



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Status of the World's Soil Resources

Main Report



itps
INTERNATIONAL
TECHNICAL PANEL ON SOILS



2015
International
Year of Soils

The 2025 Status of the World's Soil Resources report
is a product of the ITPS

More specifically, the 2025 Status of the World's Soil Resources report
is a product of this ITPS

Final draft of Regional Assessment submitted to SWSR
Working Group by March 31 2024

The 2025 Status of the World's Soil Resources report has three objectives:

- 1) to summarize new information (since 2015) on the major threats to soil functions,
- 2) to assess the regional distribution of these threats and
- 3) to identify and promote the sustainable soil management practises that can address these threats.

Two departures from timetable to date:

- 1) Original SWSR plan and timetable did not include consideration of subregions.
- 2) Continuing difficulties with access to FAO email system has delayed reviews of Assessment of Threats

Regional Assessment Chapters

Goal of Regional Assessment chapters (RAs) is to alert policy makers and other soil managers about the current threats and the measures that are available to address them

Second audience is soil and other scientists and other members of the public who want an authoritative and accessible summary

For policy makers:

Role of science reviews is to identify problems and present options for possible corrective action

Three types of questions we want to answer for policy makers:

1) What are the biggest threats to soils in your region?

How and where are people affected?

Are the effects big? Who loses? Does anyone win?

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These are largely questions that require interpretation

(e.g. ranking of threats). This

interpretation will be done by Regional Assessment Panels

2) What can be done? Will it work?
What are the risks? What will it cost?

2) What can be done? Will it work?
What are the risks? What will it cost?

Assessment of sustainable soil management techniques
that are available

What are the impediments to adoption in
your region/subregion?

3) Is it a policy problem?

Is it a policy problem that only involves soils
or are other resources involved?

Adoption of Sub-Regions

Specific information on each sub-region
provided in “Report on Subregions for the 2025 Report”
included with the information package for this meeting

Adoption of sub-regions requires change to the
authorship structure

- Need 1) Lead authors for the region as a whole
2) Lead authors for each subregion

Subsequently Contributing Authors will
be selected by Lead Authors for each subregion

We are proposing that the ITPS members
for each region would be the Regional Lead Authors

Discussion

Process of Writing the Regional Assessment Chapters

- 1) Selection of Subregional Lead Authors: Done by Regional Assessment Panels
 - 2) Selection of Contributing Authors
 - 3) Writing of the first draft (due September 30 2023)
 - 4) Initial review by Review Editor, Managing Editor,
and Editorial Working Group
 - 5) Revision and preparation of second draft

Each Regional Assessment is managed by
a Regional Assessment Panel

Initial panel: All ITPS members for the region plus
the chair of the Regional Soil Partnership

After appointment of the Lead Authors for subregions, these authors
will also be on the Regional Assessment Panel

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Process of Writing the Regional Assessment Chapters

- 6) Review by non-GSP authorities; submitted to Review Editor
 - 7) Review and preparation of final draft
 - 8) Review by SWSR Editorial WG
- 9) Final review and approval by ITPS March 2025

What makes a good Lead Author for a subregion?

- 1) Knowledgeable about regional/subregional issues
- 2) Known others in the field and respected

But could be an early-career stage researcher;
participation in international projects
good for personal and career development

What makes a good Lead Author?

- 3) Ideally should have a reputation for completion of tasks on time.

Sources of possible Lead Authors

- 1) Current and former ITPS members?
- 2) Regional or national soil science organizations

Broad or targeted solicitation?

Regional Breakout Sessions

Begin at and after coffee break at 10:30

ITPS members for each region meet to:

- 1) Confirm proposed subregions for your region
- 2) Discuss process to select lead authors for each subregion or names of possible lead authors

Re-convene here at 12:00 to report back to group

Reviewing the Report

All content in the report will undergo two levels of review

- 1) Review by Review Editor, Managing Editor and Editorial Working Group

Review Editor: Science review

Managing Editor: Style, length, consistency, repetition

EWG: Conformity with SWSR Terms of Reference

Reviewing the Report

2) Review by non-staff experts

Process will be managed by Review Editor

Sources of reviewers:

- 1) All Lead Authors will review two other sections
- 2) Current and former ITPS members
- 3) ?

Reviewing the Report

Final edit authority rests with Review Editor,
Managing Editor and EWG.

Differs from peer-reviewed journal article:

Authors have responsibility of every word in the article

SWSR 2025: Synthesis of many authors:

ITPS is responsible for every word in the report

Thresholds Concept Note

Concept note was circulated with materials
for meeting

Concept note summarized existing information on
thresholds; we are **not** proposing that these thresholds
should be adopted by the ITPS

Thresholds Concept Note

Today the ITPS needs to decide if it wants to pursue the development of a “thresholds” paper and, if so, what editorial process will be followed

Feedback from Monday SWSR WG Meeting

“Thresholds” too prescriptive; should use
“reference values” or “guideline values”

Feedback from Monday SWSR WG Meeting

Need a three-tiered approach

1) Globally relevant reference values:

Salinity/sodicity?

