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WORLD ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

The 3rd IYFSWC was held online/in-presence successfully

To motivate the young generation to think and work on soil and water conservation, WASWAC continues to hold the International Youth Forum on Soil and Water Conservation (IYFSWC). Affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, international travels became difficult, so the 3rd session was held in hybrid form of virtual and in-presence under the strong support of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Marine Sciences of Tarbiat Modares University, Noor City, Mazandaran Province, Iran, where is the main conference place located. In addition, the forum received valuable supports from different international and national organizations. The UNESCO branch in Tehran and the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Agrohydrology Research Group (TMU), and Kalleh Dairy Company financially supported the forum. Beijing Datum Technology Development CO., LTD provided honorioums for the awardees of WASWAC Youth Outstanding Paper Award (YOPA) 2021. In addition, valuable contributions from various countries including Iran, China, India, Serbia, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Montenegro, and Germany, have been well received and appreciated.

The opening ceremony was held in online and in-presence combined form on October 17. Dr. Masoud Mansour - the Deputy Minister of Jihad-e-Agriculture and Head of Forests, Range & Watershed Management Organization, Prof. Mohammad Taghi Ahmadi - the President of Tarbiat Modares Ubniversity, Prof. Abdolmohammad Abedian Kenari – the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Marine Sciences (TMU), Prof. Ning Duihu – the President of World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC), Dr. Liu Hongguang – the representative of Jiangxi Academy of Water Science and Engineering, Prof. Hans Thultrup – the UNESCO Repre-





The screen capture during opening ceremony





The screen capture during the forum

sentative, Prof. Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi – the forum secretary, and Prof. Ali Salajegheh – Head of Department of Environment of Iran were given welcome addresses, speeches or technical reports, respectively.

A total number of 106 abstract/full papers were collected, of which 51 full papers were evaluated for the WASWAC Youth Outstanding Paper Award (DATUM) 2021 by senior international scientists globally. Total 140 participants including 50 in-presence and 90 online were persistently attended virtually and in-presence, respectively.

The following are the forum's main outcomes approved by all attendees (i.e., governmental and non-governmental bodies, senior and junior scientists, experts, researchers, academic intellectuals, extensionists, and post-graduate students) who virtually and physically attended the forum.

(1) The problem-oriented and monitoring-based integrated watershed management with the active participation of all stockholders guarantees to maintain the security and health of the watershed through which inter- and intra-generational justice will also be achieved. In this regard, young people who focusing on the conditions of watershed will play an essential role in innovating and creating new ideas based on social, cultural, and geographical conditions.

(2) Adaptive and integrated watershed management was discussed and analyzed as a sound approach to be applied for soil and water resources conservation in changing environments with a high level of uncertainties.

(3) The Watershed governance approach as a holistic view and based on the river basin organization (RBO) concept was advisable to govern the entire available resources at the watershed level.

(4) Sustainable development approaches like low impact development, in-situ indigenous and decentralized rainwater harvesting system, resources multiple-use, rain cities, and lifestyle review were recognized as achievable approaches for proper management of soil and water resources in changing conditions.

(5) Using innovations, new/high technologies, indirect measurements, economically affordable, technically sound, comparative studies, and environmentally friendly was pointed out for the effective and fast soil and water conservation.

(6) Implementation of lawful, low-cost, and environmentally friendly approaches such as forest and rangeland reclamation, ecosystem restoration, and micro-organism inoculation were recommended for sustainable soil and water conservation.

(7) Collaborative consideration of different components of the soil erosion and water cycle processes at different global, regional, national, and finally watershed levels was amplified for better and meaningful modeling of soil and water-related issues.

(8) In cooperation with scientists working in soil erosion and sediment yield assessments, geospatial and temporal modeling were emphasized as a robust approach to get appropriate managerial strategies for soil and water conservation.

(9) Quantitative and qualitative (e.g., WOCAT) monitoring-based assessments with a further focus in developing countries were also emphasized as a valuable baseline for drawing a proper roadmap in soil and water conservation in changing environments.

(10) Thorough consideration in land-use/cover management in different ecosystems with partic-

ular attention to various payment for ecosystem services (PES) approach for quality and quantity conservation soil and water resources was also approved.

(11) The close and synergic collaboration among national (e.g., Universities, Iranian Watershed Management Society; Water Harvesting Society; Forest, Rangeland and Watershed Management Organization and Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Institute of Iran) and international (e.g., Universities, WASWAC, UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, Soil and Water Conservation Society of India) executive, educational, research and policymaking agencies as well as WASWAC networking (e.g., establishing WASWAC Youth Network) was affirmed to get significant achievement in motivating young and woman in soil and water conservation planning at different scales.

