



wageningen soil conference  
SOIL SCIENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY  
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# Soil Science in a Changing World

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23–27 AUGUST

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PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACT BOOK

## NEW GRIDDED DATA SETS FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES — WISE30SEC AND SOILGRIDS

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ISRIC – World Soil Information (WDC-Soils), The Netherlands

There is a growing demand for quality-assessed soil information in support of studies of environmental, societal and economic sustainability. Nonetheless, soil remains one of the least well described data in global land models and uncertainties remain large. To address this gap, with (inter)national partners, ISRIC is developing a range of derived soil products that take into consideration differences in user needs. This work is underpinned by a growing selection of quality-assessed, geo-referenced soil profiles that are managed in ISRIC's centralised database (WoSIS); both conventional and digital soil mapping approaches are being developed. The former consider the soil-geographical delineations of the Harmonised World Soil Database (HWSD) and taxotransfer procedures that draw on statistical analyses of harmonised soil profiles held in WoSIS. Unlike the HWSD, the forthcoming WISE30sec<sup>a</sup> product will include estimates of the uncertainty in the predictions (mean  $\pm$  std) for 7 layers up to 2m depth. Complementary to these efforts, major progress has been made with the development and implementation of the Global Soil Information Facilities (GSIF), a framework for collaborative digital soil mapping. The initial global product (SoilGrids1km)<sup>b</sup> drew on analytical data for ~110,000 soil profiles and ~75 covariate layers representing soil-forming factors; global regression models were used to predict property estimates (mean and 90%-interval) to 2m depth. Subsequently, for Africa, predictions have been generated with significantly higher accuracy and spatial detail (SoilGrids250m)<sup>c</sup>. As GSIF serves as a framework for collating/harmonising soil data it allows for regular updates of world soil information, at user-defined resolutions (from 250m to 50km), using increasingly large data sets and evolving models. The international community can help to **improve the methodologies and products by submitting validation reports, sharing additional geo-referenced soil profile and covariate data and by expanding the present range of models, thus sharing ownership.**

<sup>a</sup> <http://www.isric.org/projects/world-inventory-soil-emission-potentials-wise>

<sup>b</sup> <http://www.isric.org/content/soilgrids>

<sup>c</sup> <http://www.isric.org/content/next-generation-soil-information-system-africa-250-m-resolution-published>



# New gridded data sets for global sustainability studies

## (WISE30sec and SoilGrids)

Niels Batjes, Jorge Mendes de Jesus, Gerard Heuvelink, Eloi Carvalho  
Ribeiro, Bas Kempen, Johan Leenaars, Tom Hengl, Maria Ruiperez  
Gonzalez, Ad van Oostrum, and Rik van den Bosch



World Soil Information

*Session: "Optimizing soil information services for solving global issues"*  
*Wageningen Soil Conference 2015 ( 23-27 August 2015)*



2015  
International  
Year of Soils





# SOIL IS A NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE



2015  
International  
Year of Soils

It is the **basis** for



food



feed



medicines



ecosystem  
services



fuel

2050

## THE CHALLENGE

**global population**



will exceed **9 billion**



**increased  
demand for healthier  
and nutritious food**  
will only be met if



**agricultural  
production**  
increases



**Soils are  
under pressure  
of intensification  
and competing uses of  
forestry, cropping,  
pasture & urbanization**



**GLOBAL SOIL  
PARTNERSHIP**

# SAVING OUR SOILS



## sustainable soil management

increasing **soil organic matter** content

keeping soil surface **vegetated**

using **nutrients** wisely

promoting **crop rotations**

reducing **erosion**

can lead to an average **crop yield increase** of

**58%**



inclusive **policies and governance**



investment in **sustainable soil management**



targeted soil **research**



stopping soil **degradation** & restoring degraded soils



effective **education & extension programmes**



soil **information systems**

This talk

*ISRIC mission:*

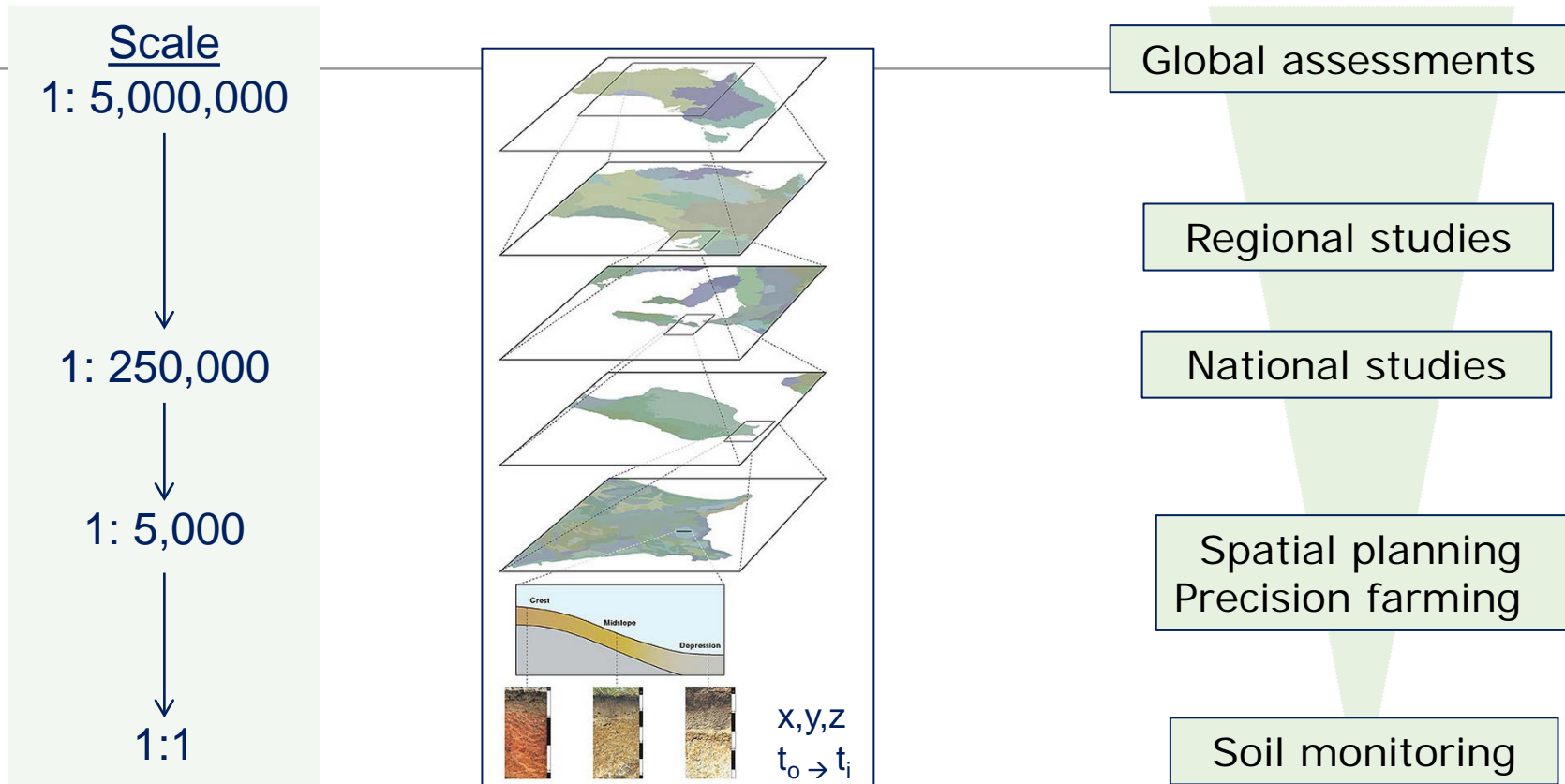
*“To serve the international community with information about the world’s soil resources to help addressing major global issues”*

