Global Soils Interest Group – Meeting Minutes
SETAC SciCon – SETAC Europe 30th Annual Meeting, May 3-7, 2020

May 5, 2019

Agenda

▪ Introduction
▪ What we have been doing
  − Questionnaire
  − Clusters
  − Poster Presentations
▪ Chapters Presentation
▪ Steering Committee - New Volunteers
▪ Next chapter

**GSIG MEMBERS** – *please* update your emails on the SETAC website for the GSIG ([https://www.setac.org/group/IGGlobalSoils](https://www.setac.org/group/IGGlobalSoils)) so that you receive meeting notices, minutes, etc. If you are not receiving communications, but would like to, please ensure you contact a steering committee member; emails have been provided below (**ANNEX 1**).

**STEERING COMMITTEE** – current active members are listed in **ANNEX 1**. We have vacancies – if you are interested, please contact a member with a short bio.

**UP-COMING SETAC MEETINGS (not including those postponed):**

- SETAC North America 41st Annual Meeting, November 15-19, 2020, Fortworth, Texas, USA
  - Abstract submission is closed, but **registration begins July 15, 2020**
    - [https://fortworth.setac.org/](https://fortworth.setac.org/)
- SETAC Europe 31st Annual Meeting, May 2-6, 2020, Seville Spain
  - Abstract submission for session proposals are open until August 15, 2020
    - [https://seville.setac.org/](https://seville.setac.org/)

**GSIG VIRTUAL PRESENCE**

- This year, **GSIG held it’s meeting virtually** via SETAC Europe SciCon. A snapshot participant list was developed (**ANNEX 2**), although we apologize if we are missing people – some joined in after the snapshot was taken. Please contact us if you would like your name added.
  - Reception of the virtual meeting was positive as it enabled members from across the globe to attend; there were over 40 participants at the meeting
  - We hope to use this tool for future SETAC GSIG meetings
- Members are looking to GSIG as a collaborative forum; some issues discussed included:
  - **Communication** – not being received by members
    - Members were reminded to register with the SETAC website, but they also requested the steering committee to broaden the mailing list.
Claudia virtually walked members through the SETAC website to show how to access the Interest Group page, along with Blog Activities, where most of our activities and notices will be posted (see ANNEX 3); members are also welcome to post new initiatives for discussion.

- Not many were aware of this on-line tool
- Some agreed that the blog is a good tool for communication exchange, so long as we keep it active and up to date

**Motivation** – how to keep GSIG active in SETAC – ideas included:

- **Mentorship**
  - We need to engage young scientists to become actively involved to bring forth new ideas, while being inclusive of ‘seasoned’ members to maintain continuity of the flow of GSIG, and enabling transition
  - Students are always welcome to participate in the meetings, as well as serve on the Steering Committee – we need to better communicate / advertise this e.g., via SETAC student initiatives and Young Environmental Scientists meetings
  - Students that have attended the meeting pointed out a gap concerning the communication with them, and requested that actions of the Global Soil or regional committees be shared with them. A suggestion was to do it through the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) of SETAC.

- **Inspiration**
  - Motivation and coordination needs to start with the Steering Committee to motivate participation from GSIG membership
  - Inspiration includes discussions (e.g., invited speakers) of topics that are ‘on the boundary’ to stimulate deeper scientific discussions and identify future topics of interest

- **Collaboration**
  - Collaboration with other soil-related societies to bridge gaps, stimulate discussion for new topics of interest; those who are able to attend across different societies to share activities with GSIG membership. Some societies mentioned included:
    - Eurosoil, Eurotoxicity Society
  - Utilize the GSIG Blog to our advantage for communications, data exchanges, larger research questions, data gaps, etc.

**THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Last year, a questionnaire was sent out to members to determine the basis of the GSIG in SETAC and its envisioned structure, members’ perception of the current state of Soil Ecotoxicology, and the desire to collaborate within Research Clusters.

- In general, members joined for collaborative and networking opportunities; interested in advancing the field of soil ecotoxicology
- Members’ interests and experience are highly diverse, but center around low and higher tiers of ERA, effects, fate and bioavailability
- Fostering a legislative and regulatory initiatives were identified as a role within GSIG
- Research areas identified for further development included biodiversity (and measures of) and its influence on the maintenance of function, as well as ecological research to gain more insights
into underlying processes and mechanisms; the Ecosystem Services Concept was identified as a suitable metric

- Most respondents identified more species and functions as the primary need for test method development, as well as the need for databases on biodiversity and soil mapping as a tool to ink soil quality and ecotoxicology

**HOW CAN WE HELP?**

The GSIG can serve to facilitate the exchange of information, discussion meetings to build bridges between different groups, as well as foster workshops, seminars and training webinars

**REGIONAL CHAPTER UPDATES**

Regional Chapter updates from Europe and North America were presented (refer to Presentation [ANNEX 4](#))

**READY FOR NEXT YEAR?**

GSIG meets again at SETAC North America, November 15-19, 2020; details to come!

