



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# GSP Action Framework 2022 - 2030

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# Global Soil Partnership

- Established in 2012
- A mechanism to develop a **strong partnership** and enhance **collaboration** between all stakeholders
- With the common objective of improving **governance** and promoting **sustainable soil management**.

<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/en/>



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The GSP used to operate through Pillars of Action. However, the discussion to move **from Pillars to ACTION AREAS** started in 2021. We are working to make this transition in 2022.



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## Areas of work



## Technical networks

**GLOSOLAN**  
Global Soil Laboratory  
Network



**INBS**  
International Network  
of Black Soils



**INFA**  
International Network  
on Fertilizer Analysis



**INSAS**  
International Network  
of Salt-Affected Soils



**INSII**  
International Network  
of Soil Information  
Institutions



**NETSOB**  
International Network  
on Soil Biodiversity



**INSOP**  
International Network  
On Soil Pollution



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# New GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

## Why?

- Progresses in executing the global implementation plan (GIP) of the 5 Pillars of Action has not been the same for all pillars.
- Funding to implement the pillar GIPs did not materialize as planned, and implementation was therefore slow.
- Changes and new priorities have been introduced over the years according to the outcomes of global symposia and emerging issues.
- **The pillar structure and their implementation plans** have proven to be useful for the instalment of the GSP Framework and general objectives but **have limited the execution of activities and the mobilization of resources**.
- The pillars address cross-cutting issues that allow progress towards the ambition of the GSP.
- The current pillar organizational structure can be seen as an obstacle to engaging stakeholders less familiar with UN structures, procedures, and language, who considered the GSP structure to be overly formal and rigid.

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# New GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

## Why?

- To focus on addressing the global societal and environmental challenges by improving soil health and mitigating soil threats by scaling up global SSM.
- To acknowledge and build on the key achievements and results of the GSP over the last ten years
- To recognize the role of the many existing international commitments and initiatives, which partially recognize the role of soils in addressing global challenges but whose implementation is still rudimentary. **The GSP must fill the current gap in the assessment and monitoring of soil status and trends and develop specific measurable and harmonized targets and indicators.** To achieve these goals, the GSP must work in close cooperation with the existing conventions, partnerships, and initiatives to ensure that soil is recognized on all dimensions.
- **To further develop the GSP towards a flexible action-oriented or outcomes-oriented approach**, by renaming and refining the existing pillars into “action areas” which can be dynamic and responsive towards the needs of stakeholders and global challenges. This approach will give continuity to the foundational work of the GSP and allow the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 to align with the global agendas in a productive manner.

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# New GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

## 2021

1. The GSP Secretariat and the ITPS prepared a draft GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 that was submitted to the 9 th Plenary Assembly.

Request for more inclusive work

2. Establishment of an Open Ending Working Group (OEWG) composed by by 45 people representing FAO Members, academia, civil society, the private sector, RSPs and Technical Networks to finalize the Framework and to submit it for the consideration of the 10th GSP PA.

## 2022

1. Work of the OEWG: a draft GSP Action framework, “Healthy soils for a healthy life and environment: from promotion to consolidation of Sustainable Soil Management,” was prepared and finalized for submission to the 10th GSP PA.

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## New GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

GSPPA-X/22/Report

### Tenth Session of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

Rome, 23–25 May 2022



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The 10<sup>th</sup> PA requested a minor modification of the text referring to healthy soils, to put more emphasis on sustainable soil management. It was proposed to forward it to the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) for endorsement.

The PA invited all FAO Members and partners to adopt the new GSP Action Framework 2022– 2030 at a national and local level, to set clear targets to reduce soil degradation and enhance soil health through sustainable soil management.

It also requested that the Secretariat and ITPS lead the process to define the key performance indicators (KPIs) and implementation plans for each of the six action areas, involving the Regional Soil Partnerships, the Technical Networks and countries to ensure that all soil types and regional priorities were properly represented, and that soil data was fully used.

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## New GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

It is made up by clear actions and targets focused on addressing the different global challenges – from food insecurity, climate change, pollution, land degradation and the loss of biodiversity – through the improvement and enhancement of soil health.

Robust indicators to be developed and agreed with GSP members and partners will allow for the implementation of such activities to be monitored so that objectives can be achieved.

