

NEWSLETTER

1/2005

ESSC *EUROPEAN
SOCIETY for
SOIL
CONSERVATION*

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Rill erosion of arable land at Kaltinenai, Lithuania
(photograph by Dr Benediktas Jankauskas)

E.S.S.C. NEWSLETTER 1/2005

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INITIATIVE FOR SCIENCE IN EUROPE (ISE) CONFERENCE ON THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC) AND ISE FOUNDING MEETING

UNESCO, Paris, 25 – 26 October, 2004

The Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) aims to become a platform of European learned societies and scientific organizations, whose aim is to promote mechanisms to support basic science at a European level, involve scientists in the design and implementation of European science policies and to advocate strong independent scientific advice in European policy making.

ISE organized a Conference on the European Research Council (ERC) on 25 – 26 October 2004, hosted by UNESCO in its Headquarters in Paris, France. On behalf of ESSC, I asked to participate and I was kindly invited as a representative of the ESSC. The decision to contact ISE followed a recommendation of the ESSC Council at its meeting of Freiburg in September 2004.

The Conference was designed to identify and discuss crucial issues related to the establishment of an ERC and highlight the various possibilities to address them. Notably, the Conference aimed to review and discuss the general principles of the ERC, provide an update on the current views of the European Commission, confront the recommendations of the EC-EUROHORCs working group on the principles that should govern the ERC and its practical implementation with the views of the scientific community and discuss further issues affecting ERC policies. With the organization of this Conference, ISE intended to help politicians define a roadmap for the establishment of the ERC, having the clear idea that it is essential that the scientific community maintains its mobilization and pursues its efforts towards the establishment of an ERC in this crucial period where essential political decisions are being made.

In the context of the Conference it was also organized an ISE founding meeting in order to establish the initiative as a representative platform by formally opening its membership to all European organizations and learned societies and to discuss the structure, objectives and future activities of ISE, which are the following:

Objectives of ISE

The Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) is an independent and informal platform for organizations committed to the scientific and technological development of Europe. ISE provides a common forum to advocate independent scientific advice in European policy making and to stimulate the involvement of European scientists in the design and implementation of European science and technology policy. ISE was initially launched in 2003 when a number of scientific societies and organizations decided to combine their efforts and shared interest in the debate about the creation of

a European Research Council (ERC) and to stimulate the involvement of the scientific community in Europe as an active participant in that debate.

Activities of ISE

The agenda of ISE is set by the participating societies and organizations. The long-term agenda of ISE will promote European scientific and technological development, notably by working towards the objectives defined by the Lisbon and Barcelona EU Summits. The activities of ISE will include open conferences and the preparation of statements on European science policy issues.

ISE has already organized two open conferences devoted to the funding of basic research in Europe and the establishment of an ERC (Brussels, 2004; Paris, 2004). These conferences are the continuation of similar efforts initiated by the European Life Sciences Forum (ELSF) in conjunction with EMBO, FEBS and EMBL (Paris, 2003; Venice, 2003) or with EuroScience (Dublin, 2003), which all are founding members of ISE. Important documents on the ERC have also been published by ISE founders, notably the European Science Foundation (ESF). ISE has also published in Science, August 6, 2004, in an open letter advocating the creation of a European Research Council, that was endorsed by more than 50 European organizations.

Participation in ISE

ISE is open to adherents from European learned societies, European professional S&T organizations, European scientific societies and European federations of scientific societies, European research laboratories, and European associations of universities and other institutions active in the field of science. ISE is a platform bringing together different types of European organizations and societies with a common goal. National S&T organizations and movements involved in European science policy may be associated with or become observers of ISE.

Organization of ISE

The ISE Assembly is composed of representatives of all ISE organizations. The ISE Assembly elects the Steering Group and the Chair. The ISE Assembly approves the general strategy of ISE. The ISE Assembly meets at least once a year, normally in connection with an ISE Conference. Organizations associated to ISE or observers of ISE will be invited to attend and to express their views. The Steering Group with the Chair, supported by an ISE Secretary, manages ISE current affairs. The Steering Group meets between and at ISE conferences. Decisions are made by consensus. The Chair represents ISE in its dealings with authorities and other organizations. The Chair calls and chairs the meetings of the Steering Group and of the ISE Assembly. The Chair will make sure that all ISE members are informed of ISE initiatives in preparation and have the opportunity to express their opinion. The Steering Group is composed of the Chair, the ISE Secretary and 12 – 15 members elected at by the ISE Assembly for 12 – 18

months. The Steering Group prepares ISE activities, in particular ISE conferences and statements. The ISE Secretary is appointed by the Steering Group to conduct the daily business of the ISE, and assist the Chair and the Steering Group.

Financial Issues

The ISE secretariat is currently managed and sponsored by the European Life Sciences Forum (ELSF), whose budget is contributed by EMBL, EMBO and FEBS. Furthermore, ISE activities are co-financed by additional contributions by some of the present members of the ISE Group, namely the EMBO, EPS, EPSO, ESF, FEBS and the Stifterverband. A future business model, based on fees from adhering organizations and societies, should be defined and implemented, taking into account the objectives and structure of ISE as well as the financial capacity of the adherents. An initial phase could see a progressive reduction of the contribution of the currently contributing ISE Group members combined with minimum voluntary contributions from new adherents. The Steering Group will prepare a proposal on this issue in consultation with ISE members. All the above items were approved in the Founding Meeting. Professor José Maria Gago (Portugal) was elected as Chair of ISE and Dr Luc Van Dyck (Germany) will act as secretary; also a Steering Group was elected.

As a representative of ESSC I was happy and proud to participate in this important initiative which hopefully will improve the perception and consideration of scientific aspects in Europe. I had the opportunity to make some interventions highlighting the importance of Soil Science and the importance and the dimension of the environmental problems related to soil degradation. ESSC is now part of ISE and I hope we will go on contributing and participating on ISE goals and activities.

The Next item for ISE will be to have a meeting with the new EU Commissioner of Research.

For anyone interested in more information on ISE, the web site is:
www.initiative-science-europe.org.

José L Rubio, ESSC President

The ISE Initial Group: European Life Sciences Forum (ELSF), European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), European Physical Society (EPS), European Plant Science Organization (EPSO), European Science Foundation (ESF), European University Association (EUA), EUROSCIENCE, Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS), Group of European Nobel Laureates and Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft.

DIRECTORY OF EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS WORKING ON SOIL PROTECTION

This publication will be jointly edited by SCAPE and the ESSC. It was agreed at the Budapest Council meeting in May 2004 that the EU project SCAPE ('Soil Conservation and Protection for Europe') and the ESSC would collaborate on this joint publication. The Directory will include the main participants and stakeholders involved with soil protection. Interested persons and organizations are invited to contribute.

Editing authors include:

J.L. Rubio, A. Imeson, P. Bielek, M.A. Fullen, V. Andreu, J.A. Pascual, L. Recatala, C. Año and M. Rengel.

The Draft structure includes:

Acknowledgements: very wide, covering other contributing persons, institutions, organizations,....

Contents: Foreword, Introduction, ... explaining the background, context, objectives and purpose of the Directory:

Information on how to use the Directory

List of Organizations

List of Persons

Various Thematic Index, including:

- Index by countries
- Index by subjects
- Acronyms
- Alphabetical
- e-mail list

Other aspects?

- Soil Protection is considered covering soil degradation and soil conservation with a broad approach.
- The activities considered will include research, practical-commercial activities, education, administration and NGOs.
- The list of persons will included addresses and main fields of activity.
- The main work will be done by CIDE, gathering all the information and elaborating a database that could be updated for future editions.
- The book could be printed in Bratislava and distributed from Bratislava and/or from Valencia.
- The manuscript for printing should be finished in early July 2005

Dear Sir/Madam,

'The European Society for Soil Conservation' (ESSC) and the initiative on 'Soil Conservation and Protection for Europe' (SCAPE) are developing a 'Directory of European Organizations and Persons Working on Soil Protection'. The objective of the Directory is to produce a communication and information resource which will improve the linkages and mutual knowledge of the European actors dedicated to soil degradation and soil conservation issues. The Directory will include organizations, enterprizes, associations, NGOs and individuals working on the multitude of aspects related to soil protection.

We would be pleased to include your details in the Directory. If you agree, please fill in the items specified below and e-mail the completed form to:

Martina.Rengel@uv.es

Thank you in advance.

