

# ROOTED IN RESILIENCE

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Built on its rich history and expertise in Earth, Ecological, and Water Sciences, and leveraging its networks of Global Geoparks, Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage sites, and ecohydrology demonstration sites, **UNESCO calls for a global reflection on the nexus of soils, biodiversity, landscape, and water.**

## Unearthing the importance of soil in Sustainable Development

Key discussions will focus on integrated landscape management, land restoration techniques, combating desertification, and increasing soil resilience to drought and floods. Additionally, the conference will delve into the interdependencies of soil and groundwater, indigenous soil management practices, and the cultural dimensions of soil sciences.

## AGENDA

**8h30-9h** Registration

**9h-9h20** Opening of the Conference

- **Ms Latifa Yaacoubi**, Director General of the Agence Nationale pour le Développement des Zones Oasiennes et de l'Arganier (ANDZOA), President of the MAB Morocco Committee
- **Ms Lidia Brito**, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

**9h20-9h45** Keynote Lecture: **Soil health in the face of global climate change – challenges and opportunities**

- **Dr Rachid Moussadek**, Senior Scientist INRA – ICARDA Morocco and Chair of the Global Soils Partnership MENA region

### Theme 1: Soils & biodiversity - Chaired by Mr Abderrahmane Ait Lhaj, ANDZOA

**9h45** **Prof. Helena Freitas**, UNESCO Global Chair in Biodiversity & Conservation for Sustainable Development, MAB ICC Council, University of Coimbra, Portugal

**10h05** **Prof. Liette Vasseur**, UNESCO Chair in Community Sustainability: From Local to Global, Brock University, Canada

**10h25** **Dr. Natalia Rodriguez Eugenio**, Global Soil Partnership, Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy

**10h45-11h** COFFEE BREAK

## **Theme 2: Soils at the heart of integrated landscape management - Chaired by Mr Adeshola Olatunde Adepoju, Outgoing MAB ICC Chair**

**11h** **Dr. Edoardo A.C. Costantini**, President of International Union of Soils Sciences, Italy

**11h20** **Ms Christine Magaju**, Research Associate at the Center for International Forestry Research – World Agroforestry, Kenya

**11h40** **Prof. Abdelkader Larabi**, Université Mohammed V of Rabat, Director of the Regional Water Centre of Maghreb, Morocco

**12h-13h30** **LUNCH**

## **Theme 3: Education and literacy in soil science - Chaired by Ms Francesca Bampa, Project Officer Science for UNESCO Regional Office Venice**

**13h30** **Dr. Tobias Fischer**, TERRA.vita UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany

**13h50** **Mr Stephan Mantel**, Head of World Soil Museum, Kingdom of the Netherlands

**14h10** **Ms María de Lourdes Dehesa Sánchez**, FAO Soil Doctors programme, Mexico

**14h30-14h50** **COFFEE BREAK**

## **Synthesis of identified needs roadmap for UNESCO Global Soil and Biodiversity Initiative - Moderated by Nesrine Slaoui, Master of Ceremony**

- 14h50**
- **Mr Abderrahmane Ait Lhaj**, Head of Research Support, l'Agence Nationale pour le Développement des Zones Oasiennes et de l'Arganier (ANDZOA)
  - **Prof Adeshola Olatunde Adepoju**, Outgoing MAB ICC Chair, Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria
  - **Dr Francesca Bampa**, Project Officer Science for UNESCO Regional Office Venice

**15h20-15h35** **Taskiwin dance show**

## **Closing remarks - Moderated by Nesrine Slaoui, Master of Ceremony**

- 15h35**
- **H.E. Mohamed Sadiki**, Minister of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forestry, Morocco
  - **Audrey Azoulay**, Director General of UNESCO

**16h15** **Group Photo**

**16h20** **Refreshments**