



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

8 - 10  
September  
2021

VIRTUAL  
MEETING

# Highlights of the GSP work on soil threats and global assessments

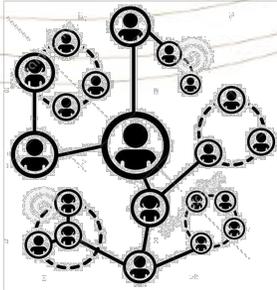
Natalia Rodríguez Eugenio

GSP Secretariat

## GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly



# Global Assessments in a **nutshell**



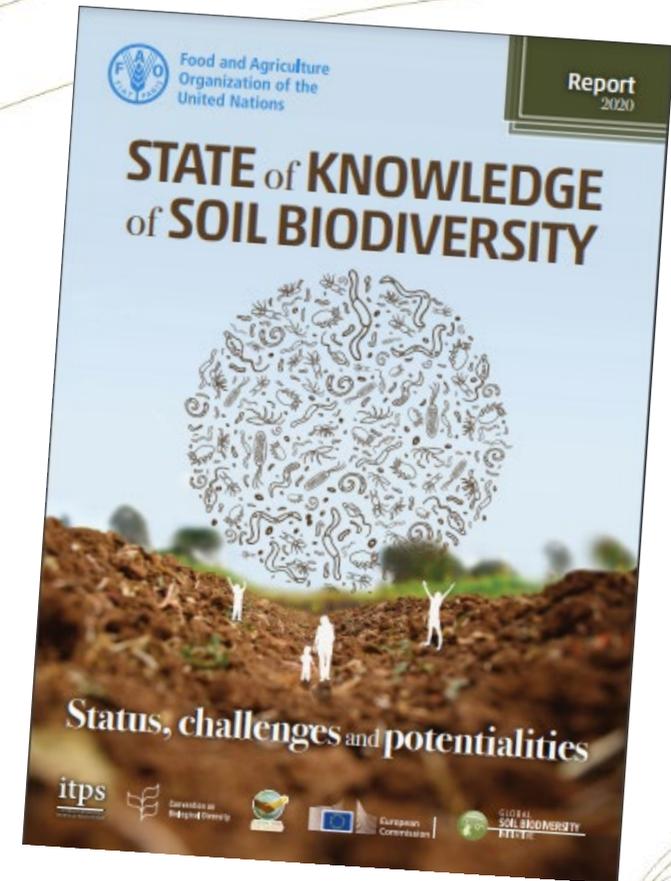
300 authors from all regions  
32 top scientists peer-reviewed it



+600 pages  
+1700 sources



Launch: 4 000 participants in WSD

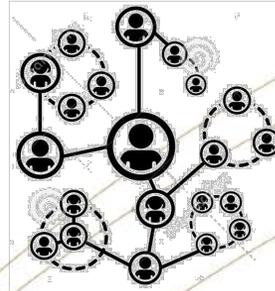
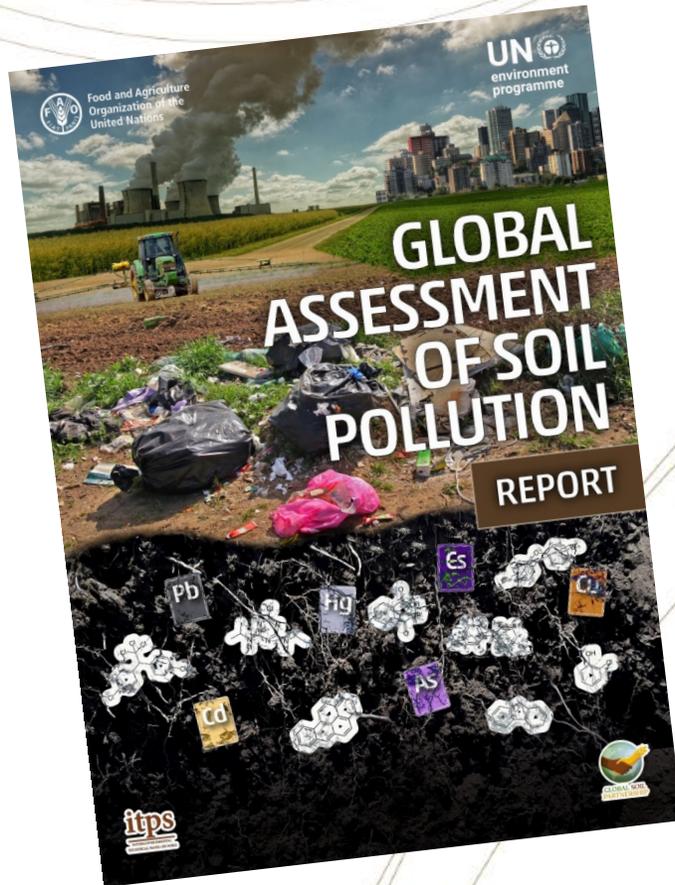




