

ITPS-XIV/21/Report



Food and Agriculture
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Report of the Fourteenth Working Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils

Virtual Session May 2021

itps
INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
PANEL ON SOILS

**REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH WORKING SESSION OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL PANEL ON SOILS**

Virtual Session May 2021

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2021

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1. Opening of the meeting

Ms Rosa M Poch, ITPS chair, opened the meeting and greeted all the participants. She especially thanked the GSP Secretariat for carrying on the good work in such difficult circumstances.

Ms Rosa Poch explained that **Ms Maria Konyushkova**, one of the European members of ITPS, who was unable to continue as a member of ITPS, given her new role within the GSP Secretariat, would be substituted by **Mr Aleksei Sorokin** (Russia) following the Rules of Procedure of the Global Soil Partnership¹. Although he was not able to attend, Mr Alexei Sorokin would be proposed in principle as the new European ITPS member in the upcoming Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP).

Mr Ronald Vargas, GSP Secretary, then commented on the many different initiatives happening around the key topics of soil organic carbon sequestration, carbon markets, soil biodiversity and soil health. He also mentioned the European Union decision to advocate for the establishment of a UN convention of soils and what this might mean for the future of the GSP.

With no one against, the Agenda and Timetable were both adopted and a volunteer for the role of Rapporteur was requested. **Mr Peter de Ruiter** put himself forwards for the role.

2. Cooperation with SPI, 4per1000, and others (*for information*)

Ms Rosa Poch then presented the different organisations cooperating with the ITPS and the most recent progress and activities in the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity, the Technical Manual for soil organic carbon (SOC) management, the Global Symposium on salt-affected soils (GSAS) and the International Network of Salt-affected Soils (INSAS). ITPS members had also contributed to the Review of the Good Practice Guide of the Soil Development Goals 15.3.1, helped build the Strategic Plan of 4p1000 (as STC observer members) and reviewed the draft of some of the chapters of the 6th Ass. Report of IPCC.

3. World Soil Day 2021 (for information and decision)

Ms Isabelle Verbeke (GSP Secretariat) explained what had previously been achieved by World Soil Days (WSD), and discussed the key figures achieved in 2020 and the preceding years, showing a steep rise in interest and countries participating year by year.

¹ If, due to unexpected reasons, an ITPS member is unable to fulfil his/her responsibilities for the full term, the concerned FAO regional group may communicate to the Secretariat the name and qualifications of a substitute expert. This substitute expert can join the ITPS, subject to positive common assessment by the ITPS Chairperson and the Secretariat. Confirmation of the substitute expert to serve during the remainder of the term of the original member is to be requested from the following session of the Plenary Assembly (Rules of Procedure of the Global Soil Partnership, Rule VI.1.e)

WSD21 would be launched in August 2021 with the motto *Halt soil salinisation, boost soil productivity*, including activities and events, with the intent of increasing engagement with new partners, new countries and the media.

She asked for input and thoughts towards finalizing the WSD21 icon and campaign.

She continued by requesting ideas and suggestions to encourage global engagement in the issue, explaining that not all countries had soil salinisation issues and perhaps the ITPS should look at including alternatives such as water and irrigation.

She suggested that a booklet could be produced, written by children in countries with salt-affected soils, explaining how SAS had affected their lives. A possible video contest was also mooted.

Participants commented about the success of virtual meetings, and that they provided some measure of equity for many participants, who might have been unable to attend previously.

Ms Lucia Anjos pointed out that it was worth emphasizing the positive aspects of SAS for WSD21. For example, the SAS occurring in the natural mangrove habitat along parts of Brazil's coastline. **Ms Rosa Poch** reiterated the importance of giving value to natural SAS and saline environments, while suggesting that SAS should also be presented as a threat waiting to happen with climate change.

Ms Maria Konyushkova also added that perhaps the over-fertilisation of soils could also be used as a way in which to involve countries without salinisation issues. **Ms Ellen Graber** commented that irrigation and environmentally impacted soils through mining might also be something to consider.

Ms Rosa Poch commented that next year's theme would be fertility and **Mr Ronald Vargas** added that the themes were based around the ten soil threats. He also reiterated the need for and the importance of input and discussion on these subjects.

Ms Lucia Anjos reiterated that WSD21 text and images were perhaps focusing too much on the negative side of SAS. She stressed that naturally occurring SAS could be positive and did not necessarily need to be corrected.

4. Report of the work performed since the 13th working session (*for information and decision*)

Report of the SOC working group (SOC Manual – way forward, new developments of RECSOIL)

Ms Rosa Poch presented the preparation of the technical manual "Recarbonizing global soils: a technical manual of recommended soil management practices" (also called "SOC Manual"). She reported that the text was completed and explained that the manual, produced in six volumes, was based on 11 specialised ecosystems- hotspots and brightspots, including Mangroves, Drylands, Wetlands, Blacksoils and Permafrost and involved 80 practices around cropping systems, ecosystems, management and conservation approaches. The manual included about 80 case-studies, mostly using long-term data.

She then suggested that the idea was to make an interpretation document of the manual, offering summary tables including best practices for each ecosystem and to summarise the data included in the second to the sixth volume.

Mr Ronald Vargas reiterated that the manual, due to be launched in early September during the 14th GSP Plenary Assembly was always intended to be a manual of good practices to promote carbon sequestration as well as to maintain the carbon stocks already there. He spoke about the possible setting up of a soil investment hub in the framework of the Food System Summit preparations under the lead of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), along with the FAO's implementation of the green path of RECSOIL and the continuing success of the carbon sequestration potential mapping.

Mr Ronald Vargas then presented a short talk on RECSOIL. The standardizing procedures in SOC measuring were almost completed, and protocols would be rolled out when the manual of good practices was completed. He highlighted the importance of factoring in nitrogen retention, not just carbon. He further mentioned the continuing work on GSOCseq maps and the discussed implementation of the Voluntary Guidance for Sustainable Soil Management and the framework necessary to achieve the Green Path.

Ms Vinisa Saynes (GSP Secretariat) explained that the greenhouse gas emitted from crop soils with higher heating potential is N₂O not CO₂, and as such it was important to include it in the RECSOIL plan. She explained that recarbonising soils needed to be achieved alongside the reduction in use of N fertilizers as their excess or misuse increased NO₂ in the atmosphere, potentially offsetting the gains made by sequestering carbon. In addition, nitrates were also a contaminant in their own right, polluting groundwater and aquatic ecosystems.

Mr Peter de Ruiter pointed out the potential difficulties presented by priming effects where extra carbon in the soil could produce extra CO₂ emissions. **Mr Fernando García-Prechac** pointed out the complexity of those systems and the importance to view the processes having a longer term benefit and that best practices may well be against the markets at the time.

Ms Vinisa Saynes replied about the importance of links between RECSOIL and other initiatives and that the focus could be on sustainable fertilizer use, whether organic or non-organic.

Report of the soil pollution working group (GASP report, way forward)

Ms Natalia Rodriguez Eugenio (GSP Secretariat) presented the report of the Soil Pollution Working Group and indicated that the dates being considered for the launching of the report were yet to be decided.

The Global Assessment of Soil Pollution had taken 3 years to prepare and had proved to be a controversial issue, with less bulk data available and less involvement from countries than expected. She asked for feedback in addressing the knowledge gaps in the pollution cycle, and briefly listed the

many problems still to be dealt with.

She then reported that the database of good practices on the management and remediation of soil pollution and the technical guidelines for assessing, mapping, monitoring and reporting soil pollution were both close to being finalized.

The remediation and management of trace elements hotspots was to be implemented within an upcoming project and that the Soil Doctors Programme would be strengthened in the area of soil pollution. In reference to a question, she also reiterated the importance of targeting urban gardeners alongside farmers.

The importance in the prevention of pollution was discussed. It was pointed out that although the FAO was lacking influence in this area, a possible partnership with the UN Environment would give further scope for this in the future. In response to a comment on industrial sludge as fertiliser, **Ms Natalia Rodriguez** suggested that she would take coordinative action with GLOSOLAN on this and that this issue could be included in the International Network on Fertilizer Analysis' (INFA) workplan so as to include the quality assessment of organic as well as synthetic fertilisers. **Ms Attia Rafla** offered to contribute her expertise in this.

Report of the soil erosion working group (implementation of the GSER outcome document)

Mr Christian Omuto (GSP Secretariat) presented the progress with soil erosion activities, with the implementation of recommendations from the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion (GSER2019) and contained in the symposium outcome document (FAO, 2019).

Mr Christian Omuto explained that the GSER2019 outcome document highlighted recommendations along the three themes of the symposium; soil erosion assessment, the economics of soil erosion and best management practices along with policy actions.

Activities on soil erosion assessment were published in a special issue of the International Soil and Water Conservation Research. This publication documented suitable models for modelling soil erosion risk and provided the background for launching country-driven assessment of soil erosion hotspot areas. He highlighted that the draft technical guidelines and specifications document contained these aspects in order to support countries taking the first step of soil erosion assessment.

This draft document had received in-house GSP technical review to bring it nearer to a finished form before sharing with the ITPS working group on erosion. **Mr Christian Omuto** passed on that the draft document would be shared around the ITPS at the end of May 2021.

Ms Lucia Anjos asked if the statistics behind the upcoming documents could be made available and **Mr Christian Omuto** agreed.

Ms Rosa Poch mentioned that the publication of the special issue in Land Degradation and Development was pending with the prologue still being under revision.

Report of the soil biodiversity working group (way forward)

Ms Rosa Cuevas (GSP Secretariat) presented the Outcome document “Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity” which was under review by the ITPS and the symposium co-organisers. The document’s function was to respond to the questions put forward in the symposium and address the main gaps in the recommendations suggested.

She discussed the success of the symposium, the high attendance as well as the ongoing efforts in soil biodiversity strategies by the GSP, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-CBD), and SoilBon.

The main recommendations were to execute the implementation plan of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity as well as the Outcome document by launching a Technical Network on Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB) with four themes- monitoring, management, economics and policies of soil biodiversity.

She explained that working groups would be formed for each of the four themes, to work on developing each theme’s recommendations, with an open call to all interested parties.

Ms Rosa Cuevas explained that the four main themes of NETSOB were:

Theme 1. The monitoring, measurement and assessment of soil biodiversity.

Theme 2. The sustainable use/management and conservation of soil biodiversity.

Theme 3. The economics of soil biodiversity.

Theme 4. The policies and legal instruments of soil biodiversity.

She then explained that the establishment of the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory would be crucial in strengthening the knowledge of all the groups that formed soil biodiversity (microbes, micro, meso, macro and megafauna) across taxonomy, novel technologies, standard operating procedures (SOPs), mapping, soil health indicators, bioremediation and restoration.

She finished by reiterating that the preparation of the Document of Proceedings was in process and would also contain abstracts and posters presented during the symposium.

Ms Attia Rafla commented that there could be a newer approach for land degradation mapping using soil biodiversity and perhaps plan for land degradation mapping in the ITPS activities.

Mr Peter de Ruiter, coordinator of the ITPS soil biodiversity working group, gave final remarks, stressing the need to take advantage of the momentum of the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity to implement all the recommendations of the Outcome Document, and for that purpose it would be productive to synergize with initiatives/networks such as the GSBI, among others.

Several members expressed their interest in the Outcome Document recommendations as well as voicing their concerns about the ambitious nature of the project. The GSP Secretariat clarified that the implementation would be achieved step by step with the priority of launching NETSOB first.

Report of the soil salinity working group (Global Assessment of Salt-Affected Soils, role of ITPS on Global Symposium on Salt-Affected Soils, INSAS)

Mr Ashok Patra, the co-leader of the ITPS Salinity working group, presented the group's activity since the 13th session of ITPS. He discussed the developments achieved during the two April meetings- the status of the GSS map and report, preparation for the first INSAS meeting, creating a concept note and key messages for the upcoming Global Symposium on Salt-Affected Soils (GSAS21), reviewing the table of contents for the GSS report, revising the concept note for the first INSAS meeting and INSAS's workplan as well as discussing the template for case studies and practices for the upcoming symposium.

He then discussed the 2021 deadlines for the working group's activity and pointed out that 64 countries were still to respond to GSSmap communication. He went on to discuss the schedule of the symposium, planned to be in a virtual format and that the scientific committee would consist of the Salinity working group and representatives of the government of Uzbekistan, International Union of Soil Science (IUSS), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Global Framework for Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) and INSAS before briefly reiterating the planned three themed structure of the symposium.

He mentioned the inclusion of abstracts, based on the IMRAD structure and the creation of case studies and practices, with the five best studies and practices to be given the right to present a video tour about their own case study or practice.

He then passed on information about the first INSAS meeting on the 14-15 April 2021, attended by 260 people from 94 countries. By the end of April 2021, INSAS had around 600 members and all partners of the GSP with an interest were invited to join INSAS.

Mr Ashok Patra then discussed the four working groups created within INSAS- SAS&Assessment, SAS&SSM, SAS&Crops and SAS&Water, including the number of participants and countries involved and went on to show the thirteen activities within the projected INSAS working plan for 2021-2022 and the working groups involved in each.

Ms Maria Konyushkova, the coordinator of INSAS at the GSP Secretariat, thanked the ITPS Salinity working group, going on to clarify that the forthcoming report on the Global Assessment of SAS would be based on the contributions of the participating countries and that it was necessary to wait for the maps before the chapters could be prepared. It was also important for the working group as well as invited authors to contribute in developing regional overviews for the report. She then reiterated that

the timeframe for implementing the tasks would be over the next two years, although she agreed that it might not be possible to achieve everything in the time suggested.

Ms Generose Nziguhueba asked for clarification about the reason behind having two manuals, one on the sustainable management of SAS and the other on saline agriculture. **Ms Maria Konyushkova** explained that the first manual will focus more on soil while the second is needed to encourage crop scientists to consider the additional importance of soil issues in their ongoing research into halophytic and salt tolerant crops. She then went on to highlight the importance of gaining the contributions of countries yet to participate in the report.

Report of the soil fertility working group (Global Symposium on Soil Fertility, Implementation plan of the Fertilizer Code)

Ms Vinisa Saynes (GSP Secretariat) presented the report of the Fertility Working Group, prepared thanks to the contributions from the GSP Secretariat fertility group (Carolina Olivera, Yuxin Tong, Sebastian Brahene and Vinisa Saynes).

The topics presented were the Soils 4 Nutrition Global Symposium, together with the activities for the implementation of the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers (The Fertilizer Code).

The Global Symposium on Soil Fertility would be held in 2022 and the scope, objectives, proposed themes and key questions to be addressed were presented. Subsequently the two projects implemented by the GSP were discussed; the sustainable soil management for nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia (SSM-S4N), and the Capacity Development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa- Uganda and Rwanda (South- South Cooperation Assistance Fund; SSCAF).

Emphasis was placed on the connection of these projects to The Fertilizer Code and the areas of potential collaboration with ITPS.

With respect to the Fertilizer Code implementation, the following activities were reported:

1. The National Survey on the Use and Management of Fertilizers.
2. A video to introduce The Fertilizer Code.
3. Video interviews to address specific topics of The Fertilizer Code.
4. EduSoils videos.
5. The Encyclopedia of Macro and Micronutrients.
6. Webinar of Nitrogen Use Efficiency.
7. The International Network of Fertilizers Assessment (INFA).

Mr Gary Pierzynski raised the proposal to organize the Global Soils 4 Nutrition Symposium virtually or in a combined format (in person and virtually). The areas of collaboration with the ITPS proposed by

the Fertility group and the ITPS coordinators of Fertility (Mr Gary Pierzynski and Ms Attia Rafla) would be to:

- a. Review the publications, guidelines and technical documents developed under the SSM-S4N and SSCAF projects.
- b. Propose topics and panellists for the nitrogen use efficiency webinar.
- c. Propose additional topics and identify an expert in recycled nutrients for the Video-interviews.
- d. Suggest additional priority themes to be addressed, review general and specific goals, define who will be involved and in which topics of the Global Symposium of Soils 4 Nutrition.
- e. Seek donors for the projects' implementation.
- f. Launch the survey at national regional level very soon.
- g. Find alternative pathways for implementation of the Fertilizer Code: Soil Consortium (USAID).

