

RESEARCH FOR COMBATTING TRANSBOUNDARY SOIL DEGRADATION

More Knowledge about transboundary soil degradation is needed to estimate its impacts on soil, water, climate and food security

Why we need to act?

Soil degradation is caused by local activities but it can adversely impact the wider environment. Urban expansion or farming, for instance, may lead to local soil compaction, sealing, pollution or erosion. They may however also lead to wider impacts like loss of biodiversity, forests or water resources. Surface water can transport affected sediments into the wider environment including across national borders. Groundwater can transfer dissolved or non-aqueous phase contaminants across borders. Currently, there is no data to quantify the effects and economic impacts of soil degradation on transboundary environments.

What we will gain?

The loss of soil functions and the related decline of ecosystem services due to soil degradation have economic, political and social implications. Research will help estimate the extent and to calculate the costs of transboundary soil degradation. It will assist in providing new and comparable data in order to understand and quantify drivers and impacts of soil degradation as a trigger for practical and political response. Through cross border cooperation we will be able to address soil degradation effects on climate, water and food security more properly and at a larger scale.

Key research areas

INSPIRATION's bottom up approach revealed pressing research needs for understanding land degradation, including:

- Quantifying and assessing impacts of drivers and management – by gathering local and regional data on a larger scale
- Monitoring and evaluating soil functions, degradation and related costs
- Harmonization of pre-existing information on soil and land condition
- Integration of stakeholders in soil monitoring
- Raising awareness of transboundary effects of soil degradation
- Development of methods to calculate transboundary effects of soil degradation

How to become active?

Get in contact with your INSPIRATION national contact point at www.inspiration-agenda.eu to express your interest in funding research on effects of cross border soil degradation.

