

Global Soil Forum

Knowledge for Change

Our Thematic Priorities



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Together We can Take Steps towards a Sustainable World

The work of the IASS Global Soil Forum with an international network of partners envisions a world in which soil is sustainably managed and responsibly governed. This is a vision in which functioning ecosystems and the equitable distribution of resources predominate over the current reality of land degradation, enduring poverty and hunger. It implies unravelling the Gordian Knot of an increasing world population amidst ever fiercer competition for a limited and even shrinking pool of resources, and the creation of pathways for sustainable and equitable development. The crux of our vision is that both the poor and the affluent people of the world must benefit and be a part of the solutions. This will require global cooperation and skilful means. The sustainability research institute IASS, home to the Global Soil Forum, searches for these pathways using a transdisciplinary approach for engaged research in which science is in conversation with society. Transdisciplinary research takes place at the level of political processes and policy formulation, as well as in the design of research questions in collaboration with local stakeholders.

The rapid development of the IASS Global Soil Forum into a well recognised actor in the five years since the group began its work is not only due to this transdisciplinary approach, but also results from the fruitful collaborations with its many partner organisations. These range from political actors, civil society organisations with direct contact to marginalised groups, as well as scientific organisations. This broad base is what enables the knowledge exchange that is so vital to our work.

The pages that follow provide an overview of the thematic priorities in which we are active, the approaches we use, as well as the strategic relevance of both of these in the search for sustainable development pathways.



Join us in transforming a shared vision of sustainable development into reality!
www.globalsoilweek.org

Translating Global Goals into Realities: Local Knowledge for Change

The last five years have witnessed significant progress in reaching a global consensus on the protection of our soils and the governance of our land. To cite just two examples: by adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, governments have committed themselves to “strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world” by the year 2030. In 2012, members of the UN Committee on World Food Security adopted the ‘Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land’ (VGGT), which outline globally agreed principles for responsible land governance. These achievements should not be underestimated.

Comparing these global aspirations with local realities is often a sobering exercise. The persisting inequitable distribution of fertile land among societal groups and genders limits livelihood opportunities and marginalises fellow human beings. The defenders of human rights who address this situation often live under severe threats, and are even the targets of violence. Soil degradation continues unabated in many countries, resulting in devastating losses of biodiversity and threatening the provision of ecosystem services such as soil fertility for food production, groundwater recharge or carbon sequestration. Some soil types have even become extinct due to the way they were managed by humans.

Translating global goals into realities and priorities requires a locally driven search process. As a research

organisation, we believe that knowledge is the key to supporting transformation processes in the areas of soil use and land governance towards more socially, ecologically and economically sustainable development pathways. In generating knowledge to support such processes, we must ensure that those who are in a position to use that knowledge are involved in its production right from the start.

This is not to downplay the role of power play and politics in transformation processes. At best, research will only be one change agent among others. However, if done well, research can be empowering. The joint identification of problems and possible responses by researchers and marginalised communities can give voice to a perspective that normally goes unheard. But this requires engaged research, science with society.

.....
We must ensure that those who are in a position to use knowledge are involved in its production right from the start.
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In view of the above, the Global Soil Forum addresses the following four thematic priorities, which are subsequently described in more detail:

- The Agenda 2030 and the **Sustainable Development Goals** offer a political window of opportunity to foster processes of change. We support inclusive and participatory approaches to the review and follow-up of the agenda, while providing knowledge for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on a local and regional level. We pay attention to the ways in which the Global North needs to change as well.
- Given the severity of ongoing soil degradation processes, we need to invest not only in halting degradation and **protecting soils but also in soil rehabilitation**. This includes endeavours to achieve soil protection in Europe. We are also working with partners on support systems for food-insecure households to adopt sustainable land management techniques.

