



*Promoting
the sustainable use
and conservation of
soil biodiversity*



Vol. 1 – December 2024

Dear NETSOB members,

This is your monthly update from the International Network on Soil Biodiversity - <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/netsob/en/>. I hope to receive ideas of events from you to increase engagement and highlight the importance of soil biodiversity worldwide. I will also share updates from NETSOB working groups more often as well. Lastly, if you know someone who is not a member, they can join us [here](#).



✦ **New NETSOB coordinator**

[Carlos Barreto](#) is a soil biodiversity specialist with a background in soil ecology and global change biology. Carlos received his BSc in Biological Sciences – Entomology from the Federal University of Ouro Preto (Brazil). He worked as a field biologist assessing cave biodiversity in areas subjected to mining activities, and later coordinated the same company's fauna laboratory. Carlos holds a PhD in soil ecology from Western University (Canada), from which he brings experience in soil biodiversity, peatland carbon dynamics, oribatid mite taxonomy, ecosystem functions and services, and global change biology. He is the co-chair of the Global Soil Biodiversity Conference and a board member of the Biological Survey of Canada. Carlos started working as a soil biodiversity specialist with FAO in 2024 tasked with managing the International Network on Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB).

✦ **New website**

Take a look at our updated [website](#) for new content and an updated map with all the members. Please let carlos.barreto@fao.org know if anything is missing with your information on the map.

★ NETSOB Annual meeting and Vice-Chair elections – online

Our next annual meeting will be held in February, with dates to be announced soon. Please keep an eye on your e-mail for more information. During that meeting, NETSOB will announce the new Vice-Chairs of our three working groups – more information on the online elections also coming soon, but for now, please see below the Selection Criteria and the Terms of Reference for the Vice-Chairs in case you are considering nominating yourself:

Candidates for the position of Vice-chairs of the NETSOB must meet the following criteria:

- Should be an internationally recognized expert on soil biodiversity;*
- Should belong to or have collaborated with international soil biodiversity networks;*
- Should be familiar with the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Plan of Action of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity;*
- Should have time to commit to the implementation of the NETSOB and the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB) work plan;*
- Should not have any conflict of interest in regards to the objectives, data and information generated by the NETSOB and GLOSOB.*

The Vice-Chairs of each technical working group (WG) of the NETSOB will:

- I. Chair the corresponding technical WG meetings, ensure its work objectives and deliverables are met in time, and update the WG workplan when necessary;*
- II. Maintain active communication between each technical WG and the GSP Secretariat, in relation to the execution of the technical WG activities as documented in the work plan agreed upon at the launch of the technical WG;*
- III. Oversee progress and link between the NETSOB technical WGs and other Networks (including maintaining active communication);*
- IV. Report regularly about each technical WG progress to the NETSOB Chair;*
- V. Report to NETSOB of progress done and changes in the work plan at the yearly NETSOB meetings;*
- VI. Assist the NETSOB Chair in the establishment and activities of GLOSOB;*
- VII. Support the NETSOB Chair in attending other relevant network meetings and events of interest when the chairperson cannot participate;*
- VIII. WGs can meet regularly to advance the different activities as needed.*

The mandate of the NETSOB Vice-chairs will run for two years.

★ **National Biodiversity Assessment**

We would like to remind you that soil biodiversity is to be included in the National Biodiversity Assessment starting in 2026, as agreed and approved at Montreal COP 2022. NETSOB has worked with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to develop tiered protocols for adoption by different countries through the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB). This has been now approved by ITPS. We remain open for discussion and improvement in the future and look forward to receiving input from members.

★ **Special Issue in Soil Organisms**

Articles written by NETSOB working group chairs and alternates will be published in a special issue in the journal [Soil Organisms](#). The issue is scheduled to be published open access on February 1st and it will include results of the WG-1 survey, bibliometric analyses on ecosystem services provided by soil biodiversity and soil microbial diversity, updates on the state of global micro-, meso-, macro- and megafauna biodiversity, a review on potential threats to soil biodiversity, and information on the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB). The article from WG3-4 on economics and soil biodiversity will be published as a white paper, so keep an eye out for that as well.

★ **Status of WG-2 survey**

Earlier this year WG-2 has sent out an invitation for members to contribute with their best practices to conserve and protect soil biodiversity. The chair and alternate are working on the results of the survey, which will be presented at our annual meeting in February 2025.

★ **GLOSOLAN biologically relevant SOPs**

The Global Soil Laboratory Network ([GLOSOLAN](#)) has been working on harmonizing biologically relevant SOPs. Currently, two SOPs are publicly available ([microbial biomass and soil respiration](#)) and others are being developed.

★ **WFF Masterclass: Becoming ambassadors for better production from salt-affected soils**

During this 60-minute masterclass, Jacob Parnell and other Global Soil Partnership Secretariat members including discussed with the youth participants the distribution, and management of salt-affected soils by food producers. Participants learned essential skills and gain knowledge about soil salinity, its impact on biodiversity, and how to manage salt-affected soils. Using educational tools from the Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP) and interactive quizzes, participants developed key abilities. Watch the video [here](#).

