



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP**
13th Plenary Assembly
03-05 June 2025

The IUSS Decade of Soil Sciences for Sustainable Development *Healthy Soils for Humanity*



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The foundation



International Union of Soil Sciences®

The establishment of the International Society of Soil Science (ISSS) occurred during the Fourth International Conference of Pedology in Rome on May 19, 1924, in the International Agriculture Institute housed in Villa Lubin.



GLOBAL S

Vierte Internationale Bodenkundige Konferenz, Rom - Mai 1924. Sitzung 2. Kommission.



What is the IUSS now?



- The IUSS is an NGO and No-Profit organisation officially registered in the USA
 - It is a free and autonomous organisation, financed primarily by member contributions
 - The IUSS provides a collaborative space, promotes and acknowledges excellence, stimulates C&D and the definition of policies, fosters international cooperation, and delivers small financial support to specific initiatives and projects.
-
- The IUSS is based on two pillars:
 - it is a union of national societies or academies (the Full members),
 - it is an organisation of soil scientists (the Individual members).

The IUSS mobilising capacity: Full and Individual Members



- The Full members of the IUSS are **81 National Soil Science Societies or Academia**.
- The estimated number of individual members (through the National Soil Science Societies) is about **50,000**
- The IUSS holds relationships with **8 regional societies**:

African Soil Science Society (ASSS),

East and Southeast Asia Federation of Soil Science Societies (ESAFS),

European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS),

Federation of Eurasian Soil Science Societies (FESSS),

Latin American Soil Science Society (SLCS),

Soil Science Society of East Africa (SSSEA),

Pacific Regional Society of Soil Science (PRSSS),

Central Asian Soil Science Society (CASSS)

The IUSS Structure



International Union of Soil Sciences®

- **Governance:** the Council, the Executive and President's Committees, the Secretariat.
- **Science:** 4 Divisions, 21 Commissions, 17 WGs, and the Research Forum.

Division 1 – Soils in Space and Time

- C1.1 Soil morphology and micromorphology
- C1.2 Soil geography
- C1.3 Soil genesis
- C1.4 Soil classification
- C1.5 Pedometrics
- C1.6 Paleopedology
- C1.7 Permafrost Affected Soils

Division 2 – Soil Properties and Processes

- C2.1 Soil physics
- C2.2 Soil chemistry
- C2.3 Soil biology
- C2.4 Soil mineralogy
- C2.5 Soil chemical, physical and biological interfacial reactions



The IUSS Structure



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Division 3 – Soil Use and Management

C3.1 Soil evaluation and land use planning

C3.2 Soil and water conservation

C3.3 Soil fertility and plant nutrition

C3.4 Soil engineering and technology

C3.5 Soil degradation control, remediation, and reclamation

C3.6 Salt-affected soils

C3.7 Soils of Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Mining and Military Areas (SUITMA)

C3.8 Permafrost Affected Soils (Joint with Division 1)

Division 4 – The Role of Soils in Sustaining Society and the Environment

C4.1 Soil and the environment

C4.2 Soil, food security, and human health

C4.3 Soil and land use change

C4.4 Soil education and public awareness

C4.5 History, philosophy, and sociology of soil science



The IUSS WGs



Division 1

1. Digital Soil Mapping
2. Global Soil Map
3. Proximal Soil Sensing
4. Soil Information Standards
5. Universal Soil Classification
6. World Reference Base
7. International Soil Judging Contest
8. International Accreditation
9. World Soil of the Year

Division 2

1. Critical Zone System
2. Soil Modeling Consortium
3. Pedofauna

Division 3

1. Acid Sulphate Soils
2. Forest Soils
3. Land Degradation
4. Modelling of Soil and Landscape Evolution
5. Paddy Soils

Division 4

1. Cultural Patterns of Soil Understanding
2. Young and Early Career Scientists

The international collaborations



International Union of Soil Sciences®

- Global Soil Partnership (FAO)
- International Science Council
 - Geounions
 - Standing Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science
- UNESCO (Geoparks and Biosphere reserves)
- WASWAC The World Association of Soil and Water Conservation
- European Society for Soil Conservation (ESSC)
- CA4SH Coalition for Soil Health
- Save the Soil
- Sustainable Soils Alliance

