

A FILM FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST  
GLOBAL SOIL WEEK

# GROUNDDED

CELEBRATE  
SOIL AWARENESS!

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH**  
FROM 12:00 TO 16:00

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST**  
FROM 12:00 TO 18:00

GROUNDDED is a two-day film festival in Berlin that brings together some of the most vivid, compelling films about soil from around the world. The works of ten filmmakers highlight the diversity of personal, cultural, historical, scientific and environmental meanings of soil. The program of narrative, experimental and documentary films evokes our awareness of soil in the environment and in society, from soil as medium for food production to soil as habitat for diverse life systems.

GROUNDDED is a public highlight of the first Global Soil Week, an event and forum of exchange and dialogue for actors from science, government, business and civil society, taking place from November 18th to 22nd in Berlin. It aims to translate experience and expertise into a plan of action for sustainably managing and governing soil as a global resource.

**SUNDAY 18.11.2012**

## UNDERGROUND UNIVERSE: SOIL AS DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM

12:00 **Introduction**

12:10 **Der Tag, an dem der Boden starb**

12:15 **Soil Sealing**

12:30 **Dirt – The Movie**

13:50 **Break**

14:00 **Symphony of the Soil**

**WEDNESDAY 21.11.2012**

## AGRICULTURE MATTERS I: FROM PLOW TO GRAIN

12:00 **The Plow that Broke the Plains**

12:27 **King Corn**

13:25 **Break**

## DESERTIFICATION: FROM FERTILITY TO FUTILITY

13:35 **Desertification**

13:43 **When the Water Ends**

14:00 **Aral - the Lost Sea**

14:25 **Chasing Water**

14:45 **Break**

15:00 **The Man Who Stopped the Desert**

## AGRICULTURE MATTERS II: FROM FOREST TO FIELD

16:00 **Oxfam Landgrabbing Spot**

16:23 **Up in Smoke**

17:33 **Q & A**

Discussion with film maker Adam Wakeling, director of film Up in Smoke

First  
**GLOBAL SOIL WEEK** | **SOILS FOR LIFE**

[www.globalsoilweek.org](http://www.globalsoilweek.org)  
All films will be shown in English.  
**Entrance is free to the public.**



**Global Soil Forum**  
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies e.V.

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## DIRT – THE MOVIE

2009, 80 minutes, English, Director: Bill Benenson, Gene Rosow, Eleonore Dailly, Producer: Bill Benenson



Dirt and humans couldn't be closer. We started our journey together as stardust, swirled by cosmic forces into our galaxy, solar system, and planet. Four billion years of evolution created dirt as the living source of all life on Earth including humans. For most of the last ten thousand years we humans understood our intimate bond with dirt and the rest of nature. But, over time, we lost that connection.

## KING CORN

2007, 88 minutes, English, Director: Aaron Wolf, Featuring and produced by: Ian Cheney and Curtis Ellis



In the feature documentary King Corn, Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, move to the heartland to learn where their food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America's most-productive, most-subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about what we eat.

## SYMPHONY OF THE SOIL

2012, 104 minutes, English, Director: Deborah Koons



Filmed on four continents and sharing the voices of some of the world's most esteemed soil scientists, farmers and activists, this documentary feature film explores the complexity and

mystery of soil. It shows that soil is the foundation of life on earth. Yet most people are soil-blind and "treat soil like dirt." Through the knowledge and wisdom revealed in this film, we can appreciate that treating the soil right can help solve some of our most pressing environmental problems.

## THE MAN WHO STOPPED THE DESERT

2008, 64 minutes, English, Directed and filmed by Mark Dodd



As early as the 1970's the word 'Sahel' had become synonymous with famine and poverty. Many villages became deserted, yet Yacouba Sawadogo, a farmer living right at the heart of this crisis began

to grow crops successfully on abandoned land by reviving and adapting an ancient farming technique known as Zai Yacouba. Today his name is synonymous with reversing the process of desertification.

## UP IN SMOKE

2011, 70 minutes, English, Director: Adam Wakeling



This is a film about a technique that could save more carbon emissions annually than all global aviation combined. It is a film about one of the biggest contributors to tropical deforestation and global warming: slash and burn agriculture. The film follows British scientist Mike Hands, who has labored for 25 years to perfect a sustainable farming technique to replace slash and burn farming in equatorial rainforests.

## THE PLOW THAT BROKE THE PLAINS

1936, 30 minutes, English, Director: Pare Lorentz



The 1936 short documentary film shows what happened to the Great Plains region of the United States

and Canada when uncontrolled agricultural farming led to the Dust Bowl. The film was narrated by the American actor and baritone Thomas Hardie Chalmers. In 1999, The Plow That Broke the Plains was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being „culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant“.

## WHEN THE WATER ENDS

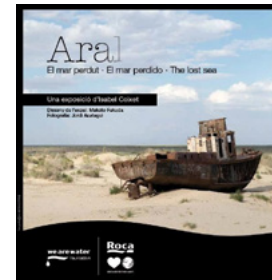
2010, 16 minutes, English, Photography and Video: Evan Abramson, Producer: Jennifer Redfearn



When the Water Ends tells the story of climate change conflicts in East Africa. For thousands of years, semi-nomadic pastoralists have followed fresh water sources and grazing land. They are accustomed to harsh environments and surviving with limited resources. But with the impacts of climate change, competition for water and pasture is escalating.

## ARAL, THE LOST SEA

2011, 25 minutes, English, Director: Isabel Coixet, Narrator: Ben Kingsley



Once the world's fourth-largest inland body of water, the Aral Sea is now a notorious example of ecological calamity. Today its water volume has been reduced to a quarter, transforming the climate of the region. The tainted water that remains has led to chronic illness, with climbing infant mortality rates and skyrocketing bronchitis and liver cancer. The international community was unaware of these changes until satellite images from NASA revealed the extent of the disaster in 2003.

## CHASING WATER

2011, 19 minutes, English, Director: Peter McBride, Producer: Anson Fogel



Photographer Pete McBride attempts to follow the irrigation water that sustains his family's Colorado ranch, down river to the sea. Traversing 1500 miles and draining seven states, the Colorado River supports over 30 million people across the southwest. Today, this resource is depleted and stressed. Follow its path with an artistic, aerial view on a personal journey to understand this national treasure.

## DER TAG, AN DEM DER BODEN STARB

3,7 minutes



A friendly soil creature makes numerous attempts to get a woman's attention one busy morning. When tragedy takes place, she remains completely unaware. The film was produced within the framework of the Ökologie-Projekts „Media Soil“ of the Technical University, Berlin.

## SOIL SEALING

8,5 minutes, English, A European Commission production



Sealing soil with asphalt or concrete damages soil functions, like fertility. This short documentary suggests ways to reduce damage, based on situations and examples around Europe.