



**WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION**

# **HOT NEWS**

Issue 07, 2014



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## WASWAC HOT NEWS No. 7, July, 2014

### Contents

WASWAC News	International Youth Forum of Soil and Water Conservation (IYFSWC)	1-2
Meetings		3-7
Jobs		8-9
News and Report	Glacier Status in Nepal and Decadal Change from 1980 to 2010 Based on Landsat Data	10-12
	International Year of Soils	13
	ICIMOD celebrates partnership with China	16
	Global climate report shows unpredictable future: New Zealand scientist	17
	ICIMOD Receives Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Application of Geospatial Technology in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region	18-19
Book Introductions		14-16
Advertisements		7,9,12
WASWAC Application Form		20

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**Cover photo:** Soil erosion control in slope farmlands, Gansu Province, China. (Photo by Mr. Huang Baolin)

Editors: Ms. Mao Juan, Contributors include Ms Nira Gurung and Dr. Du Pengfei.

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IRTCES Building

(Where the Secretariat of WASWAC is)

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WASWAC Website: [www.waswac.org](http://www.waswac.org)

## International Youth Forum of Soil and Water Conservation (IYFSWC)



You are cordially invited to the International Youth Forum on Soil and Water Conservation (IYFSWC). The conference will bring researchers, practitioners and policy makers a world-wide platform to share their research and discuss creative solutions related to soil and water conservation. IYFSWC is focusing to see the “old” soil and water conservation problems in the vision of the youth.

Detailed information will be available soon at: <http://iyfswc.nit.edu.cn/> and <http://www.waswac.org>

### TOPICS

- Soil Erosion Processes and Modeling
- Global Changes and Soil Conservation Practices
- Land Degradation and Food Security
- Watershed Management
- Sustainable Development for Soil and Water
- Soil and Water Conservation during Construction
- New Technologies and Methods for Monitoring and Assessment Soil Erosion
- Youth Engagement and the Education of Soil and Water Conservation





## OUTSTANDING YOUTH PAPER AWARD

The World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) will present WASWAC Outstanding Youth Paper Award at the conference.

Ten outstanding papers by authors under the age of 40 (born after January 1, 1975) will be selected from the submitted conference papers. The primary author of each paper will be awarded **US\$1,000**.

The awarded paper will be published in WASWAC official journal—*International Soil and Water Conservation Research (ISWCR)*, which is a peer-reviewed, quarterly published English journal.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Sep.1, 2014 Call for abstracts

Nov. 30, 2014 Abstract Due (Please submit your abstract to [IYFSWCpaper@nit.edu.cn](mailto:IYFSWCpaper@nit.edu.cn))

Mar. 31, 2015 Full Paper Due

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# MEETINGS

## International Symposium on Agroecology for Food and Nutrition Security



**Date:** 18 -19 September 2014

**Venue:** Rome

FAO will host an International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition from 18th to 19th September to explore recent scientific research and knowledge and promote open dialogue while showcasing existing experiences and programs on Agroecology.

The Symposium will:

- ✧ provide a forum for taking stock of the current state of science and practices of Agroecology, as well as for initiatives underway around the world and thus contribute to the development of an international framework for research on Agroecology, with consideration of economic, social and environmental aspects in developed and developing countries;
- ✧ facilitate exchange of information on agro-ecology activities in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework;
- ✧ produce scientific proceedings and other information material for web sharing (e.g. agroecological practices and video interviews).

This will be the occasion for agroecological initiatives from around the world to publically display their work to a large audience of scientists, civil society members, members of the private sector and FAO staff during the two-day long symposium

**Details** please go to:

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/spi/international-symposium/en/>



# 18<sup>th</sup> International Soil Conservation Organization Conference

May 31 – June 5, 2015 El Paso, Texas

## First Announcement



**Achieving sustainability through conservation in a changing world**

### About ISCO

ISCO is an organization composed of conservation professionals from around the globe who meet biennially to share their latest research results. Begin in 1978, ISCO has met on every inhabited continent and is returning to North America for the first time since 1999. Please mark your calendars and plan on spending the week with us in El Paso.

For more info: [www.Tucson.ars.ag.gov/isco](http://www.Tucson.ars.ag.gov/isco)

### Conference Tours

Conference registration will include a mid-week technical tour of soil and water conservation research projects at the historic USDA Jornada Experimental Range, a LTER site, LTAR site and USDA regional climate hub in the morning. In the afternoon we will travel to the coolness of the Sacramento Mountains to look at post-fire soil stabilization projects.

A post-conference tour is available for an additional fee. The tour will be five days and includes visits to the Walnut Gulch Experimental Watershed and historic Tombstone, AZ, Sonoran Desert Museum, Grand Canyon, early Native American cliff dwellings and Biosphere II. The tour fee covers all related expenses except meals.



