

June 2017

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## Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly



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| <b>Fifth session</b>   |
| <b>Rome, 20-22 June 2017</b>   |
| <b>Report on the financial status of GSP, including the Healthy Soils Facility</b> |

### Executive Summary

- While further progress has been made in mobilizing resources, much higher flows of funds should materialize to match the extensive requirements and requests for technical assistance by the countries and regions. These requests are to a large extent identified through the Global and Regional Implementation Plans formulated under the five GSP Pillars of action. The successful completion of the Implementation Plans clearly depends on the financial resources provided to the GSP via its Healthy Soils Facility.
- At the same time, numerous stakeholders and partners have continued to provide in kind contributions to specific activities, for instance through the provision of training facilities, technical inputs and data feeding into key reports or policy instruments developed under the aegis of the ITPS. However, more stakeholders and partners need to follow suit, in line with the expectations stemming from GSP's establishment.
- The present document aims at apprising the Plenary Assembly about the resources mobilized so far in support of the GSP outcomes. Against the overall planned indicative budget target given in the programme document of the Healthy Soils Facility of USD 60 million (for a duration of 5 years), only approximately 17% have been mobilized - i.e. USD 10 million.
- As requested, the financial report is presented on an annual basis, i.e. it refers to the past year (2016) and the likely available budget for 2017 and onwards (cf. tables below).

### Suggested action by the GSP Plenary Assembly

- The Plenary Assembly may wish to:
  - Note the efforts made to mobilize additional resources for implementing a number of actions and commend those resource partners who have contributed to the Healthy Soils Facility.
  - Renew its call to all partners, and especially resource partners, to support the implementation of the Global and Regional Implementation Plans by contributing funds, including through the Healthy Soils Facility, and providing in kind contributions to specific activities in substantially higher volumes.

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## I. Introduction

1. The GSP is based on cost-sharing principles, whereby each partner may contribute with different inputs to the implementation of approved work.
2. It is worth recalling that FAO's contribution from its Regular Budget, as specified in the Terms of Reference approved by the FAO Council, is limited to hosting the GSP Secretariat at FAO headquarters, and only in terms of core support staff. The resulting lack of funds limits the capacity and flexibility of the Secretariat in providing support to GSP implementation, especially in terms of technical assistance to countries. This situation is in deep contrast with the current phase of growing operational complexity and expansion of GSP-related work at all levels.
3. However, as shown in the table below, another contribution from the Regular Budget came *via* the implementation of a number of TCP projects (FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme) which are of direct relevance to the GSP.

## II. Mobilization of extra-budgetary resources

4. Since the inception of the GSP and particularly after the establishment of the Healthy Soils Facility, as endorsed by the Plenary Assembly, some progress has been made in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources.
5. The first significant example in direct support of the GSP was the project endorsed by the European Commission (EC) towards the end of 2013, to the tune of EUR 1 million. This project has been successfully implemented during the 2014-2015 biennium.
6. Further to that initial contribution, the EC has provided additional funding of EUR 1.5 million for the period 2016-2018. Overall, the EC has provided EUR 2.5 million to date. Discussions are ongoing with regard to possible further financial support in future years.
7. The Russian Federation has also provided funding for the period 2015-2018 amounting to USD 1 million. This contribution has been of paramount relevance, for instance in facilitating the preparation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and the establishment of the Glinka World Soil Prize. Discussions have continued with this donor to generate further contributions.
8. Switzerland has supported the implementation of the International Year of Soils and has made a further contribution to the GSP for 2015-2017 of USD 280 000. The overall contribution by Switzerland so far has been USD 380 000, including USD 30 000 for organizing the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17). The Kingdom of Thailand has also supported the International Year of Soils (2015) with USD 100 000. The Netherlands has contributed to the implementation of the GSP activities with an amount of USD 150 000. Iceland has contributed USD 5 817 towards GSOC17. The International Fertilizer Association has donated USD 20 000 for the preparation of the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map.
9. A more complete account of all financial contributions, including from TCP resources, is given in the following tables. For extra-budgetary resources, distinction is made between closed and ongoing projects.
10. An immediate conclusion is that, against the planned indicative target given in the programme document of the Healthy Soils Facility of USD 60 million, only approximately 17% i.e. ~USD 10 million has been obtained so far. There is also a clear need to broaden the range of potential donors.
11. The current picture shows that the budget available for 2017 and 2018 is in line with the one in 2016 and more financial contributions are expected to materialize. Several major activities have started and the path to smooth implementation has been paved.
12. Efforts for further resource mobilisation have included regular reporting (in both narrative and financial form) to the current donors, stressing the good results achieved and thus demonstrating that further support would be worthwhile. The GSP Secretariat has also sought to engage these donors in the implementation whenever feasible.

