



Bridging the Centuries: 1909–2009

Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest, 16-17 September 2009



Recent developments in soil protection policy at EU level

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The situation in the EU -1-



- ❖ Soil is a **non-renewable** natural resource
- ❖ It performs **crucial** ecological, social and economic functions for human activities and ecosystems survival
- ❖ Soils are being **increasingly degraded** or **irreversibly lost** across the EU
- ❖ There is a need for a **comprehensive** protective approach



The situation in the EU -2-



- ❖ Estimated costs of soil degradation reach up to **€38/\$50 billions per year**
- ❖ Note that **not all degradation costs are included** in the estimate – notably, damage to soil ecological functions is excluded
- ❖ Costs of soil degradation are mainly borne by society at large and **not by the land user**
- ❖ The benefits of soil protection far outweigh the costs

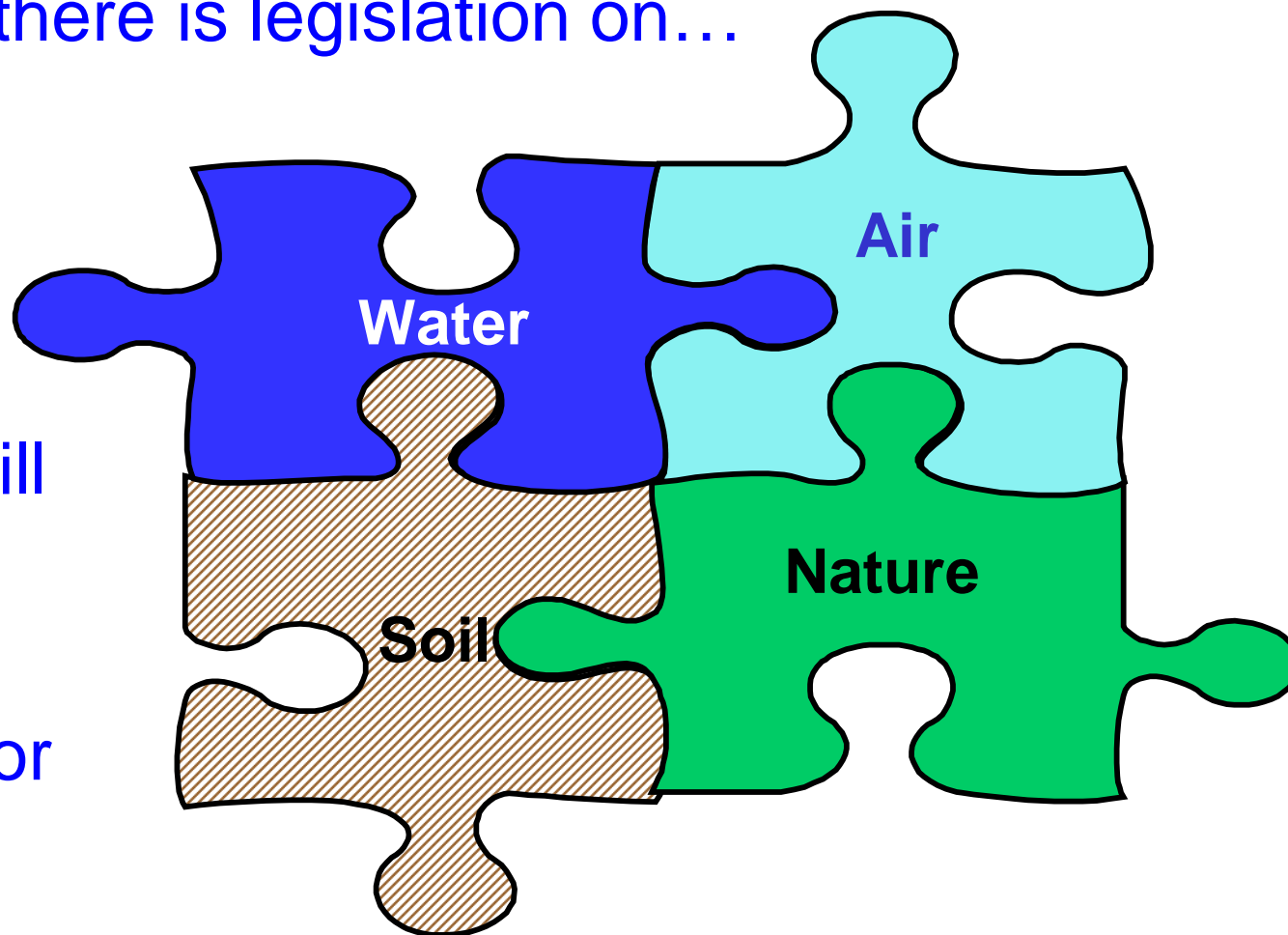


The situation in the EU -3-



At EU level, there is legislation on...

