

Global Soil Week 2017

CATALYSING SDG IMPLEMENTATION
THROUGH A SOIL AND LAND REVIEW

Berlin, 22-24 May 2017



Final Report

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ACRONYMS

GSW	Global Soil Week
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure



Global Soil
Week 2017

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GSW17 Closing Plenary

PRELUDE

Implementing the universal 2030 Agenda is a complex process that requires an integrated and coherent approach offering new opportunities to work across different sectors. A number of key dilemmas surround this important challenge: How to deal with such complexity? How to support Member States in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? How to ensure that interlinkages and synergies between SDGs and countries are taken into account? Undeniably, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) places great importance on addressing these questions. However, it is also a forum confronted with ambitious schedules and lengthy discussions, which inevitably leave limited time to duly address these highly complex issues. Making the HLPF a success requires systematic preparation. Preparatory events such as ours, the Global Soil Week, can serve as a resourceful support to the HLPF delegates' work by offering a condensed and targeted reading of the SDGs under closer review.

A wide range of partners created the Global Soil Week in 2012 as a global platform and an ongoing process for cooperation on all issues related to land and soil. For us, it is extremely encouraging to realise that our joint efforts contributed to building a strong and emerging consensus on the importance of soils for sustainable development. Together, we have worked hard to ensure that soils are placed more prominently on the political agenda.

This year, we decided to go one step further: We organised the Global Soil Week as a preparatory event to contribute to the HLPF 2017, aiming to propose an integrative way to effectively deal with the complexity of the SDG implementation process. In doing so, we

drew inspiration from and built upon the work towards integration conducted by the Independent Team of Advisors (ITA) on the UN Development System.¹ By openly establishing links with existing processes, the Global Soil Week 2017 made a substantive attempt to deal with complexity and to foster integration, directly addressing the calls for reform of the UN Development System, made by the ITA.

The Global Soil Week, held in Berlin on 22–24 May 2017, was co-hosted by twenty-three partners, including four governments and a wide range of intergovernmental and academic organisations and civil society networks. The Global Soil Week focused on looking at the six SDGs under review by the HLPF 2017 from a soil and land perspective.

Through the present report, we would like to share with you the inspiring outcomes of our joint experience at the Global Soil Week 2017, and offer you an opportunity to reflect on the high potential of preparatory events to the HLPF, and of using its thematic reviews as means to achieve an integrated implementation of the SDGs.

On behalf of the Global Soil Week co-hosts, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the people who contributed to making the Global Soil Week 2017 a success. We invite you to critically discuss its findings, and hope that we have made a small contribution towards a transformational 2030 Agenda.

Klaus Töpfer and Alexander Müller
Directors, TMG ThinkTank for Sustainability GmbH

¹ <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/qcpr/ita-findings-and-conclusions-16-jun-2016.pdf>



Global Soil Week
towards the HLPF 2017



Land and Soils to Eradicate Poverty and Promote Prosperity in a Changing World: Five Key Messages

With the Global Soil Week 2017 (GSW17), we were able to create linkages between sustainable soil and land management and governance, and the six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) up for the Thematic Review in 2017, as well as to crucial issues under SDG goals 15, 16, and 17.² We submit the messages below, for consideration by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), and reinforce our commitment to contribute to strengthening the work and role of the HLPF. We also stand ready to work together with Member States aiming to strengthen the emphasis on soil- and land-related issues in their National Voluntary Reviews, and also with platforms aiming to conduct similar reviews.

In order to ensure the contribution of soil and land to the achievement of the SDGs, we must:

1. Increase investment in sustainable land management and responsible governance. It will be critical to design investments and monitor them in line with international human rights-based instruments such as the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (VGGT), and internationally accepted environmental and social safeguards;
2. Make the entire production chain sustainable and change consumption patterns that have an impact on land

degradation both locally and in other parts of the world. High-consuming segments of society have a particular responsibility in this regard;

3. Enhance spatial planning and adopt territorial approaches to address the rural–urban continuum in an integrated way that contributes to food security and the sustainable and integrated management of natural resources such as the land-water nexus; as well as to improving regional value chains to offer better opportunities for the youth;
4. Improve land rights and land tenure, especially for vulnerable and marginalised groups, and acknowledge that vulnerable populations are rights holders whose rights need to be upheld. This implies adopting specific measures to protect civil society, since human rights are under pressure from the shrinking space for civil society; and
5. Build a bridge between SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) to ensure food security through avoiding, reducing and reversing soil and land degradation to achieve SDG target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality, and sustainably managing landscapes for people. Entry points for this are community empowerment, and high-quality and accountable extension services that embrace the youth and open data access.

² SDG15: Life on Land; SDG16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions; SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Recommendations for Other Platforms Regarding Thematic Reviews

Ivonne Lobos Alva, Jes Weigelt

Preparatory processes for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), such as the Global Soil Week (GSW17), can be very helpful in providing targeted information to its discussions. This type of event can also inform national processes for reviewing implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The following considerations are offered here to support other initiatives and platforms aiming to conduct similar reviews. They can also be useful to the HLPF in the further development of methodologies to include a wide set of actors and perspectives within the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

ENSURE THE NECESSARY PARTNERSHIPS AND PROCESS.

A meaningful link between soil and land themes (the focus of the previous three Global Soil Weeks) and the 2030 Agenda was made possible by the longstanding collaboration among GSW partners in previous years. At the same time, the previous GSWs had established the links between soil and land resources and the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda is not yet common knowledge. It is necessary to increase awareness and ownership of the Agenda. The GSW17 demonstrated that this is possible through a process, and through the expansion of partnerships to include actors who do not usually work together. In this sense, the GSW17 was hosted by twenty-three partners who brought to the discussions their expertise from a wide range of areas. For instance, new partners included partnerships working on the protection of related natural resources, such as water; NGO networks involved in the HLPF and the 2030 Agenda negotiations;

and organisations specialising in nature conservation and climate research. All these significantly expanded the areas covered by the existing GSW partners.

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CONTROVERSY. The GSW aimed to provide space for an exchange between different communities and stakeholder groups. It also aimed to foster dialogue between groups that don't usually interact or share with each other and which also have divergent views. This is important to ensure integration of different perspectives, and to support a holistic approach that incorporates different types of knowledge. This also implies including actors from a wide range of stakeholder groups. From government to the UN, businesses to activists and youth groups, they should all be represented.

MAKE YOUR TOPIC OF EXPERTISE UNDERSTANDABLE. The GSW17 aimed to discuss the SDGs and highlight gaps, synergies, and progress towards them from the perspective of soil and land. As such, this report outlines the overview of all discussions and presents some of the main trends in terms of the state of soil and land resources. However, a contribution to a thematic review should summarise complex issues related to the SDGs and present them in a digestible format, so they can better lead to action. For this, the GSW17 also aimed to produce policy messages to inform HLPF discussions. It used local examples to inform a global perspective and identify necessary actions to be taken at national level, while considering the interlinkages between countries.

SUFFICIENT TIME AND RESOURCES NEED TO BE AVAILABLE. Conducting a meaningful preparatory event to the HLPF requires



GSW17 Closing Plenary

significant investment in time, as well as financial and human resources. For a full contribution to the thematic reviews of the SDGs to take place, sufficient global representation needs to be guaranteed. This implies a significant investment of resources to ensure participants from all parts of the world are involved and able to attend. This was only partially successful at the GSW17. There was strong representation from Africa and Europe, but better attendance from other parts of the world would have been highly desirable. One thing that is crucial, and where the GSW17 performed well, is gender balance among speakers and participants. This should be standard practice, but until that is the case, special efforts need to be made to ensure this balance. Sufficient time and personnel also need to be made available to ensure the character of the process, as described here under the first point in this section.

ENSURE THE USE OF A RANGE OF DIFFERENT FORMATS. Expert discussion on sustainable development can easily become highly technical and lead to the presentation of institutional positions and statements. Such discussions can prevent real exchange and mutual learning. By applying different and interactive formats, discussions can be stimulated and new perspectives can be explored. The GSW experience shows that even small details, such as position and shape of the stage, the time foreseen for discussions, the lack of use of PowerPoint presentations, and the use of participation technologies, can all help increase the interaction and active engagement of participants. The different formats of plenaries, workshops, and the thematic review LAB all ensured appropriate space and opportunity to interact and discuss gaps and synergies regarding implementation of the SDGs.



GSW17 Reception

1. GSW17 Approach and Design

1.1 PREPARATORY EVENTS FOR A STRONGER HLPF

Ivonne Lobos Alva, Jes Weigelt

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

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

Thematic reviews – the need to navigate complexity. By looking at a sub-set of goals from within a specific theme, thematic reviews under the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) provide a tool for integrated implementation of the SDGs. They can provide ideas for cross-thematic collaboration and cooperation between UN agencies, scientific institutions, and civil society, and, most importantly, between citizens and their governments. HLPF16 represents a milestone in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Yet, scope for further improvement remains: the degree of stakeholder participation and the time for actual exchange and debate were criticised. The question is how to achieve this improvement within the limited timeframe allocated to the HLPF?

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on a range of actors – we make use of their insights for the HLPF. The 2030 Agenda clearly states that its implementation rests on contributions by all stakeholders. In his review of the HLPF 2016, then ECOSOC president Oh Joon, lists “voluntary efforts by the scientific community to produce science-based thematic reviews for the HLPF” as a

contribution to the science–policy interface at the HLPF. Global Soil Week 2017 (GSW17) was designed to provide such a contribution. Nevertheless, we remain convinced that science is but one source of knowledge in support of the SDGs. This is why the GSW aimed to bring together various stakeholders, to contribute different forms of knowledge and expertise.

1.2 SOILS AND LAND AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO A TRANSFORMATIONAL 2030 AGENDA – MORE THAN JUST MAKING A CASE FOR OUR LENS

Judith Rosendahl, Matteo De Donà

Soils and land underpin many SDGs, and a multitude of actors from different sectors rely on development scenarios that impose additional demands on land. However, fertile soils and productive land are not only finite and scarce resources, but they are also decreasing in their availability due to land degradation and poor governance.

Soils and land provide the basis for more than 95 per cent of the food produced in the world, and support the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and agricultural workers (in some places, up to 70 per cent are women). Malnutrition, as a result of lost productivity, and direct health care costs could account for as much as 5 per cent of global GDP, equivalent to US\$3.5 trillion per year. Prevention of malnutrition

provides strong returns on investment, delivering \$16 for every \$1 spent. Due to global demographic changes, cropland per capita has fallen by more than half since 1960. Land tenure regimes that marginalise certain population groups exacerbate this scarcity. Soils are also in jeopardy. Their pollution has direct impacts on our health and other ecosystems such as the oceans. More than one-quarter of the world's land area is affected by degradation, thereby negatively influencing the livelihoods of 1.5 billion people worldwide. More than 75 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas, and many are rural workers and family farmers, including women and youth. For example, soil and land degradation, and poor soil fertility in particular, is widely accepted as the most critical factor limiting agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Even though global assessments differ in their methods and findings on the extent of land degradation, they all agree on the current negative trends. Referring to land in general, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) finds that 33 per cent of land is moderately or highly degraded, and that the majority of the world's soil resources are in only fair, poor, or very poor condition.³ The Economics of Land Degradation Initiative (ELD) concludes that, globally, 52 per cent of agricultural land is already degraded and further areas are prone to degradation processes.⁴ Referring to the rate of degradation, it is stated that, globally, more than 10 million hectares of fertile soil are lost per year.⁵ The costs of

3 FAO, ITPS (2015). Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR)– *Main Report* (Rome, Italy), pp. 650.

4 ELD Initiative (2015). *The Value of Land: Prosperous Lands and Positive Rewards through Sustainable Land Management. The Economics of Land Degradation* (Bonn, Germany).

5 Fischer, G., Hizznyik, E., Prieler, S. & Wiberg, D. (2011). *Scarcity and Abundance of Land Resources: Competing Uses and the Shrinking Land Resource Base. SOLAW Background Thematic Report – TR02*, s.l.: FAO



GSW17 Opening Plenary

land degradation are estimated at US\$400 billion per year (about US\$70 per person on Earth).⁶

The Global Environmental Outlook 5 found that competing demands for food, feed, fibre, and raw materials are intensifying pressures on land, and that many terrestrial ecosystems are being seriously degraded.⁷ Among other things, it predicted a need for food production to increase by 70 per cent. The latest Regional Assessments for Global Environmental Outlook 6 confirm the alarming state of natural resources in general, and soil and land in particular, in almost all regions of the world.⁸ For Africa, it states that about 500,000 km² of land is degraded each year by soil erosion, salinisation, pollution, and deforestation, resulting in adverse effects on agricultural productivity, nutrition, and human health. In the pan-European region, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation is continuing, "...mainly caused by increased land -use change, particularly agricultural intensification, urbanisation, and habitat fragmentation". In Asia and the Pacific, "soil resources are significantly impacted by deforestation, overgrazing, conversion of rangelands and forests to palm oil production and other uses". In Latin America and Caribbean, land degradation continues to be one of the greatest challenges. "Regional and international demand for food crops, livestock, wood, oil, and mining, coupled with adverse

⁶ Idem as 2

⁷ UNEP, GEO (2012). *Global Environmental Outlook. Environment for the Future We Want*.

⁸ In the order mentioned in the text:

- Africa: UNEP 2016. *GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Africa. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya*.
- Pan-European Region: UNEP/UNECE 2016. *GEO-6 Assessment for the Pan-European Region (rev. 1). United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya*.
- Asia and the Pacific: UNEP 2016. *GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Asia and the Pacific. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya*.
- Latin America and the Caribbean: UNEP 2016. *GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya*.

socio-economic conditions and the need for foreign investment, exerts pressure on decision makers to prioritise short-term goals that may result in degradation of land”.

The results outlined above show the need for global land use to balance consumption of land-based products with sustainable supply. A report by UNEP and the International Resource Panel calculates that under a business-as-usual scenario, the net expansion of cropland will amount to 120–500 Mha between 2005 and 2050 (while gross expansion also considering compensation for built environment and degradation amounts to 320–850 Mha).⁹ However, after 2020, this would clearly overshoot the safe operating space of 1640 Mha available for supplying demand. It thus becomes clear that the cropland footprint per capita would need to be capped at approximately 0.2 ha in 2030.

Ensuring responsible land governance is also crucial for implementing the 2030 Agenda, as reflected in many SDGs including 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Land governance is therefore a cross-cutting thematic area that not only requires consistent action at different levels, but also benefits from a holistic and coherent approach. Despite the existence of international and regional instruments aimed at promoting responsible land governance, such the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and the Land Policy Initiative (LPI), negative trends persist as far as land-based investments are concerned, with the land rights of local communities and indigenous people often going unrecognised. A recent report by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), focusing on land disputes in Western, Eastern, and Southern Africa, showed how community

displacement is a key driver of conflict in the continent.¹⁰ Cases of illegitimate land acquisition, which are equally found in other regions with rich natural resources, such as Asia and Latin America, are often characterised by the exclusion of local communities during the negotiation of land deals.¹¹ Conflicts over land also lead to alarming episodes of violence against land rights holders, human rights activists, and environmental defenders: in this respect, Global Witness documented 185 killings across 16 countries during 2015 alone, making it the deadliest year for land and environmental activists.¹²

In the absence of secure rights to land and natural resources, farmers and small-scale food producers have very limited incentives to invest in land. This is why recognising and protecting the land rights of local communities is not only a matter of ensuring accountability and abiding by internationally recognised human rights principles; it is also a viable opportunity to guarantee a sustainable use of land and natural resources, something often reflected in the traditional practices and knowledge of local communities. Securing land rights is therefore particularly relevant to achieving sustainability, and the academic literature confirms how conflicts over land considerably hinder sustainable development in its social, economic, and environmental dimensions.^{13, 14}

9 Bringezu, S. et al. (2014). *Assessing Global Land Use: Balancing Consumption with Sustainable Supply. A Report of the Working Group on Land and Soils of the International Resource Panel*. United Nations Environment Programme.

10 TMP Systems & Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) (2016). *Tenure and Investment in Africa: Comparative Analysis of Key Trend and Contextual Factors*.

11 Nolte, K. et al. (2016) *International Land Deals for Agriculture Fresh insights from the Land Matrix: Analytical Report II*. Land Matrix.

12 Global Witness (2016). *On Dangerous Ground. 2015's Deadly Environment: The Killing and Criminalization of Land and Environmental Defenders Worldwide*.

13 Carbonnier, G., & Wagner, N. Resource dependence and armed violence: impact on sustainability in developing countries. – *Defense and Peace Economics*, 26, pp. 115–132.

14 Ibaba, S. (2009). Violent conflicts and sustainable development in Bayelsa State. – *Review of African Political Economy*, 36 (122), pp. 555–573.

Last but not least, securing land tenure rights is directly linked to the challenge of gender equality, since women's ownership and control over land not only fosters women's empowerment, but also leads to increased agricultural productivity, economic gains, and food security: for instance, it has been shown that in Tanzania, women with strong land rights earned up to 3.8 times more income and were 1.35 times more likely to have individual savings.^{15, 16} In many countries, legal provisions supporting gender equality in land control and ownership already exist. However, these rarely guarantee de facto improvement of women's tenure rights and secure access to land. This is why SDG 5 (on gender) and its related targets have great potential for boosting the implementation of such legal provisions at national levels, bearing in mind that the benefits of gender equality in land rights are likely to have effects on several other policy areas ranging from poverty reduction to rural development, and from food security (e.g., reduced child malnutrition) to education (e.g., increased school enrolment).¹⁷

In conclusion, soil and land resources are crucial to achieving several of the SDGs. They are implicit in several of the goals, which is a feature they share with other natural resources such as forests or biodiversity. Piloting a preparatory event to the HLPF17, that focuses on soil and land, would therefore also yield insights into follow-up and review methodologies for the 2030 Agenda in general and for other natural resources in particular.

¹⁵ USAID (2016). *Land Tenure and Women's Empowerment*.

¹⁶ Peterman, A. Women's property rights and gendered policies: implications for women's long-term welfare in rural Tanzania. – *The Journal of Development Studies*, 47, pp. 1–30.

¹⁷ Ndisale, B. (2016) Strengthening gender equality in land ownership and control. – *Journal of Gender Agriculture and Food Security*, Dec. 2016.

1.3 OUR APPROACH

Ivonne Lobos Alva, Jes Weigelt

1.3.1 A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HLPF17 WITH A SOIL AND LAND LENS

In order to contribute to the successful implementation of the SDGs, GSW17 employed an approach that would support the efforts of the HLPF in navigating the complexities of the 2030 Agenda. The approach was based on looking at the subset of SDGs that are under review by the HLPF, from the perspective of land and soils, thereby providing an integrating perspective across the SDGs. The GSW17 also aimed to serve as bridge to empower different actors to share their priorities on the implementation of the SDGs. Proceeding in this way, the GSW17 intended to contribute to the HLPF17 theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and, ultimately, to catalyse SDG implementation.

Specifically, partners of the GSW17 aimed to:

- Adopt an approach framed by 2030 Agenda principles of Universality, Inclusion (to Leave No One Behind), and Integration;
- Highlight gaps, synergies, and progress; and complement available data and SDG indicators with other forms of knowledge;
- Empower different actors to share their priorities on SDG implementation, thus raising accountability and awareness of the 2030 Agenda.

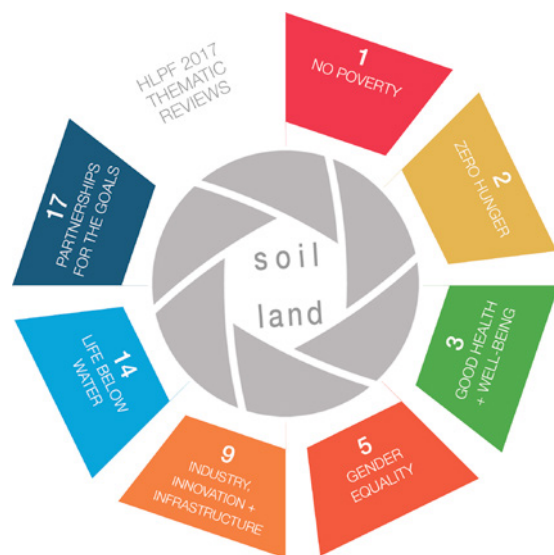


Figure 1. Goals under HLPF thematic review in 2017

At the GSW17 (22–24 May 2017, Berlin), twenty-three co-hosting partners from four governments, intergovernmental and academic organisations, and civil society networks conveyed almost 300 people from around the globe to review the subset of SDGs under special consideration by the HLPF17 (1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, and 17),¹⁸ focusing on the main progress and challenges related to soil and land issues.