With the aim of enlarging the pool of donors beyond the current few, establishing close relations with potential new partners through communication and information sharing has been part of the daily work of the GSP Secretariat. Numerous meetings and teleconferences have been held and the documents produced in relation to the current project portfolio have been shared. Documents have been sent to other interested partners with similar priorities, as well as uploaded on the GSP website.

### III - Overview of resources to support GSP work

Previous years (up to 2015): USD 2 878 274

Year 2016: USD 1 950 701

Year 2017 and 2018: USD 5 204 729

| GSP Budget and Expenditure 2016                                 |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Voluntary Contributions   | Budget Available and Spent |
| GCP GLO 663 EC  | \$498,409                  |
| GCP GLO 650 RUS   | \$614,322                  |
| GCP GLO 671 MUL   | \$155,875                  |
| EP/GLO/619/UEP  | \$18,539                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$1,287,145</b>         |
| <b>TCP projects</b>   |                            |
| TCP/AFG/3601  | \$84,391                   |
| TCP/CMB/3602  | \$53,554                   |
| TCP/SEY/3503  | \$18,481                   |
| TCP/SUD/3601  | \$45,130                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$201,556</b>           |
| <b>Regular Programme</b>  |                            |
| GSP Secretary   | \$192,000                  |
| GSP Support staff   | \$70,000                   |
| Plenary Assembly of GSP   | \$200,000                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$462,000</b>           |
| <b>Overall Budget for 2016</b>                                  | <b>\$1,950,701</b>         |
| GSP Budget 2017 and 2018 (opening balance as of 1 January 2017) |                            |
| Voluntary Contributions   | Budget Available           |
| GCP GLO 663 EC  | \$1,146,328                |
| GCP GLO 650 RUS   | \$385,678                  |
| GCP GLO 671 MUL   | \$264,125                  |
| GLO/017//001  | \$134,720                  |
| MTF/GLO/807/MUL   | \$35,404                   |
| GCP /GLO/676/EC   | \$103,278                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$2,069,533</b>         |
| <b>TCP projects</b>   |                            |
| TCP/CMB/3602  | \$238,665                  |
| TCP/SEY/3503  | \$204,361                  |

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|--|--------------------|
| TCP/LES/3602   | \$435,842          |
| TCP/SUD/3601   | \$334,328          |
| TCP/TOG/3602   | \$281,000          |
| TCP/STP/3604   | \$461,000          |
| TCP/RLA/3613   | \$256,000          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$2,211,196</b> |
| <b>Regular Program</b>   |                    |
| GSP Secretary  | \$384,000          |
| GSP Support staff  | \$140,000          |
| Plenary Assembly of GSP  | \$400,000          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$924,000</b>   |
|  |                    |
| <b>Overall Budget for 2017 and 2018</b>  | <b>\$5,204,729</b> |
| <b>Overall Budget for 2017 and 2018 GSP Secretariat for field activities as of 30 April 2017 (Budget Holder)</b> | <b>\$1,666,965</b> |

Out of the available budget of USD 5 204 729 for 24 months, GSP has spent and delivered activities valued at ~USD 1 million in only 4 months (report until 30 April 2017). This leaves us with a balance of only USD 4.1 million for the remaining 20 months (USD 1.6 million within the Healthy Soils Facility for which GSP Secretariat is Budget Holder). Considering the pace of the expenditures and need of the countries for technical assistance in the field of soil, the GSP lacks sufficient financial resources and welcomes additional funding support.

