Global Soil Partnership, promoting sustainable soil management beyond 2015

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Soil functions

Soils deliver ecosystem services that enable life on Earth

- Provision of food, fibre and fuel
- Water purification and soil contaminant reduction
- Climate regulation
- Nutrient cycling
- Habitat for organisms
- Flood regulation
- Source of pharmaceuticals and genetic resources
- Foundation for human infrastructure
- Provision of construction materials
- Cultural heritage
Saving our soils and promoting its sustainable management

- Education & Extension programmes
- Targeted soil research
- Sustainable soil management
- Soil Information Systems
- Policies and governance
Response from FAO and its members

- Pillar 1: Sustainable soil management
- Pillar 2: Awareness raising/education/technical cooperation
- Pillar 3: Targeted soil research
- Pillar 4: Soil data and information
- Pillar 5: Harmonization

An Agenda for Action

To promote Sustainable Soil Management

- 194 Member countries
- > 350 non-state partners
Global Soil Partnership

Plenary assembly

GSP Secretariat | ITPS

Endorsed Plans of Action (PA)

PA1 | PA2 | PA3 | PA4 | PA5

Soil management | Awareness | Research | Information & data | Harmonization

Implementation

Global Implementation Plans (GiPs)

GIP-1 | GIP-2 | GIP-3 | GIP-4 | GIP-5

INSII | Pillar 4 Working Group | SoilSTAT

Regional Implementation Plans (RiPs)

GSSDIC
Pillar 3: Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps, priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions

Global Plan of Action developed to:
- Increase understanding of soil processes and functions
- Determine how to efficiently manage soils
- Understand the geographic distribution of soil functioning
Pillar 3 Action Plan

4 Recommendations:

1. Evidence of return on investment in soil research
2. Encourage inter- and transdisciplinary R&D
3. Capitalize on existing R&D to ID global, regional and local emerging priorities
4. Foster synergy between research, end-user communities and donor agencies
Research Activities

• Conducted in collaboration with other initiatives/organizations

• Regional implementation through Regional Soil Partnerships

• Strong targeted research focus on sustainable soil management
  • For food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ESS, and disaster risk management
Research implementation

• Focused on addressing the 10 major soil threats
  • Soil erosion, loss of SOC, nutrient imbalance, loss of soil biodiversity, soil acidification, salinization, waterlogging, compaction, sealing and capping, soil contamination

• Eurasia:
  • Five countries implementing soil salinity research

• Implementation relies strongly on country-level support
New research soil topics in the agenda

- Soils and Antimicrobial resistance
- Soil borne plant diseases
- Soil contamination and human health
- Monitoring of soil condition for decision making
- .....................
Revised World Soil Charter

**Overarching goal:** Ensure that soils are managed sustainably and degraded soils are rehabilitated or restored

- SSM Definition
- Multi-level, interdisciplinary initiatives by many stakeholders

- Calls on governments to Support research programmes that will provide sound scientific backing for development and implementation of SSM relevant to end-users
Status of the World’s Soil Resources Report

- “Baseline” to track the status of the world’s soils
- Revised version envisaged for 2020
  - Global Soil Information System

Minimize further degradation of soils, restore productivity and ESS of degraded soils
Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management

- Accepted by recent COAG
- Submitted for endorsement by FAO Council

Objectives:
- Present generally accepted principles to promote SSM
- Calls for fostering and strengthening targeted soil research
- Implementation tool
Of the 17 goals, four contain targets related to soils
Develop a global SOC map by Dec 2017 as baseline

In support of SDG Indicator 15.3.1

Through support and involvement of FAO member countries
Thank you!