*Three priority areas:*

- *soil data and soil mapping*
- *application of soil data in global development issues*
- *training and education*



# User needs vary at different scales/resolutions



*'There is no magic single resolution that serves all purposes'*  
(HarvestChoice, 2011)



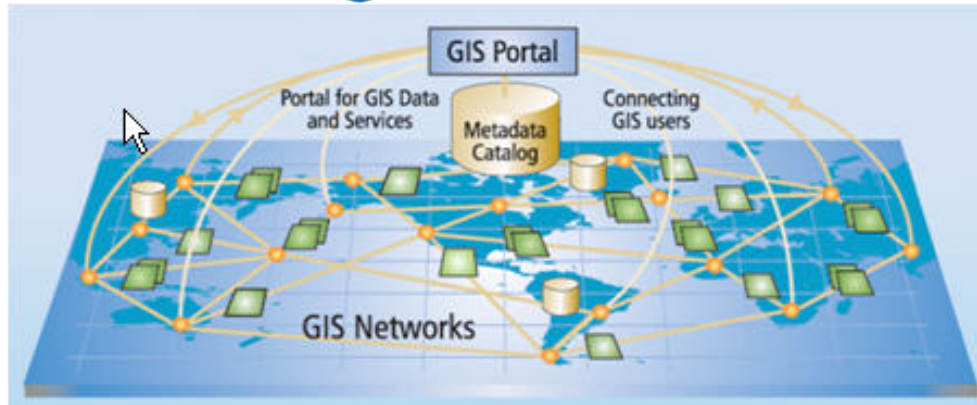
World Soil Information



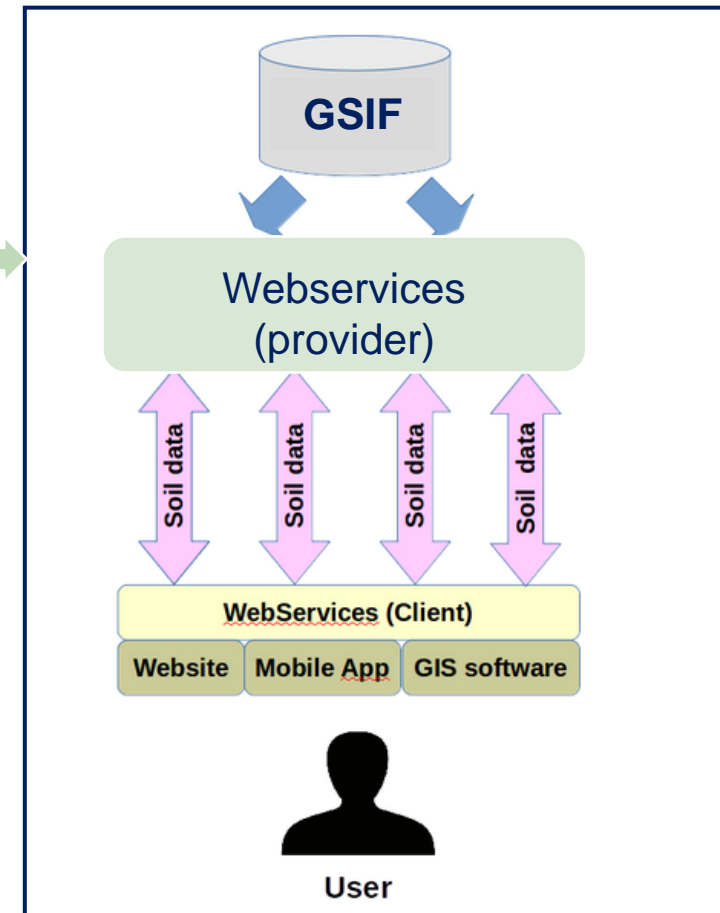


