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## HOT NEWS

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## WASWAC President's New Year's Message of 2022

Dear WASWAC Councilors, Advisors, Regional Representatives, and all members,

Time does fly. It is about time to say goodbye to 2021, and to welcome the arrival of 2022. With the influence of COVID-19, international travel was still quite difficult, so we had to continue staying online for association's related affairs communication. However, our efforts have been proven effective and efficient by the great progress of WASWAC achieved this year. I am pleased to make a brief summary here.

(1) International Soil and Water Conservation Research (ISWCR), the WASWAC official journal, is now a Q1 journal in all three categories of Water Resources, Soil Science, and Environmental Sciences. Following the first impact factor (IF) of 3.770, ISWCR received its second IF of 6.027 on June 30, 2021. Amongst the total of 98 journals in the categories of Water Resources, ISWCR was ranked 6, which rises 3 place compared to that in last year. In the categories of Soil Science and Environmental Science, it is ranked as 4 out of 37 (Q1) and 45 out of 274 (Q1), that rises 3 and 31 place compared to those in last year, respectively. This great achievement was the honor of all members of the editorial board. Prof. Mark Nearing and Prof. Tingwu Lei, the Editors in Chief of this journal have contributed a lot to the progress of ISWCR, this is always appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for Prof. Mark Nearing and Prof. Tingwu Lei. I am happy to have Prof. Dr. Pasquale Borrelli to take over the helm of the journal, and believe a bright future is ahead awaiting us.

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and WASWAC was signed. To develop new knowledge, share experience, and distribute knowledge and skill for the benefit of the whole world, under the brokering and promoting of Prof. Jose Luis Rubio and Prof. Laura Bertha Reyes Sanchez, IUSS and WASWAC signed the memorandum of understanding in March, 2021. Both parties agreed to use their best effort to promote the formal cooperation by obtaining the necessary support for envisaged activities. In September, based on the proposal and first drafting of Prof. Jose Luis Rubio, WASWAC and IUSS accomplished a position paper on the inter linkages of soil and climate change with the title of "Protecting the soil is

protecting the climate". By the end of October 31, 2021, there are totally 62 organizations and 833 people actively co-signed this position paper to express their supporting attitude towards the global challenge of protecting the soil and the climate together. The document and signatures of all participating organizations and people had been sent to the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow, calling more widely support to protect our soil resources and thus enhance the resilience to climate change.

(3) The third International Youth Forum on Soil and Water Conservation was held successfully in Iran. To constantly motivate the young scientists to focus on research in the soil and water conservation field, we held the third International Youth Forum on Soil and Water Conservation (IYFSWC) on October 16-21, 2021, at the Tarbiat Modares University, Noor City, Mazandaran Province, Iran. Affected by the epidemic, we lost the chance to exchange face to face, but the hybrid form of virtual and in-presence still provided lots of valuable information to all the participants. A total number of 106 abstract/full papers were collected globally, and a total of 140 participants including 50 in-presence and 90 online were persistently attended this forum. Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi, Prof. of Department of Watershed Management Engineering, the Deputy President of WASWAC, and his team had made a great deal of strenuous efforts to organize the forum.

(4) Released the WASWAC Youth Outstanding Paper Award (DATUM) 2021. Following the application and evaluation, the WASWAC Youth Outstanding Paper Award (DATUM) 2021 was released during the Third International Youth Forum on Soil and Water Conservation. Totally 10 winners from 4 countries including Italy, Iran, Russia and China shared this honor from 52 confirmed applicants. During the award ceremony, the president of Beijing Datum Technology Development CO. LTD - the financial supporter of the honorarium, expressed the gratitude to the WASWAC for providing exchange platform for young scholars around the world. 10 invited award guests announced the awardees and introduced the awarded paper's highlights briefly. 10 awardees expressed their gratitude and excitement in their acceptance speeches.