Preparatory processes such as this provide an opportunity to review and synthesise information ahead of the HLPF, thus helping strengthen its work.

18 SDG1: No Poverty; SDG2: Zero Hunger; SDG3 Good Health and Well-Being; SDG5: Gender Equality; SDG9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG14: Life Below Water; SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals.

1.3.2 PRINCIPLES OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity.¹⁹ The 17 SDGs and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new, universal Agenda. They are “integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental”. The 2030 Agenda is guided by principles and commitments for its implementation. A thematic review of this agenda should therefore aim to live up to its ambitions and principles of:

- **Universality:** The SDGs apply to all countries and should be achieved in all countries, considering also the effects of a country’s actions on others;
- **Inclusion to leave no one behind:** Referring to different actors, types of knowledge, and deliberate attempts at empowering vulnerable and marginalised actors;
- **Integration:** The SDGs are linked to each other as a package, and achieving one of them should not hinder progress in others.

1.3.3 FUNCTIONS OF THE GSW17 AS A PREPARATORY EVENT FOR HLPF

Preparatory events for HLPF would be needed for many of the themes cutting across the issues covered in the SDGs. With this in mind, we developed the following functions to determine what this pilot exercise should look like and achieve, in order to best contribute

19 United Nations (2015). *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. A/RES/70/1.

to the thematic reviews of the SDGs. They can be applied to other topics, but were developed particularly in mind of reviewing the SDGs from the perspective of soils and land.

- The GSW17 should demonstrate that it is the **result of a process** (the GSW process is described in the following section), and should **lead to government and stakeholders' commitment to action**;
- The GSW should provide the space for an **exchange of data and other types of knowledge** between communities and stakeholder groups. It should also foster dialogue between groups which usually don't interact or share with each other and even have **divergent views**;
- The GSW17 should discuss the SDGs and highlight gaps, synergies, and progress towards them from the perspective of soil and land. This exercise should result in policy messages and also cases/tangible examples (for more information on the outcomes, see section 2, pg. 21);
- Connected to the previous point, the GSW17 should **summarise complex soil and land issues** related to the SDGs and **present them in a digestible format**;
- The GSW17 should aim to **produce concrete tools/outputs** (the reporting guidelines produced in workshop 2 on "Right to [defend] Land" are an example of this (see section 2.2, pg. 39);
- The GSW17 should **help raise accountability and awareness of the 2030 Agenda**. We should aim to disseminate the SDGs as "our shared agenda", and empower stakeholders to talk to their government and get involved in SDG implementation;
- The GSW17 should **use local examples to inform a global perspective**, and **identify necessary actions** to be taken at national level while considering the interlinkages between countries.

1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE THEMATIC REVIEW BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE GLOBAL SOIL WEEK

Ivonne Lobos Alva, Jes Weigelt

1.4.1 PROCESS

The GSW is a collective process and a knowledge platform for sustainable soil management and responsible land governance worldwide (see Figure 2, pg. 13 for the GSW Process Timeline). The GSW international multi-stakeholder conferences²⁰ are connected by several thematic processes and projects. These are implemented in collaboration with several partners, and lay the ground for crucial soil- and land-related discussions and actions.

The GSW's involvement with the 2030 Agenda goes back to the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, which took place in 2012. Already then, the partners of the GSW were engaged in efforts to highlight the crucial role of soils and land for sustainable development and to argue for their appropriate consideration in the negotiations to agree on the SDGs. The GSW2012 edition, "Soils for Life", urged politicians, land managers, and civil society to address soils and land management as a 'core priority' area. In 2013, the GSW on the theme "Losing Ground?" included discussions on international soil policy and SDGs, which highlighted a number of

²⁰ Past GSW editions took place in 2012, 2013, and 2015. For more information please see globalsoilweek.org.

GSW 2012

Soils for Life

GSW 2013Losing
Ground?**BRAZILIAN CONFERENCE
ON SOIL GOVERNANCE**Letter from
Brasília: Soil is the
backbone of life**GSW 2015**The Substance of
Transformation**Conference: JUMP-STARTING
THE SDGS IN GERMANY**Natural Resources and
Sustainable Consumption
and Production**HLPF 2015**Side Event:
Follow-up
and Review
Mechanisms
for Natural
Resource
Management and
Governance
to Achieve
the SDGs**HLPF 2016**Side Event:
Towards
Thematic
Reviews for
an Integrated
Follow-up &
Review of the
2030 Agenda**HLPF 2017**Side Event:
Nutrition and
soils in the
2030 Agenda:
a contribution
to the HLPF
Thematic
Reviews

NOV 2012

OCT 2013

MAR 2015

APR 2015

MAY 2016

JUL 2015

JUL 2016

JUL 2017

AFRICAN SOIL SEMINAR

Soil Restoration for Achieving the 2063 + 2030 Agendas in Africa: Linking Global Ambitions to Local Needs

NOV 2016



MAY 2017

GSW 2017 CATALYSING SDG IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH A SOIL AND LAND REVIEW



Figure 2. Global Soil Week Process Timeline

1. Approach and Design

initiatives dealing with how to integrate soil and land within what was then termed the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The GSW began – at the suggestion of participants – a working group on indicators for soil and land. In 2015, the GSW “The Substance for Transformation” was fully framed within the SDGs by the link between soils and land, and the goals and targets of the new sustainable development agenda. It addressed questions of implementation, monitoring, accountability, and the need for integrated approaches to the SDGs.

With the aim of exploring options for an integrated follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, GSW partners organised high-level events around the HLPF in New York in 2015 and 2016. These events provided the basis and the initial considerations concerning the need for and the potential contribution of thematic reviews of natural resources for the HLPF. The first regional event of the GSW was the Brazilian Soil Governance Conference in March 2015, which produced the ‘Letter from Brasilia’ to provide input for policymakers on national soil governance. Further to this, the first large event on the SDGs in Germany, the conference “Jumpstarting the SDGs in Germany” provided concrete ideas on how to shape implementation and to support SDG follow-up and review from the perspective of natural resources and sustainable consumption and production. At the end of 2016, an African Soil Seminar (the second regional event of the GSW) on the theme “Soil Restoration for Achieving the 2063 and 2030 Agendas in Africa – Linking Global Ambitions to Local Needs” explored interlinkages among sustainable development, climate change adaptation, and resilience issues, and helped link soil and soil rehabilitation to the goals of the 2063 Agenda “The Future We Want for Africa,” the 2030 Agenda, and the Paris Climate Agreement.

All these discussions – which were accompanied by the publication of a number of related studies, papers, and articles – informed and shaped the design and goals of the GSW17. The event in May 2017 featured two High Level Plenaries, three multi-session workshop streams, and two thematic layers that were designed to feed into a GSW Thematic Reviews LAB. At the LAB, we came together to produce an example of how to look at the SDGs being reviewed at the HLPF17 through the lens of soil and land. The elements of the GSW17 can be described as follows.

1.4.2 PLENARIES

The opening plenary aimed to create a joint understanding of the value of holding an event such as the Global Soil Week as a preparatory/relevant event for the HLPF. It made the case for an integrated perspective across the SDGs by addressing the multiple linkages between the different goals and across countries. Several of the countries represented at this plenary volunteered to present a National Voluntary Review at the HLPF17. The plenary further aimed to highlight soil- and land-related issues (relevant to the SDGs being reviewed at the HLPF) that could be given more attention in national implementation of the SDGs; and to propose strategies or priority areas to ensure these resources contribute to promoting prosperity and ending poverty. Some of the main considerations to emerge from the opening plenary include the need for greater attention to rural areas, the need to tackle the underlying causes of resource degradation and pollution, and to support a positive correlation between land reform and sustainable land management. SDG target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality (LDN) was highlighted as crucial for tackling issues related to hunger, poverty, migration, and inequality



GSW17 Opening Plenary

while supporting economic growth and providing opportunities for the youth. Participants urged a focus on support for implementation, strategies to enhance and maintain soil productivity, and establishment of consensus priorities for forest, land, and soil conservation.

The speakers at the **Opening Plenary** were (in order of appearance):

Ivonne Lobos Alva, Global Soil Week Coordinator (GSW), Guatemala

Alexander Müller, Managing Director, TMG Think-Tank for Sustainability, Member of the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE), and Study Lead TEEBAgriFood, Germany

Stefan Schmitz, Head of Division, Special Unit "One World – No Hunger, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)", Germany

Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UNDESA

Anna Onyango, Director of Policy, Research & Regulation, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Kenya

Françoise Assogba Komlan, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, Benin

Daouda Maiga, Conseiller Technique du Ministre de l'Agriculture et des Aménagements Hydrauliques, Burkina Faso

Louissette Clémence Bamzok née Mbadobe, Development Director of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Cameroon

Ferew Lemma, Senior Advisor, Office of the Minister, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – (Represented by **Johns Muleso Kharika**)

The closing plenary included a discussion drawing conclusions on the methodology piloted through the GSW17. The plenary further linked the outcomes of the GSW17 to the format of the HLPF and other constituencies working on follow-up and review, for instance, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), Universal Periodic Review for Human Rights (UPR), etc. The outcomes of the discussions are discussed in section 5, pg. 83 of this report.

The speakers at the **Closing Plenary** were (in order of appearance):

Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Klaus Töpfer, Founding Director, TMG Think-Tank for Sustainability, and former Co-Chair of the Independent Group of Advisors on the long-term positioning of the UN system in the context of the 2030 Agenda, Germany

Celine Charveriat, Executive Director, the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), Belgium

Rattan Lal, Director, Carbon Management and Sequestration Center The Ohio State University, USA

Marianne Beisheim, Senior Researcher, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Germany

Hilary Ogonna, Programme Specialist and Focal Point for Africa and the Arab States for the UN SDG Action Campaign

Chantal Clément, Co-Coordinator, the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES), Belgium

1.4.3 WORKSHOPS

Three different workshops formed the backbone of the Global Soil Week. In each workshop, one principle of the Agenda 2030 was at the forefront.

Workshop 1 “Sustaining and upscaling achievements of SLM initiatives: data–knowledge–action” stressed the principle of integration, and the need for integrated strategies to soil protection and rehabilitation. The focus was on how to upscale SLM by gender- and youth-inclusive approaches, integration of policies, investments in quality extension services and open data access. With open discussion formats, critical reflections among stakeholders from governments, research, and CSOs on achievements and persisting challenges enabled forward-looking knowledge exchange. (see section 2.1, pg. 21)

Workshop 2 “Right to [defend] land” was guided by the principle of inclusion, and the insight that recognising land rights, protecting land rights defenders, and strengthening local accountability mechanisms is not only key to people’s lives, but is also essential to achieving the SDGs. The workshop aimed to create a support function for accountability at national levels by elaborating guidelines for government-led multi-stakeholder reporting, and empowering local actors. (see section 2.2, pg. 39)

Workshop 3 “Protecting land resources for shared prosperity” stressed the principle of universality, looking at how to protect the limited global land resources so that they can fulfil ecosystem functions for the achievement of the SDGs while remaining within planetary boundaries. It scrutinised the current and projected

availability of – and demand for – land, and discussed how the two solution approaches of Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) (SDG 12) relate to each other in the context of the SDGs. (see section 2.3, pg. 49)

1.4.4 LAYERS: YOUTH AND URBAN DIMENSIONS

The 2030 Agenda necessitates holistic and integrated perspectives across particular themes. Therefore, this GSW17 invited selected urban experts and emerging youth leaders to play active roles in the workshops and LAB, and to share their perspectives.

Youth constitute vital and pivotal players in environmental, social, and technological landscapes. They are not only “custodians of the future” as they are often referred to, but are also present in the world now and are actively contributing to sustainable development for the world they will inherit. In every country, there are countless examples of their self-motivated, highly insightful engagements directed towards on-the-ground socio-ecological transformations. However, rather than being integrated into official processes, the roles and potential of youth remain under-recognised in governmental decision-making, and siloed under sectoral programmes. Youth represent vehicles for the representation and collaboration of traditional, contemporary, and new knowledge, which aims to give rise to innovation and new consciousness of sustainability issues. To achieve the 2030 Agenda we need to create space for the diversity of perspectives that youth around the world represent. (see section 3.1, pg. 63)

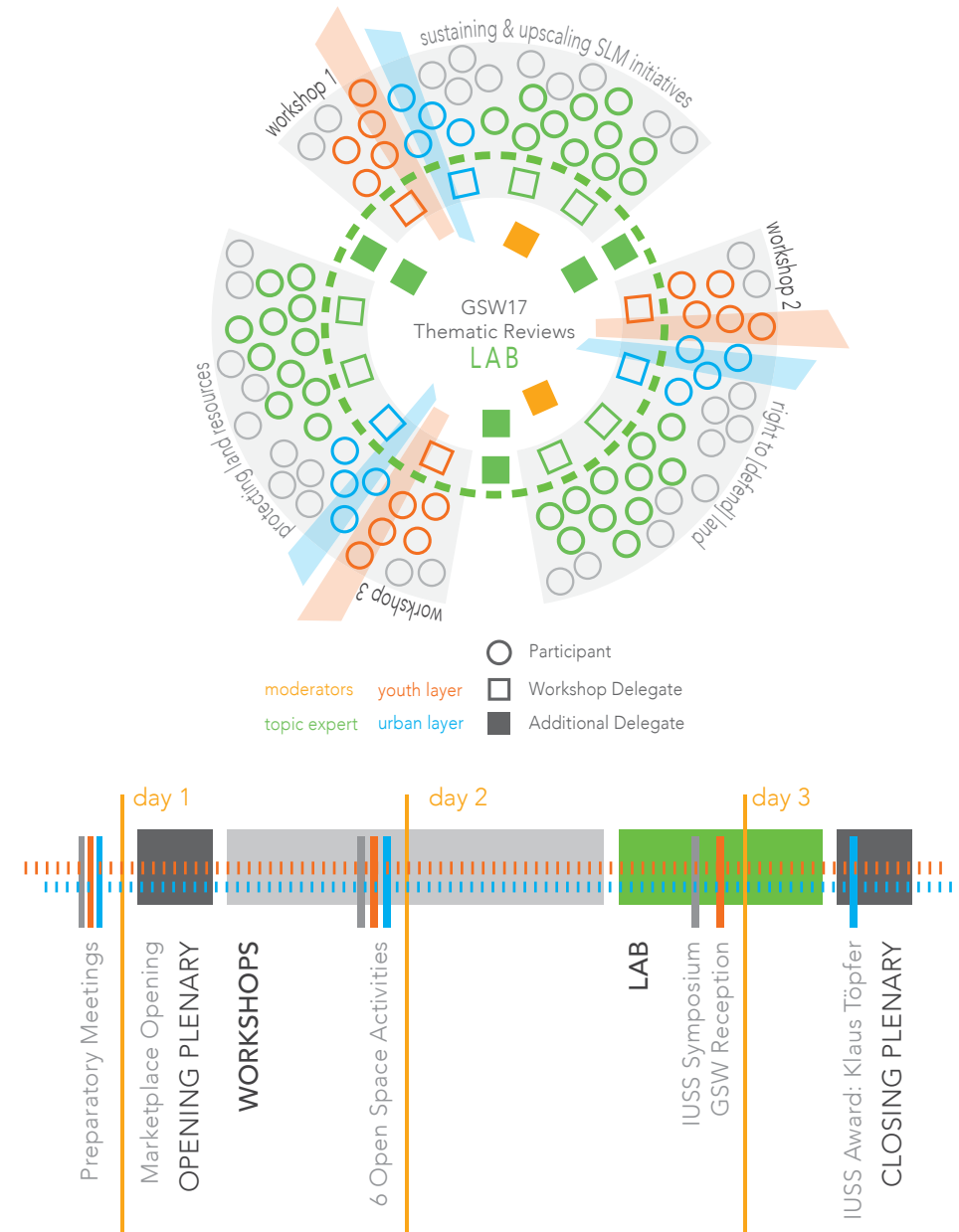


Figure 3. Structure of GSW17

Urbanisation processes have been radically reconfigured in recent decades. The 'Urban' nowadays clearly transcends the boundaries of the city and has become a fabric of planetary scale that knits places of concentration (of people, built environments, labour, consumption, and pollution) and webs of expansion (e.g., agro-industrial zones, transportation corridors, communication infrastructures, villages). Contemporary climatic shifts and global (resource) crises stipulate re-thinking our urban systems through the assemblies of local spaces that incubate and re-produce them. To advance issues of soil and land, we need to factor in the conditions of planetary urbanisation and establish new, more appropriate understandings of urban processes. (see section 3.2, pg. 69).

1.4.5 THEMATIC REVIEWS LAB

At the LAB, GSW participants came together to produce an example of how to look at the SDGs being reviewed at the HLPF17 (SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 17)²¹ through the lens of soil and land. The LAB provided an open space for multi- stakeholder deliberation on gaps and synergies within and between the SDGs, aligning the main messages produced by workshops with wider discussions focused on the 2017 HLPF theme of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity. The LAB made space for the convergence of actors, perspectives, and discussions that emerged at the GSW, including the youth and urban layers, and special insights into those SDGs that were not the main focus area of workshops (3, 5, 9, and 14). (see section 4, pg. 75)

21 SDG1: No Poverty; SDG2: Zero Hunger; SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being; SDG5: Gender Equality; SDG9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG14: Life Below Water; SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals.



1.4.6 GSW17 PRODUCTS

Since the aim of GSW17 was to pilot contributions to the thematic reviews of the HLPF, some consideration needed to go into developing a strategy to best present the outcomes of the discussions to different target groups. Co-hosts and participants worked together on defining different ways to capture the insights generated at the GSW. In this sense, it was important to define formats that were aimed at the Member States and participants of the HLPF. At the same time, it was necessary to present a more detailed overview of the outcomes of the discussions, targeted at participants in the event and also practitioners interested in soil- and land-related issues. The piloted methodology would also need to be documented in order to gather the lessons learned to inform both the way in which discussions at the HLPF take place, and other groups or platforms aiming to conduct similar reviews.

The GSW17 produced a wide set of outcomes, including for instance, a set of reporting guidelines produced in workshop 2 on the “Right to [defend] Land”, a social media recap of interactions on the event, photo galleries, and videos. The two main products that were targeted are: i) a set of policy messages on sustainable soil management and responsible land governance for “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” (as presented at the beginning of this report); and ii) this report to reflect on the review, knowledge exchange, and communication methodologies applied at the GSW17.

Further to this, the Reporting Services Team of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) was brought on board to produce a tailored report on the event. This report was distributed

to the vast mailing list of the IISD’s Earth Negotiations Bulletin. Many UN delegates, ministers, and other governmental officials, NGOs, the business and academic communities, the media, and UN staff who track environmental and sustainable development policy consider the Earth Negotiations Bulletin essential reading.

The outcomes of the GSW17 will be brought to the attention of HLPF participants within the framework of a Side Event at the HLPF in July 2017.



2. Workshops

2.1 WORKSHOP 1 – SUSTAINING AND UPSCALING ACHIEVEMENTS OF SLM INITIATIVES: DATA – KNOWLEDGE – ACTION

Carolyn Sperk, Anne Flohr, Serah Kiragu-Wissler

Healthy soils and equitable use of land play crucial roles for sustainable development: land degradation neutrality is fundamental for better livelihoods, ending hunger, improving human health and well-being, and can contribute to gender empowerment among other goals.

There is abundant long-term experience and knowledge of technologies for soil protection and sustainable land management (SLM), and about barriers to adoption.

The sustaining and upscaling of SLM achievements remains a common concern across projects, regions, and

countries as well as for all actors implied in these activities (farmers, NGOs, development projects, government actors...).

Options for implementing SLM are determined by the interplay of socio-economic (and sometimes individual) status, political/planning frameworks, and implementation strategies. Moreover, data that could be used during the planning phases of projects to identify specific needs are largely available, though not always readily accessible.

The prioritisation of soil protection and rehabilitation on political agendas can only be achieved by embedding the topic within the wider discussions on sustainable development and achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Specifically, investments in agricultural advisory services must be linked to principles of inclusiveness, gender, and youth; and providing these services and farmers with good-quality and accessible agricultural data will be decisive elements of achieving several SDGs.

