



*Promoting
the sustainable use
and conservation of
soil biodiversity*



Vol. 3 – February 2025

Dear NETSOB members,

This is your monthly update from the International Network on Soil Biodiversity - <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/netsob/en/>. I hope to receive ideas of events from you to increase engagement and highlight the importance of soil biodiversity worldwide. I will also share updates from NETSOB working groups more often as well. Lastly, if you know someone interested in soil biodiversity who is not a member, they can join us [here](#).



★ NETSOB Vice-Chair elections – online

We have received great nominations for new Vice-Chairs of our three working groups. Members can vote [here](#).

1. Only NETSOB members are allowed to vote. If you would like to vote and are not a member, please join us first [here](#).
2. You MUST use your e-mail address where you receive NETSOB emails to vote. Only votes associated with that e-mail will be accounted for. If a member gets NETSOB e-mails in more than one e-mail address, only one vote per person will be valid (the most recent vote).
3. Voting ends at 23:59 of February 19th CET — Central European Time.

Results will be announced during the Annual meeting that will be held online on February 26-27th, 2025. Please register for the meeting [here](#) to receive the Zoom link – this is the only way to attend the meeting.

✦ **NETSOB 4th Annual Meeting**

We are excited to host our ONLINE 4th Annual Meeting on February 26th and 27th. Please register for the meeting [here](#) to receive the Zoom link – this is the **only** way to attend the meeting. In addition to presenting the network's progress in the past year, we will host three great external speakers: Dr. Monica Farfan, Germany: Soils for Europe and Soil BON, Dr. Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Kenya: Coalition of Action for Soil Health and Dr. Paolo di Lonardo, Netherlands: Soil Health Benchmarks.

✦ **IPBES: Call for nominations of experts for the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services**

A call for experts for the second global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services has been issued (see [here](#), deadline 28 March 2025). An online dialogue is planned for 12 March 2025 at 1 p.m. CET to provide information regarding the required relevant expertise of nominees and the nomination process. The overall objective of the second IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (referred to hereafter as “the second global assessment”) is to assess relevant knowledge that has become available since the publication in 2019 of *The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* and to assess progress towards achieving the goals of sustainability and living in harmony with nature. The second global assessment will strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people on a range of spatial scales, from the local to the global, by providing the knowledge and the policy support tools needed for informed decision-making. The second global assessment will be delivered in 2028.

✦ **Special Issue in Soil Organisms**

Nine articles written by NETSOB working group chairs and alternates will be published in a special issue in the journal [Soil Organisms](#). The issue is scheduled to be published open access by the end of February, and it will include results of the WG-1 survey, bibliometric analyses on ecosystem services provided by soil biodiversity and soil microbial diversity, updates on the state of global micro-, meso-, macro- and megafauna biodiversity, a review on potential threats to soil biodiversity, and information on the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB). The article from WG-3/4 on economics and soil biodiversity has been sent to members of WG-3 and Gian Luca and Rosalina, vice-chairs of that group, welcome feedback from members.

✦ **Special Issue to celebrate Prof Diana Wall contributions to soil ecology**

The Journal of Sustainable Agriculture and Environment has released a special issue to celebrate Prof Diana Wall contributions to soil ecology. This issue includes 21 high impact articles written by global leaders in the discipline. The special issue can be accessed [here](#).

The editor-in-chief Prof Brajesh Singh also announced the foundational annual Prof Diana Wall review. This article was written by Prof Carlos Guerra (German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany; University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal) and his colleagues - [Foundations for a national assessment of soil biodiversity](#).

Details on special issue and a celebration of Diana Wall's science contribution can be found in the [editorial article](#).

★ Small fund for up to two training events in developing countries

Global Initiative of Sustainable Agriculture and Environment (<https://www.globalsustainableagriculture.org/>) will provide small fund for up to two training events in developing countries – with particular focus on soil health/biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. Interested and registered parties can send a synopsis of the training event (one page max) with requested fund to info@globalsustainableagriculture.org and b.singh@westernsydney.edu.au for consideration. Please contact them directly as this is not a NETSOB funding opportunity.



I will advertise important soil biodiversity events in this space. The events below are **not** organized by FAO or NETSOB.

