

World Soil of the Year 2027 Guidelines for applications

Through the World Soil of the Year (WSY), the IUSS endeavors to celebrate a specific soil, on an annual basis, in recognition of our collective responsibility for sustaining soils and their functionality, as well as to promote public awareness of this crucial and increasingly threatened resource. The WSY Celebration contributes to the IUSS Strategic Plan and to the 2025-2034 Decade of Soil Sciences for Sustainable Development (DSSSD). Nominations for national soil of the year should be mentioned, but this is neither a requirement nor a criterion for selection. The IUSS provides a grant of around 2,500 euros for promoting the selected proposal.

Process of Selection and Promotion:

- The IUSS will annually launch a call for proposals for nominating a WSY, with an established deadline.
- The WSY Working Group will encourage possible proponents and support them, by providing information about the requested documentation.
- Submitted proposals will be evaluated and ranked, according to established criteria.
- The proponents of the selected WSY will be awarded a grant from the IUSS to support their activities related to their WSY.
- The IUSS will advertise the WSY, through its various media channels, including a dedicated page on its official website.
- The President of the IUSS, or a delegated officer, will deliver the award to the proponents of the WSY, in an event celebrating the WSY.

Application Requirements:

- The proposal must be endorsed by a Full Member of the IUSS.
- All proposals must have a reference person, who is a member of the IUSS.
- A soil proposed as WSY must: i) be represented by a real profile, and ii) be of broad national interest or significance.
- Proposals must include: i) documentation of the soil; ii) rationale for nominating the soil as WSY; and iii) capacity and strategy for promoting the WSY.
- Proposal must be done by the form: <https://forms.gle/DriJznocbazRRMmS8>
- Deadline: **May 31, 2026**

Documentation of the Soil:

- Detailed location of the soil, using UTM coordinates, with a scaled national map demonstrating the location.
- Complete detailed description of, and analytical data for, the soil profile and associated landscape, according to current WRB criteria.
- Detailed taxonomic classification of the soil profile, according to the current WRB. It may be accompanied by any relevant national or international classification.
- High-resolution (300 dpi or higher) digital color imagery of the soil profile (containing a profile tape) and associated landscape.

- Relevant statistical information on the geographical extent of the soil that is represented by the proposed profile.
- Environment and soil-forming factors information
- Ecosystem services provided
- Dissemination plan
- Budget and financial support ask

Rationale for Nominating the Soil as WSY:

- Importance of natural or other managed ecosystem services.
- Uniqueness as a natural feature and possible risk of its degradation and/or extinction, due to natural or anthropic causes.
- Cultural relevance.
- Demonstration site of actionable scientific knowledge and practical solutions supporting SDG progress,
- Alignment with the targets of at least one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- Alignment with an official agenda of governmental or non-governmental entities.
- Inclusion in a biosphere reserve area or geopark

Capacity and Strategy for the Promotion of WSY:

- Description of a plan for national and international WSY promotion. It should include communication strategies, partnerships, budget, and target audiences (ranging from specialists to policymakers, to students and the general public).

Criteria for ranking the proposals:

- Importance for natural or other managed ecosystem services, e.g., Water production/conservancy; Biodiversity; Host of endemic species, Sustainable food, fibers, biofuel productions.
- Uniqueness as a natural feature and possible risk of its degradation and/or extinction, due to natural or anthropic causes.

Sensitivity to climate change, desertification, contamination, erosion, degradation.

- Cultural importance

Archaeological material, traditional communities, art.

- Soil geographic distribution (maybe define a coverage percentage of the country or km²):

Local, Regional, National

- Existing or proposed official recognitions by governmental and non-governmental entities (such as UNESCO).

Yes, Local; Yes, National; Yes, International; No.

- Monolith and data availability.

Morphological, Physical and Chemical data, MPC+ additional analysis related to the soil

- Framework of soil promotion:

Local, National, International

Scientific, Policymakers, General public

Please specify the foreseen events, as well as the collaborations, in particular, with national and international organisations and societies (IUSS and others), as well as the divisions.

IUSS World Soil of the Year Working Group