### For More Information

For more information please email the chair of the Organizing Committee, Scott Van Pelt at:

[Scott.vanpelt@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Scott.vanpelt@ars.usda.gov)

### Conference Topics

- Soil conservation for mitigation and adaptation to a changing climate: sustainable solutions
- Impacts of soil erosion and conservation on soil health and organic carbon sequestration
- Conservation agriculture
- Basic soil erosion: processes, mechanisms, and modeling
- Socio-economic dimensions of soil conservation
- Sustainable intensification of food production
- Soil degradation: salinization, sodification, and desertification
- Soil conservation in non-agricultural settings: i.e. urban and forestry

### Conference Venue

The University of Texas at El Paso campus between the Franklin Mountains and the Rio Grande is the conference site. UTEP is celebrating 100 years of education and research. El Paso is a multi-cultural city rich in history and culture.



### Conference Sponsors

United States Department of Agriculture  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
European Society for Soil Conservation  
World Association of Soil and Water Conservation  
International Union of Soil Scientists  
International Soil Tillage Research Organization  
International Society for Aeolian Research  
American Water Resources Institute  
University of Texas at El Paso

### Important Dates

Aug. 15, 2014 – Call for abstracts  
Nov. 15, 2014 – Early registration opens  
Feb. 16, 2015 – Abstract submission deadline  
Mar. 15, 2015 – Early registration closes  
May 1, 2015 – Last day to register

## 5th International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts

**Date:** November 2–4, 2015

**Venue:** Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

**Summary:** The Middle East region is going through an era of rapid coastal development which may be attributed to the strategic location of this region. Usually such developments bring economic growth and pose environmental concerns at the same time. This region has a diversity of sea grass beds, coral reefs, mangroves and salt marshes. Therefore, it is important to involve engineers and environmental professionals in the decision making process related to coastal and marine construction in order to minimize damage to the important ecosystems. ICEC 2015 will serve as a venue for engineers, researchers and administrators from industry, academia and public agencies to discuss and exchange information on issues important to sustainable coastal development.

**Organizer:** Sultan Qaboos University

**Sponsors:** International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) Sultan Qaboos University The Research Council, Oman Potential Sponsors from Public and Private Sectors in the Sultanate of Oman

**Co-Sponsors:** UNESCO, IAHR, IAHS, WASER, and other institutes and organizations to be invited

**Secretariat:** Sultan Qaboos University

**Permanent Secretariat:** IRTCES

### Conference Themes:

- \* Coastal erosion: measurements, modeling, management
- \* Seawater quality: coastal and offshore pollution, measurements, modeling, solutions
- \* Tsunami: field observations, numerical modeling, mitigation
- \* Estuaries: water quality observations, modeling and effect on marine resources, mangrove rehabilitation
- \* Integrated Coastal Zone Management: approaches, measures
- \* Seawater intrusion: measurement, modeling, management
- \* Social, economical and political problems involving coasts and estuaries

**URL:** online submissions: <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=icec2015>

**Contacts:** Ahmad Sana, Ph. D. Associate Professor Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering

Sultan Qaboos University PO Box 33, Al-Khod 123, Muscat Sultanate of Oman Tel: +968-24142524 Fax: +968-24413416 [sana@squ.edu.om](mailto:sana@squ.edu.om) Dr. Mahad Baawain [msab@squ.edu.om](mailto:msab@squ.edu.om)

## Wageningen Soil Conference 2015



# wageningen soil conference

SOIL SCIENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD

**Date:** August 23 - 27, 2015

**Venue:** Wageningen, the Netherlands

### Aims:

- ✚ Sharing knowledge of soils across the world and across science
- ✚ Engaging in interdisciplinary exchanges of ideas, thoughts, and opinions
- ✚ Thinking out of the box and being innovative and creative

### Themes:

#### FOOD SECURITY

healthy soils, healthy people



- Soil productivity/fertility
- Soils and micro-nutrients
- Organic matter and soil productivity
- Soil Information to feed the world

CHAIR Pablo Tittone  
KEYNOTES Bernard Vanlauwe  
Deborah Bossio

#### WATER RESOURCES

blue and green water



- Water harvesting in dry lands
- Scaling soil-hydrological functions
- Soils as physical and chemical filters
- Optimizing water-use efficiency

CHAIR Artemi Cerdà  
KEYNOTES John Quinton  
Günter Blöschl

#### BIODIVERSITY

soils as a hotbed for life

#### GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

soils on the global political agenda





- Land use change and soil biodiversity
- Climate change and soil biodiversity
- Soil DNA-repository
- Soil contamination and soil eco-system functions

CHAIR Lijbert Brussaard  
KEYNOTES George Kowalchuk  
Laurent Philippot



- Soil Science and the Millennium Development Goals
- EU Water & Soil directives: policy driven soil research
- UN convention to combat desertification
- Soils in Horizon 2020