HIP | 13th Plenary Assembly | 03-05 June 2025



The IUSS main outputs



International Union of Soil Sciences®

- Every 4 years: **WCSS** + 1 inter-congress
- Every year:
 - ✓ **About 40 scientific events** organized by Divisions, Commissions and WGs
 - ✓ **Over 2000 events** organised for World Soil Day on the 5th of December, in collaboration with the FAO
 - ✓ 2 Bulletins and 12 Alerts (**3,126 email contacts**)
 - ✓ 1-2 **Books**, also open source
- Awards and prizes:
 - ✓ the **Dokuchaev Award and Von Liebig Award**, for basic and applied research;
 - ✓ the **Jeju Award** for young and mid-career soil scientists;
 - ✓ the **IUSS Distinguished Service Medal**, for world soil leaders who have translated soil science into action;
 - ✓ the **Emma Marie Antoine Täuber Award** for early career soil scientists who made exemplary research and dissemination.
 - ✓ The **Innovation Award**
 - ✓ The **Communication Award**
 - ✓ other **eleven awards and prizes** given by Divisions, Commissions, and WGs.
- Election of **Honorary members**
- **Promotion of individual members** by other scientific organization, such as the ISC
- **Stimulus Funds** for activities and projects
- The IUSS website and socials (**15,327 Facebook followers**)

1. 1927 - Washington DC
2. 1930 - Leningrad
3. 1935 - Oxford
4. 1950 - Amsterdam
5. 1954 - Leopoldville
6. 1956 - Paris
7. 1960 - Madison
8. 1964 - Bucharest
9. 1968 - Adelaide
10. 1974 - Moscow
11. 1978 - Alberta
12. 1982 - New Delhi
13. 1986 - Hamburg
14. 1990 - Kyoto
15. 1994 - Acapulco
16. 1998 - Montpellier
17. 2002 - Bangkok
18. 2006 - Brisbane
19. 2010 - Philadelphia
20. 2014 - Seoul
21. 2018 - Rio de Janeiro
22. 2022 – Glasgow
23. 2026 – Nanjing

The WCSS

1924 - 4th Pedological Congress – Rome
2024 - Centennial Congress – Florence



5 June 2025





International Decade of Soils 2015-2024

Main Aim

To increase awareness on
the roles of soils in
addressing contemporary
environmental, health, and
social challenges faced by
humanity



International Union of Soil Sciences



IAEA

Joint FAO/IAEA Programme
Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture

Vienna Soil Declaration

“Soil matters for humans and ecosystems”

Proclaimed at the Celebration of the International Year of Soils 2015

Achievements and Future Challenges

December 7, 2015

Vienna, Austria

The World's highly diverse and dynamic soils provide numerous functions and services required by humans and are essential to most aspects of our lives. As the umbrella organisation of more than 60,000 soil scientists, the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS), in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), organised the International Year of Soil (IYS) Celebration event “Achievements and Future Challenges”, held on December 7, 2015 in Vienna. The participants of the IYS celebration event

