

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP and THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL PANEL ON SOILS (ITPS)

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Global Soil Partnership

- In 2009 High-Level Expert Committee (HLEC) presented a report to the FAO DG a report that indicated that the organization underestimate the importance of soils for agriculture and food security;
- 7-9 of September 2011 the launch meeting of Global Soil Partnership (GSP) took place in FAO Headquarters in Rome;
- FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) adopted the basic documents of GSP 21-26 of May 2012, and on the 5th of December 2012 the program received support at the 145th FAO Council.



Bridging the gap between soil science and policy

Food Security

Climate Change



HLPFS



IPCC

IPBES



CBD

GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP

SPI



UNCCD

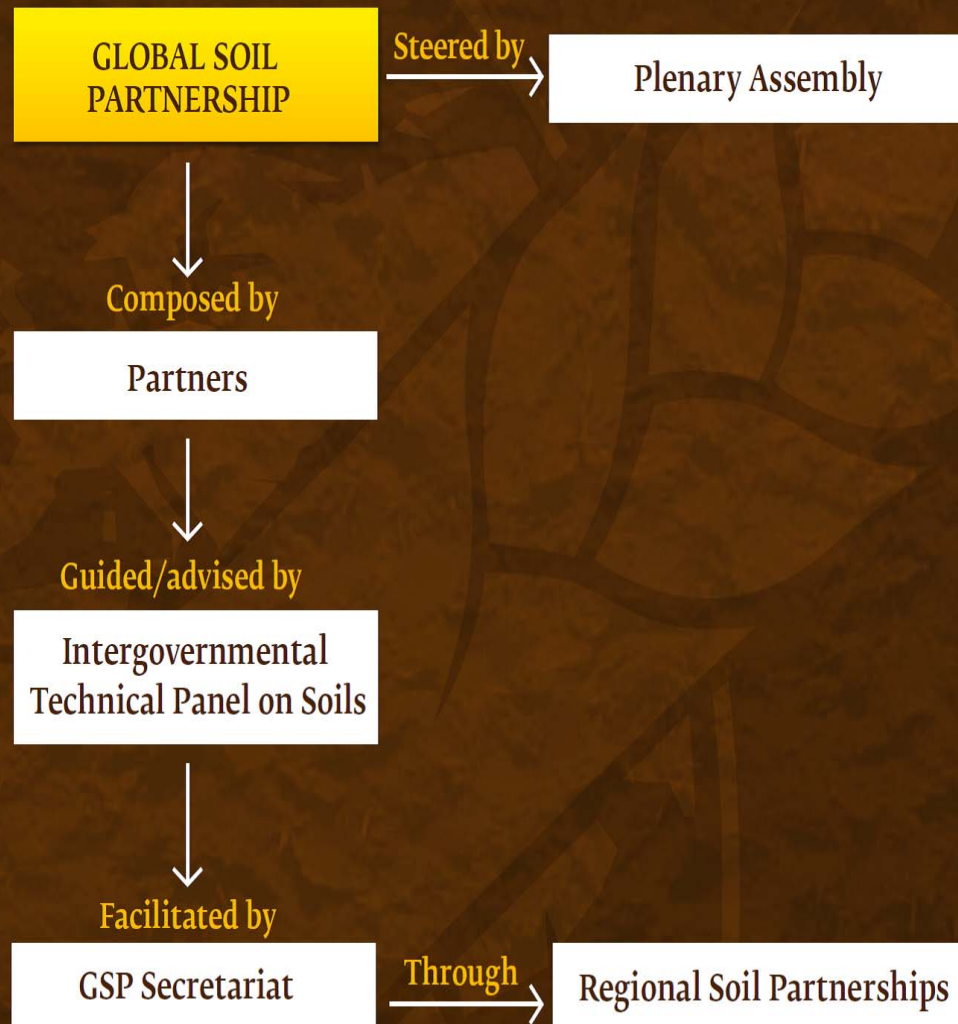
Biodiversity

Desertification



GLOBAL
SOIL BIODIVERSITY
INITIATIVE

GSP COMPOSITION AND GOVERNANCE



Partners

450 partners: FAO members and other partners (universities, NGOs, etc)

Partners

The Global Soil Partnership should become an interactive, responsive and voluntary partnership, open to governments, institutions and other stakeholders at various levels.