GSP members and partners will be supported to build capacities to report progress based on indicators when needed

Full text available at [https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/GSP/tenth\\_PA/GSPPA\\_X\\_2022\\_2.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/tenth_PA/GSPPA_X_2022_2.pdf)

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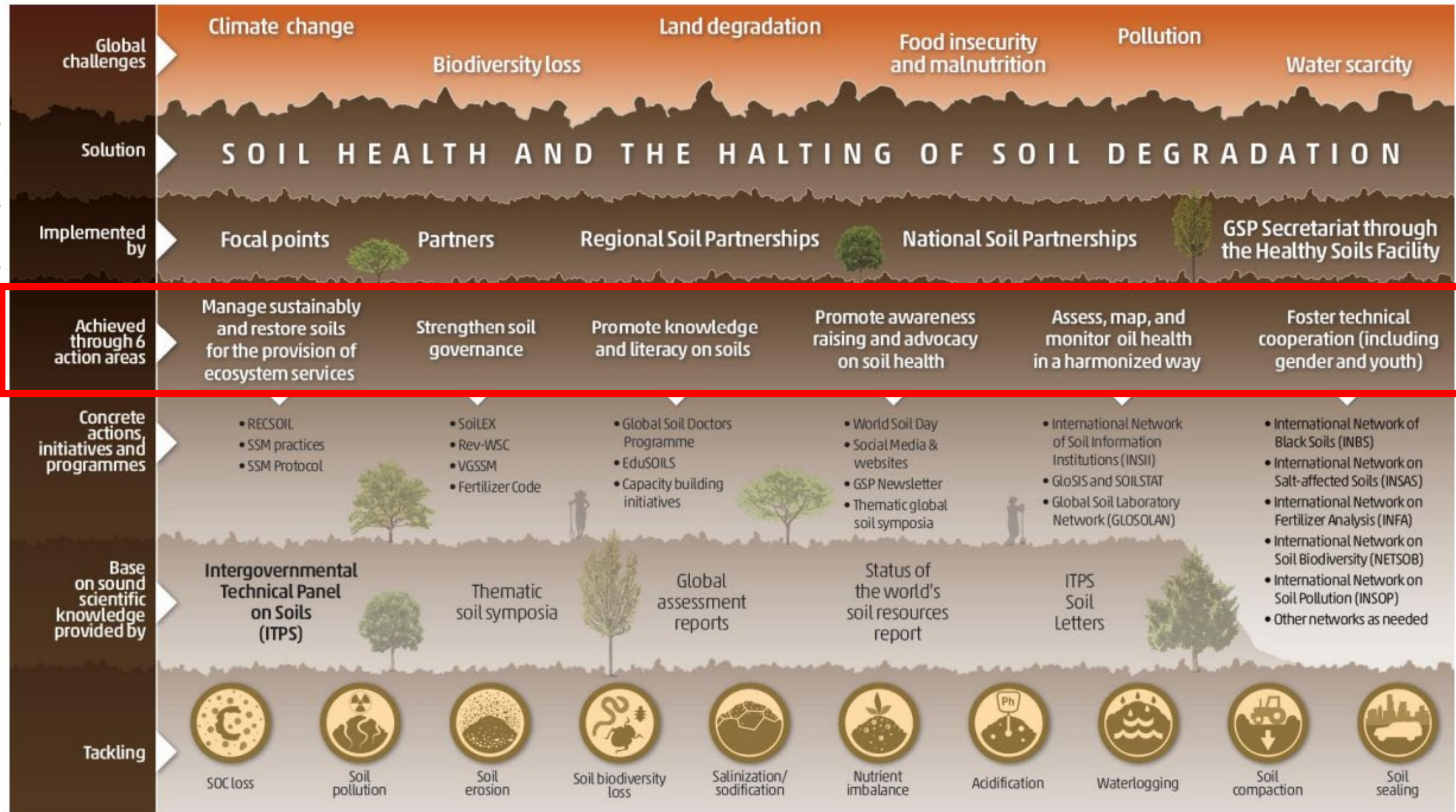


Figure 1. GSP Action Framework

# Targets and indicators

The development and collection of quantifiable information on the impact of the GSP on the status and trends of soil health and on people's lives, as well as on the capacity of countries to collect data and information to assess and monitor soils, would :

- Provide a real measure of the impact of the GSP on SSM and soil governance;
- Facilitate Resource Mobilization efforts;
- Increase ownership;
- Multiply the reach of the Partnership's activities; and
- Allow for a more comprehensive assessment and monitoring of soil health and its' contribution to all global environmental challenges thanks to the development and adoption of targets and indicators in line with international agreements

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## Key performance indicators (KPIs)

- Are the critical quantifiable indicators of progress toward an intended result and will be used to gauge the long-term performance of the GSP and its' actions.
- Provide a focus for strategic and operational improvement, create an analytical basis for decision-making and help focus attention on what matters most.

