



GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY IS ON THE DOCKET IN LONDON ON MARCH 30TH

The Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative will host its first Open Meeting immediately after the Planet Under Pressure Conference in London, England. We encourage all, including Planet Under Pressure attendees, to join us at the ExCel Center, Friday March 30th 9:00am - 3:00 pm to discuss the future direction of the GSBI. We are particularly interested in your input during a working session where we will identify examples of why soil biodiversity matters, identify the available data that supports these examples, and determine the priorities for next steps for the Initiative. Please stop by to give us your input, and learn a little more about the important role of the GSBI. **More information will be forthcoming - check <http://www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org> for updates.**

The GSBI is a stakeholder led initiative bringing awareness to the impact and role of soil biodiversity in maintaining ecosystem functions. The Earth's soils are living, dynamic interfaces that are habitats for millions of microbial and animal species. The activities of these soil biota are critical to the wellbeing of humans, because their activities support the delivery of major ecosystem services like food and fiber provision, carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling, clean air and ground water, and they are vital for controlling erosion, and plant, animal and human diseases. However, intensive use and misuse of soils, or their complete sealing due to urbanization puts the sustainability of these biota-driven services at risk, while the majority of people are hardly aware of the significant role of soil biota. The GSBI represents a global soil biodiversity venture to develop a comprehensive course of action for such issues.

The main goals are to make better use of existing knowledge on global and regional soil biodiversity and ecosystem services through enhanced communication among stakeholders and policy makers. The GSBI partners plan to achieve their goals through conferences and working groups that bring together multiple stakeholders to produce publications to facilitate policy-makers with important decisions.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to stay apprised of the Initiative's activities, please join our mailing list at <http://globalsoilbiodiversity.org>.

We look forward to seeing you in London!

Sincerely,

The GSBI Team

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