IUSS book series



International Union of Soil Sciences

Soil and Sustainable Development Goals

Editors:
Rattan Lal
Rainer Horn
Takashi Kosaki

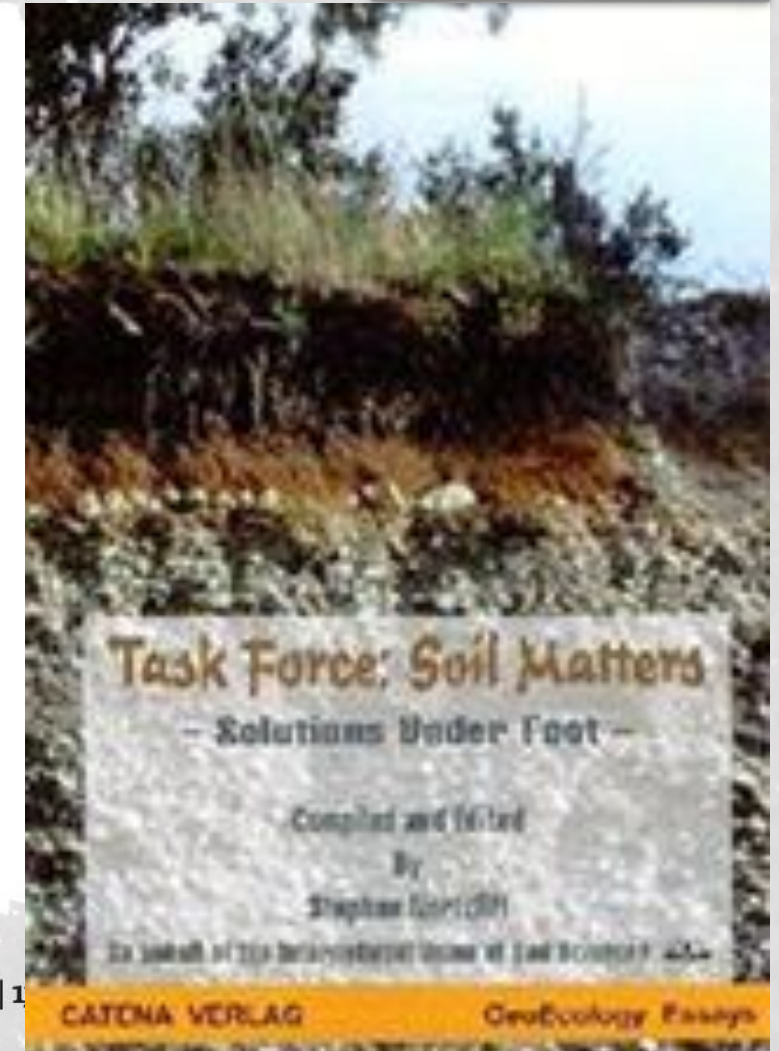
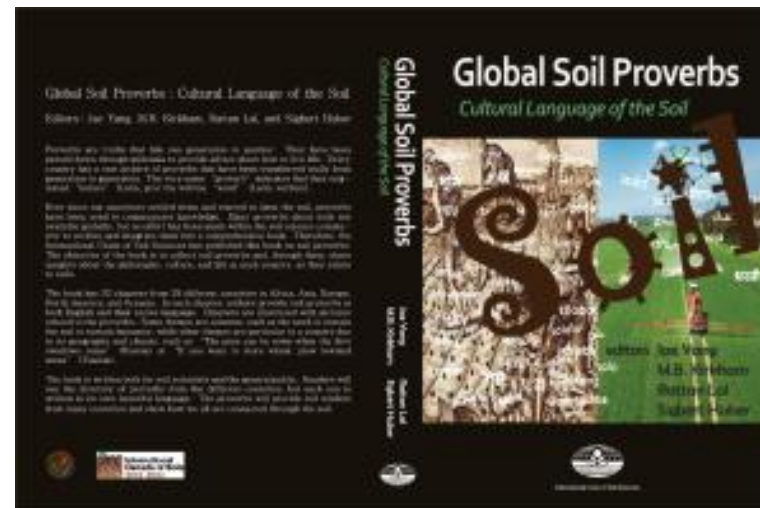


