



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

promoting  
sustainable  
soil management  
for all

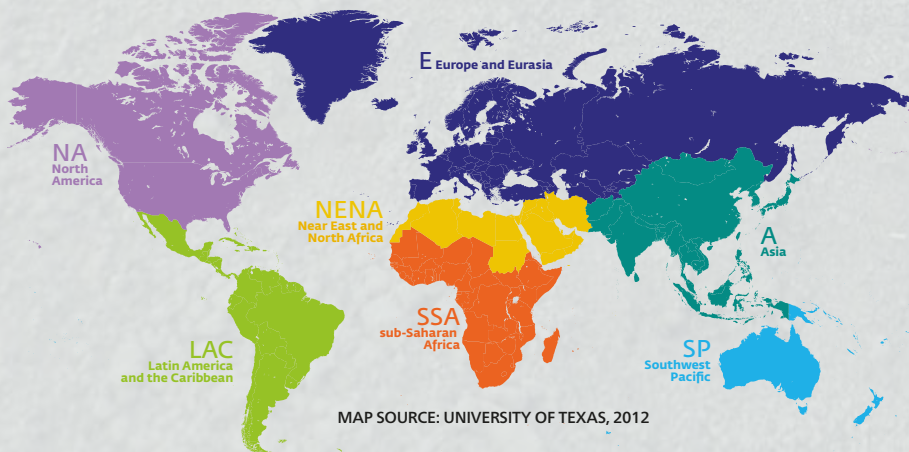
## GSP, a success story!

After only 6 years, The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) is now a globally recognized mechanism promoting sustainable soil management (SSM) and successfully implementing programs across the globe in a cost-effective and timely manner. The key objectives of the GSP are to improve soil governance, ensure healthy and productive soils in all land uses across the globe and position soils in the global agenda.

Key outputs demonstrate that this partnership was indeed needed to fill an existing gap in the promotion of sustainable soil management for a food secure world while sustaining essential ecosystem services that enable life on earth!

## Regional soil partnerships (RSPs)

9 RSPs are well-established and have consolidated implementation plans. They work in close collaboration with FAO regional and national offices establishing an interactive consultative process with national soil entities.



**itps**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
TECHNICAL PANEL ON SOILS

The ITPS is composed of 27 top soil experts representing all regions of the world that are elected for a 3-year term. The main function of the ITPS is to provide scientific and technical advice and guidance on global soil issues to the GSP and its members. The panel also advocates for the promotion of sustainable soil management in the different development agendas.

## Become a partner

The Global Soil Partnership is an open, interactive, responsive and voluntary partnership which includes GSP partners (Governmental Organizations, Universities, Civil institutions, Research centers, Soil science societies, UN agencies, NGOs, Private companies, Farmer associations, Donors, etc.) and Member countries that designate national Focal Points. All partners meet yearly during the GSP Plenary Assembly to review and prioritize GSP actions while facilitating a balanced regional decision-making process.

Contact us at [GSP-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GSP-Secretariat@fao.org)  
if you would like to become a partner.



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# GSP in action, 2012-2018

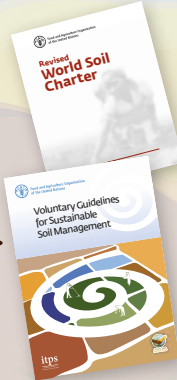
## GLOBAL SOIL ASSESSMENT

The **Status of the World's Soil Resources Report (SWSR)**, compiled by about 200 soil scientists from 60 countries, provides a global perspective on the current state of soils, their role in providing ecosystem services, and the threats to the soil functions enabling these services.



## NORMATIVE TOOLS

Normative tools, such as the **Revised World Soil Charter** and the **Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)**, were prepared under the mandate of the GSP and by the ITPS in 2015 and 2017 respectively. The charter contains key principles and guidelines aiming at fostering concrete actions to promote the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of soils while the VGSSM provides more concrete principles and practices for incorporation into policies and decision-making processes



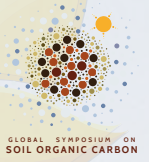
## RAISING AWARENESS

The endorsement by the United Nations of the **International Year of Soils 2015 (IYS2015)** and the **UN World Soil Day campaign (WSD)** were key in increasing global understanding and care about soil resources, stimulating discussions and bringing soils up on the various agendas among policy makers and the general public. WSD, which is held on 5 December every year, has become one of the best performing UN recurrences. Starting this year, the best WSD event organizer will be prized with the World Soil Day Award. Since 2016, the Glinka World Soil Prize has been awarding pioneer scientists and institutions dedicated to solving the important issue of soil degradation.



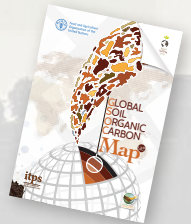
## GLOBAL SYMPOSIA

As a result of the collaboration between the GSP/ITPS and the other panels and organizations/conventions, the **Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon and on Soil Pollution**, were held respectively in 2017 and 2018. They were very successful in both bringing scientific evidence about the two topics and stimulating science-policy dialogue and setting and agenda for action. Furthermore, the topics received attention for their importance on food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, food safety, human health and sustainable development.



## SOIL INFORMATION AND DATA: GLOBAL SOIL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GLOSIS)

GLOSIS is a permanent and authoritative global system under establishment to monitor and forecast the condition of the Earth's soil resources. **SoilSTAT**, which is currently being developed, will provide free access to global soil data. **Global Soil Organic Carbon map (GSOCmap)** followed a country driven process, constitutes the best information on SOC stocks for the first 30 cm. This information could be used for identifying degraded areas, set restoration targets, and explore SOC sequestration potentials as a way to mitigate climate change.



## SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK (GLOSOLAN)

GLOSOLAN aims to facilitate networking and capacity development through cooperation and information sharing between soil laboratories. It was officially created in November 2017 and counts 187 soil laboratories in more than 100 countries as of today.



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Capacity development is at the heart of the GSP mandate, as countries can reach development goals only by strengthening their local capacities. Since 2012, the training sessions organized by the GSP and the RSPs reached 111 countries, trained more than 500 experts and covered 65% of the world.

## WHY INVESTING IN THE GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP?

The GSP strongly believes in a highly inclusive and participative partnership, empowering countries and local communities. Providing support to the GSP does not only mean that you are investing in your future but also that you want:

- concrete actions on the ground to increasing soil productivity and reducing soil degradation;
- to keep our often-forgotten soils on the global agenda;
- a timely and cost-effective delivery of outputs;
- great visibility and recognition of donors and partners.

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