CF Working group

“Soil as a resource”

meets Nicole

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6 Statements

• Good soil quality is essential for societal challenges.
• **Value creation** is a starting point for revitalization of brownfields and land restoration.
• Value creation can be optimized by **connecting** the revitalization objectives to societal challenges and conscious and sustainable use of the **soil sediment water system** (SSW).
• **Upscaling**: increasing the development area (4D) is increasing solutions and financing options.
• **Land management** is the key to define policy on sustainable use of SSW
• Increasing use of the SSW asks for **knowledge development**
Setting the scene: Global developments

PARIS 2015
UN Climate Change Conference
COP21.CMP11

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. GENDER EQUALITY
6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13. CLIMATE ACTION
14. LIFE BELOW WATER
15. LIFE ON LAND
16. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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Setting the scene: EU Strategy 2020 and 7th EAP

The programme lists nine priority objectives and what the EU needs to do to achieve them by 2020. They are:

1. to protect, conserve and enhance the Union’s natural capital
2. to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy
3. to safeguard the Union’s citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing
4. to maximise the benefits of the Union’s environment legislation by improving implementation
5. to increase knowledge about the environment and widen the evidence base for policy
6. to secure investment for environment and climate policy and account for the environmental costs of any societal activities
7. to better integrate environmental concerns into other policy areas and ensure coherence when creating new policy
8. to make the Union’s cities more sustainable
9. to help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.
Setting the scene EU (2)

- Expert group on soil
- Soil Thematic Strategy
- MAES Soil Pilot and Policy brief
- Road Map towards a resource efficient Europe
- Land as a resource
- Circular Economy
- INSPIRATION
- ......
Different approaches possible

**Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection and restoration**

**Soil threats:**
- Contamination
- Erosion
- Loss of organic matter
- Compaction
- Sealing
- Salinization
- Acidification

**EU Strategy 2020: Societal Challenges**

- Health, Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, the bio economy, efficient energy, climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials
- ESS of the Soil-Sediment-Water-System:
  - Supporting
  - Provisioning
  - Regulating
  - Cultural
- Sustainable use and land management (4/5 D)
- Integral approach
- Bottom up
Working group “soil as a resource”

- Soil as part of natural capital and related to circular economy
- (Informal) position paper for the EU-expert meetings
- MAES pilot soil (soil ecosystem services)
- Update/review of the EU soil thematic strategy (connection to societal challenges and sustainable use)
- Land as a resource (input for EU communication)
- To keep/get soil on the political agenda: input for narrative and lobby
- Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals
- New instruments for soil restoration such as land management and spatial planning
- Soil sealing, loss of organic matter, compaction, erosion

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Future cooperation

- Position papers
- Joint knowledge development
- Connecting networks
- Policy propositions
- Stakeholder meeting December 5th Brussels
- ....

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Current situation

- Investments in brownfield development are **under pressure**
- Soil and groundwater quality **deteriorates**
- Groundwater plumes are hard to **identify and assess, liability** is a problem
- Policies and instruments are **sectorial** and mainly focussed on protection and remediation, land management policy lacks
- **Unconscious use** of the SSW leads to substantial damage
- **Natural capital**, services SSW, are under used (it’s more than natural attenuation)
- **Stakeholders** are insufficiently involved
Show the value for society

- Brownfield revitalization is only possible in case of added value
- Values are worth protecting, sustainable use is value creation
- The SSW system/natural capital contributes to welfare; it supplies resources, it is the basis for food, energy supply, building and construction and production of drinking water, etc.
Address the benefits: connect the stakeholders

**Contribution to societal tasks**
- Resource efficiency
- Safe and sufficient drinking water
- Food security and safety
- Liveable cities,
- Affordable and secured energy supply
- Safely living in a Delta

**Stakeholders**
- Developers, farmers, energy companies, drink water suppliers, citizens etc.

**Sharing of revenues**
- National interests, regional interests, private interests
The necessity of up scaling

- **Up scaling to area approach:**
  - Broader area, more potential solutions
  - Connecting to societal challenges and interests, new investors (stakeholders)
  - Problem solving, business case

- **Up scaling to services of the SSW**
  - Soil quality improves by soil value creation

- **Integral approach**
  - Area development and social quality improvement

Balance in use, protection and improvement of soil and groundwater quality: *Land management is the instrument*
Knowledge requirement
A knowledge agenda on sustainable use and management
• Societal drivers
• Societal challenges
• Knowledge gaps and requirements

Climate change urbanisation pressure on resources

Living in a Delta Economic crisis
Growing middle class food security
Climate robust cities energy crisis drinking water

energy safety and security