



Soil Atlas of Africa

Arwyn Jones

Joint Research Centre – Soil Action



Aims of the atlas

Soil in Africa is generally undervalued – especially by policy makers.

To raise the awareness of the general public, policymakers and other scientists of the importance of soil in Africa – EC/JRC Soil Atlas Series

To provide educational material to schools & university.

To support EU policies and instruments for Development and Aid Assistance.



Specifications

High quality reference work on the soil of Africa

*Written for general public, policy makers,
environmental science, educationalists...*

Not aimed 'primarily' at soil scientists.

Informative, easy to read, graphically stimulating

*Lead to a better understanding and appreciation of
the importance of soil in Africa*



A collaborative initiative of the European Union to support and encourage the sustainable use of soil resources in Africa

Joint publication by JRC, AUC, ASSS, FAO, ISRIC and scientists from both Africa and Europe



Editorial Board

Approach: Maps

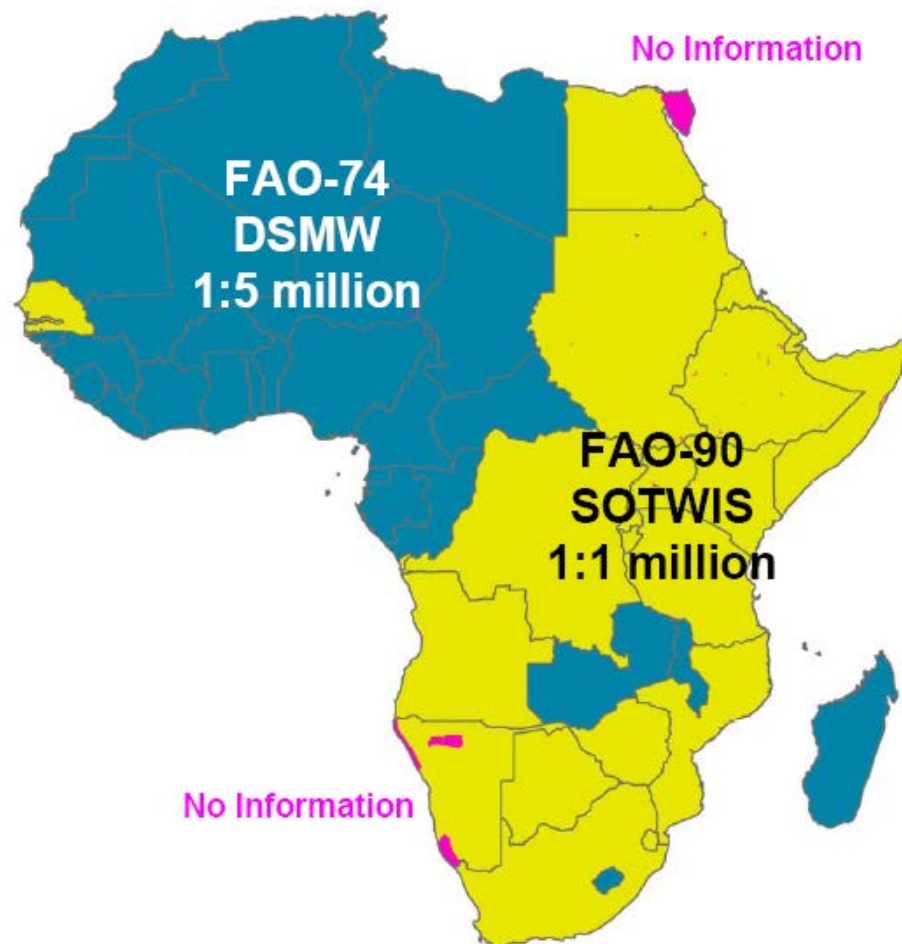
Harmonized World Soil Database (HWSD)