# Towards global web services

**GEO** GROUP ON  
EARTH OBSERVATIONS



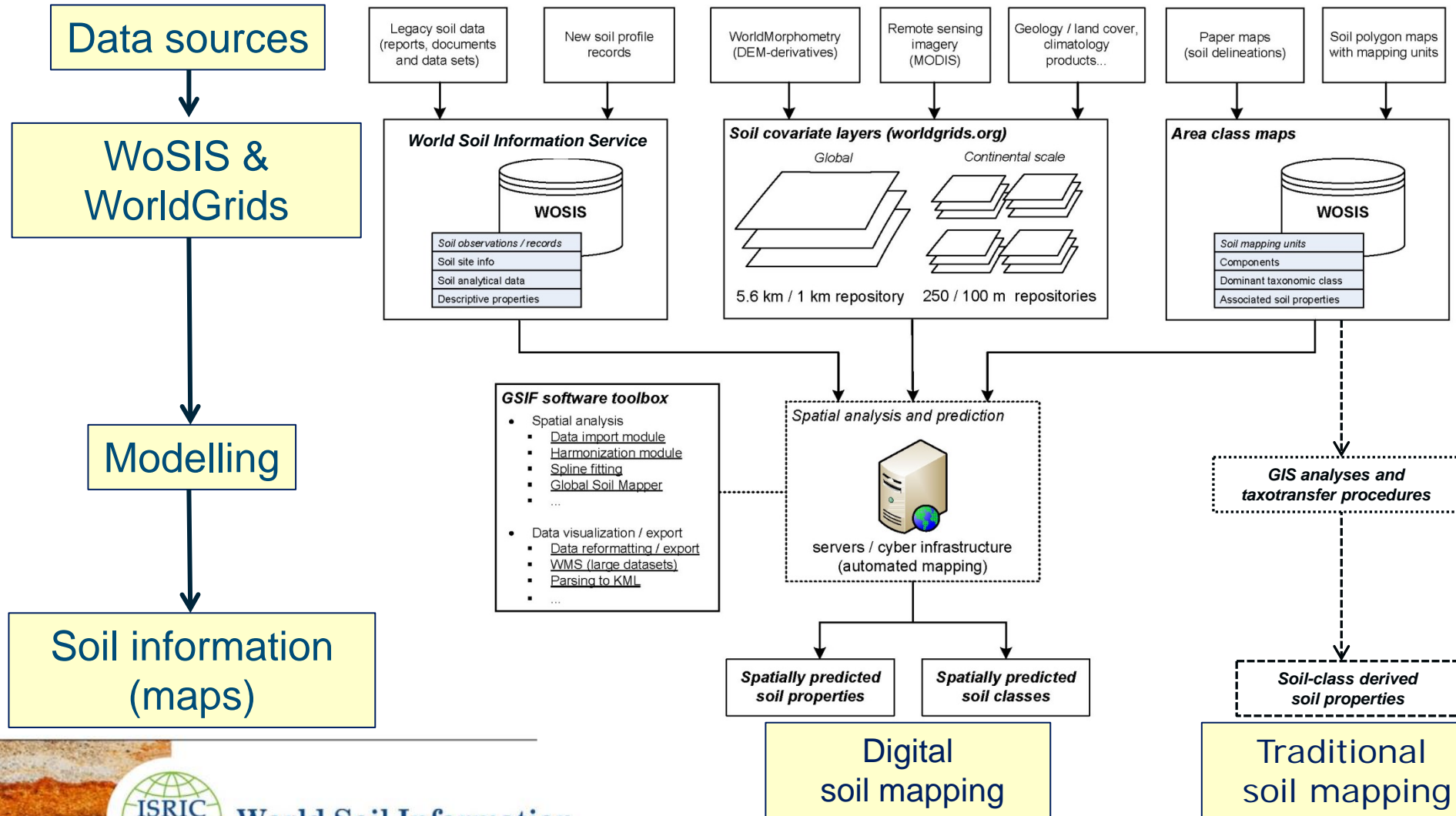
*Decision makers and managers must have access to the information they need, when they need it, and in a format they can use (GEO, 2010)*



**GSIF** – Global Soil Information Facilities

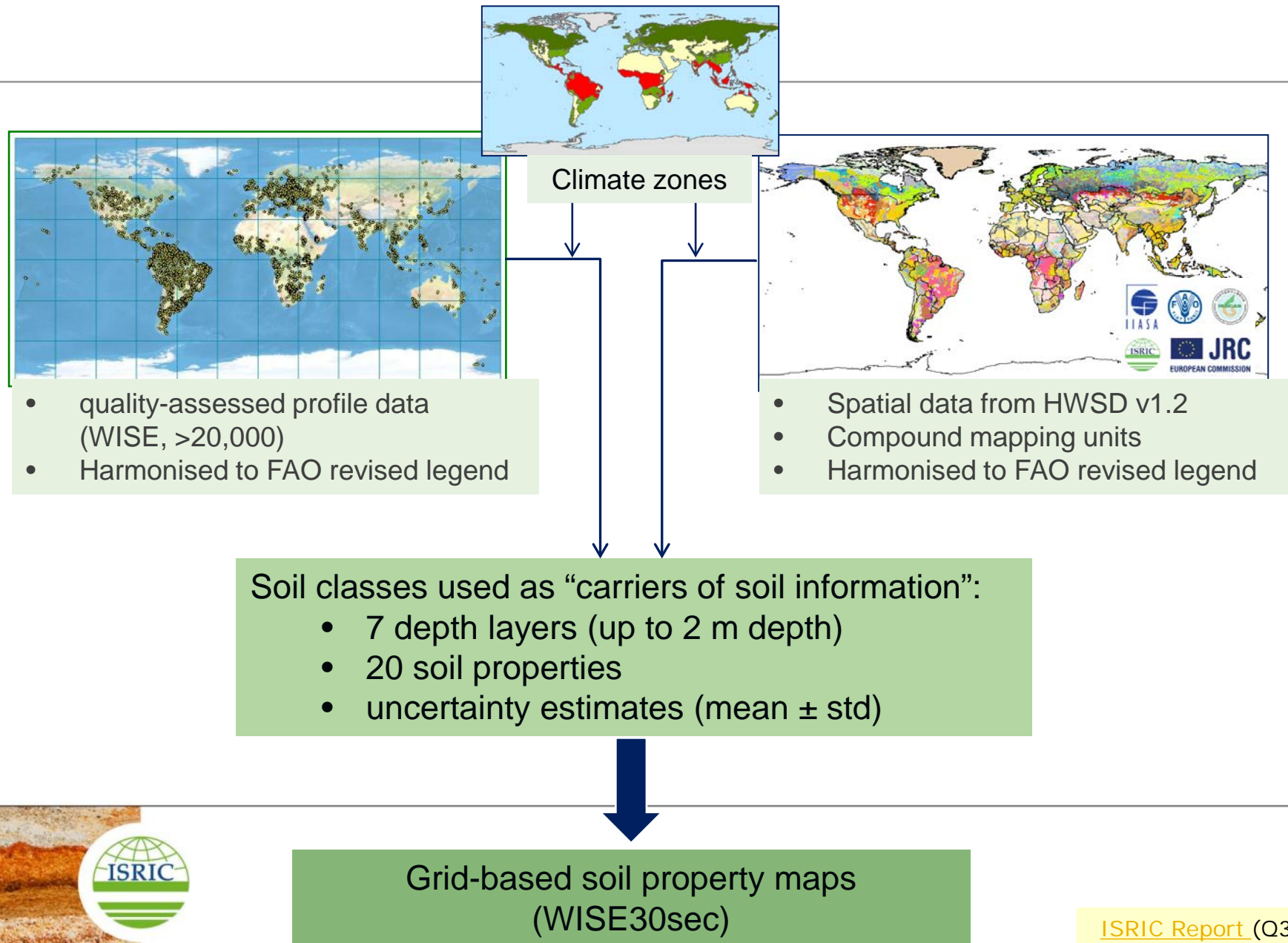
‘A framework for processing of soil data and information’ (Hengl et al.)