CHAIR Luca Montanarella  
KEYNOTES Ronald Vargas  
*to be announced*

### CLIMATE CHANGE

soils and feedbacks



- Carbon sequestration
- Soil respiration and GHG emissions
- Changing farmers best practices
- Waterproof deltas

CHAIR Karsten Kalbitz  
KEYNOTES Ingrid Kögel-Knabner  
Ivan Janssen

### LAND FUNCTIONS

soil-scapes in the anthropocene



- Combating the loss of fertile soil
- Desertification
- Consequences of land use change
- Cascading carbon transport

CHAIR Violette Geissen  
KEYNOTES Gerard Govers  
Nicki Whitehouse

### Deadline:

Deadline for abstracts: 28 February 2015

Replies to authors: 1 May 2015

Details at: [www.wageningenur.nl/wageningensoilconference2015](http://www.wageningenur.nl/wageningensoilconference2015)

**ICT International Standing Wave Technology**  
Soil Moisture Measurement



MP306



MP406



MPkit

<http://www.ictinternational.com/soils.html#soilmoisture>

**Applications:**

- Volumetric soil moisture content
- Forest and catchment hydrology
- Soil columns and geo-engineering
- Landfill cover and mine closures
- Irrigation scheduling



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# JOBS

## 1. PhD position in Soil Science / terrestrial Biogeochemistry



Climate change is a key challenge for both, science and society. The Cluster of Excellence "Integrated Climate System Analysis and Prediction" (CliSAP) is responding to this challenge in an integrated way, linking together natural and social sciences. Main partners are the Universität Hamburg, the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, the Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht and the German Climate Computing Centre DKRZ.

CliSAP invites applications for a 3-Year PhD Position in Soil Science / terrestrial Biogeochemistry. The position is available at the Institute of Soil Science, Universität Hamburg, Germany. We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student (Soil Scientist, Biologist, Biogeochemist, Ecologist) to investigate the carbon pools, organic matter quality and degradability as well as trace gas fluxes in thermokarst affected arctic wetlands. He/she will conduct laboratory analysis, field research on permafrost soils and GIS analysis in thermokarst landscapes of northeast Siberia. The position is part of the Soil Ecology and Soil Genesis group of Eva-Maria Pfeiffer and will be conducted in close cooperation with the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Research Unit Potsdam (AWI).

### Supervisor:

Prof. Dr. Eva-Maria Pfeiffer (Institute of Soil Science, Universität Hamburg)

For application details, please see:

[http://www.clisap.de/fileadmin/o-Home/o-Documents/Ausschreibung\\_Thermokarst-ff.pdf](http://www.clisap.de/fileadmin/o-Home/o-Documents/Ausschreibung_Thermokarst-ff.pdf)

**Deadline** for application: 15th September 2014

**Expected start date:** 1st November 2014

For **further information** please contact Prof Eva-Maria Pfeiffer ([E.M.Pfeiffer@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:E.M.Pfeiffer@uni-hamburg.de)) or Dr. Christian Knoblauch ([Christian.Knoblauch@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:Christian.Knoblauch@uni-hamburg.de)).

## 2. Faculty Position at the National Research Center for Integrated Natural Disaster Management



cigiden

The School of Engineering of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile invites applications for a full-time faculty position at the "National Research Center for Integrated Natural Disaster Management" (CIGIDEN - Project FONDAP / CONICYT).

CIGIDEN is a cross-disciplinary research initiative aimed to mitigate the tremendous and complex impact of natural disasters in the society, considering the physical infrastructure, the human stock, and the economic development. The Center takes advantage of Chile as one of the most active natural seismic and geo-hazard laboratories in the world. Faculty members working at CIGIDEN include people from different areas of Civil Engineering, Psychology, Sociology, Urban Studies and Geography (more details in [www.cigiden.cl](http://www.cigiden.cl)).

The faculty position is part of an encouragement of the Center to grow in its second year of operation with respect to new topics not developed in Chile: 1) Geo-Hazard/Remote Sensing Technologies/Geospatial Data Analysis; 2) Agent Based Modeling; 3) Risk Assessment and Uncertainty Quantification in Natural Disasters. Candidates could apply for any of these areas.