We will also see you at the next SETAC Europe meeting May 2-6, 2020!
**ANNEX 1 – STEERING COMMITTEE**

Not all steering committee members could be present at the meeting, but the following (*) hosted. We have some vacancies, so please express your interest!

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ANNEX 2 – PARTICIPANTS LIST

Time-shot at the beginning of the meeting; we realize that more attended, although we were not able to get all of the participant’s names. Please contact us to add your name to the participant list.

1. Agnes Schimera
2. Audrey Barranger
3. Alba Lopez Mangas
4. Andreas Toschki
5. Björn Scholz-Starke
6. Catarina Malheiro
7. Chukwuka Ogbonna
8. Claudia de Lima e Silva
9. David Olszyk
10. Emily Aldridge
11. Gilda Dell’Ambrogio
12. Jakub Hofman
13. Janine Wong
14. Juliska Princz
15. Kayode Jegede
16. Kees van Gestel
17. Kristina Bitter
18. Lucie Bielska
19. M. Cristina Vila
20. M. Nazaret González-Alc...
21. Mark Maboeta
22. Martin Siedt
23. Mathieu Renaud
24. Max Helmberger
25. Melanie Bottoms
26. Mike Simini
27. Paola Grenni
28. Pia Kotschik
29. Sagnik Sengupta
30. Salla Selonen
31. Sylvain Bart
32. Vanessa Roeben
33. Wencai Dai
34. Yvette
ANNEX 3 – ACCESS TO GLOBAL SOILS INTEREST GROUP PAGE

The main page can be accessed from the SETAC main menus: Get Involved -> Interest Groups -> Interest Groups O-Z -> Soils. From here you can choose to join the GSIG; options within this page are available as you scroll down the page...such as Recent Blog Activity:

As you scroll down, you will see a ‘View All Blog’s link, which you can click-on for access to all recent blog activities:
Click on ‘Global Soils Advisory Group (Global)’ to access the main blog page:

From here, you can access all of our posted information (especially if you do not receive email notification), as well as post new activities (‘Add new post’). Enjoy!
ANNEX 4 – GSIG PRESENTATION FROM SETAC SCICON EUROPE MEETING (MAY 2020)

Global Soil Interesting Group
GSIG

SETAC SciCon - 2020
Setac Europe 30th annual meeting

Chapters Presentations

- Europe;
- North America;
- Asia;
- Africa;
- Latin America
Europe

- **New OECD earthworm field study guideline**
  - several documents have been distributed: scientific project report, OECD guideline draft, OECD validation report, minutes of a stakeholder meeting
  - Massive interest of all commenting parties in all aspects of a future study design and statistical analysis
- **EFSA general issue meeting PPR-meeting 185**
  - guidance on interpretation of earthworm field studies De Jong et al. 2006 supplemented by e.g. minimum detectable differences as an indicator of statistical power

North America

- **SETAC NA GSIG – Held at SETA NA 40th Annual Meeting, Toronto, CA (15 in attendance)**
  - **GSIG – Sponsored Sessions**
    - "Soil Contaminants: Fate, Bioavailability, Environmental Toxicology in Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment" Platform (8 presentations, average attendance ~70), Posters (16 presentations)
    - "Fate, Toxicology, or Risk Assessment of Materials of Interest to the Military" Poster Session (10 presentations)
    - "Natural and Ambient Soil Background Studies and Their Utility in Risk Assessment" Platform (8 presentations, average attendance ~70), Posters (2 presentations)
  - **National Academy of Sciences (NAS) U.S. National Committee for Soil Science (USNC/SS)**
    - GSIG Member: Nick Basta approved by SNA Executive Committee for USNC/SS membership (pending)
    - Roman Kopelman was approved by SETAC NA Board of Directors as Liaison to the NAS-USNC/SS, starting January 2020
North America

- ISO Soil Quality Technical Committee (N. Felsthauser, R. Scroggins, J. Princz, L. Beaudette)
  - New ISO 23266:2019 Oriobatid mite reproduction, Committee draft international standard (DIS) has since been approved (Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC))
  - New ISO 23265:2019 Organic Matter Decomposition ring-test in underway (Round 1 and Round 2) (ECCC)
  - Contribution of data and new species to plant, earthworm and collembola standards (ECCC)
  - New ISO standard for a framework to determine changes in dynamic soil properties (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)

- HESI technical committee established on the Development of Methods for a Tiered Approach to Assess Bioaccumulation of Chemicals - biotransformation rates and bioaccumulation in invertebrates (J. Cernak) - international involvement including members of CSIG

- Update on Interest Group:
  - Lengthy discussion about the perception and/or prioritization of soil sessions by the Program Committee for SETAC NA each year; some feel that, unlike SETAC Europe, soils presentations do not get the same level of attention as e.g., aquatic presentations and therefore result in fewer platform presentations
  - Welcome Bonnie Brooks, M.S., new CSIG Steering Committee member (NA, Government). Research Scientist, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division. Email: bonnie.brooks@state.mn.us