



Integrating soil erosion issues in the Soil Atlas of Africa

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The Soil Atlas of Africa is an international project involving the Institute for Environment and Sustainability of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, ISRIC – World Soil Information, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Land and Water Development Division) and scientists from the European Soil Bureau Network and the Africa Soil Science Society. It intends to produce derived maps of several key soil properties at continental and national scales.

Soil erosion is regarded as one of the most widespread forms of soil degradation, and as such, poses potentially severe limitations to sustainable development in Africa.

This research aims to investigate how from remote sensing data, digital elevation models and other ancillary data such as digital soil maps soil erosion susceptibility and hazard maps can be assessed at such scales. It addresses several challenging issues: Which spatial data can be used relevantly at a coarse resolution? How the temporal aspect has to be include (seasonal rainfall distribution?). How to deal with different erosion processes? How, for example, a distinction between gully erosion and landsliding can be made? Which representative areas have to be targeted to validate the predicted results?

Initial results on well documented areas will be presented.