

Online registration

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/online-registration-weltbodentag2015>

Kontakt

Sabine Mahrle

E-Mail: sabine.mahrle@uba.de

Phone: +49-340 2103 3587

Organizer

- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Organization

- agrathaer GmbH; strategische Landnutzung
<http://www.agrathaer.de>
- German Federal Environment Agency
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**Umwelt
Bundesamt**

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

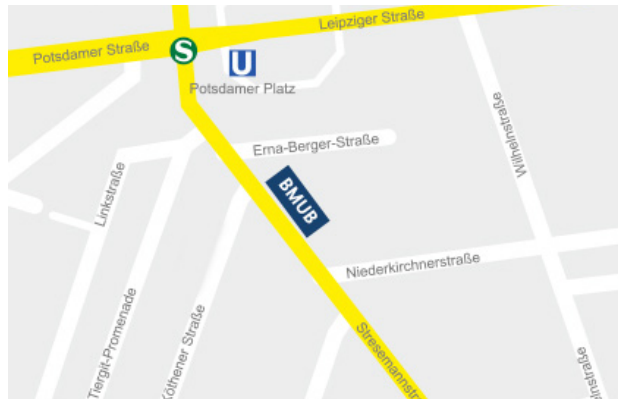
agrathaer
Strategische Landnutzung

Language

German / English (simultaneous translation)

Venue

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
Berlin, Stresemannstraße 128-130



Did you know that ...

- in Germany, land-take for settlement and transport infrastructure is still at 74 hectares per day although the target for 2020 is 30 hectares per day?
- the average European requires 1.3 hectares for the production of the products he or she consumes and that almost 60 per cent of this land is outside of Europe?

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Phone: +49 340-2103-0

info@umweltbundesamt.de

Internet: www.umweltbundesamt.de

/umweltbundesamt.de

/umweltbundesamt

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Date: October 2015



Soil – A source of life

Closing event of the International Year of Soils 2015

Berlin, 3 December 2015

2015
International
Year of Soils



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety

**Umwelt
Bundesamt**

Soil – A source of life

We use soil to grow food, feed and energy crops, plant timber for energy purposes and material use, mine raw materials, and as land for our infrastructures and buildings.

But soil use no longer just takes place within national borders. Soil has become a global commodity. Through our lifestyles and the way our economies operate, and in particular through the import of feed for meat production, we also use land and soil in other parts of the world.

With the high and growing demand for land across the world, the threats to our fertile soils are increasing and their quality is being put at risk. The destruction of productive land through desertification, soil degradation and contamination has increased worldwide. But without this “thin skin” of the Earth, life is not possible. Soils are a vital resource whose renewability is limited. Soils must therefore be valued and protected worldwide.

The International Year of Soils 2015 was meant to open our eyes to these facts. With the end of this year drawing close, we will be looking ahead: The adoption of the Global Development Goals will present us with challenging tasks also with regard to soil protection. The matter at issue is nothing less than building a land degradation neutral world. Currently, thought is being given worldwide on how such “land degradation neutrality” should be achieved. The implementation of this vision presents Germany with new challenges.

Our keynote speakers will shed light on the various aspects of these new challenges. Additionally, we will ask representatives of the parties represented in the German Federal Parliament: What do you intend to do to push forward soil protection?

Programm

Facilitator: Tanja Busse (free-lance journalist)

10:00	Musical opening (Tobias Morgenstern and colleagues)
10:15	Opening Dr Helge Wendenburg Directorate-General Water Management, Resource Conservation Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
10:45	Global aspects of soil – environmental footprint Prof. em. William Rees UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, Applied Science, Member of the Club of Rome
11:30	Coffee break
12:00	European perspective Andrea Vettori European Commission
12:30	Soil – basis for sustainable landuse Prof. Dr. Alois Heißenhuber Agriculture Commission at the German Federal Environment Agency
13:00	Lunch break

14:15 **Panel discussion: Preservation of soil – a matter of political concern?**

Panelists are:

- **Matern von Marschall**
(Christian Democratic Union)
- **Dr. Matthias Miersch**
(Social Democratic Party of Germany)
- **Renate Künast**
(Alliance 90/The Green Party)
- **Birgit Menz** (The Left Party)

Discussions with perspectives from

- **Global view**
Dr. Rafaël Schneider
Head of staff section of internal policies
and external relations at the German
Agro Action (Welthungerhilfe)
- **Sustainability view**
Prof. Dr. Günther Bachmann
Secretary General of the German Council
for Sustainable Development
- **Agricultural view**
Dr. Lothar Hövelmann
Managing Director of the Competence
Center Agriculture (German Agricultural
Society)

16:00 **Summary and outlook**

Maria Krautzberger
(German Federal Environment Agency)
Stefan Schmitz (Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development)