Soil mapping units – use of dominant soil types

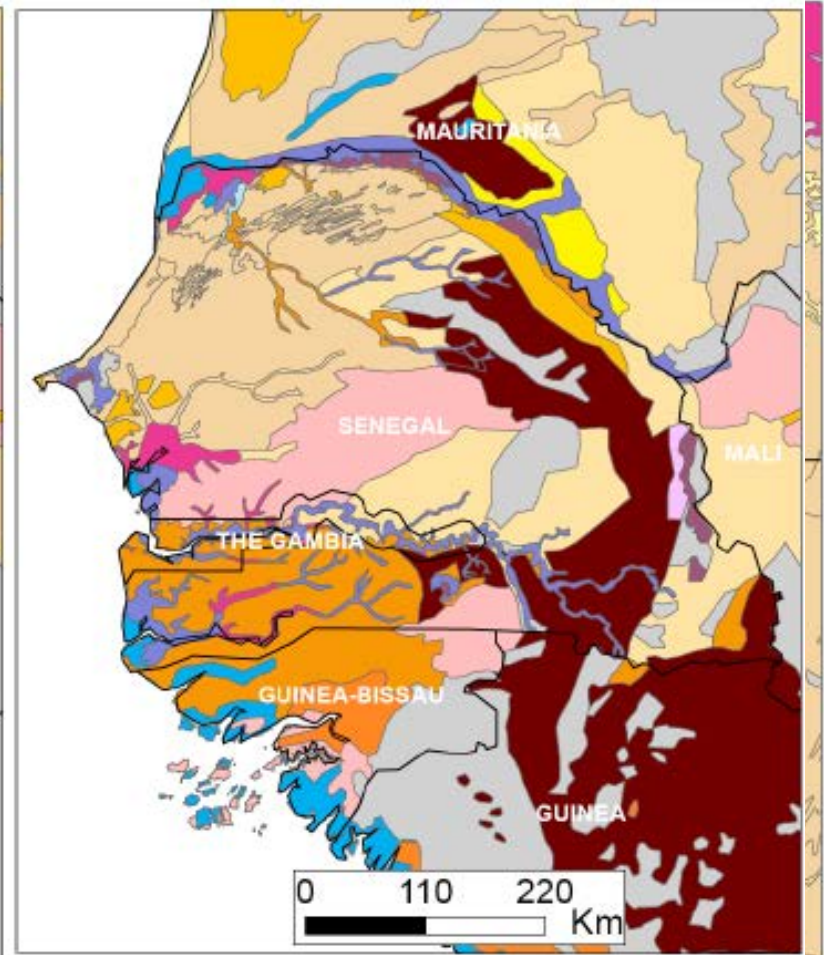
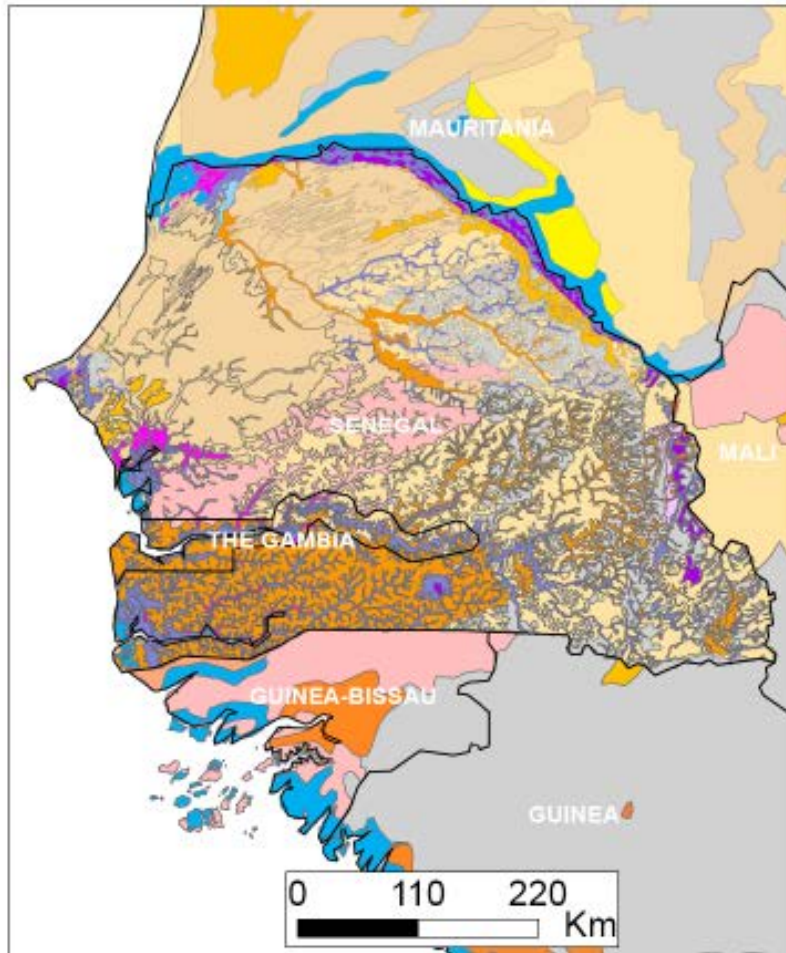
FAO 74 and FAO 90 classifications 'translated' to WRB

