Global Soil Week 2017

Catalysing SDG Implementation Through a Soil and Land Review

Aim

The GSW 2017 aims to contribute to the HLPF Theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”. It will do so by looking at the subset of SDGs that are under review by the HLPF 2017 through the perspective of land and soils, thereby providing an integrating perspective across the SDGs; contributing data and other forms of knowledge complementary to the SDG indicators. The GSW 2017 also aims to serve as a bridge to empower different actors to share their priorities on the SDG implementation. Proceeding like this, the GSW 2017 intends to catalyse SDG implementation. Specifically, we intend to:

• Account for trade-offs and seek synergies between the SDGs;
• Move from knowledge production and sharing to learning processes that lead to action;
• Empower actors to be able to contribute to follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda;
• Increase the ownership of the 2030 Agenda;
• Address critical pressure points, namely: (i) Net resource pressures; (ii) Consumption and production patterns; (iii) Access and rights to resources.

Rationale

Managing integration. Achieving sustainable development according to the 2030 Agenda in all countries of the world is a challenge that, at the same time, offers a generation opportunity. Addressing the multiple linkages between the different SDGs and across countries requires novel and innovative ways to navigate the complexity of the agenda. Additionally, it is necessary to ensure that national activities do not jeopardize 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-sectoral linkages work to support national level implementation.

Supporting the principles of the 2030 Agenda means 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 that marginalize certain social groups exacerbate this scarcity. Soils are also in jeopardy. Their pollution has direct impacts on the lives of millions of people worldwide. Despite international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, marginalized people struggle to enjoy the legitimate tenure rights given competing pressures on resources and injustices, 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 will utilize the Thematic Reviews promoted by the 2030 Agenda to create a support function for accountability at national levels by elaborating guidelines for national government reporting and empower local voices.

Labour markets promote economic and social development, and are key to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Through a process of decentralization and localization, the HLPF provides a tool for governments and stakeholders to reflect on the priority issues that need to be addressed within their own context. This workshop will focus on the 2030 Agenda to create a support function for accountability at national levels by elaborating guidelines for national government reporting and empower local voices.

The LAB

At the LAB we will come together to produce an example of how to look at the SDGs being reviewed at the HLPF 2017 (SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 17) through the lens of soil and land. The Lab is an open space for multi-stakeholder deliberation on gaps and synergies within and between the SDGs. Therefor, we will focus on the 2017 HLPF thematic reviews leading up to and promoting progress and jointly develop priorities for action at different scales throughout the next years, to make the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda a reality. The Lab is a space for the convergence of actors, perspectives and discussions emerging from the preparatory processes and workshops of the Global Soil Week.

Outcomes

Together with our partners and participants we will work on different ways to capture the insights generated at the Global Soil Week. While these will be defined and elaborated over the coming weeks, two specific products that we will be working on 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”;

ii. a report to reflect on the review and together develop pathways to support national level implementation.

Workshops

1 | Right to [defend] Land: strengthening accountability at the local level through thematic reviews

2 | Soil rehabilitation for Zero Hunger: ensuring our natural resource base for food security

3 | Competing demands on soil and land: securing our natural resource base for food security

Soils are pivotal to end hunger and achieve food security (Sustainable Development Goal 2). Yet, fertile soils are not only a finite and irreplaceably available resource, but also continuously degraded. Under a business as usual scenario, implementing the SDGs will mean demands on soil and natural resources for the production of food, feed, fuel, and fibers. Competing demands and trade-offs market locally at the landscape level in the production of land-based goods and products, i.e., food crops versus biofuels and forage. This workshop focuses on critical soil demands on land and links this with practical steps of how we can achieve land degradation neutrality to achieve food security.

Participants

Carolin.Sparks@iaas-potsdam.de
Anne.Richter@iaas-potsdam.de

Communication & Youth Curators
Thando.Tillmann@iaas-potsdam.de
Abir.Ghattas@iaas-potsdam.de
Matheus.Zanella@iaas-potsdam.de
Nora.Rocha@iaas-potsdam.de

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