



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Soil Partnership

2012-2022



Sustainable soil management in action

Saving our planet's soils

FAO Members acknowledge that soils constitute the foundation for agricultural development, essential ecosystem functions and food security and are key to fighting climate change and sustaining life on Earth.

2010

2012

Establishment of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

GSP is established as an interactive, responsive, and voluntary mechanism open to governments, institutions, and other stakeholders. Its' mission? To promote sustainable soil management around the world.

2013

2013

Plenary Assembly

As the Partnership's main decision-making body, the annual plenary reviews and prioritizes the GSP's actions to position soils on the different sustainable agendas through collective action. It unites FAO Members and GSP Partners.

Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)

ITPS members are made up of 27 top soil experts appointed by countries. They represent all regions of the world and provide the GSP with scientific and technical guidance on global soil issues.

itps

2013

Regional Soil Partnerships

Establishment of 7 regional soil partnerships to catalyze cooperation within the different regions and develop regional implementation plans.

UN World Soil Day and International Year of Soils

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to raise awareness on the vital role of soil through an International Day on 5 December and Year in 2015. Worldwide celebrations are a unique opportunity to convey the message on the importance of soils for food security, healthy ecosystems, human wellbeing and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

World Soil Day

2014

FAO Soils portal

The portal is a unique source of information on the different components of soils and the value of this vital resource.

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Status of World's Soil Resources Report

The first ever Report compiling the work from over 200 soil scientists from 60 countries on the status of global soils. It provides a unique global and regional overview of the current state of soils, their role in the provision of ecosystem services and the threats to their continued contribution to these services.



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Glinka World Soil Prize

An annual award given to the GSP's partners – individuals or organizations – committed to solving national, regional, or local soil degradation problems. It comes in the form of a medal and a USD 15 000 cheque.

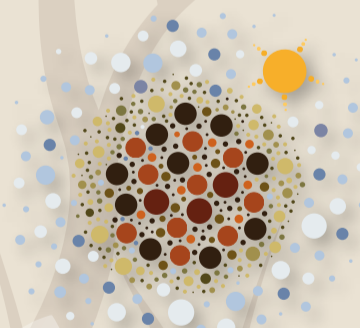


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Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon

The first science-policy meeting brought together over 500 participants to review the role of soils and soil organic carbon in the context of climate change and sustainable development.



Global Soil Laboratory Network

The Network composed of over 800 worldwide laboratories and representing 155 countries aims to build and strengthen the capacity of laboratories in soil analysis and to respond to the need for harmonizing soil analytical data. It supports evidence-based decision-making for sustainable soil management.

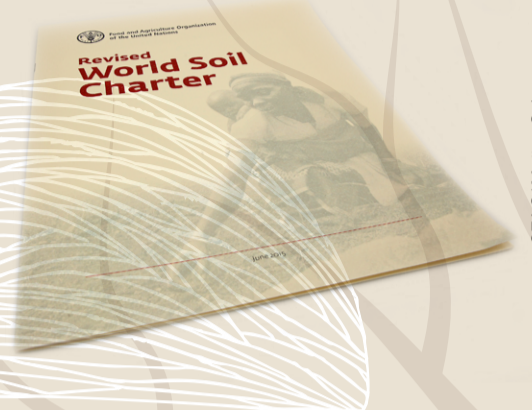


2015

2015

Revised World Soil Charter

Revision of the original World Soil Charter adopted by FAO Members at the 1981 FAO Conference. FAO Members unanimously endorsed the updated version of the World Soil Charter during the 39th Session of the FAO Conference and agreed to the principles to boost soil health and address soil degradation.



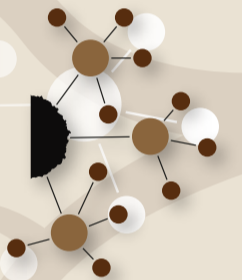
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2016

2016

International Network of Soil Information Institutions

The Network is composed of officially mandated soil data institutions for each FAO Member. It facilitates the development of national soil information systems and the exchange of technical expertise through its capacity building programme.



2016

Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management

This tool gives guidelines on the basic principles of managing soils sustainably. Since its endorsement, the GSP has supported FAO Members to implement effective policies and actions to improve soil health and adopt sustainable soil management practices worldwide.



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2017

2017

International Network on Black Soils

The Network provides a platform for knowledge sharing to discuss common issues related to the conservation and sustainable management of black soils. They are amongst the most productive soils, constitute the food basket of many countries and are crucial to fight climate change.





Global Soil Organic Carbon Map

The GSOCmap was the first map produced using data supplied directly by countries. The map enables countries to draw conclusions on the distribution and status of their soil organic carbon stocks at the national scale.

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2017

2018

Global Symposium on Soil Pollution



A key symposium that gathered over 500 participants and showcased scientific knowledge on soil pollution, the risks posed to food production and safety, human and environmental health, as well as the latest techniques to safeguard polluted sites.



2018

King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award



An annual award given every 5 December to individuals or institutions that organized successful and impactful World Soil Day celebrations. It comes in the form of a medal and a USD 15 000 cheque.



2019

International Networks of Salt-Affected Soils



The Network facilitates the sustainable and productive use of salt-affected soils for food security, agricultural sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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2019

Global Symposium on Soil Erosion



This science-policy attracted over 500 participants to discuss the latest findings on the status of soil erosion, its prevention and control for increased food security and ecosystem services.



