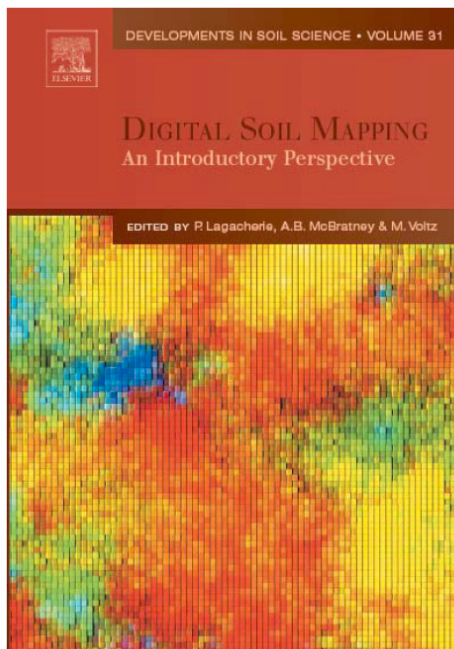


**REPORT OF THE IUSS WORKING GROUP ON  
DIGITAL SOIL MAPPING  
(WG-DSM)**

2004/5-2006

*[under the auspices of Commissions 1.2 & 1.5]*

This Working Group was provisionally established by the IUSS Council in mid-2005 in response to a request written by Alex. McBratney with the generous support of the Chairs of Commission 1.2 (Reinhold Jahn), Commission 1.5 (Gerard Heuvelink) and Division 1 (Ahmet Mermut).



The request to IUSS Council was an agreed outcome of the First Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping held in Montpellier in September 2004. That should be regarded as the first major activity of the Working Group. The Montpellier workshop formally instituted a new definitive subject area in applied soil science – a new concept to meet the world demand for spatial soil data. The meeting attracted some 100 researchers from 16 countries. The outcomes of the Workshop will appear as:- Lagacherie, P., McBratney, A.B., Voltz, M., (eds) 2006. *Digital Soil Mapping: An Introductory Perspective*. Developments in Soil Science, Volume 31. Elsevier, Amsterdam. 350pp.

I would like to express the gratitude of the Working Group to Drs Philippe Lagacherie & Marc Voltz and INRA for their organisation and support of this Workshop.

At the time of writing, we are in the finishing stages of organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Workshop on Digital Soil Mapping to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 4-7, 2006, immediately prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> WCSS. There are 75 registered participants from 17 countries. This workshop is focusing on ‘*digital soil mapping for countries with limited spatial data infrastructures*’. I would like to express the gratitude of the Working Group to Dr Maria de Lourdes Mendonça Santos and EMBRAPA Solos for their organisation and support of this Workshop.

In addition to these activities, the Working Group has a very active website ([www.digitalsoilmapping.org](http://www.digitalsoilmapping.org)). On behalf of the Working Group, I would like to thank

our webmaster Dr Thorsten Behrens of the University of Tübingen, Germany who has done so much to make this a success.

The planned activities for the 2006-2010 quadrennium include a Workshop on High-Resolution Digital Soil Sensing & Mapping to be held in Sydney, Australia 5-8 February 2008 (and posted under Upcoming Meetings on the IUSS website, [www.iuss.org](http://www.iuss.org)), a joint meeting with SSSA (date to be decided), another general workshop, and a symposium at the 19<sup>th</sup> WCSS in Brisbane, Australia.

Election of officers (Chair and Secretary) will be held during the Rio Workshop. Dr Alfred Hartemink, Deputy Secretary-General, has agreed to act as Returning Officer and to communicate the names of the elected office bearers to the IUSS Council.

An update on activities will be given at the Business Meeting of the Working Group to be held at the 18th World Congress of Soil Science in Philadelphia. The meeting will take place on Thursday 13th July between 5 pm and 6 pm in the Convention Centre Room 102B. The meeting will discuss recent progress and plans for the forthcoming four years.

The Working Group requests the IUSS Council to give due consideration to granting DSM-WG full Working Group status forthwith.

*Alex. McBratney  
Provisional Chair  
c/- EMBRAPA Solos  
Jardim Botânico  
Rio de Janeiro  
RJ  
Brazil*

*26th June 2006*

on behalf of the (provisional) DSM Working Group

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