GeoEcology Essays

CATENA
soil sciences



**International
Decade of Soils
2015-2024**



GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 1

PARTNERSHIP



International Union of Soil Sciences

Nikola Patzel · Sabine Grunwald
Eric C. Brevik · Christian Feller *Editors*

Cultural Understanding of Soils

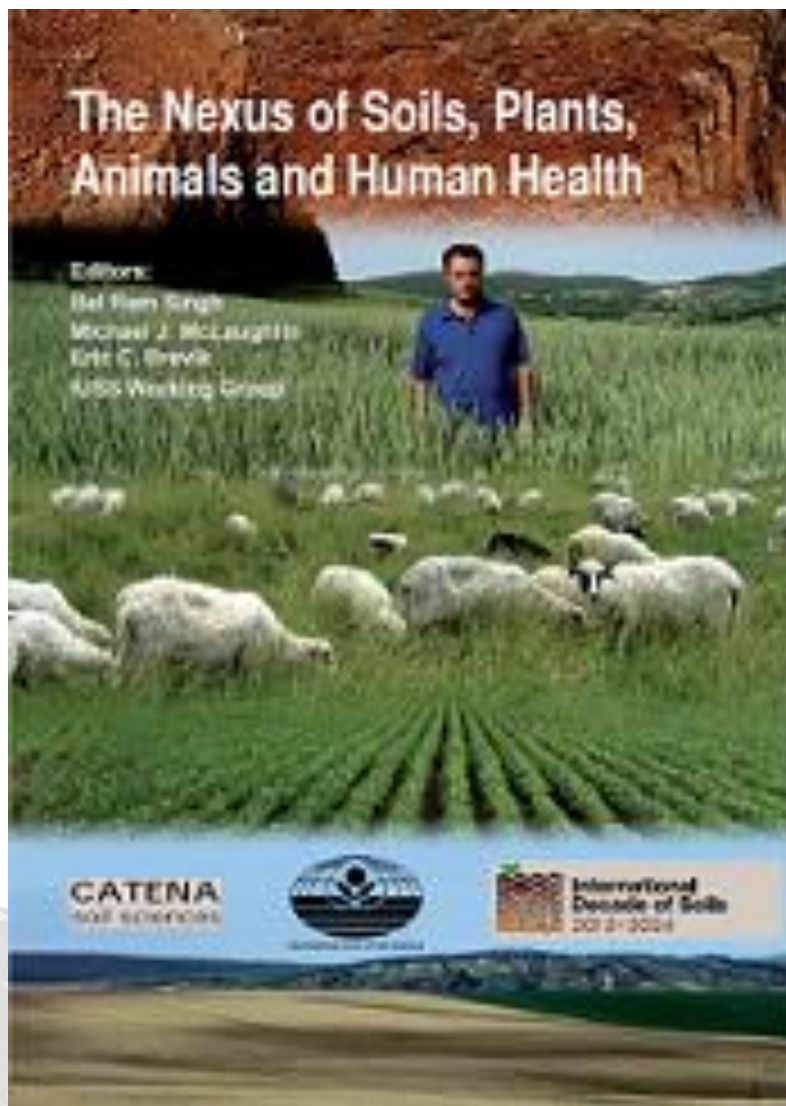
The Importance of Cultural Diversity
and of the Inner World



 Springer

The Nexus of Soils, Plants, Animals and Human Health

Editors:
Bal Ram Singh
Michael J. McLaughlin
Eric C. Brevik
IUSS Working Group



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soil sciences



International
Decade of Soils
2015-2024

Soils within Cities

Global approaches to their sustainable management

Editors: M.J. Levin, K.-H.J. Kim, J.L. Reed, M. Burchard,
R. Charyński, R.K. Shaw
IUSS Working Group SUTRA



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soil sciences



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International Union of Soil Sciences®

SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT AS A KEY TO PRESERVE SOIL BIODIVERSITY AND STOP ITS DEGRADATION



EDITORS:
Laura Berta Reyes-Sánchez
Rainer Horn
Edoardo A.C. Costantini



International Union of Soil Sciences®

Carmelo Dazzi · Anna Benedetti ·
Giuseppe Corti · Edoardo A. C. Costantini *Editors*

