



MAES soil pilot

What is the MAES ?

The MAES working group was established to implement action 5 of the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020. This action calls Member States to map and assess the state of ecosystems and their services in their national territory with the assistance of the European Commission. The MAES soil pilot on soil-related ecosystems addresses soil as a cross-cutting dimension of ecosystems. Members of the soil MAES pilot are experts from member states, the European Commission, JRC, EEA, and representatives of projects and pilots on soil ecosystem services on the European, national and regional scale. INSPIRATION is one of these projects, in which many research needs related to soil ecosystem services were identified.

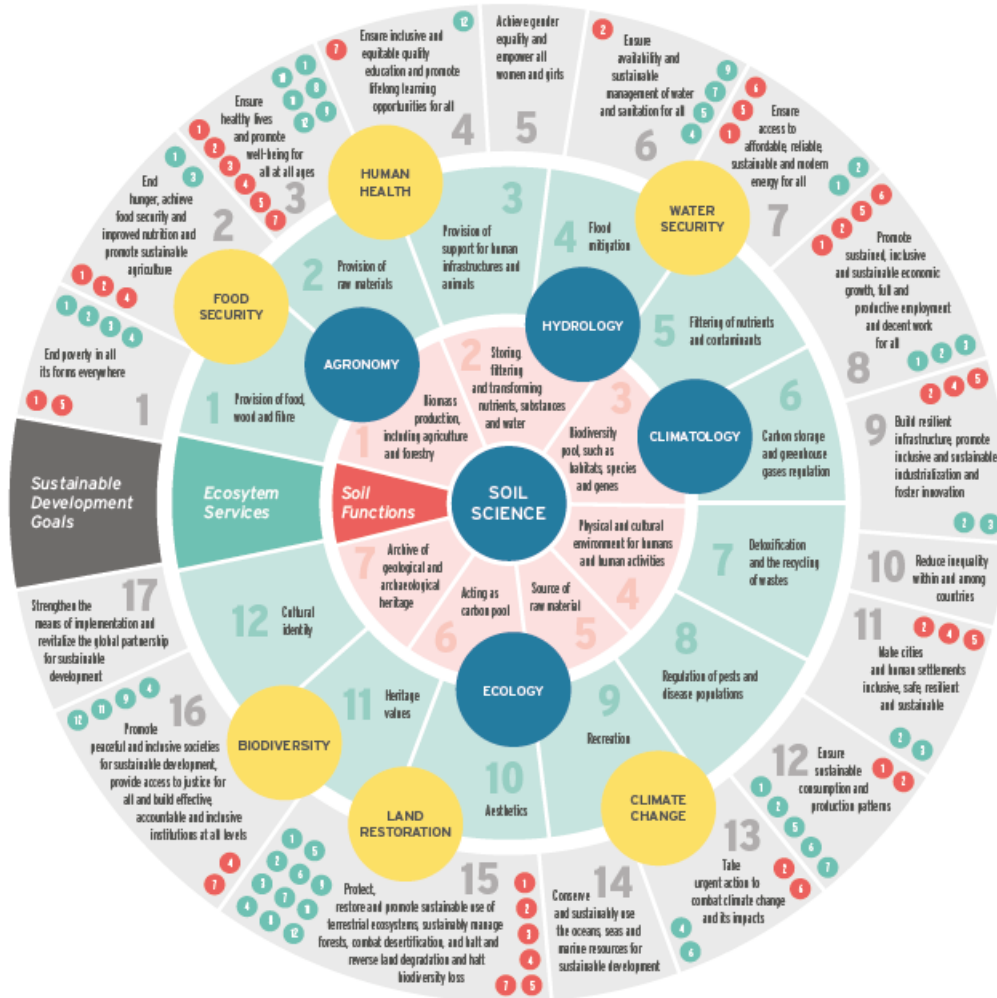
Objectives of the MAES

The ambitions of the MAES Soil Pilot are to increase awareness of the importance of soil functions and related ecosystem services, showing their value for society (see figure), the need for protecting this value and using it more sustainably and efficiently as part of the natural capital, according to the principle of 'planetary boundaries' and taking account of future generations.

The MAES soil pilot aims at providing working guidance to the EU institutions and Member States on methods and tools for mapping and assessing soil related ecosystem services and support related EU policy frameworks, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, the Soil Thematic Strategy, the 7th Environmental Action Programme 2014-2020, Common Agricultural Policy, Forest Strategy, Disaster Prevention, Climate Change policies, etc.

Outcomes

In cooperation with the MAES soil pilot team, a consortium led by Deltares is currently finalizing a report, to be published before the end of 2017. This report will provide a synthesis of the available information on soil related ecosystem services. This information will support the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy as well as the EU Soil Thematic Strategy. The report will be presented and discussed at the Soil4EU presentation and parallel session on the 4th of December 2017 in Brussels during the final conference of INSPIRATION, <http://www.inspiration-agenda.eu/>.



Soil functions support provision of ecosystem services that contribute to the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as defined by the United Nations. Figure by Keesstra et al., 2016.