

The surveyor and the trajectory of land sobriety in France - Part 5 - A Practical Case Study of Urban Renewal

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SUMMARY

This presentation highlights actionable proposals to integrate soil preservation and enhancement into land use planning, project development, and urban transformation in the context of increasing environmental challenges and the trajectory toward land use sobriety. The proposals address diagnostic gaps, strategic objectives, and operational measures to better manage soil as a vital natural resource. □ □ Incorporating Soil in Environmental Assessments □ To ensure sustainable planning and project execution, soils must be integrated into environmental evaluations. This includes mandatory soil diagnostics, incorporation of soil criteria in impact mitigation frameworks, and updates to environmental evaluation guidelines. These measures aim to provide decision-makers with a comprehensive understanding of soil's multifaceted value while streamlining procedures and ensuring robust legal frameworks. □ □ Reintroducing Nourishing Functions in Urban Soils □ Urban soils can play a pivotal role in supporting local agriculture, enhancing biodiversity, and fostering social cohesion. By promoting multifunctional spaces, shared gardens, and organic waste recycling, this proposal seeks to transform urban maintenance burdens into productive assets. This approach aligns with environmental consciousness and supports short food supply chains while reconnecting communities with natural processes. □ □ Educating and Promoting Soil Awareness □ There is a critical need to raise awareness about soil's biological, hydrological, and climatic functions. Educational programs across all levels, from primary schools to professional training, are proposed alongside public campaigns. These initiatives aim to reposition soil as a valued heritage and functional component of sustainable development, fostering a societal shift toward responsible soil stewardship. □ □ Establishing Organizational and Financial Means □ Effective soil management requires robust organizational and financial frameworks. Proposals include integrating soil diagnostics into urban planning processes, allocating specific funds to local governments for soil-related studies, and incentivizing soil protection through regulatory and financial instruments. These measures will enable proactive soil evaluation,

restoration, and functionality enhancements across planning phases. □ □ Anticipating Risks and Facilitating Renaturation □ With climate-induced risks on the rise, there is a pressing need to preemptively plan for renaturation in vulnerable areas. This includes identifying risk zones, assessing soil quality, and developing compensation mechanisms for land de-artificialization. By leveraging planning tools such as agricultural and environmental land reorganization, this initiative supports safer, sustainable redevelopment while preserving valuable soils. □ □ By adopting these proposals, stakeholders can address environmental, social, and economic dimensions of soil management. This integrated approach will contribute to more resilient and sustainable land use planning, promoting soil as a cornerstone of ecological integrity and urban innovation.