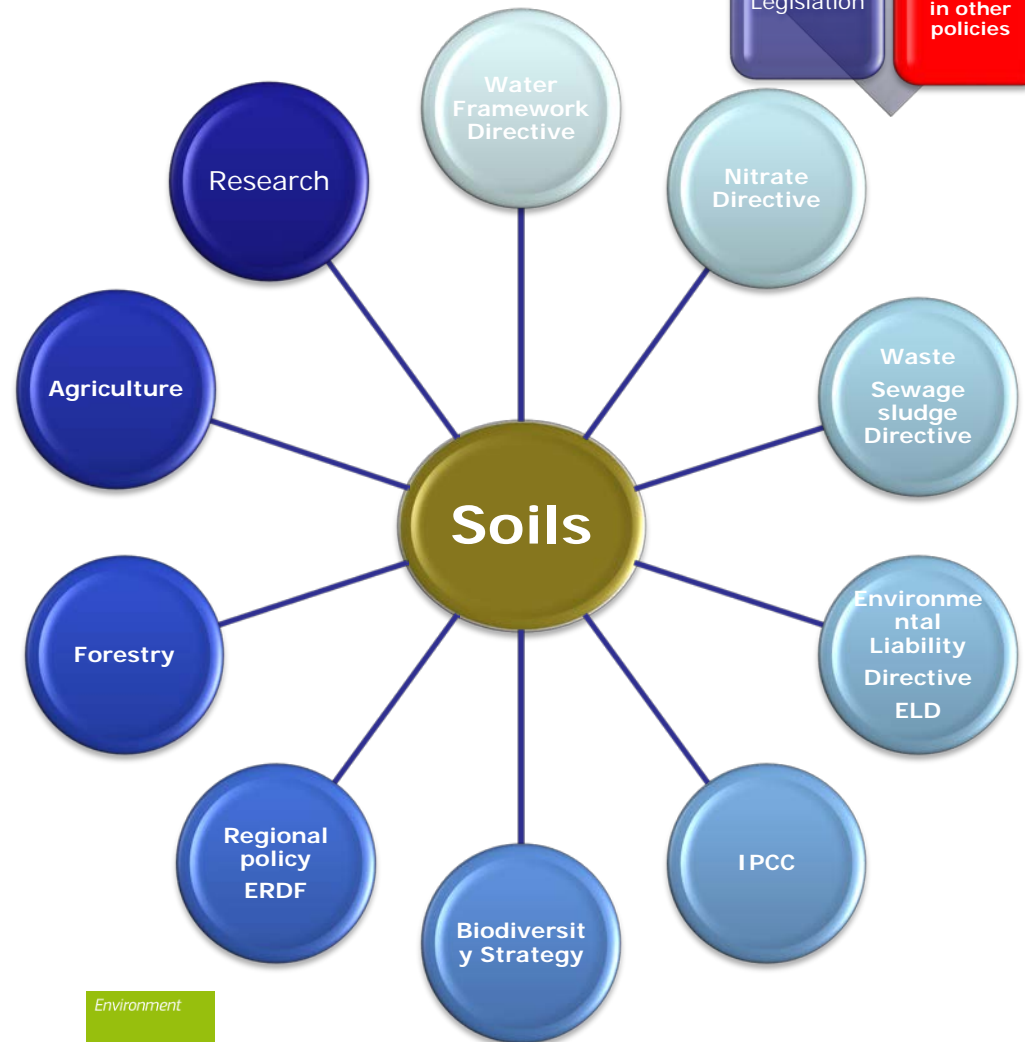
- Cross-compliance and Good Agricultural Practices
- Greening
- Rural Development

Soil in EU environmental policies

- WFD, nitrates, waste, IED, ELD, biodiversity etc.