... but we still miss a regulatory framework for soil



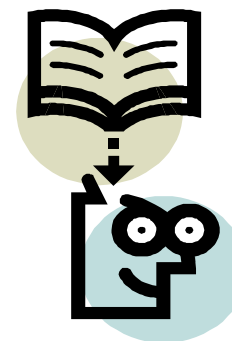


The Soil Thematic Strategy



❖ Communication

COM(2006)231, 22.9.2006



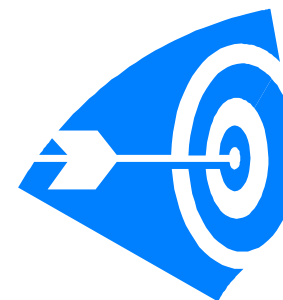
❖ Proposal for a Soil Framework Directive

COM(2006)232, 22.9.2006



❖ Impact Assessment

SEC(2006)1165 & SEC(2006)620, 22.9.2006





The Soil Thematic Strategy

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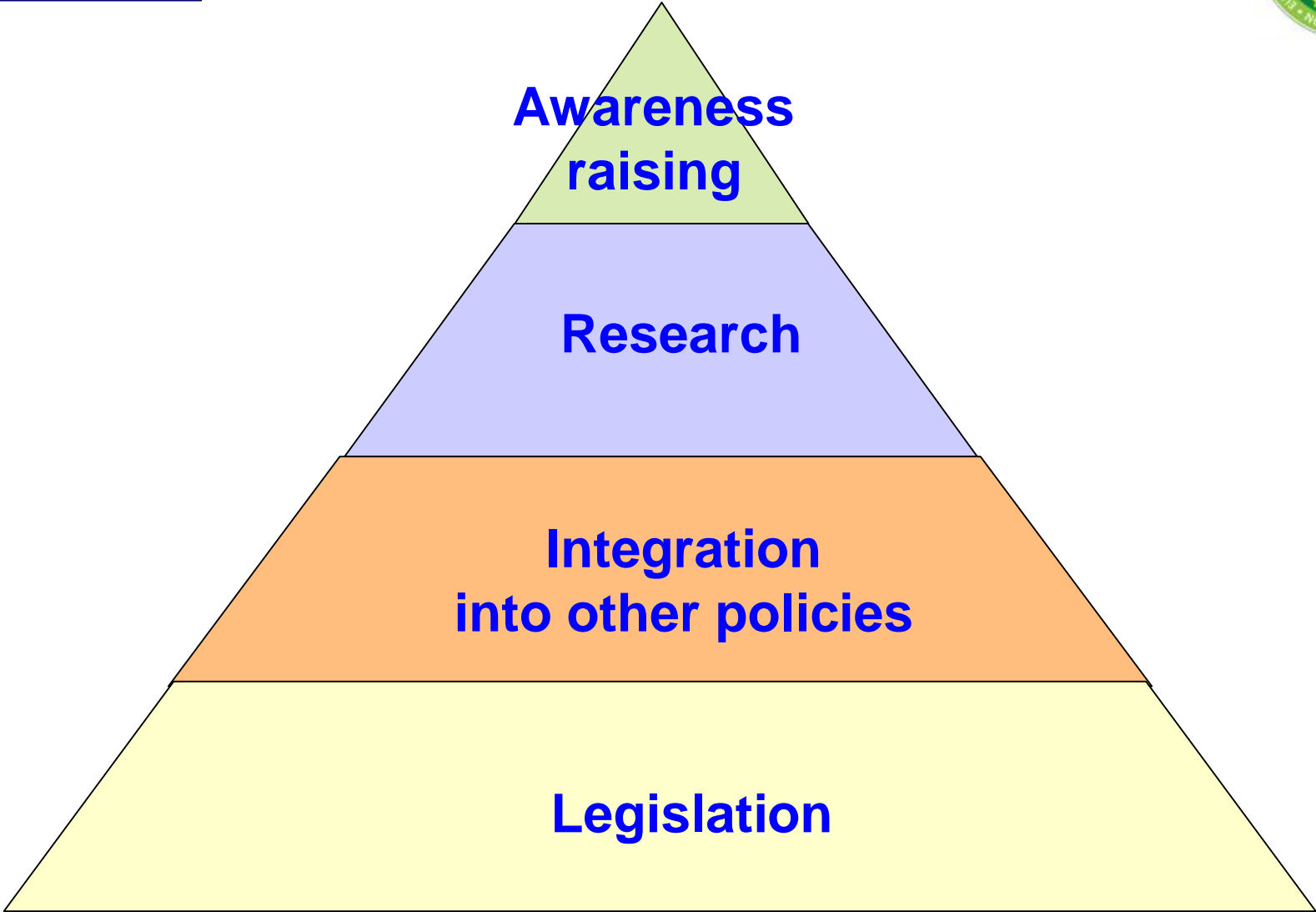
The Communication