Table 1. Suggested soil health targets and key performance indicators and metrics<sup>4</sup> for the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

Actions	Targets (By 2030)	KPI#	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Metrics
<b>Manage sustainably and restore degraded soils for provision of ecosystem services</b>	Facilitate equality and inclusion of all people including youth and Indigenous People, in particular the poor and vulnerable people in accessing sustainable soil management practices.	1	E.g. Number of farmers adopting SSM practices.	E.g. Number of beneficiaries implementing SSM under GSP programmes, projects and initiatives.
	Enhance implementation of sustainable soil management practices to achieve sustainable food production systems and healthy/resilient ecosystems.	2	E.g. Adoption of SSM in national programmes. E.g. Enhancing soil organic carbon stocks and soil health, whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions from soils.	E.g. Number of countries that have included SSM in their national programmes. E.g. Total land area (ha) where RECSOIL is being implemented.
	Enhance the restoration of degraded <sup>5</sup> soils and prevent any form of degradation of healthy soils.	3	E.g. Proportion of degraded soils under SSM measures over total degraded soils.	E.g. Land area (ha) under SSM practices within GSP programmes, projects and initiatives.
	Ensure the protection and sustainable management of black soils in all black soils' countries.	4	E.g. Proportion of black soils under protection measures over total black soil area.	E.g. Total Area under black soil protection measures.

Actions	Targets (By 2030)	KPI#	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Metrics
<b>Strengthen soil governance</b>	Mainstream soil health into national policies and align country actions with the Revised World Soil Charter and the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management	5	E.g. Development of national and regional legal instruments focused on soil health and the prevention of soil degradation.	E.g. Number of countries technically supported to include rev-WSC and VGSSM principles into national policies and strategies.
	Strengthen the sustainable use and management of fertilizers in alignment with the International Code of Conduct for the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers (Fertilizer Code).	6	E.g. Implementation of the Fertilizer Code.	E.g. Number of countries technically supported to include the Fertilizer Code principles into national policies and strategies.  E.g. Number of companies in the fertilizer industry reporting alignment with the provisions of the Fertilizer Code.
	Enhance and align soil health monitoring in support of UN Rio Conventions.	7	E.g. Formalization of cooperation between the FAO/GSP and other relevant intergovernmental processes and monitoring frameworks.	E.g. Official agreements between FAO/GSP and the UN Rio Conventions.

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Actions	Targets (By 2030)	KPI#	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Metrics
<b>Promote knowledge and literacy on soils</b>	Enhance national technical capacities on sustainable soil management and soil health.	8	E.g. Capacity development programmes/courses on SSM.	E.g. Number of participants trained through the GSP's capacity development programmes, including EduSOILS and the Global Soil Doctors programme (gender disaggregated data).
	Improve the availability of knowledge on the state of world's soil.	9	E.g. Global assessments reports on the state of world's soils and soil threats.	E.g. Number of languages in which global assessments and reports are translated.

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Actions	Targets (By 2030)	KPI#	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Metrics
<p><b>Promote awareness raising and advocacy on soil health</b></p>	<p>Substantially increase public awareness regarding the importance of healthy soils for healthy food and ecosystems, and for sustainable development.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>E.g. Observance rates of WSD.</p>	<p>E.g. Engagement in GSPs awareness raising campaigns, contests, social media, and public initiatives on soil health.</p>
	<p>Expand global advocacy for soil health in international agreements.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>E.g. International agreements, communiqués, strategies, or partnerships focused on soil health.</p>	<p>E.g. Number of countries embracing international agreements, communiqués, strategies, or partnerships focused on soil health to which the GSP specifically provides inputs.</p>
<p><b>Assess, map, and monitor soil health in a harmonized way</b></p>	<p>Significantly improve soil data quality and availability to measure and monitor soil health for evidence based and data driven decision-making.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>E.g. Number of countries monitoring the soil condition and trends through operational national soil information systems, which follow the GSP harmonization guidance (nomenclature, soil sampling and analysis, and metadata) validated through GLOSOLAN's Proficiency Testing (PT) exercises.</p>	<p>E.g. Number of countries participating in the development of harmonized country-driven global data products and connected to the Global Soil Information System (GloSIS).</p> <p>E.g. Number of reference laboratories that participate in the GLOSOLAN PTs and organize national and regional PTs.</p>

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Actions	Targets (By 2030)	KPI#	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Metrics
<b>Foster technical cooperation conducive to gender parity and youth engagement</b>	Strengthen all GSP Technical Networks: GLOSOLAN, INFA, INSII, INBS, INSAS, NETSOB, INSOP, and any other network established by the GSP.	13	E.g. Representation status in the GSPs Technical Networks.	E.g. Number of members/countries in each network.
	Positioning the ITPS as the authority providing scientific advice on soils to the GSP, FAO, the UN Rio Conventions and other relevant UN multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).	14	E.g. Consultation with the ITPS on soil issues from the GSP, FAO, the UN Rio Conventions and relevant MEAs.	E.g. Number of UN Conventions meetings attended by ITPS members. E.g. Number of key publications published under the guidance of the ITPS.