(12) Integrated planning should be based on a rational approach based on the soil-water-foodenergy nexus and footprint at the watershed scale.

(13) Especially, the diligent participation of youth and women in the "International Center for Integrated Watershed Management and Biological Resources in Arid and Semi-arid Areas in Iran" is necessary to achieve the goals of integrated watershed management. The invitation of Prof. Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi for the membership in the Board of Governors of this center as a representative of Tarbiat Modares University, cooperation, and compelling presence of the WASWAC was also approved.

After this forum, a virtual summary meeting was held on October 20, high evaluation and appreciation were given to the forum secretary Prof. Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi and his team by Prof. Ning Duihu, the president of WASWAC, Prof. Li Rui, the honorary president of WASWAC, Prof. Liu Xiaoying, the Secretary-general of WASWAC, and Prof. Miodrag Zlatic, the Councilor and the Past President of WASWAC.



The screen capture for the forum summary meeting



The screen capture during the forum



Award ceremony in Iran conference room

WASWAC Youth Outstanding Paper Award (DATUM) 2021 Released

During the Third International Youth Forum on Soil and Water Conservation (3rd IYFSWC), the WASWAC Youth Outstanding Paper Award (DATUM) 2021 was released.

Affected by the epidemic, international travel became impossible. So this ceremony was held both online for overseas participants and in-presence for Iranian attendees. At the beginning of this ceremony, following Dr. Paige Chyu's introduction on this award, Mr. Wang Yongli, the president of Beijing Datum Technology Development CO., LTD - the financial supporter of the honorioum, expressed that gratitude to the WASWAC for providing exchange platform for young scholars around the world, and that congratulations to the 10 winners of YOPA 2021 (Detailed information shown as following table.) Then 10 invited award guests including Prof. Yun Xie, Prof. Ali Talebi, Prof. S. Mohamad Tajbakhsh, Prof. Fei Wang, Prof. Atoollah Kavian, Prof. Miodrag Zlatic, Prof. Jvying Jiao, Prof. Paolo Tarolli, Prof. Xiaoying Liu, and Prof. Duihu Ning announced the awardees and introduced the awarded paper's highlights briefly. After issuing electronical certificates, 10 awardees expressed their gratitude and excitement in their acceptance speeches. Finally, Prof. Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi made a summary report and gave a closing speech.



No.	Winner	Country	Title of paper
1	Ehsan Sharifi Moghadam	Iran	Introduction and Application of Soil-Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approach for Designating Sustainable Agricultural Management Pattern at Watershed Scale
2	Fatemeh Sadighi	Iran	Rainfed Agriculture and Slope Gradient Interactions in Soil Erosion and Redistribution Using 137C
3	Chunmei Wang	China	Unpaved Road Erosion after Heavy Storm in Mountain Ar- ea of Northern China
4	Mostafa Moradi Dashtpagerdi	Iran	Indirect Estimation of Suspended Sediment Concentration using Image Processing
5	Luca Mauri	Italy	Modelling multi-temporal overland flow dynamics in a ter- raced landscape characterized by road-induced shallow landslides
6	Haiyan Zheng	China	Is the runoff coefficient increasing or decreasing after eco- logical restoration on China's Loess Plateau?
7	Atefeh Jafarpoor	Iran	Changes in Hydrologic Components from a Mid-Sized Plots due to Cyanobacterization
8	Ying Zhao	China	Modeling hydrologic responses using multi-site and single- site rainfall generators in a semi-arid watershed
9	Leila Gholami	Iran	Application of thiourea modified biochar derived from po- tato peel for enhanced adsorption of Pb and Ni in contami- nated acidic soil
10	Polina Sayranova	Russia	Acid footprint in burozems of the Middle Urals

The Information on YOPA (DATUM) Award 2021 Winners



Mr. Wang Yougli is Giving Speech



Some Award Guests are Introducing the Winners



Some Winners are Making Acceptance Speeches

The 10 winners were evaluated by the award panel from 52 confirmed applicants. The award panel was organized by WASWAC, including 49 members from 18 countries. All their efforts for the award is much appreciated. Following is the member's name (listed alphabetically):