(5) The International Forum on Land Degradation, Soil Conservation and Sustainable Development, 2021 (LASOSU2021), was successfully held as an online conference on August 21-23, 2021, under the supervision of WASWAC, Italian Association of Agricultural Engineering (AIIA) and

Soil Erosion Division of CSWCS (China). 241 participants from 19 countries in the field of soil and water conservation and sustainable development had been involved in the online communication, a total of 2263 participants were recorded in the VooV meeting, Innovation China, and CNKI Online Lectures. The forum was organized by Dalian University of Technology (China) and University of Padova (Italy). Thirteen other academic institutes were involved in co-organizing the conference, e.g., the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation of CAS & MWR (China), Beijing Normal University (China), Xi'an University of Technology (China), Italian Association for Soil and Water Bioengineering (Italy), etc.

(6) The WASWAC 8<sup>th</sup> special publication, *Global Degradation of Soil and Water Resources -- Regional Assessment and Strategies*, has been published by Science Press Beijing and Springer. This book was organized by the WASAWAC, jointly compiled by scientists of soil and water conservation around the world, financially supported by China Book International. Valuable supports were also from International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) and Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, NWFU & CAS/MWR. The editors-in-chief of the book are Rui Li, Ted L. Napier, Samir A. El-Swaify, Mohamed Sabir, and Eduardo Rizenzi. The purpose of the book is to address the lack of recent state-of-the-art and state-of-the-science documentation of global degradation issues.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you. Thank you for your great contribution to the WASWAC in 2021. With the arriving of 2022, I wish all of you and all your families a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Meantime, I really hope that all of you and your family keep healthy and stay safe.

All the best,

Duihu Ning

The President of WASWAC



## Report on the 1st ESSC - EURECYS International Joint Congress

### **Sustainable Management of Cultural Landscapes in the context of the European Green Deal**

**Santo Stefano di Camastra (Italy); 10-14 November 2021**

The 1st ESSC and EURECYS International Joint Congress was celebrated at Santo Stefano di Camastra, a village close to Palermo, Sicily (Italy), from November 10 to 14, 2021. The congress took place at the Cinema Glauco and the Museum of Ceramics, kindly made available by Santo Stefano di Camastra Municipality, and was attended by over 100 scientists from 19 EU and non-EU Countries. The principal theme of the Congress was to give a comprehensive overview on the importance of preserving our landscapes and sustainably managing our lands in the context of the European Green Deal. This was successfully achieved through 54 oral presentations and four poster sessions showcasing an impressive body of international research.

The Congress was endorsed by the Università degli Studi di Palermo, Parco dei Nebrodi, Gaia Education, Comune di Santo Stefano di Camastra, and Göteborg University.

The opening ceremony commenced with welcome speeches by Carmelo Dazzi (ESSC President) and by Tamas Komives (ECOCYCLES President) (Fig 1 and 2). The plenary keynote speech was given by Professor Emeritus at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot (Israel), Jonathan Gressel (Fig. 3), about the unexpected potentiality of microalgae cultivation in the circular economic and ecological systems to offset and mitigate against ongoing food security and climate change challenges. The first day concluded with the welcome cocktail served in the Museum of Ceramics facilitated by the professional work of Istituto Alberghiero Angelo Florena's students, who kindly served traditional meals and drinks for the entire duration of the Congress.

#### **Scientific Program**

The Congress was organized in four scientific sessions, characterized by a great variety of research frameworks. The first one, titled "Linking Europe's Green Deal to Soil care", was introduced by the scientific lecture of Professor Edoardo A.C. Costantini, from the CNR-IBE – Biology, Agriculture and Food Sciences Department, Sesto Fiorentino (Italy) (Fig. 4). His keynote lecture showed the linkages between the European Green Deal and the soil care document, underling



that soil health is the starting point for the transformation of the entire food chain. He also expressed his personal concern about the goals since they appear to be very ambitious.