- In many cases, sustainable development requires changes in **land governance**. The Global Soil Forum therefore provides new insights to support the adoption of the VGGT.
- Often, soils do not feature prominently on the political agenda. With the **Global Soil Week**, we offer a platform to facilitate exchange between societal decision-makers and researchers. Processes of change are unlikely to be successful without citizen support. We therefore seek new ways to facilitate a dialogue between researchers and societal stakeholders on the topics outlined above.

By addressing these topics, the Global Soil Forum also contributes to finding an answer to the more general question of how to design and change governance regimes for global sustainability transformations.



Jes Weigelt
Co-lead Sustainability Governance Programme and Coordinator of the Global Soil Forum at the IASS

Building Capacity and Inducing Change



Johan Kuylenstierna
Executive Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and Steering Committee Member of the IASS Global Soil Forum

Current levels of consumption are unsustainable. They make the bottom billion increasingly vulnerable and bring the planet’s ecosystems to the verge of collapse. Lifting people out of poverty and securing positive development for 9 billion people by 2050 will require transformative and disruptive changes in order to avoid depleting the natural resource base. **A system that in essence borrows resources from our children and grandchildren is fundamentally unethical.**

Science continuously advances our knowledge of environment-society interrelationships and interdependencies. Our ability to develop alternative scenarios, building on global trends and projections related to a range of socio-economic and environmental parameters, is fundamental for policy development and planning.

Understanding the socio-economic drivers behind environmental changes and shocks, and identifying adequate responses to them requires new approaches to innovation, technological development, management and partnership building. It is not enough to simply assess and communicate global changes as a way of stimulating action; we need changes to happen at the level of decision-making and planning.

Global issues must be made relevant for the national and local levels, in corporate boardrooms and among citizens at large. Only then can real change happen. Knowledge can be a catalyst for change, but science must also present alternatives and possible solutions within a systems perspective. Only then can scientific insights move from the bookshelves to become an integral part of well-informed actions!

SEI and the IASS are convinced that the synthesis, integration and effective communication of knowledge from various disciplines and actors is absolutely necessary for promoting change. **By co-designing research and multi-stakeholder processes, we can develop policy decisions that integrate knowledge and identify implementation pathways for sustainable development.** New sector bridges, knowledge arenas and forms of policy dialogue are needed to bring together the indispensable experiences of civil society, the corporate sector, academia, innovators, and policy- and decision-makers. In this way, we can create the basis for innovative and solutions-oriented dialogues to achieve real change. The Global Soil Forum is set up for precisely this purpose and it fills a critical gap by linking broader sustainability issues to the fundamental role of land and soils.

Research to Empower the Poor and Marginalised

The 2030 Agenda sets out to ‘leave no one behind’. This is an admirable goal and the appropriate level of ambition for a universal development agenda. It is, however, unfortunately rather distant from the world we live in. Governments and their agencies often remain unaccountable and driven by elites. Prescribed solutions are not adapted to the needs of the poor; they disregard their rights and often do not reflect their values, knowledge and perspectives.

Global land and soil resources are highly contested and many demands are placed on the limited amount of fertile land. Skewed governance systems perpetuate and reinforce existing imbalances of power with often devastating implications for the poor and for

Research conducted in collaboration with civil society should contribute to an enabling environment in which poor and marginalised groups can claim their rights and contribute their knowledge for change.

the environment. In response, the UN Committee on World Food Security, the most inclusive body for policy coherence on food security and nutrition, has adopted the ‘Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land’ (VGGT) to establish principles for a land governance system that is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

We are now facing the challenge of translating the VGGT into lived social practice. Multi-actor platforms can play an important role in this regard. Research conducted in collaboration with civil society should contribute to an enabling environment in which poor and marginalised groups can claim their rights and contribute their knowledge for change. Truly sustainable ‘sustainability research’ must work to empower the poor and marginalised.

Through its work on land governance, the Global Soil Forum adopts such an inclusive approach of identifying options for a just and sustainable future for all. I look forward to continuing to be part of this endeavour.



