



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Launch of the **International Network on Soil Biodiversity**

in the framework of the  
Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 | 🕒 14:00 CET  
Online meeting

**Rosa Cuevas, FAO-GSP Secretariat**



# International Network on Soil Biodiversity



# What do we need soil biodiversity?



- More than 40% of living organisms in terrestrial ecosystems are associated during their life-cycle directly with soils.
- Soils contains arguably the most diverse terrestrial communities on the planet.
- It supports most life above ground by means of increasingly well-understood above and belowground linkages.

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2015  
International  
Year of Soils



Soil BON



GBIF

Global Biodiversity  
Information Facility



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



earth  
microbiomeproject



RED LIST



GLOBAL  
SOIL BIODIVERSITY  
INITIATIVE

The Global  
Fungal Red List Initiative



Global Initiative of  
Crop Microbiome and  
Sustainable Agriculture

COMMISSION ON GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD  
AND AGRICULTURE



GLOBAL TAXONOMY INITIATIVE

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# NETSOB Objectives

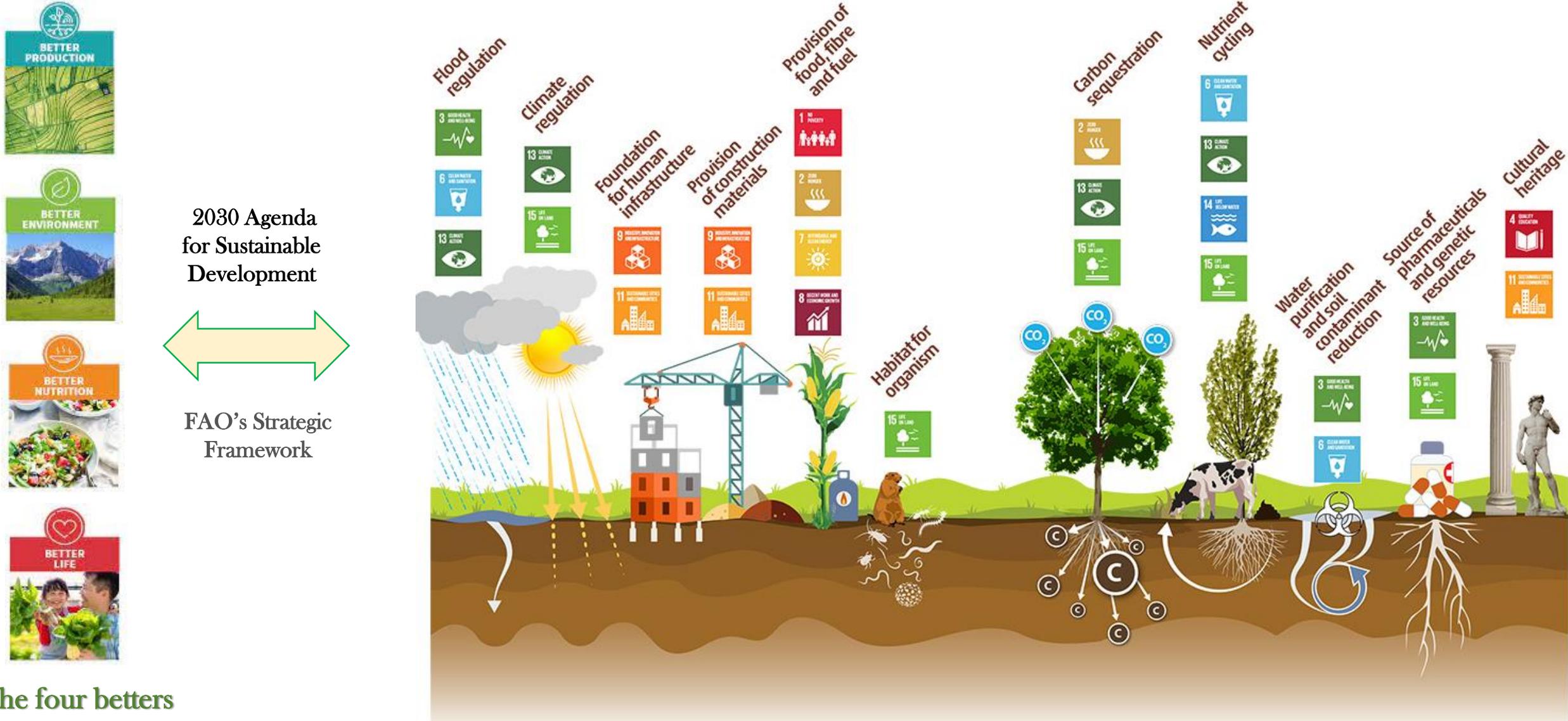
- Provides the **critical mass** for the implementation/coordination of the **global soil biodiversity observatory (GLOSOB)**;
- Provides **reliable evidence to support better decision-making** both in the field and at the policy level in sustainable use and conservation of soil biodiversity;
- **Strengthens the knowledge** about soil biodiversity;
- Contributes to the development of **internationally accepted biological indicators**;
- Contributes to the **monitoring of soil biodiversity status and loss**;
- Contributes to promoting actions to **increase the sustainable use of soil biodiversity and overall soil health**;
- Contributes to the **adoption of good practices that enhance availability and safety of food**;
- Identifies knowledge gaps and fosters **investment and cooperation in soil biodiversity research**.



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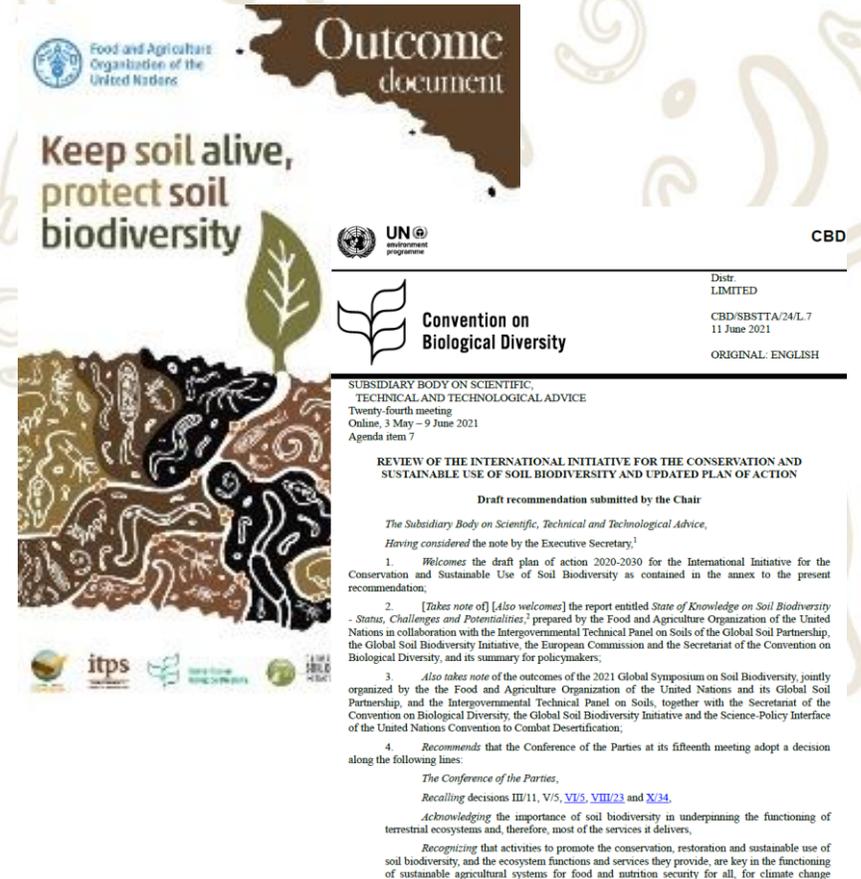


# How does NETSOB contribute to the SDGs and the new FAO strategic framework?



# NETSOB's governance

- Chair, four Vice-chairs (one per each WG), and the GSP Secretariat as facilitator of the process.
- The NETSOB/GLOSOB work will be guided by the GSOBI21 Outcome Document and the Plan of Action of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.
- The Chair and Vice-chairs will be appointed during the first meeting of the network and will run for two years against agreed terms of reference.



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# Technical working groups



- **Technical WG 1:** measurement, assessment and monitoring of soil biodiversity.
- **Technical WG 2:** sustainable use and management, and conservation of soil biodiversity.
- **Technical WG 3:** economics of soil biodiversity.
- **Technical WG 4:** policies and legal instruments related to soil biodiversity.



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# NETSOB's work plan

## Technical WG 1: measurement, assessment and monitoring of soil biodiversity



- I. Development of guidelines for measuring, assessing and monitoring (MAM) soil biodiversity.
- II. Development and implementation of a capacity-building programme on soil biodiversity assessment, mapping and monitoring.
- III. Definition and establishment of a network of long-term soil biodiversity monitoring sites at the regional and/or national levels. *Including sites affected by different contaminants where different bioremediation methods using different organisms are applied to verify their effectiveness and potential for scaling up, sites where SSM practices aimed at conserving/enhancing soil biodiversity are applied to quantify their impact on soil health and productivity and, sites to track the economic benefits provided by sustainable management of soil biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides.*

# NETSOB's work plan

Technical WG 2: sustainable use and management,  
and conservation of soil biodiversity



- I. Development of a field manual on good management practices to conserve soil biodiversity and prevent soil biodiversity loss.
- II. Development of a technical booklet about the main soil-borne diseases.
- III. Development of a database of potential uses of soil biodiversity for bioremediation and restoration of degraded soils.

# NETSOB's work plan

## Technical WG 3: economics of soil biodiversity



- I. Development of the methodology for the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by soil biodiversity.
- II. Development of a protocol for measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) the economic benefits of soil biodiversity.
- III. Support for the elaboration of incentive schemes for farmers to reward conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity.

# NETSOB's work plan

## Technical WG 4: policies and legal instruments related to soil biodiversity



- I. Performance of an assessment of effective policies and legal instruments to control soil biodiversity loss.
- II. Development of policy briefs on the state of knowledge, protection, conservation, and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at national, regional, and global levels.
- III. Provision of policy advice to national and local governments to develop legal instruments for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity.

# Why do we need the NETSOB?

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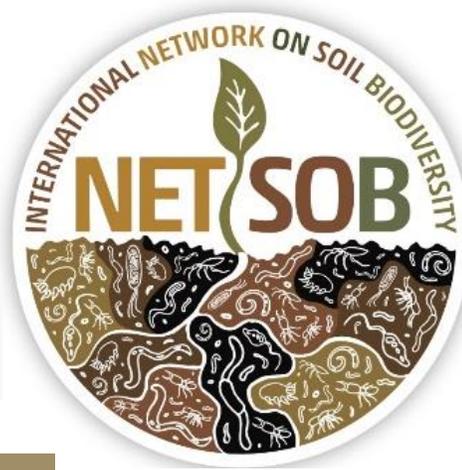
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