Fig. 1 - Prof. Carmelo Dazzi



Fig. 2 - Prof. Tamas Komives



Fig. 3- Prof. Jonathan Gressel

The second session, titled “Agriculture and natural resource management”, was opened by Professor Zoltán Péter Alföldi (Fig. 5) from the Hungarian University for Agriculture & Life Sciences, Georgikon Campus (Hungary). Professor underlined the importance of citizen science against global problems, reporting a significant practice example of how qualified and reliable amateur (citizen) scientists can expand and increase scientific knowledge.

May East from the UN House Scotland Director of Cities program (United Kingdom) introduced the third session “Principles and issues in sustainable regional development”. The keynote speech explored the scope for policy-makers, urban planners, and practitioners to learn from the eco-communities living laboratories, striving to demonstrate low-carbon, place-based values, and practices for 20-minutes human settlements to thrive.

The fourth session was opened by Professor Bosse Lagerqvist (Fig. 6) from the Department of Conservation at the University of Göteborg (Sweden), titled “Cultural Landscapes and Heritage Science”. The lecture presented the concept of integrated conservation to sustainably manage landscapes and the relation between top-down and bottom-up processes.

Posters were exhibited at Cinema Glauco throughout the duration of the event, organized in sessions as for the oral presentations.



Fig. 4 - Prof. Edoardo Costantini



Fig. 5 - Prof. Zoltán Péter Alföldi



Fig. 6- Prof. Bosse Lagerqvist

On the final day, after scientific sessions concluded, Professor Sándor Némethy, Secretary-General of EURECYS, introduced the participants to the ESSC - EURECYS International Joint Congress 2022 to be hosted in the Balaton region (Hungary).

Professor Giuseppe Lo Papa, in charge for the organization, and Professor Carmelo Dazzi, the ESSC President, expressed their gratitude to the collaborators, workers, and participants who contributed to the successful congress. The last moment was dedicated to awarding three young researchers who obtained an ESSC grants of €500 each. The awardees were (1) Shachi Pandey (Fig. 7), from the Forest Research Institute (Dehradun, India), for her study on “Assessing alterations in soil erosion vulnerability status based on water quality using Multinomial Logistic Regression”, in collaboration with Raman Nautiyal, Parmanand Kumar, Vijender Pal Panwar; (2) Mauro de Feudis (Fig. 8), from the Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna (Bologna, Italy), for his research on the “Relationships between canal water, bed sediments, and surrounding soils: A preliminary study for the artificial canals network of Bologna floodplain (Italy)”, with the participation of Gloria Falsone, Chiara Poesio, Andrea Morsolin, Michele Solmi, and Livia Vittoria Antisari; and (3) Dominique Serrani (Fig. 9), from Polytechnic University of Marche (Ancona, Italy), for her investigation on “Soil omics approach highlights on slash and burn sustainability”, written with Ilario Ferrocino, Cristiana Garofalo, Andrea Osimani, Maria Rita Corvaglia, Vesna Milanović, Lucia Aquilanti, Stefania Cocco, Valeria Cardelli, Rogério Borguete Alves Rafael, Elena Franciosi, Kieran Tuohy, Francesca Clementi, and Giuseppe Corti.



Fig. 7 - Shachi Pandey awarded by Edoardo Costantini.



Fig. 8 - Mauro de Feudis awarded by Giuseppe Lo Papa.



Fig. 9 - Dominique Serrani awarded by Carmelo Dazzi.

### Social Program and Field & Cultural Excursions

On Wednesday 10th a cocktail was served in the Museum of Ceramics in Santo Stefano di Camastra to welcome the attendants.

On Thursday 11th, the day ended with a convivial social dinner at the Hotel Za' Maria, where traditional Sicilian food was served. Delegates were entertained by the folk music and dance group Amastra.