Further information

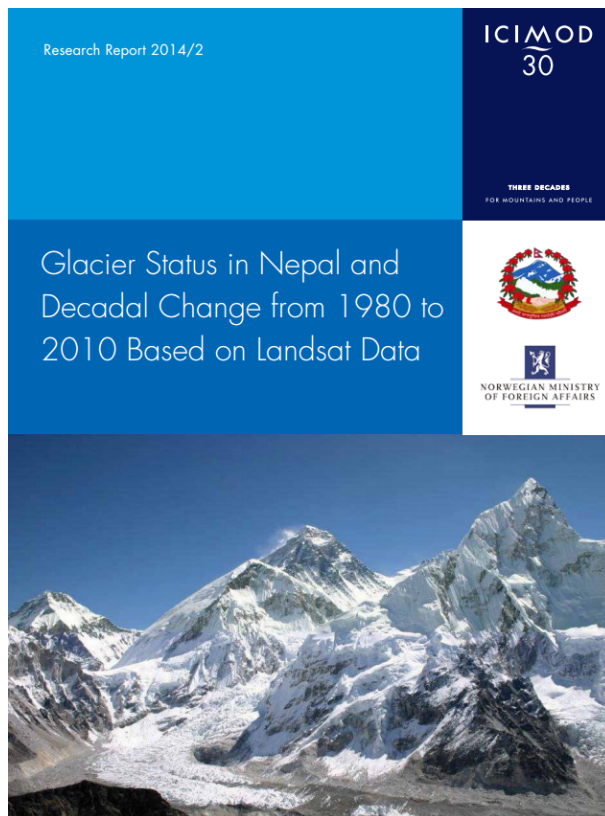
**Additional information** may be obtained by emailing CIGIDEN to [contacto@cigiden.cl](mailto:contacto@cigiden.cl), cc to Rodrigo Cienfuegos ([racienfu@ing.puc.cl](mailto:racienfu@ing.puc.cl)) if the application is for "Geo-Hazard", and cc to Felipe Rivera ([fnrivera@uc.cl](mailto:fnrivera@uc.cl)) if the application is for "AMB" or "Risk Assessment".

**Details** at: <http://www.earthworks-jobs.com/rsgis/cigiden14071.html>





## Glacier Status in Nepal and Decadal Change from 1980 to 2010 Based on Landsat Data



This report provides a comprehensive account of the status of glaciers of Nepal in approximately 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 based on a semi-automatic standardized analysis of satellite images with post-processing database management in ArcGIS. The methodology is an improved version of methods developed by global initiatives like the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS), Global Land Ice Measurement from Space (GLIMS), and GlobGlacier.

The customized methodology of semi-automatic glacier mapping provides a rapid delivery of glacier attributes. The semi-automatically derived glacier outlines from 2010 were overlain separately on the images used to approximate 1980, 1990, and 2000, and the glacier outlines were modified manually for the respective years and used for change analysis. Clean-ice and debris-covered glaciers were mapped separately for 2010 to support studies of water resources assessment and climate change impact. In an additional case study, glacier outlines for the four decades in the Langtang sub-basin in central Nepal and Imja sub-basin in eastern Nepal were analysed and compared with decadal temperature change.

The inventory is a much-needed follow up to the inventory of glaciers and glacial lakes in Nepal

published in 2001, which used a variety of data sources with considerable temporal differences, including Indian Survey topographic maps (1962–1975), aerial photos (1957–1959), and field survey findings, and must thus be considered essentially as indicative. The present single country inventory complements the survey published in 2011 of glaciers in the individual river basins of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region, which was based on data from a single source (Landsat images) with a short temporal range (2005±3 years) and also analysed semi-automatically.

The inventory for Nepal was supplemented by a case study in Langtang valley in central Nepal and Imja valley in eastern Nepal showing the changes over 30 years in individual glaciers. The changes were compared with the changes in temperature recorded at nearby hydrometeorological stations; the loss of glacier area was paralleled by a steady increase in average annual temperature, and especially average minimum temperature. Changes in rainfall patterns over 20 years were also analysed.