The different kinds of partners that will be needed include financial/funding partners, technical/scientific partners, advisory partners, and general partners. These partners could come from any kind of international, regional and national institutions/organizations working on soils (Governmental Organizations, universities, civil institutions, research centers, soil science societies, UN agencies, NGOs, private companies, farmer associations, donors, etc).

Partners by default to the GSP are the FAO member countries who determine FAOs priorities as laid out in the Strategic Framework and Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and according to the needs and priorities identified in their countries.

Our current partners

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	All partners			

A

Aarhus University, Tjele, Denmark



Become a partner !

► [GSP partnership form](#)

Documents

► [World Soil Charter \(in english\)](#)
| [\(in arabic\)](#)



Focal Points

Second GSP Plenary Assembly endorsed the nomination of focal points by FAO Members

Expected role of the GSP focal points

The expected role of the GSP focal points would be to collate and distribute relevant communications, information material and invitations to meetings and consultations, received from the GSP Secretariat, to the most appropriate government authorities and/or national institutions, as well as any other relevant body not already registered as a GSP partner, dealing with soil matters within their country. Preferably, focal points should be senior government officials dealing with soil management and conservation matters.



Currently 134 countries nominated their focal points

GSP Pillars of Action

1. Promote sustainable management of soil resources and improved global governance for soil protection and sustainable productivity;
2. Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education, awareness and extension in soils;
3. Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps, priorities and synergies among economic/productive, environmental and social dimensions;
4. Enhance the quality and availability of soil data and information: *collection, analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring, integration with other disciplines*;
5. Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.



Regional Partnerships



Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils

itps

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
PANEL ON SOILS

The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) was established at the first Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership held at FAO Headquarters on 11 and 12 of June, 2013.

The ITPS is composed of 27 top soil experts representing all the regions of the world. The main function of the ITPS is to provide scientific and technical advice and guidance on global soil issues to the Global Soil Partnership primarily and to specific requests submitted by global or regional institutions. The ITPS will advocate for addressing sustainable soil management in the different sustainable development agendas.

Functions of ITPS

The ITPS have the following functions:

1. provide scientific and technical advice on global soil issues primarily to the GSP and in relation to specific requests submitted by global or regional institutions.



Revised World Soil Charter



June 2015

What have we achieved:

- 5 Plans of action for the GSP Pillars
- Revision of the World Soil Charter
- Soil related Criteria for the Post-Rio+20 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- Status of World's Soil Resources report
- Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management
- An assessment at global level of the impact of plant protection products on soil functions and soil ecosystems
- Global Soil Carbon Map
- Revision of the book "Soil Pollution: A Hidden Reality"



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Status of the World's Soil Resources



The Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), the main scientific advisory body to the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) took the initiative to prepare this first Status of the World's Soil Resources report to make clear the essential connections between human well-being and the soil.

200 soil scientists from **60 countries** worked together to prepare this benchmark against which our collective progress to conserve this essential resource can be measured.

The report provides a global perspective on the current state of the soil, its role in providing ecosystem services, and the threats to its continued contribution to these services.

“The report is aimed at scientists, laymen and policy makers alike.

It provides in particular an essential benchmark against periodical assessment and reporting of soil functions and overall soil health at global and regional levels.

This is of particular relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the international community pledged to achieve. Indeed, these goals can only be achieved if the crucial natural resources – of which soils is one – are sustainably managed.”

José Graziano Da Silva
FAO Director-General

Content of the Status of the World's Soil Resources report

Part I “Global Soil Resources”

- The report provides an **assessment** of **global soil resources**, set within a framework of **ecosystem services**. It presents the **threats** to soil functions and their **consequences** for ecosystem services.

