



Global
Soil Week '15

A large crowd of people, mostly women wearing colorful saris and headscarves, are marching down a wide, paved road. They are holding up numerous green and white flags on long poles. The flags are the Indian national flag, the Tiranga. The crowd is dense in the foreground and extends far into the distance. The sky is clear and blue. The overall atmosphere is one of a large-scale public demonstration or rally.

Soil. The Substance of Transformation



Soil Supports Decent Living Standards

The Global Soil Week is a collective process and a knowledge platform for sustainable soil management and responsible land governance worldwide.

Soil is inextricably linked to human and ecosystem health and crucial if we are to ensure food, water, and energy security for nine billion people by 2050. It sustains biodiversity – and if managed wisely – contributes to the mitigation of climate change.

Nevertheless, we continuously transform this resource in unsustainable ways. We lose an estimated 24 billion tons of fertile soil each year due to erosion. One quarter of the earth's surface is already degraded, which impacts 1.5 billion people today.

In fact, soil is a non-renewable resource within human time frames, as it forms very slowly over time.

Many degradation patterns can be traced back to inequalities regarding access to soils and land tenure. Ways and means to overcome these inequalities are indispensable to sustainable and equitable development.

The year 2015 provides many significant opportunities to address soils on the international stage in the context of international sustainable development negotiations.

The 3rd Global Soil Week, from 19 to 23 April 2015 in Berlin, Germany is a platform, for discussion of soil and land and their links to food security, rural development, growth, energy production, and the competition for land resources.



Sustainable Development Gains Momentum in 2015

In the UN International Year of Soils, the Global Soil Week offers a window of opportunity to put soil and land on the international political agenda as a key to sustainable development.

Food security tops the post-2015 Development Agenda

Soil is the basis for more than 90 % of worldwide food production. Today, one eighth of the world's population – 842 million people – is suffering from hunger. Food security depends on access to healthy soil.

Climate change: 11th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Convention of Parties

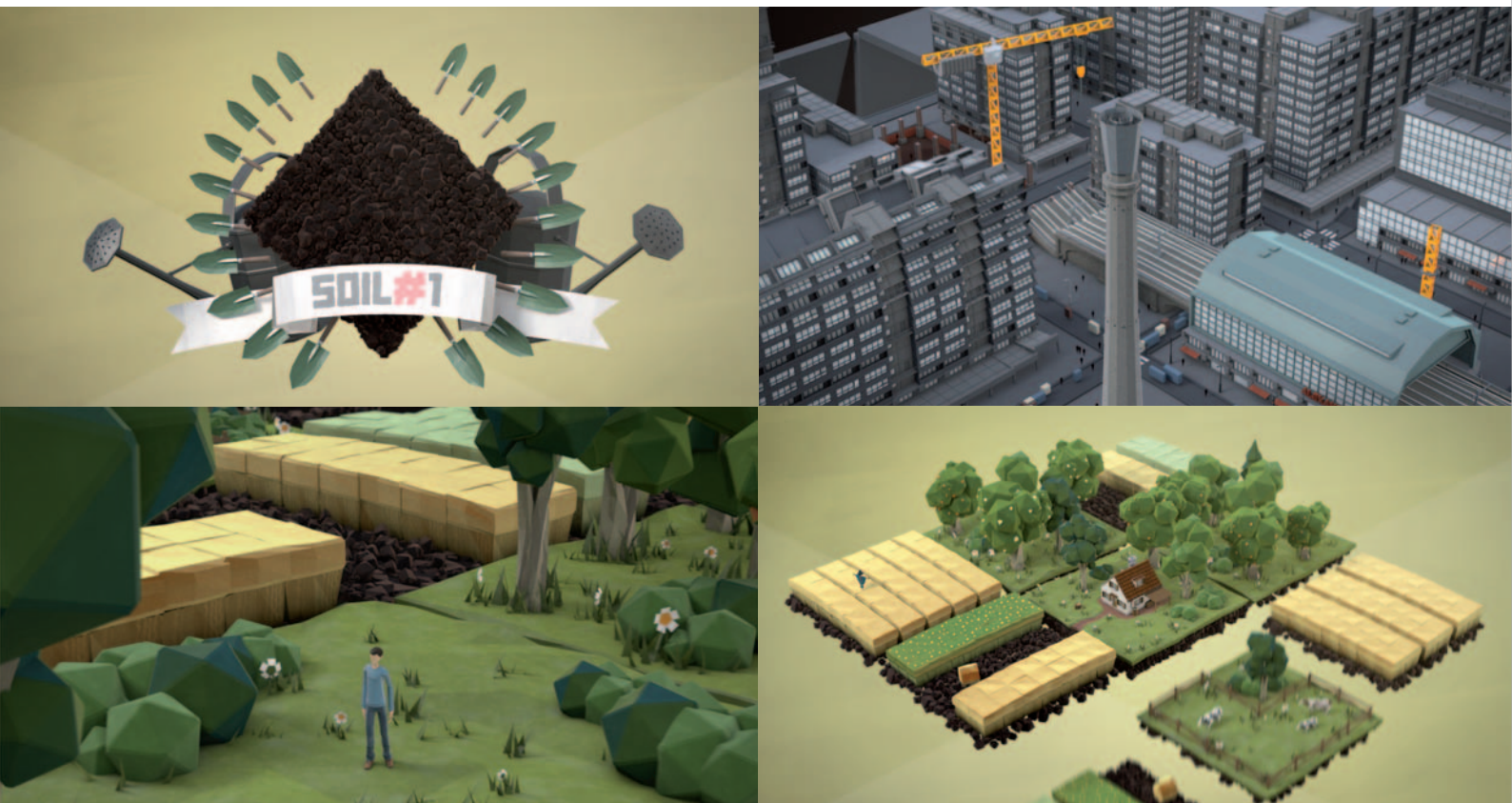
As the worldwide carbon stock in soils is ten times greater than the carbon stock of forests, the management of soil plays an important role in the mitigation of climate change.