# GSIF - Global Soil Information Facilities





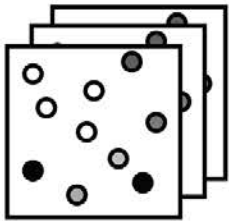
# Traditional soil mapping



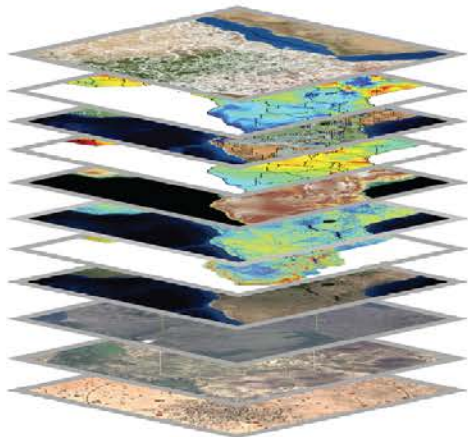
# Digital Soil Mapping (SoilGrids)

## Geo-Data

Soil profile  
measurements

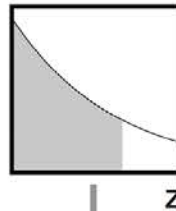


Covariates



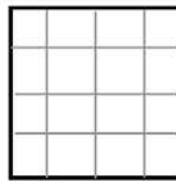
## Model specifications

Mass/Depth integrating function(s)



z

y

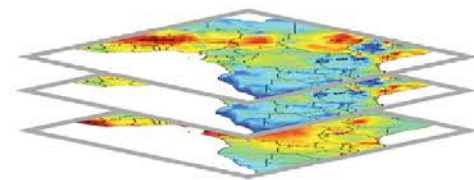


x

Scaling/Spatial function(s)

## 3-D predictions

Soil properties



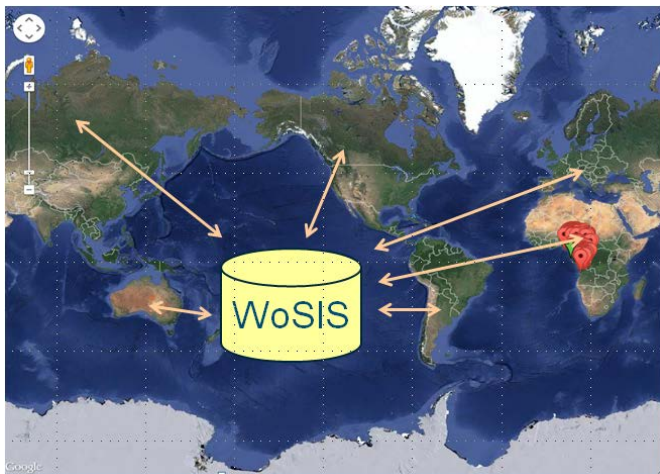
Layer 1  
Layer 2  
...

Africa Soil Information Service  
AfricaSoils.net



‘apply statistical models to predict soil functional properties at unobserved locations in the landscape’

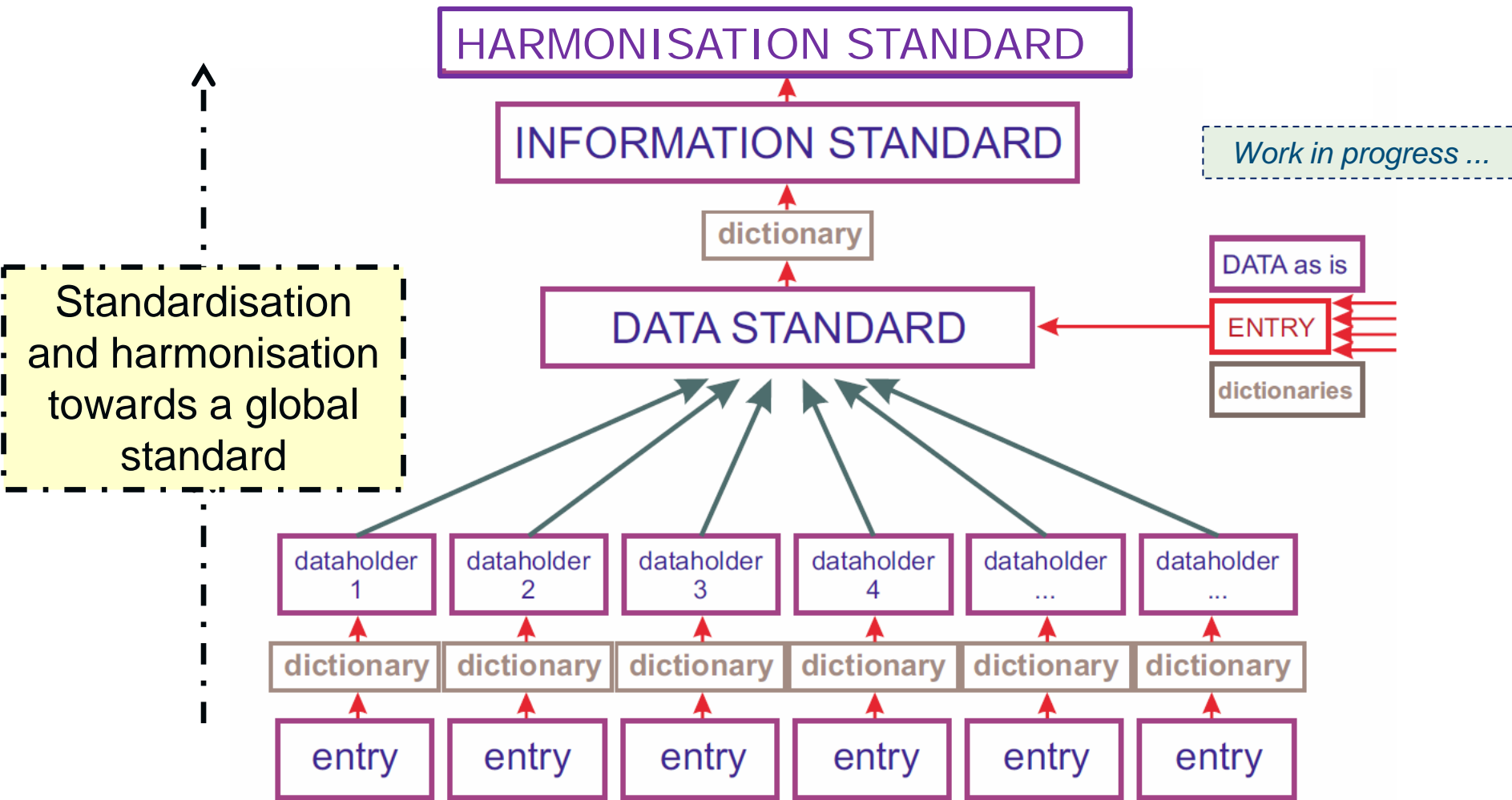
# Geo-DATA: Soil profile measurements



- Draws on soil profile data provided by a wide range of international partners
- Not all profile data are freely accessible due to inherited restrictions (licences)
- Access rights and lineage are managed in WoSIS (v2.0 *in prep.*)



# WoSIS - World Soil Information Service



World Soil Information

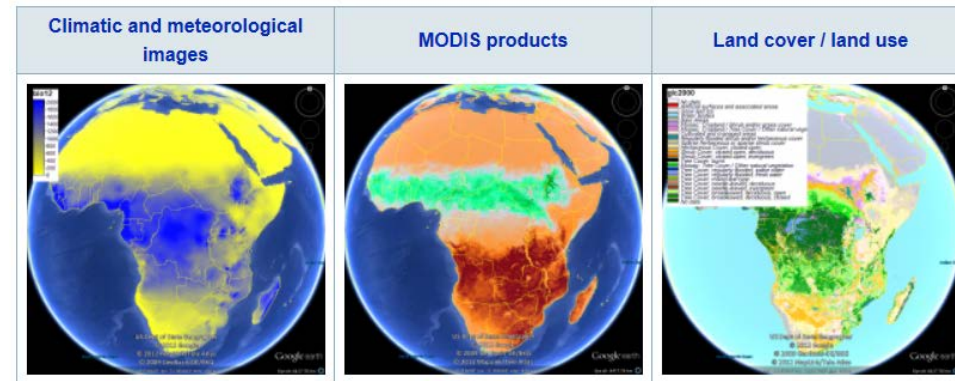
Ribeiro et al., in prep.



