

Global Soil Partnership
GUIDELINES TO DEVELOP
REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS (RIPs)
BY THE REGIONAL SOIL PARTNERSHIPS

A. APPROACH

The following Table of Content is of indicative nature in highlighting the minimum content of the Regional Implementation Plans (RIPs) to be developed by the Regional Soil Partnerships (RSP), and provides brief descriptions of the information they should enclose.

Some issues that RSPs should consider when preparing RIPs include the following:

Essential premises:

- RIPs must have an indicative coverage of five (5) years.
- They must be consistent with the endorsed Plans of Action (PoAs) and (eventual) Implementations Plans of the Five Pillars of Action of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP).
- Taking into account the potential overlap between activities among the different pillars (notably Pillar 2), it is advised that its components may be used as cross-cutting themes for the RIP. This however should be decided by the drafting team as per the regional context.

The document:

- Acronyms and Abbreviations should be presented in Annex 1.
- References should be included as footnotes (as done in this document).
- New sections can be added. They can be included primarily in the form of annexes, if considered necessary by the concerned countries and partners.

The sources of funding:

Funds for execution of activities need to be yet mobilized and the process is to be done in tight collaboration with the GSP Secretariat:

- The proposals submitted by the RSP to potential resource partners (all under the Healthy Soils Facility) are to be verified first by the GSP Secretariat in order to ensure coherence and coordination of efforts.
- Given the nature of the GSP, it is fundamental that national contributions are explored and committed by partners and countries for the execution of the RIP.
- The GSP Secretariat will facilitate and support the efforts towards obtaining financial support for the RIPs. Of course, the RSPs should be proactive towards that. Once the GSP identifies opportunities for funding activities proposed within a given RIP, all necessary steps towards responding to the resource partner specifications will have to be addressed by the RSP and GSP Secretariat. That could imply the development of Concept Notes and fully fledged project documents.

B. TABLE OF CONTENT (MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PAGES)

I. Executive Summary (3 pages)

II. Introduction (3 pages)

- To start with a standard background statement provided by the GSP, i.e. information on the Partnership, the five pillars and corresponding plans of action developed to achieve its mandate, and the specific role of the RSPs within the GSP (3/4 of page).
- A brief description of the RSP (region and members: countries and partners), including the members of the RSP Steering Committee.
- A description of the process followed for the development of the RIP.
- Overview of main challenges identified for the region
- Outputs (definition in the footnotes of Annex 2) to be achieved with the five-year coverage period, and activities to be undertaken . We suggest 1-2 Outputs (that can be different to those included in the Programme Document of the Healthy Soils Facility) per Pillar and 3-to-5 Activities per Output. The Outputs must be congruent with the PoAs of the five Pillars of Action of the GSP¹.
- Any relevant policy considerations in the context of the RIP.

III. Actions within each Pillar: Logical Framework Matrix (10 pages) - format in Annex 1

- Main activities, expected outputs, outcomes and impacts, proposed by pillar (as much as possible aligned with their PoA) and using the Healthy Soils Facility Programme Document ². It is expected that the RIPs will focus mostly on Pillars 1, 2, and 3, given the primarily global scope of the PoAs for Pillar 4 and 5, but some key activities of pertinence to the region falling under the latter two Pillars may also be included as deemed necessary.
- Roles of the participating countries and partners (specific actions already identified in the Logical Framework).

IV. Implementation Arrangements and Governance (2 pages)

- Participating countries and partner institutions, at national (e.g. ministries, National Agriculture Research and Extension Systems - NARES, Civil Society Organizations - CSO), regional (e.g. Non-Governmental Organizations - NGOs) and global (e.g. UN organizations or conventions)

¹ Pillar 1 - Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity (<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/the-5-pillars-of-action/1-soil-management/en/>).

Pillar 2 - Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soil (<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/the-5-pillars-of-action/2-awareness/en/>).

Pillar 3 - Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions (<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/the-5-pillars-of-action/3-research/en/>).

Pillar 4 - Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines (<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/the-5-pillars-of-action/4-information-and-data/en/>).

Pillar 5 - Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources (<http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/the-5-pillars-of-action/5-standards/en/>).

² http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/docs/plenary_assembly_II/healthy_soil_facility.pdf

levels, associated staff when possible, and their role (participation in specific actions already included in Annex 2), using the format provided in Annex 2.

- Approximate timelines (format in Annex 3)
- Reporting lines defined within the RSP.

V. Risk management (1 page)

- Main assumptions (including factors outside of the RSP control) that must materialize for the successful execution of the RIP.
- Analysis of main potential limitations to achieving the expected objectives and possible mitigation options.