Adriana Bruggeman (Cyprus) Ali Najafinejad (Iran) Alireza Vaezi (Iran) Ataollah Kavian (Iran) Carmelo Dazzi (Italy) Chiyuan Miao (China) Chinapat Sukvibool (Thailand) Claire Baffaut (USA) Davood Nikkami (Iran) Deirdre Dragovich (Australia) Des Walling (UK) Fei Wang (China) Gema Guzmán (Spain) Guanghui Zhang (China) Helena Gomez Macpherson (Spain) Jean Poesen (Belgium) Jose AlfonsoGomez (Spain) Jose Rubio (Spain) Josef Krecek (CZ) Julian Dumanski (Canada) Juying Jiao (China) Manmohanjit Singh (India) Mehdi Vafakhah (Iran) Mike Fullen (UK) Miodrag Zlatic (Serbia)

Nigussie Haregeweyn (Japan) Osama Al-Hamdan (USA) Paulo Tarso S.Oliveira (Brazil) Paolo Tarolli (Italy) Pengfei Du (China) Qiangguo Cai (China) Richard Cruse (USA) Sanjay Arora (India) Sergey Chalov (Russia) Seyed Mohammad Tajbakhsh (Iran) ShuiqingYin (China) Srinivasulu Ale (USA) Surinder S. Kukal (India) Tingwu Lei (China) Valentin Golosov (Russia) Velibor Spalevic (Montenegro) Vito Ferro (Italy) Xinxiao Yu (China) YongguangZhang (China) Yun Xie (China) Duihu Ning (China) Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi (Iran) Xiangzhou Xu (China) Zhongbao Xin (China)

Protecting the Soil is Protecting the Climate - WASWAC and IUSS Position Paper on the Inter Linkages of Soil and Climate Change



With the development of global warming, climate change attracted more and more attentions around the world. The close relationship between climate and soil have been proven by numerous studies. Climate influences not only soil formation but also soil properties. In turn, climate is also influenced by soil through greenhouse gases emission and soil based ecosystems. Reasonable exploration and utilization soil with careful protection could undoubtedly fight climate change and hence avoiding unforeseeable consequences. In this context, this position paper on the inter linages of soil and climate change has been accomplished by WASWAC and IUSS. We do hope that all scientific societies could be dispensable involved in this global challenge by taking effective actions.

Click here to download the position paper.

http://www.waswac.org.cn/waswac/uploadfile/2021/09/30/20210930182534100.pdf

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) was founded as the International Society of Soil Science (ISSS) on 19th May 1924. The IUSS has been a scientific union member of ICSU (International Council for Science) since 1993. The objective of the IUSS are to foster all branches of the soil sciences and their applications, and to give support to soil scientists in the pursuit of their activities. In addition, the IUSS aims to put soils and soil science on the global agenda.

WASWAC and IUSS had signed the Memorandum of understanding in April, 2021 to use their best effort to promote the formal cooperation on soil resources use and management issues.

Curbing climate chaos: Why nature is the unsung hero in our quest for net zero

The forests, grasslands and coastal and marine ecosystems that Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and partners are working to safeguard are not just biodiversity havens. They also play a vital role in the global carbon cycle by removing it from the atmosphere and storing it for decades, centuries, or even millennia. Between 2007 and 2016 these natural carbon sinks—including terrestrial forests and other, relatively unappreciated, carbon-rich ecosystems—absorbed 28% of total man-made emissions, serving as a hugely significant brake on runaway climate change.



Credit: Jeremy Holden/FFI

Forests – perennially popular

Forests have been making headlines for decades, often touted as the "lungs of our planet," capable of slowing the alarming global heating rate if only we'd give them a chance. But the carbon sink and storage potential of forests varies greatly across the world's ecore-

By Annamária Lehoczky, Fauna & Flora International

gions, and even within a forest there are many factors to consider.

Greater tree species diversity within forests has been linked with higher carbon storage in many regions and in recovering forests. A comprehensive study on tropical forests demonstrated that biodiversity has an independent, positive effect on ecosystem functioning, biomass and thus, carbon storage, not only in relatively simple temperate systems but also in structurally complex and extremely species-rich tropical forests.

It is likely that environmental factors such as rainfall and soil condition are influencing these varying levels of carbon uptake, and tree density and size also play an important role. A forest's history of disturbance, such as fire, logging or clearance, also affects carbon uptake. In designing and implementing carbon conservation strategies, the prevention of biodiversity loss is therefore paramount.

