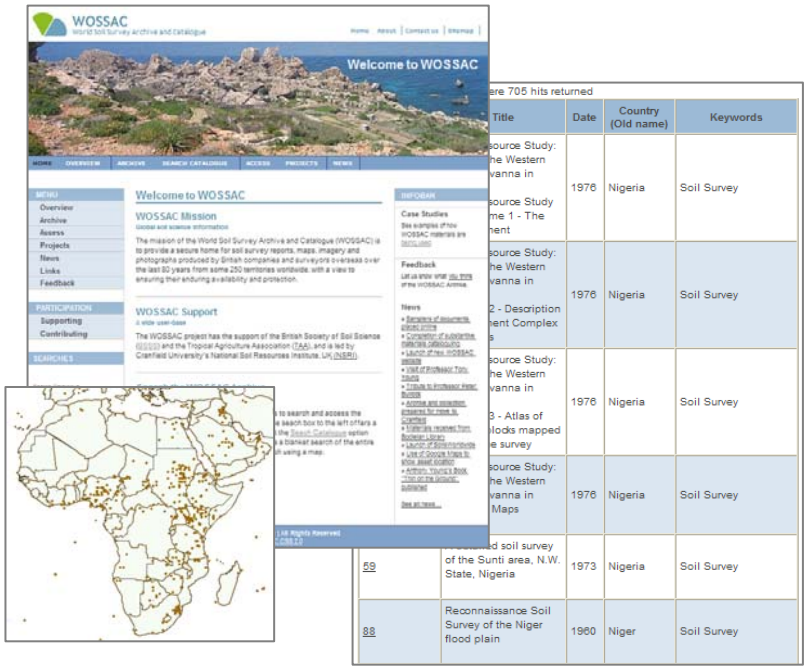
WOSSAC
World Soil Survey Archive and Catalogue

Cranfield UNIVERSITY

(British-sourced soils materials) www.wossac.com

Established in 2004, the WOSSAC Project aims to develop an Archive and Catalogue of all substantial soil surveys made by British companies and staff around the world, with a view to ensuring their enduring availability and protection.



Project Background

Large numbers of soil surveys have been made in many countries by British surveyors over the past 80 years. These data about soils, their nature, properties and potential use are vital to support the growing interest in soils on global and regional agendas and the increasing interest in sustainable development and effective aid.
Yet this information is now in danger of being lost, destroyed or becoming unavailable – hence the need for the WOSSAC Project.

Archive and Catalogue

The WOSSAC Project involves four phases:

- Contacting key stakeholders.
- Undertaking cataloguing of all surveys, providing results on-line.
- Establishing a physical archive of hard copies needing preservation; these being made freely available for consultation.
- Interfacing with regional and national parallel collections to create a global network to disseminate the holdings to stakeholders.

WOSSAC in use

The information in WOSSAC can play a key role in a range of contemporary environmental issues including: soil management; optimal land use suitability; combating desertification; water use planning; identifying runoff, infiltration and water storage zones; and waste management.

Countries represented in the WOSSAC collection. WOSSAC represents information from some 290 territories world-wide.

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The WOSSAC project has the support of the British Society of Soil Science and the Tropical Agriculture Association, and is led by Cranfield University's National Soil Resources Institute (NSRI).