



CATALYSING SDG IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH A SOIL AND LAND REVIEW

AIM

The GSW 2017 aims to contribute to the HLPF Theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. It will do so by looking at the subset of SDGs that are under review by the HLPF 2017 through the perspective of land and soils, thereby providing an integrating perspective across the SDGs; contributing data and other forms of knowledge complementary to the SDG indicators. The GSW 2017 also aims to serve as bridge to empower different actors to share their priorities on the SDG implementation. Proceeding like this, the GSW 2017 intends to catalyse SDG implementation. Specifically, we intend to:

- Account for trade-offs and seek synergies between the SDGs;
- Move from knowledge production and sharing to learning processes that feed into action;
- Empower actors to be able to contribute to follow up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda;
- Increase the ownership of the 2030 Agenda;
- Address critical pressure points, namely: (i) Net resource pressures; (ii) Consumption and production patterns; (iii) Access and rights to resources.

RATIONALE

Managing integration. Achieving sustainable development according to the 2030 Agenda in all countries of the world is a challenge and at the same time a once in a generation opportunity. Addressing the multiple linkages between the different SDGs and across countries requires novel and innovative ways to navigate the complexity of the agenda. Additionally, it is necessary to ensure that national activities do not jeopardize achievements at the global level. This is a task for follow-up and review processes on the 2030 Agenda which, when well-designed, can make thematic and cross-country linkages visible to support national level implementation.

Supporting the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Ensuring that no one is left behind requires that stakeholders are engaged at all levels in the process of setting national priorities. It has been agreed in Resolution A/Res/70/1 that follow-up and review processes should be open, inclusive and participatory. However, in many contexts, the space for civil society to operate is limited and citizens’ voices are not heard. Review processes at the global level can support national processes to ensure that the principles of the 2030 Agenda are upheld. Inclusion requires integrating different perspectives, different forms of data and other forms of knowledge on issues covered by the SDGs.

Thematic reviews – the need to navigate complexity. By looking at a sub-set of goals from within a specific theme, thematic reviews under the HLPF provide a tool for an integrated implementation of the SDGs. They can provide ideas for cross-thematic collaboration and cooperation between UN agencies, scientific institutions and civil society, and most importantly, between citizens and their governments. HLPF 2016 represents a milestone in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Yet, scope for further improvement remains: the degree of participation of stakeholders and the time for actual exchange and debate was criticised. The question is how to achieve this improvement in the limited time frame allocated to the HLPF?

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on a range of actors – we make use of their insights for the HLPF. The 2030 Agenda sets clear that its implementation rests on contributions by all stakeholders. In his review of the High-Level Political Forum 2016, then ECOSOC president Oh Joon, lists “voluntary efforts by the scientific community to produce science-based thematic reviews for the HLPF” as a contribution by the science community to the science-policy interface at the HLPF. The GSW 2017 will be such a contribution. We are convinced, though, that science is but one source of knowledge in support of the SDGs, and this GSW will bring together various stakeholders to contribute different forms of knowledge and expertise.

22-24 May, Scandic Hotel, Berlin

Soils and land for a transformational 2030 Agenda – more than just making a case for our lens. Soils and land provide the basis for more than 95% of the food produced in the world and support the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and agricultural workers (in some places, as much as 70% of them are women). Due to global demographic changes, cropland per capita has fallen by more than half since 1960. Land tenure regimes that marginalize certain population groups exacerbate this scarcity. Soils are also in jeopardy. Their pollution has direct impacts on our health and other ecosystems such as the oceans. Nearly one-quarter (24%) of the world’s land area is affected by degradation, thereby negatively influencing the livelihoods of 1.5 billion people worldwide. For example, soil and land degradation, and poor soil fertility in particular, is widely accepted as the most critical factor in limiting agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa. As such, soil and land resources are key to achieving several of the SDGs. They are implicit in several of the goals, which is a feature that they share with other natural resources like forests or biodiversity. Piloting a preparatory event to the HLPF 2017 that focuses on soil and land will therefore also yield insights into follow-up and review methodologies for the 2030 Agenda in general and for other natural resources in particular.

OUTCOMES

Together with our partners and participants we will work on different ways to capture the insights generated at the Global Soil Week. While these will be defined and elaborated over the coming weeks, two specific products that we are targeting are:

- a set of policy messages on sustainable soil management and responsible land governance for “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”; and,
- a report to reflect on the review and knowledge exchange and communication methodologies applied at the GSW 2017.

