

ENSA-JRC Workshop 2017 Bratislava

Giving Soils A Voice



EUROPEAN SOIL
PARTNERSHIP



Perception of soil over last 30 years



Raison d'être



Soil is **the most important** (managed) **resource** on the planet.

Soil

December 2016

Farmers in Sudan battle climate change and hunger as desert creeps closer

High rainfall and increasing desertification in the eastern state of Gedo have destroyed previously fertile soil and left villagers unable to farm



Warning over invasive flatworm posing threat to UK wildlife

Flatworms were introduced to a peat bog from Europe and pose an acute and earthworms that are essential for soil health



© 2 Nov 2016

Prince Charles joins clean soil project to combat climate change

Prince of Wales says soil health is of 'critical importance' as he joins initiative to keep carbon locked in the world's soils



Our best shot at cooling the planet might be right under our feet

Jason Hickel

Studies suggest that regenerating soil by taming our tools on industrial farming holds the keys to halting climate change



Earth has lost a third of arable land in past 40 years, scientists say

Experts point to damage caused by erosion and pollution, raising major concerns about degraded soil amid surging global demand for food

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Environment
Opinion

The seven deadly things we're doing to trash the planet (and human life with it)

John Vidal

We weep at the disappearance of endangered species but avert our eyes to the causes of Earth's destruction

Monday 19 December 2015 12:01 GMT

4,829 1,023



Losing soil

Soil is another ecological elephant in the room that no one wants to talk about. It teems with life, yet because of bad farming and forestry practices, it is being washed away very many times faster than it is being replenished. On soil's health depends much of the world's food and water supplies, the growth of most plant and insect life and therefore the food of life itself. According to **some studies**, its accelerating loss is now second only to population growth as the biggest

Essentially, all life depends upon the soil ... There can be no life without soil and no soil without life; they have evolved together." -

Charles Kellogg, 1938

Policy framework: Global



Food Security



CFS

Climate Change



IPCC

Soil is the
cross-cutting
theme

IPBES

GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

SPI

Biodiversity

CBD

UNCCD






GLOBAL
SOIL BIODIVERSITY
INITIATIVE

Joint
Research
Centre

Desertification



-  Explicit reference
-  Highly relevant
-  Very pertinent

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

Soil is a
key component
of SDGs





Challenge

Long way from societal appreciation!

Drivers of politics and policies



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- Identify priorities and synergies
- Mobilize resources
- Make a difference

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” -
Aldo Leopold, 1949. A Sand County almanac



Thank you for your attention