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Proposal to Establish an International Committee on Soil Taxonomy
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Overview

In order to continue improvement in Soil Taxonomy and broaden interests and global application, an International Committee on Soil Taxonomy (ICOMTAX) is proposed to actively promote participation from the international community.
Purpose

- Review proposed amendments to Soil Taxonomy referred by the National Leader for Soil Survey Standards which have international application and impact
- Recommend acceptance, suggest modification, or rejection the proposed amendments
- Provide analysis of scope and impact of the proposed amendment to the NL-Standards
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Member Composition

- US (NCSS) and International Soil Scientists
- Include the recognized international leaders and experts in soil classification systems
- Represent the broad diversity of soil landscapes, climates, land uses, and cultures of the 6 inhabited continents
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Structure
- Permanent Standing Committee of the Director, SSD
- 9 to 15 members (1/3 US; 2/3 foreign)
- 3 year rotating membership for at-large members
- Some appointed membership based upon position
- Officers include Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, etc.
- Members nominated from NCSS, IUSS, SSSA, and other country professional societies/organizations
- Selection by the Director of the SSD and/or IUSS
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Make-up of Committee (from the US)

- National Leader for World Soil Resources, SSD
- Lead US Soil Taxonomist, NSSC, Standards Branch
- NCSS Partner/University Representative (2 - 3)
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Make-up of Committee (outside US)

- Member representing key countries (3-4)
- Members representing a region/continent (6)
- Members representing international soil societies and organizations including SSSA, IUSS (2-3)
- Leader representing other national or international soil classification systems (2-3)
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Operation

- Operate continuously, conduct reviews as needed
- Most business conducted via email and by phone
- Data and discussions shared openly (Web, SharePoint, Forum, TBD)
- Meet as needed via teleconference/VTC, or as coincidental face-to-face opportunities at international meetings and conferences
- Develop and follow their own operational procedures
- Develop written interim reports and consensus recommendation to NL-Standards