

CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR HEALTHY SOIL IN MEDITERRANEAN LANDS

SOIL4LIFE WEBINAR



soil4life
What is essential is invisible to the eye



Webinar Soil4Life

25 November, 11h - 13h

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XCN
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25 november

PROGRAMME

11.00h - 11.20h Welcome and introduction

Ms. Sandra Carrera - Director of XCN

Dani Cornellà Detrell, Spokesman for the parliamentary group in the Climate Action Committee of the Parliament of Catalonia

(*to be confirmed)

11.05h - 11.15h The European project Soil4life. The position paper "Halting and reversing the degradation of soil in Europe: a priority for the European Green Deal"

Mr. Damiano Di Simine - Representative of Soil4Life

11.15 h - 11.25h Healthy Soil for a healthy life: the European Union and the challenge of land degradation neutrality

Mr. Luca Montanarella - Joint Research Center, European Commission

11.25h - 11.40h The urban overdevelopment of the Catalan coastline

The Catalan coast is in a limited situation: 43.3% of the population of Catalonia lives in coastal municipalities that represent 6.7% of the Catalan territory, where a very important part of the country's economic activity is concentrated. Eighty-one percent of the coastal strip is urbanized and there are plans to build 120,000 more houses.

Given this unsustainable situation of real estate and urban development pressure on the land, it is essential to find ways of preserving and adapting the land to this biophysical and socio-economic reality and to ensure the sustainability of the Catalan coast.

Mr. Sergi Nuss - Representative of SOS Costa Brava



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11.40h - 11.55h A new tool for the protection of the Catalan coastline: The creation of the *Conservatori del Litoral*

The *Llei de protecció i ordenació del Litoral* (July 2020) established the mandate for the Government of the *Generalitat de Catalunya* to create, within one year, the *Conservatori del Litoral de Catalunya*. This is a specific agency with coastal planning and management functions, provided with the competences and resources to take the necessary measures to conserve and restore the coastline.

Mr. Arnau Queralt - Director of Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (CADS)

11.55h - 12.10h The degradation of the agricultural land by an unsustainable renewable energy model

There is currently an increasing concentration of renewable energy projects in agricultural and natural sites of high ecological value, mostly located in the south of Catalonia (Tarragona area). This fact is producing a great environmental and social impact in terms of soil conservation. This situation clearly goes against the directives of Law 16/2017, on climate change, which establishes that renewable energies must be developed, as a priority, in areas that have already been altered by human activity.

Ms. Marta Josa - Representative of Grup d'Estudi i Protecció dels Ecosistemes Catalans (GEPEC)

12.10h - 12.25h The role of livestock in soil restoration and conservation

In the Mediterranean context, herbivores were and are essential to keep our soils alive. The grazing cattle fulfill this function as herbivores through their mouthfuls, their footsteps and their feces full of life that make the soil function as what it is, a complex ecosystem. At the El Baldío farm, owned by Fundación Global Nature (FGN), they work with livestock as a tool for the recovery of our soils.

Ms. Laura García Pierna - Representative of Global Nature Foundation

12.25h- 12.50h Soil and land protection in Mediterranean coastal areas

Degradation and urbanization continue to erode a unique and invaluable elements of the European landscape and its fragile ecosystems. Witnesses and experiences: towards a European coalition for the conservation and regeneration of Mediterranean coasts and coastal areas?

Mr. Edoardo Zanchini, representative of Legambiente, and Ms. Dušica Radojic, representative of Green Istria

12.50h - 13.00h Conclusion and closing

Ms. Cristina Sánchez - President of XCN

Moderator of the meeting: Ms. Anabel Cepas Gil - Project coordinator and legal advisor of XCN

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