★ European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2025



The EGU General Assembly 2025 brings together geoscientists from all over the world to one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, planetary, and space sciences. The EGU aims to provide a forum where scientists, especially early career researchers, can present their work and discuss their ideas with experts in all fields of geoscience. The meeting will take place in Vienna, Austria & Online, **27 April–2 May 2025**. There are over 35 sessions directly or indirectly related to soil biodiversity:

- BG1.3 - [Nitrogen Cycling in the Anthropocene: Microbiological Processes, Land-atmosphere-Interactions and Global Change Feedbacks: A 10 years anniversary](#)
- BG3.4 | PICO - [Complex case studies for ecosystem responses to global change, climate and hydrological extremes](#)
- BG3.13 - [Mycorrhizal fungi in forest ecosystems](#)
- BG3.14 - [Deadwood in changing forest ecosystems: A Risk or Potential for Climate Resilience?](#)
- BG4.8 - [Earth Observation Data for Wetland Dynamics and Ecosystem Monitoring](#)
- BG6.2 - [Integrating Classical and Molecular Approaches for Assessing Soil Fauna: Challenges and Applications](#)
- BG8.1 - [Ecosystem Services and Climate Extremes in Anthropocene: Interactions and Research Gaps](#)
- BG8.3 - [Nature-based solutions at the landscape scale: tackling climate and biodiversity crises together](#)
- BG8.5 - [Enhancing science-based knowledge on forests' capacities to mitigate climate change](#)
- BG8.7 | PICO - [Modeling agricultural systems under global change](#)
- BG9.1 - [Remote Sensing Applications for the Biosphere](#)
- ERE1.5 - [Advances in Sustainable Nature-Based Carbon Dioxide Removals \(CDR\) : Technical Innovations and Global Impacts](#)
- ITS3.7/BG0.6 | PICO - [Biodiversity from a Geoscience perspective](#)
- NH10.3 - [Developing a risk reduction strategy for multiple slow-onset hazards](#)
- NH11.1 - [Geo-hydrological hazards and landscape evolution in climate change scenarios](#)
- NH3.13 - [Nature-based and bio-based or inspired solutions for geohazard mitigation on slopes and streambanks](#)
- NH3.15 - [Shallow landslides: monitoring, prediction, modeling](#)
- SSS8.4. [Soil health from a multifaceted perspective: Influence of land use and management, at various scales, on soil-plant-microbe interactions, soil organic and inorganic carbon and nutrients](#)
- SSS10.3 - [Modelling of soil structure and functions in response to extreme environmental events](#)
- SSS12.1 - [Soil health Intervention: Practical aspects to implement laws](#)
- SSS4.12 - [Soil biodiversity & agriculture: an intimate relationship](#)
- SSS4.13 - [Soil fauna as Engineers of Soil Sustainability in land use systems – Understanding of processes and the need of monitoring in Europe](#)
- SSS4.2 - [Plant - microbial interactions at soil interfaces: rhizosphere, detritusphere, \(bio\)-pores, and aggregates](#)
- SSS4.3 - [Arctic, Antarctic and alpine soil food web biodiversity and biogeochemical impacts](#)
- SSS4.4 - [The role of soil organisms in soil processes and functions](#)
- SSS4.7 - [Soil biodiversity and functioning in natural ecosystems](#)
- SSS4.9 - [Frontiers in soil biodiversity research – concepts, numbers, methods & more](#)

- SSS5.11 - Interactions between minerals, organic matter, and microorganisms drive the formation and turnover of organic carbon in soil
- SSS5.12 - Biogeochemical processes controlling carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur cycling in the soil-plant system
- SSS7.1 - Understanding biopathways of pollutants in soil-plant-systems for bioremediation and risk assessment
- SSS7.5 - Multidisciplinary tools and strategies for the management and rehabilitation of contaminated soils
- SSS8.2 - Pedodiversity: major driving factors and influences on ecosystem features
- SSS9.12 - Adaptation and resilience in agriculture: addressing climate change with science and technology
- SSS9.23 - Soil organic and inorganic carbon and nutrient measurement and modelling at various scales, and their role in the soil health from a multifaceted perspective
- SSS9.6 - Organic farming, Soil management and Healthy food

✦ International Soil Science Conference (SOILS 2025)



The Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) will host the International Soil Science Conference (SOILS 2025) at Bertam Resort & Water Park, Penang, Malaysia, from **6th to 8th May 2025**. SOILS 2025, themed “Soil Health for Sustainable Future: Bridging Soil, Agriculture, and Environmental Stewardship,” aims to foster discussions on tropical soil sustainability. This annual program is also attended by researchers, agronomists, and planters from the government and the private sector to share information related to soil management. More information at <https://www.msss.com.my/>

✦ Ecology of Soil Microorganisms 2025 – Networking across scales



The organizing committee is pleased to welcome you to the fifth conference on the Ecology of Soil Microorganisms to be held in Helsinki, Finland on **June 15th–19th, 2025**. The previous meetings attracted participants from all over the world. The ESM conference is an interdisciplinary platform addressing questions related to individual microbes (archaea, bacteria, fungi, oomycetes, protozoa and viruses), microbial communities and their ecological networks. Modern genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic methods are linked with approaches based on soil chemical, biochemical and functional analyses, exploration of soil fauna and plant ecology. They cordially invite experts from all these disciplines to join them in Helsinki to promote state-of-the-art research in the field of soil ecology and enjoy the northern midsummer madness! Check more information at https://www.lyyti.fi/p/Ecology_of_Soil_Microorganisms2025_9620/en/conference

✦ Soils For Our Future 2025 Conference: A Gathering of Local Perspectives



The SOILS FOR OUR FUTURE 2025 Conference brings together three conference events: 5th Global Soil Security Conference, Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting, and International Union of Soil Sciences Division 1 - Soils In Space and Time Meeting. Hosted by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada and the Manitoba Soil Science Society. With over 700 researchers, industry members, leaders of farmer organizations, graduate students and other attendees, the SOILS FOR OUR FUTURE 2025 Conference provides global perspective to today's research to sustain our

future. Spanning five days, the conference provides attendees of the events to meet in plenary/technical sessions with their individual organizations and for all to come together in keynote sessions, tradeshow, posters, workshops and field tours. Check more information at <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/EVEYHOPOMAGWN/home>

★ **VII Eurosoil 2025 & X Congreso Iberico de la Ciencia del Suelo**



The EUROSOIL is the official meeting of the European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS), it is among Europe's most important Soil Sciences events and offers a fantastic opportunity for knowledge transfer among the Soil Sciences community. The EUROSOIL is held every four years and attracts a large audience of over 2500 participants who present their findings through oral and poster presentations across up to 10 parallel sessions. The event also features workshops, and an exhibition of products and services aimed at raising awareness in society, facilitating the exchange of ideas and information and creating business opportunities. Additionally, the Iberian Congress of Soil Sciences (CICS) will also be held during this edition of EUROSOIL. More information at <https://eurosoil2025.eu/EUROSOIL2025>

★ Biological Sciences and Environmental Solutions for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) International Conference



Invitation to Attend the International Conference on "Biological Sciences and Environmental Solutions for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" September 24–26, 2025 | Yerevan, Armenia

About the Conference

The first "Biological Sciences and Environmental Solutions for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" conference serves as a global platform to address the urgent need for sustainable solutions to the world's most pressing environmental and developmental challenges. The "BSES-SDGs" International Conference is dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Faculty of Biology similarly the 10th anniversary of Research Institute of Biology at Yerevan State University. Established in 1935, the Faculty of Biology traces its origins to the founding of the university. It serves as an Armenia leading scientific and educational center, training highly qualified specialists in various fields of biology. Alumni of the faculty are working in leading educational and research institutions all over the world. Biological and environmental sciences play a transformative role in tackling critical issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, water scarcity, and public health crises, all of which are central to the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This conference will collect together leading scientists, educators, policymakers, and practitioners from diverse disciplines to explore the intersection of biological processes, environmental management, and technological innovation. Through insightful discussions, groundbreaking research presentations, and collaborative sessions with main focus on practical applications and policy implications that align with the achievement of specific SDGs.

