

# SOIL AND CLIMATE



## International conference and excursion on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Wuppertal, Germany

### Soil and climate

Soil is the basis for the production of our food and the most important terrestrial carbon storage. It also plays a decisive role in the water balance as a filter, buffer and storage medium. These functions of soil are being increasingly restricted by the expansion of settlement and traffic areas and the dramatic changes due to climate change. Healthy soil and the preservation of soil functions are therefore essential contributions to climate protection and adaptation to climate change.

In Europe and also worldwide, the preservation of soils and soil functions is becoming an increasingly important task and the course must now be set for this at international and national level. The climate function of soils has long been underestimated, and new practical but sustainable options for action are needed. Agriculture must adapt to changing framework conditions and focus more on preserving and improving soil functions. In cities and municipalities, “water-sensitive” urban development with the creation of a blue/green infrastructure, the search for multifunctional areas or the creation of a “sponge city” has become an important objective in future and sustainable urban planning. The City of Wuppertal is organising the conference in close cooperation with European Land and Soil Alliance and Climate Alliance. The Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection (MUNV) of North Rhine-Westphalia supports the event.

We would like to cordially invite you to exchange and discuss with us and to point out solutions for the problems mentioned.



Ministerium für Umwelt,  
Naturschutz und Verkehr  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



## PROGRAMME | Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 | 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

### 8.30 a.m. | Registration

### 9.30 a.m. | Welcome and statements

#### Greetings

- Prof. Dr. Uwe Schneidewind, Lord Mayor of the City of Wuppertal (DE)
- Frank Meyer, Head of the Urban Greening, Mobility, Environment and Geodata Division of the City of Wuppertal (DE)
- Christian Steiner, Chairman of the Board, European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA), St. Pölten (AT)



### 10.00 a.m. | Statements

#### Soil and Climate - An Issue for NRW

Oliver Krischer, Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Transport of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (DE)

#### Climate change and soil worldwide - An overview

Andreas Wolter, Chairman of Climate Alliance and Mayor of the City of Cologne (DE)

#### EU Soil Health Law and EU Soil Strategy 2030

Ion Codescu, Head of Unit “Land Use and Management”, DG Environment, European Commission (BE)

10.45 a.m. | Questions and discussion. Moderated by tba (DE)

11.00 a.m. | Coffee break

### 11.30 a.m. | Main topics

#### Protecting the Climate Functions of Soils - Current Developments in Germany

Padia Lariu, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (DE)

#### Climate-smart agriculture: myths and facts

Dr. Andrea Beste, Office for Soil Protection and Organic Farming (DE)

#### Soil and Climate Change in the City - Healthy Urban Trees for climate change adaptation

Stefan Schmidt, Landscape Architect, AK Schwammstadt (AT)

12.30 p.m. | Questions and discussion. Moderated by Thomas Brose, Climate Alliance (DE)

### 1.00 p.m. | Lunch



### 14.00 p.m. | Workshops

#### Panel 1

Statement 1

Statement 2

Statement 3

Discussion

#### Climate function of soils

**The role of rainforests and indigenous peoples** | Thomas Brose, Climate Alliance (DE)

**The importance of European soils for climate protection and climate change** | Dr. Luca Montanarella, Joint Research Centre, European Commission (IT)

**The importance of peatlands for climate protection and climate change** | Prof. Dr. Hans Joosten, University of Greifswald, Greifswald Mire Centre (DE)

Moderated by Detlef Gerdt, European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA)

<b>Panel 2</b>	<b>The future of agriculture in a changing climate</b>
Statement 1	<b>Agricultural water management in Germany</b>   Dr. Nataliya Stupak, Thünen Institute, Climate and Soil Unit (DE)
Statement 2	<b>Humus build-up in agriculture - opportunities and limits for carbon farming</b>   Sophie Drexler, Thünen Institute for Agricultural Climate Protection (DE)
Statement 3	<b>Carbon farming - The European perspective</b>   Dr. Andreas Baumgarten, Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety, AGES (AT)
Discussion	Moderated by Christian Steiner, European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA)
<b>Panel 3</b>	<b>Soil and climate change in the city</b>
Statement 1	<b>Case study Austria</b>   Johannes Selinger, Pilot region management KLAR! (AT)
Statement 2	<b>The climate function of soil - Activities in North Rhine-Westfalia</b>   Dr. Chris Bamminger, Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz NRW (DE)
Statement 3	<b>Soil function maps in times of climate change</b>   Patrick Lederer, City of Wuppertal (DE)
Diskussion	Moderated by Wilfried Hager, European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA)

**4.00 p.m. | Coffee break**

**4.30 p.m. | Closing Panel “Soil and Climate”**  
**Moderated by Christian Steiner, European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA)**

**5.30 p.m. | Break**

**7.00 p.m. | Dinner together with reading by Sonja Medwedski from her book “The Voice of the Soil”.**  
**(at own expense, registration required)**

## EXCURSION | Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 |



### 9 a.m. | Excursion

Meeting point Sparkasse (Am Islandufer 15, Wuppertal), View over the city  
 Experts present the following topics:

- Urban development, Wuppertal
- Recycling of brownfields and remediation of contaminated sites
- Climate change, sponge city

### 10 a.m. | Ride on the suspension railway to Oberbarmen

- Renaturation of water bodies and walk to the “Gasometer” (brownfield recycling)

### 12 p.m. | Visit of “Gasometer” (optional)

### 1 p.m. | Lunch at the “Gasometer” (at own expense)

### 2 p.m. | Members’ meeting European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA)

## Conference office

European Land and Soil Alliance  
 Uta Mählmann  
 c/o City of Osnabrück  
 PO Box 4460 | D-49034 Osnabrück  
 Phone +49 (0)541- 323 7025  
 E-mail: [mail@soil-alliance.org](mailto:mail@soil-alliance.org)  
[www.soil-alliance.org](http://www.soil-alliance.org)

## Organiser

City of Wuppertal  
 in cooperation with:  
 European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA),  
 Climate Alliance  
 Ministry for the Environment, Agriculture, Nature  
 Consumer Protection of the State of North  
 Rhine-Westphalia (MUNLV NRW)

## Imprint

Publisher: ELSA e.V.  
 Photos: pixabay / Reinhard Gierse

## Registration

**By 10 September 2023 at the latest**  
 at [www.bodenbuendnis.org](http://www.bodenbuendnis.org)  
 or by email to [mail@soil-alliance.org](mailto:mail@soil-alliance.org)

## Conference fee

**Conference fee:** 90,- Euro  
**Students:** 25- Euro  
 incl. lunch and refreshments during breaks  
**Excursion:** free of charge (number of places limited;  
 registration required)

## Venue

Barmen City Hall / City of Wuppertal  
 Johannes Rau Platz 1  
 42275 Wuppertal  
 Telefon: 0202 563 0

## Conference language

German