

*"Let us promote sustainable soil management rooted in proper soil governance and sound investments.
Together, we can promote the cause of soils, a truly solid ground for life."
UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon*



This year GSC wishes to join other UN entities in celebrating the special occasion of the **UN World Soil Day** on **5th December**, instituted as per the Resolution (A/RES/68/232), adopted by the General Assembly on 20th December 2013.

World Soil day celebrates the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to the human commonwealth in terms of food, water and energy, and as a mitigating element of biodiversity loss and climate change.

The theme of this year is ***'Caring for the planet starts from the ground'***. 'Soil is a finite natural resource. On a human time-scale it is non-renewable. However, despite the essential role that soil plays in human livelihoods, there is a worldwide increase in degradation of soil resources due to inappropriate management practices, population pressure driving unsustainable intensification and inadequate governance over this essential resource'.

The best way to celebrate this day is to do exactly what scientists advise: ***to communicate messages on the importance of soil quality for food security, healthy ecosystems and human well-being.***

For this reason GSC Environmental Technical Support Unit (ETSU) and Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) would like to celebrate the World Soil Day by showcasing, instructing and demonstrating their activities as follows:

- Video (3-4 minutes from FAO web site) [Sustainable soil management and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- Joint presentation with the State Forestry Corps of Carabinieri
- Key contaminants representing environmental challenges in our field missions;
- Various equipment to detect the concentration of contaminants in soils;
- Hands-on low cost soil remediation technique for field missions.
- Experience of ETSU with contaminated soils remediation in support of field mission' operations (video 2-3 minutes)
- Discover the importance of soil throughout plants' lifecycle (planting exercise for the children – 30 minutes).

ESTU/GIS will welcome school visit (from 9:00 to 10:30) and UN staff at GSC (from 13:30 to 15:30) in Brindisi on 5th December, in front of Building I6 to celebrate together World Soil Day 2017.

This initiative is supported by the GSC Environmental Working Group as part of the implementation of DFS Environment Strategy.