✦ **A message from the NETSOB chair – Dr. Brajesh Singh**

“On behalf of the NETSOB team, I wish you a wonderful festive break and Happy New Year in 2025! 2024 has been incredibly busy for the NETSOB team that included election of NETSOB chair, a new coordinator, development of soil biodiversity monitoring protocols, GLOSOB and others. This work has resulted into a number of publication in Soil Organisms. I take this opportunity to thank the NETSOB board that co-chairs these working groups, and other members who have contributed to these reports and papers. Next year, we will elect vice chairs for different working groups. I encourage you to put up your hands or encourage your colleagues to do so. I would particularly like to encourage candidates from less represented regions and groups. Geographical and gender diversity in leadership team is critical for delivering NETSOB goals.

I thank you for your continued support for the NETSOB and look forward to working with you all in 2025! Happy New Year 2025!”



I will advertise important soil biodiversity events in this space. The events below are not organized by FAO or NETSOB.

✦ **International Soil Science Conference (SOILS 2025)**

1st ANNOUNCEMENT



**International Soil Science Conference
(SOILS 2025)**

Organized by:



**Soil Health for Sustainable Future:
Bridging Soil, Agriculture, and Environmental Stewardship**

The Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS) will host the International Soil Science Conference (SOILS 2025) at Bertam Resort & Water Park, Penang, Malaysia, from 6th to 8th May 2025. SOILS 2025, themed “Soil Health for Sustainable Future: Bridging Soil, Agriculture, and Environmental Stewardship,” aims to foster discussions on tropical soil sustainability. This annual program is also attended by researchers, agronomists, and planters from the government and the private sector to share information related to soil management. More information at <https://www.msss.com.my/>

✦ Ecology of Soil Microorganisms 2025 – Networking across scales



The organizing committee is pleased to welcome you to the fifth conference on the Ecology of Soil Microorganisms to be held in Helsinki, Finland on June 15th–19th, 2025. The previous meetings attracted participants from all over the world. The ESM conference is an interdisciplinary platform addressing questions related to individual microbes (archaea, bacteria, fungi, oomycetes, protozoa and viruses), microbial communities and their ecological networks. Modern genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic methods are linked with approaches based on soil chemical, biochemical and functional analyses, exploration of soil fauna and plant ecology. They cordially invite experts from all these disciplines to join them in Helsinki to promote state-of-the-art research in the field of soil ecology and enjoy the northern midsummer madness! Check more information at https://www.lyyti.fi/p/Ecology_of_Soil_Mircoorganisms2025_9620/en/conference

★ **Soils For Our Future 2025 Conference: A Gathering of Local Perspectives**



The SOILS FOR OUR FUTURE 2025 Conference brings together three conference events: 5th Global Soil Security Conference, Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting, and International Union of Soil Sciences Division 1 - Soils In Space and Time Meeting. Hosted by the Soil Conservation Council of Canada and the Manitoba Soil Science Society. With over 700 researchers, industry members, leaders of farmer organizations, graduate students and other attendees, the SOILS FOR OUR FUTURE 2025 Conference provides global perspective to today's research to sustain our future. Spanning five days, the conference provides attendees of the events to meet in plenary/technical sessions with their individual organizations and for all to come together in keynote sessions, tradeshow, posters, workshops and field tours. Check more information at <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/EVEYHOPOMAGWN/home>

★ **VII Eurosoil 2025 & X Congreso Iberico de la Ciencia del Suelo**



The EUROSOIL is the official meeting of the European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS), it is among Europe's most important Soil Sciences events and offers a fantastic opportunity for knowledge transfer among the Soil Sciences community. The EUROSOIL is held every four years and attracts a large audience of over 2500 participants who present their findings through oral and poster presentations across up to 10 parallel sessions. The event also features workshops, and an exhibition of products and services aimed at raising awareness in society, facilitating the exchange of ideas and information and creating business opportunities. Additionally, the Iberian Congress of Soil Sciences (CICS) will also be held during this edition of EUROSOIL. More information at <https://eurosoil2025.eu/EUROSOIL2025>

★ Global Soil Biodiversity Conference 2026



A grassroots scientific collaboration with nearly 4,000 members from 134 countries, the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI: <https://www.globalsoilbiodiversity.org/>) was designed to create a global collaboration of scientists, all with the goals of informing the public, promoting this information into environmental policy, and overall creating a platform for the current and future sustainability of soils. The GSBI has hosted three previous Conferences in Dijon, France (2014), Nanjing, China (2017) and Dublin, Ireland (2023) each with 700-1000 delegates, and is the premier global conference dealing with soil biodiversity. The Local Organizing Committee is excited to welcome the world to Victoria, BC in 2026, and is preparing an exciting scientific program for the 4th Global Soil Biodiversity Conference (<https://globalsoilbiodiversity2026.org/>), which will serve as a pivotal platform for international collaboration and knowledge exchange. As Co-Chairs of the GSB 2026 Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Zoë Lindo and Dr. Carlos Barreto hope you can join them for this exciting scientific and social event.