Maryam Rahmanian
Centre for Sustainable Development (Iran) and Steering Committee Member of the IASS Global Soil Forum

Our Thematic Priorities

The Global Soil Weeks’ platform and process character and the outreach activities of the Global Soil Forum enable a dialogue of interests and perspectives of diverse stakeholder communities. Soils are thus better positioned in public perception and in political processes at local, national and international level. – page 8.

BRIDGING KNOWLEDGE.
EMPOWERING TRANSFORMATION.

Our Land Governance work draws on a human rights perspective to find appropriate governance frameworks which support the livelihoods of the poor and marginalised. Secure tenure rights to natural resources enable a sustainable use of soil. – page 10

BALANCING THE COMPETING
DEMANDS MADE ON SOILS

Our SDG team fosters an integrated, inclusive and participatory approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Soils and lands are viewed as cross-cutting themes and a broad base of perspectives and actors are included in the process. – page 12

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

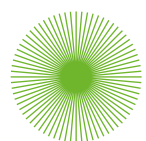
Our work on soil protection and rehabilitation supports implementation of sustainable land management techniques through contextualisation and co-production of local stakeholder knowledge. Translating global land rehabilitation targets into meaningful local action requires the regional and national integration of this knowledge. – page 14

REVERSING LAND AND
SOIL DEGRADATION



At the Global Soil Week 2015: exchange of ideas among politicians, researchers and members of civil society

Bridging Knowledge. Empowering Transformation.



The Global Soil Forum together with its renowned international partners established an inclusive platform that offers a home to the diverse land- and soil-related communities. This cooperation has led to a better positioning of soils in the public perception and in important political processes. With its strong platform and process character, the Global Soil Week is the main tool in this regard. As a platform, it serves as a hub for the various long-term cooperation processes of the Global Soil Forum and its partners, culminating in a large biennial event in Berlin. **The Global Soil Week seeks the input and commitment of stakeholders across professions and global regions.**

This results in the discussion of soil- and land-related topics in a very wide political and socio-economic context. In the exchange of ideas among politicians, researchers, and civil society the challenges we face can be described in their full dimension and joint pathways to change can be discussed. Traction for the issues of soil and land is gained by jointly identifying important political or societal leverage points.

To achieve various development objectives, a future transformative research agenda at global and national level will need to address the cross-cutting nature of soils and land. The main thematic priority beyond 2016 will be to engage in local dialogues on

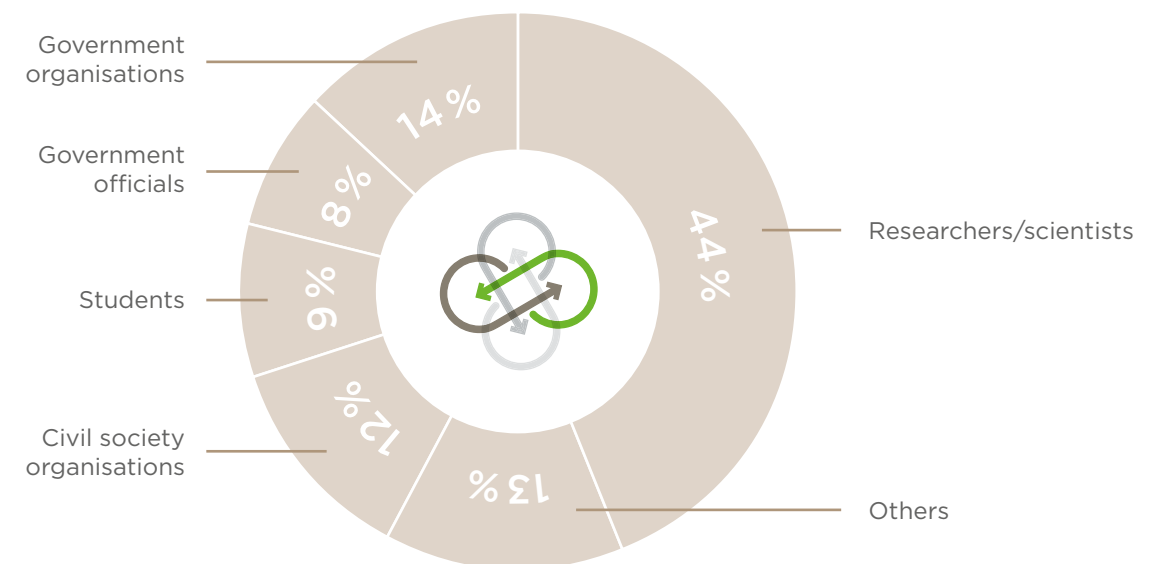
acknowledging this in the **thematic reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the United Nations**. As local expertise is crucial to achieving a joint vision of global sustainable development, the Global Soil Week has been spawning sister events in various parts of the world. In cooperation with the Global Soil Forum, governmental bodies and societal initiatives in Brazil, Ethiopia and Kenya have already embarked on a process of decentralising the platform in order to capture the thematic priorities at home.