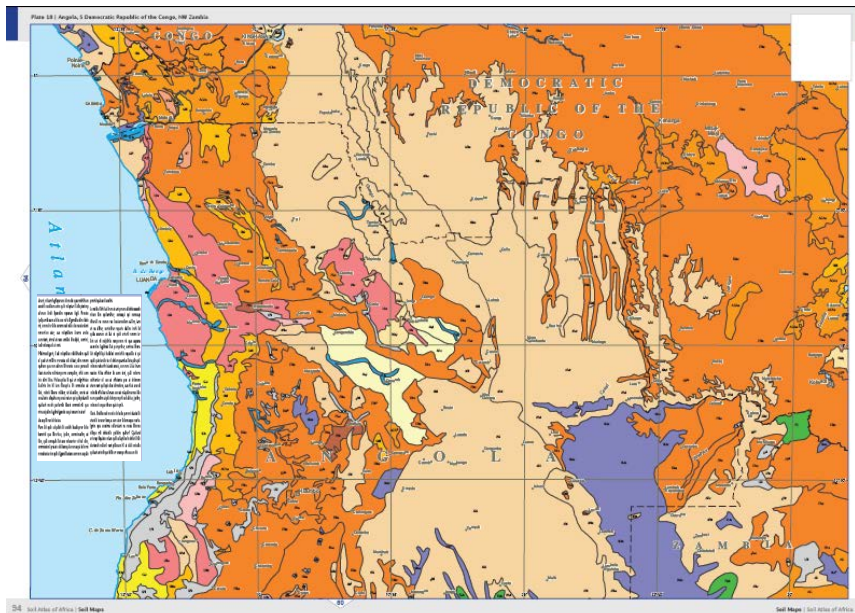
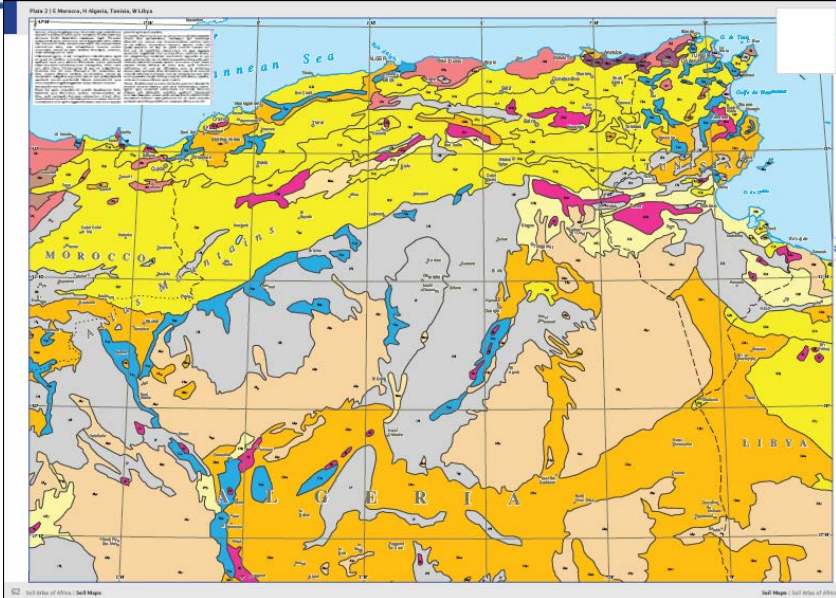
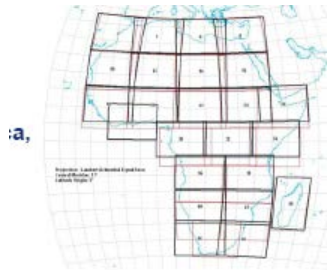
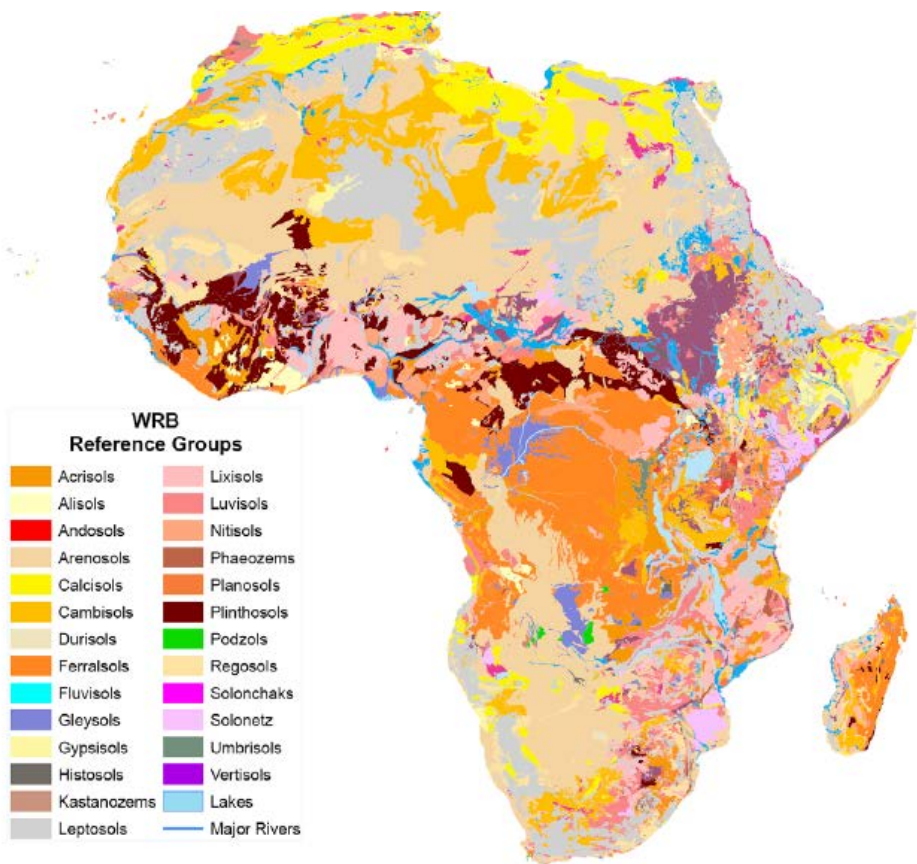
Key properties: texture, Ph, organic carbon, water storage capacity, etc for soil characteristics maps