The rate of carbon sequestration in young forests is higher than in old ones, as young trees are actively growing and absorbing carbon. Over time, the rate of carbon absorption slows, but the economic value of the carbon stored in the ecosystem continues to accumulate as forests mature and increase in size. To retain the benefit of the carbon sequestration, forests must be protected and supported to develop into mature, highcarbon storing forests.



Credit: Alex Diment/FFI

Grasslands – Cinderella syndrome

Grasslands—including savannah—are among the largest ecosystems in the world; some estimates suggest they cover around a third of the global terrestrial surface. Apart from acting as key water catchments and biodiversity havens, grasslands also play a crucial role in reducing global warming, serving as giant carbon sinks that capture carbon and store it underground—hidden from our eyes. Global estimates suggest that grasslands have more than 10% of the biosphere's carbon tied up in their soil.

Carbon in soil is vital for plants; the vast majority of the nutrients that plants require for healthy growth is acquired via carbon exchange in collaboration with soil microbes. In addition, high-carbon soils require much less irrigation and are less reliant on rain to stay healthy.

Land degradation and conversion threaten these ecosystems and the wildlife they harbor worldwide. Poor land management leads to reduced soil productivity and carbon-storage capacity. Planting trees on native grasslands also results in lower soil carbon stocks, which actually reduces or negates the net carbon benefits provided by woody biomass as well as depleting biodiversity. Therefore, experts warn, afforestation should be avoided in historically non-forested biomes.

New blue superheroes

Blue carbon is the carbon stored in coastal marine and ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass meadows and salt marshes. These unsung superheroes sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests – with sequestration rates up to four times greater than those observed in mature tropical forests-and hence are increasingly recognized for their role in mitigating climate change. In these ecosystems carbon is predominantly (50-99%) stored below ground in the soils and sediments, where it can remain for millennia.

The enormous carbon sink capacity of these ecosystems is the icing on the cake. They also protect against storm surges and sea-level rise, prevent coastal erosion, regulate water quality, provide habitat for commercially important fisheries and endangered marine species, and improve food security for coastal communities.



Credit: Beth Watson/Ocean Image Library

In Honduras, with our in-country partners and community support, FFI is contributing to a mangrove monitoring program throughout two marine protected areas, covering a significant proportion of the 8,500-hectare mangrove found across the seascape in which we work. Initial estimates suggest that the total carbon stock of mangrove forests could be at least 3.2 megatonnes (comparable to carbon content in the UK's monthly oil production).

Some of the most impressive carbon stocks in coastal sediments include mangroves in Belize, which in some places have accumulated carbon-rich soils up to 10 meters deep and more than 6,000 years old. A meadow of seagrass in Portlligat Bay, Spain, has built carbon-rich deposits of similar depth and age. Some tidal salt marsh sediments in northern New England are three to five meters thick and 3,000–4,000 years old. However, when degraded or destroyed, these ecosystems release carbon back to the atmosphere and ocean.

Although their historical extent is hard to determine, up to 50% of the total global area of these ecosystems is estimated to have been lost in the past 50-100 years. If current rates of loss continue (up to 3% annually), a further 30 -40% of tidal marshes and seagrasses and nearly all unprotected mangroves could be gone within a century.

Peatlands – hidden talents

Peatlands are found across all climate zones from the tropics to tundra. They occur in various forms, from swamp forests to blanket bog landscapes with open, treeless vegetation, all of which are incredibly rich in carbon—and strongholds of biodiversity. Indeed, peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store; worldwide, the remaining area of near-natural peatland (over three million square kilometers) contains more than 550 gigatonnes of carbon, exceeding the volume stored in all other vegetation types combined, including forests.

Find more about the news: <u>https://phys.org/</u> <u>news/2021-10-curbing-climate-chaos-nature-</u> <u>unsung.html</u>

Updated submission data of ISWCR in September 2021



Annual Volume of Submissions and Publishing since 2013

Monthly Submissions & Acceptance in the current year (2021)



The International Soil and Water Conservation Research (ISWCR), initiated in June 2013, is a quarterly academic journal in English and publishes in Science Direct of Elsevier with open access globally. Since initiation, ISWCR has developed rapidly and established a good reputation in both international academia and publishing industry. It was indexed by Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD) in April 2015, covered by SCOPUS in January 2017, and was indexed by Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of Clarivate Analytics in October 2017. In July 2019, ISWCR was officially indexed by SCIE. The Impact factor of ISWCR is 3.770 in 2019, and **6.027 in 2020.**

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