



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 10th Plenary Assembly



23 - 25
May 2022

VIRTUAL
MEETING

African Soil Partnership (AfSP): A reflection on its Accomplishments, Challenges and the Way Forward

By: Dr Anne Muriuki, Chair AfSP



Achievements: September 2021- May 2022

1. Participation of some AfSP members in the Ninth GSP Plenary Assembly meeting held from 8-10 September 2021.
2. Distribution of key GSP publications to focal points and FAO offices in their countries in October 2021 for sharing with their Agriculture Ministries.
3. Third AFRILAB Meeting was successfully held on 18 October 202. New officials to serve from 2021 to 2023 were elected as follows:-
 - **Chair: Ms. Lesego Mooketsi-Selepe** (Botswana),
 - **Vice Chair (Francophone countries): Dr. Sougueh Cheik** (Djibouti)
 - **Vice Chair (Anglophone countries): Mr. Takesure Tendayi** (Zimbabwe)
 - **A Steering Committee of 6 other members** to support the Chair and vice chairs

Achievements: September 2021 - May 2022...

4. Participated in global celebration of World Soil Day (WSD) held on 3 December 2021
 - The **Glinka World Soil prize** was presented to **Dr. Lydie-Stella Koutika** from the Republic of Congo for her outstanding work on sustainable soil management
 - The **King Bhumibol World Soil Day award** was presented to **Nigeria Institute of Soil Science (NISS)** for their outstanding organisation of the 2020 WSD event.
 - An **official WSD** celebration was organized in **Khartoum, Sudan**
 - **30 other events** were organized by countries in the region to celebrate the WSD and reported in the [WSD events map](#).

Achievements: September 2021- May 2022...

5. Commencement of a pilot of the Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP) in The Gambia.
 - GSDP in The Gambia is to be implemented by 'The Soil Solution' and FAO Gambia.
 - The poster was translated in 2 local languages (Wollof and Mandika)
 - 7000 farmers are being targeted to be trained by the Soil Doctors programme.

Achievements: September 2021 - May 2022...

6. Participated in regional and sub-regional platform meetings and discussions such as
 - Africa Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) Community of Practice (CoP)
 - Preparatory meeting for the Africa Union Commission (AUC) Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit and launch of the Soil Initiative for Africa scheduled for June 2023
7. Participated of some experts in the Open-Ended Working Group to prepare the GSP Action Framework for 2022-2030.
8. Held a meeting of the AfSP Governance team in February 2022 to brainstorm on the proposals to present at the Sixth AfSP Plenary Meeting.

Achievements: September 2021 - May 2022...

9. Successfully organized and held the 6th AfSP Plenary Meeting online on April 26 and 27, 2022.

The meeting outcomes were:-

- i. There is the need for focal points to be more proactive in pushing the soil agenda on the continent and especially at the national level.
- ii. In an effort to improve communication and engagement, every focal points must designate an alternate focal point in countries where they do not exist.



Achievements: September 2021 - May 2022...

9. Successfully organized and held the 6th AfSP Plenary Meeting online on April 26 and 27, 2022.

The meeting outcomes (continued):

iii. There is need to have three vice-Chairs to represent the dominant languages on the continent so as to overcome language and cultural barriers and to also support the work of the Chair. A new AfSP Governance team was elected to serve from 2022 to 2024 as follows:-

- **Chair: Dr Anne Muriuki** (Kenya),
- **Vice Chair (English): Mr Ramakgwale Mampholo** (South Africa),
- **Vice Chair (French): Mr Mamoudou Traore** (Burkina Faso),
- **Vice Chair (Portuguese): Ms Antonia dos Santos Neto** (Sao Tome e Principe).

Achievements: September 2021 - May 2022...

9. Successfully organized and held the 6th AfSP Plenary Meeting online on April 26 and 27, 2022.

The meeting outcomes (continued):

- iv. A meeting of the governance team will be held in **May 2022** to discuss and plan for the June AfSP meeting.
- v. A special meeting of the AfSP will be held in **June 2022** to develop and approve its work plan for 2022/2023 pending the decision of the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly.
- vi. The **AFRISOIL project document** developed by national focal points and experts and highlights challenges identified in each country needs to be updated to reflect current national issues.

Achievements: September 2021 - May 2022...

9. Successfully organized and held the 6th AfSP Plenary Meeting online on April 26 and 27, 2022.

The meeting outcomes (continued):

- vii. Focal points can do better if they collaborate with in-country institutions and organisations to mobilise technical and financial resources to implement soil-related activities.

- viii. In 2022, the FAO Regional Office for Africa plans to implement the ***Ecosystem Restoration Programme*** to address issues of land/soil and agriculture. There are opportunities for countries and the AfSP to benefit from this programme.



Achievements: September 2021 - May 2022...

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The meeting outcomes (continued):

- ix. Focal points need to know and align themselves to the Africa Union Commission's soil agenda, in particular, the 1) ***Soil Health and Fertilizer Summit 2023*** and 2) ***Soil Initiative for Africa***.
- x. The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Secretariat and the FAO Regional office for Africa are available to assist countries and partner institutions to raise awareness on soils and implement activities but must be country-driven.

Challenges

- Low financial resources
- Low commitment and support from different governments on the issues of soils and the GSP.
- Uncertainty of focal points on country engagement for different activities being implemented by GSP.
- Infrastructure challenges (*especially with regard to internet connectivity*) made it difficult for some countries to participate in online meetings and trainings during this COVID era.
- Some focal points lack the skills on how to engage with the FAO country offices for resource mobilization and implementation of activities. Capacity building needed in this area is needed.

Future Plans

- Support implementation of the voluntary guidelines on ***Sustainable Soil Management***, the ***Fertiliser Code*** and ***Normative Tools*** produced by the GSP.
- Support implementation of the **Soil Doctor Programme** at regional/national level.
- Improve the participation of focal points in GSP/AfSP activities through Working Groups for identified Areas of Work.
- Enhance participation of focal points in programmes and projects by connecting them to partners.
- Participate in other activities and trainings organised by the GSP/AfSP.



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