

Pacific Soil Partnership (PSP)

A regional collaboration under the FAO Global Soil Partnership (GSP)



PSP Brisbane Communique

May 2019

The Pacific Soil Partnership held a workshop on 21st – 23rd May 2019 in Brisbane Australia to progress development of the PSP Regional Implementation Plan.

The workshop was attended by 18 representatives from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Communities (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). Apologies were received from Tuvalu, Samoa and the French Territories.



The workshop was hosted by CSIRO Australia at the Ecosciences Precinct building in Brisbane and included a tour of the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science Chemistry Centre (with special thanks to Rob de Hayr, Science Leader).

The Pacific Soil Partnership reaffirmed our commitment to progressing the proposed outcomes of the Global Soil Partnership Pillars of Action through our regional collaborative efforts. The regional priorities enunciated at previous PSP meetings in Suva and Nadi in Fiji and in Queenstown New Zealand are still relevant and form key priorities for regional action, including –

1. Sharing and developing appropriate soil management solutions noting the particular challenges for atolls
2. Increasing soil literacy
3. Building local and regional capacity grounded in our cultural context
4. Designing efficient and effective methods for soil analysis that are locally appropriate and robust
5. Enhancing coverage of soil information, collating legacy data and developing more usable forms
6. Ensuring soil information security to protect regional data assets against loss
7. Sharing capacity including laboratories, portals and extension resources

PSP Regional Implementation Plan

At the PSP Brisbane workshop we identified potential collaborative activities against each of the GSP Pillars of Action. These activities now form the basis of our PSP Regional Implementation Plan that will guide our future efforts. Some of the identified priorities are highlighted below –

	GSP Outcome	Key regional activities
Pillar 1	Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively promote the Pacific Soil Partnership initiative and GSP • Provide guidance on sustainable soil management targeted to the Pacific region • Encourage development of sustainable soil management policies • Support adoption and implementation of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture • Identify and resolve barriers to adoption of sustainable soil management practices • Monitor the impact of PSP activities • Improve communication within PSP and more broadly
Pillar 2	Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education, awareness and extension in soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve communication with and understanding of governments regarding sustainable soil management • Support education, training and capacity building at all levels • Facilitate investment by matching activities to donor interests and expectations • Enhance regional scientific and technical cooperation • Develop targeted soil management communication material for farmers, the agricultural industry, researchers and the general public
Pillar 3	Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify common research needs, current status, gaps and opportunities for collaboration • Establish framework to express the value of research and return on investment • Demonstrate how soils research can have wider benefit to the ecosystem, environment, people and economies • Support improved collaboration between Aust/NZ universities and Pacific island nations and universities • Promote and expand new approaches to research including participatory, transdisciplinary and citizen science
Pillar 4	Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Pacific Soil Portal, including all countries • Support the capture and management of all soil data

	information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess data management capacity across the Pacific and establish governance arrangements for the Pacific Soil Portal • Trial implementation of GSP CountrySIS and support delivery of regional data through GLOSIS • Develop tools for modelling, monitoring and forecasting soil condition • Determine capacity for Pacific countries to report against GSP specified global products
Pillar 5	Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Pacific guidelines for field survey and soil description, including a vocabulary service • Develop correlation table for soil classifications used across the Pacific region • Trial implementation of GLOSIS soil data exchange standard services • Link soil classification/properties to modelling needs • Trial implementation of GSP global map products • Use ASPAC as RESOLAN Pacific (include SPACNET membership) • Laboratories to participate in the ASPAC Inter-laboratory Proficiency Program • Strengthen training, including visits between laboratories; training of lab staff on-site

The draft PSP Regional Implementation Plan will be presented to the GSP Annual Plenary in Rome, Italy June 5th – 7th and be further promoted during the Pacific Week of Agriculture to be held in Samoa 1st – 3rd October 2019.

PSP Governance

The meeting of the PSP also established governance arrangements for the next period. No formal process is yet in place to review PSP positions, but it was agreed that the following people would take on key roles at this time.

Role	Name	Country	Organisation
Chair	Peter Wilson	Australia	CSIRO
Vice-Chair	Siua Halavatau	Tonga	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
ITPS	Megan Balks	New Zealand	University of Waikato
ITPS	Siua Halavatau	Tonga	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Pillar 1 Chair	John Oakeshott (Acting)	Fiji	Pacific Communities SPC
Pillar 2 Chair	Nacanieli Tuivavalagi	Fed States Micronesia	College of Micronesia-FSM
Pillar 3 Chair	Viliamu Iese	(Tuvalu)	University Sth Pacific
Pillar 3 Vice Chair	Ramakrishna Akkinapally	PNG	NARI
Pillar 4 Chair	David Medyckyj-Scott	New Zealand	Manaaki Whenua
Pillar 5 Chair	Peter Wilson (Interim)	Australia	CSIRO
Pillar 5 GLOSOLAN	Rob De Hayr	Australia	Qld Gov, ASPAC
Advisor	Jan Helsen	Fiji	Pacific Communities SPC
Advisor	James Quilty	Australia	ACIAR
Advisor	Morgan Wairiu	Fiji	University Sth Pacific



Representatives at the PSP Regional Implementation Plan workshop in Brisbane, Australia 21-23 May 2019 – from left to right: Viliamu Iese (USP), Ian Towers (Aust Gov), James Quilty (ACIAR), Gerard Grealish (NZ), Megan Balks (NZ, ITPS), Mohammad Golabi (Guam), Jan Helsen (SPC), Stanley Oa (PNG), Rama Akkinapally (PNG) – second row – Peter Wilson (CSIRO Australia), Nat Tuivavalagi (Micronesia), Junior Salong (Vanuatu) – back row – Rob de Hayr (Queensland Gov), James Barringer (NZ), Ami Sharma (Fiji), Siua Halavatau (Tonga, ITPS). Absent – Ben MacDonald (CSIRO).