

ESBN Meeting 2008

Soil Thematic Strategy: A real need!

Paris – November 19th 2008

Marion Bardy
Department for Research and Innovation

Ressources, territoires et habitats
Énergie et climat
Prévention des risques
Développement durable
Infrastructures, transports et mer

**Présent
pour
l'avenir**



Ministère de l'Écologie, de l'Énergie,
du Développement durable et de l'Aménagement du territoire

Soil Thematic Strategy

First recognition of :

- soil functions
- soil threats

Increasing pressures on soils

→ can lead to irreversible degradations of soils and soil functions... hence the importance of soil survey, that gives essential information to better take soils into account in our policies



Soil Survey in France

GIS – Sol, funded since 2001



+ soon:



→ Coordination between administration and research organisms



Soil Survey in France

GIS – Sol, funded since 2001



+ soon:



→ Monitoring (RMQS):

“Classical” soil status indicators

+ development of e.g. **biological indicators**

➤ **Activities closely linked with national research programmes on soil**

Research programmes

“GESSOL” programme

- Several research programmes finance research on soil
- Only one specific programme, “GESSOL”, funded by the Ministry of Ecology since 1998
- Research programme to establish the scientific tools and bases to assess, monitor and restore soil quality



Research programmes

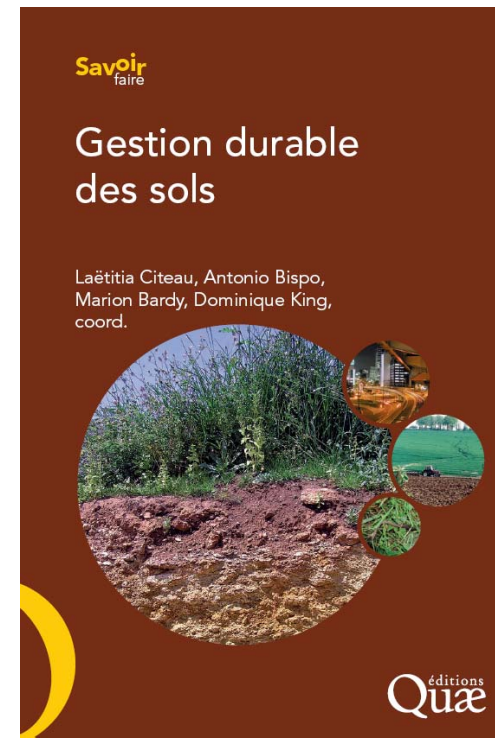
“GESSOL” programme : 1998 - 2008

- Took part in the discussions preparatory to the Soil Thematic Strategy
- Largely contributed to the setting up of soil monitoring systems
- December 2008:

Release of a book synthesising GESSOL results obtained over the last 10 years

Accessible to non-specialists

- **awareness raising / education**



Research programmes

“GESSOL” programme : future trends

- *Focus on soil functions, bearing in mind soil threats*



Research programmes

“GESSOL” programme : future trends

- *Focus on soil functions, bearing in mind soil threats*

Ecological, chemical, physical evaluation of soil functions

- Processes underlying soil functions
- Indicators, referentials, predictive models in order to integrate them to soil observation systems



Research programmes

“GESSOL” programme : future trends

- *Focus on soil functions, bearing in mind soil threats*

Ecological, chemical, physical evaluation of soil functions

- Processes underlying soil functions
- Indicators, referentials, predictive models in order to integrate them to soil observation systems

Economical, sociologic, political evaluation of soil functions

- Soil perceptions by the different actors
- Integration in decision processes
- Financial assessment of soil functions



Research programmes

“GESSOL” programme : future trends

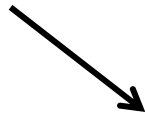
- *Focus on soil functions, bearing in mind soil threats*

Ecological, chemical, physical evaluation of soil functions

- Processes underlying soil functions
- Indicators, referentials, predictive models in order to integrate them to soil observation systems

Economical, sociologic, political evaluation of soil functions

- Soil perceptions by the different actors
- Integration in decision processes
- Financial assessment of soil functions



Sustainable soil management

- Optimisation of soil functions to come up to ecological, economical and social expectations
- Resilience or even improvement of soil functions



Future challenges

- To emphasize and preserve soil functions
 - Understand the role and evolutions of soil biodiversity
- To be able to manage soil multifunctionality
 - Role of research to develop scientific tools to support our policies