Regional policy – urban sustainable development

2007-2013: EUR 3.4 billion for the rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land areas





Soil Framework Directive proposal

- *SFD Proposal pending for almost eight years without qualified majority in Council*
- *The Commission decided to withdraw the proposal in May 2014, opening the way for an alternative initiative*
 - **"The Commission remains committed to the objective of the protection of soil and will examine options on how to best achieve this. Any further initiative in this respect will however have to be considered by the next college"**
 - OJ C 163, 21.5.2014, p. 4 / OJ C 163, 28.5.2014, p. 15

[illegible]

- By 2020: **"land is managed sustainably in the Union, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway;"**
- This requires, in particular: **"increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives;"**

- "The Union and its Member States should also reflect as soon as possible on **how soil quality issues could be addressed using a targeted and proportionate risk-based approach within a binding legal framework. Targets** should also be set for **sustainable land use and soil.**"

Key ongoing actions on EU soil policy

- Awareness raising and **knowledge base**
- Launch of an EU Expert Group on Soil Protection
 - Experts nominated by EU Member States
 - Reflexion on how to address 7th EAP commitments on soil
- Inventory of soil protection measures in all EU MS
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/pdf/Soil_inventory_report.pdf
 - National legislations and non-binding measures + implementation EU policies
 - State of play, implementation, gap analysis
- Mapping and Assessment of Soil-related Ecosystem Services (MAES) Soil pilot



A new momentum at global level

- International Year of Soil 2015
- FAO-Global Soil Partnership etc.
- SDGs
- Land Degradation Neutrality UNCCD
- UNFCCC – IPCC
- Soil Organic Carbon – GSP will publish a global SOC map by end of 2017
- Soil pollution – conference GSP/FAO in April 2018
- Convention on BD – IPBES
- Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative
- UNEA-3 Nairobi, 4-6 Dec 2017 – theme 'Towards pollution-free planet' – proposal resolution on soil pollution

Policy framework:



Food Security



CFS

Climate Change

UNFCCC

IPCC

Soil is the
cross-cutting
theme

IPBES

GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

SPI

Biodiversity

CBD




UNCCD

Desertification



GLOBAL
SOIL BIODIVERSITY
INITIATIVE

Environment

-  Explicit reference
-  Highly relevant
-  Very pertinent

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

Soil is a
key component
of SDGs



Knowledge needs for EU soil policy



- *Short term:*
 - need to update knowledge base – JRC and EEA our main knowledge providers
 - Economics – cost of land degradation at EU level – costs of protecting soil vs soil of restoring degraded soil (ELD – like)
 - Applied research: collect evidence on Soil Sustainable Management – costs/benefits
 - Soil Organic Carbon sequestration potential / CC
 - Soil quality indicator needed – standards on contaminants?
 - Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3)
 - Communicate to stakeholders

Knowledge needs for EU soil policy



- *Medium – long term*
 - **Soil biodiversity – still largely unknown**
 - **Soil ecosystems and services delivered**
 - **Soil (diffuse) pollution PPPs and chemicals – impacts on environment (soil BD) and human health – ecotoxicology/improve knowledge on pathways chemicals->soil->plant->Food**
 - **Decontamination / fertilisers (Cd) and in context of circular economy**
 - **Emerging contaminants**
 - **Cost/effective monitoring/soil analysis methods**
 - **Nexus approach**
 - soil-water-sediments
 - links soil-water-air pollution,
 - soil-biomass and bioenergy
 - Soil and circular economy

Conclusions

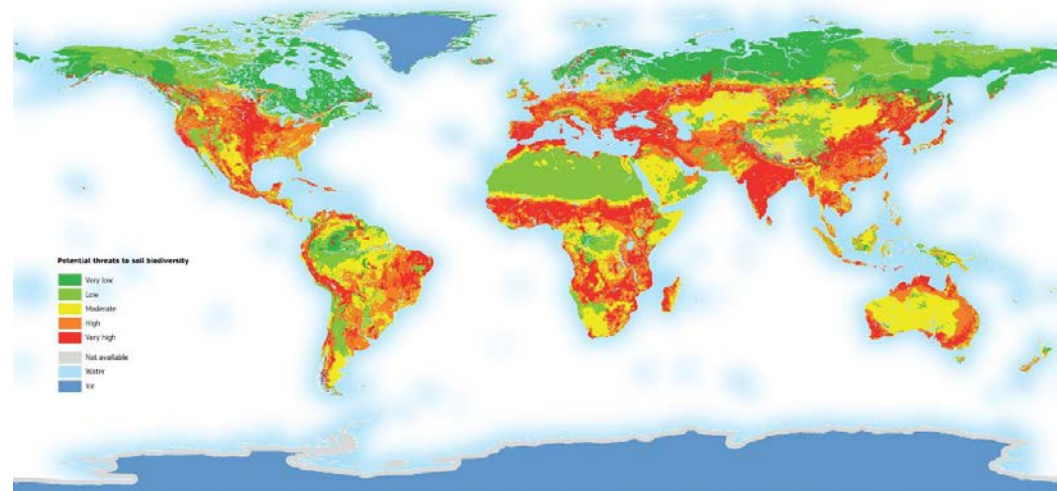
- *Many research projects – potential duplication*
- *Better coordination needed*
- *A lot of knowledge lost*
- *Archiving outcomes of soil/landrelated projects*
- *Help us finding our way!*