# Way forward: 6 key actions

1. Advocate for **mainstreaming soil biodiversity** into the 2030 Agenda, the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and all areas where SB can contribute;
2. Develop **standard protocols and procedures** for assessing SB at different scales;
3. Include SB as a **key indicator of soil health** in national and global soil information and monitoring systems;
4. Strengthen knowledge on the different soil groups forming SB (i.e., microbes, micro, meso, macro and megafauna), including local or traditional knowledge;
5. Establish a **global capacity building programme** for the use and management of soil biodiversity and the **Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory**.
6. Execute the **Implementation Plan of the International Initiative for sustainable management of Soil Biodiversity**.

# Global Assessments in a **nutshell**



81 authors from all regions  
50 reviewers



+900 pages  
+2000 sources consulted



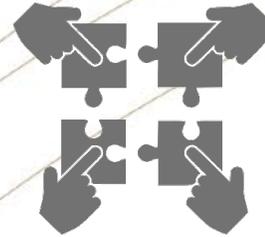
Launch event: 1500 participants  
181 countries

# Way forward: 4 key actions



## Fill knowledge gaps

Establish the **Global Soil Pollution Information and Monitoring program - GloSIS**



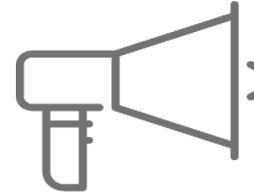
## Foster international cooperation

Advocate for **technology transfer and cross-capacity building** for the whole cycle of soil pollution



## Strengthen legal frameworks

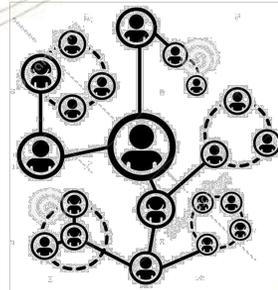
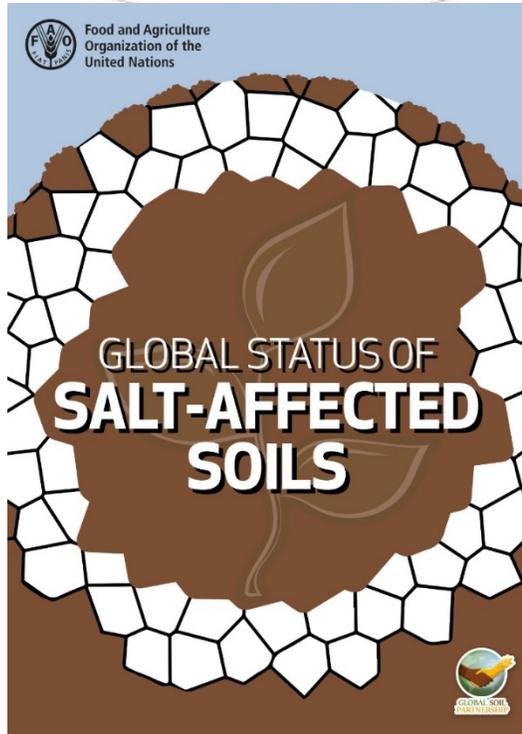
Global commitment towards preventing, halting and remediating soil pollution in the framework of **Zero Pollution/Towards a Pollution Free Planet** ambitions



## Improve awareness and communication

Promote **pollution-free options** and incentivise 4R approach

# Global Assessments in a **nutshell**



25 countries already submitted the report  
133 authors from all regions

Objectives:

