

Interactive comment on “World’s soils are under threat” by L. Montanarella et al.

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Received and published: 27 January 2016

General comments : This paper presents and summarises the main outcomes of the recently completed and published “Status of World Soil’s Resources” report. This report, coordinated by the 27 Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, who are the co-authors of this article, is a true milestone for soil protection. It presents the main drivers of soil changes and synthesises the available information of the extent of the main soil degradations and of the state of soil per area in the world. No equivalent report has been ever been produced and it is worth drawing the attention of the scientific community and of the soil science community on its availability. This explains the status of the submitted paper : forum article. The discussion paper presents clearly the challenges of monitoring soil’s status around the world and the contents of the report. I think that it is worth publishing in "Soil".

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Specific comments : I think that one of the qualities of the report is to qualify the degree of confidence in the conclusions (e.g. degree of confidence in severity of a given degradation in a given area of the world). Could be outlined. I still wonder why water-logging was identified as a main threat on soils (not explicit enough in the full report itself). Many soils are naturally water-logged and the term degradation is not appropriate for them I think. It may be concern however paddy field soils, strongly anthropized and soils submerged under dams. P3 lines 22 to 28 : the link between inherently diverse contexts for sustainable soil management at the local scale and the implementation of the GSP at the global scale is not obvious. A bit rapid.. P5 line 13 is unclear : how does the intensification of the risks of erosion accelerate climate change ?

Interactive comment on SOIL Discuss., 2, 1263, 2015.

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