Topics of Conference

Key themes of BSES-SDGs conference include all aspects of biological research: *Cell Biology, Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics, Systems Biology, Plant and Fungi Secondary Metabolites, Immunology, Neuroscience, Structural Biology, Animal and Plant Physiology, Bioengineering, Biotechnology, Evolutionary Biology, Bioethics, Plant Science, Microbiology, Zoology, Mycology, Molecular Biology, Biomedicine, Developmental Biology, Biostatistics, Biochemistry, Biophysics and Bioinformatics*. The key themes related to environmental solutions are: *Climate Science, Environmental Policy and Governance, Ecological Restoration, Ecological and Conservation Biology, Sustainable Land Management, Environmental Economics, Renewable Energy and Sustainability, Geospatial Science and Remote Sensing, Hydrology and Watershed Management, Environmental Toxicology, Energy Systems and Sustainability, Environmental Law, Waste Management and Resource Recovery, Eco-innovation and Green Technologies, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Carbon Management and Climate Finance, Air and Water Quality Management, Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Conservation, Agricultural and Crop Science, Environmental Health Science, Ecotourism and Sustainable Development for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*.

Publication Opportunities

High-quality short papers, follow rigorous peer review, will be published in esteemed outlets, including books by *IGI Global (USA), De Gruyter Germany, AAP-CRC Taylor and Francis (USA), Wiley-Scrivener (USA)*. Selected papers will also be included for publication in prestigious journals such as *with impact factor in Q1, Q2 and Q3*. All publications will be indexed in world-renowned databases, including *Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and ORCID*.



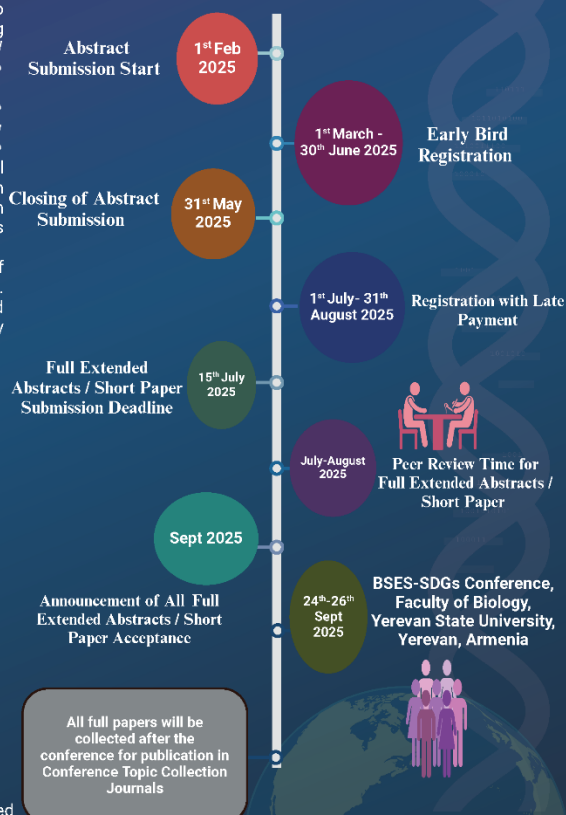
For more information, follow the conference link:

<http://bioenv-sdg.ysu.am>



bioenv_sdg@ysu.am

Timeline of Conference



"Join us in the vibrant city of Yerevan from September to 24-26, 2025, as we honour the extraordinary 90 year legacy of the Faculty of Biology and 10 year Research Institute of Biology at Yerevan State University Armenia—a legacy of excellence, innovation, and impact. Together, let us explore the transformative power of biological and environmental sciences in shaping a sustainable future for our planet and generations to come"

✦ Global Soil Biodiversity Conference 2026



The Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) has hosted three previous Conferences in Dijon, France (2014), Nanjing, China (2017) and Dublin, Ireland (2023) each with 700-1000 delegates, and is the premier global conference dealing with soil biodiversity. The Local Organizing Committee is excited to welcome the world to Victoria, BC in 2026, and is preparing an exciting scientific program for the 4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference (<https://globalsoilbiodiversity2026.org/>), which will serve as a pivotal platform for international collaboration and knowledge exchange. As Co-Chairs of the GSB 2026 Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Zoë Lindo and Dr. Carlos Barreto hope you can join them for this exciting scientific and social event.

Call for symposia proposals for the 4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference are now [open](#).

Proposals are due February 28th 2025

The GSB 2026 Conference is coming up soon with only 14 months left until the conference. *Call for symposia proposals are [now open](#). Our keynote speakers have been announced [here](#).* Check out the [Program-at-a-Glance](#) to learn more about the format of the conference. For those traveling from outside of Canada, [check out the Travel and Visa tab](#) with important information on travel and visa requirements. Registration and abstract submission will open up soon; join our mailing list to stay up to date on the conference.