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## Key performance indicators (KPIs)

*The KPIs will be further developed by a dedicated technical working group and with the support of the ITPS and all GSP technical Networks.*

**The establishment of baselines for the targets and indicators should be rooted in existing information** including the 2015 Status of the World's Soil Resources report (SWSR), the State of knowledge of soil biodiversity – Status, challenges and potentialities, the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution and the global data products including the Global soil organic carbon map, the Global map of salt-affected soils, the Global soil organic carbon sequestration potential map, and other products under development.

**Regional and national-specific aspects and challenges will require stronger engagement within the Regional Soil Partnerships (RSPs).** In countries where the lack of data has prevented such comprehensive analyses and data products, special efforts will be made to support the collection and generation of soil data.

**The establishment of baselines should go hand-in-hand with the development of national soil monitoring systems.**

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In addition the targets and indicators defined by the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development that are relevant to monitor soil health and for which countries are already generating information will be leveraged by the GSP.

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Table 2. Sustainable Development goals (2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development) with targets and indicators relevant to soil health

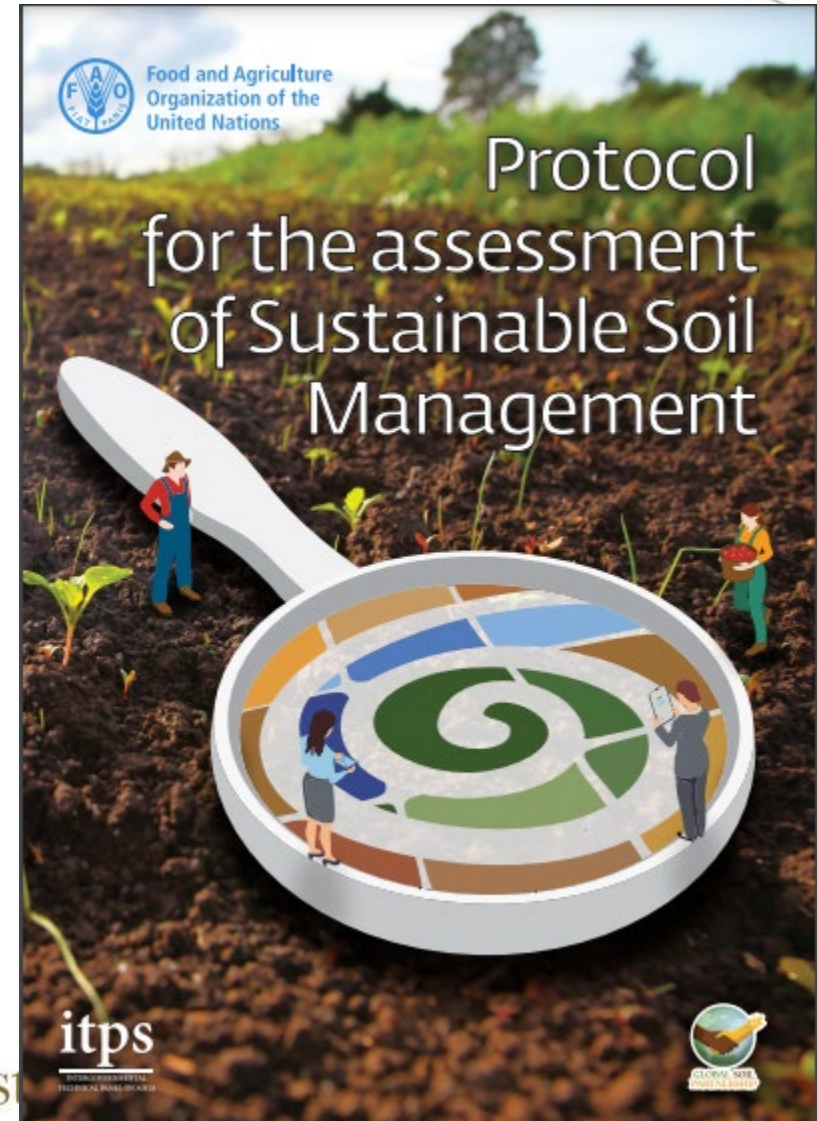
International targets	Indicators
<p>1.4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance</p>	<p>1.4.2. Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by gender and by type of tenure</p>
<p>2.4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding, and other disasters to progressively improve land and soil quality</p>	<p>2.4.1. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable management</p>
<p>3.9. By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p>	<p>3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning</p>
<p>6.3. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating wastage, and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</p>	<p>6.3.2. Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality</p>
<p>13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning</p>	<p>13.2.1. Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>
<p>15.3. By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</p>	<p>15.3.1. Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area</p>
<p>17.16. Enhance the global Partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries</p>	<p>17.16.1. Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs</p>





# Soil Health Index (SHI)

The Action Framework also proposes the development of a Soil Health Index (SHI), as a composite index including the indicators endorsed in the SSM Protocol to provide a proxy on the soil health status at global level.

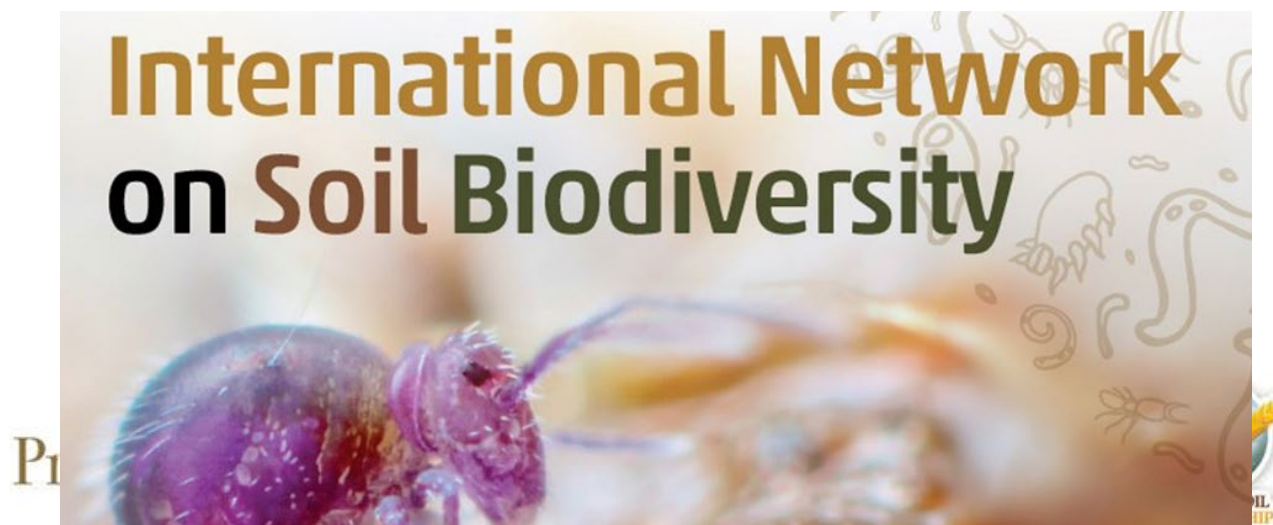


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# Soil Health Index (SHI)

The Global Soil Information System (GloSIS), and the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB), will be the main global data platforms to provide soil data and statistics for data driven indicators (3 and 5) sets, whereas SoilSTAT provides official national soil statistics for agreed indicators, following existing UN standards.



# Financing

The Healthy Soils Facility Trust Fund, established in response to the request of the GSP Plenary Assembly in 2013, should remain the main operational arm to which all resource partners contribute ensure the fulfillment of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030.

In addition, FAO Members and GSP partners provide financial and in-kind contributions to the GSP for the implementation of all activities.

More funds could become available following the decision on the institutionalization of the GSP

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# How to implement the new Action Framework 2022-2030 at the regional level?

Regional implementation plans should be updated, taking into account the functioning of the global GSP networks to which many PSR experts already contribute to avoid overlap, and a funding strategy should be designed through the Healthy Soils Facility.

Impact on the Regional Soil Partnership governance:

- Abolishment of the Pillars of Action Chair

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# How to implement the new Action Framework 2022-2030 at the regional level?

New Regional Soil Partnership governance

## Proposal:

- RSP Chair
- RSP vice-Chair(s) *[IF needed]*
- Steering Committee *[IF needed]*
- Regional coordinator for awareness raising activities (former Pillar 2 Chair)

Each country will contribute to topic/network specific activities by nominating national experts or by joining regional/global working groups and forum for discussion as needed.

*Nomination of regional representatives in technical networks as needed*

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Thanks for your attention

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