The Scientific and Cultural Excursion was on Saturday, 13th and included visits to three unique sites: the Cupituro Farm, the San Teodoro Cave, and Nebrodi Natural Park. The first stop was at the Cupituro Farm, located in Caronia (Messina), which is one of the most important examples of subtropical fruit production in Italy, and definitely one of the pioneers in this field (Fig. 10 ). The farm has a continuous and profitable collaboration with the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Forest Sciences (UNIPA) to improve the cultivation techniques. The second stop was at the San Teodoro Cave, close to Acquadolci (Messina) (Fig. 11). The Cave dates back 10 million years ago and, represents a very important paleontological and paleoanthropological site in Sicily due to the findings of ancient animals and human bones. The final stop was in the Nebrodi Park (Fig. 12), where delegates had the opportunity to observe the rich variability and beauty of the landscape before reaching the Passo del Re restaurant, where an authentic "country lunch" was served.

The excursion concluded approximately at 5 pm and the group returned to Santo Stefano di Camastra to say goodbye until next year.



## Sponsors

The Congress was also sponsored by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), the International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO), the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC), the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), the Erasmus+ program, the Associazione Italiana Società Scientifiche Agrarie (AISSA), the World Agricultural Heritage Foundation (WAHF), the Italian Society of Soil Science (SISS), the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM), the Italian Society of Pedology (SIPE), the Italian Society of Agricultural Chemistry (SICA), the Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology (SISEF), the European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS), the Associazione Italiana di Geografia Fisica e Geomorfologia (AIGeo), the Italian Society of Ecology and Landscape (SIEP), the Consulta Ordini Ingegneri Sicilia, the Ordine Regionale Geologi di Sicilia, the Associazione Italiana per l'Ingegneria Naturalistica (AIPIN), the Federazione ordine dei Dottori Agronomi e dei Dottori Forestali di Sicilia, the Ministero della Transizione Ecologica, and the European Joint Programme EJP-SOIL.

Dominique Serrani, PhD

Polytechnic University of Marche (Italy)



Fig. 10 The first stop of the excursion: the Cupitur Farm

Fig. 11 The second stop of the excursion: the San Teodoro Cave

Fig. 12 The third stop of the excursion: the Nebrodi Park

## Warmer soil stores less carbon: study

*by University of Exeter*

Global warming will cause the world's soil to release carbon, new research shows. Scientists used data on more than 9,000 soil samples from around the world, and found that carbon storage "declines strongly" as average temperatures increase. This is an example of a "positive feedback", where global warming causes more carbon to be released into the atmosphere, further accelerating climate change.

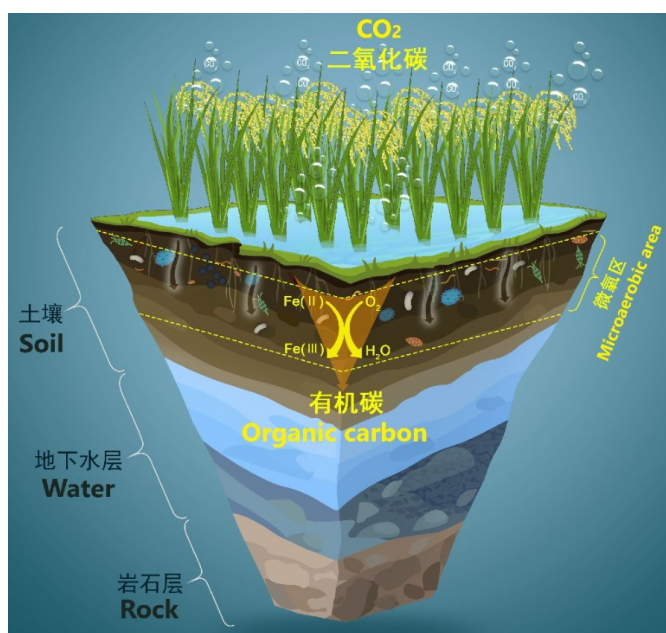
Importantly, the amount of carbon that could be released depends on the soil type, with coarse-textured (low-clay) soils losing three times as much carbon as fine-textured (clay-rich) soils.