Awareness raising at the JRC

Soil biodiversity



GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY ATLAS



Launched at UNEP Assembly

40,000 downloads

4,500,000 views

National Geographic tweet to 12,000,000

>2,000 copies sold

ES & PT translations / eBook in progress



Slow Food – global movement

- 1,000,000 visitors

euronews.

Europe World More ▾ Programmes ▾ Channels ▾



**BREAKING
NEWS**

Playboy founder Hugh Hefner dies aged 91



FUTURIS

**Digging deep to
help Europe's soil**

<http://www.euronews.com/2016/11/21/digging-deep-to-help-europe-s-soil>

Environment



Court of Auditors



European Court of Auditors (ECA) (*French: Cour des comptes européenne*) is the [fifth institution](#) of the [European Union](#).

It was established in 1975 in [Luxembourg](#)

Checks if the budget of the European Union has been implemented correctly, in that EU funds have been spent legally and with sound management.

Prepares reports for the attention of Member States and EU institutions.

GREENING MEASURES



ECOLOGICAL FOCUS AREAS

- Where the arable land is more than 15 ha- at least 5% of the arable land of the holding is ecological focus area - EXCEPTIONS



PERMANENT GRASSLANDS

- MS MUST designate environmentally sensitive grasslands in Natura 2000 areas
- MS CAN designate environmentally sensitive grasslands outside of Natura 2000 areas
- Ratio of permanent grasslands does not decrease by more than 5%



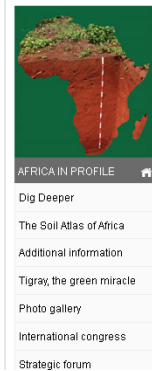
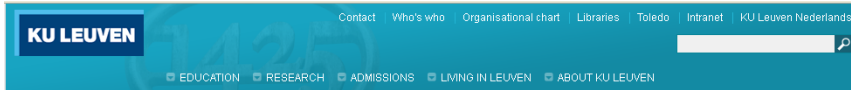
CROP DIVERSIFICATION

- For arable land between 10-30 hectares there shall be at least 2 different crops. The main crop shall not cover more than 75% of that arable land- EXCEPTIONS

30%



Africa Soil Exhibition



E8ES > Africa in Profile

Africa in Profile

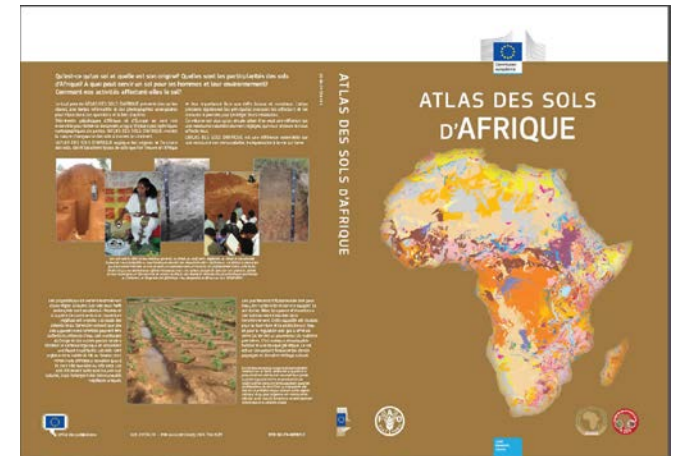
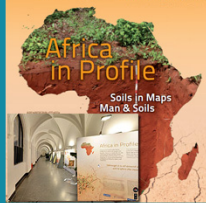
Afrika DoorGrond

VIRTUAL Exhibition

From 8 December 2016

The virtual exhibition "Africa in Profile" shows the diversity and beauty of Africa's hidden soil treasures and its connection to people and nature in a way never shown before.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION



GOOGLE TOUR Leuven 'Africa in Profile' exposition



Art/Science Festival

- Resonances
- FAIR? September 2017



Refugee Mentoring



Open Days / School Days

- 12,000 visitors / 1,000 school children





Thank you for your attention!

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm