



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Soil Atlas of Asia-IV/20/Report

Report of the Third Editorial Board Meeting, Soil Atlas of Asia

Online meeting, 7-10 July 2020

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SOIL ATLAS OF ASIA**

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2020

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1. Introduction

The third meeting of the Editorial Board for the Soil Atlas of Asia took place from 7 to 10 July 2020. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the workshop was implemented on the Zoom platform. The scope of the meeting was to review the progress made on the writing of the atlas, focusing on the preparation of maps, submission of pictures and other country contributions.

Fifty participants from 23 countries attended the meeting (see Annex I). The meeting was organized on a four-day agenda (see Annex II). In order to allow participants to send their contributions to the Atlas during the meeting, 8 and 9 July were dedicated to individual work and bilateral discussions. Thus, group meetings were only held on 7 and 10 July.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Arwyn Jones (JRC, European Commission) and Dr. Park Joungyoon (Senior Deputy Secretary General, AFACI Secretariat), who stressed the role of soil as a policy driver and the importance of writing awareness raising documents such as the Soil Atlas of Asia. Moreover, Mr. Jones took the opportunity to thank the trainers of the World Reference Base (WRB) Workshop for the Soil Atlas of Asia (24 March – 3 April 2020) for their contribution to building and harmonizing the soil mapping capacity of the experts working on the Atlas. Dr. Joungyoon underlined the importance of the Soil Atlas of Asia as a support tool to be used to face the great challenges regarding the sustainable management of soils in the Asian region.

2. Highlights

2.1 Structure of the atlas

Mr. Jones opened the meeting by showing the progress made in implementing the decisions taken at the 2nd Editorial Board meeting, where the structure of the Atlas was revised. Ms. Lucrezia Caon (Global Soil Partnership, FAO) briefed the participants on the country contributions received so far in terms of pictures, maps and written content. By the end of September 2020, the individual chapters will be provided to the editorial board members for review.

The design of the cover and the possibility to having it in yellow were also discussed.

2.2 Mapping activities

The progress made in the development of thematic maps was presented, focusing on the status of each soil property. Mr. Kostiantyn Viatkin (Global Soil Partnership, FAO) and members of the editorial board from small countries and countries consisting of small islands highlighted some issues related to the scale of maps. Mr. Jones suggested that during the summer, once the template for individual page/map spreads is distributed, the need to emphasize certain areas in terms of additional larger scale maps or text/boxes in the atlas will be discussed.

Mr. Jones also stressed the importance of developing and referring to other soil thematic maps in the atlas.

Dr. Erika Micheli (International Union of Soil Sciences, Szent István University, Hungary) provided a summary of the issues raised by the participants during the WRB Workshop in June 2020. The need of WRB harmonization was explained, with an active discussion among participants on targeted cases studies from the Asian region. In this regard, a correlation table with a description of common soil qualifiers in the Asian

region will be prepared and made available to the Editorial Board by Mr. Jones and Ms. Micheli. Therefore, the Editorial Board is invited to enlarge such table by adding any missing qualifiers.

2.3 Countries contribution

On 7 July, participants were invited to upload the following in a shared folder on Google Drive:

- Pictures (see the list of pictures needed for the Atlas in Annex III);
- Case studies;
- Countries profiles, with information on:
 - o Country name
 - o Region
 - o Capital
 - o Population
 - o Area
 - o Climate
 - o Soil characteristics
 - o Soil related issues
 - o Pictures

Please note that each country has a personal folder and that maps should be submitted to the GSP and the JRC as separate files by email. A common folder has also been created to share material of general interest such as the updated version of the Atlas.

Contributing authors were also discussed. Each member of the Editorial Board was kindly asked to keep track of the contributing authors from their country and to specify the type of contribution they make to the Atlas: submission of pictures, case studies, data, maps, etc. All those who contributed to the Atlas will be acknowledged as appropriate. To facilitate this work, Ms. Caon will upload into each country's folder the names of those who have expressed their willingness to contribute to the Atlas.

In July and August 2020, Mr. Jones will review the contributions in the online country folders and include them in the different sections of the Atlas (where possible) as appropriate.

3. Conclusions and way forward

Upcoming deadlines:

Mid of September 2020: first approximation of the Global Information System (GIS) dataset to create a new soil map of Asia. Mr. Viatkin will work on merging all the contributions into a single, smooth structure and will highlight gaps and other elements for improvement.

30 September 2020: all countries should finalize the uploading of the requested material in their online folder. Such material should be made available for review before the next Editorial Board meeting.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the next meetings will be held virtually. In this regard, participants expressed positive feedback on having the meeting online.

The 4th Editorial Board meeting will be organized at the end of October 2020. It is foreseen to last four days and will consist of three days dedicated to bilateral talks with each sub-region (West, Central and East Asia)

and one day of plenary to discuss common issues and start reviewing the written content of the Atlas. Greater attention will be paid to harmonizing the GIS layers from different countries.

Annex I. List of participants

Mr. Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission

Dr. Park Joungyoon, Senior Deputy Secretary General, AFACI Secretariat

Ms. Erika Micheli, IUSS/Szent István University

Mr. Kostiantyn Viatkin, Global Soil Partnership, FAO

Ms. Lucrezia Caon, Global Soil Partnership, FAO

Mr. Filippo Benedetti, Global Soil Partnership, FAO

Country	Name
Afghanistan	Hameedullah Ahmadzai
Azerbaijan	Amin Ismayilov
Azerbaijan	Fikrat Feyziyev
Bangladesh	Md. Altaf Hossain
Bhutan	Dawa Tashi
Bhutan	Tsheten Dorji
Cambodia	Vang Seng
India	Partha Pratim BISWAS
Indonesia	Markus Anda
Iraq	Waleed M. Al Shafie
Italy	Pandi Zdruli
Italy	CLAUDIO ZUCCA
Japan	Hideo KUBOTERA
Japan	Yusuke TAKATA
Japan	Yuta ISE
Japan	Yuji MAEJIMA
Japan	Dr. Hideo Kubotera
Kyrgyzstan	Dr. Ermek Baibagyshov
Lao PDR	Saysongkham Sayavong
Mongolia	Batkhashig Ochirbat
Myanmar	Dr. Su Su Win
Myanmar	Aung Kyaw Thu
Nepal	S. P. Vista
Pakistan	Muhammad Sabir
Pakistan	Waqar Ahmad
Pakistan	Munir Zia
Philippines	Sonia M. Salguero
Philippines	Dominciano D. Ramos Jr.
Philippines	Andrew B. Flores
Republic of Korea	Sangho Jeon
Republic of Korea	Byounghwan Seo

Rupublic of Korea (AFACI)	Ms. Soyoung Lee
Rupublic of Korea (AFACI)	Dr. Kim Woojae
Russia	Pavel Krasilnikov
Russia	Maria Konyushkova
Sri Lanka	Dr. U.W.A. Vitharana
Sri Lanka	Harsha Kumara Kadupitiya
Thailand	Prof. Irb Kheoruenromne
Thailand	Dr. Naruekamon Janjirawuttikul
Thailand	Mr. Kridsopon Duangkamon
Thailand	Mr. Wattana Pattanathaworn
United Arab Emirates	Bayan Athamneh
United Arab Emirates	Wafa Faisal Al Yamani
United Arab Emirates	Anil Kumar
United Arab Emirates	Ahmed Hamdy Ali EL-Naggar
Vietnam	Quy M. Vu

Annex II. Agenda

7 July

- 7:00 – 7:20 CET** | **Opening of the workshop and endorsement of the agenda**
Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission
Dr. Park Joungyoon, AFACI Senior Deputy Secretary General, AFACI Secretariat
- 7:20 – 8:00 CET** | **Follow up actions from Korea**
- **Structure**
- **Maps**
- **Country profiles**
- **Written content**
- **Pictures and case studies**

Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission
- 8:00 – 8:30 CET** | **WRB harmonization**
Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission
Kostiantin Viatkin, GSP Secretariat, FAO
Erika Micheli
- 8:30 – 9:00 CET** | **Other maps**
Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission
Kostiantin Viatkin, GSP Secretariat, FAO
Lucrezia Caon, GSP Secretariat, FAO
- 9:00 – 9:15 CET** | **Break**
- 9:15 – 9:45 CET** | **Country profiles**
Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission
Lucrezia Caon, GSP Secretariat FAO
- 9:45 – 10:30 CET** | **Written contributions including case studies**
Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission
Lucrezia Caon, GSP Secretariat FAO
- 10:30 – 11:00 CET** | **Pictures**
Arwyn Jones, JRC-European Commission
Lucrezia Caon, GSP Secretariat FAO
- 11:00** | **Wrap up and closure of the day**

8 July
Individual work

9 July
Review of material and bilateral talks as needed
All material needs to be uploaded on Google share

10 July

7:00 – 9:00 CET	 Presentation of progresses
9:00 – 9:15 CET	 Break
09:15 - 10:00 CET	 General discussion on outstanding issues
10:00 - 10:45 CET	 Next steps - procedures, deadlines, meetings (regional, mapping, editorial)
10:30 - 11:00 CET	 Wrap up and summary
11:00 CET	 Closing of the meeting

Annex III. List of pictures needed for the Soil Atlas of Asia

- Paddy soils
- Arid soils
- Classic profile
- Bed rock and material that has been transported (not local parent material, e.g. gravel)
- Catena
- Deep weathered profiles
- Volcanic soils (picture, graphs, diagrams to explain the differences)
- Overlap of urban expansion on best soil types (page 21)
- Physical weathering
- Chemical weathering
- Leaching/clay movement/clay destruction (leached profile and eluviated profile)
- Ferrallic horizons
- Nitisols and plintic horizon
- Laterite
- Argic horizons (Luvisols, Lexisols, Alisols and Acrisols)
- Processes on volcanic materials
- Dry soils
- Salty soils
- Sandy soils
- Vertisols and Fluvisols (especially mangrove conditions)
- Vertisols (surface cracking - put your hand for reference)
- Peats
- Sulphate-rich soils
- Anthrosols
- Illustration, graphs on nutrient cycles (N,P, C, etc.)
- Cryogenic processes
- Mountain soils
- Loess
- Rangeland, palm and crops
- Rice cultivation (write and pic)
- Date palm
- Agro-forestry system
- Soybean
- Halophates
- Soil culture
- Soil biodiversity
- Archeology
- Raw material: Acid plants (tea - rhododendron)
- Raw material: sweet potatoes)
- Soil classification
- Major soil types of Asia (page 50-51)

- Medium-scale soil maps & Large-scale soil maps (page 63)
- Soil properties maps (pages 132-137)
- Geographical perspective (pages 140-148)
- Climate change (pages 150-151)
- Land management (pages 152-153)
- Soil pollution
- Soil erosion (link to JRC/GSP map)
- Soil sealing (statistic on land take are welcome, data on land use extension change)
- Salinization (look at increasing salinity instead of naturally salt-affected soils)
- Compaction (link to compaction in peats)
- Landslides (also link to technology)
- Education material and awareness raising

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