Report of the mapping working group (progress on GSSmap, GSOCseq, GBSmap, and GSERmap)

Mr Yusuf Yigini (GSP Secretariat), on behalf of ITPS mapping group, presented the status of the GSSmap – Global Soil Salinity Map, Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap) and the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap). He informed the ITPS members that a new version of the GSOCmap (v1.6) would be made ready and launched by the end of 2021.

Mr Yusuf Yigini explained that in the case of the GSSmap, a harmonized, country-driven process and capacity-building program has been undertaken. The program included nine regional training sessions reaching more than 321 national experts from 120 countries. He reported that data collection had started and that, to date, more than 65 countries had delivered their national GSSmap layers. He indicated that the GSSmap would be released in October 2021.

Mr Yusuf Yigini went on to say that the Technical Specifications and Technical Manual for the Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap) had been finalized. A GBSmap Training Session had been organized from 9-11 December 2020, involving forty five participants from the member countries of the International Network of Black Soils (INBS). He highlighted both the need for a universal definition of Black Soils together with a high input data requirement as the main challenges for mapping black soils globally.

Ms Isabel Luotto (GSP Secretariat), on behalf of **Ms Costanza Calzolari** and **Ms Lydia Chabala**, presented the status of the Global Soil Organic Sequestration Potential Map (GSOCseq). She highlighted the envisioned benefits of the GSOCseq at the global scale and provided an overview of its overall process and progress.

Ms Isabel Luotto explained that in the case of the GSOCseq, a harmonized country-driven process and capacity-building program had been undertaken. The program included 7 regional trainings reaching

more than 393 national experts from 139 countries. Additionally, to date, over 55 individual technical support sessions had been held. She reported that the data collection phase had started and that so far, more than 25 countries have delivered their national GSOCseq layers. Each national submission was undergoing a Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC). She indicated that the GSOCseq would be released during the next Plenary Assembly.

Ms Lucia Anjos raised concerns regarding the missing countries on the submission overview map of the GSOCseq. It was reiterated that the GSP Secretariat was currently in the process of collecting submissions and that it was expected that more countries would be submitting before the final launch.

Ms Costanza Calzolari asked whether climate change had been considered as part of the current version of the GSOCseq. **Ms Isabel Luotto** explained that due to a lack of consensus on which climate scenario to use, the current version of the GSOCseq did not consider the effect of climate change. However, the use of climate projections would be explored when producing future versions of the GSOCseq map.

Ms Isabel Luotto highlighted that ITPS members should be involved in the drafting of the technical specifications of future versions of the GSOCseq.

Report of the black soils working group (Report of the Global Status of Black Soils)

Ms Lucia Anjos, coordinator of the ITPS Black Soil working group, presented the progress of the Report of Global Status of the Black Soils (the Black Soil Report) and the Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap) as well as the upcoming events of the INBS.

She informed the participants that most black soil member countries had already submitted their contributions to the report, while the other countries had committed to sending their content soon. She mentioned that limited maps have been submitted from countries for the GBSmap. The efforts being made to modify the methodology of the map was necessary in order to ensure that black soil countries had both the capacity and data in order to produce their maps. She encouraged ITPS members to support the INBS and the Black Soil Report by recommending experts for the development of the report, especially for Chapter 3 and Chapter 4.

Mr Yuxin Tong, INBS Coordinator at the GSP Secretariat, thanked the ITPS members for leading the writing of the Black Soil Report. He made a clarification on the events of the INBS so far in 2021. Mr Tong encouraged ITPS members to keep supporting the Black Soil Report as well as the other INBS activities.