Yours faithfully

A.C. Imeson
Coordinator SCAPE

J.L. Rubio
President ESSC

Note to ESSC Members: please 'cut' this form from the ESSC web site and e-mail to:

Martina.Rengel@uv.es

Family name:

First name: Second name:

Organization and acronym:

.....

Address:

City:

Postal code: State/Province:

Country: Telephone:

Fax: E-mail:

Web page:

Select three of the Working Areas by assigning 1, 2 and 3 to the priorities of your activities:

- ☐ Erosion/Desertification:
- ☐ Loss of soil organic matter:
- ☐ Soil Contamination:
- ☐ Soil Sealing (by construction activities):
- ☐ Soil Compaction:
- ☐ Biodiversity:
- ☐ Salinization:
- ☐ Floods/landslides:
- ☐ Soil Conservation:
- ☐ Soil Sustainability:
- ☐ Soil Use:
- ☐ Soil Evaluation:
- ☐ Soil Planning:
- ☐ Soil Legislation:

**IMPACT OF SMALL GRAIN ROOTS ON SOIL EROSION BY CONCENTRATED FLOW
AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOIL CONSERVATION**

Gwendolyn Gysels

Ph.D. thesis, Vlaams Instituut voor de Bevordering van het Wetenschappelijk-Technologisch Onderzoek in de Industrie (Flemish Institute for the Promotion of Scientific-Technologic Research in Industry)

Physical and Regional Geography Research Group, Catholic University Leuven, 2005

Abstract

Many cropland soils in hilly regions suffer from soil erosion by concentrated flow. This study examined the effects of roots of small grains on the reduction of rill and gully erosion rates and the possible use of cereal roots for soil conservation. The combination of laboratory experiments in a hydraulic flume with field measurements showed that small grain roots in the soil do not influence critical hydraulic shear stress for sediment detachment. Per contra, soil erodibility decreases with an increase in root density as well as with an increase in above-ground biomass. Whereas the above-ground biomass protects the soil surface essentially from splash and interrill erosion, plant roots increase the soil's resistance to rill and gully erosion. The relationship between soil loss by concentrated flow and root density is best described with a Hill curve or dose-response curve. At the end of the growing season the resistance of a soil in-between two drilling lines is 16% less than at the drilling lines because of the temporal and spatial variability in cereal root densities. By doubling the cereal root density, soil loss by rill and gully erosion can be reduced up to 90% relative to soil loss from a root-free soil. Compared to normal-drilled field parcels, double-drilled field parcels experience 40% less soil loss under optimal conditions, without loss of grain yield. Doubling the seed density of small grains in order to reduce soil loss in erosion sensitive areas is appropriate for field parcels having a drainage area of less than 0.75 ha and a soil surface slope of less than 15%. Under these conditions, double drilling of small grains in erosion sensitive areas is an effective and efficient soil conservation technique that can easily be applied by farmers.

Related publications

1. GYSSELS, G. and POESEN, J., 2003: The importance of plant root characteristics in controlling concentrated flow erosion rates. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 28, 371-384.

2. GYSSELS, G., POESEN, J., BOCHET, E. and LI, Y., In press: Impact of plant roots on the resistance of soils to erosion by water: a review. *Progress in Physical Geography* 29(2).
3. GYSSELS, G., POESEN, J., LIU, G. and VANDROMME, L., In press: Effect of drilling direction of small grains on spatial variations in soil erosion rates during rill and gully flow. *Soil & Tillage Research*.
4. GYSSELS, G., POESEN, J., NACHTERGAELE, J. and GOVERS, G., 2002: The impact of sowing density of small grains on rill and ephemeral gully erosion in concentrated flow zones. *Soil & Tillage Research* 64(3-4), 189-201.
5. GYSSELS, G., POESEN, J. and VAN DESSEL, W., In press: Effects of double drilling of small grains on soil erosion by concentrated flow and crop yield. *Soil & Tillage Research*.
6. GYSSELS, G., POESEN, J., VAN DESSEL, W., KNAPEN, A. and DE BAETS, S., In press: Effect of cereal roots on detachment rates of single and double-drilled topsoils during concentrated flow. *European Journal of Soil Science*.

Contact: jean.poesen@geo.kuleuven.ac.be

ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND GEOMORPHIC RESPONSE IN OLD FORESTS OF THE LOESS BELT: THE MEERDAAL FOREST CASE-STUDY

Tom Vanwalleghem

Ph.D. thesis, Research Fellow of the Fund for Scientific Research Flanders
Physical and Regional Geography Research Group, Catholic University Leuven,
2004.

Abstract

The work focussed on the possibilities for reconstructing past environmental changes in old forests. In order to study these changes, the geomorphology of the Meerdaal Forest, one of the largest and oldest forests of the Belgian loess belt, was studied.

These environmental changes can be either natural in origin, such as extreme precipitation events leading to phases of increased soil erosion or of anthropogenic origin, which refers mainly to land use changes. The Meerdaal Forest is an ideal archive area to study the impact of these changes on the landscape since historical evidence shows that at least since the 14th century, the area was continuously forested and thus geomorphologically stable. For a long time, the Meerdaal Forest was even considered a primary forest and the soils and landscape were considered to be 'natural'.

A detailed field mapping in the Meerdaal Forest however showed the presence of 43 deep, permanent gullies and 71 circular, closed depressions. With the combination of several methods – ranging from soil analyses to statistical modelling of the spatial distribution of both geomorphological phenomena- and the comparison with contemporary erosion processes under cropland, it could be shown that both geomorphic phenomena are anthropogenic in origin. Dating of artefacts, charcoal (by ¹⁴C-AMS) and sediment (by OSL) from different colluvial deposits in these gullies and closed depressions suggests that farmers cultivated large parts of the Meerdaal Forest between the Bronze Age (1743-1533 BC) and the late Roman period (76 BC-364 AD). After the removal of the protective forest cover, deep gullies could incise near cultivated areas during intense rainfall events. Soil profile analyses showed that the numerous closed depressions are old quarries of calcareous loess. For the early farmers this was an easily available, but necessary fertilizer to farm the acid forest soils.

Evidence of significant human activity in a previously considered pristine area indicates that ‘reference areas’, used in e.g. ecology or pedology need to be used cautiously. A preliminary study already showed that the current herbaceous and moss vegetation is significantly different between the sites cultivated during Roman times and the undisturbed sites. At present the Meerdaal Forest is the only known area in NW-Europe where such old geomorphological phenomena are conserved. Therefore, the area has an important geo-value, which calls for a protection as geosite.

Related publications

1. VANWALLEGHEM, T., VAN DEN ECKHAUT, M., POESEN, J., DECKERS, J., NACHTERGAELE, J., VAN OOST, K. and SLENTERS, C., 2003: Characteristics and controlling factors of old gullies under forest in a temperate humid climate: a case study from the Meerdaal Forest (Central Belgium). *Geomorphology* 56(1-2), 15-29.
2. VANWALLEGHEM, T., POESEN, J., VAN DEN ECKHAUT, M., NACHTERGAELE and J., DECKERS, J., In press: Reconstructing rainfall and land use conditions leading to the development of old gullies. *The Holocene*.
3. VANWALLEGHEM, T., BORK, H.R., POESEN, J., SCHMIDTCHEN, G., DOTTERWEICH, M., NACHTERGAELE, J., BORK, H., DECKERS, J., BRÜSCH, B., BUNGENEERS, J. and DE BIE, M., In press: Rapid development and infilling of a historical gully under cropland, central Belgium. *Catena*.
4. VANWALLEGHEM, T., VERHEYEN, K., HERMY, M., POESEN, J. and DECKERS, J., In press: Legacies of Roman land-use in the present-day vegetation in Meerdaal Forest (Belgium)? *Belgian Journal of Botany*.
5. VANWALLEGHEM, T., POESEN, J., VERSTRAETEN, G., NACHTERGAELE, and J. DECKERS, J., In press: Characteristics, controlling factors and importance of deep gullies under cropland on loess-derived soils. *Geomorphology*.

VITAL SOIL CONFERENCE: THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS A EUROPEAN SOIL STRATEGY

18 – 19 November 2004, The Hague, The Netherlands

The Netherlands EU Presidency, together with the Directorate General for the Environment of the European Commission, representatives of all EU-Member States and candidate countries, plus a number of representatives of stakeholder groups (such as the ESSC), and some experts, participated in a Conference to analyse momentum of the process of devising a European Soil Strategy.