SOIL SCIENCE IN ITALY

1861 to 2024



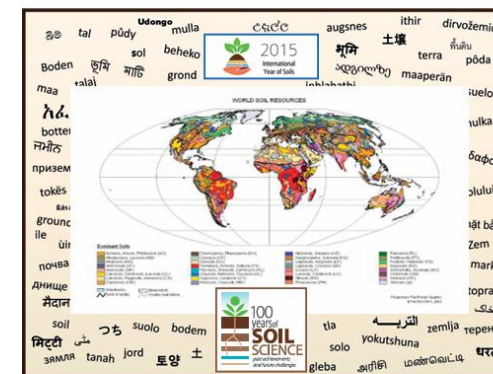
Springer



International Union of Soil Sciences



IUSS 1924-2024 A Centennial documentation of its national members



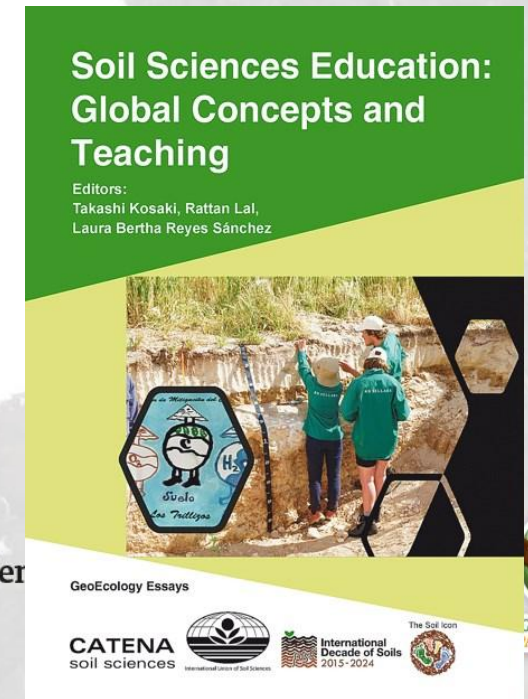
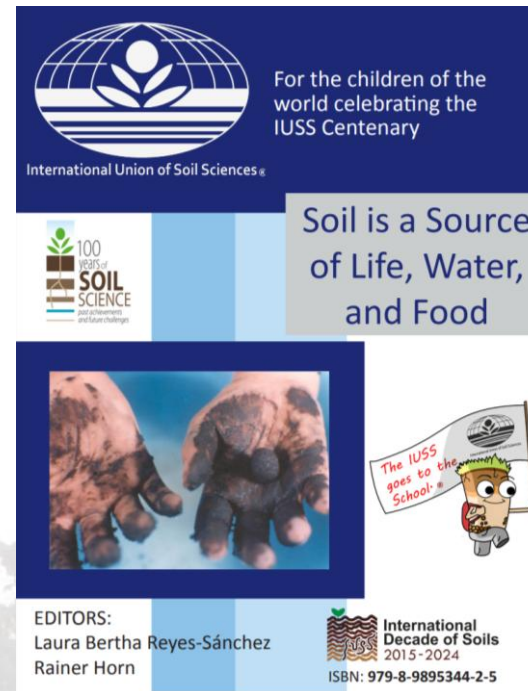
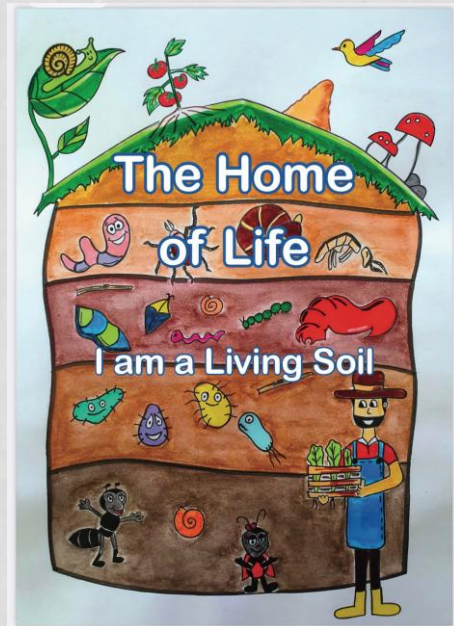
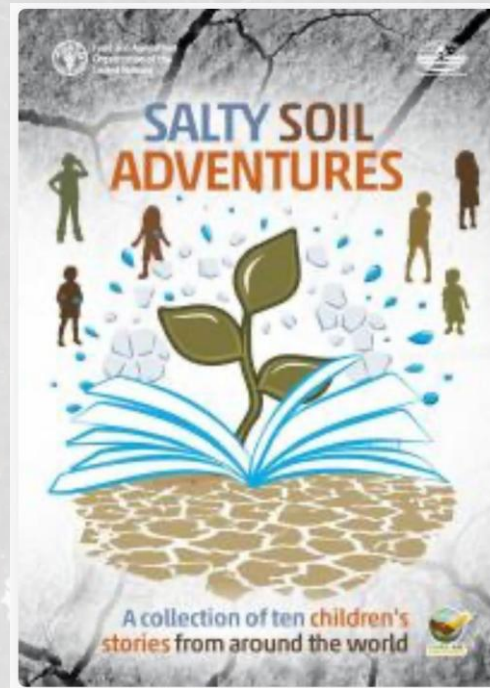
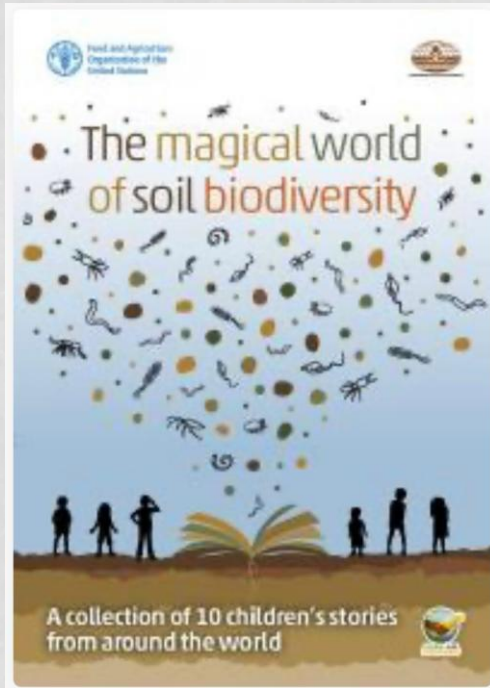
EDITORS
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Education for children