Additional updates



Mapping







More than just maps

Introduction

What is soil

The role and importance of soil

Soil forming factors and the African environment

Soil processes

Soil functions

Soil and Food Security

Soil assessment/land evaluation

Introduction to soil classification

Development of soil classification in Africa

Indigenous soil classifications

WRB: a harmonizing approach

Major soil types of Africa

Soil maps

African soil in a global context

GIS/African soil databases

Soil of the regions

- Soils of the Mediterranean region, deserts, Sahel, rainforest, highlands and mountains, south, wetlands and valleys

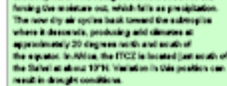
Case studies on African soil

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

Future perspective/challenges/conclusions

Additional information

The Tropics
The tropics denote the areas on the Earth where the Sun is directly overhead at least once during the solar year. It is limited by the Tropic of Cancer, at approximately $23^{\circ} 26' 36''$ N, and similarly by the Tropic of Capricorn at $23^{\circ} 26' 36''$ S.



A photograph of a traditional mud-brick house with a thatched roof, situated in a rural area with trees in the background.



Next steps

Final product: hard back book of 174 A3 pages (Portrait)
Opens to A2 = Landscape spreads

Current status: advanced draft

Final review by summer 2012

Publication date: Autumn 2012

Launch event: Africa/Europe – late 2012

Low cost (€25)/Free

Format: Physical book/Downloadable (pdf / ebook / cd)

2013: Translation and publication of version Française

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