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation (1 page)

- Progress in the execution of activities will be monitored, using as reference the timetable provided in Annex 3.
- Progress will also be assessed using SMART (Simple, Measureable, Attributable, Reliable and Time bound) indicators, to be developed using available guidelines. Sources of verification (could be e.g., agreements with partners, records of stakeholders trained, technical and scientific publications, etc.).

VII. Budget and commitments (in US Dollars)

- Detailed budget (round figures only – no decimals) requested to be broken down by Pillar, activity within each Pillar, country and partners, including indirect costs, using standard formats to be provided by the GSP. The example for the budget to be followed is the one from the main GSP Programme Document of the Healthy Soils Facility ([link to access the document in footnote 2](#)).
- The overall budget of the Healthy Soils Facility has been identified to be USD64 million for 5 years, thus each regional budget needs to be part of that overall figure.
- At the time of developing the RIP and considering that national focal points are active members of the drafting process, it is expected to identify potential resource partners (donors) who can support a given activity of the overall RIP. Similarly, it will be important that this includes national commitments/contributions (even if in-kind) to the RIP.

VIII. Annexes:

Annex 1: Logical framework matrix.

Annex 2: Participating countries and partners, and main contributions.

Annex 3: Timeline proposed to execute the RIP of the RSP.

Annex 2: Logical Framework matrix (formats)

RSP Results Matrix for the implementation of the RIP in (region)^{3,4}

Results Chain	Indicators ⁵				Assumptions
	Indicators	Baseline ⁶	Target	Means of Verification (MOV) ⁷	
Outcome ⁸					
Outputs ⁹					

Pillar 1: Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity.							
Output ¹⁰		Activity ¹⁰		Priority (1, 2, 3)	Execution period (start-end)	Stakeholders	Funding requirement (YES/NO) and amount
No.	Description	No.	Description				
1.1	Establishment of a regional program for soil rehabilitation and conservation.	1.1.1	Determination and prioritization of agro-ecosystems and production systems relevant for the region.	1	Jun-Oct 2015	Focal points, partners, FAO, RCC	YES \$50,000 (regional workshop)
		...					
		1.1.x					

ACRONYMS: CCR= Regional Coordination Committee; ...

Pillar 2: Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soil.							
Output		Activity		Priority (1, 2, 3)	Execution period (start-end)	Stakeholders	Funding requirement (YES/NO) and amount
No.	Description	No.	Description				

³ To support strategic planning, the results matrix and the work plan and budget describe the entire chain of activities, outputs, and outcomes (the five GSP Pillars of Action, as defined in the Healthy Soils Facility document). It provides an effective and transparent linkage between means and ends.

⁴ FAO. 2010. FAO Handbook on the Logical Framework Approach (LFA). 88 p.

⁵ A quantitative and/or qualitative variable that allows the verification of changes produced by a development intervention relative to what was planned. It is recommended to formulate up to two indicators for an outcome and up to three indicators for each output.

⁶ Situation prior to a development intervention against which progress can be assessed or comparisons made. When baseline is not available and may require additional resources, a preliminary activity could be created in the work plan.

⁷ Data sources and reporting mechanisms that specify how indicator data will be collected, by whom and when.

⁸ The likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs, usually requiring the collective effort of partners. Outcomes represent changes in development conditions which occur between the completion of outputs and the achievement of impact.

⁹ The products and services which result from the completion of Activities within a development intervention.

¹⁰ Actions taken or work performed through which inputs, such as funds, technical assistance and other types of resources are mobilised to produce specific outputs.

ACRONYMS: ...							

Pillar 3: Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions.							
Output		Activity		Priority (1, 2, 3)	Execution period (start-end)	Stakehol- ders	Funding requirement (YES/NO) and amount
No.	Description	No.	Description				
ACRONYMS: ...							

Pillar 4: Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines.							
Output		Activity		Priority (1, 2, 3)	Execution period (start-end)	Stakehol- ders	Funding requirement (YES/NO) and amount
No.	Description	No.	Description				

Pillar 5: Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.							
Output		Activity		Priority (1, 2, 3)	Execution period (start-end)	Stakehol- ders	Funding requirement (YES/NO) and amount
No.	Description	No.	Description				

Annex 3: Participating countries and partners, and main contributions (format).

Country	Organization	Associated Staff (specialization and position)	General Contribution to the RSP

Annex 4: Timeline proposed to execute the RIP of the RSP (format and example).

Pillar and activities	Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4			Year 5		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Pillar 1: Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity.															
Outcome/Activity 1.1: Regional program for soil rehabilitation and conservation															
1.1.1 Determination and prioritization of relevant agro-ecosystems and production systems															
...															
...															
Pillar 2: Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soil.															
Pillar 3: Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions															
Pillar 4: Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines															
Pillar 5: Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.															