The context of the Conference was to consider soil as an essential part of the ecological system on which our society is dependent. Soil policy is therefore one of the key elements of environmental policy in the context of sustainable development. The focus of the Conference was on ways to improve the protection, management and sustainable use of the soil and the role that the European Union could play in this respect. The Conference was organized into Plenary Sessions (with the intervention for example of Mrs. Catherine Day, General Director of DG Environment) and Parallel Sessions, including: 1) Erosion, soil structure, compaction, sealing, land consumption; 2) Objectives and principles of soil policy; 3) Contamination; 4) Research; 5) Soil as an asset; 6) Biowaste and sludge; and 7) Integration of soil into EU-policy and Monitoring.

I was invited to make a presentation in the Parallel Session dedicated to Research. My paper was entitled: "Facing the new step of EU Soil Thematic Strategy with better linkages between soil associations on soil research and on public sensibilization". Per Schjonning (Member of ESSC Executive Committee) was also invited as a Danish representative. My talk included a brief presentation of the ESSC, some considerations on the way forward on soil protection research and two specific proposals: one was to propose the elaboration of a New European Soil Charter (of only one-page extent) to update the old ones by incorporating, short and clear messages and new aspects and paradigms in soil. These aspects include soil as a multifunctional body, soil as a crucial link between the most important environmental problems of today (global warming trends, biodiversity loss, desertification,...), soil as a water cycle regulator, soil and landscape... The second proposal was to launch a European Soil Platform to include all European scientific societies, confederations, associations... related to soil and to soil problems, in order to reinforce the links between them, and to function as a common forum with a strong voice to substantially contribute to the EU soil Thematic Strategy. These proposals were positively discussed, but they were not included in the final conclusions of the Conference.

The summary of the Conference was:

- With the aim of giving guidance on which steps to take towards a European soil strategy, approximately 120 representatives of the EU Member States and Commission, as well as invited experts and stakeholders, met on 18 – 19 November 2004 in The Hague (Kurhaus, Scheveningen) for a conference organized by the Dutch Presidency and the European Commission.
- The 2002 Commission communication “Towards a European Soil Strategy” formed the basis for the discussions, together with the conclusions of Council, European Parliament and several Committees. Reports and recommendations of the five technical working groups and the considerations of the expert advisory forum on soil established by the Commission in 2003 provided valuable material on which the Conference could draw.
- Building on this work, the Conference placed emphasis on the next phase, including the thematic strategy itself.
- During the Conference the European Manifesto on Earth Heritage and Geodiversity was presented by 11 European and International organizations. They call on the Member states and the EU to study, value and protect Europe’s rich geodiversity and earth heritage and to incorporate it in policy, planning and related procedures.
- In preparation for the conference, a questionnaire was sent to the Member States. The replies show that the priority threats identified in 2002 (contamination, erosion, loss of organic matter and biodiversity and sealing) still merit the highest attention. Furthermore, the member states consider a clear description of objectives and principles of soil protection and management as important elements of the soil strategy.
- The Conference took note of the reflections of the Commission representative with regard to the presentation of the thematic strategy and the various possibilities of its form including a framework.

Main Conference Output

- EU soil policy should build on the agreed principles of European environmental and health policies and the principles of sustainable development and should be developed with transparent and inclusive approaches to assessments, planning and decision-making.
- Soil is an asset and, although the benefits of its sustainable use have not yet been fully quantified, the costs of degradation, while significant at the on-site level, are very much more substantial in terms of off-site effects. Climate change, globalization, food security, urbanization and the changing age structure of the rural population are all significant issues with regard to soil degradation and protection.
- In line with the EC Treaty and the future Constitution, soil protection requirements must be integrated into all relevant EU policies, with priority given to the internal market policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) notably through the

use of cross-compliance introduced in the 2003 CAP reform, and to land use and spatial planning policies implemented by the Member States.

- However, soil also needs a policy framework to prevent any dissipation of its protective role and the need to protect it and its functions for future generations. Participants suggested that an EU soil protection policy be established which would require appropriate action at local, regional, national and EU level and clarification of rights and obligations on land owners and soil users. The policy framework should be established with long term objectives and a planned approach with due respect for subsidiarity. This framework approach can lead to greater ambition for protection and greater focus for the integration challenge.

Working in groups the participants dealt with the following issues:

- Research can usefully be structured around driving forces, pressures, (soil) status, impacts and (policy) responses, requiring different approaches and disciplines at the various stages. With a strategic research agenda in place, there is now a need for an action plan with priorities and the allocation of funds (national and EU), notably in the future 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7). In this view, the brochure 'Scientific basis for the management of European soil resources' will be sent to Member States for comment.
- Soil erosion, a multi-faceted phenomenon with various dynamics in the different regions of the EU, requires responses the use of cross-compliance in agriculture and with objectives established through the framework policy approaches.
- Soil organic matter content is a key indicator of soil health. Priority should be placed on setting incentives and stimulating farmers to adopt management practices for optimum levels of soil organic matter. The participants noted the interlinkages between bio-diversity, erosion and soil organic matter with the consequence that damage will coincide and the benefits of policy measures may be multiple.
- Experience with existing legislation relating to contaminated soils identifies a need for a more intensive exchange of knowledge and good practice, and for building the further development of policy on such experience. Here, the policy framework clarifying the rights and obligations on land owners and soil users together with the long and short term goals could also include a platform or forum to monitor and manage progress within the policy framework.
- In order to ensure the benefits of the exogenous organic matter and guarantee the protection of the soil the importance of a revision of the Sewage Sludge Directive and the introduction of biowaste legislation were stressed. The Commission is encouraged to present draft legislation on both issues. Standards for compost should address all relevant issues. Separate collection should be promoted.
- The monitoring system has to be policy relevant, address the eight threats, be cost-effective and make use as far as possible of existing instruments and schemes, for instance CORINE and LUCAS. Remote sensing and new legislation (e.g. INSPIRE) have an important role to play. Monitoring should be developed

in a step-by-step approach, addressing issues of comparability and harmonization and should focus on risk areas. Use should be made of indicators and instruments in place for other linked media.

- The conference recognized the need for developing awareness for soil protection and considered the focal point of national soil directors as necessary to increase this awareness both in public and policy terms.

There is a great expectation on how the EU Soil Strategy will develop in the next period. In my opinion there is a clear need for an important step ahead coming from: the new EU Commission, the responsible officers of the Soil Strategy and from the EU states members. The European scientific community (like ESSC) is ready and willing to contribute, however it is clear that now we rely on political goodwill and on straightforward decisions from them.

José L.Rubio, ESSC President

Book Announcement

SUSANNE SCHNABEL and ALFREDO FERREIRA (Eds.) (2004): **Sustainability of Agrosilvopastoral Systems**. Advances in GeoEcology, 37, Catena Verlag, Reiskirchen, Germany, 389 pp. (ISBN 3-923381-50-6).

The book contains selected papers presented during the Symposium "Sustainability of Dehesas, Montados and other Agrosilvopastoral Systems", held in Cáceres, Spain, between September 21 – 24, 2003. The Symposium was sponsored by the European Society for Soil Conservation and the Commission of Land Degradation and Desertification of the International Geographical Union.

Agrosilvopastoral systems are widespread in the Mediterranean but are also found in other areas of the world having similar climatic conditions. In the southern and western part of the Iberian Peninsula these land use systems have existed for many centuries, and are commonly formed by open evergreen oak woodlands, covering approximately 4 million hectares. These areas are referred to as the montados and dehesas of Portugal and Spain, which traditionally are exploited by multiple land use, including livestock breeding, forestry and cultivation. The importance of these areas rests on both environmental as well as socio-economic values. They support an outstanding diversity of wildlife, form unique landscapes, are the source of high-quality food derived from animal production, sustain rural populations and constitute an important basis for the growing demand of rural leisure and tourism. However, these areas have undergone rapid changes during the second half of the 20th century, shifting from traditional farming systems with very low external energy inputs to more simplified systems causing decreasing diversity of land use and inadequate management techniques. Land degradation is recognized as a significant problem in many of the dehesas and montados, including the lack of tree regeneration, which threatens the future of the woodlands as well as soil erosion, soil degradation and increased runoff production. A common feature is the coexistence of extensification and intensification, causing different problems of degradation. For example, headage payments led to an unchecked increase in animal numbers, thus increasing the risk of soil and pasture degradation. On the other hand, abandonment of livestock breeding produced vegetation changes, leading to shrub encroachment, and an increased risk of wildfires.