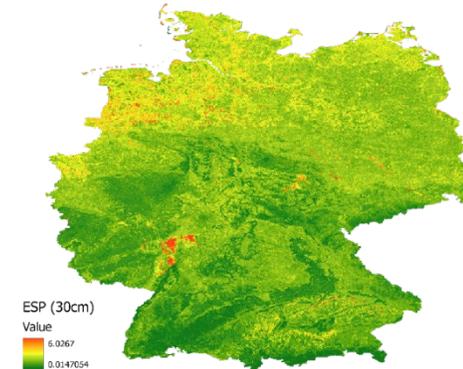
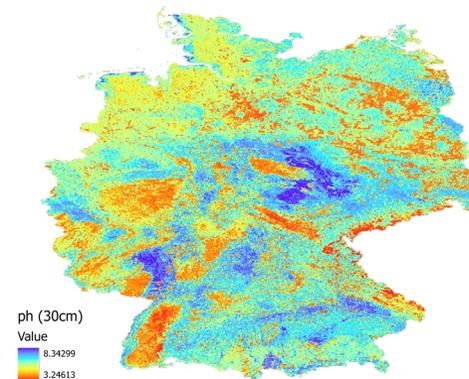
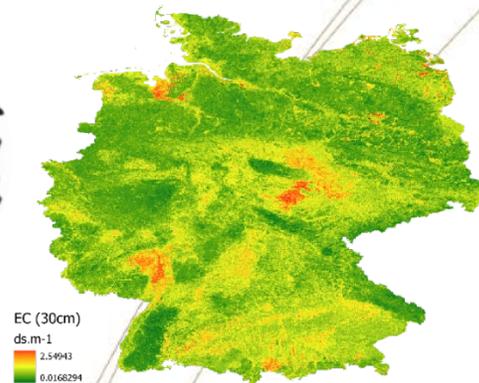
- (i) what kind of data and of what quality were used to approach the national maps of salt-affected soils;
- (ii) description of the status and management of salt-affected soils;
- (iii) describe the bottlenecks that have been observed during the preparation of the GSSmap and ways to overcome them.



# Preliminary conclusions

1. Updated information on the distribution of salt-affected soils;
2. Lack of salinity/sodicity data at the national level in developed and developing countries; and
3. Need to harmonise methods of measurement, assessment, mapping and monitoring of SAS in order to make correct projections and conclusions.
4. High potential of proximal soil sensing for salinity mapping

**Germany  
GSSmap  
Preliminary results**



# Upcoming Global Assessments

- Global assessment of soil erosion
- Global assessment and mapping of soil nutrient budgets
- What else? compaction, soil sealing, waterlogging and acidification missing – Any other **KEY SOIL THREAT** to be considered?

**Contribution with key Information and indicators to  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report**



# Soil governance: **SoiLEX**

## Launch of SoiLEX



824 participants  
+ 160 countries

Creation of a Soil Legislation WG  
25 experts from 15 countries

1. Support national and regional policy analysis and development
2. Keep SoiLEX updated
3. Help disseminate knowledge on soil governance:
  - a) Contributing to a Special Issue on Soil Governance on Soil Security Journal
  - b) Workshop on international soil governance during EUROSOIL2021



# GSP Plenary Assembly **IN ACTION**

- Support the implementation of the proposed **way forward for soil biodiversity**
- Endorse and adopt GASP recommendations as the **GSP Action Plan on Soil Pollution**
- Mobilise national experts to **contribute to the GSAS report** and upcoming reports
- Global assessment and mapping of soil nutrient budgets → **in 2022? And after?**

# GSP Plenary Assembly **IN ACTION**

- Mobilise **action at the national level to address the critical issues** highlighted in these reports (biodiversity loss, pollution, secondary salinisation, soil degradation).
- Mobilise resources on these key issues in order to move to **prevention and restoration actions on the ground**.
- Advocate in **all international fora** (e.g. UNEA, COPs of CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD) for the **inclusion of SOILS** in the upcoming frameworks and decisions
- Advocate for **mainstreaming soil health and soil biodiversity** in the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Soils not reflected, but still options at the OEWG (Geneva, 12-29 January, 2022)



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# GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 9<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly

Thank you  
for your attention!

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PARTNERSHIP