Public outreach activities are universally acknowledged as an important pillar of sustainability transformation in general, and soil protection in particular. The way in which topics are communicated will influence how issues are assessed and approached. Public outreach is an important means of featuring soil- and land-related issues from different angles. It therefore supports the aim of the Global Soil Forum to raise awareness and to appeal to various communities, open up topics to a wider audience, and draw attention to connections that may not be obvious at first glance. In our globalised world, it is not only important to understand why local resources, such as the widely neglected resource soil, need protection.

There is also a great need for awareness raising about the effects of consumption in developed economies on marginalised people in developing economies.

An important function of transdisciplinary research is to provide usable knowledge for translating global and national policy processes into concrete actions. Each person can engage in the co-generation of knowledge and make substantial contributions to the otherwise closed realm of politicians and lobbyists. To this end, the Global Soil Forum also engages in participatory social media formats that allow for more inclusive debates. Social media, video, film, publications and exhibition formats are employed to link audiences to issues such as environmental degradation, land rights and food insecurity. The conventional themes discussed under the heading of soil protection are thus expanded to include the social dimension.

-  Animation films **"Let's talk about soil"** (2013) and **"Better save soil"** (2015), www.globalsoilweek.org/category/resources/videos
-  **Soil Atlas**. Facts and Figures about Earth, Land and Fields (2015), www.globalsoilweek.org/soilatlas-2015
-  **ONE HECTARE exhibition** (2015), www.ein-hektar.de



The professional background of the Global Soil Week participants (2015)



Koksar in Madhya Pradesh is one of the very few villages in Central India that demarcated agricultural land boundaries

Photo by IASS/Keerthi Bandru

Balancing the Competing Demands Made on Soils



Millions of people worldwide suffer from reduced and unequal access to fertile soils and land resources on which they directly depend for their livelihoods, food security and well-being. Local power asymmetries, the increasing individualisation of property rights, population growth, and growing demand and competition for natural resources often results in resource degradation, scarcity, overexploitation, and the expulsion of vulnerable and marginalised resource users.

The legitimate tenure rights of these people are often not documented nor recognised and protected

by the law; and in cases where these rights are documented or recognised on paper, they are often not enforced and translated into lived societal practice.

The ‘Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security’ (VGGT) represent a historic opportunity to transform this situation into pro-poor resource governance structures and secure the legitimate tenure rights of women, men, indigenous peoples and local communities. Their strength lies in the unique and inclusive process that preceded their unanimous adoption by the UN Committee on World Food Security in 2012.

