



Manifesto 1st Draft

We, as part of the ecosystem, understand ourselves as guardians of the soil.

“What is essential is invisible to the eye”

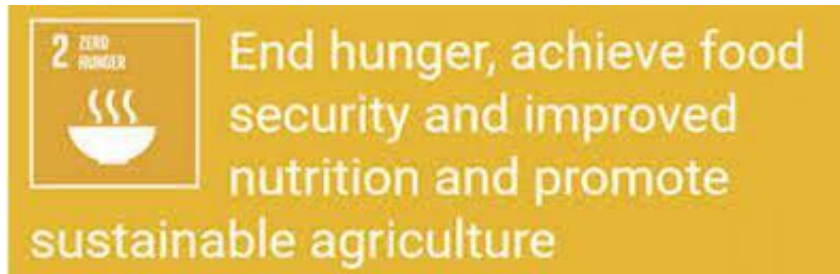
Healthy, living soil is essential for life to thrive. In recent human history quality and care of soil has been largely ignored and misunderstood. The vital role that healthy soils play in our ecosystems needs to be recognised, protected and restored. Soil is where 95% of all our food grows: Healthy soil means healthy food and healthy people. “We are what we eat.”

Healthy soils are not only the foundation for food, they are the main source of fuel, fibre and medical products, they are also essential to all ecosystems, playing a key role in the carbon cycle, storing and filtering water, and improving resilience to floods and droughts.

Soil is life. It is hope for the future generations and we must save it in order to preserve humankind and life on earth.

We call for:

- 1) soil conservation and its sustainable management, at national and supranational level,
- 2) Monitoring on the state of global soils through regulatory, mandatory frameworks and targeted strategies, based on validated and updated monitoring systems.
- 3) guaranteed income for small scale farmers based on valuing the benefit they provide to society, their stewardship of the land, and the ecosystem services they generate
- 4) Recognise, reward and support farmers who improve soil; end unjust subsidies to agro-industrial farming- give priority to small farmers who provide vital ecological and societal services. Subsidies are unjust if they do not support and take into account the natural capital that small farmers are more likely to generate. Support farmers for transitioning to organic, and for the provision of services which they provide to the ecosystem and society.
- 5) recognition of indigenous knowledge and experience relating to soil protection and preservation and acknowledge traditional cultures’ rights to land that has been their heritage and life source for many generations
- 6) recognition of the local competence and intergenerational knowledge regarding soil management of people who work and live on the land (traditionally and historically)
- 7) support for urban initiatives that reform brownfields to green
- 8) support for investigation, education and dissemination regarding soil regeneration strategies

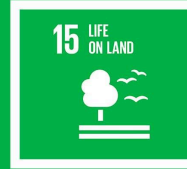


Zero Hunger

- Support sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices and support networks of pioneers in this field to create working models that can be imitated and scaled.
- Guarantee access to arable land and pastures for local and indigenous communities and stop the illegal and forced removal of people from their original lands
- Counteract the acquisition of land by big enterprises
- Stop unfair subsidies to industrial farming: support small farmers by public investments in services for rural communities, such as public transport, schools and health services
- An independent judiciary on the potential negative health effects caused by industrial agrochemicals
- Reduce the use of industrial agrochemical fertilizers and pesticides, promote organic and agro-ecological farming.
- Support the horizontal cooperation and the vertical integration in the food and farming system, in order to increase the added value of local agricultural production and the vitality of agricultural small enterprises
- Limit intensive animal farming which causes degradation, erosion and contamination of soil ecosystems, reducing livestock intensity based on local capacity to produce feed for livestock.
- Limit the allocation of arable land for the production of feed for industrial livestock and biofuels, support the production of protein-rich crops for human consumption
- A global effort by the national health services to promote a shift towards less meat and animal product consumption, promoting protein-rich alternatives.
- Enforce clear labeling systems to enable consumers to be able to make ethical decisions.



**Take urgent action
to combat
climate change
and its impacts**



**Protect, restore and promote
sustainable use of terrestrial
ecosystems, sustainably
manage forests, combat
desertification and halt and
reverse land degradation and
halt biodiversity loss**

Climate action *and* Life on land

- preserve and protect forests, pasture lands and permanent meadows, assigning a special status of conservation to peatlands and organic soils
- programs to support local people to choose protection of old forests as a source of potential income over slash and burn methods
- limit and regulate the use of fire in the management of crop residues, forests and pasture lands.
- stop the conversion of forests to plantations for food for livestock or for biofuel production
- halt land degradation and support soil restoration and adoption of regenerative techniques in farming
- support agroforestry, organic and regenerative agriculture and the conversion of croplands to permanent meadows in order to increase the organic matter in the soil, limiting soil erosion and preventing desertification, also recognizing and promoting the economic value of carbon capture as a valuable ecosystem service provided by farmers
- reduce the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions caused by animal farming and industrial fertilizers, by balanced applications of organic fertilizers to soils, rotating the cultures with nitrogen-fixing species and cover crops, and reducing the intensity of livestock farming
- support investment for the conversion from conventional to organic agriculture with the long term goal to eliminate the use of pesticides and industrial fertilizers
- recognize and pay the accountable provision of societal- and *ecosystem-services from sustainable farming (*ecosystem services like increased carbon content, water holding capacity, water infiltration, biodiversity)
- suppress all subsidizing regimes based on the volume of productions or on managed land extension, as they are generic subsidies to industrial farming and land appropriation by big enterprises and those that allocate resources are not complying with the principle 'public money for public goods'



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Sustainable cities and communities

- halt the transformation of green fields into urban settlements. Always give priority to the reuse of brownfields and to the regeneration of abandoned and under-exploited settlements
- support the regeneration of degraded soil for creating urban green areas and community gardens
- increase the permeability through the de-sealing and re-vegetation of urban surfaces, in order to realize green infrastructures for water drainage and storage and counteract the urban heating with nature-based solutions
- update the infrastructure strategies, in order to face the real needs of communities and enterprises, avoiding a further extension of land-consuming road networks in developed countries and evaluating the alternatives in terms of land efficient use eg. more efficient public transport networks
- adopt criteria of sustainable remediation and site-specific risk assessment, for the management and reuse of contaminated soils

*Further Comments