The researchers, from the University of Exeter and Stockholm University, say their findings help to identify vulnerable carbon stocks and provide an opportunity to improve Earth System Models (ESMs) that simulate future climate change.

"Because there is more carbon stored in soils than there is in the atmosphere and all the trees on the planet combined, releasing even a small percentage could have a significant impact on our climate," said Professor Iain Hartley of Exeter's College of Life and Environmental Sciences.

"Our analysis identified the carbon stores in coarse-textured soils at high-latitudes (far from the Equator) as likely to be the most vulnerable to climate change. Such stores, therefore, may require particular attention given the high rates of warming taking place in cooler regions. In contrast, we found carbon stores in fine-textured soils in tropical areas to be less vulnerable to climate warming."

The data on the 9,300 soil profiles came from the World Soil Information database, with the study focusing on the top 50cm of soil. By





*Credit: Unsplash/ CC0 Public Domain*

comparing carbon storage in places with different average temperatures, the researchers estimated the likely impact of global warming.

For every 10°C of increase in temperature, average carbon storage (across all soils) fell by more than 25%.

"Even bleak forecasts do not anticipate this level of warming, but we used this scale to give us confidence that the effects we observed were caused by temperature rather than other variables," Professor Hartley said.

"Our results make it clear that, as temperatures rise, more and more carbon is released from soil.

"It's important to note that our study did not examine the timescales involved, and further research is needed to investigate how much carbon could be released this century."

The researchers found that their results could not be represented by an established ESM.

"This suggests that there is an opportunity to use the patterns we have observed to improve how models represent soils, and further reduce uncertainty in their projections," Professor Hartley said.

The differences in carbon storage based on soil texture occur because finer soils provide more mineral surface area for carbon-based organic material to bond to, reducing the ability of microbes to access and decompose it.

The paper, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, is entitled: "Temperature effects on carbon storage are controlled by soil stabilization capacities."

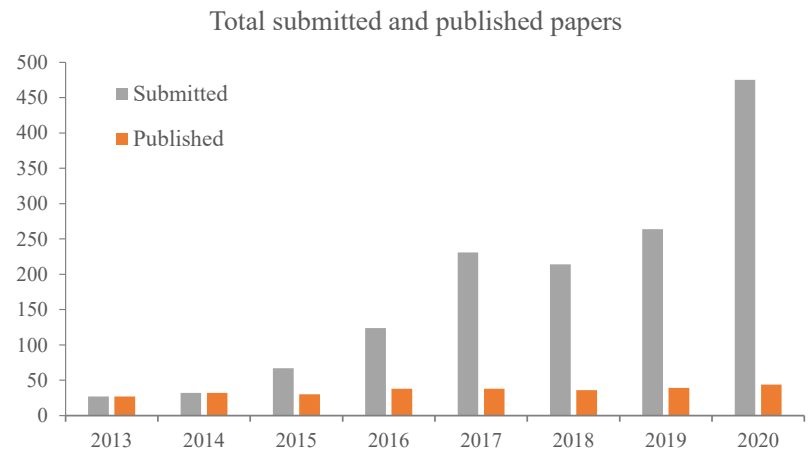
**Source:** <https://phys.org/news/2021-11-warmer-soil-carbon.html>