# Geo-DATA: Co-variate layers

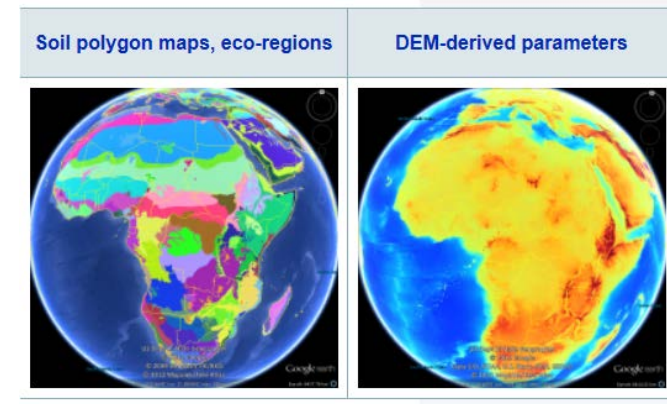
- Represent soil forming factors (Jenny, 1941):

- Climate
- Organisms (biology)
- Relief (hydrology)
- Parent material (rock etc.)
- Time

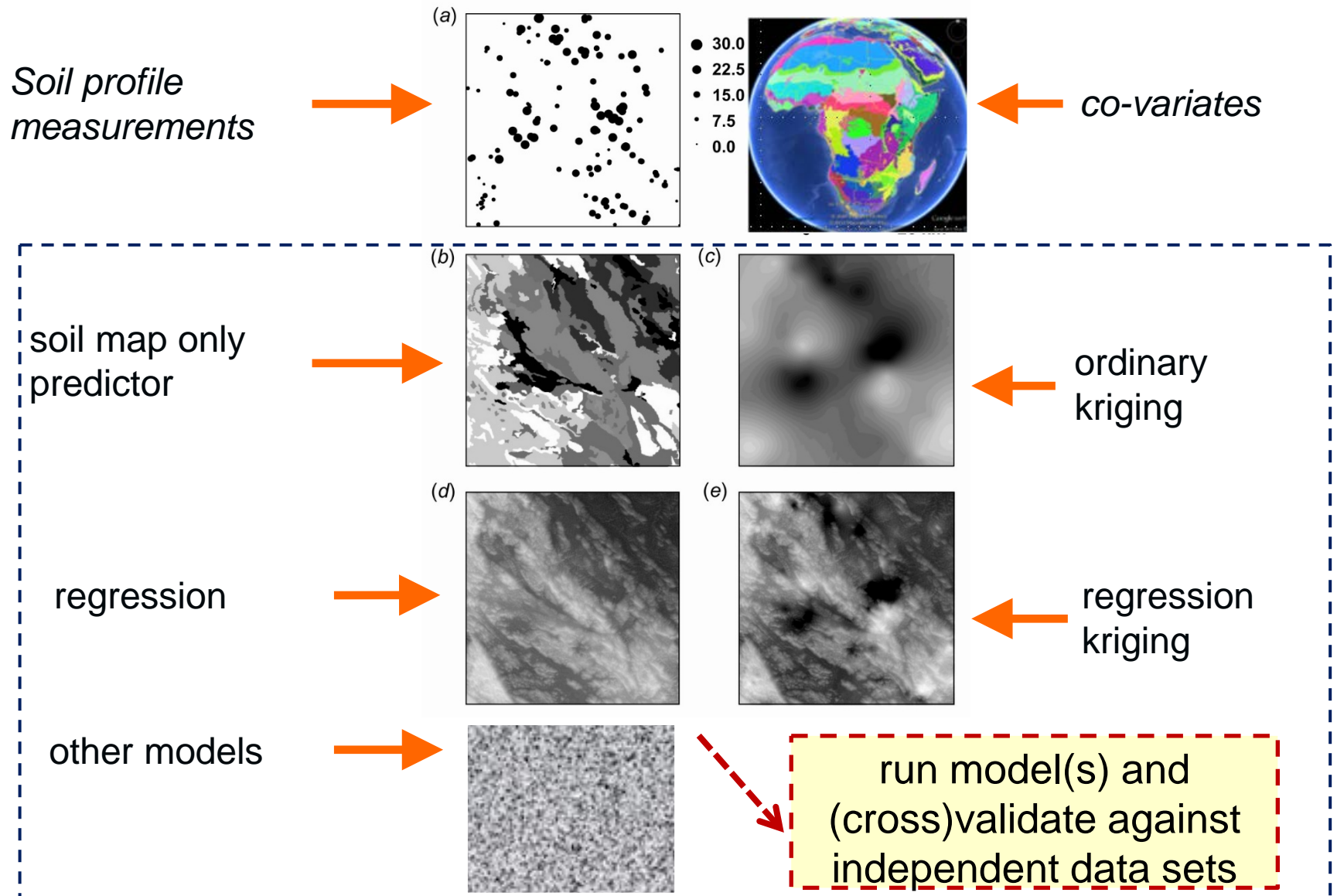


- Managed in portal:

- *WorldGrids.org*
- Standardized format: 1 km resolution
- So far ~ 80 layers



# Model specifications: Fit model(s)





# Soil properties

## Six Depths

0 - 5 cm

5 - 15 cm

15 - 30 cm

30 - 60 cm

60-100 cm

100-200 cm

Depth to bedrock  
and  
Effective depth

Data specifications: [www.globalsoilmap.net](http://www.globalsoilmap.net)



## SoilGrids1km (*so far*)

### Organic Carbon (ORCDRC)

19

Soil organic carbon (fine earth fraction) in permilles (g/kg)

≡ ORCDRC 0-5cm (mean)

#### Depths available

≡ 0-5cm

≡ 5-15cm

≡ 15-30cm

≡ 30-60cm

≡ 60-100cm

≡ 100-200cm

pH in H2O (PHIHOX)

19

Sand % (SNDPPT)

19

Silt % (SLTPPT)

19

Clay % (CLYPPT)

