

CV of Claudio Zucca, PhD in Pedology

Personal data: Born in Brescia (01/09/1972), resident in Alghero, Via E. Costa 14 (07041-Italy). 0039-3292604269; clzucca@uniss.it.

Current employment: Since September 2022, **Associate Professor** in Pedology (SSD-AGR14), Dipartimento di Agraria, University of Sassari, Italy.

Career

Mar2020-Aug2022. RTDb (Tenure-track Associate Prof.) in Pedology (AGR14), Univ. of Sassari, Italy.

Jan2019-Feb2020. RTDb (Tenure-track Associate Prof.) in Pedology (AGR14), Univ. of Perugia, Italy.

2015-2018. Scientist at ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas).

2009-2015. RTDa Researcher (senior researcher), University of Sassari.

2004-2009. Post-doc researcher, University of Sassari.

Academic qualifications

Italian National Qualification for the academic role of Full Professor (since 2021)

French National Qualification for the academic role of “Maître de Conférences” (since 2015)

Italian National Qualification for the academic role of Associate Professor (since 2014)

Current international appointments

- Expert evaluator of the proposal submitted in response to the Horizon Europe Soil Mission Call (2022)
- Expert appointed by FAO to co-draft the 2021 State of Land Resources for Food and Agriculture Thematic Paper “Restoring land and soil health to ensure sustainable and resilient agriculture in the NENA region” (2021-2022).
- Member of Editorial Board of the FAO&JRC’s new Atlas of the Soils of Asia (2018-present)
- Member elected (2019-2020 and 2021-2022) of DesertNet International (DNI) Advisory Committee
- Member of International Roster of Experts of the UNCCD since over 10 years
- Guest Editor for the *special issue* “Land degradation and desertification assessment, mapping, and monitoring” in preparation by *Land Degradation and Development journal*, and the *special issue* “Frameworks for Monitoring and Forecasting of Land Erosion” in preparation by *Frontiers in Earth Science* and *Frontiers in Environmental Science journals*.

Previous international appointments and distinctions

- Expert evaluator of the proposal submitted in response to the PRIMA Call (2020)
- ICARDA’s focal person in GSP, WOCAT, and AI-CD international initiatives (2016-2018).
- Advisory Committee Member of World Atlas of Desertification, by UNEP-JRC (published 2018).
- Expert for the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) Community of Practice, coordinated by UNEP (after being nominated as candidate by the UNCCD Secretariat). Until 2018.
- Guest Editor of CATENA *special issue* “A Tribute to Ewart A. FitzPatrick (1926-2018), a life for Pedology and Morphology of Soils” (published in 2018).
- Selected Lead Author of IPBES (Intergov. Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) Ch. 6 “Thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration” (2015).
- Selected as a “Prometeo” by the Government of Ecuador in the frame of the Prometeo Program: “highly qualified foreign researcher”, as invited scientist for long term science and technology transfer projects (2015).
- Member of the international WG (“Integrated methods for monitoring and assessing desertification/land degradation processes and drivers”) organized by Drylandscience for Development Consortium to draft white papers for first UNCCD Scientific Conference (2008-2009).
- Formally invited by the Turkish Government to support the Turkish Scientific Delegation at UNCCD-CRIC meeting (Session of Committee on Science and Technology) held in Istanbul (2008).

RESUME

During over 20 year of research activity animated by love for the soil, Claudio Zucca was involved in several international research, networking, and cooperation projects, particularly on soil and land degradation, desertification, and sustainable land management.

His scientific interests are interdisciplinary and mainly focus on i) integrated assessment and monitoring of land degradation and restoration ii) survey, mapping, and evaluation of land and soil, and iii) soil formation and development and soil-landscape relationships. His studies range from micromorphology to landscape-scale modelling. He is expert in GIS and highly familiar with remote sensing. He has participated to technical field activities in many regions in Europe and elsewhere (including Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Jordan, Turkey, Mauritania, Egypt, Senegal, Namibia, South Africa, Ecuador, Argentina, and Chile), developing experience in multiple socio-ecological contexts.

He is author of more than 100 *in extenso* publications, including more than 45 ISI papers. He matured teaching experience as titular of academic courses, as invited teacher by international high formation organizations (e.g., CIHEAM), and as co-supervisor of over 20 Masters' and 4 Doctorate students.

He developed considerable expertise in project design and management, and fund raising. He has been hired several times as a consultant by international organizations (FAO, UNCCD, JRC, WOCAT).

Claudio Zucca holds a PhD in Pedology ("Pedologia") from the Universities of Palermo and Milano Bicocca (2004) and a Master Degree in Environmental Sciences (Milano University, 1997). He is qualified for the role of Full Professor according to the Italian academic system (sector "Pedologia-AGR14"; 2021) and for the role of Maître de conférences according to the French academic system (S35, Structure et évolution de la terre et des autres planètes, and S36, Terre solide: géodynamique des enveloppes supérieures, paléobiosphère; 2015).

Since September **2022** he is Associate Professor in Pedology at **University of Sassari** (Italy), after being RTDb (Tenure-track) researcher.

Between March **2015** and December 2018 he was Soil Conservation and Land Management Scientist at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (**ICARDA**) with duty station in Amman (until August 2016) and then Rabat. At ICARDA he coordinated research projects in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tunisia, and Morocco in the frame of initiatives funded by CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) and international donors. He also contributed to projects in Senegal, Mauritania, Pakistan and Jordan. He acted as ICARDA's focal person in FAO's Global Soil Partnership, in WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) international consortium, and in the AI-CD (African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa) Network.

Formerly (**2009** to February 2015), he was Researcher in Pedology at the **Dipartimento di Agraria** of the University of Sassari (Italy), and before that PhD student (2000-2004) and post-doc researcher (**2004-2009**) at the Inter-department Centre **Nucleo di Ricerca sulla Desertificazione** (NRD; Desertification Research Centre) of the same University. He was also hired as a consultant or lecturer by international organizations (particularly FAO, UNCCD, JRC).

His first scientific experience (**1997-2000**) was matured as graduated junior researcher at the **Milano-Bicocca** University (Laboratory of Pedology and GIS) where he was involved in studies and field works on land degradation and on mountain soils.

Since several years he is member of the Italian Society of Soil Science (**SISS**), the Italian Society of Pedology (**SIPE**), and the European Society of Soil Conservation (**ESSC**). He had previous experiences as member of commissions of both SISS and SIPE.