2.1.1 ABSTRACT

This workshop built on the partnerships with Ministries of Agriculture in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Kenya, and other national stakeholders established in the process of the “African Soil Seminar 2016” in Nairobi; and with government agencies from India as well as GIZ, established under the BMZ Initiative “One World, No Hunger”. In collaboration with these partners, three working groups were developed, dedicated to the following themes:

- Sharing experiences, reflecting on policy provisions and integrative approaches for bringing SLM to scale; examining

how to ensure achievements are sustained by establishing locally-led, inclusive processes;

- How to assure that agricultural extension services reach food-insecure farmers and match the needs of farmers, and that **SLM is mainstreamed in extension services** irrespective of provider (public or private)?
- Identifying gaps and challenges concerning the access to, use of, and sharing of data; reflecting on strategies to make these data available and accessible to all.

2.1.2 INTERLINKAGES, TRADE-OFFS AND GAPS

Soil protection and rehabilitation programmes contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, and of course 15,²² and thus contribute to bringing the SDGs as a package to local levels and supporting learning processes.

- Large-scale rehabilitation programmes must not infringe on food security and livelihoods;
- The sole focus on increased agricultural production under goal 2 can have negative impacts; particularly if there is over-reliance on inorganic fertiliser, both soil and human health can be put at risk.
- Increasing reliance on private agricultural service providers is often not in line with “leaving no one behind”.

²² SDG1: No Poverty; SDG2: Zero Hunger; SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being; SDG5: Gender Equality; SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG10: Reduced Inequalities; SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG14: Life Below Water; SDG15: Life on Land; SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and strong Institutions; SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals.

- Soil protection and rehabilitation interventions often neglect the needs and conditions of women: while usually responsible for seeding and planting of food crops, women often are not included in training, or cannot take on certain measures due to tenure arrangements. Thus, coupling soil protection with tenure and gender considerations could simultaneously support the strengthening of gender equality and be reinforced by taking these conditions into account (SDGs 5, 15, 16).
- Inappropriate application of herbicides and pesticides leads to significant human and environmental health problems, often also linked to one-dimensional orientation of service systems to (non-food) cash crops. This, in combination with inadequate soil management practices in some areas, also ultimately leads to marine pollution through soil erosion and deposition of particles in water bodies (SDG 14). Extension services need to offer users (farmers) adequate knowledge and information on access to – and the correct use of – appropriate products (SDGs 2, 3).

2.1.3 THE WORKSHOP IN RELATION TO GSW17 PRINCIPLES AND FUNCTIONS

Workshop 1 was developed in coordination with partners from GIZ, the countries where the “Soil Protection and Rehabilitation” programme is currently implemented, and a variety of local and international partners. These partners had already collaborated with the Global Soil Forum in the African Soil Seminar held in November 2016 in Nairobi. The outcomes of the latter event were taken as the starting-point for joint development of workshop themes to be tackled at GSW17.

Hence, a preparatory process preceding the GSW itself ensured that governmental and non-governmental partners would find value in pursuing discussions at the GSW and beyond. This approach also ensured a firm link between local, national, regional, and international discourses.

Critical exchange of experiences, with strategies for achieving widespread soil protection and soil rehabilitation in the different countries, was encouraged.

To reflect the need for inclusive and integrative approaches, the group of participants was very diverse, with many representing ministries responsible for sustainable soil management and agricultural development, practitioners responsible for the implementation of soil programmes, and representatives from civil society organisations, including representatives of youth, farmer organisations, and gender experts. Experiences with strategies and programmes in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, and India were discussed with the group.

The general spirit of discussions was set to inspire true knowledge exchange and critical reflection, to uncover gaps and steps still required to achieve more inclusive and integrative strategies.

From the discussions, action points were meant to be developed, to lead to increased commitment to supporting farmers in SLM by exchanging experiences and strategies on how this was or can be achieved through governmental strategies, investment, and regulation.

By reflecting on how to embed and link soil protection and rehabilitation with broader sustainable development agendas, and how to establish synergies for achieving progress on other SDGs (health, gender, etc.),

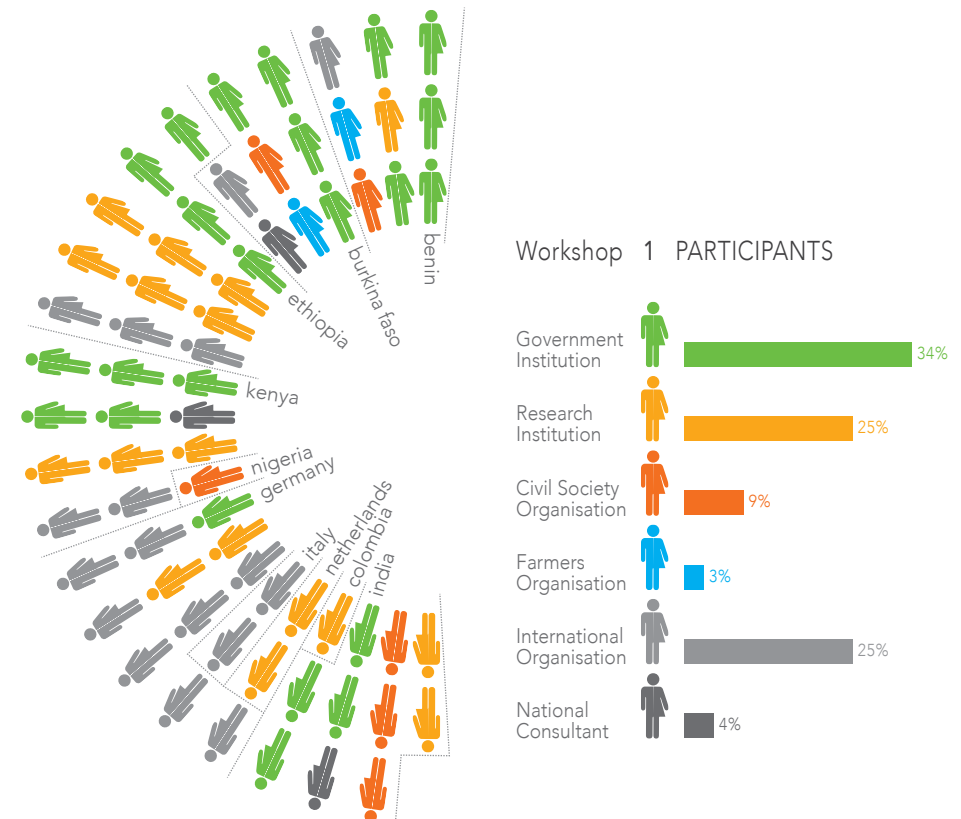


Figure 4. Participants in terms of origin and affiliation (Workshop 1)

the discussions conveyed the nature of the SDGs as being intrinsically linked, and the need and potentials to be implemented as a package.

The workshop provided an opportunity for sharing lessons and mutual learning from past SLM initiatives; and aimed to contribute to developing strategies and formats to ensure that knowledge exchange can become institutionalised.

As a contribution to the HLPF process, the workshop themes tie in with the SDG agenda at multiple points:

- The specific topic of open data access ties in with SDG 17 (17.6, 17.16), but would also be a crucial element to achieving SDG 2, particularly 2A;
- The important role of extension is underlined in SDG 2; but an efficient and functional extension service is also key to achieving SDG 15, and would contribute to poverty eradication (SDG 1), health (SDG 3), and other goals such as gender equality (SDG 5);
- The overall aim, to reflect and discuss policy integration and integration of all dimensions of sustainability into policy and implementation processes, should contribute to bringing the SDGs as a package from the global to the local level.

2.1.4 OUTCOMES

2.1.4.a Working Group I – Sharing experiences and reviewing achievements of SLM initiatives

Objectives and suggested themes of the working group:

- How to harness the potentials of SLM to contribute to different SDGs? Discussion of crucial policy provisions, and identification of pathways to increase integration between different sectorial strategies for SLM;
- Mutual exchange and learning on strategies for “post-project sustainability”, focusing on locally-led and adaptive processes.

Sustainable management of natural resources, and especially the protection and rehabilitation of soils, is recognised as fundamental for sustainable development and achievement of the SDGs. At national levels and within soil programmes, positive experiences can be seen, including: the programmes for “Re-greening the Sahel” in Burkina Faso or the SLMP in Ethiopia, and Watershed Programmes in India; or the Kenya’s National Agricultural Soil Management policy, and the acknowledgement of the key role of soils in the Benin SDG-Strategy. However, challenges and gaps persist, regarding the integration of policies (role of soils in agricultural growth strategies; linking SLM and tenure, inclusiveness, and consideration of gender, youth, and other vulnerable groups in policies, planning, and implementation). In open group discussions and written inputs, key themes/constraints were identified and explored through roundtables. Suggestions for actions or stories of how progress on these topics could be achieved were elaborated.

Experiences with policies at national levels and sustaining achievements of programmes and initiatives highlighted:

- Political will is crucial for establishing structures that support farmers in a decentralised way and that push for specific regulations to reach individual farmers;
- Policies need to be backed by government programmes (e.g., India, Soil Health Card Scheme);
- Trends of top-down approaches need to be reversed;
- There is a need to regard policies through a “youth lens”;
- Assessment of capacity needs, as well as financial incentives for farmers, must be done in close collaboration with actors on the ground.

2.1.4.a.i Topic 1: How to Achieve Policy Convergence?

As long as interlinked and multi-factorial problems such as soil degradation are treated as “sectoral problems”, it will be difficult to overcome these sustainably, i.e., with a long-term perspective and making best use of resources and synergies. Political will and integrative approaches are therefore crucial.



Figure 5. Linkages of SDG 15.3 with other priority SDG targets (Benin)

Story: BENIN

For the national strategy for SDG implementation it has been analysed that 7 of the 49 national priority targets are having effects on the implementation of goal 15, which (target 15.3) would in turn have positive effects on 15 priority targets. Remaining challenges are the need for capacities and resources to ensure cross-sectoral coordination and implementation; and formats for coordination and follow-up mechanisms are yet to be developed and explored.

Story: KENYA

Over the years, several policies have been developed that also address SLM and investments in improving soil management. The recent development and institutionalisation of the “National Agricultural Soil Management policy” followed a comprehensive, multi-actor and multi-level approach. At county levels, implementation of National Policies is a major challenge due to limited resources, capacities, and poor sectoral coordination.

Table 1. Recommendations to support policy convergence and responsible actors

Activities	Level/Actors responsible
Develop coordination frameworks delineating the roles of different actors from the different sectors (Ministries for Agriculture, Finance, Environment, Development)	Government (Central coordination and planning task force)
Mobilisation and redirection of resources at/for local level	Government/ local administrative actors, with NGOs, financial sector
Include training on – and awareness raising for – SLM in curricula at schools, universities, and professional training centres	Universities, professional colleges, and training centres; Support by NGOs, extension services (public)

2.1.4.a.ii TOPIC 2: How to Ensure Access to Secure Land Tenure?

Access to secure land tenure is a well-known and still contested condition for making investments in soil protection and rehabilitation pay-off for land users.

Story: BURKINA FASO

The reform of tenure policy (2009), and linking this with a soil degradation programme, has been recognised as an important factor in sustaining the achievements of soil programmes. By law, it is envisioned to give 51% of land to women. This remains a challenge, and therefore dialogue and institutionalisation at local (community) level, alongside capacity building for rights holders (women), are crucial.

Table 2. Recommendations for responsible actors to overcome land tenure restrictions

Activities	Level/Actors responsible
Installing structures that ensure the implementation of tenure regulations	Communes/local-level administration
Build capacities of land users to claim their rights	Administrative bodies responsible for tenure, in cooperation with CSOs, farmers' organisations
Mobilise resources to maintain the structures needed for implementation.	The (national) states, funds for tenure structures



2.1.4.a.iii TOPIC 3: Youth Involvement (in SLM)

Access to land, to education and skills as well as finance and technical equipment, pose significant challenges for young people in many countries. Moreover, youth are increasingly turning away from agriculture, which is not seen as a lucrative profession. Traditions and norms, such as inheritance rules and decision-making processes, often exclude youth from being able to invest in the sustainable management of soils and natural resources. Youth need to be supported through participation; and access to skills, land, resources (technological, natural, and financial), and mentoring. Public engagement and raising awareness through campaigns, print materials, or social media can allow for SLM/sustainable farming to become a popular practice.

Table 3. Recommendations for responsible actors to increase involvement of youth (in SLM)

Activities	Level/Actors responsible
Mentoring programmes and scholarships	Educational bodies; Local/ community levels in cooperation with youth groups; Government
Profiling of youth champions	Communities; Regional governments; Youth groups via social media
Labs or hubs at community level to create access to capital (finance, equipment)	For Youth by Youth; Support via regional or community administration; NGOs; Banks



2.1.4.a.iv TOPIC 4: How to Increase Participation and Community Empowerment?

Sustainability of interventions and investments in soil protection and rehabilitation requires that communities are positioned and equipped to make decisions and to take or maintain initiative. Otherwise, interventions will not develop spill-over effects for other areas, and will not maintain momentum; investments will be sunk costs.

Story: INDIA

Recent successful formats for mobilising farmers for sustainable soil and land management, and for increasing their “ownership” of actions, include state-wide competitions (in the state of Madhya Pradesh) and campaigns by celebrities (the “Bollywood Campaign”). 1400 villages were reached in an “SLM-competition”, and initiated local processes and activities for sustainable management of their natural resources. This is intended to support ownership and locally-driven processes.

Story: KENYA

Participation is a core principle of Kenya’s new constitution (2010), and reviewing/ inclusion of stakeholders is common. However, this requires significant political will and capacities as well as resources at national and county levels.

Story: ETHIOPIA

Watershed programmes such as the “Sustainable Land Management Programme” (SLMP) have been successful for mass mobilisation and locally-led/customised programmes. Moving from natural resource protection to value-chain approaches by promoting “payment for ecosystem services” schemes (bottled water) creates quantifiable benefits for farmers.

However, handing over responsibility to the communities remains a key challenge – more capacity building at local levels and community empowerment are required.



Table 4. Recommendations to increase community empowerment and responsible actors

Activities	Level/Actors responsible
Support community-based and inclusive processes as a culture, and not only understand them as 'low-cost' alternatives when public resources are scarce	The (national) states
Engagement of village heads and building leadership capacities	NGOs; Local and regional authorities
Creation of a common vision to create ownership and incentives	NGOs; Local and regional authorities together with communities
Generating visible financial benefits in the short and medium term	Research; NGOs and government agencies

2.1.4.a.v Key Messages from Working Group I

To summarise the discussions of WG I, the single thematic groups came up with one message each:

- SLM needs to become a culture, incorporated into curricula (education); a career, a business, a hobby; and should have incentives (e.g., land, finance, tech) in order for it to respond to the needs of today's young women and young men (everywhere);
- Sustainable land management through community empowerment is achieved by ensuring commitment at all levels (e.g., principle of participation in constitutions), by building strong community organisations, and by developing leadership;
- Access to land and other natural resources must be enabled and supported by putting in place structures and mechanisms for effective implementation of regulations, building capacities, and mobilisation of resources;
- Coordination across different levels and sectors needs to be achieved through multi-sectorial, broad-based task forces (or teams) for the design, financing, capacity building, and communication of implementation and evaluation of SLM programmes



Scenes from Workshop 1

2.1.4.b Working Group II – A roadmap for more inclusive and SLM-supportive Agricultural Extension Services as a lever for SDG implementation

SDG 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture recognises the crucial role of agricultural extension services in achieving these goals. Agricultural extension services could also play a key role in achieving numerous other SDGs, such as those on gender equality, life on land, and eradicating poverty. Hence, effective investments – financial and otherwise – in high-quality and targeted agricultural services could become catalytic investments in SDG implementation. This key role of agricultural services was recognised by preparatory partner dialogues preceding GSW2017, in which agricultural extension services were identified as one key lever for upscaling sustainable land management practices and reaching food-insecure farming households. Therefore, genuine learning from and for public extension services became a key discussion topic under the framework of Workshop 1.

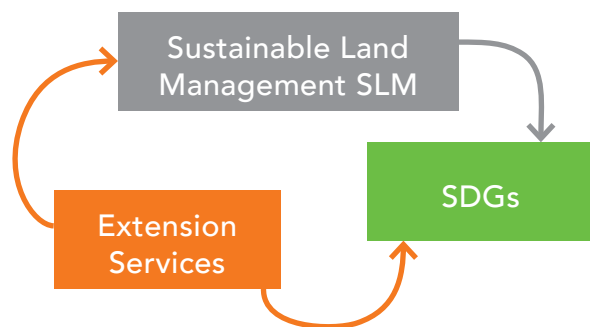


Figure 6. Extension – SLM – SDG interface

2.1.4.b.i Key Challenges

The discussion about the role of agricultural extension services was based on a number of principles, most importantly, the attempts to achieve honest and critical reflection and self-reflection, and for a spirit of challenging rather than simply applauding one another. Thanks to this spirit of discussion, shared by the assembled experts, country representatives from India, Burkina Faso, Kenya, and Ethiopia agreed that all of their national extension systems face similar sets of challenges or are characterised by similar gaps – albeit to differing degrees. These related to mainstreaming sustainable land management, accountability, financing, inclusion, appropriateness, coordination, as well as capacities and competences in extension service delivery.

2.1.4.b.ii Inspiration from Cases

Cross-examination between the participating countries revealed a number of positive examples where countries had found ways of tackling some of the challenges – most of these examples, however, will still need to be taken to scale. Below are a few examples:

KENYA – Tackling the Inclusiveness Gap: Reaching Out to Poor and Vulnerable Farming Households

- The National Agricultural and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP) is hailed for its deliberate attempt to address the challenge of inclusion. Using a participatory rural appraisal tool, Participatory Analysis of Poverty

and Livelihood Dynamics (PAPOLD), at village level, the programme characterised and stratified households into clusters (male-, female- and child-headed; poor, medium and wealthy; livelihood strategies). Attempts were also made to better understand the needs, resources, and opportunities for each cluster. The findings were used to identify livelihood strategies that the households in a cluster could reasonably aspire to, and to link those households to appropriate extension providers (e.g., micro-credit). Several success stories confirmed that this approach succeeded in reaching the poorest members of communities in the regions where it was implemented. However, upscaling was hindered by the heavy financial investment required in an area of focus.

INDIA – Tackling the Coordination Gap:

The Indian Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) has been established at block, district, and state level. This agency is chaired by general administrators, and coordinates the work of various government departments responsible for agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, etc. The agency identifies and funds critical gaps. It supports innovative activities and also work on public-private partnerships. The Department for Rural Development funds many water and soil conservation activities under the “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme” (MGNREGS), and the role of ATMA as coordinating agency is crucial.

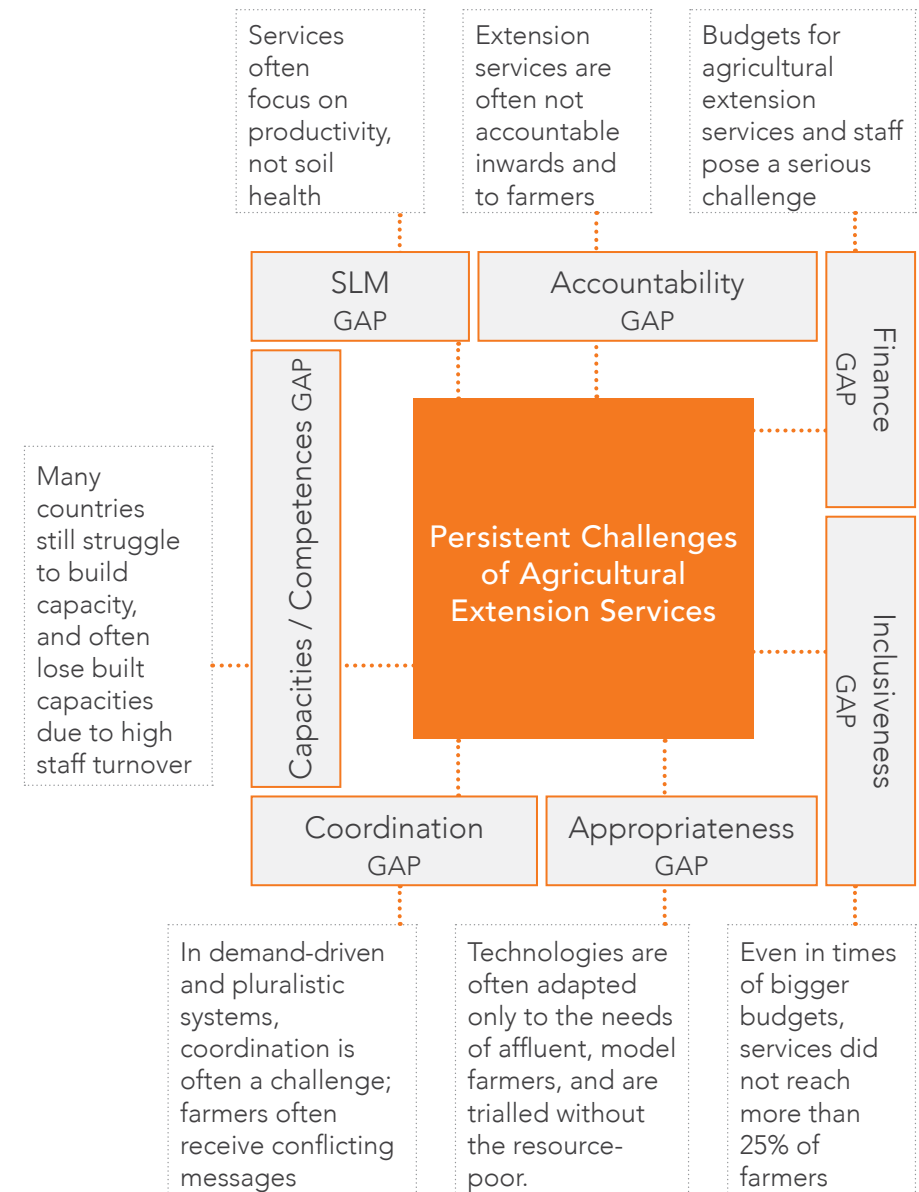


Figure 7. Persistent Challenges of Agricultural Extension Services

2.1.4.b.iii Key Message from Working Group II

The workgroup discussion built consensus that the following key messages should be used to communicate to policymakers at country level and in international fora such as the HLPF, to underline the close interlinkages between SDG implementation and agricultural services.

Soil protection and rehabilitation are key to achieving many SDGs, including 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, and of course, 15.

Extension services are key to achieving soil rehabilitation. Public and private extension service providers have a role to play in this – while regulation and coordination remain key governmental tasks.

While there are some very positive examples achieved in a number of countries, important gaps persist in financing, inclusiveness, accountability, coordination, capacity, and targeting, and harmonising messages to the resource-poor.

In order to achieve the SDGs, we need concerted investment in extension services and to upscale good examples in order to finally bridge these gaps.

As a starting point for working towards improved agricultural extension services, the participating countries discussed establishing a peer-support and peer-review mechanism between them, with the objective of improving quality and accountability as well as outreach to resource-poor farmers, and promotion of SLM in their respective national extension services. GSW partners will pursue possibilities for putting this idea into practice.



Workshop 1

2.1.4.c Working Group III – Institutionalization of Open Data Access

In order to improve the quality of agricultural extension services, and to support decision-making concerning SLM implementation at the farm level, access to and availability of data (pedological, agro-ecological, socio-economic) needs to be improved and ensured. Following decades of research there are abundant data on agriculture, biophysical conditions of soils, and climate, as well as socio-economic status and needs. In many cases however, these data are unavailable to agricultural service providers and/or the public. The underlying reasons can be manifold, ranging from unclear intellectual property rights to budgetary constraints. Improving access to such data in order to achieve better services for farmers and improved decision-making at local levels therewith is an important contribution to SDG 2, especially target 2A, and to SDG 17 targets 17.6 and 17.16.

This working group concentrated on the challenges, methods and mechanisms needed to render data available and accessible to all stakeholders, including local populations:

- How can all the existing data be harnessed to achieve the SDGs? Which tools are needed to make use of these data?
- How to make open data more user-friendly? How to enable small farmers to make use of open data?

2.1.4.c.i Key Challenges

The workshop participants identified several key challenges to open data access (ODA) for sustainable soil management:

- A large quantity of data can be found, but often only in dormant data repositories that are not openly accessible; there are no common standards for comparability of data or methods; usability is limited;
- At national levels, policy frameworks to support open data sharing are lacking; in a global context, there is no coherence between a multitude of policy and legal frameworks;
- Resources for funding and capacity-building for technology and infrastructure are very limited;
- As soil conditions are dynamic, soil data need to be used and “updated” in time;
- The academic system does not incentivise the sharing of data, as researchers are judged according to the number and uniqueness of their publications, which are an institutional requirement for further funding; damage to reputation is feared.

2.1.4.c.ii Inspiration from Cases

Cases from Ethiopia, Colombia, and India among others provide insights and offer inspiration on how to overcome some of the overarching – and also the very specific – challenges for open data access.

POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

The example of **Colombia** shows how a corresponding legal framework can contribute to open data sharing: A national law, developed under the framework of the Convention on Climate Change, to make climate data publicly accessible can provide a frame for wider open data access. It can also trigger innovative use of the information made accessible, for purposes of sustainable soil management.

As an example of **internationally operating** (research) **organisations, the CG centres** (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)) have a policy of publishing as much as possible in open data format. Internal policies of this type can leverage the huge untapped potential of agricultural research: The CG system alone surveys approximately 180000 farmers per year!

Different stakeholders currently develop their own standards and guidelines on how to gather, store, and share data (e.g., BONARES project in Germany) – further exchange and collaboration are necessary to avoid fragmentation. For geospatial data, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has developed internationally accepted open standards. The legal framework for geospatial data in Europe is the **Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) Directive**.

DATA USE AND ACCESS

In **Ethiopia**, the **EthioSis** programme has shown that layering of different data types (geo-spatial, soil, plant nutrient demand, etc.) can lead to improved recommendations for agricultural extension. Thus, extension can provide better services to farmers on the basis of more and systematically explored data. In the light of linking agendas and exploring synergies, EthioSis also included information on nutrition, which is a key variable for holistic farming advice.

The **Indian Soil Health Card Scheme** provides an example of dealing with the specific challenge of changing data, especially with the nature of soil information, which has its own time, and needs to be used and updated within given timescales: soil sampling is repeated every two years, with the support of mobile soil labs, but mainly through the national extension system. This is, however, a very resource-intensive process.

2.1.4.c.iii Recommendations

Recommendations for key stakeholders to achieve progress on ODA for sustainable soil management:

- Open data should be harnessed in ways that solve actual problems, linking it to knowledge generation and making it available to decision-makers, practitioners, and end-users. Through this approach, open data can provide substantial contributions to achieving the SDGs.

Data organisation and infrastructure:

- Donors can be one of the key drivers for standardising information, if they require a specific standardised method as a prerequisite for funding. FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable) should be applied in all development cooperation projects to consider data a global public good (<https://www.force11.org>);
- Governments should establish a geospatial data infrastructure to share data between different departments;



- Within the scientific community, awareness of the importance of data sharing needs improvement.

Regulatory frameworks:

- Creative Commons licensing frameworks can offer flexible solutions to the challenges of data-sharing. Using such a license, the data owner can decide the levels of access to the data, and can specify restrictions (e.g., commercial use could be prohibited);
- Researchers, governments, and non-governmental actors need to agree on protocols to ensure the right of first use, global soil data structure, and data-sharing standards;
- Where possible, data should be integrated into existing infrastructures and meta-data should be added to ensure usability.

Capacity building and funding:

- A policy framework alone does not lead to its operationalisation: Capacities need to be built at all levels; this is the responsibility of all actors involved;
- Projects on global soil data action should be promoted – investment is crucial! Public funding will be particularly required, as open data do not normally serve a commercial purpose;
- The key objective for open data must be to provide better services to farmers. To reach farmers, research and extension services must be better linked;
- Collaborating with online- or mobile phone service-providers can be an option for effectively transferring the available information to farmers.

2.1.4.c.iv Key Message from Working Group III

A tremendous wealth of biophysical, agricultural and socio-economic data already exist at the global, regional, national, and local scales. However, these data are often not readily accessible and adjusted to the needs of policy-makers, practitioners, and end-users. Providing access to existing data, and incentives as well as assurances for informed decision-making and action – in support of national and global efforts of soil protection, rehabilitation, and productive use – is a success factor for the SDG agenda and needs public investment.



Workshop 1

2.1.5 CO-HOSTS AND INPUTS

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Saydou Koudougou, GRAF, Burkina Faso

Presentations and impulse statements were provided by:

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Simon Bodea, Director, Terre et Vie, Benin

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Leroy Mwanzi, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Colombia

Suchith Anand, Global Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)

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Andries Bosma, International Soil Research and Information Centre (ISRIC), Netherlands

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Nikolai Svoboda, Soil as a Sustainable Resource for the Bioeconomy (BonaRes)

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Pradip Dey, Indian Institute for Soil Science, India

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2.2 WORKSHOP 2 – RIGHT TO [DEFEND] LAND: STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THROUGH THEMATIC REVIEWS

Matteo De Donà, Anna Kramer

2.2.1 ABSTRACT

Secure access to land and natural resources is crucial for the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. Despite international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda and the VGGT, marginalised people struggle to enjoy their legitimate land tenure rights, given competing pressures on resources and injustice, often resulting in violent silencing of activists. Protecting land rights defenders and strengthening local accountability mechanisms is not only key to people's lives, but is also essential to achieving the SDGs. By addressing the "shrinking civic space", this workshop utilised the Thematic Reviews promoted by the 2030 Agenda to create a support

function for accountability at national levels, by elaborating guidelines for government-led multi-stakeholder reporting and empowering local actors.

2.2.2 INTERLINKAGES, TRADE-OFFS AND GAPS

This workshop addressed the issue of accountability in land governance. The overall discussion hinged on the following SDGs under review at HLPF17: SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). In addition, it was recognised that SDG 16 (Peace and Justice) is essential to ensuring that the accountability dimension is duly considered when addressing land governance in national and local contexts. Key linkages and targets were identified as shown in Figure 8, pg. 40.

Even though trade-offs between the SDGs mentioned above and the other SDGs were not discussed specifically during the workshop, it was recognised that economic growth, driven by land-based investments, has to take into account and respect the legitimate land rights of local populations, notably of vulnerable groups such as indigenous people, women, youth, and migrants.

2.2.3 THE WORKSHOP IN RELATION TO GSW17 PRINCIPLES AND FUNCTIONS

The workshop directly relates to the overarching principles and functions of the GSW17. The workshop addressed the umbrella principles, namely:

target

1.4 Eradicate poverty, in particular ensuring equal land rights and tenure security

indicator

1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure

target

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

target

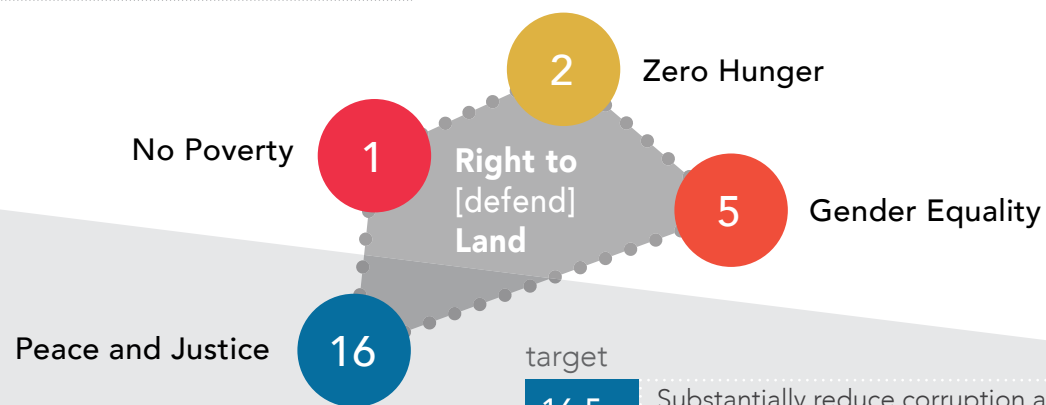
5.A Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

indicator

5.A.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

indicator

5.A.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control



target

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates

target

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

target

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

target

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

target

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

target

16.B Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Figure 8. Key linkages and targets examined in Workshop 2

UNIVERSALITY: Accountability in land governance is an issue affecting all UN Member States, since relevant actions and moves by actors/stakeholders in one country often have an impact on other actors/stakeholders in other countries (e.g., international land-based investments);

INCLUSION to ‘leave no one behind’: The discussion focussed on the need to defend the land tenure rights and human rights of vulnerable and marginalised actors;

INTEGRATION: It was clearly emphasised that addressing accountability in land governance entails cross-cutting efforts, and that SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 16 are not only strictly interrelated but also complementary.

With regard to the functions, particular attention was dedicated to:

- The transformational potential of **multi-stakeholder platforms** and dialogue between actors to trigger change at national levels;
- The potential of harnessing traditional knowledge to integrate official knowledge management processes and, in particular, the value of bolstering official quantitative data and indicators with **locally-generated qualitative information**;
- The importance of producing **concrete tools/outputs**, as demonstrated with the ‘reporting guidelines’ developed during the workshop;
- Putting **accountability** at the top of the 2030 Agenda, notably by highlighting the need for responsible land governance in order to achieve the SDGs;
- **Sharing experiences** from different contexts, to inform the global perspective, taking advantage of the broad geographical representation offered by the workshop participants.

2.2.4 OUTCOMES

The workshop focussed on the importance of placing accountability in land governance at the top of the SDG implementation process. It specifically discussed the opportunities for governments to report on progress made towards accountability in land governance at national levels, and on the significance of addressing this thematic issue as a crucial part of the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process.

The workshop saw the participation of 25 women and 23 men from more than 20 countries, spanning a geographical scope comprising the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia. The participants’ backgrounds included civil society organisations, international NGOs, academic institutions, international development organisations, national human rights institutions, as well as governmental institutions. The broad and varied backgrounds of participants facilitated a multi-level approach through which local, national, and global perspectives were equally considered. Nonetheless, it was noted that representation of the business sector would have been beneficial, as this would have contributed to increasing the inclusiveness and impact of the process.

The need to protect land rights holders, environmental defenders, and human rights defenders is one of the cornerstones of ensuring accountability in land governance issues. This aspect was clearly underscored at the beginning of the session by Barbara Unmüßig (President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation), who set the scene for the workshop discussions by recalling that tackling the issue of “shrinking democratic space for civil society” is crucial to achieving accountability, transparency, and justice. Subsequently, Joan Carling (representative of the Indigenous People’s International Center for Policy Research and Education –Tebtebba Foundation) talked about the opportunities that the 2030 Agenda offers national governments,

to take action on land governance accountability. In particular, she pointed to the relevant SDG targets and indicators for land governance, and the national and thematic review processes taking place each year at the HLPF, highlighting that Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) can be the ideal mechanism for governments to report on progress made on land governance accountability. The prospects of harnessing the 2030 Agenda to strengthen accountability, human rights, and land rights were further emphasised by Delphine Ortega-Espes (National Peasant and Indigenous Movement – Via Campesina) and Birgitte Feiring (Danish Institute for Human Rights), who respectively informed the participants about the possibility of building on existing international monitoring mechanisms such as the CFS, including the VGGT; and the broader UN human rights monitoring system, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The participants were then invited to seize the occasion provided by the 2030 Agenda and the upcoming HLPF17 by developing a tool to support governments in their review and reporting process. The tool was framed as ‘reporting guidelines’, consistent with the two existing sets of guidelines proposed by the UN to support governments in their reporting processes towards SDG implementation, notably the

guidelines issued by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and those proposed as an annex to the UN Secretary-General’s report, “Critical Milestones Towards Coherent, Efficient and Inclusive Follow-up and Review at the Global Level”. Matteo De Donà (IASS/ Global Soil Forum) clarified that the ‘reporting guidelines’ developed throughout the workshop would not aim to substitute the existing set of guidelines proposed by the UN and the UNDG, but should rather be intended as a tool to integrate the latter with a view to supporting national governments in their SDG follow-up and review process from the perspective of accountability in land governance.

In order to jointly develop the reporting guidelines, participants split into thematic working groups, namely:

WORKING GROUP 1 – on “Boundaries and red lines”, focussing on the questions: What needs to be monitored and reported in terms of land governance beyond the SDG land targets/indicators? What is missed out but should be included in a country report in order to ensure accountability at different scales of land governance (e.g., local, state/provincial, national)?

Group leader: Luca Miggiano, Oxfam Novib



WORKING GROUP 2 on “**Multi-stakeholder monitoring**”, addressing the questions: Who needs to be involved in the monitoring and reporting process on accountability in land governance, and with which roles and responsibilities? How should the process be designed, considering the relationships of involved actors?

Group leader: Margaret Muthee, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)

WORKING GROUP 3 on “**Data and information**”, addressing the questions: Which kind of quantitative and qualitative data and information should be collected? How can such information be gathered, and who can provide it? Which tools for data collection are already available?

Group leader: Nathaniel Don Marquez, Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)

WORKING GROUP 4 on “**Using existing mechanisms**”, focussing on the following matters: Which established human rights mechanisms (e.g., UPR) and other mechanisms (e.g., CFS) can be used and harnessed to support national reviews on accountability in land

governance – and how? How can the existing mechanisms be used to make Thematic Reviews a complementary tool for accountability?

Group leader: Birgitte Feiring, Danish Institute for Human Rights

WORKING GROUP 5 investigating the “**Ingredients for an enabling environment**” and asking: What is needed to ensure that the media, judiciary, civil society, etc. are able to operate freely and safely, to support accountability in land governance?

Group leader: Julian Oram, Independent Consultant

WORKING GROUP 6 on “**Accountability in land-based investments**”, addressing these key questions: How to support monitoring and reporting on accountability in land-based investments? What are the responsibilities of the home country of the investing company (including development cooperation) and of the host country of the investment? Which accountability instruments and tools exist, and how to use them?

Group leader: Jan-Christian Niebank, German Institute for Human Rights

The **COMPILED** recommendations/guidelines of these working groups is illustrated in Figure 9, pg. 44.



Scenes from Workshop 2

-
1. Governments should monitor all forms of land inequality (i.e., distribution of secure tenure rights and size among different segments of societies; women/men; rural/urban; communal/individual; per income; per hunger index; vulnerable communities) and should report on the percentage of women, men, indigenous people, and local communities who have experienced a land dispute/conflict in the last X years (disaggregated as above). Informal and undocumented land rights should be captured in the monitoring and reporting processes.
 2. Governments should monitor over time (i.e., trends, time-series, etc.) the link/correlation between secure tenure rights and other dimensions of the SDGs, in particular food security and hunger, land use and conservation, soil, water, small-holder agriculture, agro-ecological practices, resilience, peace, disaggregated urban/rural data, women/men (c.f. disaggregation in SDGs).
 3. With due acknowledgement of national and local contexts, government agencies responsible for VNRs, and relevant actors, should report on the extent to which they have identified, assessed, created, harmonised, and built on existing mechanisms, multi-stakeholders initiatives/platforms, and actors involved in, having an interest in, and being impacted by land governance and tenure. They should highlight key gaps and omitted stakeholders/actors and report on how they plan to integrate these into the process to ensure that nobody is left behind, especially marginalised and vulnerable groups, local communities, and formal and informal rights holders. VNRs should report on possibilities granted to the most affected people, to be self-organised and to report independently.
 4. Government agencies responsible for VNRs should report on the extent to which governments have opened space for involvement in a continuous, long-term, human-rights based, holistic monitoring, and reporting process. Key aspects of the process are:
 - Clearly stated objectives;
 - Clear structure and principles for involving actors;
 - Evaluation of the process;
 - Identified follow-up and next steps.
 The process should be trusted by rights holders and actors, and should be participatory, inclusive, transparent, public, decentralised, bottom-up, and informed by international guidelines such as the VGGT. Governments should report on the extent to which they have considered independent reports, civil society, and community-produced data and research.
 5. Governments should utilise a multi-source approach of using existing national data statistics and, in particular, CSOs and community/citizen-generated data and other alternative sources of data. Thus, governments should recognise/accept these other sources and approaches in the SDG review process and report on the extent to which multi-sources approaches are adopted. Government should also report on the extent to which national statistical offices and stakeholders, particularly rights holders and CSOs, cooperate in defining the country-level indicators for SDGs
 6. Governments should report on land rights that are not formally recognised by national law, not only on those that are already formally recognised. In particular, governments should incorporate alternative/proxy indicators and data to broaden the scope of covering only documented and formal land rights

Figure 9. The final compiled set of recommendations / guidelines of Workshop 2

7. Governments should report on any recommendations and observations they have received from national, regional and international human rights monitoring mechanisms, of relevance for the land-related aspects of SDG targets 1.4, 2.3, 5.a, 10.3, 16.10 and 16.b, as well as any actions they have taken to address these recommendations.

