

June 2013

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
---	--	--------------------	---	---	---	--

Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

First Session

Rome, 11-12 June 2013

Financial Status of the Global Soil Partnership

Executive Summary

- The financial implications of the GSP should rely on the principle of “partnership”, whereby each partner may contribute with different inputs to the successful implementation of the initiative.
- FAO's prime contribution is through hosting the GSP Secretariat at its headquarters and paying from its Regular Programme the necessary staff and non-staff expenditures. FAO also supports activities in various regions in a limited manner. However, extra-budgetary funds should be mobilized to allow for full implementation of GSP actions, at both regional and national levels. The Secretariat has prepared specific proposals for this and contacted partner donors for funding them. A clear requirement was identified for a business model for the GSP in order to respond to the growing demands for assistance in different regions.

Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

- The Plenary Assembly may wish to:
 - a) request the Secretariat to develop a business model for the GSP.
 - b) request partners to support the implementation of the GSP by contributing extra-budgetary funds to implement specific activities at global, regional or national level. In order to facilitate collection of contributions and financial allocations to approved activities and projects in a transparent manner, the Secretariat will have to establish a dedicated financial facility under FAO's rules, which may be called the "Healthy Soils Trust Fund". In addition, partners may be invited to augment capacities in the Secretariat by seconding necessary supportive staff.

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

1. As specified in the GSP Terms of Reference (CL 145/REP/F1) the financial implications of the GSP rely on the principle of “partnership”. Each GSP partner may contribute with different inputs to the successful implementation of the GSP.

2. FAO is fully committed to the GSP implementation process and a prime expression of this commitment is by hosting the GSP Secretariat at its headquarters and securing funding from its Regular Programme for the necessary staff (professional and general service) and ancillary operating costs. Some limited additional budgetary provisions were used for implementing or supporting activities in various regions.

3. Extra-budgetary funds should also be mobilized and mainstreamed to support the implementation of GSP actions at both regional and national levels. In order to ensure smooth receipt of funds, implementation and transparency as well as to facilitate monitoring and reporting, a dedicated facility, which may be called the "Healthy Soils Trust Fund", will need to be established in accordance with FAO's arrangements.

4. To that end, the Secretariat has prepared specific proposals and contacted partner donors such as the European Commission and others to support the implementation of the GSP by funding these proposals.

5. In this overall effort, a clear requirement emerged, i.e. to develop and implement a business model for the Global Soil Partnership in order to respond as adequately as possible to the growing demands for assistance in the different regions.