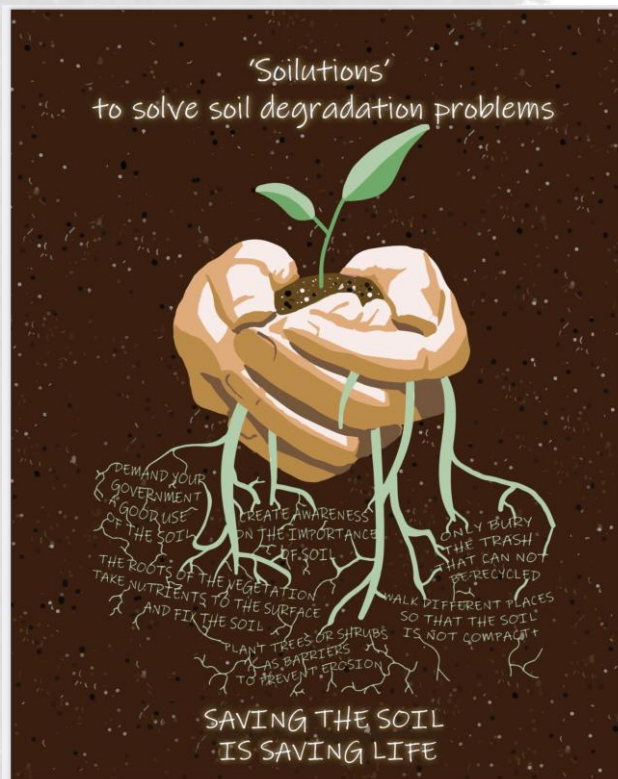
- **2016: Latin-American Soil Science Society and the Latin-American network for soil science teaching & learning: Thus are Soils of my Nation!**
- **2020 IUSS GOES TO THE SCHOOL educative project**
- **2020 IUSS – FAO – GSP children’s book contest on Soil Biodiversity**
- **2020 and 2021 IUSS – FAO – GSP children’s book contests**
- **2021 and 2022 IUSS – FAO – GSP children’s book co published**
- **2024 book for the children: Soil is a Source of Life, Water, and Food**