## Updated submission data of ISWCR in November 2021

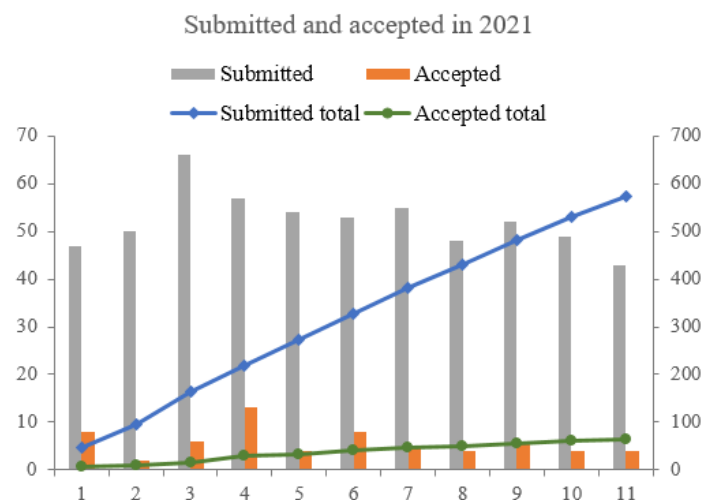
### *Annual Volume of Submissions and Publishing since 2013*

Year	Published	Submitted
2013	27	27
2014	32	32
2015	30	67
2016	38	124
2017	38	231
2018	36	214
2019	39	264
2020	44	475



### *Monthly Submissions & Acceptance in the current year (2021)*

Month	Submitted	Accepted
1	47	8
2	50	2
3	66	6
4	57	13
5	54	4
6	53	8
7	55	5
8	48	4
9	52	6
10	49	4
11	43	4



The International Soil and Water Conservation Research (ISWCR), initiated in June 2013, is a quarterly academic journal in English and publishes in Science Direct of Elsevier with open access globally. Since initiation, ISWCR has developed rapidly and established a good reputation in both international academia and publishing industry. It was indexed by Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD) in April 2015, covered by SCOPUS in January 2017, and was indexed by Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of Clarivate Analytics in October 2017. In July 2019, ISWCR was officially indexed by SCIE. The Impact factor of ISWCR is 3.770 in 2019, and **6.027 in 2020**.



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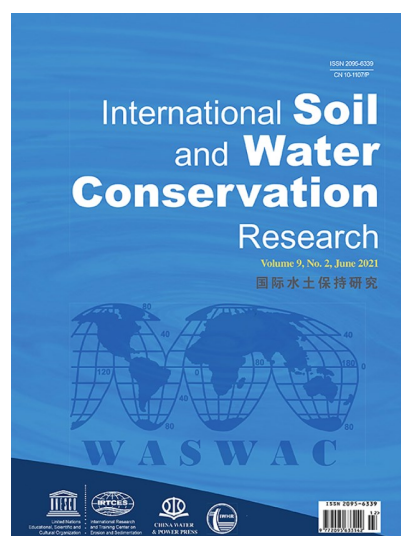
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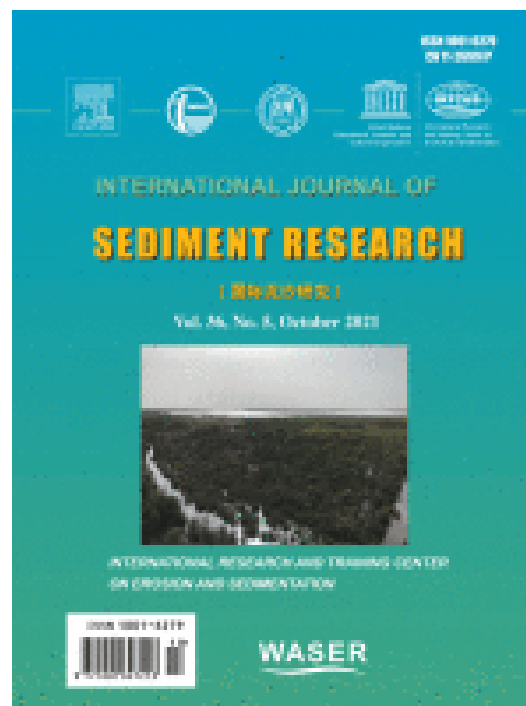
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(Names are arranged in alphabetical order)