19

Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)

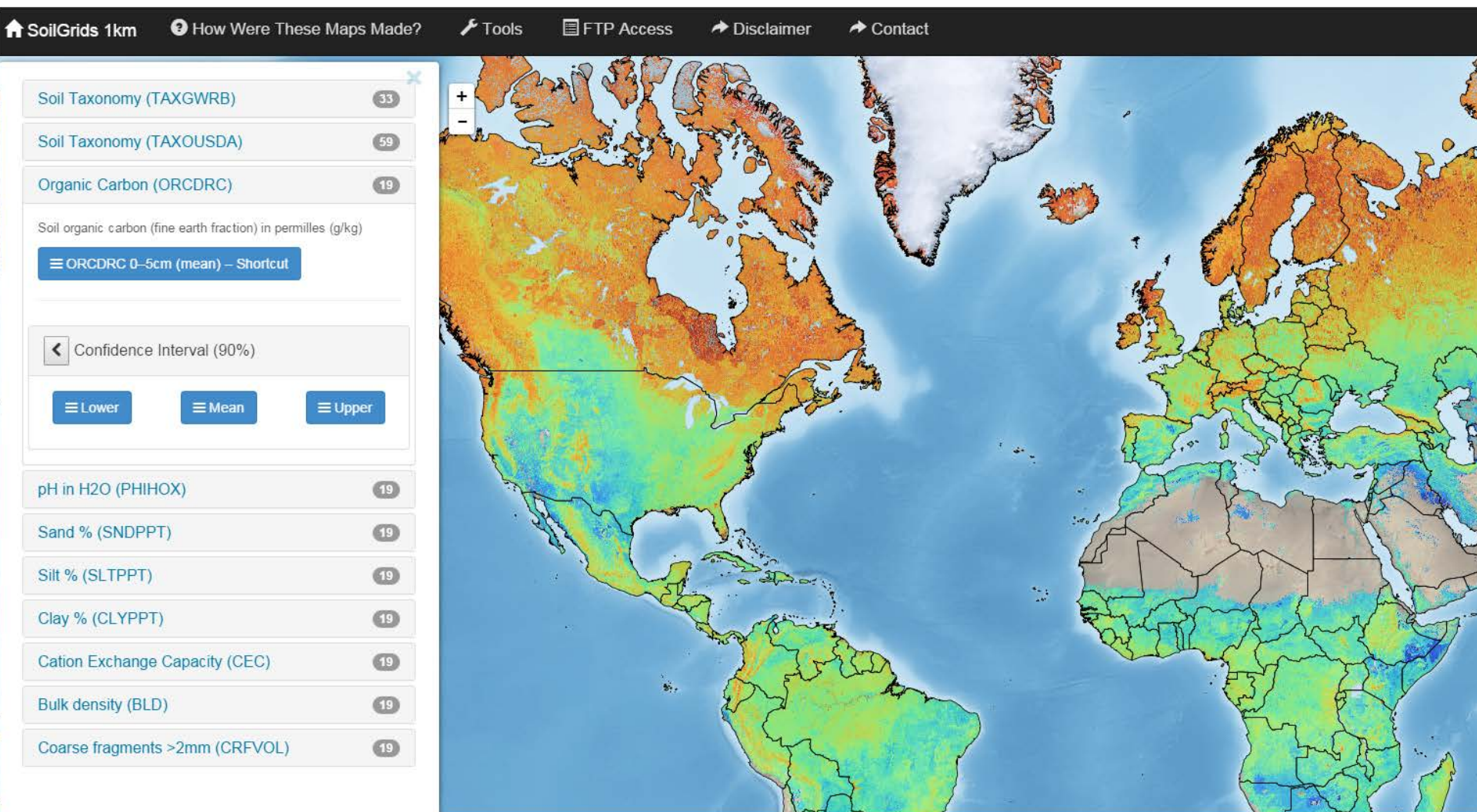
19

Bulk density (BLD)

19

*This list will grow in future SoilGrids releases...*

# SoilGrids1km (30x30 arcsec)



World Soil Information

<http://soilgrids1km.isric.org/>

Hengl T. et al. (2014) SoilGrids1km — Global Soil Information Based on Automated Mapping. [PLoS ONE 9\(8\): e105992](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0105992)

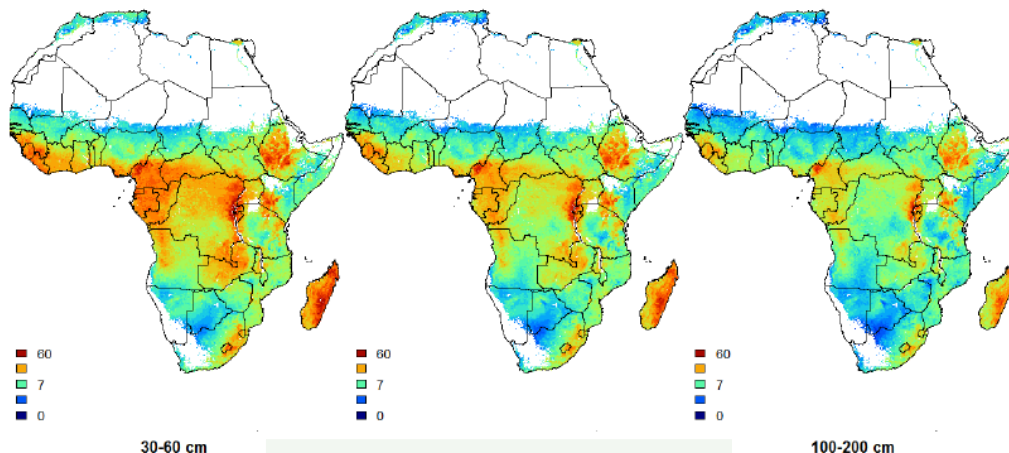


# Updating SoilGrids: From 1km to 250m

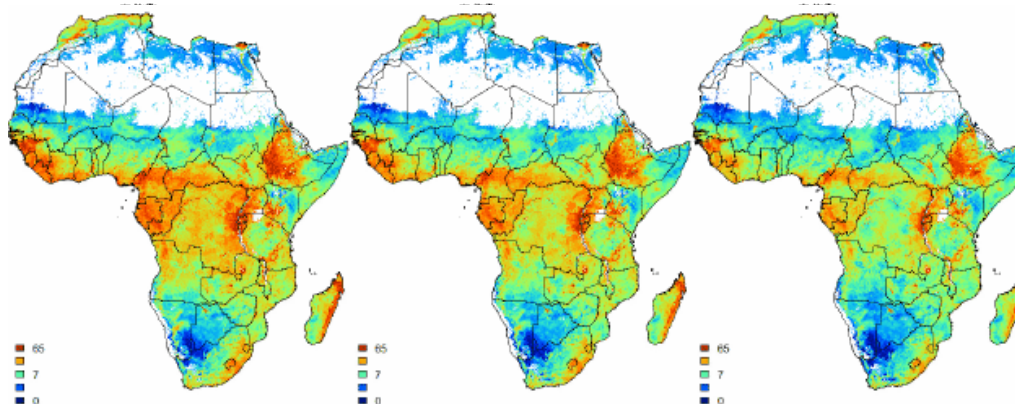
9 soil  
properties



20 soil  
properties



Soil organic carbon



## AfSoilGrids1km

- ~10,000 profiles
- linear regression  
(ISRIC, 2013)