Part II “Global Soil change. Drivers, status and trends”

- The report is based on the best available soil information, including a full **uncertainty evaluation** of the soil information.
- It results in the identification of soil-related **knowledge gaps** that constrain the achievement of sustainable development.

Part III “Soil change: impacts and responses”

- The report explores the **implications** of soil conditions for **food** security, **climate** change, **water** quality and quantity, **biodiversity**, and **human** health and wellbeing.

Regional assessment of soil changes








- The report provides a global **scientific** assessment of current and projected soil conditions built on **regional data analysis** and expertise.

The report concludes with a series of **recommendations** for action by policymakers and other stakeholders

General threats to soils in the world

- (1) Erosion (by wind and water)
- (2) Soil organic carbon change
- (3) Soil contamination
- (4) Soil acidification
- (5) Salinization and sodification
- (6) Loss of soil biodiversity
- (7) Water logging
- (8) Nutrient imbalance
- (9) Compaction
- (10) Sealing and capping

Summary of Status and Trends of Soil Threats by region

Region	Soil erosion	Organic carbon change	Nutrient imbalance	Salinization	Soil sealing	Loss of biodiversity	Soil pollution	Acidification	Compaction	Water-logging
 Sub-Saharan Africa	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Fair ↗	Good =	Fair ↘	Good ↘	Poor ↗	Good =	Good =
 Asia	Poor ↘	Poor ↗	Poor ↘	Poor ↗	Poor ↘	Fair ↗	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Fair ↘
 Europe and Eurasia	Fair ↗	Poor ↗	Poor ↗	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Fair ↘	Poor ↗	Poor ↗	Fair ↗	Fair ↗
 Latin America and the Caribbean	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Fair ↗	Poor ↘	Fair ↗	Fair ↗	Poor ↘	Fair =
 Near East and North Africa	Very Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Good ↗	Fair ↘	Very Poor ↘	Poor ↘	Very Poor ↘	Good ↗	Poor ↘	Good ↗
 North America	Fair ↗	Fair ↗	Poor ↘	Good ↗	Fair ↘	Good ↗	Good ↗	Poor ↘	Fair ↗	Good ↗
 Southwest Pacific	Fair ↗	Fair ↗	Fair ↘	Good ↗	Good ↘	Good ↗	Good ↗	Fair ↘	Fair ↗	Good ↗

Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management

Sustainable soil management is a set of activities that maintain or enhance the supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural services provided by soil without significantly impairing either the soil functions that enable those services or biodiversity.



Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management

- Introduction
 - Objectives, justification, process, and scope.
- Scientific Basis for Sustainable Soil Management
 - Soil functions and ecosystem services
 - Management impacts on soil functions
- Guidance on Sustainable Soil Management Practices (*illustrative examples*)
- Tier 1: Major areas of focus for improved soil management:
 - Control of Soil Erosion
 - Maintenance or enhancement of soil organic carbon
 - Maintenance or enhancement of soil biodiversity
 - Maintenance or enhancement of soil physical properties
 - Maintenance or enhancement of soil chemical properties
 - Balancing nutrients
 - Integrative case studies of sustainable soil management
- Tier 2: *Where appropriate, management practices will be further developed in more specific contexts.* Implementation of the Guidelines
 - Communication, outreach, advocacy, promotion, monitoring and evaluation
- 5. Glossary

Limitations and challenges

- GSP failed to act as an umbrella initiative
- Though the mandate of FAO is global, its technical assistance *de facto* is limited to the developing countries
- FAO as a big institution is commonly blamed for its low efficiency and tardiness
- GSP is one of the most efficient FAO projects, but its success is dependent on individuals, i.e. on the activities of the Secretariat

Tentative recommendations

- Increase the role of the Plenary Assembly of the GSP, increase the activity of countries' representatives in FAO
- Increase the involvement of the national focal points into decision-making on the GSP agenda
- Increase the role of the regional secretariats and presidents
- Harmonize particular projects supported by individual countries and implemented by GSP with the regional implementation plans



Thank you for your attention