13th Plenary

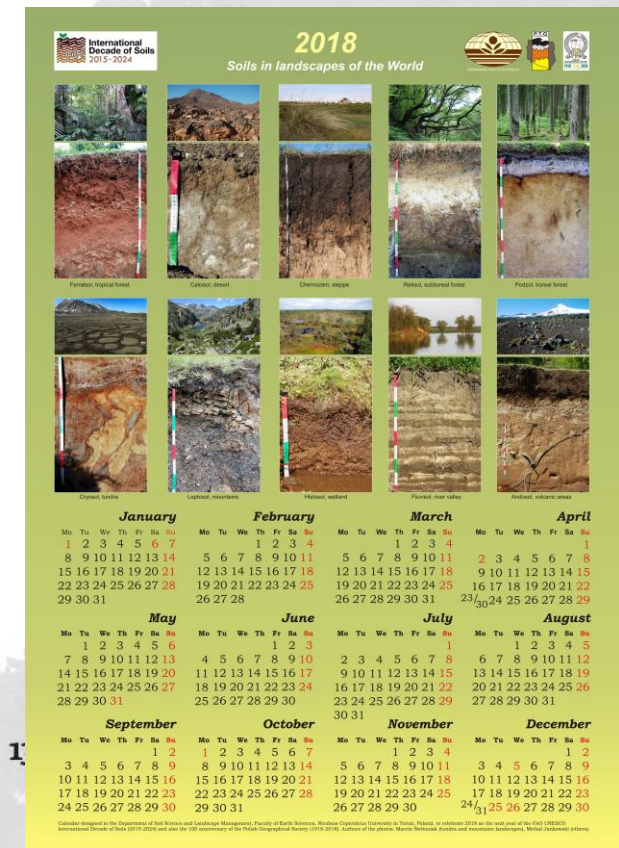
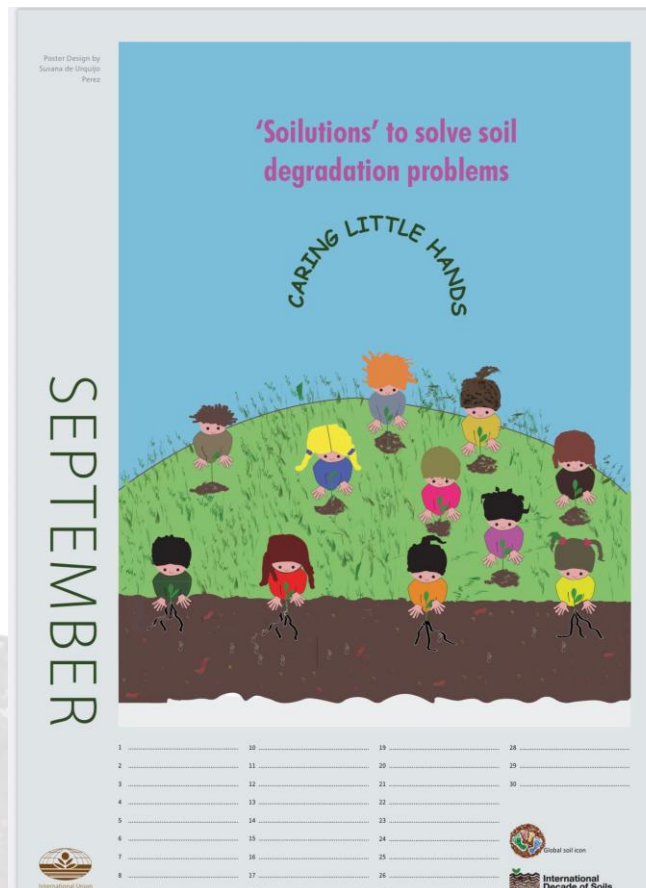
Dissemination and Communication

- Soils in Landscapes of the World – 2018 Calendar
- 'Soilutions' – 2020 Calendar



IUSS Birthday Calendar

Member of IUSS Soil Science Birthday Calendar 2018



2025-2034: Decade of Soil Sciences for Sustainable Development

Healthy Soils for Humanity



Main Aim

to prioritize production, dissemination and use of actionable scientific knowledge to achieve the targets of the SDGs



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Key objectives



1. Promoting actionable research on soils to guide policy, agricultural practices, and land management for sustainability.
2. Supporting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaboration to develop holistic solutions by fostering partnerships with other disciplines, including social, cultural, and artistic research on soils.
3. Enhancing public awareness and education by broadening science communication and dissemination.
4. Engaging the public through citizen science, collaborative knowledge production, and initiatives aimed at increasing soil literacy.

