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Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



Fourth session

Rome, 23-25 May 2016

Establishment of the Glinka World Soil Prize

Executive Summary

- The Assembly may recall that the tentative Plan of Action to support the implementation of the International Year of Soils 2015 (IYS) - which it considered and broadly endorsed during its second session of 22-24 July 2014 – contemplated the possible instauration of a World Soil Prize as a most significant activity in the context of the Year.
- It did not prove feasible to proceed with this formal establishment during the IYS itself. However, the rationale for such a Prize, particularly in terms of the increased international resonance it would give to the cause of sustainable soil management, remains fully valid.
- The pursuance of this initiative would in effect also fit nicely into the required active follow-up to the momentum generated by the Year. In this light a concept note for such a Prize (with a more specific name and to be administered under the aegis of the GSP) is provided below.

Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

- The Plenary Assembly may wish to:
 - consider and endorse the establishment of the Glinka World Soil Prize as per the proposed features and award process described in the concept note.

WORLD SOIL PRIZE

(under the aegis of the Global Soil Partnership)

Concept Note

I. Context and Scope¹

1. The instauration of the Glinka² World Soil Prize would be fully consistent with current heightened attention to ensuring widespread soil conservation and sustainable management measures in all regions of the world. It would also be in consonance with the mandate of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), especially in terms of advocacy for more effective soil policies and actions to guarantee healthy and productive soils for a food secure world.
2. The Glinka World Soil Prize would seek to honor individuals or organizations whose activities and leadership have contributed, or are still contributing to the promotion of sustainable soil management and the protection of soil resources as specified in the revised World Soil Charter, thereby improving the well-being of populations.
3. The award would contribute in a timely manner to raise awareness of policy makers and the general public about possible solutions to tackle acute national and local problems as relates to soils, and to encourage all stakeholders and soil practitioners to engage in field-oriented work, with direct contributions to the preservation of the environment, food security and poverty alleviation.
4. The award of the World Soil Prize should take place during the annual World Soil Day celebrations, thereby maintaining the momentum created by the International Year of Soils 2015 (IYS).
5. The World Soil Prize is to consist of a USD 15,000 award and **Glinka Medal**. The Russian Federation is providing the needed financial support for the first three years (2016 - 2018) of the prize. The Secretariat will invite other resources partners to financially support this prize further.

II. Eligibility criteria

6. Nominees should have made outstanding achievements in implementing the principles and recommended actions of the World Soil Charter.
7. If related to purely scientific or policy formulation and implementation work, such activities should preferably have had a proven impact at field level.
8. The achievements should be consistent with the principles of the revised World Soil Charter (adopted by the FAO Conference in June 2015) and to one of the five pillars of the GSP, namely:

Pillar 1. Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity.

¹ This note draws on the precedents of other prizes, in particular the Stockholm Water Prize awarded since 1991.

² Konstantin Dmitrievich Glinka (1867-1927) – prominent Russian and Soviet soil scientist who is credited for his unique contribution to understanding the principles of geographical distribution of soils and extensive activities on the exploration, mapping and assessment of vast areas of Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia, as well as his important studies in the areas of soil minerology, chemistry and paleopedology.

Pillar 2. Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soils.

Pillar 3. Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps, 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.

III. Nomination Procedure

9. All GSP Partners will be invited to nominate potential candidates, either directly or on behalf of a third party (self-nominations would not be possible). A call for nominations (with appropriate guidance and criteria based on this concept note) will be made through the GSP communications platforms, giving a comfortable deadline for the submission of applications.

10. The GSP Secretariat will examine the applications which have been submitted following the established procedures (i.e. forms sent by e-mail or post to the Secretariat of the GSP before the said deadline). A short-list of the most qualified nominees will then be submitted to the World Soil Prize Selection Committee for final decision (see below).

IV. Award procedure

11. The designation of the Laureate of the Glinka World Soil Prize will be made by a Selection Committee, composed of five persons, as follows:

- A representative of the GSP Secretariat
- The Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel of Soils
- The Chairperson of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly
- The Chairs of the nine Regional and Sub-regional Soil Partnerships.

12. Due attention will be paid over the years to ensure appropriate balance among the Laureates with regard to geographical regions and main soil disciplines.

13. The name of the Laureate of the Glinka World Soil Prize as determined by the Selection Committee should normally be communicated to the GSP Plenary Assembly.

V. Award ceremony

14. The Laureate will be announced during World Soil Day on 5th December and he/she will receive the prize at the global World Soil Day celebration that takes place at FAO headquarters.

15. The Laureate will also be given an opportunity to deliver a lecture during the opening of the corresponding Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly.

16. Media coverage will be assured in connection with the annual delivery of the Prize.

VI. Institutional home of the Prize

17. The World Soil Prize is placed under the aegis of the Global Soil Partnership, while its effective implementation would be subject to the availability of financial support from interested partners.