
Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations
14th Working Session of the
Intergovernmental
Technical Panel on Soils
(ITPS)
itps
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TECHNICAL PANEL ON SOILS
11 - 13 May 2021 | Virtual meeting
GLOBAL SOIL
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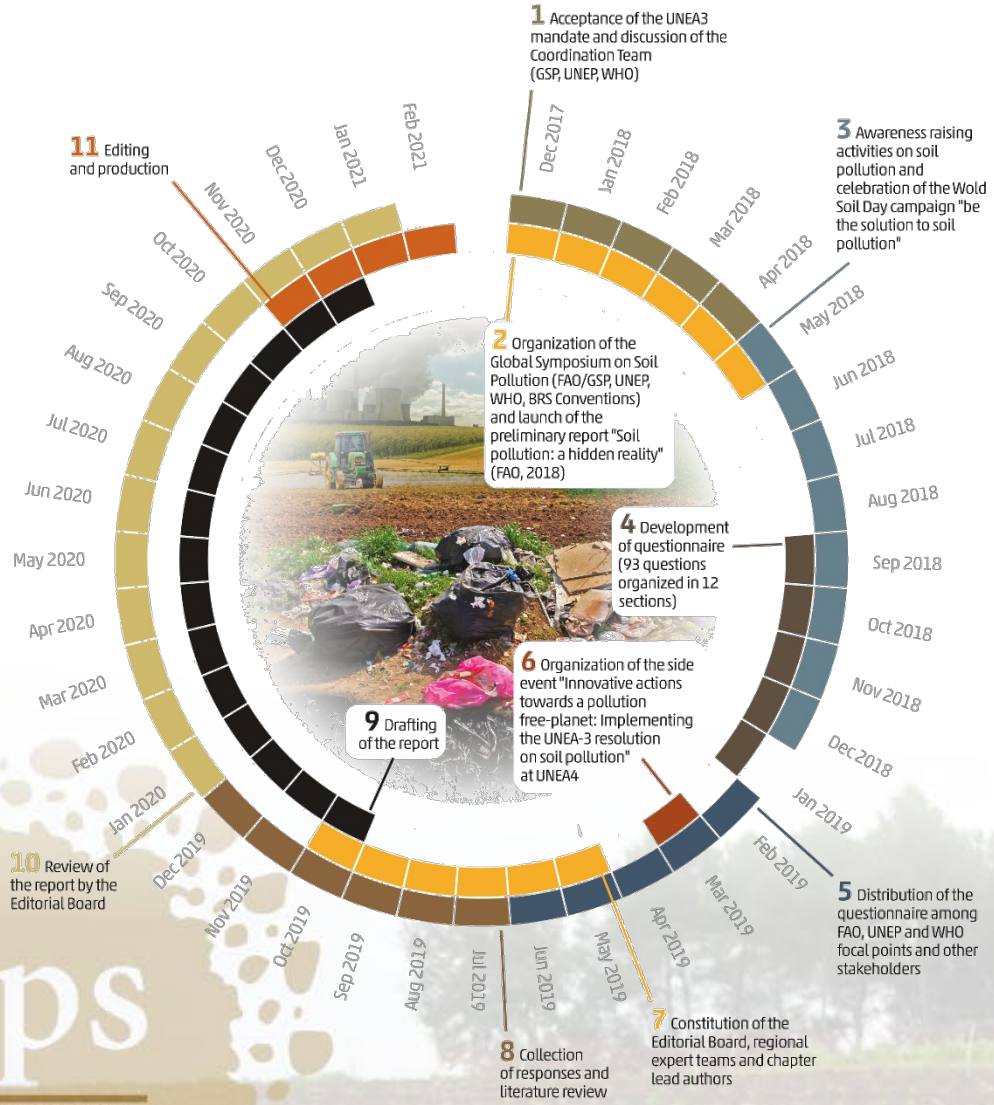
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Assessment of Soil Pollution



- Long process
- Less involvement from countries than expected
- Lack of bulk data
- Controversial issue

Conclusions are key to strategic future action plan

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Conclussions of GASP

Actions to fill knowledge gaps in the pollution cycle: from identification to monitoring

- Harmonise standard operating procedures for methods of soil contaminants analysis and develop standardized threshold levels of soil pollution.
- Promote the inclusion of soil pollution into the conventional soil surveys, data and information on soil pollution into national and global soil information systems.
- Increase the investment in targeted research on emerging contaminants: detection, fate in the environment, risks assessment and remediation.
- Develop and strengthen the inventory and monitoring of point-source and diffuse soil pollution at national, regional and global levels.
- Establish and strengthen national biomonitoring and epidemiological surveillance systems to identify, assess, and monitor damage and diseases attributable to soil pollution and support preventive actions.

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Conclussions of GASP

Strengthening legislative frameworks and technical actions

- Enforce compliance with international agreements on chemicals, persistent organic pollutants and waste.
- Advocate for a global commitment towards fighting soil pollution, using as basis regional efforts and targets like the European Green Deal.
- Improve national and international regulations on emissions from industry and mining and promote environmentally friendly industrial processes.
- Develop and promote “right to repair” policies and de-incentivize planned obsolescence of manufactured materials to reduce waste, including e-waste.
- De-incentivize and reduce single-use items, particularly in packaging for materials and foodstuffs.

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Conclussions of GASP

Strengthening legislative frameworks and technical actions

- Implement appropriate waste collection and green management policies that promote recycling and ensure the adequate treatment of different types of waste within and among countries.
- Promote and incentivize the use of sustainable transport.
- Implement policies aimed at sustainable management of agricultural soils with a special focus on reducing dependence on agrochemicals and controlling the quality of irrigation water and organic residues.
- Develop and include in national reporting mechanisms soil pollution targets and indicators related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Scale up nature-based and environmentally sound sustainable management and remediation technologies (e.g. bioremediation).

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Conclussions of GASP

Improving awareness and communication

- Launch a global awareness raising campaign on soil pollution aimed at the general public for them to understand why soil pollution matters to all and how they could be part of the solution.
- Foster citizen science activities and citizen observatories to improve early warning systems and community-based soil pollution monitoring.
- Promote public awareness of responsible and environmentally friendly consumption and encourage separation at source and the waste hierarchy, in particular the 4R approach (reduce, reuse, recycle and recover).
- Advocate for the inclusion of soil health and soil pollution topics at schools.

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Conclussions of GASP

Fostering international cooperation and soil pollution monitoring networks

- Facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge through international events and promote the publication of information in open access sources.
- Advocate for technology transfer and cross-capacity building for the whole cycle of soil pollution, from prevention to detection, monitoring, management, and remediation, from regions and countries with high expertise and experience on soil pollution to developing countries with less or no expertise in the topic.
- Build and strengthen transboundary monitoring networks to prevent, manage, and remediate diffuse pollution.
- Establish a global training programme for developing capacities on the full cycle of soil pollution.

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What's next on soil pollution?

1. Database of good practices on the management and remediation of soil pollution

2. Technical guidelines for assessing, mapping, monitoring and reporting on soil pollution

3. Remediation and management of hot spots of trace element pollution in agricultural areas by applying nature-based solutions

4. Strengthening Soil Doctors Programme area on soil pollution


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