Mr Fernando García-Préchac pointed out that the main objective of the INBS was to protect carbon-rich soil types so as to avoid additional degradation and carbon emission. More resources and attention should be paid on those soil types following the outcome document of the GSOC symposium. Some ITPS members agreed to recommend black soil experts to develop the Black Soil Report.

5. Future ITPS Letters (for information and decision)

Ms Rosa Poch presented the Future ITPS letters, explaining that two letters had been published so far; Towards a Definition of Soil Health, in September 2020, and Soil Organic Carbon and Nitrogen, in March 2021. The third letter, Salt-Affected Soils, was about to be published. She also mentioned the four letters still in draft form; those of Soil Governance, Land Sealing, Soil Spectroscopy Analysis and Biochar, potentials and constraints.

She then briefly discussed the new letters yet to be written, which were to be on Education, Soils4nutrition, Soil carbon sequestration as well as others and asked if anyone might be interested in taking them on.

Other letters were then proposed by candidates and were added to the list. Drafts were to be written on Soil Spectroscopy, Soil Sealing and land take, Biochar, Soil Governance and Soil Awareness.

6. Protocol for Sustainable Soil Management and Soil Doctors Programme (*for information*)

Ms Carolina Olivera presented the Protocol for Sustainable Soil Management and the Global Soil Doctors Programme implementation activities.

She started by discussing the progress in developing different indicators and better methodology.

She then moved onto discussing the structure of the training manual and associated tools, involving the three main steps as well as the instructions for the filling of three steps aimed at compiling all the necessary information for the assessment.

The 3 annexes consisted of the laboratory methodologies established by GLOSOLAN, the field methodologies and the remote sensing methodologies. The SSM Protocol would determine the compliance of implemented management practices to the VGSSM. The first stage of the assessment consisted of completing a screening questionnaire that established an initial state of soil threats that persisted even after the implementation of specific practices. The final evaluation would be based on the analysis of soil indicators compared with reference value tables or a baseline.

She then discussed the Global Soil Doctors Programme, which involved the establishment of several pilot implementations in different regions and contexts.

An online questionnaire had also been implemented, allowing valuable information to be collected about the potential promoters of the programme in the countries, their financial and human resources and their technical needs and interests. Several support tools were being developed, including the methodology for the development of the training modules and the list of components for the soil kits.

The support of the ITPS would be needed for the review of the new soil salinity and soil pollution posters and soil analysis.

7. Discussion on the 2nd Edition of the SWSR Report (*for information and decision*)

Mr Ronald Vargas highlighted the challenges in writing the first edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR) report by the ITPS in 2015, the usefulness of the identified 10 threats and then looked forward to the publication of the second report in 2025. He indicated that the success of the methods used in the first edition should be emulated for the second. So it was suggested that **Mr Dan Pennock** should be the managing editor for the second edition, having being instrumental in the writing of the first.

Mr Dan Pennock then made a short presentation about the SWSR2025, and briefly went through the initial objectives. These were to firstly summarize the new information on the major threats to soil functions since 2015, and then present an assessment of the regional distribution of the threats to soil functions.

He stressed that this was to be solely an ITPS report and that members had full control and responsibility over content and administration, not the GSP Secretariat.

He commented that the original report had over 200 authors from over 60 countries and suggested that at 600 pages, it may have been a little long to adequately and easily access the right information.

In addition, a highly cited summary paper had also been published at the time: *World Soils Are Under Threat*, compiling the key messages and findings from the report. He suggested that this may also be something to consider revisiting by the time of the 2025 report.

He reiterated that the SWSR2025 would be much shorter and more focused with the regional soil assessments being the most important part of the document and with the intention to finally supersede the original and outdated 1991 GLASOD document. The SWSR2025 report would also be built using the comprehensive research material on the threats to soil functions from the ITPS, FAO and partners provided after 2015.

The new report would also consist of two parts, split between a summary for policy makers and the main report, which would also contain soil threats and global distribution.

Overall, the report would be managed by an editorial board, decided by the ITPS. He briefly laid out the structure that had been used for the 2015 report as a guide, suggesting possible changes that could be made to the structure, as well as the new report providing a larger role for the GSP Secretariat in the day to day management and preparing of the first draft of the different sections.