Current world population growth per year
74 million

Agricultural land available per capita



Unequal land distribution around the world



83% share of farms **1% share of farms**
12% share of area **48% share of area**

They subsequently gained broad international recognition and support. While they are a voluntary instrument, they are strongly rooted in existing international human rights law and set out the obligations of both state and non-state actors. They provide internationally agreed guidance on how to recognise and allocate legitimate tenure rights, including individual and collective tenure rights, to marginalised groups, and on how to hold governments accountable. They also acknowledge the crucial role of participation and call on states to support civil society activities to realise the adoption of the VGGT in policy- and law-making, enforcement and acceptance.

To transform the patterns of hunger, poverty and inequality and achieve the SDGs, it is crucial not only to advance soil rehabilitation techniques and sustainable land management and increase their uptake, but also to implement a human rights-based approach to soil and land governance. **Legal certainty with regard to tenure rights can provide incentives for the sustainable use of natural resources and long-term investments in the productivity of resource systems.** It strengthens peoples’ sense of self-worth and empowers women especially. The question of how to make tenure rights to land and soil resources a reality in lived societal practice through the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure Governance is a central question of our work.

IASS Study (2015): **Pro-Poor Resource Governance under Changing Climates.** Addressing vulnerabilities in rural Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador and India

IASS/FAO (2016): **Technical Guide on Governing Tenure Rights to Commons**

CORE PROJECTS

Pro-Poor Resource Governance under Changing Climates: Knowledge on effective strategies to advance pro-poor resource governance in adverse contexts was co-generated and documented together with local civil society organisations in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ecuador and India.

Partners: BRAC (Bangladesh), Fundación Tierra, CDE Faculty of Agronomy/UMSA La Paz and Fundación PIAF-El Ceibo (Bolivia), PATAC (Brazil), GRAF (Burkina Faso), SIPAE (Ecuador), Seva Mandir (India)

Funded by: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Duration: 04/2012–09/2013

Technical Guide on Governing Tenure Rights to Commons: A guide to increase the uptake of the VGGT, developed for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) using a multi-stakeholder approach with strategies and practices to support the legal recognition and committed implementation and protection of collective tenure rights to commons.

Funded by: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

Duration: 03/2014–04/2016

Responsible Development Finance: Publication of a handbook with recommendations on how to align the lending practice of the German Development Finance for public and private purposes with the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure Governance.

Partners: German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR), KfW Development Bank, Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG)

Funded by: DIMR/GIZ

Duration: 12/2014–06/2016

Learning from Experiences of Implementing Human Rights-Based Instruments for the Uptake of the VGGT

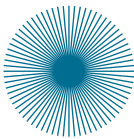
Duration: 12/2015–12/2017



Photo by: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

On the occasion of the UN's Sustainable Development Summit 2015, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon speaks at the Global Citizen Festival in New York.

Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals



A great deal of momentum was created by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. **This new agenda with its 17 goals and 169 targets is unique due to the fact that it applies to both the Global North and South.** The universality of the agenda highlights the inter-linked nature of the sustainability challenges we are facing today. Hence, the 2030 Agenda offers a great window of opportunity to shift development to more sustainable pathways. To make use of this opportunity, we believe it necessary to direct attention to two interrelated issues. In addressing them, we work in partnership with governments, civil society organisations and research institutions and actively engage in the 2030 Agenda process.

Firstly, there is a need to establish global thematic reviews on soils and land under the High-Level Political Forum. Twelve of the proposed SDGs relate to

the sustainable use of natural resources and several depend on the use of additional land resources (e.g. food security, sustainable production, protection of ecosystems). These goals place additional demands on limited land resources. Studies show that this increased demand surpasses the capacity of global land resources. Priorities will have to be set and trade-offs can be expected. Since land-use patterns are linked by trade, and land degradation threatens globally important ecosystem services, there is a need to hold these reviews at global level. **By conducting global thematic reviews of soil, land and other natural resources, we can obtain an overview of the state and progress made across the different goals.**