It is important to note that the TCP projects are not within the budget holder responsibility of the GSP Secretariat and they benefit only from the technical guidance of the GSP. In view of that, it is worth pointing out that the GSP Secretariat manages only the Voluntary Contributions listed in the table above, the balance of which as of 30 April 2017 is only USD 1.6 million.

#### IV Implemented activities

In order for the Assembly to have a feel for concrete GSP work, the table below presents (by Pillar) the range of outputs and activities implemented (extracted from **the Main Programme Document of the Healthy Soils Facility**) or under execution during the period 2016-2017 (following the log-frame of the Healthy Soils Facility and attendant rubrics).

This listing does not purport to be exhaustive. Some of these activities are also mentioned in other documents before the PA (e.g. on the work of the ITPS, the implementation of GSP Plans of Action and the work of Regional Soil Partnerships).

June 2017

| Logical Framework of the Healthy Soils Facility  | Status                            | Financial status   |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Pillar 1. Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity</b>   |                                   |  |
| <i>Output A1. Capacity development for strengthening national strategy formulation, technical and extension services and mechanisms on the ground for sustainable soil management, conservation and restoration</i>  |                                   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support to the establishment of a Consultation Service on Soil Management for Central Asia</li> </ul>   | Not started                       |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the Soil Doctors programme in the Regional Soil Partnerships (Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Near East and LAC). One training programme in each region.</li> </ul>   | Ongoing                           | Financial resources available for the first phase of the implementation: i.e. establishment of the programme. Financial resources needed for the second phase of more fulsome implementation are country-specific. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to the planning and implementation of the “High level Ministerial conference Abuja II: from fertilizers to sustainable soil management”</li> </ul>   | Ongoing                           |  |
| <i>Output A2. Scaling up and implementation of sustainable soil management practices at regional and national levels (preventing degradation) and enhanced soil productivity and ecosystem services</i>  |                                   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the economic value of soil erosion and soil nutrient loss assessment in Malawi</li> </ul>   | Ongoing                           |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of technical support to the implementation of TCPs</li> </ul>   | Ongoing                           |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global workshop to pave the way for full-scale implementation of the VGSSM</li> </ul>   | Planned                           | Need to mobilize resources   |
| <i>Output A3. Restoration/rehabilitation of degraded and/or problem soils for improved livelihoods, food security and increased resilience (ecosystems at risk)</i>  |                                   |  |
| <i>Output A4. Networking and disseminating documentation on measures for soil protection, management and restoration</i>   |                                   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASP (Asian Soil Partnership) Facebook page (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Asian-Soil-Partnership-ASP-1047611845301987/">https://www.facebook.com/Asian-Soil-Partnership-ASP-1047611845301987/</a>) with publication of relevant information.</li> </ul> | Development of the page completed |  |