## AfSoilGrids250m

- ~ 25,000 profiles
- Random forests  
and regression-  
kriging  
(Hengl et al., 2015)

PLoS ONE 2015,10(6): e0125814. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0125814

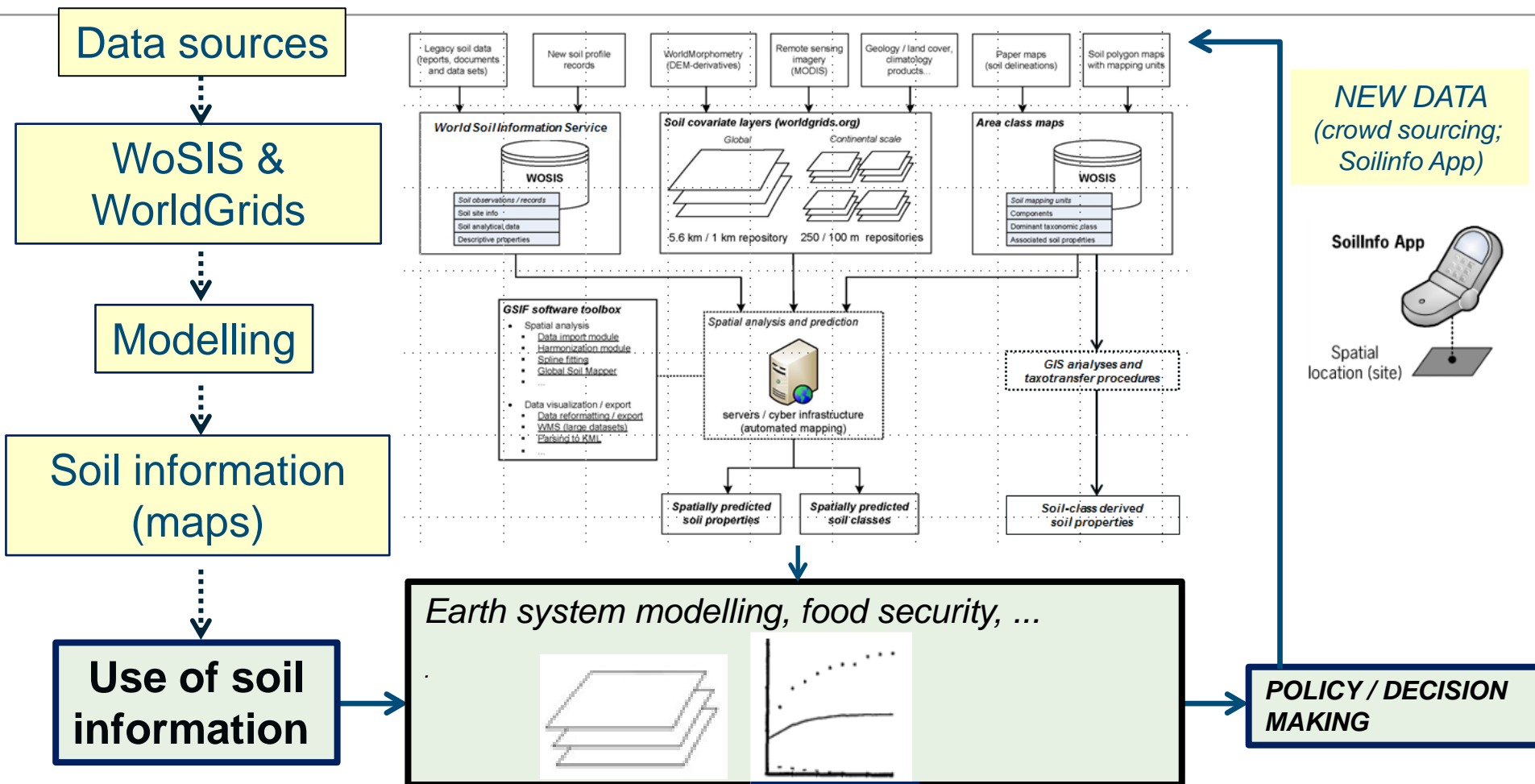


Africa Soil Information Service  
AfricaSoils.net

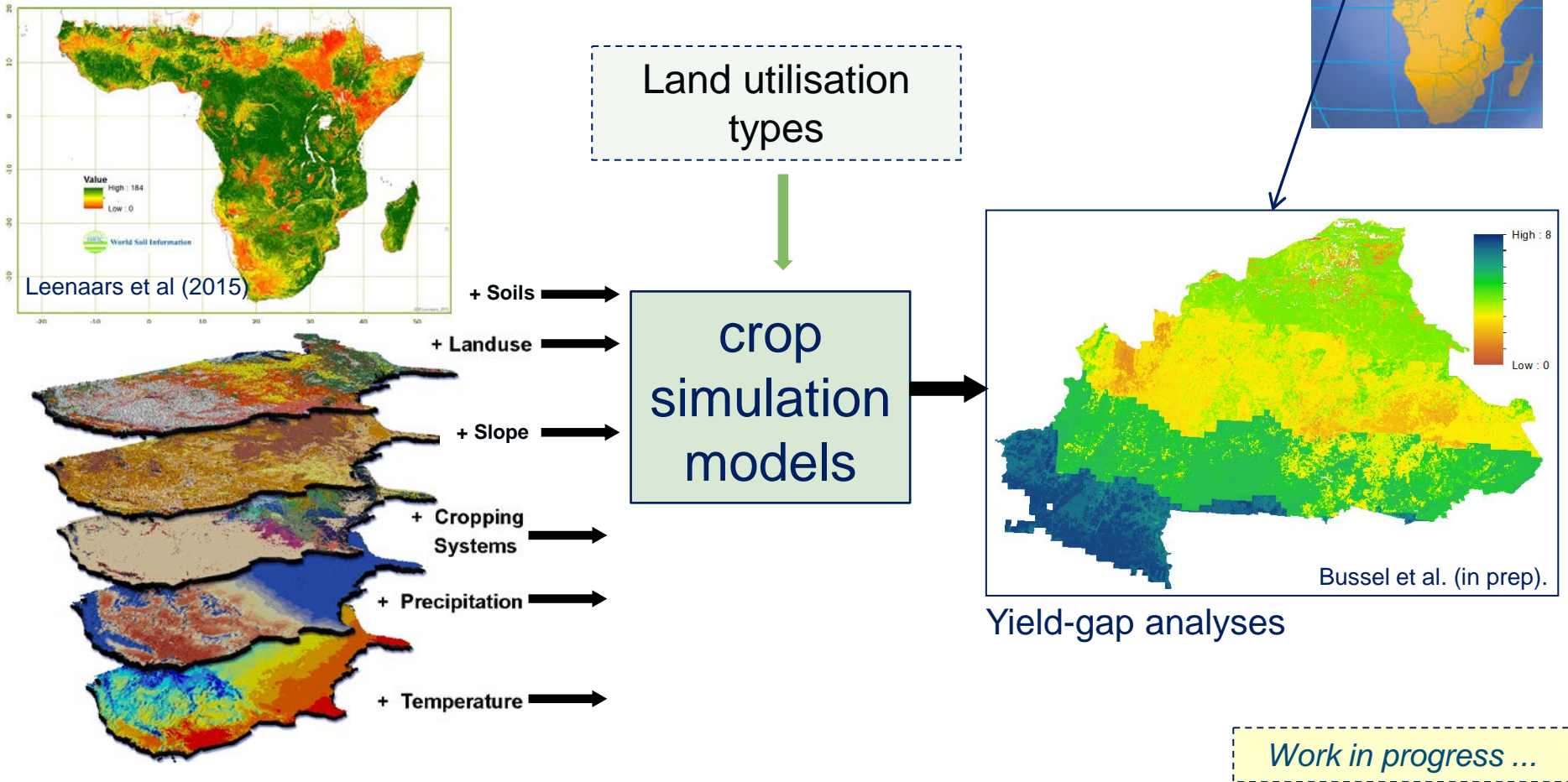




# Use of soil information



# Use of soil information (national scale): Crop production potential (SoilGrids)



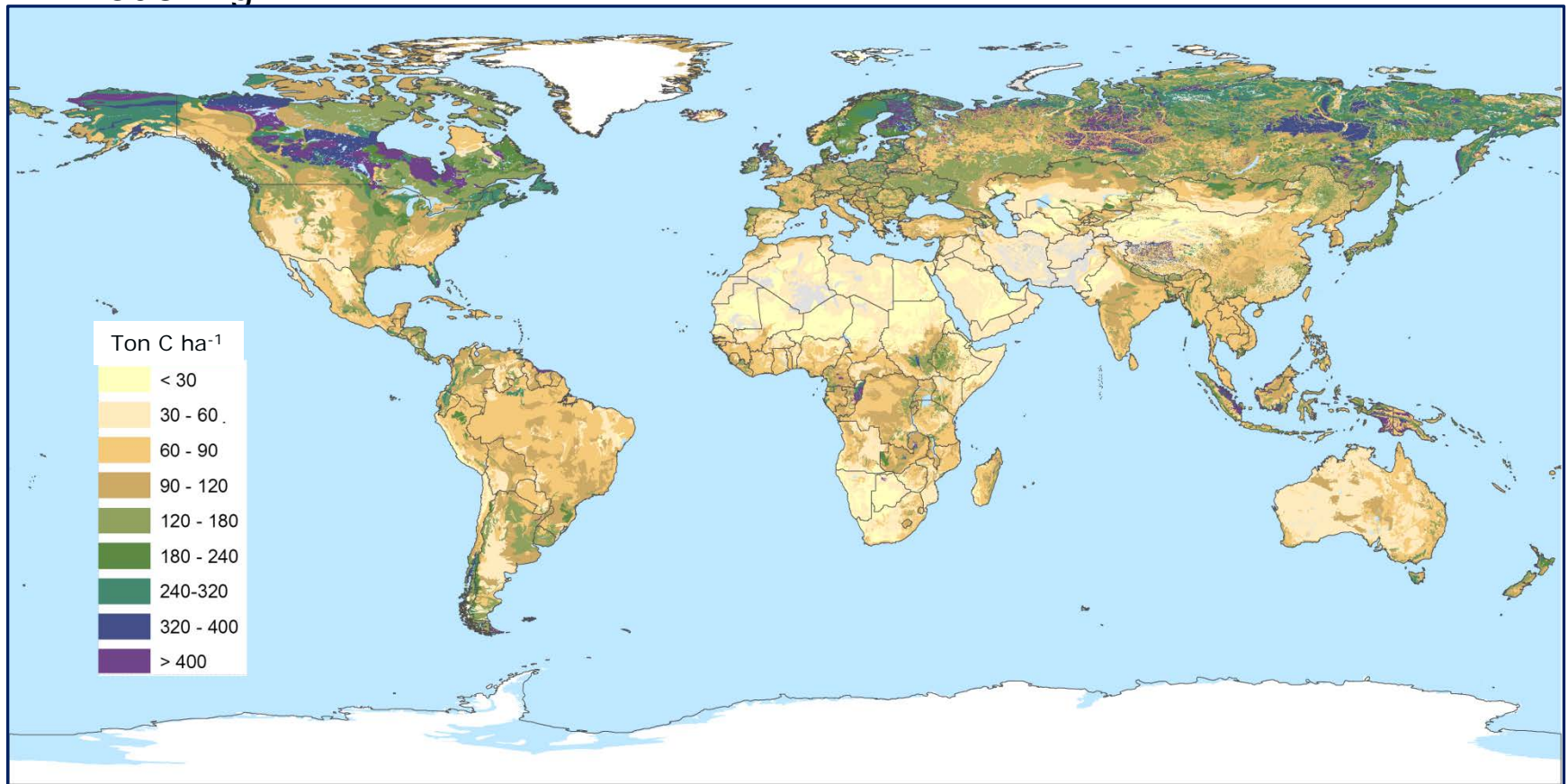
Africa Soil Information Service  
AfricaSoils.net



# Use of soil information (global scale):

## Global organic carbon stocks (WISE30sec)

- Some 30% of the global SOC stock to 2 m ( $2060 \pm 215$  Pg C) is held in the Northern Circumpolar Region
- Potentially, large GHG emissions upon global warming → Earth system modelling



\* SOC stocks to 1 m depth

Batjes (2015, submitted)



# Concluding remarks

- The soil science community should ensure that soil information can be utilized to take effective measures at the desired scales
- In partnership, ISRIC has developed GSIF as a framework for collating, harmonising and analysing world soil data
- The system allows for regular updates of world soil information at user-defined resolutions (from 250m to 50km)
- The international community can help to improve the methodologies and products by submitting validation reports, sharing additional geo-referenced soil profile and covariate data, and by expanding the present range of models, thus sharing ownership



World Soil Information



Further information: [www.isric.org](http://www.isric.org)



**World Soil Information**

2015  
International  
Year of Soils