Secondly, trade-offs between the goals will materialise in specific localities. Addressing these trade-offs will require an integrated, participatory and inclusive approach to ensure the consideration of crosscutting issues and allow for the inclusion of different perspectives and actors. **At national level, we support the establishment and development of multi-stakeholder and rights holder platforms for the follow-up and review of the SDGs.** By supporting this approach, we aim to translate the spirit of integration, inclusiveness and participation that characterised the design of the 2030 Agenda into the implementation phase. We further aim to create a level playing field, where the perspectives of different actors with a stake in the use and governance of natural resources such as land and soil are included. This approach presents a great governance challenge as there are many power imbalances that need to be accounted for. It is nevertheless essential to avoid resource use conflicts and ensure that the voices of civil society and marginalised groups are heard. We are dedicated to further developing these strategies and accompanying the process to implement the 2030 Agenda at global, regional and national level from a natural resource perspective.

- IASS Special Issue (2015): **Soils in the Nexus** in the Journal Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability (COSUST)
- IASS Working Paper (2015): **The role of biomass in the Sustainable Development Goals: A reality check and governance implications**
- IASS Policy Brief (2015): **Grounding the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Options for the Protection of our Precious Soil and Land Resources**

CORE PROJECT

Renewable Ressources and the SDG Forum: The research project, in close cooperation with its partners, analyses and promotes an integrated approach to the implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on the sustainable management and governance of natural resources, such as soil and land.

Partners: World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+Centre), Millennium Institute, Biovision Foundation, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), Sustainable Development Solutions Network Germany (SDSN)

Funded by: German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)/Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe (FNR)

Duration: 11/2013–11/2016

“For a Sustainable Development Agenda to be successful, we need to move from silos to systems.”

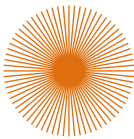
Klaus Töpfer



Photo by IASS/Judith Rosendahl

In Tanzania's Usambara Mountains, sustainable land management techniques such as terracing are needed to counter land degradation

Reversing Land and Soil Degradation



From the 'Bonn challenge' of 2011 and the Rio+20 outcome document "The future we want" to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, land degradation is now being recognised as a global concern that needs decisive action. And indeed, the scale of the problem is very much global in nature: 20 to 25% of all land worldwide is already degraded, and billions tons of soil is lost to erosion every year. At the same time, the demands placed on the remaining land are already high and increasing: 90% of the food we produce stems from soils. Food production will have to dramatically increase between now and 2050 to feed a growing world population. And lest we forget, soils

are also needed for carbon storage and other ecosystem services to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Evidently, the task at hand is huge and it will not suffice to halt the land degradation trend. We will also need to make significant progress on land restoration and rehabilitation on a global scale. However, while the magnitude of these tasks is global, halting and reversing degradation will have to happen at local level. To achieve global and national targets for degradation neutrality, soil protection and rehabilitation techniques need to be implemented locally by those who manage the land. Where agricultural land is concerned, 72% of the 460 million farms across the globe



1.5 BILLION PEOPLE depend on degrading land for their livelihoods and **42%** of the very poor live in degraded areas.

are smaller than two hectares in area. Many of these farming households are food insecure and lack labour, capital or other resources to prevent further degradation of their land and preserve their livelihoods. These constraints to more sustainable land management are often compounded by a lack of responsive rural services that support small-scale farmers in meaningful ways. Hence, in order to implement sustainable land management techniques at local level, appropriate institutional and governance mechanisms will have to be in place at national and subnational levels to ensure the provision of such responsive rural services.

IASS work in the area of sustainable land management aims to provide the knowledge needed for land rehabilitation at these various levels and to translate global land rehabilitation targets into meaningful local action. In particular, **we aim to support local-level search processes for meaningful ways to support farmers in implementing sustainable land management.** We seek to identify local support needs and possible responses to them in consultation with affected stakeholders such as smallholder farmers, local service-providers or local and national governments. We strive for the contextualisation of general and the co-production of localised knowledge in support of sustainable land management.