2) Regionally or subregionally relevant reference values;

reflective of soil differences

Feedback from Monday SWSR WG Meeting

- 3) Threats for which reference values cannot be estimated;
Assess known drivers of threat to identify areas
of potential stress or trends in stress



GLOBAL SOIL BIODIVERSITY ATLAS

Supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative: preserving soil organisms through sustainable land management practices and environmental policies for the protection and enhancement of ecosystem services



GLOBAL
SOIL BIODIVERSITY
INITIATIVE

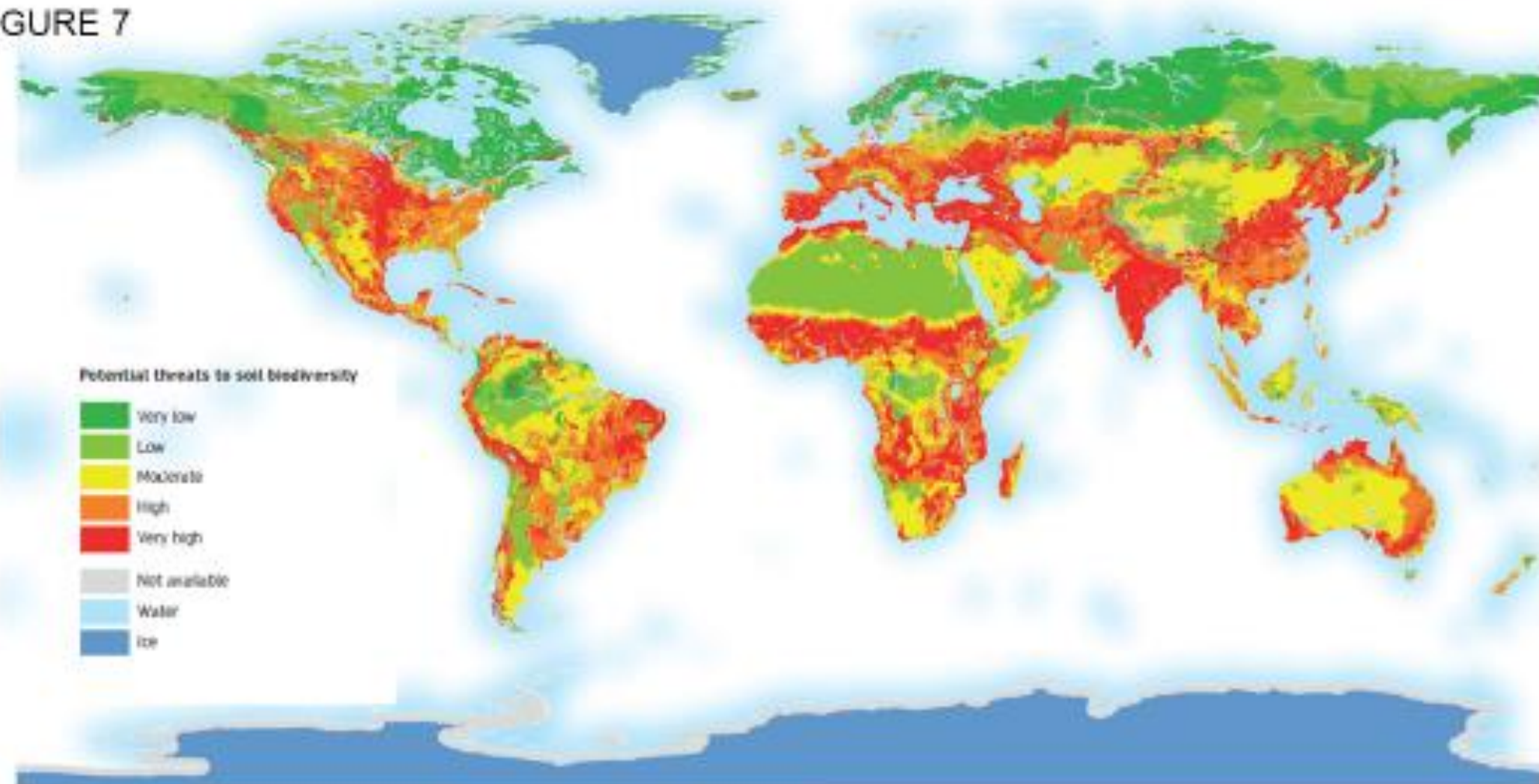


Drivers from Orgiazzi *et al.* 2016

- loss of aboveground biodiversity
- pollution and nutrient overloading
- cropland percentage
- overgrazing
- map of fire density 1997-2010
- soil erosion:
- Map of Desertification Vulnerability Index
- climate change: map of Global Aridity Index

All datasets were then harmonised on a 0 - 1 scale and summed, with total scores categorised as very low, low, moderate, high or very high level of threat to soil biodiversity.

FIGURE 7



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