The book addresses both academics and practitioners interested in land degradation and conservation of areas with agrosilvopastoral land use in Mediterranean environments or other semi-arid areas with strong seasonal contrasts. The volume is organized in six sections. General aspects of agrosilvopastoral systems in the Mediterranean basin are presented in Section 1. The contribution by Papanastasis describes the variety of land uses found in these systems, subject to recent changes and their effect on vegetation degradation. The role of grazing is analysed by Enne et al. and Campos-Palacín presents reflections on the sustainable economics of agroforestry systems. Two case studies on land use and land cover changes in dehesas close this section.

Section two is dedicated to economic and social aspects of agrosilvopastoral systems. In the third section studies on soil water dynamics and soil degradation are presented, including a modelling approach for analysing stability in grazing systems. Chapter four examines the linkages between livestock and vegetation, and Chapter five presents several studies on tree cover and forest use. The final section is dedicated to the sustainability and management of agrosilvopastoral systems, including studies from the Mediterranean basin as well as from Mediterranean California.

Book Reviews

HILLEL, D. 2005: **Encyclopedia of Soil in the Environment**. Elsevier, Oxford, UK, Volume 1 – 4, 2119 pp (ISBN 0-12-348530-4 set)

The four volumes of this book are published under DANIEL HILLEL from Columbia University, New York, USA as Editor-in-Chief and JERRY L. MATFIELD (USA), DAVID S. POWLSON (UK), CYNTHIA ROSENZWEIG (USA), KATE M. SCOW (USA), MICHAEL J. SINGER (USA) and DONALD L. SPARKS (USA) as Editors. Many other authors have contributed to the contents of the Book.

In the Foreword by Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University (New York) is presented: "The Encyclopedia brings together a remarkable range of cutting-edge scientific knowledge on all aspects of soil science as well as the links of soils and soil science to environmental management, food production, biodiversity, climate change and many other areas of significant concern. Even more than that, the Encyclopedia will immediately become an indispensable resource for policy makers, analysts and students who are focusing on one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century".

The first contact with this excellent book was very impressive for me. In alphabetical order it is possible to find here many articles that deal with various aspects of a topic and are arranged in logical sequence within an entry. On the opening page of an entry a contents list is provided so that the full details of the articles. Alternatively, you can choose to browse through a volume using the alphabetical order of the entries as your guide.

All of the articles in the Encyclopedia have been extensively cross-referenced. The cross references appear at the end of articles under 'see also'. The Contents of the Encyclopedia is focused on very present and very frequent questions. Many definitions are published here. Newest theoretical backgrounds are presented to each subject of the problem including conclusions and good practice against and/or in favour of many critical items published in the Encyclopedia. General schemes, pictures and maps are in the books. Simply, the Encyclopedia is a very helpful and useful scientific document for many users and all interested persons.

Professor Dr Pavol Bielek

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The Book builds on the success of the two previous successful editions. These have long been the mainstay for students of soil erosion and conservation. The Book states, "a thorough understanding of the processes of erosion and their controlling factors is a prerequisite for designing erosion control measures on a sound scientific basis wherever they are needed. The aim of producing a text with a global perspective on research and practice is also retained" (page ix). The book does admirably achieve its mission and is written in a clear and comprehensible style.

Edition 3 has been extensively updated and includes currently developing paradigms, such as tillage erosion and carbon sequestration. At the end of Chapters there is a useful 'issue box', discussing in detail a particular aspect of soil erosion and conservation. Furthermore, there is more emphasis on the socio-economic, legislative and political dimensions to soil conservation and administrative and legal instruments for their implementation. A good example of this is the section devoted to the Australian Landcare system.

The Book consists of the following 12 Chapters. The contents of 'boxes' are indicated in parentheses:

1. Soil erosion: the global context. (Erosion, population and food supply).
2. Processes and mechanics of erosion. (Initiation of soil particle movement).
3. Factors influencing erosion. (Scale and erosion processes).
4. Erosion hazard assessment. (Upscaling detailed field surveys to national scales).
5. Measurement of soil erosion. (Sediment budgets).
6. Modelling soil erosion. (Uncertainty in model predictions).
7. Strategies for erosion control. (Planning a soil conservation strategy).
8. Crop and vegetation management. (Selecting vegetation for erosion control).
9. Soil management. (Tillage erosion).
10. Mechanical methods of erosion control. (Laying out terraces and waterways).
11. Implementation. (Land care).
12. The way ahead.

As with previous Editions, the Book has a particularly strong focus on soil erosion modelling and predictive equations and is richly illustrated, with 71 Figures and 52 Tables. However, perhaps surprisingly, there are no photographs. The Book includes a wealth of 950 references, which offers readers pathways to further and more advanced reading. This Edition will further confirm the position of the Book as the main information source for students and researchers concerned with soil erosion and conservation.

Mike Fullen, The University of Wolverhampton, UK

The World Association for Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC) 'Webshots' web site.

This web site offers access to a comprehensive archive of nearly 3000 soil related digital photographs. As such, it is a very valuable resource for both teaching and research. The site is curated from Bangkok, Thailand, by Dr Samran Sombatpanit, Immediate Past President of the WASWC. A review of the site is presented below by Professor Ion Ionita (Lasi University, Romania). The site is at:

<http://community.webshots.com/user/waswc>

Members are encouraged to e-mail digital photographs of relevance to soil issues, with sufficient captions, to Dr Sombatpanit at:

sombatpanit@yahoo.com

The authorship of all presented photographs will be fully acknowledged. You may also win a prize (a book from the Science Publishers Inc. USA – <http://www.scipub.net>) if your photograph wins the competition, which is held every three months.

Review of the 'World Association of Soil and Water Conservation' photo web site

The 'World Association of Soil and Water Conservation' photo web site comprises about 3,000 images from all over the world. I do not know who had this excellent idea of gathering these photos, but he or she deserves our congratulations!

Based on this coloured world atlas, I would just say what a small, diverse and wonderful world we have. I found it very interesting, even it is not an easy job to handle such a deluge of pictures. Every spot subjected to land degradation, land reclamation and conservation practices has its beauty and all you have to do is to find it and see it.

The main advantage of this site consists in connecting people and making them aware that soil and water conservation must be considered a world priority and concern; no matter what the political system. The site meets multiple needs and it is useful in assessing natural resources, in approaching new research studies, in teaching, education, design, implementing soil and water conservation, in extension service, choosing the best management practices and policies.

The site contains almost 90 links and has some quite outstanding, or rather, breath- taking photos! I certainly did not see any major mistakes. However, due to the photo avalanche, it looks like a new structure of better-defined links would be welcome. Moreover, when addressing the new links, it would be appropriate to distinguish between the photo hunters and professionals. I mean between a 'tourist' and a person deeply involved in monitoring land degradation or in implementing conservation practices. Also, of value would be to include more common people truly dedicated to this noble activity.

If possible, more attention is required to the captions. For example, since animals tend to move almost on the contour, I do not think that the severe land degradation illustrated in the excellent photo 245497303 resulted from trampling by animals. There is no sign of conservation tillage when looking at intercropping onions between paprika on slopes in Serbia! Also, instead of 'crop rotation near Belgrade' (photo 191931037), I would rather say 'up-and-down hill farming'. A little bit broader presentation of most images on the site is desirable.

Therefore, I was pleased and happy to have reviewed the 'World Association of Soil and Water Conservation' photo web site. I should be delighted to learn later that the team associated with the building of this photo web site succeeded in maintaining it at the same high level. Finally, an ESSC photo album would be welcome. This could be a complimentary and not a competing site.

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Recent Publications by ESSC Members

It is intended to include citation details of papers and books produced by ESSC members. This should provide a growing resource for exchange of information of value both to research and teaching. The citation list will be added to the web site. A cumulative list will also be developed and this will be added to the web site. Please e-mail the citation details of papers in international refereed journals since and including the year 2000 to any member of the Editorial team. To start the process, we invited the Leuven team to send the citation details of papers published from 2004.