Cordingley et al. (2015): **Thinking outside the plot: addressing low adoption of sustainable land management in sub-Saharan Africa.** COSUST: IASS Special Issue "Soils in the Nexus"

CORE PROJECTS

Acting Together Now for Pro-Poor Strategies Against Soil and Land Degradation (AGORA): a transdisciplinary research project which aims to identify implementation pathways for sustainable land management in Malawi and Tanzania.

Partners:

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT); Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI), Tanzania; Total Land Care (TLC), Malawi; Lilongwe University for Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi

Funded by:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Duration: 02/2014–01/2017

Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security: The research project accompanies development projects in Benin, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ethiopia and India. In a transdisciplinary way, it aims to identify good practices in improving rural services for sustainable land management through mechanisms of empowerment and accountability.

Partners:

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), local and national institutions from partner countries

Funded by:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Duration: 12/2014–12/2017

Partnerships for Mutual Learning



Layla Saad
Deputy Director of the
Rio+ World Center for
Sustainable Development

The adoption of the Agenda 2030 by UN member states at the 70th session of the General Assembly in New York holds the promise of a new development paradigm based on the ambition of achieving greater social justice, environmental sustainability and inclusive economic development. While it builds and expands significantly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs; 2000–2015), the Agenda 2030 is different in that it is universally applicable to all countries, rich and poor alike. Measuring progress against equitable and sustainable development benchmarks may have a powerful equalising effect on countries in the Global North and South, demonstrating that they may not be as far apart as conventional measures of progress suggest. The responsibility of the Global North to provide financial support to the Global South under the MDG framework will remain, but the role of other forms of collaboration to support technological development in the South will be fundamental under Agenda 2030. In a sense we are all going to have to mobilise our governments, citizen groups, civil society, the private sector, and academia to take action that catalyses the type of transformational change that sustainable development requires.

The universal implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will require strong collaboration and strategic partnerships for mutual learning. Brazil, for example, which is the home of the RIO+ Centre for Sustainable Development, has accumulated a great deal of experience in the participatory planning and implementation of the MDG agenda. We can learn from this experience in the implementation of the SDGs in both the Global North and the

Global South. All of the SDGs have social, environmental and economic dimensions that need to be integrated and balanced. In implementing them, we need to take account of various competing demands and trade-offs. Broad-based alliances and efforts to deconstruct power structures that favour the few will be needed in the negotiation of these trade-offs and in identifying synergies that keep the ‘leave no one behind’ spirit of Agenda 2030 at the centre of our ambitions. This touches on how the goals will be implemented, and here a strong case must be made for tackling the various inequalities inherent in our current system of distributing assets, opportunities and influence. This must give rise to action plans at the international, national and sub-national level.

In this regard, I welcome the work of the IASS to establish inclusive dialogue processes on key sustainable development issues as an important step towards the urgently needed restructuring of how we produce information and make decisions in the light of our new common agenda. I look forward to our continued cooperation.

TAKE A LOOK FROM ABOVE!
The ONE HECTARE multimedia exhibition at the oldest city square in **Dresden** communicates the urgent need to protect fertile soils.

A ONE HECTARE
(10,000 m²) sized infographic illustrates shocking realities:

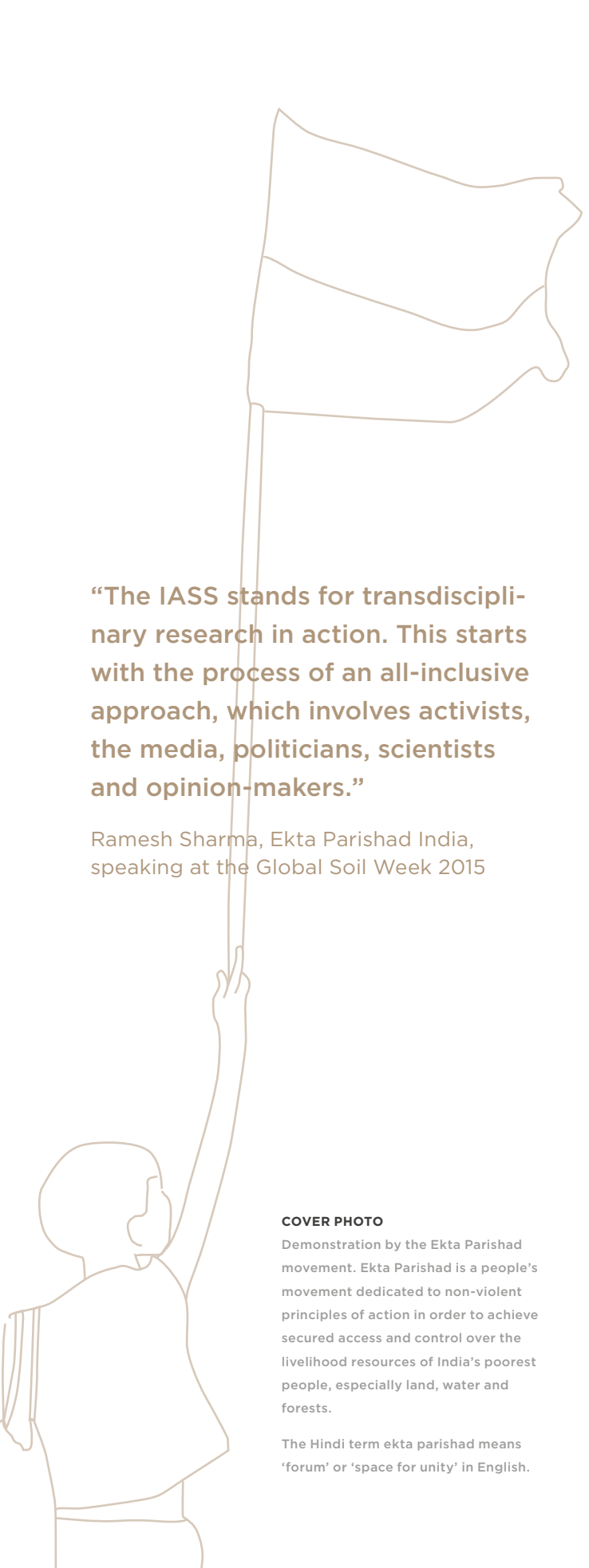
One hectare in 2.5 seconds. Each year 13 million hectares of forest are cleared for use as cropland.

Seventy-three hectares are built over each day (or 8 m² each second) in Germany alone.

Fertile soil is invaluable: only 10 % of global land can be used for growing crops.

Global Crop Area/
World Population =
2000 m²

38 % of which is
already degraded



“The IASS stands for transdisciplinary research in action. This starts with the process of an all-inclusive approach, which involves activists, the media, politicians, scientists and opinion-makers.”

Ramesh Sharma, Ekta Parishad India, speaking at the Global Soil Week 2015

COVER PHOTO

Demonstration by the Ekta Parishad movement. Ekta Parishad is a people's movement dedicated to non-violent principles of action in order to achieve secured access and control over the livelihood resources of India's poorest people, especially land, water and forests.

The Hindi term ekta parishad means 'forum' or 'space for unity' in English.

SPONSORED BY THE



Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) e. V.

Founded in 2009, the IASS is an international, interdisciplinary hybrid between a research institute and a think tank, located in Potsdam, Germany. The publicly funded institute promotes research and dialogue between science, politics and society on developing pathways to global sustainability. The IASS focuses on topics such as sustainability governance and economics, new technologies for energy production and resource utilisation, and Earth system challenges like climate change, air pollution, and soil management.

Visit us online:

www.iass-potsdam.de/ www.globalsoilweek.org

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