Land governance: 2015 marks three years since the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

More than 1.5 billion people regulate their land relations through customary or indigenous systems. Secure land tenure supports livelihoods and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Sustainability transformation: G7 under a German presidency will emphasize sustainability

The issues of soil and land, and their links to food security, water security, and energy security must be brought to the table.








The animated film “Let’s Talk About Soil” describes soil-related challenges to sustainable development. The Animago award winner in 2013 for “Best Visualisation” is available in English, Spanish, German, French, Turkish, Arabic, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, and English with subtitles.

www.globalsoilweek.org/resources/video-lets-talk-about-soil

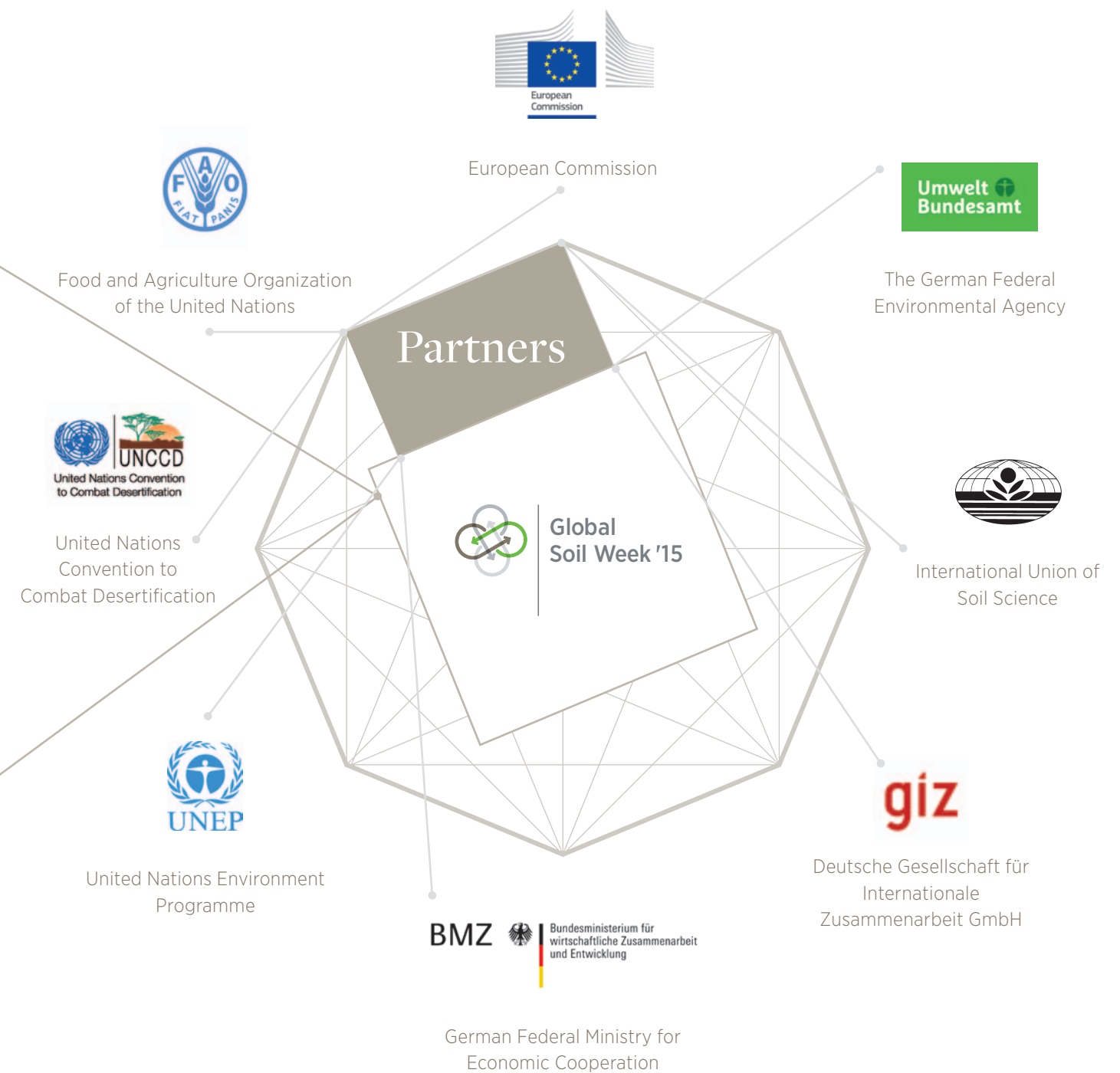
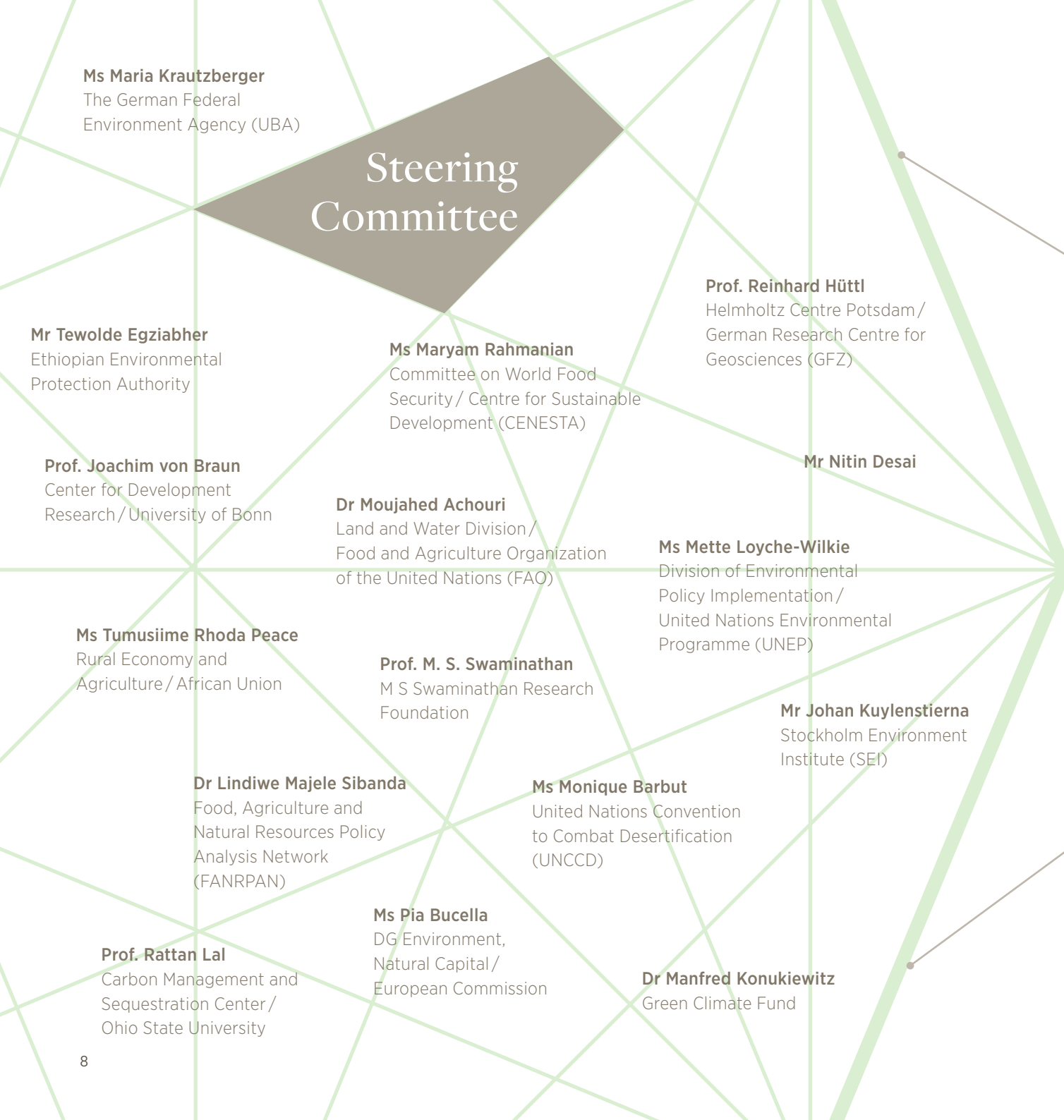
A Highlight in the International Year of Soils