9. States should report on human rights risks and impacts (including for and on women) of land-based investments before, during, and after their implementation, based on independent human rights expertise and effective (ref. target 16.7) participation of land rights holders, and on how these risks and impacts are addressed (including rejections of new investments, extension of existing ones; alternatives to align with principles and dimensions of the SDGs; scale-down, closure and post-closure measures; management of unintended side effects).

10. States should report on measures taken to:

- Ensure land rights and tenure security in the context of land-based investments (ref. target 2.3);
- Ensure compliance of companies under their jurisdiction, with land and human rights due diligence (including women, indigenous people, family farmers, pastoralists, children, and fishers) throughout their supply and value chains as set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the VGGT, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO-Convention 169), among others;
- Protect against human rights abuses (including gender-based violence), especially when providing support and services to land-based investments through export credit agencies, official investment insurance, or guarantee agencies, development agencies, development finance institutions, and international financial institutions.

8. Governments should report on:

- The extent to which human rights and land rights are part of educational curricula;
- The extent to which grassroots, civil society organisations, and local activists that are defending land rights have sustainable access to adequate financial, legal, and institutional resources. This should be manifested through:
 - Amplified voices of local communities and activists defending land;
 - Vibrant and critical mass of human rights and land rights defenders;
 - Strong networks of CSOs defending land.
- The situation (annually) of land defenders, including attacks on land defenders and legal proceedings;
- Steps taken to establish and strengthen ombudsmen and national human rights institutions that address land rights issues;
- Measures taken to protect whistle-blowers on land rights issues;
- Steps taken to promote the role of human rights and land rights defenders in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs;
- The extent to which human and land rights defenders enjoy inclusive and meaningful participation in multi-stakeholder platforms on the implementation of the SDGs

GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS

After providing comments and sharing views on the reporting guidelines in a plenary discussion facilitated by the moderator Téodyl Nkuintchua, participants undertook reflections on potential outreach strategies for the mainstreaming of the guidelines, with a view to ensuring that these are taken into account by governments as well as utilised by civil society groups. The discussion focussed on both targets and strategies.

FOR TARGETS, RECIPIENTS, AND USERS, participants listed governments, governmental agents, and bodies involved in VNR processes, government-owned institutions, finance ministries, developments banks, NGOs, the nine Major Groups at the HLPF, movements for water, 'early movers' on the SDGs, the private sector (e.g., extractive industries), civil society, and media for shadow reporting, the general public, NHRIs, political parties, and academic and scientific institutions. Ensuring adequate timing for the targeting of the guidelines at the various recipients and users was also recommended.

THE STRATEGIES FOR OUTREACH INCLUDED: producing and taking advantage of shadow reports; transporting messages deriving from scientific bodies and institutions; coproduction of reports with CSOs; fostering alternative and independent reports; providing data for alternative reports; taking a lead in challenging national reports; harnessing international legally binding as well as voluntary human rights mechanisms; broader monitoring of World Bank, UN-Habitat, and FAO; increasing the focus on SDG 16; increasing vigilance and resistance against shrinking space for CSOs; promoting coalition-building; building capacities; publicity/awareness raising, and developing of IEC materials; connecting with the CESCR (Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights) process and

its observations on land; and making use of regional processes as platforms for improving land governance (with particular reference to SDG 2.3 and SDG 5).

At the end of the session, LAB delegates Delphine and Birgitte summarised the main messages engendered by the workshop and enshrined in the reporting guidelines. In particular, they underscored the need to:

- Address the pressing issue of violence against human rights and land rights defenders;
- Ensure an 'enabling environment' and ample space for civil society engaged in land governance issues;
- Ensure effective participation for marginalised and vulnerable populations and land rights holders;
- Leave no one behind, by identifying all actors and stakeholders, including marginalised and vulnerable populations, allowing them to conduct their own reporting processes and use their own indicators;
- Use international opportunities such as the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process to effectively link the local, national, and global dimensions;
- Ensure that review processes are transparent, inclusive, and inspired by international instruments such as the VGGT;
- Strengthen international accountability mechanisms;
- Use existing regional and international human rights instruments to strengthen and enrich the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review mechanism;
- Build on what is already done nationally and internationally in terms of reporting on accountability;

- Harness data and indicators, keeping in mind the related challenges (including protection of data and actors);
- Give a central role to land in the 2030 Agenda;
- Make use of the reporting guidelines to address land governance in a more coherent way;
- Give a central role to SDG 16, to reinforce accountability in land governance;
- Invite governments to deliver on pledges that have already been made, including on provision of disaggregated data.

The reporting guidelines, the main outcome of the workshop, were finally welcomed by workshop participants as a valuable tool to track change over time and to monitor progress on SDGs that are of particular relevance for accountability in land governance, notably SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 16. They were regarded not only as an opportunity to support national review and reporting processes but also as a channel to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue at national levels. The potential role of CSOs in promoting the guidelines was strongly emphasised by some participants.

2.2.5 CO-HOSTS AND INPUTS

Special thanks and credits to:

WORKING GROUP LEADERS:

Luca Miggiano, Oxfam Novib

Margaret Muthee, NANHRI

Nathaniel Don Marquez, ANGOC

Birgitte Feiring, Danish Institute for Human Rights

Julian Oram, Independent Consultant

Jan-Christian Niebank, German Institute for Human Rights

LAB DELEGATES:

Delphine Ortega-Espes, National Peasant and Indigenous Movement – Via Campesina

Birgitte Feiring, Danish Institute for Human Rights

OTHER INPUTS:

Barbara Unmüßig, President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation

Joan Carling, representative of the Indigenous People's International Center for Policy Research and Education, Tebtebba Foundation

MODERATOR:

Téodyl Nkuintchua, Independent Consultant



Workshop 3

2.3 WORKSHOP 3 – PROTECTING LAND RESOURCES FOR SHARED PROSPERITY

Judith Rosendahl, Hannah Janetschek,
Nora Rocholl

2.3.1 ABSTRACT

Soil and land are pivotal to ending hunger, alleviating poverty, and achieving food security for all (SDG 1 and 2). Yet, a multitude of actors and initiatives from different sectors, such as food production, energy production, urban planning, and combating climate change, rely on development scenarios that demand additional land. However, fertile soils are not only a finite and scarce resource, but also increasingly scarce due to degradation. The workshop first scrutinised the current and projected availability of land, the different types of land use competition, and the issue of displaced land use. Subsequently, the concepts of two solution approaches were presented, namely LDN (SDG 15.3) and SCP (SDG 12). Three country cases from Benin, Brazil, and Germany

then provided insights relevant for both solution approaches, which were discussed in more detail during two parallel sessions. In the last part, participants discussed the responsibility to protect soils and land in order to remain within planetary boundaries and provide a solid foundation for sustainable development, and how LDN and SCP relate to each other in the context of the SDGs. This resulted in jointly developed policy messages as inputs to the Thematic Review LAB.

2.3.2 INTERLINKAGES, TRADE-OFFS AND GAPS

Soils and land play an important role for achieving almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals²³. Of the seven SDGs under review by the HLPF in 2017, soils and land are of utmost importance for ending hunger, alleviating poverty, and achieving food security for all (SDG 1 and 2). Yet, due to the decreasing availability of land due to land degradation, and due to rising and competing demands for land from various sectors, SDG 1 and 2 are in jeopardy. Data on the current and projected demands for land from various sectors show that, in total, not enough fertile land is available to fulfil all projected demands sustainably.²⁴ There are thus trade-offs, but also opportunities that need to be acknowledged in the Agenda 2030 and addressed. Trade-offs and opportunities manifest first and foremost at the local level, but the global and national levels also have responsibilities to act on synergies and trade-offs, and provide the necessary conditions, national frameworks, and incentive schemes for local action.

²³ Keesstra, S. D. et al. (2016) The significance of soils and soil science towards realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. – *Soil*, 2.2, p. 111.

²⁴ Bringezu, S. et al. (2014). *Assessing Global Land Use: Balancing Consumption with Sustainable Supply*.

The link between soils and land to SDG 3 (on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages) was also discussed. Recent studies on cotton production in Benin inter alia showed how the inputs to cotton production impacted human health, animals, and the environment at large, and documented the massive costs of the associated health issues and environmental damage. These include health problems and deaths of humans and animals due to synthetic chemical pesticides, and the resulting reduction in soil biodiversity (paedofauna) that leads to reduced decomposition of organic matter into micronutrients and thus declining soil fertility.

The goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5) was seen as a cross-cutting issue that is important for achieving all the discussed land-related goals, namely LDN and SCP. Participants found that all solutions should always consider the impacts on gender, culture, and the local environment.

SDGs 9 on resilient infrastructure and sustainable industrialisation, 14 on the sustainable use of marine resources, and 17 on the means of implementation and revitalising global partnerships were not discussed in detail.

2.3.3 THE WORKSHOP IN RELATION TO GSW17 PRINCIPLES AND FUNCTIONS

UNIVERSALITY. A major gap in the universality of Agenda 2030 was seen in the fact that the framework does not consider how land demand within one country can have effects on other countries.

Participants considered that LDN (SDG 15.3) is being implemented at national levels and strives to achieve LDN within national borders. It does not take into account how consumption patterns within one country affect land resources in other countries.

With regard to the goal of SCP (SDG 12), participants stated that current consumption patterns (mostly in the Global North) do undermine shared prosperity for all and often lead to externalisation of the impacts and costs of land use. To live up to the principle of universality, tools and mechanisms to account for and monitor consumption and production, such as the Land Footprint, should be used to link displaced land use to national and local land use decisions and LDN implementation. In this regard, participants concluded that the two concepts of LDN and SCP can be linked and complement each other.

INCLUSION to 'leave no one behind'. Participants discussed various approaches to making LDN and SCP a reality. For implementing LDN, participatory processes are foreseen and already being implemented. A successful way for coming to action with regard to SCP was seen in the approaches of the Agricultural Pathways Initiative,²⁵ which uses backcasting and multi-stakeholder methodologies for sustainable food systems. It was agreed that, to achieve sustainable development, multi-stakeholder approaches are needed to develop transformation pathways with clear visions of the future, prioritised targets and courses of action. Furthermore, the public and private sectors need to be held responsible for acting on the knowledge already available and created within the process of reporting on the SDGs.

²⁵ Schwoob, M.-H. et al. (2016) *Agricultural Transformation Pathways Initiative*.

INTEGRATION. Participants suggested that soil and land have the potential to overcome sectoral silos that might hinder delivery of the SDGs. The clear call to use tools and mechanisms to account for and monitor consumption and production, such as the Land Footprint, to link displaced land use to national and local land use decisions and LDN implementation, is one example of an integrated perspective on the SDGs that at the same time lives up to the principle of universality.

2.3.4 OUTCOMES

The aim of this workshop was to establish the status quo in demand for soil and land resources, and to formulate policy recommendations based on scientific inputs as well as knowledge provided through policymakers and representatives from civil society and the business sector. We started by looking at the competing pressures that are placed on soil and land resources by development scenarios that demand additional land.^{26, 27, 28, 29} Competing demands on land-use may occur firstly due to competing types of production (food crops versus non-food crops); secondly, production versus conservation measures; and thirdly, conversion of land (e.g., buildings and infrastructure) versus production and/or conservation.^{30, 31} Beyond

the competition for land, soils are finite and scarce, their availability decreases as a result of degradation, and demands for soil are often caused by consumption patterns in other countries. Hence, the three types of land use competition, as well as land degradation and displaced land use, were discussed in more detail during group discussions at World Café-style tables.

2.3.4.a World Café

Participants discussing **URBANISATION VS. LAND USE FOR PRODUCTION AND/OR CONSERVATION** found that there is a rural–urban divide that needs to be overcome in order to create sustainable urbanisation processes. In addition, cities are often located on fertile soils that could otherwise be used for food production. Urbanisation and its social and environmental impacts are also often tele-connected (“Dust storms don’t need a visa”). However, political–economic realities constrain more efficient land use allocation.

During the discussion of **LAND USE FOR PRODUCTION VS. PRODUCTION (FOOD OR FUEL OR FIBRE)**, participants concluded that land use and management need to be organised in a collaborative way. Knowledge and information systems require being adapted to the region and its people; and should build on and preserve local knowledge, and provide adequate agricultural extension services to provide region-specific opportunities and empower farmers. Other interesting aspects included the observation that changing dietary habits can influence land use for food vs. for feed by a factor of 100. Also, while there was consent that food production should

26 Popp, A. et al. (2017) Land-use futures in the shared socio-economic pathways. – *Global Environmental Change*, 42, pp. 331–345.

27 Kraas, F. et al. (2016) *Humanity on the Move: Unlocking the Transformative Power of Cities*. WBGU: German Advisory Council on Global Change.

28 IPCC (2018) Special Report on the Impacts of 1.5 Degrees (forthcoming).

29 IPBES (2018) *Progress Report on the Implementation of the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment*: IPBES/4/INF/11 (forthcoming).

30 Haberl, H. (2015) Competition for land: A sociometabolic perspective. – *Ecological Economics*, 119, pp. 424–431.

31 Haberl, H. et al. (2014) Finite Land Resources and Competition. In K. C. Seto and A. Reenberg (eds.) *Rethinking Global Land Use in an Urban Era. Strüngmann Forum Reports*, vol. 14, pp. 35–69.

have priority over other land use types, the production of biofuels was named as an opportunity to rehabilitate degraded land, e.g., at former coal mines.

Participants discussing **CONSERVATION VS. PRODUCTION** agreed that there is no sustainable production without biodiversity, and thus recommended to include on-farm biodiversity (below- and aboveground) as an indicator for sustainable production. This should also involve better (qualitative) humus detection. Furthermore, land users need long-term perspectives as an incentive to investment in more sustainable practices, and subsidies should only be assigned for truly sustainable production. Complementarily, the general public needs to be educated on the consequences of methods used to produce cheap food.

In the discussion of the **CURRENT STATUS OF LAND DEGRADATION AND THE RELATED AVAILABILITY OF LAND**, participants found that there is no scientific agreement on the extent of land degradation, because of different assessment methods; however, there is agreement on trends, which are said to be negative. For example, the ELD Initiative found that, globally, 52 per cent of land

used for agriculture is already degraded, and further areas are prone to degradation processes, often caused by increasing pressures due to distant drivers of land use.³² Drivers of land degradation include land tenure insecurity, market failure, and distorting policy incentives. Land degradation increases the competition for use of land but may also become an incentive for rehabilitation. Therefore, land degradation has systemic multiplier effects on most SDGs in both positive and negative ways. Thus, soil underpins the SDGs and the challenge lies in addressing the trade-offs.

Current scientific research on **DISTANT DRIVERS** shows how, mostly, industrialised countries consume more land (-based products) than the land area available in their territories allows, and hence externalise their land use to other regions, mostly in the developing world.^{33, 34} This displaced land use illustrates how consumption in industrialised

32 ELD Initiative. "The Value of Land: Prosperous Lands and Positive Rewards through Sustainable Land Management." *The Economics of Land Degradation*, Bonn, Germany (2015).

33 Dawkins, E. et al. (2016) *Tracking Germany's Biomass Consumption: Scientific Underpinning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*.

34 Meyfroidt, P. et al. (2014) Globalization of land use: Distant drivers of land change and geographic displacement of land use. – *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 5.5, pp. 438–444.



countries has repercussions for ecosystems and livelihoods in the Global South. The participants discussing displaced land use also agreed that scientific assessments and modelling have shown that changes in land use occur due to policies, consumption patterns (demand), and trade agreements. The land that is lost and therefore no longer usable for agriculture, as well as the different costs associated with land use and irrigation, can be measured. However, there is no common measurement system for changes in values or thinking (knowledge–action gap), the costs incurred as a result of inequalities between developed and developing countries, or the impacts of an individual (lowest-level impact). Participants also concluded that the SDG indicators cannot display the global consequences (“interconnectedness”) of consumption and production. As possible solutions they identified food labelling and footprints as well as more closely integrated policies (protect+produce). Urban farming and crowdsourcing to measure and increase the available data were two additional ideas that came up during the discussions.

2.3.4.b Country insights and introduction of approaches to decrease pressure on soils

Having established the current demands on soils and land, two possible approaches to decrease these pressures on soils were introduced. Barron Orr, of the UNCCD Science–Policy Interface, presented the conceptual framework for LDN, and underlined that planning, anticipating change, and monitoring LDN indicators as part of a learning process are crucial aspects for its implementation. In his position as Chair of the Advisory Board of the UN 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Ulf D. Jaeckel introduced the concept of SCP as well as the objectives, initiatives, and programmes of the 10YFP. Both concepts were discussed in more detail during the two breakout sessions described below.

Three country cases gave insights into the interdependencies of demand and land use, and showed the respective impacts on the ecosystem and human health in the production area. Simplicie Davo Vodouhè from the Université d’Abomey-Calavi, and Vanja Westerburg from Altus Impact presented the case of cotton production in Benin.



Scenes from Workshop 3

Cotton production is very important for the local economy, accounting for 70% of export revenue and 40% of jobs in Benin. However, a field survey by OBEPA in 2016 with 500 producers of conventional and organic cotton found that the use of synthetic chemical pesticides has severe adverse effects on human and animal health as well as soil fertility. Despite the promotion of organic cotton in Benin since 1994 (there were 3000 organic cotton producers in 2016) it was said that more political will is required to increase the share of organic cotton production. The 'Economics of Land Degradation' study in the municipality of Banikoara (northern Benin) also concluded that, while organic cotton yields are lower than those of conventional cotton, the revenue is about the same, whereas the costs for seeds, manure, compost, etc. account for only one-quarter of those faced by conventional cotton producers, leading to a greater net benefit of organic cotton. The study also underlined the costs of illness and environmental damage due to the use of pesticides, which further decreases the net benefit of conventional cotton producers. Yet, in order to promote organic cotton, a level playing field needs to be created and subsidies on pesticides have to be phased out.

Regine Schönenberg from Freie Universität Berlin presented the case of soy production in Brazil. She highlighted that Brazil is in a state of political crisis at the moment. The leeway for civil society is shrinking, and many environmental laws and regulations were cut back over the previous six months. Having reached the lowest rate of deforestation in 2012 (4571 km²), the rate is now increasing again and nearly doubled from 2012 to 2016. It is estimated that 66 per cent of deforestation is associated with cattle ranching. Soy is Brazil's third-largest export commodity, of which 70 per cent is used as animal feed. Researchers at the FU Berlin used life histories to analyse the impacts of soy production on local farmers in the Mato Grosso, Brazil's main soy

production area accounting for 30 per cent of Brazil's soy production. They found that insecurity of land tenure and lack of political power are the basis for unsustainable soy production practices. Many small and informal landowners are displaced, and the death rate associated with land conflicts rose in 2016 to levels not seen since 2003.

Lastly, Christine Chemnitz of the Heinrich Böll Foundation presented a case study of Germany, as a large-scale producer, consumer, and exporter of meat products. Even though annual per capita meat consumption has decreased slightly in recent years (to approximately 60 kg), production is increasing and mostly destined for the global market. At the same time, the number of producers and the area of grazing land have been decreasing, resulting in the industrialised production of meat concentrated in a few regions. The consequences are land use change and related negative impacts, such as CO₂ emissions, reduction of biodiversity, etc., and the intensification of agricultural production and related negative impacts, such as heavy pesticide use, nutrient surplus, and CO₂ emissions. For feed supply, the EU imports soy equivalent to 16 Mha of land from other countries, and has an unsustainable land footprint. Christine Chemnitz stressed that governments are aware, and that consumers have also become more aware in recent years of their personal consumption patterns, and request higher animal welfare and environmental standards. Even though a reduction in meat consumption, and thus land footprint, would be comparatively easy to achieve and the necessary political instruments are available (e.g., the elimination of subsidies, consumer campaigns, environmental regulations), the German Government would not take action, due to the power of the small group of beneficiaries of this unsustainable business model. She concluded that it would therefore be necessary to maintain pressure on governments in order to deliver on the SDGs.