PAPERS

AUZET, V., POESEN, J. and VALENTIN, C. 2004: **Soil Surface characteristics: dynamics and impact on soil erosion.** Earth Surface Processes and Landforms 29(9), 1063-1169.

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RUYSCHAERT, G., POESEN, J., VERSTRAETEN, G. and GOVERS, G. 2004: **Soil loss due to crop harvesting: significance and determining factors.** Progress in Physical Geography 28(4), 467-501.

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As is usual practice after an ESSC Congress, we are publishing the full membership details. These details are also held on the ESSC web site. Under 'members' you can get a full listing. Also under 'members' you can click on any member country and find a listing of members in the selected country.

We will keep the membership list on the web site up-to-date. Please check your details and let us know if there are any necessary correction(s). If your details change, also please let us know. Please send updated information to Zuzana Tekelová at:

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Forthcoming Dates for Your Diary

Dear colleague,

I am pleased to announce that the **'5th International Congress of the EUROPEAN SOCIETY for SOIL CONSERVATION'** will be held in Palermo (Italy), June, 25 – 30, 2007.

The general subject of the congress will be: "Changing Soils in a Changing World: the Soils of Tomorrow".

The objective is to promote exchange and discussion about the problems that affect the soils due to the pressure of Man on Soils and the Landscape, that year after year is becoming increasingly evident and to stimulate soil awareness in civil society.

The Congress is open for soil scientists, educators and policymakers. It will consist of invited lectures, scientific sessions with oral and poster presentations and field excursions and will attempt to advocate interest in soil awareness at all societal levels.

The main topics of the Congress are indicated below. However, we welcome suggestions from the prospective participants that may be of general interest:

- Soil erosion;
- Soil contamination;
- Soil sealing;
- Soil compactation;
- Soil biodiversity;
- Soil salinization;
- Soil consumption;
- Soil policy;
- Anthropogenic soils.

The Congress will take place in Palermo, at the University Campus. Palermo, whose history dates back to the Phoenicians, is located on the north coast of the region of Sicily and is one of the main cities of Italy. It has a beautiful beach area (Mondello) and can be reached by air, rail and bus from the major cities of Europe. The region has a Mediterranean climate with hot and dry summers and mild and rainy winters and shows many unique historical and tourist attractions with artistic and natural beauties. As a result of these, Sicily receives many tourists.

Take note that A WEB PAGE WITH THE FIRST CIRCULAR AND ALL THE INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONGRESS is being circulated.

In the meantime all correspondence should be sent to:

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We look forward to seeing you in Palermo!

Professor Carmelo Dazzi
ESSC Vice-President

(COST 634 meeting) 5th to 7th June 2005

Maison de l'Université, Mont Saint Aignan, France

Objectives and scope

Runoff and soil erosion are among the major environmental threats related to agricultural land use in Europe. Whereas the off-site damages of soil erosion are often effective at the catchment scale, the actual soil erosion risk is determined by decisions on agricultural management practices taken at the farm scale. Therefore, farm scale management plays a key role in combating soil erosion through implementation of good management practices. Nevertheless, soil protection and conservation measures on agricultural lands have to fit within the farm organization, which involves the simultaneous consideration of various technical, social, economic and environmental concerns. Within this framework, the meeting is organized in the following way: The first day of the meeting is a plenary session on 'Sustainable Farm-Scale Management'. Keynotes papers and some contributions on "Conservation strategies crossing farm and catchment scales: policy, perception and management" will focus on some of these items:

- Technical, economical and sociological evaluations of damage at farm and catchment scales.
- Technical, economical and sociological assessments of the possibilities to implement "best" agricultural practices.
- Implementation of solutions at farm and catchment scales: How farmers can do it? What pushes farmers to reduce water erosion?
- Know-how exchanges and learning processes.
- Advising organizations.

The second day will be devoted to two parallel plenary sessions in the morning. The objective of the first parallel plenary session, organized by WG1 is to review from keynote and contributions, the implication of a new European soil strategy for erosion and conservation policy. The second session organized by WG3 will focus on off-site impacts of sediment or pollutants in small or medium catchments (up to 100 km). In the afternoon, times will be devoted to a short plenary session on phosphorus issues and general group discussions at the last meeting in Bratislava.

A field trip near Saint Valéry en Caux will be organized on the third day to meet some local actors (i.e. farmers, chairman of local community watershed federation, agricultural technicians, policy makers). It will be also possible to see some experimentation at the farm scale.

Programme Deadlines

Abstract submission: March 15, 2005

Notification of acceptance of proposal: April 30, 2005

2nd announcement with detailed information: April 30, 2005

Registration fee: May 15, 2005

Registration

The registration fee includes meals (ice-breaker reception, lunch and two refreshment breaks per day during the two first day and lunch and dinner on the 3rd day) as well as a notebook, a book of abstracts and a pen. The registration fee is:

€170 for ordinary participants before May 15, 2005

€150 for ESSC or AFES members before May 15, 2005

€100 for Ph.D. Students before May 15, 2005

€200 for all participants after May 15, 2005

€300 for all participants if payment is made during the meeting.

Further information, please contact:

Véronique Souchère – Tel.: 00 33 1 30 81 59 66 Fax: 00 33 1 30 81 59 39,

E-mail: souchere@grignon.inra.fr.

The following web-site contains updated information:

<http://www.soilerosion.net/cost634/>

Under the auspices of:

The High Commissioner for Water, Forestry and Desertification Control

**The Moroccan Network of Soil and Water Conservation
The Moroccan Association of Soil Sciences
The Moroccan Association of Geomorphology**

Organize

**The 14th Conference of ISCO
INTERNATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION ORGANISATION**

MARRAKECH

14th to 19th May 2006

In partnership with

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries;
The Secretariat of State in Charge of Water;
The Secretariat of State in Charge of the Environment;
The National School of Forestry Engineers, Salé;
Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Sciences, Rabat;
The National School of Agriculture, Meknès;
The National Institute for Agronomic Research, Rabat;
The UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development, Mohamed V University, Rabat;
Faculty of Sciences Semlalia, Marrakech
Faculty of Sciences and Techniques, Marrakech
The Cadi Ayad University, Marrakech.

Information

The Organizing Committee of the 14th Conference of the International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO) takes great pleasure to invite you to participate in ISCO 2006, which will take place in Marrakech, Morocco, on May 14 – 19, 2006.

This conference will be a common forum throughout the world for experts in various disciplines related to sustainable management of soil and water, particularly in semi-arid environments. Researchers, professors, developers, decision-makers and stakeholders representing public and private institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will meet to exchange their experience and ideas on soil and water conservation and sustainable development.

The “sustainable management of soil and water in semi-arid environments” subject matter of the conference engenders many challenges in terms of sustainable management of natural resources for the planet and adequate food production for a perpetually growing population. The substantial disturbance of natural habitats, which occurred during the 20th Century, reveals the extent of the challenge humanity will face during the new millennium.

Research works, development actions and collaborative activities in relation to sustainable management of soil and water in semi-arid environment will come upon a common ambition to share experiences and thoughts during one week in Marrakech.

We count on you and on your active participation in the 14th ISCO Conference. We hope to see you in Marrakech, Morocco, in May 2006.

The Organizing Committee of ISCO 2006.

SUGGESTED TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE:

Topic 1 Water Management in a semi-arid environment:

- ✎ Quantification and modelling of the hydrological balance: estimation of resources in a semi-arid environment;
- ✎ New technologies for water use rationalization;
- ✎ Traditional strategies for water management and future evolution;
- ✎ Harvesting and management of runoff waters in semi-arid and arid areas;
- ✎ Effectiveness of water storage.

Topic 2 Desertification

- ✎ Factors and processes of desertification;
- ✎ Consequences of desertification;
- ✎ Control of desertification.

Topic 3 Agro-pastoral transformations and land degradation:

- ✎ Changes in soil cover and land use and their effects;
- ✎ Land use and hydrological soil behaviour.

Topic 4 Indicators, measurements and modelling of the various erosion processes in semi-arid environments:

- ✎ Measurement techniques of erosion;
- ✎ Modelling of the ground and soil fertility losses;
- ✎ Follow-up of the processes and the impacts.