PRINCIPLES

Universality lives off Diversity
[Plurality]

Building Local Cells of Accountability
[Power]

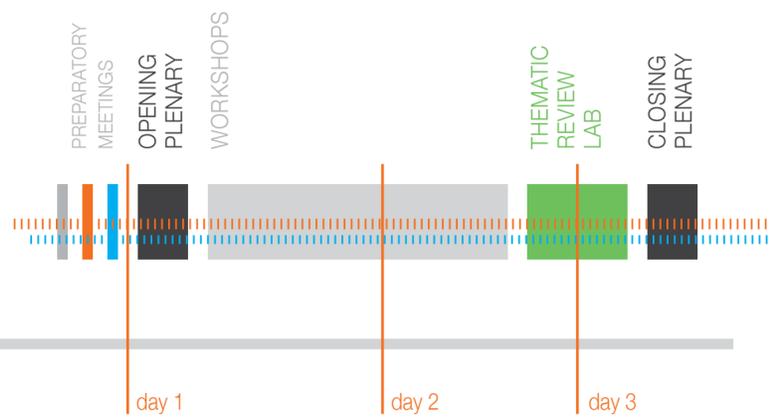
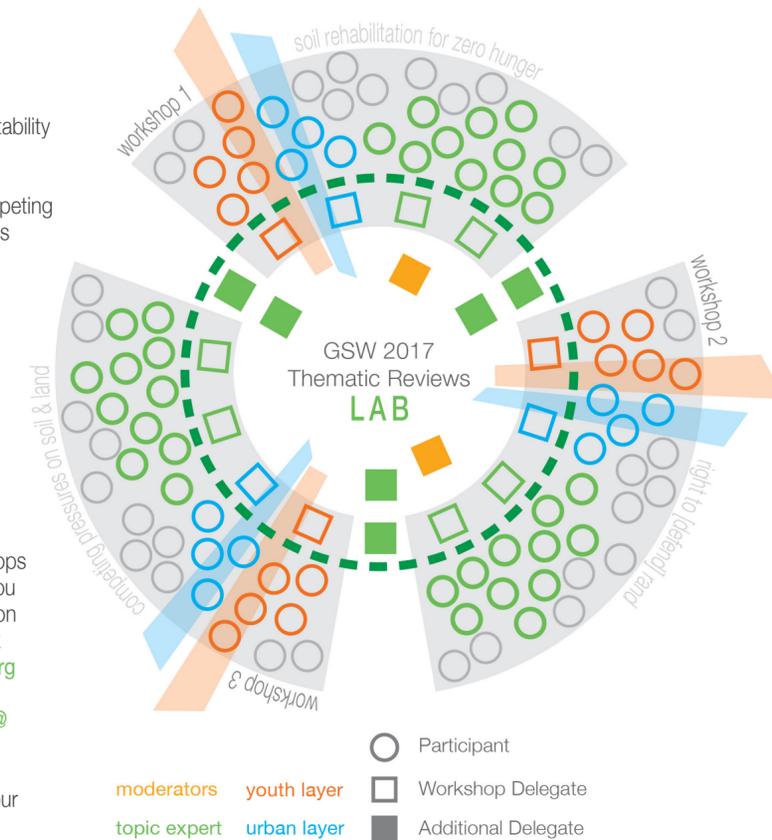
Responsible Mediation of Competing Demands on Natural Resources
[Human Rights Based]

GET INVOLVED

We are developing the workshops together with our partners. If you want to receive more information and get involved, please check our website globalsoilweek.org for updates on the programme and contact GlobalSoilWeek@iass-potsdam.de for general enquiries or the individual workshop facilitators below. Your contributions are welcome!

GSW COORDINATORS

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WORKSHOPS

1 | Soil Rehabilitation for Zero Hunger: upscaling people’s technologies by sharing lessons and developing strategies

This workshop builds on the partnerships with Ministries of Agriculture in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Kenya and other stakeholders, established under the BMZ Initiative “One World, No Hunger”. Healthy soils and equitable use of land play detrimental roles for sustainable development; as land degradation neutrality is fundamental for better livelihoods, ending hunger, improving human health and well-being, and can contribute to gender empowerment among other goals. Thereof, this workshop is designed to identify synergies that can support our collective of partners in catalyzing SDG implementation at local and national levels. Particularly, we will define some key gaps and challenges in existing policies that hinder broad-based sustainable soil management, and potentially strategic intervention areas for targeted investments in soils.

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2 | Right to [defend] Land: strengthening accountability at the local level through thematic reviews

Secure access to land and natural resources is crucial for the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. Despite international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, marginalized people struggle to enjoy their legitimate land tenure rights given competing pressures on resources and injustice, often resulting in violent silencing of activists. Protecting land rights defenders and strengthening local accountability mechanisms is not only key to people’s lives, but is also essential to achieving the SDGs. By addressing the “shrinking civic space”, this workshop will utilize the Thematic Reviews promoted by the 2030 Agenda to create a support function for accountability at national levels by elaborating guidelines for national government reporting and empower local cases.

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the LAB

At the LAB we will come together to produce an example of how to look at the SDGs being reviewed at the HLPF 2017 (SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 17) through the lens of soil and land. The Lab is an open space for multi-stakeholder deliberation on gaps and synergies within and between the SDGs. We will focus on the 2017 HLPF theme of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity and jointly develop priorities for action at different scales throughout the next years, to make the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda a reality. The Lab is a space for the convergence of actors, perspectives and discussions emerging from the preparatory processes and workshops of the Global Soil Week.

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GSW 2017 CO-HOSTS

