

May 2022



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

Tenth session

Virtual, 23-25 May 2022

**Work of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS)
(GSPPA: X/2022/3)**

Executive Summary

- The annual progress report by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) complements those submitted to previous sessions of the Plenary Assembly (PA). It provides a succinct overview of the main activities carried out by the panel and the conclusions reached. The document also introduces the revised ITPS work programme for 2022-23 for consideration and endorsement by the PA. The ITPS Chair is also due to deliver a presentation.
- It is advised that the current members were appointed by the PA at its 6th session in June 2018 for a three-year term, but the PA supported the extension of the mandate of the ITPS for one additional year in order to complete its main activities that were slowed down –but not stopped – since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It means that the 10th PA will be the last one reported by the current ITPS.
- It may be noted that the fifteenth working session of the ITPS took place virtually from 15 to 17 November 2021 and that the sixteenth working session of the ITPS was carried out virtually from the 28 to 30 of March 2022; and that the Panel has continued to operate through virtual channels throughout the year.

Suggested actions by the GSP Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly may wish to:

- review and comment, as relevant, on the range of activities undertaken by the ITPS over the past 8-month period;
- endorse the ITPS workplan 2022-2023 and invite donors and partners to support this work by providing financial and in-kind resources;
- endorse the list of 27 experts who will accordingly serve on the ITPS for a three-year term from June 2022 to June 2025; and
- invite countries and partners to encourage their experts to participate in the different activities led by the ITPS, particularly during the preparation of the second edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR) report.

3.1 Report by the Chairperson on main activities and outcomes of the work programme 2020-21

1. Over the past 8 months, the present Panel has performed the following activities:
 - Publication of 2 ITPS letters: Issue # 4 Soil Spectroscopy; Issue # 5: Soil Sealing, and is preparing an ITPS letter on Biochar.
 - Support the organization of the Global Symposium on Salt-Affected Soils (GSAS21) held on 27-29 October 2021.
 - Development, review, and implementation of the GSAS21 outcome document, including the support to the first meeting of the International Network of Salt Affected Soils (INSAS) and the organisation of its workplan; the preparation of the Global Assessment of Salt-Affected Soils, and the Global Map of Salt Affected Soils.
 - Development, review and implementation of the outcome document of the Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (GSOBI21), including supporting the launch and first meeting of the International Network of Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB), and the Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB).
 - Support the development and implementation of RECSOIL as a contribution to decision 16/COP14 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
 - Contribute to the preparation of the report on the Global Status of Black Soils.
 - Contribute to the publication of the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution report.
 - Review of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6 WGIII) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
 - Advise on the preparation of the concept note for country guidelines and technical specifications for the Global Soil Erosion map (GSERmap).
 - Support the organization of the Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition (GSOIL4N) in July 2022.
 - Support the preparation and dissemination of the SoiLEX platform.
 - Lead the preparation of the 2nd edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report to be issued in 2025. The editorial board has been established, with one ITPS member representing each region. Dr Dan Pennock has been appointed as Managing Editor of the report and is receiving due support from the GSP Secretariat to allow for an inclusive process towards a comprehensive second edition, especially in depicting the dynamics of soil threats since the first edition published in 2015.
 - Contribute to the celebration of World Soil Day (WSD) 2021: dissemination and campaign materials, selection of the WSD award, the Glinka Prize and poster and booklet contests.
 - Participation in the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) with the objective of implementing the outcomes of the GSP stocktaking exercises, such as establishing measurable targets and indicators, restructuring the GSP from pillars to specific actions and debating the changing status of the GSP within FAO among others.
 - Preparation and submission of several abstracts related to the ITPS/GSP's activities to be presented at the 22nd World Congress of Soil Science, to be held in Glasgow, Scotland from 31 July to 5 August 2022.

3.2 ITPS work programme 2022-2023 including the second edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources report

2. The ITPS workplan until mid-2023 will include the following:
 - Presentation of several communications related to the ITPS/GSP activities at the 22nd World Congress of Soil Science in Glasgow.
 - Follow-up actions to the Global Symposium on Soil Erosion (GSER19): advise on the preparation of the methodology to evaluate the costs of erosion and value of erosion control practices as public benefits and for the conservation of ecosystem services.
 - Assist on the organization of the Global Symposium on Soils for Nutrition in July 2022.
 - Guide the preparation of the Global Map on Soil Nutrient Budget.
 - Continue to support and guide the different International Networks.
 - Contribute to the preparation of the Technical Manual for the Sustainable Management of Mountain Soils (FAO).
 - Support the finalization of the Technical Manual on assessing, mapping, monitoring, and reporting on Soil Pollution.
 - Preparation and publication of future scientific/technical notes (ITPS letters) on Soil Fertility, Soil Pollution, Soil Biodiversity and Soil Governance; and evaluation of production of a compilation of the published letters in a joint ITPS scientific publication.
 - Support the preparation of the 2nd edition of the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report scheduled for 2025. Following the appointment of the new ITPS members, the editorial board will be reformulated to act as such until the publication of the Report in 2025. Dr Dan Pennock, as Managing Editor, will guide this process with the due support from the GSP Secretariat. The elaboration of the Report will involve the Regional Soil Partnerships through the compilation and analysis of the vast number of materials generated since the publication of the 1st Report in 2015.
 - Help and assist with the celebration of WSD 2022 devoted to Soil Fertility: dissemination and campaign materials, selection of the WSD Award, Glinka Prize and poster and booklet contests.
 - Continued collaboration with international organizations and panels:
 - International Union on Soil Science (IUSS)
 - Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD
 - 4/1000 initiative
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative (GSBI)

3.3 Appointment of new members of the ITPS

3. As per the Rules of Procedure, a call for nominations was sent out on 3 February 2022 requesting GSP partners to submit their candidates. A total of 95 nominations were received by the Secretariat.

4. After a rigorous assessment against the established criteria based on academic qualifications, work experience and publication records, the Secretariat produced a short list which was communicated to FAO Members via the Regional Groups, for the final selection of experts in respective regions, bearing in mind that – in addition to the above criteria – the ITPS should reflect proper regional coverage and gender balance.
5. The final lists of experts for all regions were provided to the Secretariat by the Chair of the Regional Groups so that the Assembly could proceed with the formal appointment of members.
6. The results from this process for composing the ITPS 2022-2025 are presented below:

Africa

- Mr Igue Attanda Mouinou (Benin)
- Mr Georges Martial Ndzana (Cameroon)
- Mr Sheleme Beyene Jiru (Ethiopia)
- Mr Matshwene Edwin Moshia (South Africa)
- Ms Nyambilila Abdallah Amuri (Tanzania)

Asia

- Mr Jin Ke (China)
- Mr Ranjan Bhattacharyya (India)
- Ms Jeyanny Vijayanathan (Malaysia)
- Mr Harsha Kumara Kadupitiya (Sri Lanka)
- Ms Nopmanee Suvannang (Thailand)

Europe

- Ms Taina Pennanen (Finland)
- Ms Claire Chenu (France)
- Ms Adele Muscolo (Italy)
- Ms Rosa Maria Poch (Spain)
- Mr Pete Smith (United Kingdom)

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mr Guillermo A. Studdert (Argentina)
- Ms Lúcia Helena Cunha dos Anjos (Brazil)
- Mr Jorge Dionisio Etchevers Barra (Mexico)
- Mr Gaius Eudoxie (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Ms Deyanira Lobo (Venezuela)

Near East

- Mr Mohamed Abdel Wareth Mahmoud (Egypt)
- Mr Saeed Saadat (Iran)
- Mr Ghiath Ahmad Alloush (Syria)

North America

- Mr David Lobb (Canada)
- Mr Michael Castellano (United States of America)

South West Pacific

- Mr Braj Singh (Australia)
- Mr Ravendra Naidu (Fiji)