Hence, the principles of universality and common, but differentiated responsibilities of the 2030 Agenda need to be discussed in the context of natural resource use in general and the protection of terrestrial ecosystems in particular. This no longer permits the operation of a business-as-usual scenario for land use, but instead requires knowledge of how to best protect land resources across different sectors, and within the context of various SDGs, to enable a decent living for all.

2.3.4.c Land Degradation Neutrality

In the separate session on LDN, based on the insights about challenges and problems in four different settings in Madagascar, China, Algeria, and Germany, the workshop discussed the challenges and how to overcome them in relation to long-term preservation of soil fertility. Even though all four countries encounter different challenges due to their biophysical, political, and social preconditions, they all revealed that we need to think big in order to achieve at least a little progress. For example, urbanisation, land tenure, landscape dynamics, and consumption patterns elsewhere have major impacts on land degradation. To achieve LDN, we are in need of intersectoral governance mechanisms, the integration of measurement with land-use planning, and a policy landscape that allows for regulations and incentives to halt degradation.

Given the aspirations in SDG 15.3 on halting degradation, and in SDG 2 on fostering sustainable agricultural productivity, the country insights confirmed that, to achieve these aspirations, immediate and radical action is needed to halt degradation. The political and institutional process around SDG 15.3 is remarkable. Under the auspices of UNCCD, the Global Mechanism has embarked on

a pilot exercise in more than 100 countries, concerning voluntary target-setting processes within a wide group of stakeholders, in which the monitoring and planning process is integrated in order to halt degradation. It has been shown that empowerment to achieve ownership of communities is a crucial factor for progress. Ownership to contribute to such a complex process is closely tied with access to land and rural future perspectives, and hence needs to be seen as a duality in order to overcome degradation.

Nevertheless, LDN can only deliver on soft-steering mechanisms to foster dialogue among stakeholders, increase ownership for land-use planning, and contribute to halting degradation. It cannot overcome unfavourable external conditions, such as through enforcement or ensuring compliance with LDN measures. Hence, the LDN implementation process should become a priority for national policy planning and policy decision-making, and should be mainstreamed into planning and policy-making within various sectors, such as water policies and urban planning.

This discussion resulted in three elementary messages from the LDN community:

- Land tenure insecurity is a driver of land degradation. While the LDN scientific conceptual framework includes principles concerning this and also embraces the VGGTs, responsible governance that encourages active steps to safeguard land tenure rights can enhance outcomes in the pursuit of LDN;
- Unplanned urbanisation (SDG 11) displaces land in a suboptimal way. Maintaining or exceeding LDN can only happen through integrated spatial land-use planning designed to optimise where (e.g., least productive lands) and how (e.g., increase resilience) growth will occur;

- Consumption patterns in one country can lead to the externalisation of land demand to another country. This is a major driver of land degradation. Moreover, reporting on this requires the tools (data, method, political will) both to track these and ensure policies (e.g., subsidies) to not inadvertently incentivise land degradation (externalisation/tele-coupling concern). Similarly, it must be considered that land displacement can also take place within countries, pursued by local elites.

2.3.4.d Sustainable Consumption and Production of land-based products

In the separate session on SCP of land-based products, participants discussed the linkages between dynamics of consumption, trade, and production systems. On the consumption side, the session addressed how to trigger changes in individual lifestyles and consumption patterns, under the premise of constraining our resource use to within the planetary boundaries. On the production side, participants discussed how to counter the detrimental impacts of the global demand for land-based products.

A presentation on the UN's 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production by Ulf D. Jaeckel showed that land use is already implicit in many of the indicators used, and could be addressed in more.

Stefan Bringezu elaborated on strategies to reduce the final level of consumption of land-based products and showed that more efficient and sustainable use of resources is imperative for reducing environmental pressures and achieving SDG 12. Possible targets

for SDG 12 could be: to double the rate of annual productivity increase, and to maintain general resource consumption within the safe operating space. Possible indicators could include the four footprints for materials, land, water, and GHG emissions, i.e., accounting for the final consumption of goods in a country. An advantage of employing footprints as an indicator is that they can be measured across scales (companies, cities, regions, countries, etc.). For example, the EU's cropland footprint would need to be reduced by one third. It was mentioned that every country could identify "obvious candidates" to reduce the land footprint. Several strategies were mentioned, for steering consumption and improving land management to remain within the safe operating space, and their potential to save land was quantified in terms of: improving diets and reducing food waste; halving biofuel targets; controlling the demand for biomaterials; improving land use planning; and investing in land rehabilitation and restoration.

Birgit Wilhelm used the example of soy to describe the changes required, and mentioned three solutions: i) increased sustainable domestic agricultural production, ii) reduced meat consumption, and iii) regulations for imported soy that guarantee standards for sustainable production.

Varun Vats presented the commitment of Syngenta, and participants discussed the controversial role of similar large agro-business companies, especially in the Global South.

Marie-Hélène Schwoob's presentation focussed on initiating action for more SCP of land-based products, taking the example of the Agricultural Transformation Pathways Initiative. The initiative developed national pathways towards more sustainable agricultural



Workshop 3

and food systems in several countries, through a step-by-step methodology based on participatory backcasting. She described how Uruguay used this for sustainable intensification of its beef production, involving stakeholders and following the step-by-step methodology of describing the present situation, outlining a desired future, checking the feasibility, determining a concrete course of action, and elaborating a detailed pathway.

The discussions centred on different themes; via a gallery walk at the end of the session, participants expressed which points were most important to them. First, different tangible approaches for the production and consumption of land-based products were raised and discussed during the session, such as the reduction of meat consumption and the regulation of agricultural production, which were rated as important by participants. Furthermore, the issue of consumer information received a lot of attention and importance. Education and awareness of consumption were seen as important requirements for reducing consumption. The role of advertisers in promoting unsustainable products was criticised, and many participants mentioned critically that the mere availability of consumer information and knowledge does not automatically lead to behavioural changes. Participants stressed that the implications of a transition to SCP should not be underestimated, as they represent massive structural changes and a true transformation ("there are no low-hanging fruits").

Overall, it was found that there are no agreed solutions for SCP; therefore, entry points are needed, such as the multi-stakeholder backcasting approach, which was supported as very important by many participants and which was called to be scaled up. Whatever the concrete solution might be, it was found that all solutions should

consider the impacts on gender, culture, and the local environment. Another major point was that SCP, and agriculture and food systems play a role in all SDGs. The challenge highlighted is how to analyse, monitor, and communicate the comprehensive effects on all SDGs, for which a non-silo approach was seen to be needed. For this, the four footprints were seen by many participants as an important mechanism for controlling the final levels of consumption. It was also emphasised that existing programmes and mechanisms should be used.

2.3.4.e Synthesis

In the synthesis part of the workshop, the group elaborated the following key policy messages:

- Implementing SDGs 12 and 15 catalyses the achievement of a multitude of other SDGs. The concepts of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and of Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3) can be linked to optimise land use decisions via multi-stakeholder approaches.
- Implementing LDN has triggered a unique policy process that includes local participation and is an example of how SDGs can successfully be translated into national targets and action. The LDN principles can foster an enabling environment for integrated land use management and planning to halt degradation at the national level. However, LDN is being implemented at national levels and strives to achieve land degradation neutrality within national borders. It does not take

into account how consumption patterns within one country affect land resources in other countries.

- Current consumption patterns (mostly in the Global North) undermine shared prosperity for all and often lead to externalisation of the impacts and costs of land use. To live up to the principle of universality, tools and mechanisms to account for and monitor consumption and production, such as the Land Footprint, should be used to link displaced land use to national and local land use decisions and LDN implementation. Thus, the two concepts can be linked and complement each other.
- To achieve sustainable development, multi-stakeholder approaches are needed to develop transformation pathways with clear visions of the future, prioritised targets, and courses of action. Furthermore, the public and private sectors need to be held responsible for acting on the knowledge already available and created within the framework of reporting on the SDGs.

2.3.5 CO-HOSTS AND INPUTS

Contributions to assessing current and projected land use and availability at **WORLD CAFÉ-STYLE TABLES**:

Land use competition I – Urbanisation: built-up vs. production or conservation

Table hosts: **Arthur Getz Escudero**, EcoAgriculture Partners, and **Jasper van Vliet**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;

Land use competition II - Food, feed, fibre, fuel: production versus production

Table hosts: **Uwe Fritsche**, International Institute for Sustainability Analysis and Strategy;

Land use competition III: sustainable production and conservation – how to achieve this goal?

Table hosts: **Martina Kolarek**, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, and **Birgit Wilhelm**, World Wide Fund for Nature;

Reduced availability of land - land degradation

Table hosts: **Walter Engelberg** and **Alexander Erlewein**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Displaced land use

Table host: **Amanda Palazzo**, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Introduction of the two **CONCEPTS OF SOLUTION APPROACHES**:

Barron Orr, UNCCD Science–Policy Interface (SPI):

“The Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN): A Scientific Foundation for Making LDN a Local Reality”;

Ulf D. Jaeckel, German Federal Ministry for the Environment:

“Towards Solutions – The Concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production”.

THREE COUNTRY CASES:

- Cotton production in Benin (**Simplice Davo Vodouhè**, Université d'Abomey-Calavi and **Vanja Westenburg**, Altus Impact): Needs and constraints of the state and of producers, land degradation, and impacts on the environment and human health;
- Soy production in Brazil (**Regine Schönenberg**, Freie Universität Berlin): Needs and constraints of the state and of producers, land degradation, and impacts on the environment;
- Production and consumption of meat in Germany (**Christine Chemnitz**, Heinrich Böll Foundation): Structure of meat production and consumption, and social and environmental impacts.

PARALLEL SESSION 1: LDN – Stocktaking of an emerging process

Foued Chehat, Government of Algeria

“Make LDN target setting a political reality – challenges and enablers”;

Simeon Hengari, UNCCD Global Mechanism

“Putting SDGs into practice: initial lessons learned from the LDN target setting process”;

Harifidy Rakoto Ratsimba, UNCCD Global Mechanism

“The opportunities of LDN target setting for Madagascar – including synergies, mainstreaming, inter-sectoral cooperation and challenges”;

Stephanie Wunder, Ecologic Institute

“Kickstarting LDN target setting for Germany”;

Kebin Zhang, UNCCD/FAO/Beijing Forest University

“LDN and how it helps translating China’s policy vision into practice to support an integrated implementation of the Agenda 2030”.

PARALLEL SESSION 2: SCP of land-based products

Ulf D. Jaeckel, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building, and Nuclear Safety, UN

10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP

“Overview and update on progress of the 10YFP”;

Stefan Bringezu, Center for Environmental Systems Research/Land and Soils WG of the International Resource Panel

“Strategies to reduce consumption of land based products and a transition cycle for land use”;

Varun Vats, Syngenta

“Syngenta commitment and accomplishments on rescuing more farmland”;

Marie-Hélène Schwoob, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations

“Initiating action. The example of the Agricultural Transformation Pathways Initiative”.

CO-HOSTS:

1. Co-hosts of the workshop: **TMG** ThinkTank for Sustainability; German Development Institute (**DIE**);
2. Co-hosts for the parallel session on LDN: **UNCCD**; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (**GIZ**) GmbH;
3. Co-hosts for the parallel session on SCP: **IDDRI**; **Heinrich Böll Foundation**.

MODERATORS:

Pia Bucella, TMG ThinkTank for Sustainability and former director of the EU Commission’s DG Environment;

Hannah Janetschek, German Development Institute;

Mariam Akthar-Schuster, UNCCD Science–Policy Interface;

Arthur Getz Escudero, EcoAgriculture Partners;

Bodo Richter, German Council for Sustainable Development.

With special thanks for report input, review, and comments:

Alexander Erlewein, GIZ;

Barron Orr, UNCCD Science–Policy Interface (SPI);

Stefan Bringezu, University of Kassel.

Thank you

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Youth Layer

3. GSW17 Layers: Youth and Urban Dimensions

3.1 YOUTH LAYER

Samie Blasingame

3.1.1 THE “YOUTH” AT GSW17

The GSW15 featured a Young Professionals Programme, and at the African Soil Seminar 2016 we organised a working session around young people’s experiences in agriculture. Building on these past efforts to include youth in our events, the GSW17 aimed to include youth as part of all discussions, thus integrating youth-specific participants as a ‘layer’ in each of the workshops and as delegates to the Thematic Review LAB.

The Youth Layer (YL) participants were a group of early-career academics, farmers, lawyers, and activists concerned with soil and land health, land rights, and sustainable consumption and production. They not only

brought their individual perspectives to the discussions at GSW, but also tried to incorporate the perspectives of others who could not physically attend. There is a strong obligation to include young people in discussions about sustainable development, as they will pay the price for the achievements or failures of the SDGs in 2030 and beyond. If we don’t act now, any future measures to halt land degradation or to save the oceans will have to be far more radical than those necessary at present. Therefore, young people need more entry points into the various decision-making processes and fora like the GSW, but also need to be seen as legitimate knowledge generators in the realisation of sustainable livelihoods.

In regards to Workshop 1 on Sustainable Land Management, it is clear that a certain percentage of youth need to be targeted through extension service programmes. As youth unemployment worldwide is at a record high, it is imperative that young people are engaged in every step of the agricultural value chain. Not all youth want to be farmers, but investment in young farmers should be a top priority as they can inspire their peers to actively participate in agriculture. Discussions in Workshop 2 on Land Governance highlighted the disparities in young people’s access to land. Institutionalised leasing arrangements, which are culturally sensitive to protect young women, and which recognise young people as potential landowners, are needed. Additionally, land governance guidelines, such as the VGGT must do better at acknowledging local (youth-centred) specifics, and support access for undocumented persons (most of whom are young and poor). Finally, in Workshop 3, YL participants found it difficult to incorporate the YL perspective in discussions of LDN, but found that a focus on youth in SCP is key. Policies that support raising awareness of virtual land use are helpful, especially if aimed toward young people, as youth are more willing to change their consumption patterns if engaged with sustainable options early-on.

Two YL participants represented the youth perspective as delegates to the LAB. The YL presented messages in direct reaction to the workshops, and felt that more time to debate, as well as bring in additional messages, would have been useful. Nonetheless, it was promising to see recognition of youth in the outcomes presented by workshop delegates and from government representatives. It was encouraging that youth were specifically acknowledged in one of the five main messages aimed toward HLPF: “Enhance spatial planning and adopt territorial approaches to address the rural-urban continuum in an integrated way that contributes to food security and the sustainable and integrated management of natural resources, such as the land-water nexus; as well as to improving regional value chains to offer better opportunities for the youth.”

3.1.2 WHO ARE THE YOUTH?

A topic of continued debate was: what exactly is meant by the term “youth”? The UN declares youth to be individuals between the ages of 15 to 24 globally and 15 to 35 nationally, but also notes that the term youth is fluid and cannot be defined by a fixed age group. In many

regions, people are living longer and starting careers later, thus the idea of youth in many parts of the world is changing. Nonetheless, the concept of youth needs to be made clear. The YL at GSW considered youth in terms of the national definition, but also recognised the notion of youth fluidity.

Many engagement strategies toward youth in regards to the SDGs are currently aimed at the global definition of the term. This is important and necessary, as younger persons are more likely to adopt a new mind-set. In regards to preparatory processes such as the GSW and its attempt at piloting thematic reviews ahead of the HLPF, experience in the field and knowledge of interdependencies between focus areas are necessary. Discussions were heavily based in data and research relevant to SDG indicators, thus a certain level of expertise is needed.

The risk in calling the participants invited to this year’s GSW the “Youth Layer” is that the term youth does not exude a significant level of expertise. However, the YL participants were, in many ways, experts in their fields and capable of bringing a younger perspective to the discussions. Besides farmers and researchers from Kenya and Nigeria, the YL consisted of early-career scientists and experienced



Scenes from Youth Layer, by Samie Blasingame



researchers from Germany and Mexico, with field experience in many parts of the world.

3.1.3 PREPARATION FOR GSW17 AND A COMBINED YL PERSPECTIVE

Communication before the GSW, between YL participants, occurred via email as early as two months before the event. Introductory calls were arranged to discuss interest areas, preparatory articles were shared on topics relevant to the GSW theme, and a Google Doc was utilised to share thoughts leading up to arrival in Berlin. Additionally, the YL met briefly before the Opening Plenary to go over the most effective strategies for integrating the YL perspective during the GSW.

Some of the YL joined the Open Space Guerrilla Gardening activity on the first day, where Benjamin Graf of SeedBombCity showed how to make SeedBombs (tiny balls of organic clay with flower seeds and soil mixed inside) that he uses to promote beautifying

neighbourhoods. The discussion with Benjamin led to a conclusion concerning the SDGs, that highlights the importance of ownership and taking action into one's own hands. Following the Open Space activities, the YL met for dinner and to make a first attempt at articulating the perspective they wanted to bring to the LAB. Mariam Akhtar-Schuster from the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface joined to give insights on how these types of policy-processes function. Her input helped conceptualise the YL role and gave inspiration to the post-conference continuation of the efforts made at the GSW.

The following day, the YL met to combine their respective impressions from discussions in the workshops, and briefed the two LAB Delegates on their main messages. A brief speech was drafted, which aimed to incorporate a more holistic outlook on the situations of young people with regard to the SDGs, which was then presented in the LAB. After the GSW17 concluded, those who were able to stay met to reflect on the five main messages presented during the LAB, and discussed how to stay connected and be impactful in the future.

It would have been useful to assure arrival of the YL at least one day before the GSW began, and to organise a one-day pre-GSW workshop



to prepare, as was the case with past GSWs. The YL participants all came from differing backgrounds and different parts of the world, therefore synthesising all of their perspectives into one proved difficult due to limited time. A suggestion was made, to provide time for a short Youth-centred presentation in each workshop, as the YL perspective seemed to disappear in the sometimes detailed and high-level discussions. Additionally, it would be beneficial to pair each YL participant with a mentor in order to create personal and professional connections during and after the GSW17.

3.1.4 KEY MESSAGES

As the main YL messages presented in the LAB stemmed from workshop outcomes and can be traced through various sections of this report, the following are a number of key messages that must be considered in the inclusion of Youth in the SDGs, and in achieving the 2030 Agenda in general.

DIVERSITY OF YOUTH PERSPECTIVES. HLPF follow-up and review must reflect, as well as possible, realities on the ground, and encourage governments to implement mechanisms that acknowledge the diversity of youth perspectives. Especially in terms of SLM extension services or land governance, community-based participatory approaches are necessary to ensure recognition of specific youth-based realities. Assessing the needs of youth and other vulnerable or marginalised communities requires a nuanced understanding of the everyday challenges faced by such groups; suitably qualified individuals should be part of the institutions and frameworks working to serve vulnerable groups through SDG-related programmes.

THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM, AND SYSTEMS OF POWER. In order to achieve the SDGs, a more critical look at the root causes of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation needs to be mainstreamed. This involves disrupting power relations that are deeply rooted in our current economic systems and which adversely affect young people, especially younger women. Young people are also keenly aware that change is necessary, and have already taken to experimenting with alternative economic systems better suited to building a sustainable future. Even if given more land, vulnerable groups – youth included – still receive less investment and possess less political power. It is imperative that at meetings such as the GSW, an honest discussion around these issues is brought to the forefront, as their acknowledgement is critical for the success of Agenda 2030.

PRAGMATISM OVER OPTIMISM – BE BOLDER. The environment is changing at unprecedented rates, which necessitates more rapid change towards sustainable soil and land practices. The current trends in carbon sequestration turn toward technological solutions, but not all hope should be left to experimental technologies and future, quick-fix solutions. We cannot delay action on potential climate change mitigation strategies, but instead must make more serious efforts to internalise them now.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES. Youth require support, both to take action and to continue actions they are already making on their own. Although not all young people want to be farmers, farming needs to be made more attractive to young people. Opportunities to take part, and make a career, in agriculture should be encouraged through early-start mentorship programmes. In some parts of the world, young people are seen as untrustworthy or lacking the wisdom to be held responsible, and thus are locked out of loans or land-leasing opportunities.



GSW17 Opening Plenary

Mentorship programmes are needed, which aim to synthesise the importance of land for reducing degradation, encourage a variety of careers in agriculture and along the value chain, and raise awareness of alternative ways of accessing land (so not to rely only on inheritance).