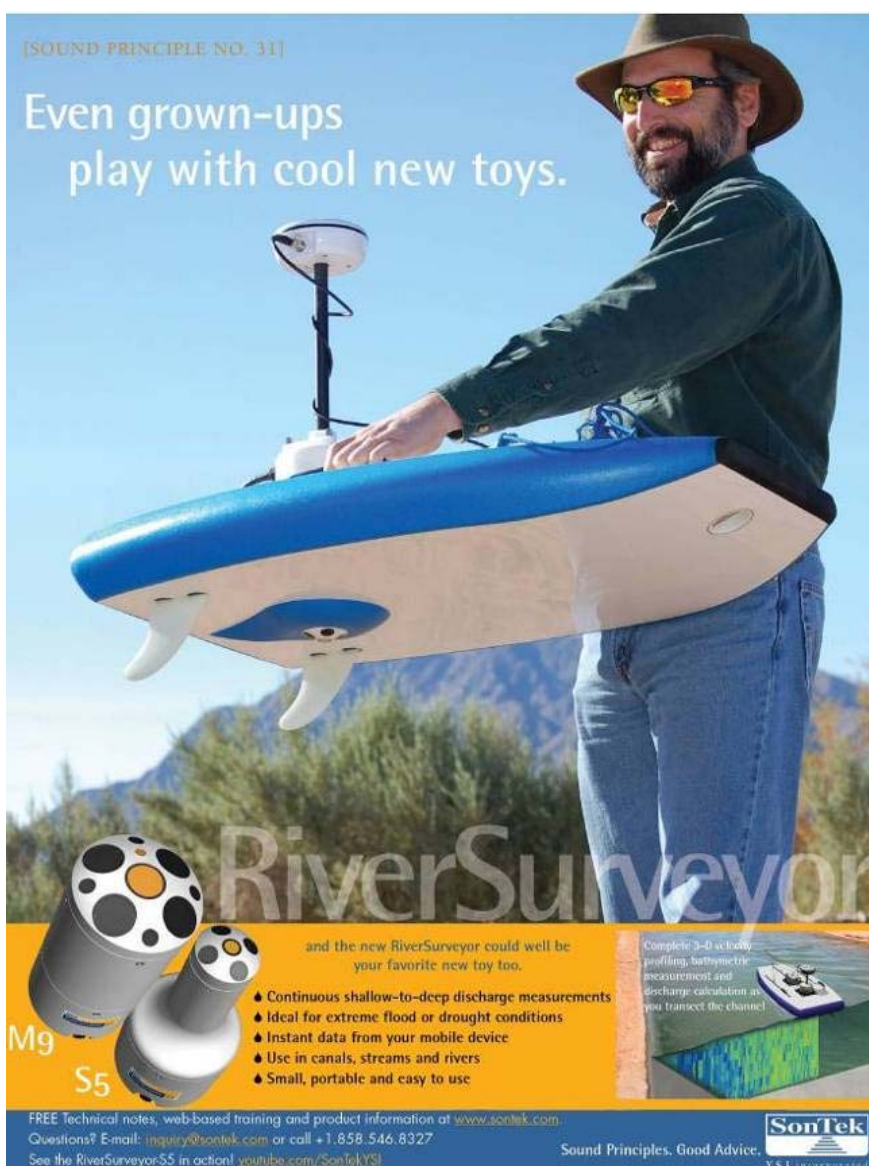
The results provide information on the change in glacial extent over the past decade and quantitative data to support discussion of climate change impacts in the Nepal Himalayas. The major findings were as follows:

- ✚ In 2010, a total of 3,808 glaciers were identified with a total area of 3,902 km<sup>2</sup> and estimated ice reserves of 312 km<sup>3</sup>. The average area of individual glaciers was 1 km<sup>2</sup>. The Ngojumba glacier in the Dudh Koshi sub-basin was the largest single glacier with an area of 79 km<sup>2</sup>.
- ✚ About 90% of the glacier area lay between 4,500 and 6,500 masl; with 65% between 5,000 and 6,000 masl.
- ✚ The contribution of estimated ice reserves is higher for a large glacier than for the same cumulative area from a number of smaller ones. Thus the estimated ice reserves were higher in basins with larger glaciers and larger glaciers are the most important reserves of freshwater.
- ✚ The total glacier area decreased by 24% between 1977 and 2010, and the estimated ice reserves by 29% (129 km<sup>3</sup>). The number of glaciers increased by 11%, a result of fragmentation following shrinkage. The lowest losses of glacier area (and in some cases gains) were observed from glaciers with a north or northwest aspect (of which there were very few) and slopes of less than 20°. Mountain basin type and valley glaciers also showed a lower proportional loss of area.
- ✚ The glaciers receded on average by 38 km<sup>2</sup> per year.
- ✚ The rate of loss of glacial area between ~1980 and 1990 was almost twice that in the subsequent

two decades (1990–2000 and 2000–2010). Further study is needed to determine whether this reflects a slowing in the rate of change or an anomalous situation in the first period.

- ✚ The average annual mean temperature in the Langtang and Imja (Khumbu) sub-basins rose at an average rate of  $0.12^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{year}$  and  $0.09^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{year}$ , respectively, between 1988 and 2008. Moving average analysis showed that the rate of increase in average mean minimum temperature was significant and higher than the increase in average mean maximum temperature.

FULL TEXT available at: <http://lib.icimod.org/record/29591/files/GSN-RR14-2.pdf>



[SOUND PRINCIPLE NO. 31]

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## International Year of Soils

2015  
International  
Year of Soils



Soils are a finite natural resource and are nonrenewable on a human time scale. Soils are the foundation for food, animal feed, fuel and natural fiber production, the supply of clean water, nutrient cycling and a range of ecosystem functions. The area of fertile soils covering the world's surface is limited and increasingly subject to degradation, poor management and loss to urbanization. Increased awareness of the life-supporting functions of soil is called for if this trend is to be reversed and so enable the levels of food production necessary to meet the demands of population levels predicted for 2050. The Global Soil Partnership at the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recognized the urgent need to raise awareness and to promote sustainability of the limited soil resources and has declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils. On 24 April 2013 at the 146 FAO Council, FAO member Countries endorsed the request from the Kingdom of Thailand in the framework of the GSP for the proclamation of the International Year of Soils 2015.