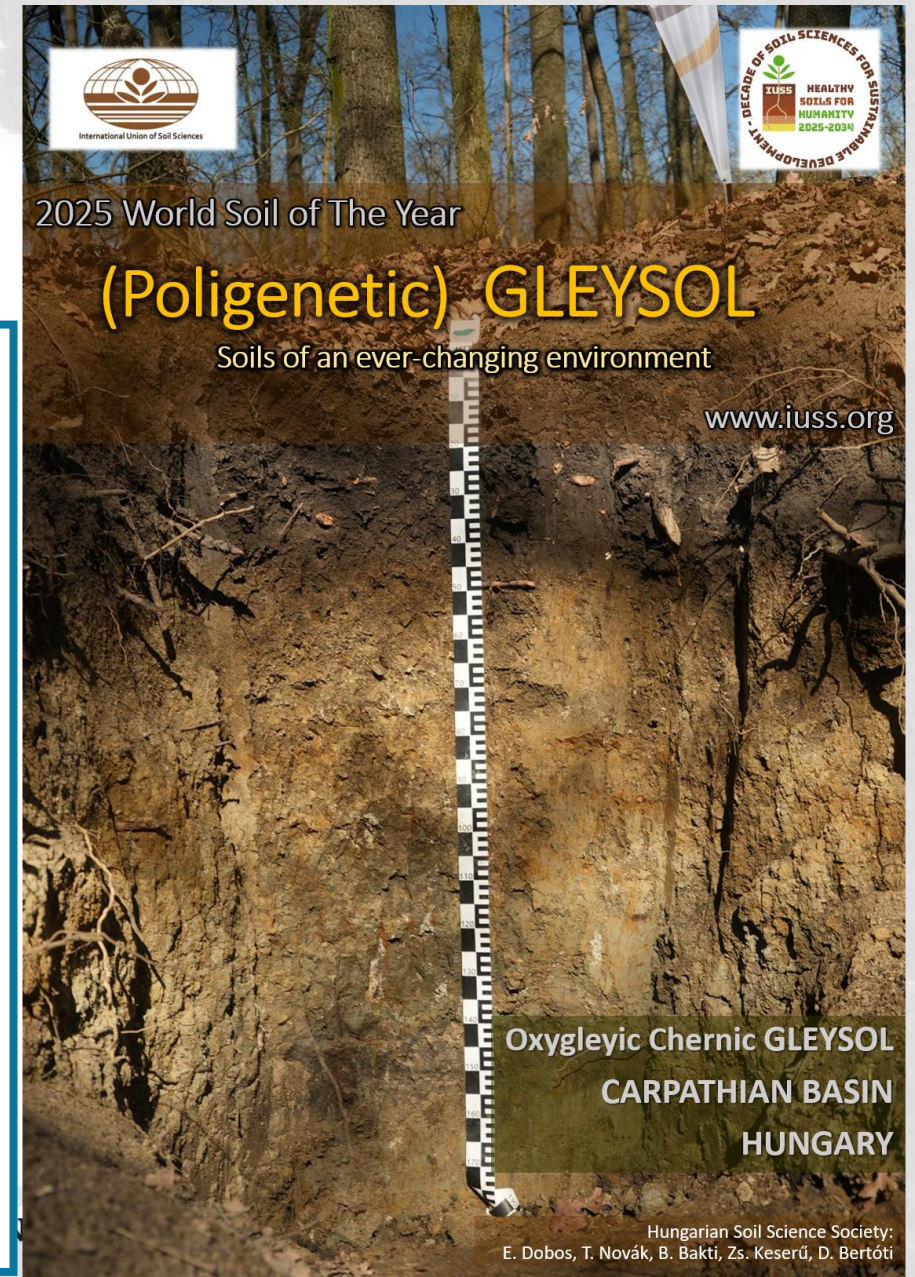
Some milestones: WSY 2025

Unique cultural landscape dominated by grasslands and salt effected pastures in the Hungarian Plain.

Located within the Hortobágy National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and recognized UNESCO World heritage site.

Activities planned to celebrate the WSY 2025:

- educational programs,
- community workshops,
- conservation initiatives
- promoting awareness of Gleysols' ecological significance.



23rd World Congress of Soil Sciences, June 2026, Nanjing, China



The 23rd World Congress
of Soil Science

[Inter-Congress 2024](#) [Information](#) [Venue](#) [Programme](#) [Registration](#) [Abstract](#) [Tours](#) [Sponsorship](#) [Exhibition](#) [About China](#)

IUSS DECADE OF SOIL SCIENCES FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

[Discover More](#)



The 23rd World Congress
of Soil Science
Soil and the Shared Future
for Humanity



You are invited to WCSS2026

Sessions promoting actionable scientific knowledge to achieve the targets of the SDGs



www.iuss.org





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BREAKING NEWS [The proceedings of the Fourth International Conference of Pedology held in Rome in 1924 are now published and freely available for everybody!](#)

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