The Global Soil Week: 19 – 23 April 2015 / Soil. The Substance of Transformation

- is a multi-stakeholder **platform** of high-level policy-makers, scientists, NGOs, CSOs, farmers, artists, international organizations, and the private sector
- is an inclusive and participatory **process**, which contributes to a better positioning of soils in relevant political contexts
- resonates internationally

			
	Motto	Participants	Countries
	Soils for Life	455	65
	Losing Ground	470	71

- has triggered regional events: from 25 to 27 March 2015, the Brazilian International Soil Seminar will be hosted by the Brazilian government using the Global Soil Week format
- raises public awareness of the issues of soil and land



The Global Soil Forum

The Global Soil Forum team is dedicated to achieving responsible land governance and sustainable soil management worldwide.

Bridging Knowledge. Our activities offer shared platforms for discussion and space for debate amongst diverse stakeholders and actors. This exchange generates contextualized knowledge with a practical relevance.

Empowering Transformation. Together with the leading actors in the field, we initiate processes that foster the application of this co-created knowledge on the ground. As a voice in policy negotiation, we advocate soil management in the context of sustainable development and promote equitable access to land. For this purpose, we have established the Global Soil Week, as well as hosting other diverse process-oriented knowledge-exchange. We work collaboratively with local stakeholders in research projects in the fields of Soil in International Policy, Sustainable Land Management, Soil and Land Governance and Transformation of Urban Systems.

www.globalsoilweek.org

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) e.V.

Founded in 2009, the IASS is an international, interdisciplinary hybrid between a research institute and a think tank, located in Potsdam, Germany. The publicly funded institute promotes research and dialogue between science, politics and society on developing pathways to global sustainability. The IASS focuses on topics such as sustainability governance and economics, new technologies for energy production and resource utilisation, and Earth system challenges like climate change, air pollution, and soil management.

www.iass-potsdam.de

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