IUSS Activities for International Year of Soils 2015 include:

Global Soil Security Symposium, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, May 19-21 2015.

<https://globalsoilsecurity.tamu.edu/index.html>

Global Workshop on Digital Soil Morphometrics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, June 1-4, 2015.

<http://digitalsoilmorphometrics.org/>

IUSS Conference on the International Year of Soils and the 350th Anniversary of Christian Albrechts University. Soil functions and climate change- do we underestimate the consequences of new disequilibria in soil properties? SUSTAIN Christian Albrechts University, Kiel, Germany, 23-25.Sept. 2015.

<http://www.soils.uni-kiel.de/de/sustain-2015>

5th International Symposium on SOIL ORGANIC MATTER. September 20-24, 2015, Göttingen, Germany,

[www.som2015.org](http://www.som2015.org)

# Book Introductions

## THE SOIL WILL SAVE US

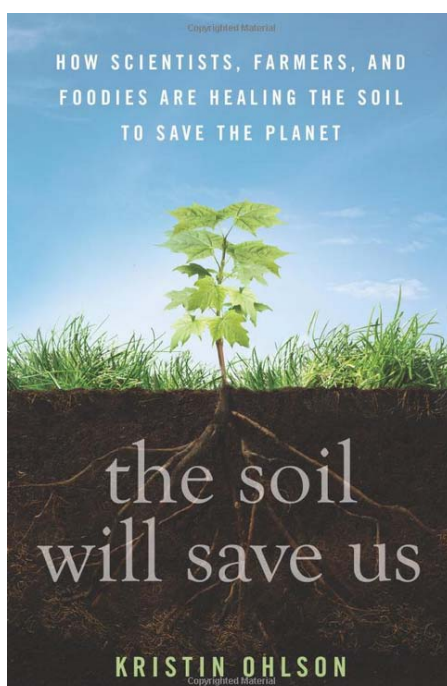
By **Kristin Ohlson**.

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Rodale Books (March 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1609615549 ISBN-13: 978-1609615543



Thousands of years of poor farming and ranching practices—and, especially, modern industrial agriculture—have led to the loss of up to 80 percent of carbon from the world’s soils. That carbon is now floating in the atmosphere, and even if we stopped using fossil fuels today, it would continue warming the planet. In *The Soil Will Save Us*, journalist and bestselling author Kristin Ohlson makes an elegantly argued, passionate case for "our great green hope"—a way in which we can not only heal the land but also turn atmospheric carbon into beneficial soil carbon—and potentially reverse global warming.

As the granddaughter of farmers and the daughter of avid gardeners, Ohlson has long had an appreciation for the soil. A chance conversation with a local chef led her to the crossroads of science, farming, food, and environmentalism and the discovery of the only significant way to remove carbon dioxide from the air—an ecological approach that tends not only to plants and animals but also to the vast population of underground

microorganisms that fix carbon in the soil. Ohlson introduces the visionaries—scientists, farmers, ranchers, and landscapers—who are figuring out in the lab and on the ground how to build healthy soil, which solves myriad problems: drought, erosion, air and water pollution, and food quality, as well as climate change. Her discoveries and vivid storytelling will revolutionize the way we think about our food, our landscapes, our plants, and our relationship to Earth.

## **Restoration Agriculture**

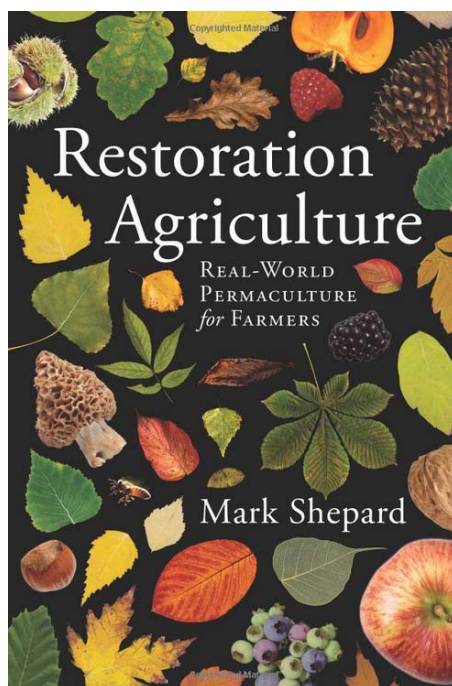
By **Mark Shepard**.

