

Guidelines for Celebrating a World Soil of the Year

Introduction:

Through the World Soil of the Year (WSY), the IUSS endeavors to celebrate a specific soil, on an annual basis, in recognition of our collective responsibility for sustaining soils and their functionality, as well as to promote public awareness of this crucial and increasingly threatened resource. The WSY Celebration contributes to the IUSS Strategic Plan.

Process of Selection and Promotion:

- The IUSS will annually launch a call for proposals for nominating a WSY, with an established deadline.
- The WSY Task Force will encourage possible proponents and support them, by providing information about the requested documentation.
- Submitted proposals will be evaluated and ranked, according to established criteria.
- The proponents of the selected WSY will be awarded a grant from the IUSS to support their activities related to their WSY.
- The IUSS will advertise the WSY, through its various media channels, including a dedicated page on its official website.
- The President of the IUSS, or a delegated officer, will deliver the award to the proponents of the WSY, in an event celebrating the WSY.

Application Requirements:

- All proposals must be endorsed by a Full Member of the IUSS.
- All proposals must have a reference person, who is a member of the IUSS.
- A soil proposed as WYS must: i) be represented by a real profile, and ii) be of broad national interest or significance.
- Proposals must include: i) documentation of the soil; ii) rationale for nominating the soil as WSY; and iii) capacity and strategy for promoting the WSY.
- Proposal must be done by the form <https://forms.gle/7dGE3APpN8ZF2rcD8>
- Deadline: November 15th 2024

Documentation of the Soil:

- Detailed location of the soil, using UTM coordinates, with a scaled national map demonstrating the location.
- Complete detailed description of, and analytical data for, the soil profile and associated landscape, according to current WRB criteria.
- Detailed taxonomic classification of the soil profile, according to current WRB. It may be accompanied by any relevant national or international classification.
- High-resolution digital colour imagery of the soil profile (containing a profile tape) and associated landscape.
- Relevant statistical information on the geographical extent of the soil that is represented by the proposed profile.

Criteria for selection:

i) Rational for Nominating the Soil as WSY, for instance:

- Importance for sustainable food, fibre and biofuel production.
- Importance for natural or other managed ecosystem services.
- Uniqueness as a natural feature and possible risk of its extinction, due to natural or anthropic causes.
- Cultural importance, including archaeological, ethic, art, etc.
- Existing or proposed official recognitions by governmental and non-governmental entities.
- Proposals for WSY may be the same as a national soil of the year, but this is neither a requirement nor a criterion for selection.

ii) Capacity and Strategy for the Promotion of WSY:

- Existence / envisaged production of a high-quality monolith.
- Plan for preserving the soil profile and having a long-term access agreement.
- Description of existing framework and resources for promoting the soil, including resource materials, communication strategies, partnerships, and target audiences (ranging from specialists to policymakers, to students and the general public).
- Proposal for enhancing framework and resources for ongoing promotion of the WSY, including the development or refinement of resource materials and communication strategies, as well as plans for diversifying audiences and enhancing partnerships with relevant national & international stakeholders, including the IUSS.

IUSS World Soil of the Year Working Group