2019

International Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of fertilizers



The Fertilizer Code assists countries to address the multiple issues related to the responsible use and management of fertilizers in agriculture and provides a locally adapted framework and a voluntary set of practices for stakeholders.

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2020

International Network on Fertilizers Analysis



The Network builds and strengthens the capacities of laboratories in fertilizer analysis and provides a framework to harmonize fertilizer quality standards.



2020

State of knowledge of soil biodiversity



The Report is the result of a process involving more than 300 scientists from around the world. It presents the latest studies on soil biodiversity, the threats, and the nature-based solutions offered by soil ecosystems.

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2020

Global Soil Doctors Programme

The Programme is a farmer-to-farmer training initiative implemented globally on a voluntary basis. It provides Soil Doctors with training, educational materials, and soil testing kits to build farmer's capacities on sustainable soil management.

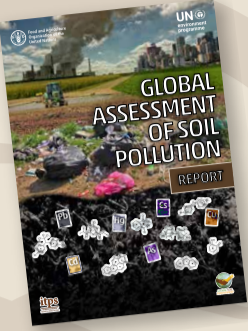


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Global Assessment of Soil Pollution

The Assessment was carried out over 3 years by more than 70 experts with contributions from 75 countries. It describes the main soil contaminants, their sources, the impacts on human health, the environment and food security, and the most common soil pollution remediation and management techniques.

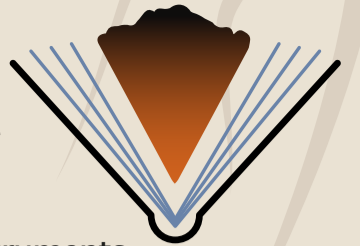


2021

2021

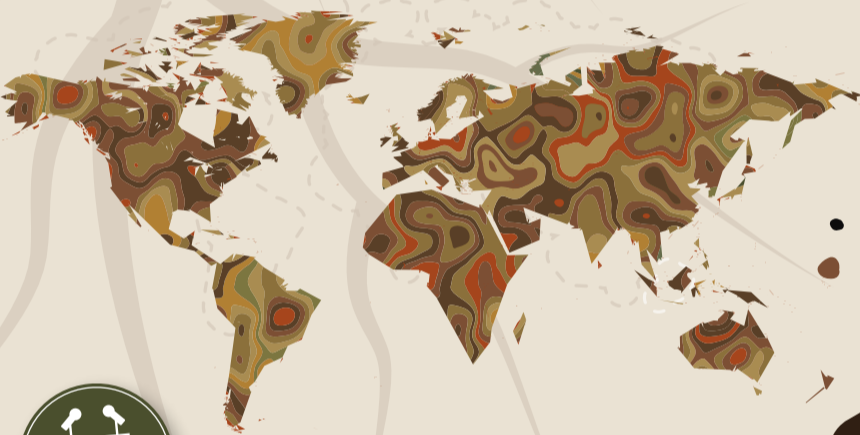
SOILEX

SoiLEX is the first global database that facilitates access to information on existing legal instruments on soil protection and the prevention of soil degradation.



Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential Map

The GSOCseq helps countries to draw conclusions on the soil's potential to sequester carbon by simulating soil organic carbon stocks over a 20-year period under sustainable soil management scenarios. The map was produced using data supplied directly by countries.



2021

2021

Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity

During the first virtual symposium, 5 000 participants reviewed the status and challenges of soil biodiversity conservation and use. The outcome of the symposium showed how important soil biodiversity is for food production and human wellbeing.



Global Symposium on Salt-affected Soils

Leveraging on the virtual setting, 4 000 participants exchanged ideas on salinity prevention, management, and adaptation. It enhanced connections between policymakers, food producers and scientists for the sustainable management of salt-affected soils.



2021

2021

Recarbonizing global soils: a technical manual of recommended management practices

The manual gathers existing data on the impacts of the main soil management practices on soil organic carbon from a wide array of environments. It was developed through the participatory work of more than 400 soil management experts from around the world.



International Network on Soil Biodiversity

The Network promotes the sustainable use and conservation of soil biodiversity through collaboration between experts and aims at addressing major knowledge and data gaps.

2021

2021

Global Map of Salt-affected Soils

The GSASmap was generated following a country-driven process. It allows countries to quantify the extent and degradation status of salt-affected soils thus improving food security.



GSP Action Framework Meeting local needs, responding to global challenges

Following an assessment of progress and achievements over the period 2012-2022, a new GSP action framework is under preparation and endorsement by FAO Members. It will fully unlock the potential of healthy soils and upscale sustainable soil management approaches through the setting of action areas and the definition of quantifiable objectives, targets and indicators.

2022
2030

2022

International Network on Soil Pollution

The Network allows for an effective, coordinated and inclusive communication of all stakeholders to implement the global action agenda on soil pollution and move towards a world with Zero Pollution.





in figures

TECHNICAL WEBINARS
+30 000
PEOPLE

EVENTS
+4 000
WORLD SOIL DAY &
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS

PUBLICATIONS - INFOGRAPHICS
+300

IN OVER
30
LANGUAGES

MEDIA OUTREACH
3.97
billion

NATIONAL EXPERTS TRAINED
+7 000

IN
170
COUNTRIES

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH
1.23
billion

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