

Answers to Comments on soil-2020-38-comments-toauthor

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Author: jquin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 27/8/2020 10:08:26

what about Climate change? early 20th century Flu pandemics?

A/ Yes, you are right, there have been other pandemics and climate change is ongoing, but Covid-19 is the first one immediately affecting all aspects of social functioning, trade, daily living among other sectors, everywhere. The Flu pandemic occurred at a time without globalization – at least not at the level we have now; and Climate change is occurring gradually and not affecting the whole planet in the same way nor intensity – although its consequences will be indeed more severe in a long term. We suggest to change the sentence to:

“... but this is the first time in the Anthropocene that we face a crisis spanning the whole planet, drastically affecting everybody’s lives.”

suggest reword to 'the global nature of the pandemic...'

A/ Sentence reworded.

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Are these statements all part of the one health initiative? If not, they are disconnected and the narrative needs flow between them to put forward an argument. If they are consider reworking to make this clearer.

A/ They are not part of the one health initiative, but they are related to soil health. We have reworked these sentences to link the arguments as you suggest:

“Our health is directly linked to the quality of the environment in which we live and to the food we eat, as addressed by the ‘One health’ initiative. The decline of environmental quality, caused by urban development and intensive agriculture have led in many places to significant losses of natural habitats and biodiversity (FAO et al., 2020). Human impacts on the environment exacerbate the appearance and spread of pathogens (FAO et al., 2020).”

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Not sure that we have seen this - any evidence? if not tone down to 'have the potential to..'

A/ There are local evidences for that, but they are actually not generalized. We changed the sentence to:

“... shortages of production materials (e.g., seeds, fertilizers), have the potential, in some regions, to cause severe shortcomings in food availability.”

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in the future

A/ Done.

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reference required. Is there conclusive proof for this?

A/ Reference added:

Olsson, L., Barbosa, H., Bhadwal, S., Cowie, A., Delusca, K., Flores-Renteria, D., Hermans, K., Jobbagy, E., Kurz, W., Li, D., Sonwa, D.J. and Stringer, L.: 2019: Land Degradation. In: P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.-O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi and J. Malley, (Eds.), *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems*.
<https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/chapter-4/>, 2019.

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maybe also protecting our best peri urban soils from urban development?

A/ Yes, it is implicitly stated, but we have rephrased it:

“We mean preserving, improving, rehabilitating and protecting lands suitable for agriculture, especially our best peri-urban soils from urban development.”

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I wonder if you could have a stronger introduction to these points stressing the link with covid?

the Covid-19 crisis has focused the worlds attention on the vulnerability of its food systems and the need to sustain food production at a regional/country level...

A/ Thank you for your suggestion that improves the flow of the text.