

## Online registration

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/online-registration-form-international-year-of>

## Contact

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## Organizer

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

## Organization

- German Federal Environment Agency
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e.V.



## Language

German / English with simultaneous translation

## Venue

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

Berlin, Stresemannstraße 128-130



### Did you know that ...

- there are more microorganisms in a handful of soil than there are people on the planet?
- there is twice as much carbon dioxide stored in soil humus than is present in the atmosphere?
- one European takes up 0.31 ha of arable land, although worldwide only about 0.23 ha per person are available?

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# International Year of Soils 2015

## Germany's land use – global perspectives, global responsibilities

Berlin, 5 December 2014



# International Year of Soils 2015

Soil is life. More than 90% of global food production depends directly on soil. Soil stores carbon dioxide, nutrients, and water, and is crucial for biodiversity. Yet, we do not value soil very highly. Our consumption – not only of food but also of renewable resources like cotton, wood and biofuels – has major impacts on soils here in Germany and elsewhere. Soil is a limited and threatened resource. Every year we lose around six million hectares of fertile soils worldwide as a result of unsustainable agricultural practices, contamination and land take through construction activities and urbanization. At the same time, the need for fertile soil is increasing as population growth and changing consumption patterns rapidly push up the demand for food, feed, and renewable resources throughout the world.

Only healthy soils can secure our food supply and hence our future. For this reason, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, adopted the goal of a land degradation-neutral world, in order to secure the basis of our livelihoods. To raise awareness of the importance of soil and encourage global action, the United Nations has declared 2015 the International Year of Soils. Effective political measures driven by responsible policy-making are crucial for positive change.

On 5 December 2014 – the first official UN World Soil Day – we cordially invite you to join us and high-level referees and guests in a discussion of Germany's role in these processes. Not only will we have an honest look at the implications of land use within German borders, but also internationally in regard to the global effects of our demand for resources. What are the responsibilities resulting from German demands on international soil and land resources? How can Germany meet these responsibilities?

We would like to welcome the International Year of Soils 2015 and to discuss these questions together with you. We look forward to seeing you in Berlin!

## Program

### 10:00 Opening

#### **Florian Pronold**

State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

### 10:15 Keynote

#### **“Soils from a European Perspective”**

#### **Karl Falkenberg**

Director-General, DG Environment, European Commission (DG-ENV)

### 10:30 Keynote

#### **“The Global Significance of Soil”**

#### **Klaus Töpfer**

Executive Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e.V. (IASS)

### 10:45 „Spotlights on Soils - Three perspectives“

#### **Moderator: Christiane Markard**

German Federal Environment Agency (UBA)

#### Speaker:

##### ► **Bernhard Krüsken**

German Farmers' Association (DBV)

##### ► **Nicole Grunewald**

Global Footprint Network

##### ► **Carolin Callenius**

Bread for the World

### 11:30 Coffee Break

12:00

## Panel Discussion

### **“Germany's responsibilities and responses to international soil protection”**

Moderator: **Maria Krautzberger**

German Federal Environment Agency (UBA)

Panelists:

##### ► **Hans Herren**

Millennium Institute / BIOVISION

##### ► **Pieter de Pous**

European Environmental Bureau

##### ► **Stefan Schmitz**

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

##### ► **Reinhold Benning**

BUND

Friends of the Earth Germany

##### ► **Reinhard Kaiser**

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

##### ► **Clemens Neumann**

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Discussants:

##### ► **Bernhard Krüsken**

German Farmers' Association (DBV)

##### ► **Nicole Grunewald**

Global Footprint Network

##### ► **Carolin Callenius**

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13:30

## Keynote Speakers' Conclusions

**Klaus Töpfer** (IASS) and

**Karl Falkenberg** (DG-ENV)

14:00

## Farewell and Joint Lunch