



Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



Fifth session
Rome, 20-22 June 2017
Report on the Glinka World Soil Prize

The Assembly may recall that the Glinka World Soil Prize was established for the years 2016 – 2019 as per the features and award process outlined in the concept note approved during its fourth session of 23-25 May 2016. As the drive to end soil degradation gains traction on the global agenda, the Glinka World Soil Prize is set to stimulate engagement of national and international stakeholders, showcasing positive examples of field-oriented work. The prize honours individuals or organizations whose work promotes sustainable soil management and the protection of non-renewable soil resources, thereby having a direct impact on the well-being of populations.

Following a call for nominations issued in July 2016 and the nomination of candidates by partners by September 2016, the applications were reviewed to assess compliance with established criteria. Accordingly, nine nominations were deemed to comply with the Prize specifications. The Glinka World Soil Prize Selection Committee composed by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel of Soils, the Chair of the GSP Plenary Assembly, the Chairs of the nine Regional and Sub-regional Soil Partnerships were tasked to perform their mandated assessment of the candidates assisted by an evaluation tool developed by the Secretariat. The winner of the Prize was then selected and advised to attend the awarding ceremony during the World Soil Day celebration (5th December) at FAO HQ.

The first Glinka World Soil Prize (consisting of a Glinka Medal and a sum of USD15,000) - made possible by the financial support of the Russian Federation - was awarded to the “*Instituto Geografico Agustin Codazzi*” (IGAC) of Colombia. During the World Soil Day 2016 celebration, the FAO Director General, Mr. José Graziano da Silva handed the Prize to Mr. Juan Antonio Nieto, Director of IGAC. IGAC is responsible for the basic cartographic material of the country and especially the soil data, and is an important information repository for the country. IGAC had also played a key role in developing capacities on soil survey and information in Latin America. Its recent publication: “*Soils and Lands of Colombia*” constitutes an outstanding effort made in less than 3 years to understand Colombian soils in more detail, both in terms of their morphology and their complex economic and social relevance.

In 2017 the Glinka World Soil Prize, through a dedicated webpage and the use of social media, will constitute one of the key awareness building platforms (together with World Soil Day) to continue the momentum generated by the International Year of Soils 2015. A call for nominations will be issued at the end of June and a good response by partners is expected.

Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

- The Plenary Assembly may wish to:
 - take note of the successful inception of the Glinka World Soil Prize in 2016 and the programme foreseen for the 2017 award ceremony;
 - invite partners to disseminate the call for nominations so that the process is inclusive and ensures submissions from the different regions of the world;
 - invite resource partners to financially contribute to the implementation of this initiative beyond 2018 (as it is currently sponsored by the Russian Federation for a limited period).