3.1.5 INPUTS AND GUESTS

YOUTH LAYER CURATOR:

Samie Blasingame, IASS, Germany

PARTICIPANTS:

Christian Schnieder, PhD Candidate, Coordinator of the Young Professionals Programme at the Global Soil Week 2015, and Consultant for the GIZ CCD-Project Team, Germany

Steffan Schweizer, PhD Candidate TU Munich, Germany

Miriam Romero Antonio, PhD Candidate University of Göttingen, Germany

Inviolater Lusweti, GIZ/IASS Research Assistant, Kenya

William Onura Akwanyi, GIZ/IASS Research Assistant, Kenya (YL LAB Delegate)

Nkiruka Nnaemego, Fresh & Young Brains Development Initiative, Nigeria (YL LAB Delegate)

Hanna Treu, Recent MSc Graduate, Germany

INVITED GUESTS:

Benjamin Graf, SeedBombCity, Germany (Open Space Host)

Mariam Akhtar-Schuster, UNCCD Science–Policy Interface

Lena Strauss, IASS, Germany



Global Soil Week 2017



ROOF WATER FARM



FLUSSBAD BERLIN



RETHINKING URBAN SPACE



integrating • commoning • producing



Urban Layer
pictures by curators

3.2 URBAN LAYER

Natasha Aruri, Katleen De Flander

3.2.1 THE 'URBAN' AT GSW17

To highlight the importance of urbanisation processes in all debates on soil and land at the GSW, we integrated the 'urban' as a layer in the different sections rather than organise a parallel urban-themed workshop. The opening plenary demonstrated the need for more such interdisciplinary exchanges, as the urban–rural dichotomy still clearly dominates, with some believing that 90% of food insecurity and soil issues are rural.

Whether discussing issues of land governance, land degradation, food security, 'rights', production/consumption, or education, it is important to recognise that urbanisation processes have been radically reconfigured in recent decades. The 'urban' nowadays clearly transcends the boundaries of the city and has become a fabric of planetary scale that knits places of concentration (of people, built environments, labour, consumption and pollution, vulnerabilities, potential for focused collective action, etc.) and webs of expansion

(e.g., agro-industrial zones, transportation corridors, communication infrastructures, villages, networked collaboration). In other words, the 'urban' is everywhere, and to advance on issues of soil and land we need to factor in these conditions of 'planetary urbanisation' and establish new, more systems-oriented understandings of urban processes and feedback loops.

In the LAB, a clearer and more outspoken recognition of urbanisation was present (by both urban delegates and other speakers); promisingly, one of the five GSW high-level policy messages explicitly addresses the urban: "Enhance spatial planning and adopt territorial approaches to address the rural-urban continuum in an integrated way that contributes to food security and the sustainable and integrated management of natural resources, such as the land-water nexus; as well as to improving regional value chains to offer better opportunities for the youth."

3.2.2 WALKING DEBATE: BERLIN

As part of the Urban Layer and within the Open Space timeslot, the Walking Debate: BERLIN focused on the urban side of the conference strands under the title: **"RETHINKING URBAN SPACE: integrating – commoning – producing"**. Invited urban experts and a small group of participants visited the Roof Water-Farm (RWF: roofwaterfarm.com), a project that demonstrates paths towards innovative city water management and urban food production. As an experiment and open platform, RWF explores the potentials and risks of redesigning the habitats of more than half the world's population across sectors of infrastructures. It couples this with

investigations of new modes of education that could incubate alternative consciousness on issues of knowledge, data, community-based action, rights, and competing demands.

The second part of our Walking Debate focussed on Flussbad Berlin (flussbad-berlin.de), another site that addresses redesigning the city through rethinking water cycles and reclaiming inner-city waterways for public use. The (yet unrealised) project presents a tangible case of alternative land governance possibilities that serve civic-based economies and sovereignty over space, and demonstrates the long struggle to get innovative visions realised on-the-ground.

3.2.3 KEY OUTCOMES

We consider the following points as the key outcomes from the Urban Layer. The delegates brought some of these messages into the LAB; others came from the workshop discussions, Walking Debate, and our side meetings:

FROM 'RURAL' VS. 'URBAN' TO PLANETARY URBANISATION.

The rural and the urban are interlinked; they are telecoupled; just as much as local and global development are inherently interconnected (this becomes very clear when we talk about SDG 'implementation' and the need for integration). We argue that the categories of 'urban' and 'rural' have no further basis, since urban processes have become planetary; and we must urgently start thinking in terms of processes and flows, rather than in terms of 'form'. Is an industrial agricultural field less 'urban' than a Central Business District? The 'urban' not only literally appropriates the most fertile soils through the physical

expansion of cities; its consumption habits widely influence land use, soil quality, water systems, and biodiversity, even in the most remote parts of the world. This urban impact is most often based on a linear resource-flow model, where natural resources are extracted from a global hinterland, consumed mainly in places of concentration (cities), and then released as pollution and waste. Therefore, in line with Urban Political Ecology, we claim that soil and land issues urgently need to incorporate the rethinking of urban processes and flows.

INTEGRATED PLANNING CALLS FOR INTEGRATED POLICIES.

Continuing on the above, if we change our thinking from a linear to a circular resource-flow model (which was once standard practice), we see that cities generate resources such as wastewater, which if recycled can be a source for humus, nitrate, phosphorus, irrigation water, energy, etc. The RWF pilot project demonstrates that the technologies are ready to go. Multi-functional and cross-sectorial infrastructure systems that combine sustainable urban wastewater management with food and energy production have been developed already, and studies have proven their significant production potentials. What is missing, however, are the regulations and policies that foster and allow these intelligent cross-sectorial infrastructure systems to spread. After a legacy of sectoral approaches formulating separate policies on land, water, food, housing, and transportation, etc., it is time for more integrative policies that allow for (or even demand) more radical transformations of our urban systems towards sustainability.

LOOPING LEARNING AND UN-LEARNING. Within the previous framing of urbanisation, most of the world's population is and will be living, eating, and working in an 'urban' context. We need to be aware that this is also their everyday context for learning about sustainability and for societal/political awareness of, e.g., the knock-



GSW17 LAB

on costs of our 'cheap' food. Therefore, it is crucial to discuss in which spaces and places, and through which actions in this urban context, urbanites can experience and internalise the principles and practices of new kinds of urban systems at their very doorsteps. They must have the opportunities to see, smell, and touch 'the change', as represented by those circular resource systems ('urban metabolism') such as a Roof Water-Farm, reclaimed public spaces such as Flussbad Berlin, or other settings that stimulate everyday learning and contribute to a vision of education as (inter)personal empowerment, social transformation, and spatial impact. Living environments (physical spaces as much as relational exchanges) should provide opportunities for learning. More specifically, they should enable the retention and regeneration of knowledge on sustainable habits in the sphere of food and beyond. At the same time we should actively work on a process of 'un-learning', based on up-to-date scientific and applied knowledge. Children in Germany are still taught that food production and wastewater treatment happen outside of the city. Shouldn't examples such as RWF start appearing in children's schoolbooks? Shouldn't urban farming and city-region food systems be on every standard curriculum?

EXPERIMENTATION IN REMAKING CITY SPACES. There have always been experiments in new ways of making and remaking city spaces in cases where contemporary forms of production were not working; they happen in "wasted space" or what Trancik³⁵ coins "antispaces". Often, they were labelled illegal, restricted, banned, and were treated as such by administrative planning authorities. Today, the value of experimentation is gaining more recognition, as standard planning methods and tools are not adapting fast enough for today's rhythms of growth and change. Urbanists and planners realise that experimentation (with a top-down/

35 Trancik, R. (1986) *Finding Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design*. Canada: John Wiley & Sons.

bottom-up balance) is needed to find solutions for the pressing questions of a more sustainable urban development. An example is a goal within the 'Sustainable Berlin Strategy' that calls for the creation of "Ermöglichungsräume" or "spaces of possibilities". Another is the Berlin Senate legislation allowing for "Zwischennutzung" or "temporary use". Both concepts in effect serve "to advance proposals in advance of advancing proposals", what Schonfield calls "premature gratification".³⁶ However, projects like Flussbad Berlin worked for years to be taken seriously in political circles, reminding us of how challenging it is to shift cultures, norms, and assumptions about urban shapes and patterns. Their successes remind us that one needs to make small steps to claim those "spaces of possibilities", for instance by giving people a taste of new experiences in 'their' urban space. With an annual sports event 'Flussbad Pokal', FBB lets Berliners experience swimming in the River Spree, thereby re-claiming public space in the middle of the historical centre (which is now dominated by tourists and high-end residencies) at least for a few hours each year... for now!

GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY. Land governance is at the core of the processes of transformation over the coming era of climatic, demographic, and technological shifts. Colonialism and its modern tentacles of neoliberal economics and international aid have mutated and constrained significant social and environmental infrastructures. Its traces not only remain, but have in many cases even been 'scaled-up', often by copy-pasting urbanisation patterns, technology, and knowledge across the globe. To break the business-as-usual scenario, norms of allocating and developing land have to accept a paradigm shift towards higher civic ownership and authorship. In cities, land governance is increasingly four-dimensional: X, Y, Z, and

36 See: Thomas, H. (2014) Brief Disobedience and Premature Gratification. In: Ferguson, F. (ed.) *Make_Shift City. Renegotiating the Urban Commons*, pp. 150–151.



GSW17 LAB

time/space of 'makeshifts' (temporary use of space). Socialising gains and democratising access to space and food, and the production of both, is an underlying condition for achieving all SDGs – the call for 'leaving no-one behind' a regular feature in their formulation. In the same line, advancing justice, security, and equal rights in cities cannot be achieved while disregarding large sectors of non-national urbanites (e.g., persons with temporary residency, undocumented persons), and the global agenda cannot live up to its 'leaving no-one behind' principle when targets on gender equality (SDG 5) are limited to 'women' as the vulnerable group, excluding those identifying as LGBT, etc. from being explicit legitimate rights holders.

UNIVERSALITY – CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN GLOBAL NORMS AND MANDATES WITH THEIR LOCAL FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS.

The 2030 Agenda's principle of 'universality' requires clearer definition. Understandings of 'legitimate rights' – hence advancing more democratic political agendas at the local level – depend on dominant cultural perceptions and norms in societies, each in its own ways. What is considered a legitimate 'universal' human right in international fora such as the UN, often does not match the local realities in its Member States. A good example of this mismatch is the fact that Saudi Arabia sits on the UN Commission on the Status of Women (charged with promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women), without at the same time coupling the mandate with tangible reformation processes in the seat-holder's local legislation, to advance more rights for Saudi women.

Seen from another angle, the principle of 'universality' also carries the danger of leading to a lowest-common-denominator type of assessment. For example, Iceland's geothermal energy sources place the country at the very top of the best-performers list for abating climate change. This might put a country in non- or low-action mode

and camouflage its shortcomings in other areas of environmental performance, instead of stimulating improvement in weaker areas.

Increasingly, global networks such as slum-dwellers associations, networks of local authorities, or non-institutionalised groups are pressing for a greater role in closing the gap between global norms and mandates with their local forms and manifestations. As the planetary urbanisation play unfolds and accelerates, basic relationships between the natural environment and society are up for profound reinterpretation and renewal.

3.2.4 INPUTS AND GUESTS

URBAN LAYER CURATORS:

Katleen De Flander, IASS, Germany

Natasha Aruri, IASS, Germany

INVITED URBAN EXPERTS:

Áine Ryan, TU Berlin, Germany

Angela Million, TU Berlin, Germany

Arthur Getz Escudero, Urban PlanEat, Spain

Chiara Tornaghi, Coventry University, UK

Jacqueline Pólvara, UNILAB, Brazil

WALKING DEBATE HOSTS:

Roof-Water Farm Berlin (RWF) | www.roofwaterfarm.com

Angela Million, Anja Steglich, Erwin Nolde, and Vivien Franck

WALKING DEBATE SPECIAL GUEST:

Flussbad Berlin (FBB) | www.fussbad-berlin.de

Jan Edler, realities:united, Germany



4. Thematic Reviews LAB

Matheus Alves Zanella

4.1 STRATEGY

During the previous High Level Political Forum in 2016 (HLPF16), a cyclical review system of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) progress was consolidated, comprising: i) progress reports by the Secretary-General of the UN; ii) [global] thematic reviews; and iii) national voluntary reviews. The thematic reviews were approved at Resolution A/70/L60, but very few aspects related to the method of these reviews were covered. In addition to this lack of clarity, it is expected that delegates will be overwhelmed by a tremendous amount of information in preparation for the HLPF. They will also have to process and use this information in a short period of time (eight days of official agenda), thereby adding another layer of complexity to the process.

Against this backdrop, the HLPF review process will benefit greatly if there are opportunities for governments and stakeholders to review and synthesise information ahead of the HLPF. This was the purpose

of the LAB, that is, to facilitate the processing of the information as a contribution to thematic reviews. To maintain coherence with the official process, exercises of this type should be conducted following important principles of the 2030 Agenda already mentioned in this report, namely: universality, inclusion to leave no one behind, and integration.

In more practical terms, the LAB was the moment in the GSW17 where participants: i) shared the main messages, from the workshops, with the wider audience in the plenary setting. They discussed additional perspectives, on issues related to the SDGs under review at HLPF17, which might not have been captured in full during the workshops (particularly SDGs 3, 5, 9, and 14); and ii) agreed jointly on a set of policy messages that the conference could take to the HLPF17.

4.2 PART 1: WORKSHOP MESSAGES AND DISCUSSIONS

In a prologue to the presentation of workshop messages, a discussion was initiated on methods that should be used for the thematic reviews. Two main points were highlighted: i) that quantitative indicators on SDG progress must be complemented by qualitative analysis of the changes in these indicators. This was seen as one of the main benefits of retaining a multi-stakeholder and inclusive process in following-up SDG implementation; and ii) that by conducting follow-up SDG reviews that live-up to the principles of the 2030 Agenda, we are already demonstrating how this Agenda should be put into practice. Additional points highlighted that new national policies will be required to implement the Agenda 2030, but that the crafting of these policies should take into consideration both successes as well as failures.

WORKSHOP 1: SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

The key points from this workshop discussed at the LAB were:

- Soil and land protection and rehabilitation are crucial for achieving many SDGs (SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, and 15) : There are synergies with other fields of policymaking, which can contribute to more widespread uptake of SLM and vice versa. Examples include community empowerment, tenure reform, responsible land governance, investment in high-quality and accountable extension services, and access to quality data for agriculture;
- Coordination and cooperation across different sectors and different levels of land use and decision-making need to be achieved through multi-sectorial, multi-actor task forces (or teams) for design, financing, capacity building, and communication of implementation and evaluation of SLM programmes;
- There is a strong link between soil quality and human health. Soil pollution is an example. The way soils are managed influences the availability of micronutrients for plants and, hence, the availability of nutritious food. Soil and land management practices need to go beyond a productionist paradigm;
- While soil rehabilitation is key to achieving the SDGs, responsive, high-quality, and accountable extension services are key to achieving and sustaining soil rehabilitation. Investment in building such services, and ensuring the reach of resource-poor households and mainstreaming of SLM, is therefore a multi-win strategy;
- Extension services sensitive to SLM must include a higher percentage of youth in their targets. SLM practices tend to deal with just one part of the agricultural value chain. Farming has to be made attractive to the youth. Extension services should therefore address a broader set of capacity-building measures

to facilitate and incentivise youth involvement at all stages along the value chain;

- A tremendous wealth of biophysical, agricultural, and social-economic data already exist at global, regional, national, and local scales. However, these data are often not readily accessible or adjusted to the needs of policymakers, practitioners, and end-users. Providing access to existing data and incentives, as well as assurances for informed decision-making and action – in support of national and global efforts for soil and land protection, rehabilitation, and productive use – is a success factor for the SDG agenda. Ensuring accessible and appropriate data requires public attention and investment.

WORKSHOP 2: LAND GOVERNANCE

The key points from this workshop discussed at the LAB were:

- It is crucial that the follow-up and review process of the SDGs be transparent, inclusive, and based on international human rights-based instruments such as the VGGT;
- It is important to have coherent policies for accountability in land governance, and that this is reflected in National Voluntary Reviews at the HLPF. In several contexts, accountability in land governance can only be achieved by addressing the issue of shrinking democratic space. This requires targeted support to protect land rights defenders, build capacity in civil society and governments, and investments to facilitate the participation of civil society in policy processes.
- Use existing legally binding reporting mechanisms of the human rights system to enhance accountability in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda;
- Several actor groups in society, such as women and youth, have limited access to land. Land-grabbing exacerbates this problem.

Access to land should be addressed through better-tailored government regulation, easing processes for land acquisition by disadvantaged groups of society, and/or awareness raising of existing alternatives for land access;

- Besides the SDGs reviewed at HLPF17, progress in accountability of land governance is directly linked to SDG 16;³⁷
- Implement follow-up and review through human-rights based instruments and through the SDG indicators as complementary, mutually reinforcing ways to increase accountability in the 2030 Agenda;
- Human-rights based follow-up and review is a catalytic investment to enhance accountability. This, in turn, is important for the goal of leaving no one behind in other aspects of land governance, such as participatory land use planning.

WORKSHOP 3: LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

The key points from this workshop discussed at the LAB were:

- The demands on land from various sectors compete and add up. Also, in a globalised world, demands, policies, and land use in one place are interconnected with and have impacts on other places. Adding up these demands from the various sectors shows that we do not have enough fertile land to fulfil all the projected demands. "Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a changing world"³⁸ can only be achieved if we constantly address the trade-offs in land use, and balance the demands with the availability and capacities of land resources, thereby considering that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for a country or region;
- Beyond the inter-linkages between different countries, we are also far from addressing the linkages between soil, land, and the

oceans. The SDGs offer the opportunity to advance an integrative oceans governance regime that is yet to be developed;

- Implementing Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) has initiated a unique policy process that includes local participation and multi-stakeholder involvement. LDN therefore serves as an example of how SDGs can successfully be translated into national targets and action. The LDN principles can foster an enabling environment for integrated land use planning and sustainable management to halt degradation at the national level. However, LDN is being implemented at national levels and strives to achieve LDN within national borders. To arrive at LDN at a global level, it is important that externalities between countries are avoided. Therefore, efforts to achieve LDN in one country should be accompanied by an analysis of that country's impacts on land degradation in other countries;
- Current consumption and production patterns undermine shared prosperity for all and often lead to externalisation of the impacts and costs of land use. High-consuming countries shall lead initiatives to avoid externalising costs of land use. Education on the value of food and virtual land use is an important avenue for altering youth consumption patterns. To live up to the principle of universality, tools and mechanisms to account for and monitor consumption and production, such as the Land Footprint, should be used to link displaced land use to national and local land use decisions. LDN and SCP are two concepts that could complement each other.

ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVES – see box on pg. 80.

37 SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

38 The HLPF17 theme.



GSW17 Plenaries and LAB

1. When can we hug the box? 29
2. Can we support governments in the room and others to create at HLPF / New York a 'friends of land' group to bring forward our messages? 17
3. How do we ensure that youth are actively integrated into current and future policies, plans and programmes on SLM across the globe? 16
4. Let's give names to 'vulnerable people' in message 5: 'women, indigenous people, pastoralists, fisherfolk, forest people & small-scale farmers' 16
5. Land corruption perpetuates poverty #stoplandcorruption #SDG1 #SDG16 16

Figure 10. Top five most popular questions on Sli.do. 236 questions and comments were made

4.3 PART 2: POLICY MESSAGES FROM THE GSW17 TO THE HLPF17

At the beginning of the second part of the LAB, five key policy messages were presented as messages from GSW17 to the HLPF17. These messages were derived from the discussions in part one of the LAB:

1. Increase investments in responsible land governance, and monitor them;
2. Change consumption patterns in high-consuming countries, because they are responsible for land degradation in other parts of the world;
3. There is need for spatial planning addressing the rural-urban continuum in an integrated way;
4. Improve land tenure and land rights for vulnerable people – human rights are under pressure because of shrinking space for civil society;
5. Build a bridge between SDG 2 and SDG 15.3 to ensure food security by rehabilitation of degraded soils, achieving LDN, and managing landscapes for people. Entry points are community empowerment, accountable extension services that embraces the youth, and open data access.