Topic 5 Specific erosion processes and anti-erosion control:

- ✎ Ravine erosion and stabilization of the ravines and wadis;
- ✎ Mass movements in semi-arid mountains and watershed stabilization;
- ✎ Wind erosion, sanding and desertification;

Topic 6 Management, preservation and rehabilitation of soils:

- ✎ Rehabilitation of degraded soils;
- ✎ Organic and mineral fertilization;
- ✎ Farming techniques and land productivity;
- ✎ Agroforestry and rehabilitation of soils.

Topic 7 Economic evaluation of land degradation, efficiency and cost of anti-erosive structures:

- ✎ Socio-economic repercussions of land degradation;
- ✎ Evaluation of the LAE techniques, cost/efficiency.

Topic 8 Environmental effects of soil degradation:

- ✎ Safeguarding of resources, landscapes and biodiversity;
- ✎ Safeguarding of water quality;
- ✎ Erosion and silting of storage dams;
- ✎ Relationship between soil erosion and global changes;
- ✎ Desertification.

Topic 9 Institutional, legislative and socio-economic aspects of soil and water conservation:

- ↳ Institutional organization of water and soil conservation;
- ↳ Social, economic and legal problems of soil and water conservation;
- ↳ Management and farming systems and soil and water conservation;
- ↳ Watershed agencies and upstream-downstream solidarity;
- ↳ Training, research and the GCES.

SCIENTIFIC COMITEE

M. SABIR & M. QARRO, ENFI, Morocco; M. BADRAOUI & F. BENCHAKROUN, IAV Hassan II, Morocco; R. BOUABID, ENA Meknès, Morocco; A. LAQUINA, Université Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco; R. MRABET, INRA, Morocco; Ouafae CHERIFI, Un Cady Ayad, Marrakech, Morocco; J. ALBERGEL & G. DENONI, IRD, Montpellier, France; J. Dumanski, President and CEO, Canada; S.A. EL-SWAIFY, ISCO Board of Directors, University of Hawaii, USA; J.L. RUBIO, ISCO Board of Directors, Spain, President of ESSC; E. ROOSE, Réseau Erosion et GCES, AUF, France; M.A. NEARING, ISCO Board of Directors, Purdue University, USA; M. GRUNDY, ISCO Board of Directors, Australia; Bob STEWART, ISCO Board of Directors, USA; H. HURNI, ISCO Board of Directors, Switzerland; He WENYUAN, ISCO Board of Directors, P.R. China; R. CASAS, ISCO Board of Directors, Argentina; M.G. COOK, ISCO Board of Directors, USA; S.C.F. DECHEN, ISCO Board of Directors, Brazil, IUSS; F. HOLZWARTH, ISCO Board of Directors, Germany; I. Pla SENTIS, ISCO Board of Directors, Spain; E. REINZI, ISCO Board of Directors, Argentina; D.W. SANDERS, ISCO Board of Directors, UK. WASWC; Max SCHNEPF, ISCO Board of Directors, USA USDA, NRCS; S. SOMBATPANIT, ISCO Board of Directors, Thailand, WASWC; K.G. TEJWANI, Board of Directors, India.

LANGUAGE: The language during the conference will be either English or French.

KEY DATES:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| – Date for receipt of the intention to participate: | February 28, 2005, |
| – Deadline for receipt of abstracts and registration bulletin: | June 30, 2005, |
| – Notice of acceptance of abstracts: | September 30, 2005, |
| – Deadline for registration at reduced fee: | November 30, 2005, |
| – Deadline for receipt of accepted articles: | December 31, 2005, |
| – Publication of preliminary programme: | February 28, 2006. |

REGISTRATION FEES:

- Northern countries:
 - Early registration: € 455
 - Late registration: € 545
- Southern countries: € 270
- Northern country students: € 200
- Southern country students: € 100

The fees cover:

- Welcome cocktail,
- Conference proceedings (Abstracts of papers),
- Proceedings on CD-Rom medium,
- Access to different sessions of the conference,
- Four lunches (on site buffet),
- Coffee breaks,
- Mid-conference excursion (bus, meal, documentation),
- Translation (English/French/English).

The payment terms and conditions will be specified afterwards.

EXCURSIONS:

- A mid-conference excursion, included in the programme will be arranged on May 17, 2006. This excursion will address aspects related to water, soil fertility, and watershed management and desertification in semi-arid environments.
- Ante and post-conference excursions, payable by the participants will be organized during May 8 – 12 and May 22 – 26, 2006. The ante-conference excursion (Marrakech-Taroudant-Agadir-Massa through Tizi N'Test) will tackle the conservation of nature in the High Atlas and Souss regions. The post-conference excursion (Marrakech-Ouarzazate-Zagora-Mhamid through Tizi N'Tichka) will concentrate on water management and desertification in arid environments (valleys of southern flanks of the High Atlas).

ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORTING THE ISCO 2006 (temporary list):

Réseau Erosion et GCES, AUF, Paris;
European Society for Soil Conservation, ESSC;

CONTACT ADDRESS:

The organizing committee: isco2006@wanadoo.net.ma;
Phone and Fax: 00 212 37861149;

Information about Marrakech: cherifi@ucam.ac.ma
Web site: <http://enaweb.enameknes.ac.ma/~isco-06/>

Second Announcement

Dear colleagues,

I would like to inform you about the preparation of the special session on Soil Water Erosion on Rural Areas within the Second General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU), to be held in Vienna, Austria, from April 25 – 29, 2005. More information in: <http://www.copernicus.org/EGU/>

The session will be convened by ARTEMI CERDÀ artemio.cerda@uv.es, ANTON IMESON a.c.imeson@science.uva.nl and JEAN POESEN Jean.Poesen@geo.kuleuven.ac.be. Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Rural areas worldwide are affected by land use changes. Deforestation, wildfire, overgrazing, agriculture with intense ploughing and chemicals, road and railways construction, urbanization, climate change and global change are threatening soil quality and functioning in developed and underdeveloped countries.

Soil is the most fundamental resource we have due to its interaction with:

- (i) adequate food supply,
- (ii) water resources,
- (iii) carbon sequestration,
- (iv) natural vegetation and fauna depend on productive land.

Water erosion of soil is threatening natural and cultural environments. The session on 'Soil Erosion in Rural Areas' (SERA) will discuss topics on soil degradation, past and present erosion processes, experimental and laboratory studies, assessment, prediction and conservation policies of soil erosion. All papers on any aspects of soil erosion research on rural areas are welcome.

Please inform other colleagues of the Soil Water Erosion in Rural Areas (SERA) session.

Sincerely,

Artemi Cerdà, Departament de Geografia, Universitat de València, Blasco Ibáñez, 28,
46010-Valencia artemio.cerda@uv.es

Jean Poesen, Laboratory for Experimental Geomorphology, Redingenstraat 16,
3000 Leuven, Belgium Jean.Poesen@geo.kuleuven.ac.be

Anton Imeson, Universiteit van Amsterdam. IBED, Nieuwe Achtergracht 166,
1018 WV Amsterdam, The Netherlands a.c.imeson@science.uva.nl

More information:

http://www.cosis.net/members/meetings/programme/view.php?p_id=120
http://www.copernicus.org/EGU/ga/egu05/abstract_submission.htm

Second Announcement

ECOSUD 2005 Fifth International Conference on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development, 3 – 5 May 2005, Cadiz, Spain

Introduction

ECOSUD 2005 is the Fifth International Conference in the well-established series on Ecosystems and Sustainable Development. The meetings provide a unique forum for the presentation and discussion of recent work on aspects of ecosystems and sustainable development, including physical aspects and modelling. The aim of the Conference is to encourage and facilitate the interdisciplinary communication between scientists, engineers, economists and professionals working in ecological systems and sustainable development. Emphasis will be given to those areas that will most benefit from the application of scientific methods for sustainable development, including the conservation of natural systems around the world.

The Conference objectives have evolved over the years, seeking to integrate thermodynamics, ecology and economics into “ecodynamics”.

This successful series first started in Peniscola, Spain (1997); and continued in Lemnos, Greece (1999); Alicante, Spain (2001) and Siena, Italy (2003).

Who should attend

ECOSUD 2005 will be of interest to scientists, engineers, economists and professionals, working in the areas of ecological systems and sustainable development.