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| <b>Pillar 2. Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education, awareness and extension in soils</b>   |   |  |
| <i>Outcome B1. Facilitation of GSP Governance, active positioning of the GSP in the international arena, and institutional collaboration</i>  |   |  |
| • Organization of the Fourth GSP Plenary Assembly 2016  | Completed   |  |
| • Organization of the Fifth GSP Plenary Assembly 2017   | Completed   |  |
| • Participation of regional soil partnership chairs and selected focal points to the Fourth and Fifth GSP PA  | Completed   |  |
| • Third ASP workshop organized in December 2016, funded by the FAO/GSP Secretariat and the Land Development Department of Thailand.   | Completed   |  |
| • Third ordinary meeting of SSP as part of the Latin American Soil Congress   | Completed (27 October, 2016, Quito, Ecuador)  |  |
| • Organization of the Pacific Soil Partnership (PSP) meeting  | Completed (18-19 April, 2016, Nadi, Fiji)   |  |
| • Development of regional implementation plans in Asia and Europe   | Completed   | Financial resources are needed for execution |
| <i>Outcome B2. Strengthening of the GSP Secretariat</i>   |   |  |
| • Hiring of temporary staff (three consultants)   | Ongoing   |  |
| • Development and execution of the Pillar 2 implementation plan   | Implementation plan developed and under implementation                                  | Financial resources are needed for execution |
| • Development of the implementation plan for Pillars 1 and 3  | Ongoing   |  |
| • Preliminary contacts with the project Links4Soil for the potential establishment of an Alpine sub-regional Soil Partnership.  | Discussions on the establishment of the sub-regional Soil Partnership are still ongoing | Financial resources are needed               |
| <i>Outcome B3. Facilitating effective involvement of the ITPS in addressing soil issues and its interface with other panels and institutions of similar international standing.</i> |   |  |

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| • ITPS attendance of other Panel meetings (SPI-UNCCD, IBPES, IPCC)   | Partially done                              | Financial resources are needed to participate in all the meetings. |
| • Organization of the Sixth ITPS Working Session   | Completed (14-18 March, 2017, Rome)         |  |
| • Organization of the Seventh ITPS Working Session   | Planned for 23-27 October 2017              | Financial resources are needed for the next sessions               |
| • Organization of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17)   | Completed                                   |  |
| • Preparation of a soil chapter for GLOBAL Land Outlook  | Completed                                   |  |
| • Assessment at global level of the impact of Plant Protection Products on soil functions and soil ecosystems            | Ongoing                                     |  |
| • Assessment at global level of the potential of soil protection for increased resilience in a context of climate change | Not started                                 | Financial resources are needed for this activity                   |
| <i>Outcome B4. Awareness raising campaigns on the importance of soils</i>  |   |  |
| • Awarding the Glinka World Soil Prize   | Completed 2016<br>Ongoing in 2017           | Financial resource available until 2018                            |
| • Preparation of awareness raising material for World Soil Day 2016 and 2017.  | Completed for 2016<br>Ongoing in 2017       |  |
| • World Soil Day celebrations in 2016  | Completed                                   |  |
| • Organization of the World Soil Day celebrations in 2017  | Ongoing                                     |  |
| • GSP participation in various events  | Limited due to overall resource constraints |  |
| • Update of the GSP Focal Points database  | Continuous activity                         |  |
| • Maintenance of GSP website   | Continuous activity                         |  |
| • Issuance of GSP Newsletters  | Continuous activity                         |  |

