



GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE

A SCIENTIFIC EFFORT

Press Release

For immediate release

September 18, 2020

From the Secretariat of the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative

GSBI joins European Commission's Global Coalition for Biodiversity

With one week to the UN Summit on Biodiversity, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI) today unites with other organizations (WAZA, Ecsite, EAZA, CETAF, Eurosite, Europarc, and BCGI) in support the European Commission's Global Coalition for Biodiversity (ec-biodiversity-coalition@ec.europa.eu). Launched in March 2020, the Coalition calls on museums, parks, and research institutions to join forces in raising an alarm about the nature crisis. By becoming an official supporter of the Coalition, we invite our community of more than 4,000 international scientific members to raise awareness about soil biodiversity.

We depend on soil biodiversity daily for the food we eat, the air we breathe, clean water, nutrient cycling, flood control, and a multitude of other services. *All life on earth requires biological diversity for our survival and livelihood.* In this spirit, we support the EC's call for immediate action by governments, institutions, and the private sector to recognize the crisis of biodiversity loss and to take decisive action in conserving and re-establishing biodiverse communities, on which we all rely to live sustainably.

The GSBI seeks to promote expert knowledge on the estimated 25% of biodiversity of the world that exists solely in soils for the benefit of environmental policies that sustain, protect, and enhance soil biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides, such as carbon storage, water purification, biocontrol of pathogens and pests, and soil fertility. The GSBI's goals and concerns about growing threats to soils and soil biodiversity, such as climate change, land use change, and desertification, align with the goals and common pledge adopted by the Coalition "United for #Biodiversity", which cited the IPBES Global Assessment's finding that 1 million species are already at risk of extinction. The GSBI joins the EC's efforts to increase public awareness of the biodiversity crisis and raise the alarm that urgent measures to protect and restore biodiversity, including soil biodiversity, are needed as an outcome of the COP-15 of the Convention of Biological Diversity in China 2021.

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