Benefits of attending

- Keep up-to-date on the latest advances in the field.
- Present your research within a unique forum.
- Collaborate with experts from around the world.
- Your conference paper will be reviewed by members of the International Scientific Committee and other colleagues, and once selected, will be rapidly published in book form by WIT Press.
- Your paper will also be permanently archived in the Transactions of the Wessex Institute on our eLibrary site, where it will be available to the international scientific community.

Location

Cadiz was founded by the Phoenicians approximately 1,100 years BC, and holds the distinction of being the oldest city in Europe. Cadiz is surrounded by the sea on three sides and is only accessible by the “Puerta de Tierra,” a strip of land that was constructed in 1755 by Torcuato Cayon. Due to the rich history of Cadiz, the monuments, buildings and museums are full of stories and depictions of the past. The old central quarters are famous for their picturesque charm, and many of the buildings reflect the city’s overseas links.

Accommodation

Special accommodation rates have been negotiated at the Parador Hotel Atlantico on behalf of our delegates. You should make your reservation as soon as possible in order to benefit from these rates.

Conference Venue

The Parador “Hotel Atlantico” is a modern complex next to the Genoves Park. It is situated by the sea with impressive views of the bay of Cadiz. Located in a residential area surrounded by palm trees, it has exclusive access to a small beach. It is also a good starting point to discover the entire province (White Villages Route, Toro Route, Wine Route, etc), plus the small villages of Cadiz. Boat trips and excursions are available as well as indoor entertainment such as games, live music and hotel restaurant. Further details of special accommodation rates for our delegates will be announced closer to the time of the conference.

Registration and conference Fees

Click <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/eco05/index.html>

Soil Conservation Issues in Nordic Countries

May 24 – 28, 2005

at the Estonian Agricultural University, Tartu, Estonia

Organizers

- Executive Committee, European Society of Soil Conservation (ESSC)
- Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry, Estonian Agricultural University (EAU), Tartu
- Institute of Geography, University of Tartu (UT), Estonia

Objectives, scope, expected outcome

- **Rationale:** constraints and degradation features of soil cover, being characteristic (specific) to rural areas of Nordic regions; concepts and socio-economic aspects of soil protection policy; different ways (measures, scenarios) for implementation of soil conservation in Nordic countries
- **Modes of work:** offered presentations, volunteer posters, joint discussions and field trips together with participants of the Landscape Tomorrow Workshop
- **Result (outcome):** Publication of offered papers on soil conservation in scientific journals; joint abstract book on the themes of soil conservation and multifunctional land use.

The conference on soil conservation precedes directly to one of the workshops of series Landscape Tomorrow European Research Network (LTERN). The succeeding workshop is entitled Multifunctional land use – Meeting future demands for good and services of the rural environment, dealing with theory, concepts and implementation of multifunctional land use.

Joint discussion areas are: sustainable or pedoecologically sound use of soils; matching soil cover with plant cover or soilscape with landscape; multifunctional land use peculiarities of Nordic rural areas; discourses during the field trip upon soil cover role in formation of landscape multifunctionality.

For further information on the ESSC Conference (and its Council meeting) see: <http://www.essc.sk>.

Themes planned for the workshop:

1. Theoretical concepts of soil conservation relevant in Nordic regions (soil quality; soil degradation types; soil constraints; environment protection ability of soils and its evaluation; multifunctional land use; soil conservation strategy according to regionally specific conditions).
2. Soil policy and socio-economic aspects of soil conservation (thematic strategy for soil protection; rural development and soil status; perspectives of soil policy; planning of land use and development of soil management technology in concordance with local ecologic and socio-economic conditions).
3. Pedoecological aspects and case studies on soil conservation and multifunctional land use (matching pedodiversity with biodiversity and soil cover with plant cover; good agricultural practice; prevention of soil compaction; soil type based land use and landscape planning).

Scientific Committee

José L. Rubio (CIDE, Valencia, Spain)
Katharina Helming (ZALF Müncheberg, Germany)
Ülo Mander (UT, Tartu, Estonia)
Raimo Kõlli (EAU, Tartu, Estonia).

Programme

Wednesday, May 25

Morning:

Arrival and Registration

Afternoon

(14⁰⁰)

Opening ESSC Workshop on soil conservation

Afternoon session 1

Theoretical concepts of soil conservation in Nordic regions

Four oral presentations planned

(20 min. each)

Coffee break 30 minutes

Afternoon session 2

Soil policy and socio-economic aspects of soil conservation

Four oral presentations planned

(20 min. each)

Break

Evening:

ESSC Council Meeting

(2 hours)

Dinner

Thursday, May 26

Morning session 3

Pedoeological aspects and case studies (advanced experiments) on soil conservation and multifunctional land use of Nordic rural areas

Four oral presentations planned

(20 min. each)

Break for lunch

Afternoon – field trip

Field trip together with participants of the Multifunctional land use workshop – Meeting future demands for goods and services of the rural environment of Southern Estonia.

Friday, May 27

Beginning of the LTERN Workshop (sessions 4, 5 and 6; for details see programme)

Morning session 4

Theory and concepts of multifunctional land use

Afternoon session 5

Implementation of multifunctional land use

Evening

Conference Dinner (organized jointly for participants of ESSC and LTERN workshops).

Saturday, May 28

Morning session 6

Case studies for implementation of multifunctional land use

Afternoon session 7

Plenary Discussion

- Reporting back of session discussions (both themes – multifunctional land use and soil conservation).
- Future research items for multifunctional land use.

Landscape Tomorrow General Assembly

Sunday, May 29

Departure

Publications

It is intended to publish papers of the workshop in a special issue of the journal 'Archives of Agronomy and Soil Science'. Manuscripts will be peer reviewed before considering for this publication.

Registration fees

Registration fees will be sent to account:

Registration fee for ESSC Workshop	€ 100
Registration fee for ESSC and LTERN Workshops together	€ 170

Further Information

Further information on the ESSC Workshop, registration and field trip is available from the Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry, EAU

Address: Faculty of Agronomy, Kreutzwaldi Str. 64, 51014 Tartu,
Tel./fax: 00 372 7 313 539
e-mail: muld@eau.ee; raimo@eau.ee

Pre-registration to the
ESSC AND LANDSCAPE TOMORROW WORKSHOPS

Soil Conservation Issues in Nordic Countries & Multifunctional Land Use

Tartu, Estonia, May 24 – 28, 2005

Family name:

First name: Title:

Institution:

Tel.: Fax:

E-mail:

Address:

Area code: City:

Country:

- ☐ I am interested in attending the soil conservation workshop:
- ☐ I am interested in attending both the soil conservation and multifunctional land use workshops.
- ☐ I intend to give an oral/poster presentation on soil conservation workshop with the preliminary title:

My presentation is related to the topic:

- ☐ Theory and concepts of soil conservation
- ☐ Political and socio-economic aspects soil conservation
- ☐ Case studies of soil conservation in Nordic areas

Date: / / 2005 Signature:

Second Announcement

Sustainable Planning 2005 Second International Conference on Sustainable Planning and Development, 12 – 14 September 2005, Bologna, Italy

Introduction

Following the success of the First International Conference on Sustainable Planning and Development held in Skiathos, Greece in 2003, the decision was made to reconvene the second conference in Bologna from 12 to 14 September 2005.

The Conference will address the subjects of sustainable planning and regional development in an integrated way as well as in accordance with the principles of sustainability. It has become apparent that planners, environmentalists, architects, engineers, policy makers and economists have to work together in order to ensure that planning and development can meet our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations.

In recent years, there has been in many countries, an increase in spatial problems that has lead to planning crises. Planning problems are often connected with uneven development, deterioration of the quality of urban life and destruction of the environment. The increasing urbanization of the world coupled with the global issues of environmental pollution, resources shortage and economic restructuring demand that we make our cities places worth living in. On the other hand, problems of environmental management and planning are not restricted to urban areas. Environments such as rural areas, forests, coastal regions and mountains face their own problems that require urgent solutions in order to avoid irreversible damages. The use of modern technologies in planning, such as geographical information systems and remote sensing, give us new potential to monitor and prevent environmental degradation.

Effective strategies for management should consider planning and regional development, two closely related disciplines, and emphasise the demand to handle these matters in an integrated way. This conference provides a common forum for all scientists, specialising in the range of subjects included within sustainable planning and development.