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Acres U.S.A.; 1 edition (January 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1601730357 ISBN-13: 978-1601730350



Around the globe most people get their calories from annual agriculture - plants that grow fast for one season, produce lots of seeds, then die. Every single human society that has relied on annual crops for staple foods has collapsed. Restoration Agriculture explains how we can have all of the benefits of natural, perennial ecosystems and create agricultural systems that imitate nature in form and function while still providing for our food, building, fuel and many other needs - in your own backyard, farm or ranch. This book, based on



real-world practices, presents an alternative to the agriculture system of eradication and offers exciting hope for our future.

## **Grass, Soil, Hope: A Journey Through Carbon Country**

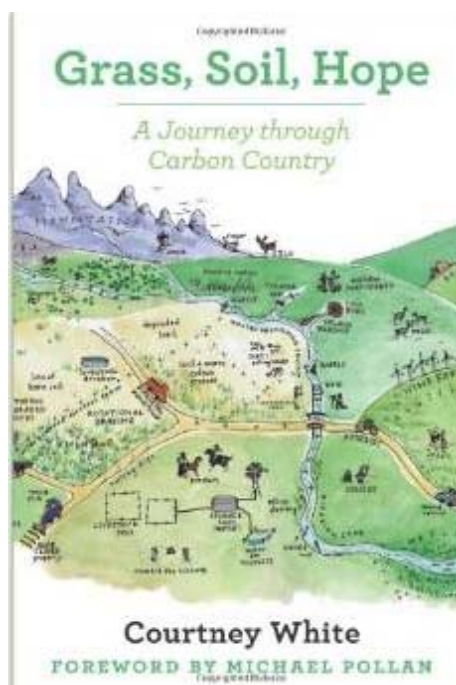
Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing (May 23, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1603585451

ISBN-13: 978-1603585453



This book tackles an increasingly crucial question: What can we do about the seemingly intractable challenges confronting all of humanity today, including climate change, global hunger, water scarcity, environmental stress, and economic instability?

The quick answers are: Build topsoil. Fix creeks. Eat meat from pasture-raised animals.

In *Grass, Soil, Hope*, the author shows how all these practical strategies can be bundled together into an economic and ecological whole, with the aim of reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> while producing substantial co-benefits for all living things. Soil is a huge natural sink for carbon dioxide. If we can draw increasing amounts carbon out of the atmosphere and store it safely in the soil then we can significantly address all the multiple challenges that now appear so intractable.

## **Global climate report shows unpredictable future: New Zealand scientist**

Meteorological studies of the past are no longer a reliable guide to the future as the pace of global climate change accelerates, one of the co-authors of the American Meteorological Society's annual State of the Climate report said Friday.

The report showed the world continued to warm last year, with some Southern Hemisphere countries having one of their warmest years on record in 2013, said Associate Professor James Renwick of New Zealand's Victoria University.

New Zealand had its warmest winter on record and its third warmest year overall, while Argentina had its second warmest and Australia its warmest since record keeping began in 1910, said Renwick, who had overall responsibility for the report's climate summaries of Europe, Asia and Oceania.

Of particular note were the devastating floods in Europe in the spring of 2013, which resulted in 24 deaths and caused billions of dollars of damage, Renwick said in a statement.

Asia also experienced extreme weather events, including super- typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest cyclones ever recorded, which saw sustained winds of up 315 km per hour and left more than 6,000 people dead.

Another significant phenomenon was the extreme heat in Australia where some places recorded temperatures of at least 10 degrees centigrade above average for several days in January 2013.

"The sort of temperatures we are calling warmer than average now, will be considered colder than average in 50 or 60 years that's how quickly the climate is changing," said Renwick.

A four-day storm that flooded parts of the north of New Zealand this month after a run of very dry summers was the sort of pattern to be expected of climate change.

"The average climate, and variability of the climate, are both changing and that will alter agricultural patterns in New Zealand and around the world. Just because something has been grown successfully in an area for the past 100 years, there is no guarantee it can continue to be successfully grown there. A farmer is going to see significant change in what can be done on their land over his or her working life."

The State of the Climate report, compiled by 425 scientists from 57 countries, also showed concentrations of greenhouse gases at historic highs and a globally averaged sea surface temperature that was among the 10 warmest on record, along with a continued rise in sea level and continued warming of the Arctic.

Copy from Xinhua News: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/sci/2014-07/18/c\\_133493451.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/sci/2014-07/18/c_133493451.htm)

## **ICIMOD Receives Special Achievement Award for Exceptional Application of Geospatial Technology in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region**

ICIMOD received a 'Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award' at the ESRI International User Conference (Esri UC) in San Diego, California held on 16 July 2014. This award acknowledges vision, leadership, hard work, and innovative use of Esri's geographic information system (GIS) technology. A select group of organizations from around the world were honoured at the Esri UC covering a range of areas including agriculture, natural resources, cartography, climate change, defense and intelligence, economic development, education, government, health and human services, telecommunications, and utilities.