- ❖ Lays down the **objective** of soil policy: the protection of **soil functions** across the EU
- ❖ Sets out the **four pillars** of EU soil policy
- ❖ Indicates the **next steps** at EU level



The four pillars





The proposal for a Soil Framework Directive

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The soil functions



- (a) Biomass production, including in agriculture and forestry;
- (b) Storing, filtering and transforming nutrients, substances and water;
- (c) Biodiversity pool, such as habitats, species and genes;
- (d) Physical and cultural environment for humans and human activities;
- (e) Source of raw materials;
- (f) Acting as carbon pool;
- (g) Archive of geological and archeological heritage



Soil degradation processes



Sealing



Erosion



Organic matter decline



Compaction



**Salinisation
Acidification**



Landslides



Contamination



Status of negotiations



- ❖ Opinions of **Advisory Bodies** (EESC and CoR) delivered in 2007
- ❖ First reading by the **European Parliament** adopted on 14 November 2007
- ❖ In the **Council** there is a blocking minority that prevents (for the time being) an agreement



**But there is more in the
Soil Thematic Strategy
than “just” legislation...**



Implementation of the Soil Thematic Strategy



- ❖ Calls for soil-specific **research** projects in FP7
- ❖ Soil measures in **Rural Development Plans** for 2007-2013
- ❖ Launch and implementation of **LUCAS survey** 2009
- ❖ Study on **soil biodiversity** (due by end 2009)
- ❖ Preparation of a **Soil Biodiversity Atlas** (JRC, FAO, ...)
- ❖ Launch of the **European Network on Soil Awareness** (ENSA) on 28-29 September 2009 in Osnabrück
- ❖ Study on best practices to mitigate the negative effects of **sealing** (due by end 2010)
- ❖ Study on the **management of SOM** (due by end 2010)



Relationship between soil and climate change -1-



Full report (in English)
and executive summaries
(in all EU languages)
available at

[http://ec.europa.eu/
environment/soil/conf_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/conf_en.htm)



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Relationship between soil and climate change -2-



FINAL REPORT
[16 December 2008]

“REVIEW OF EXISTING INFORMATION ON THE INTERRELATIONS BETWEEN SOIL AND CLIMATE CHANGE”

Contract number 070307/2007/486157/SER/BI

Tenderer

Alterra, Wageningen UR, The Netherlands

Partners

CEH, United Kingdom
SYKE, Finland
UNAB, United Kingdom

Sub contractors

EFI, Finland
AEAT, United Kingdom
HFRI, Hungary
Cranfield University, United Kingdom
BFW, Austria
FFRI, Finland
JRC, Italy

ClimSoil



Review of existing information on the interrelation between soil and climate change

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/publications_en.htm

Series 1909-2009, Budapest, 16-17 September 2009



Review of the IPPC Directive



- ❖ Introduction of periodic **monitoring** of soil and groundwater
- ❖ Establishment of a **baseline report** prior to operating the installation/first update of permit
- ❖ Obligation to remediate the site to its original state upon closure of the installation (**no-degradation approach**)



Political agreement reached under Czech Presidency on 25 June 2009, now starts the second reading



Recent related developments -1-



- ❖ Green Paper on **biowaste management** - COM(2008)811
Council Conclusions – 25 June 2009
- ❖ White Paper **adaptation to climate change** - COM(2009)147
Council Conclusions – 25 June 2009
- ❖ Discussions on **LULUCF**
Ongoing - should activities under Art. 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol be mandatory post 2012?
- ❖ Competence for **UNCCD** within the Commission
from DG DEV to DG ENV
- ❖ Post 2010 **Biodiversity Targets**
Communication campaign by the Commission – Autumn 2009
Targets to be decided by the European Council – March 2010