Comments were put forward in response to the presentation and discussed. These included defining the timeline needed to achieve the published report over the next four years, reformulating and redefining some of the soil threats in a more positive way and the best way to represent the different regions' geographical and political aspects that might affect land use.

Mr Dan Pennock then commented in more detail about his managing editor role and concluded by stating that the threats to soil functions hadn't changed but the response to those threats had. He then

pointed out the importance of deciding on and defining the regions early on and in taking advantage of the extra data to provide more precise and smaller regions than those used in the original report.

In summing up, **Mr Ronald Vargas** reiterated that the role of the GSP Secretariat was to facilitate and support the ITPS in preparing the report and further emphasized the importance of having a managing editor in order to achieve the publishing of the report on time. He also stated that the first thing was to establish a table of contents in order to see the extent of work needed.

Mr Dan Pennock was officially accepted for the position of managing editor with **Mr Dan Pennock, Mr David Lobb and Ms Megan Balks** agreeing to compile the draft table of contents as well as agreeing to drive the discussion about the formation of the editorial board.

8. ITPS report to the GSP Plenary Assembly (*for information*)

Ms Rosa Poch then suggested that due to time constraints, the ITPS report to the GSP Plenary Assembly would be sent by mail to participants instead of being part of the day's meeting.

9. Any other business

No other business

10. Date and venue of the next meeting

11. Closure of the meeting

Ms Rosa Poch finished the meeting by thanking all the participants for participating and for being there until the end of the meeting, especially as it had over-ran.

Annex I - List of Participants

ITPS members	Region
Ms Lydia Mumbi Chabala (Zambia)	Africa
Ms Générose Nziguheba (Burundi)	Africa
Ms Rafla Sahli Epse Attia (Tunisia)	Near East and North Africa
Mr Kutaiba M. Hassan (Iraq)	Near East and North Africa
Ms Martha Marina Bolanos Benavides (Colombia)	Latin America and Caribbean
Mr Fernando Garcia Prechac (Uruguay)	Latin America and Caribbean
Mr Adalberto Benavides Mendoza (Mexico)	Latin America and Caribbean
Ms Lucia Anjos (Brazil)	Latin America and Caribbean
Mr Samuel Francke Campana (Chile)	Latin America and Caribbean
Mr David Allen Lobb (Canada)	North America
Mr Gary Pierzynski (USA)	North America
Mr Ashok K. Patra (India)	Asia
Mr Jun Murase (Japan)	Asia
Mr Jin Ke (China)	Asia
Ms Costanza Calzolari (Italy)	Europe
Ms Ellen R. Graber (Israel)	Europe
Mr Peter de Ruitter (The Netherlands)	Europe
Ms Rosa Poch (Spain)	Europe
Ms Megan Balks (New Zealand)	South West Pacific

Other participants	Affiliation
Mr Ronald Vargas	GSP Secretariat
Mr Bofei Li	GSP Secretariat
Mr Filippo Benedetti	GSP Secretariat
Ms Magdeline Vlasimsky	GSP Secretariat
Ms Maria Konyushkova	GSP Secretariat
Ms Rosa Cuevas Corona	GSP Secretariat
Ms Isabel Luotto	GSP Secretariat
Ms Carolina Olivera Sánchez	GSP Secretariat
Mr Christian Omuto	GSP Secretariat
Ms Natalia Rodriguez Eugenio	GSP Secretariat
Mr Matteo Sala	GSP Secretariat
Ms Vinisa Saynes Santillan	GSP Secretariat
Ms Giulia Stanco	GSP Secretariat
Mr Yuxin Tong	GSP Secretariat
Ms Isabelle Verbeke	GSP Secretariat
Mr Yusuf Yigini	GSP Secretariat
Ms Julia Mousquer	GSP Secretariat
Ms Giulia Scialdone	GSP Secretariat
Ms Julie Itey	GSP Secretariat
Mr Dan Pennock	GSP Secretariat