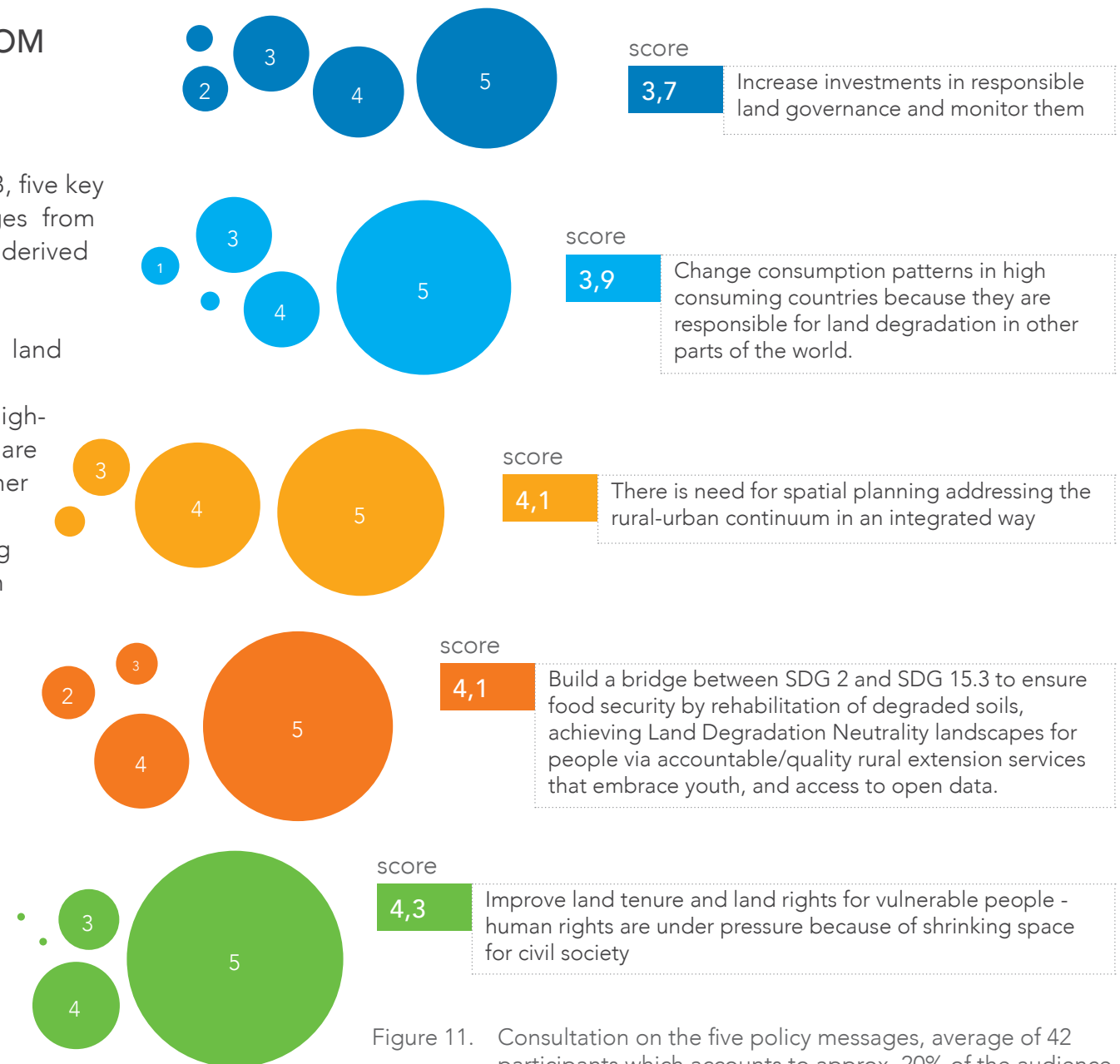


Figure 11. Consultation on the five policy messages, average of 42 participants which accounts to approx. 20% of the audience

ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVES: YOUTH, URBAN, OCEANS, GENDER, HEALTH, AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Additional points made in reaction to inputs and key messages from the workshops by our topic-specific delegates and partner government representatives were as follows:

YOUTH have limited access to land. Access is often only granted through inheritance, and land-grabbing complicates this process even further. Institutionalised leasing arrangements that favour youth are needed. José Francisco Calí Tzay, Ambassador of Guatemala to Germany, also highlighted the need for greater focus

on land tenure and scrutiny of foreign land acquisitions;

The **URBAN**–rural distinction is no longer clear; everything is interconnected. The application of policies by sector hinders innovation; sectoral policies must be integrated, just as the SDGs must be for their success. This point was repeated by Jeanne Josette Acacha Akoha from Benin. Stefan Schmitz of BMZ encouraged the use of territorial approaches rather than spatial planning, to highlight the SDGs as a process rather than a project;

OCEANS need global governance just as land and soil do – the two together can

help achieve multiple goals (i.e., SDG 2). Oceans, in many ways, can be seen as indicators for land use strategies;

The SDGs depend on dialogue and power relations; the use of universal categories does not respect important particularities and is not inclusive of **GENDER** dynamics;

Multiple delegates, highlighting the need to include young people along the entire agricultural value chain, mentioned the need for improved agricultural **EXTENSION SERVICES**. Louissette Clémence Bamzok née Mbadobe, of Cameroon, specifically called for improved training and research in agriculture.

The messages in Figure 11, pg. 79 were extensively discussed and refined by GSW participants, both during the LAB and in follow-up consultations. They form the backbone of the five Key Messages of the GSW17 to the HLPF17 that open this report.

In-house and virtual audience interaction and LAB discussions were facilitated through the use of Sli.do. The main results of our experience with this interactive tool can be accessed at: <https://www2.sli.do/event/bsvmrgkp/infographic/c/fcf1>. A reflection on the usage of this tool can be found in section 5.5, pg. 89.

4.4 LAB SPEAKERS

in order of appearance:

MODERATORS – Part 1:

Layla Saad, RIO+ Centre, Brazil

Sébastien Treyer, IDDRI, France

FACILITATORS – interactive tools:

Samie Blasingame, IASS, Germany

Matheus Alves Zanella, IASS, Germany

Workshop 1 DELEGATES:

Yvette Onibon Doubogan, Cabinet YOD, Benin

Boniface P. Kiteme, Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development in Kenya

Workshop 2 DELEGATES:

Birgitte Feiring, Danish Institute of Human Rights, Denmark

Delphine Ortega-Espes, National Peasant and Indigenous Movement, Vía Campesina, Argentina

Workshop 3 DELEGATES:

Amanda Palazzo, IIASA, Austria

Baron Orr, Science–Policy Interface (SPI) of UNCCD

ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVES – Part 1:

Youth: **Willian Onura Akwanyi**, Youth representatives at GSW17

Youth: **Nkiruka Stella Nnaemego**, Youth representatives at GSW17

Industry, innovation & infrastructure: **Angela Million**, Technical University of Berlin, Germany

Oceans: **Sebastian Unger**, IASS, Germany

Health: **Simplice Davo Vodouhè**, Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Benin

Gender: **Jacqueline Pólvara**, University for International Integration of the Afro-Brazilian Lusophony, Brazil

MODERATORS – Part 2:

Alexander Müller, TMG Research for Sustainability, Germany

Majele Sibanda, FANRPAN, South Africa

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Madame Jeanne Josette Acacha Akoha, Ministère Du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable (MCVDD), Benin

Louissette Clémence Bamzok née Mbadobe, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Cameroon

Almaz Messele Massa, Chairperson, Parliament Standing Committee of Agriculture Affairs with the House of Representative, Ethiopia

R.B. Sinha, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, India

Stefan Schmitz, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVES – Part 2:

Planetary boundaries: **Barbara Unmüßig**, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Germany

Soils and the Anthropocene: **Günther Bachmann**, German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

Landscape approaches: **Mark Smith**, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Process from GSW17 to the HLPPF: **Ivonne Lobos Alva**, Global Soil Week Coordinator



GSW17 Closing Plenary, IUSS Awards Klaus Töpfer

5. Reflection on Overall Methodology

Ivonne Lobos Alva, Jes Weigelt

The Global Soil Week (GSW17) tested a methodology to develop contributions to the thematic reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). It did so by looking at the subset of SDGs that are under review by the HLPF through the perspective of land and soils, thereby providing an integrating perspective across the SDGs. The GSW17 also aimed to serve as bridge, to empower different actors to share their priorities on the implementation of the SDGs. In this way, the GSW17 intended to contribute to the HLPF17 theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world” and, ultimately, to catalyse SDG implementation.

We acknowledge the limitations of this pilot contribution, in particular the level of abstraction necessary to draft global policy messages while staying true to the unique conditions and contexts of different countries. The internal governance structures of soil and land resources

are just one example in this regard. We also acknowledge and believe that similar exercises will be required for a comprehensive review of the role of soil and land to achieve the 2030 Agenda. As the SDG Thematic Reviews at the HLPF continue, there will be an opportunity to further review the SDGs from a soil and land perspective, in an integrated way.

In the following, the GSW17 methodology is reviewed (including process, LAB, Layers, Plenaries) based on the functions that such an HLPF preparatory event should live up to, as described under section 1.3.2, pg. 10 of this report.

Convened for the first time in 2012, the GSW is a collective process (as outlined in section 1.4.1, pg. 11) and a knowledge platform for sustainable soil management and responsible land governance worldwide. GSW17 was attended by nearly 300 participants and was co-hosted by 23 partners drawn from governments, intergovernmental and scientific organisations, and civil society networks, including: the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Potsdam; Töpfer, Müller, Gaßner – ThinkTank for Sustainability (TMG); the International Union of Soil Scientists (IUSS); the European Commission; the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Economic Development (BMZ); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); the German Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt – UBA); the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre); and the ministries responsible for soil and land management of Benin, Burkina Faso, and Kenya. It can be said that the policy messages emerging from the GSW17 are strengthened by the varied composition and expertise of Global Soil Week’s partners and participants, with government





representatives from ministries of Economic Cooperation, Agriculture, and Sustainable Development taking the lead in supporting this messages for added legitimacy. The short document, including the five messages plus the more detailed policy messages emerging from the workshops, was made available at the GSW17 website globalsoilweek.org for endorsement.

5.1 PLENARIES

The opening plenary included speakers from government (from ministries for international cooperation, agriculture, environment, and health), research, civil society, and intergovernmental organisations (including the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the UN division that holds the secretariat of the HLPF). It provided an overview and introduction to the concept and aims of the event; and further provided the links between the discussions on soil and land issues and how they are closely linked to the 2030 Agenda process and its review. It is quite a challenging exercise, to

attempt to meaningfully bring together soil and land issues with the SDGs. The challenge is particularly apparent in the need to sufficiently introduce the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda, to introduce the HLPF and, more importantly, make a convincing case for the need for the soil and land community to contribute to this process. The high-level and articulate speakers in this section made this possible by providing sharp and targeted interventions in this regard. Thanks to the speakers, and the space that was offered for questions and discussion, this plenary set the stage for taking the GSW17's key policy messages to the HLPF in July 2017.

Speakers and participants in the closing plenary applauded the diversity of formats used to encourage broad participation and acknowledge synergies between GSW and related processes. It was highlighted that the greatest contribution of GSW17 was in testing an approach to link the three core principles of the 2030 Agenda – accountability, universality, and integration – to the HLPF thematic review process. In this sense, GSW17 was able to link these principles as a starting point and incorporate them in the thematic reviews of the SDG, especially with regard to three main tasks: i) discussing analysis and assessments (e.g., in the workshops), ii) providing solutions and recommendations (e.g., in the LAB), and iii) fostering national- and local-level action and accountability. Ultimately, the thematic reviews need to be means of implementation; this could be considered the litmus test for their value. As such, the GSW17 and its results should ultimately help support local-level implementation of the SDGs. The use of a “real participatory process” to arrive at the final policy messages was very welcome. There were some important additional outcomes from the thematic workshops, for instance, the creation of a peer support and review platform by the governments of Benin,

Burkina Faso, and Kenya, focused on creating sustainable extension services; outlining a broad range of soil- and land-management methodologies that can contribute to SDG implementation and especially the principle of universality; and a set of guidelines for government-led multi-stakeholder reporting on land and soil governance, developed in Workshop 2.

The need to effectively harness different types of knowledge and to confront unequal power relations in global governance was highlighted as a particular challenge. One example here is the need to tackle the concentration of power in food systems. The GSW could have better engaged with underrepresented sectors, such as trade ministries and private sector representatives. Greater efforts need to be put into linking current “high salience” policy dialogues, such as the links between environmental degradation, poverty, security, and migration.

On how to achieve impact beyond the HLPF, speakers reiterated that Agenda 2030 implementation rests with national governments; as such, relevant messages need to be made available to these actors. There were suggestions to better integrate soil issues and the climate agenda, stressing that enhancing soil carbon is the only viable option to achieve negative emissions. Regarding opportunities to influence European Union policy, windows of opportunity were identified in the Joint Research Commission’s Foresight scenarios; review of the Common Agricultural Policy; and the European Commission’s Multiannual Financial Framework. During the discussions, participants highlighted that, as a voluntary review process, the GSW – and the HLPF – should explore opportunities to use reputational risk to deter unsustainable practices.

5.2 WORKSHOPS

The themes of the workshops were selected to cover the principles of the 2030 Agenda, and based on crucial issues related to soil and land.

- **Workshop 1** on sustainable land management, addressed in particular the need for integrated approaches, inclusive and quality extension services, and open data access for upscaling successful soil rehabilitation practices.
- **Workshop 2** on the right to defend land, addressed in particular the principle of inclusion as a necessary step to raise accountability.
- **Workshop 3** on land resource protection addressed in particular the principle of universality and the question of limited availability of land and soil resources.

The themes are of high relevance but there are many other topics that could have also brought very relevant insights into the discussions at the GSW17. Other criteria when selecting the topics were the generally known approaches and expertise of the partners of the GSW. This means the community and actors who were actively involved in the preparation of the GSW17 partially influenced the framing and scope of the workshop themes. This leads to a particular framing that might change if the actors involved are different. At the same time, considering the issues covered and the resulting considerations, we can say that the main soil and land issues preventing sustainable

development were covered by the workshops, together with the plenaries and the thematic review LAB.

The workshops were designed as multi-stakeholder dialogues with duration of eight hours in total. The formats used were i) World Café-style group discussion with inputs and supported by visuals, ii) presentations and iii) gallery walks. Following a participatory approach, exchanges and extensive preparation and consultation took place between the organisers and a high number of the involved participants. This active process resulted in well-prepared and content-wise, very rich workshops.

Each workshop collected particular and unique experiences. For instance, **Workshop 1** Excelled in ensuring a proper process of knowledge co-development with partners took place. The partners involved in the workshop had been working together already at the African Soil Seminar in 2016. The working groups in the workshop addressed questions and issues raised back at that event. The workshop managed a good balance of representation of state and non-state representatives (CSOs, research, others including farmers, youth, etc.). It created a space for an open exchange between actors from different countries to learn from each other experiences. Furthermore, it managed to foster genuinely critical self-inspection and reflection; establish a discussion spirit that relied on challenging one another to go beyond praising accomplishments only.

Workshop 2 produced a concrete tool to improve the review of accountability in the implementation of the SDGs. Workshop participants showed interest and commitment in using of the

opportunities offered by the 2030 Agenda and made an effort to actively contribute to strategies for the achievements of the SDG. A fruitful dialogue emerged among participants, despite the diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints. The participatory and inclusive nature of the process, which led to the development of the reporting guidelines, was further strengthened by offering participants the chance to provide inputs prior to the workshop and comments after it. It was acknowledged, that the guidelines developed by the group may be difficult to apply in certain contexts and in some countries. It was discussed and recommended that, in order for countries to use the guidelines in their Voluntary National Reviews “champions” need to take on a leading role in testing the guidelines and e.g. commit to using them in their reports to the HLPF in 2018.

Workshop 3 managed a good actor group representation, with approximately 60 participants were, thereof 27 from science, 12 from civil society, 3 from business, and 20 from policy. In total, 29 participants were involved in and prepared contributions in consultation with the organisers. The workshop followed a threefold structure of i) problem identification, ii) the discussion of two specific solution approaches, and iii) synthesis and joint formulation of conclusions and recommendations. The downside of this comprehensive design was that the schedule was extremely tight, at times constrained discussions and at times did not leave sufficient time for concluding and transitioning to the next part. Notably, summarising the two parallel sessions on Land Degradation Neutrality and Sustainable Consumption and Production and bringing them together again for a joint synthesis would have needed (more) time.

5.3 LAYERS

The 'layers' were born from the need for greater interdisciplinary and intergenerational exchange.

As discussed in section 3.2, pg. 69, the GSW reconfirmed that the **urban**–rural dichotomy still clearly dominates within the soil and land community. The 'layers' approach was a good start to tackle this, and to emphasise the 'urban' side or influence in many issues that were discussed. However, since the 'urban layer' representatives were still a clear minority in the workshops, we were still far from a balanced exchange. The same can be said about, for instance, the integration of stakeholders from the business sector.

After our second Walking Debate (the first one was held in Nairobi as part of the African Soil Seminar 2016), we strongly believe that leaving the conference venue, and visiting places and people who are agents in forging the local agendas of change, truly brings SDG implementation issues to life and stimulates a different level of debate and engagement during and after the 'walk'.

As discussed in section 3.1, pg. 63, the decision to include **youth** as a layer at this year's GSW was born out a learning process on how to better incorporate a youth perspective into the discussions. Rather than have youth present though not strategically active (as at past GSWs), or siloed in their own workshop (as at the African Soil Seminar 2016), youth at GSW17 were integrated into each workshop and presented as delegates to the LAB convened to reflect on workshop outcomes. The YL, however, only consisted of seven youth participants; therefore the overall presence of youth at GSW17 was low. Additionally, in future, the initial planning stages of GSW should include a proper discussion of what is meant by youth, with participants invited accordingly. Finally, the main messages coming from the YL were incorporated into the messages from the workshops, rather than as additional inputs attached at the end. This is meaningful, as it highlights the importance of a youth perspective across all SDGs, and the necessity to consider youth in the creation of policy for sustainable development.



5.4 LAB

The LAB was designed to be a meeting point for the different issues and discussions that emerged at the workshops. At the same time, its focus was on synthesising knowledge with a view to informing the HLPF process, that is, to synthesise and present relevant messages generated during the GSW, in order to facilitate and influence the HLPF17 SDGs review. This match was not a straightforward one. Workshops addressed specific issues that were not always relevant to the HLPF, but rather to other international processes. It was also very challenging to simplify the level of detail covered by the workshops in a way that would be understandable for the more “general” audience that participates at the HLPF, that is, people that are not necessarily highly informed on land and soils. This matching process demanded substantial effort, consultation, and many iterations. Many different methods were considered but, ultimately, the five key messages were produced by a more standard procedure, that is, GSW Chairs delivered their “take” on the discussions, and opened the floor to comments.



5.5 REFLECTION ON SLI.DO – TESTING AN INTERACTIVE METHOD

In order for thematic reviews to support the SDG principles of universality, inclusion, and integration, they will need to make use of innovative methods that allow for increased participation and the integration of different perspectives.

In an effort to support the use of inclusive tools at the GSW17, we utilised an online interactive communication tool called Sli.do with the goal of facilitating constant and increased audience participation during the Thematic Review LAB. This experimental exercise consisted of allowing participants to post questions and to answer polls, which were then displayed on large screens around the room, thereby enabling participants to directly interact with the speakers. The interactive method generated more than 200 questions, which could then be “liked” by fellow Sli.do users, thereby gauging interest in those topics.

Well aware that Sli.do is gaining increasing popularity at international conferences and events, we would like to forward a few critical reflections surrounding the use of such tools at preparatory events such as the GSW. It is important to be aware, of course, that virtual audience tools involve the risk of creating an illusion of full inclusion – particularly at global events – because digital affinity varies between people, and often according to age and region of origin. Particularly when using digital tools for polling, the representativeness of responses should be carefully assessed, or extra efforts made to ensure all conference participants also become virtual participants. Another issue, that is likely to recur wherever similar tools are used, concerns time limitation: as time was limited, not all the questions posted on Sli.do could be addressed, which prevented all virtually-posted questions from being taken to the floor for discussion. In order to not lose those rich inputs, all questions were archived and will be shared in an online forum where interested participants will have the chance to discuss and exchange on topics that we were unable to discuss during the LAB.

Using Sli.do contributed to enriching the debate and bringing out topics that are relevant to the GSW messages, and could be further developed. Although some challenges were encountered with this interactive discussion method, its overall contribution to discussions at GSW was positive and the collected questions (and resulting discussions) will hopefully provide insights for future discussion topics. A review and analysis of this tool and its contribution to the GSW will be made available. Please continue to check our website (www.globalsoilweek.org) for the online discussion forum, which will be launched in mid-summer 2017.







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with titles reserved:

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