Recent related developments -2-



BioSoil Conference

Brussels, 9 November 2009

Registrations open until 23 October 2009

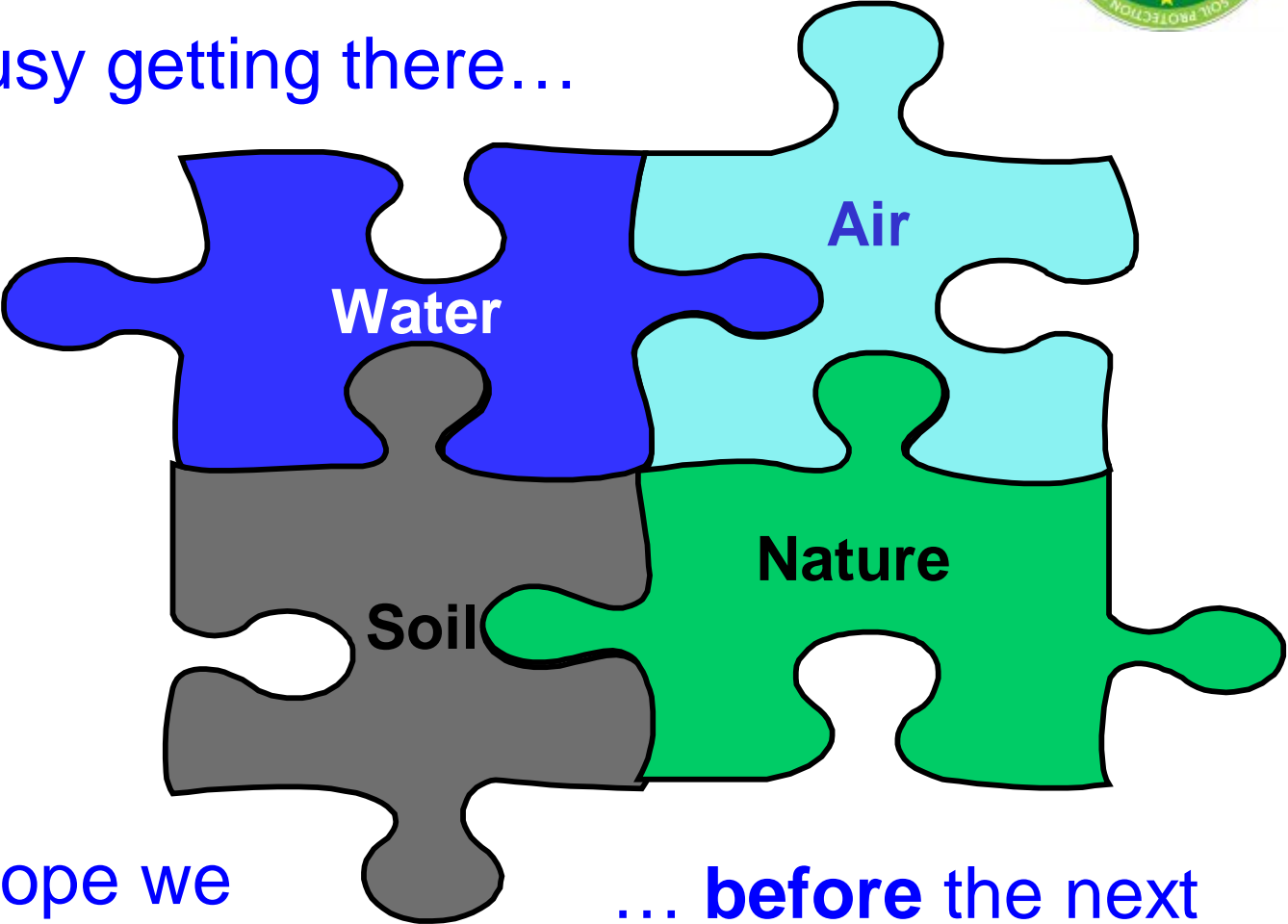
**[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/
ffocus_noticeboard.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/ffocus_noticeboard.htm)**



Conclusion



So, we are busy getting there...



... but let's hope we will do so...

... **before** the next Conference in 2109!



Thank you for your attention!



<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index.htm>

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