

Advisory Board for the Soil of the Year Campaign in Germany

Soil of the Year - Criteria for Selection and Nomination

Advisory Board “Soil of the Year”

The Advisory board Soil of the Year is a committee of the German Soil Science Society (DBG), the German Soil Association (BVB) and the German Engineer Association for Management of Contaminated Soils and Land Recycling (ITVA).

The legal entities are DBG, BVB and ITVA with a small collective budget for the campaign Soil of the Year. The action is partly government funded by the German Environment Agency and by further partners. Our annual partners are responsible for the main budget and the organisation of the World Soil Day in Berlin.

Mission

The Advisory board Soil of the Year is authorized to organize the annual campaign Soil of the Year at the World Soil Day in Germany and to accompany different activities. On the World Soil Day (Dec. 5) we inaugurate the Soil of the Year of the subsequent year with a commemorative event. The Soil of the Year is presented to the public using posters, flyers, publications, web pages and numerous events in Germany.

The advisory board tries to strengthen the collective sense of responsibility for soil resources and to support campaigns to raise public awareness of soil. The Soil of the Year and the World Soil Day are not intended to be instruments for science-related discussions. We don't therefore address the experts / professionals in soil science.

Task

The Advisory board Soil of the Year is looking for potential partners 3 – 4 years in advance. Potential partners are the individual Federal States of Germany and their related institutions and authorities (e.g. geological survey, agriculture/ forestry institutes) as well as soil research institutes and non-profit environmental and nature conservation organisations. In a joint action they choose the Soil of the Year, create information material like flyers, posters, news releases and update our web page. Together we prepare the World Soil Day in the capital Berlin using venues of a federal ministry or of the German Federal States.



Criteria for Selection

No soils are excluded. The scientific nomenclature of soils is not prioritised.

Important criteria are:

- social relevance to ambient living
- functions of soils
- different land use
- soil awareness
- soil protection
- soil hazard

Criteria for Nomination

The denomination for soils of the year has to turn the spotlight on our soil of the Year. The denomination should be short, informative and pointed.

- Pedogenic soil stratification
- Soils functions
- Soil as a living space
- Soil utilisation
- Soil protection
- Nature protection
- Soil vulnerability
- Soil rarity

International Collaboration

In recent years we've started to work together with partners in neighboring countries (i.e. Austria, Switzerland, and Denmark).