Who should attend

The conference will be of interest to planners, environmentalists, engineers, architects, ecologists, economists, policy makers and other government officials, researchers and academics involved in the field of sustainability.

Benefits of attending

- Keep up-to-date on the latest advances in the field.
- Present your research within a unique forum.
- Collaborate with experts from around the world.

- Your conference paper will be reviewed by members of the International Scientific Committee and other colleagues, and once selected, will be rapidly published in book form by WIT Press.
- Your paper will also be permanently archived in the Transactions of the Wessex Institute on our eLibrary site, where it will be available to the international scientific community.

Location

Bologna is the capital city of Emilia-Romagna and houses over 400,000 inhabitants. Situated on the South-Eastern side of the Po Valley on the foothills of the Apennines, it is only one hour by train from Florence and two hours by train from Venice. The international airport is approximately 15 minutes from the hotel by car or taxi. Few European cities show such a contrast between picturesque medieval times and busy modern commercial life as vividly as Bologna. Characterised by long porticoes, mediaeval towers, XIII – XVII century palaces, monumental churches and the warm red colour of the brick buildings, this is interspersed with old arcade streets lined with busy shops, modern theatres and office buildings.

Accommodation

Special accommodation rates have been negotiated at the Royal Hotel Carlton on behalf of our delegates. You should make your reservation as soon as possible in order to benefit from these rates.

Conference Venue

The conference is to be held at the Royal Hotel Carlton, located in the historic and commercial centre of Bologna. This superior first class hotel is surrounded by graceful gardens and is in a prime location 100 m from the Central Railway Station and just 5 km from the Bologna International Airport. The hotel boasts rooms with a range of luxury facilities. Further details regarding accommodation booking will be made available closer to the time of the conference.

Registration and conference Fees

Click <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/spd05/index.html>

Second Announcement

SMIA05: 2nd International Congress with Innovation Fair, Sustainable Management in Action (SMIA), 19 – 20 September 2005, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

The Association Sustainable Management in Action (SMIA), Lausanne, and the University Centre of Geneva for Human Ecology and Environmental Sciences (CUEH) are pleased to invite you to attend the 2nd International Congress with Innovation Fair, Sustainable Management in Action (SMIA05). The event will take place from 19 – 20 September 2005 at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

The benefits of sustainable management are becoming increasingly evident: In companies it enhances competitiveness, human capital, innovating capacity and business strategies. In national economies and across the globe it sets up a sustainable framework for economic and social development.

Plenary Sessions

Concepts and strategies in sustainable management: Climate change, corporate governance, dialog with NGO's, co-operation and development networks, market mechanism, sustainability conscious shareholders, regulations, etc.

Tools of sustainable management: Benchmarking, eco-design, eco-efficiency, eco-labels, life cycle assessment, management of biodiversity, risk minimisation, sustainable procurement, sustainable reporting, sustainable management of personnel and of their health, sustainable management systems, etc.

Technological innovations in sustainable management (Clean production, energy- and material efficiency, renewable resources, protection of air and water, noise protection, recycling, etc.) in the various economic fields.

Forum of SME's: Benefits of sustainable management.

Workshops

Sustainable management systems and certification, sustainable management in developing countries, sustainable funds and financing, sustainable energies, innovative environmental technologies, e-innovation (Internet), sustainable SME's, hospitality and tourism sustainability, sustainable marketing.

Registration and conference Fees:

<http://www.smia.info/index.html>

Another reminder for the next issue:

Do not forget to send in your details of the following information:

- (i) Recent grant awards;
- (ii) Newly enrolled Ph.D. research students and the title of their research topic;
- (iii) Recent staff institutional movements/promotions;
- (iv) A reference list of your 'new' international refereed scientific journal papers, which you have recently published.

Send these details to either Dr Mike Fullen (**m.fullen@wlv.ac.uk**) or Dr Colin Booth (**c.booth@wlv.ac.uk**) and they will include this information in the next issue.

NOTES

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The ESSC is an interdisciplinary, non-political association, which is dedicated to investigating and realizing soil conservation in Europe. The ESSC pursues its aims in the scientific, educational and applied sectors by:

Supporting investigations on soil degradation, soil erosion and soil conservation in Europe,

Informing the public about major questions of soil conservation in Europe,

Collaborating with institutions and persons involved in practical conservation work in Europe.

The ESSC aims at co-ordinating the efforts of all parties involved in the above cited subjects: research institutions; teachers and students of geosciences, agriculture and ecology; farmers; agricultural planning and advisory boards; industries and government institutions.

ZWECK DER VEREINIGUNG

Die ESSC ist einer interdisziplinäre, nicht politische Vereinigung. Ihr Ziel ist die Erforschung und Durchführung des Schutzes der Böden in Europa. Die ESSC verfolgt dieses Ziel auf wissenschaftlichem, erzieherischen und angewandtem Gebiet:

durch Unterstützung der Forschung auf den Gebieten der Boden-Degradierung, der Bodenerosion und des Bodenschutzes in Europa,

durch Information der Öffentlichkeit über wichtige Fragen des Bodenschutzes in Europa,

durch Zusammenarbeit mit Institutionen und Personen, die an der Praxis des Bodenschutzes in Europa beteiligt sind.

Die ESSC will alle Personen und Institutionen zusammenführen, die sich für die genannten Ziele einsetzen: Forschungsinstitutionen, Lehrer und Studenten der Geowissenschaften, der Landwirtschaftswissenschaften und der Ökologie, Bauern, landwirtschaftliche Planungs- und Beratungsstellen, Industrieunternehmen und Einrichtungen der öffentlichen Hand.

BUTS DE L'ASSOCIATION

L'ESSC est une association interdisciplinaire et non politique. Le but de l'association est la recherche et les réalisations concernant la conservation du sol en Europe. L'ESSC poursuit cette finalité dans les domaines de la recherche scientifique, de l'éducation et de l'application:

en encourageant la recherche sur la dégradation, l'érosion et la conservation du sol en Europe,

en informant le public des problèmes majeurs de la conservation du sol en Europe,

par la collaboration avec des institutions et des personnes impliquées dans la pratique de la conservation du sol en Europe.

L'ESSC souhaite favoriser la collaboration de toutes les personnes et institutions poursuivant les buts définis cidessus, en particulier: institutions de recherche, professeurs et étudiants en géosciences, des agriculteurs, des institutions de planification et des conseil agricole, de l'industrie, et des institutions gouvernementales.

OBJECTIVOS DE LA SOCIEDAD

La ESSC es una asociación interdisciplinar, no-política, dedicada a la investigación y a la realización de acciones orientadas a la conservación del suelo en Europa. La ESSC persigue sus objetivos en los sectores científicos, educacionales y aplicados, en el ámbito europeo:

promocionando la investigación sobre degradación, erosión y conservación de suelos,

informando al público sobre los principales aspectos de conservación de suelos,

colaborando con instituciones y personas implicadas en la práctica de la conservación de suelos.

La ESSC aspira a coordinar los esfuerzos, en los temas arriba mencionados, de todas las partes implicadas: centros de investigación, profesores y estudiantes de geo-ciencias, agricultura, selvicultura y ecología, agricultores, servicios de extensión agraria, industrias e instituciones gubernamentales.

Visit the ESSC Website: <http://www.essc.sk>

MEMBERSHIP FEES

I wish to (please mark appropriate box):

- Join the ESSC
- Renew my membership of the ESSC
- Know whether I have outstanding membership contributions to pay

Membership rates:

Standard Rates:

- One year € 25.00
- Three years € 70.00

Members in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine:

- One year € 10.00
- Three years € 25.00

Students:

50 % reduction on above rates for three years

Your supervisor must provide written confirmation of student status

I wish to pay my membership contribution by (please mark appropriate box):

- Enclosed Eurocheque
- American Express Card
- Bank Transfer
- Eurocard / Mastercard
- Visa Card

(Branch address: Fortis Bank, Zonnestraat 2, B-9000 Gent, Belgium;

International transaction codes:

IBAN - BE29 0014 5139 8064 and BIC - GEBABEBB;

Account name: European Society for Soil Conservation;

Account number 001-4513980-64)

CARD NO. EXPIRY

Amount: € Date: Signature:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER (if known): M0

Please send this form to: ESSC Treasurer, Dr Wim Cornelis, Department of Soil Management and Soil Care, Coupure links 653, B-9000 Gent, BELGIUM.