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| <i>Outcome B5. Youth and education programmes to promote renewed interest in soil sciences</i>   |   |  |
| <i>Outcome B6. Strengthening the policy environment for investment and technical cooperation in sustainable soil management</i>  |   |  |
| • Development of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)  | Completed                               |  |
| • Support to the development of soil governance and soil legal frameworks in regions/countries (two country based case studies) /  | Ongoing                                 |  |
| • Workshop on soil governance and soil legal frameworks in Latin America   | Completed (Ibague, Colombia, June 2016) |  |
| <b>Pillar 3. Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps, priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions.</b>     |   |  |
| <i>Outcome C1. Inventory of soil research outputs and their relevance to various development actions</i>   |   |  |
| <i>Outcome C2. Bring together the research and end-user communities to prioritize research and development needs on soils</i>  |   |  |
| • Development and implementation of the Soil Doctors programme   | Ongoing                                 |  |
| <i>Outcome C3. Establish research and development mechanisms to enhance actions that promote agricultural productivity, environmental quality and social development</i>                         |   |  |
| • Support to soil salinity research projects in the EaSP (five small projects in Eurasia).   | Ongoing                                 |  |
| • Implementation of the World Soil Charter via three case studies in Africa, Asia and LAC  | To start                                |  |
| <i>Outcome C4. Dissemination/extension of research outputs at all levels</i>   |   |  |
| <b>Pillar 4. Enhance the quantity and quality on soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines</b> |   |  |
| <i>Outcome D1. Global Soil Information System and enhancement of regional and national soil information systems</i>  |   |  |
| • Production of a Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCMap)   | Ongoing                                 |  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the Global Soil Information System, including INSII network chair appointment, selection of the GSP Soil Data Facility, endorsement of the GSP Soil Data Policy.</li> </ul>   | Ongoing   | Financial resources are needed for the full execution of the Pillar 4 Implementation Plan |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second workshop of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII)</li> </ul>   | Completed (24-25 November 2016, Rome, Italy)  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization of the third workshop of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII)</li> </ul>  | Planned 25-26 October 2017  | Financial resources are needed  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of national soil information systems through projects under the FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lesotho, Togo, Sudan, Sao Tome.</li> </ul>   | Ongoing   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional TCP project for South America to develop capacities on SOC mapping and for strengthening SISLAC</li> </ul>  | Ongoing   |   |
| <i>Outcome D2. Establishment of SoilSTAT for monitoring global soil health and properties</i>   |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of a concept note linked to the Global Soil information System</li> </ul>  | Ongoing   | Financial resources are needed for the full execution of the Pillar 4 Implementation Plan |
| <i>Outcome D3. Capacity development on soil information (including data collection, mapping and monitoring of soil health and functions)</i>  |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Soil Atlas for Asia jointly with the European Commission Joint Research Center.</li> </ul>  | Ongoing   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity development on digital soil mapping and soil organic carbon mapping. Training on digital soil mapping and soil information management for Eurasia</li> <li>Training on digital soil mapping for NENA</li> <li>Training on SOC mapping for Asia</li> <li>Training on SOC mapping for Africa</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed (31 October – 4 November 2016, Almaty, Kazakhstan)</li> <li>Completed (10-14 October, Rabat, Morocco)</li> <li>Completed (24-29 April 2017 Bangkok, Thailand)</li> </ul> |   |

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| Training on SOC mapping for Central America and the Caribbean  | Ongoing (3-7 July 2017<br>Nairobi, Kenya)                     |                                |
| Training on SOC mapping for Eurasia  | Ongoing (26-30 June 2017<br>Aguas Calientes, Mexico)          |                                |
| Training on digital SOC mapping (organized by the GSP together with ISRIC for 16 countries of the world).  | Ongoing (24-29 July 2017<br>Tashkent, Uzbekistan)             |                                |
|  | Completed (6-23 June<br>2017, Wageningen, The<br>Netherlands) |                                |
| <i>Outcome D4. Report on the Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR)2020</i>   |   |                                |
| • Editorial board established and table of content outlined for second SWSR  | Completed   |                                |
| • Translation of the SWSR and follow up  | Completed   |                                |
| • Preparation of the second SWSR report  | Ongoing   | Financial resources are needed |
| <b>Pillar 5. Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources</b>   |   |                                |
| <i>Outcome E1. Develop an over-arching soil description system designed to describe and explain soil features in a common and consistent manner to facilitate systematic application in all parts of the world</i>   |   |                                |
| • Preparation of the Pillar 5 Implementation Plan  | Completed   |                                |
| <i>Outcome E2. Development of a new Universal soil classification system</i>   |   |                                |
| <i>Outcome E3. Development and harmonization of indicators for monitoring the condition of soils and to assess the needs and effects of sustainable soil management at various levels and among concerned international processes (e.g. CBD-Aichi targets; UNFCCC, UNCCD, SDGs).</i> |   |                                |
| • Implementation of the South-East Asia Laboratory Network-SEALNET   | Ongoing   | Financial resources are needed |
| <i>Outcome E4. Create a reference system for the integration of soil maps from different sources and ensure harmonized products meet the needs of users (e.g. for monitoring in Pillar 4).</i>   |   |                                |