ICIMOD team with Jack Dangermond, Esri President, during the award ceremony.

"The SAG Awards identify the organizations and people that are using the power of geography to improve our world and drive change," says Esri president Jack Dangermond. "At Esri, we are always deeply inspired by the passion and innovation of our users. They deserve recognition for both solving their communities' greatest challenges and for their invaluable contributions to the continued evolution of geographic science." Speaking at the SERVIR session during the conference, he further said that ICIMOD is an important global

hub for the application of geospatial science and technology and that he is deeply impressed by the organization's work. Recipients of the Special Achievement in GIS award are selected from among thousands of organizations worldwide.



ICIMOD-SERVIR family in front of ICIMOD's display in Map Gallery at Esri User Conference 2014.

On behalf of ICIMOD, Basanta Shrestha, Director of Strategic Cooperation at ICIMOD, received the award in a special ceremony during the Esri conference 2014, which was attended by more than 16,000 participants representing more than 130 countries. "The award recognizes and honours ICIMOD's contribution in using GIS technology to leverage geospatial information resources for addressing the pressing developmental challenges of the mountain region of the Hindu Kush Himalayas," said Shrestha. "ICIMOD, along with its regional and international partners, have successfully applied geospatial and allied technologies for understanding glacier dynamics in the context of climate change, forest fire monitoring with SMS alerts, land cover change assessment for natural resources accounting, disaster information management and flood early warning system, and agriculture monitoring for food security analysis, among others." ICIMOD had also received the Esri Presidential Award in 2001 in recognition of its pioneering and continuing efforts to promote the use of GIS technology and its application in its regional member countries.

Details at: <http://www.icimod.org/?q=14272>





WASWAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM (Issued 120501)

(For applicants from all countries)

Name: (Ms./Mrs./Mr./Prof./Dr.)..... Gender: F M

Institution: .....

Postal address: .....

State/Province:..... Zip/Postal code:..... Country:.....

Phone:..... Fax:.....

Emails (Please give at least 2 addresses to ensure uninterrupted contact): (1).....

(2)..... (3).....

My specialized field(s): .....

Please sign me up for the WASWAC membership in category\*: 1(IM)2(LM)3(OM)4(SM&GM)

Membership for the year(s).....@US\$.....= US\$ .....

Donation for developing country membership, etc. US\$ .....

Donation to the Moldenhauer Fund US\$ .....

Total US\$ .....

\*Membership categories & rates from July 18, 2005, amended March 3, 2007 and March 4, 2010.

1. IM (Individual membership): US\$20 for 5 years for developing countries (In China, members pay 130 yuan RMB); US\$40 for 5 years for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide.

2. LM (Life membership): US\$80 for developing countries (In China, members pay 520 yuan RMB); US\$160 for developed countries and persons working in international organizations worldwide. Persons who have passed their 60th birthday pay only half of these LM rates.

3. OM (Organization membership): For universities, research and implemental institutions, government agencies, NGOs, societies, associations and international organizations, etc. Persons belonging to an Organization member will receive the same online products and services as the other two above categories: \$100/year for an organization with up to 150 persons; \$150/year for an organization with up to 300 persons; \$200/year for an organization with up to 500 persons; and \$10/year for an additional 100 persons or part thereof.

4. SM&GM (Student membership & Gift membership): US\$5/year worldwide, to be purchased to give to colleagues, friends, students, etc.

▲ How and where to submit this form and the money: You may send this form by e-mail (preferred), fax or post – and membership due – to:

Dr. Xiaoying Liu. WASWAC Treasurer, c/o IRTCES. No. 20 Chegongzhuang Road West, Beijing 100048, China. Tel: +86 10 68786413; Fax: +86 10 68411174; Email: waswac@foxmail.com; waswac@163.com . Membership fee can be sent through Check, Bank Draft, Bank Transfer and WESTERN UNION.

For sending money by foreign wires through a bank, please give the following information to your bank:

Name of Receiver (A/C Holder's Name): Liu Xiaoying

Bank Name and Address: Bank of China Beijing Branch, No. 2 Chao Yang Men Nei Da Jie, Dongcheng District, Beijing, 100010, P R China

A/C NO.: 3467 5879 1740; Swift code: BKCH CN BJ 110

Message to write on the Bank Sheet: WASWAC Membership due for Ms./Mrs./Mr./Prof./Dr. ...., Country .....

NOTE: 1. Do not deduct the bank fee from the amount of money to send. 2. For sending money by wire/bank transfer or check please add US\$7 per transaction to compensate for the charge at the receiving bank in Beijing. This additional charge does not apply for WESTERN UNION or any payment of US\$50 or more.