



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2025 Status of the World's Soil Resources

Report to Director



Overview of Progress

Work has been underway since 2021

Overview of Progress

Two separate reports in 2025 Status of the World`s Soil Resources Report

Main Report

- 1) Literature review from 2015
- 2) Regional Assessments

Summary for Policy Makers

Overview of Progress and the Path Ahead

Main Report

- 1) Introduction (2 pages)
- 2) Soil functions and their contributions to life on earth (10 pages)
- 3) Threats to soil functions (48 pages)**
- 4) Direct and indirect drivers (10 pages)**
- 5) Sustainable soil management in support of SDGs (30 pages)**
- 6) Facilitating the adoption of SSM (10 pages)
- 7) Seven Regional Assessment chapters (25 pages each)**
- 8) Conclusions (2 pages)

RA Review and Approval Timetable

Regional Assessment Chapters

Document: Process for ITPS Review and Approval of the 2025 Status of the World's Soil resources Report 2024_03_19

28 of 30 sections have been submitted and have undergone initial editorial review

Over 200 lead and contributing authors

RA Review and Approval Timetable

Compilation of the Regional Assessment Chapter

- The ITPS Coordinating Lead Author(s) will compile a draft of the Introduction, Drivers and Subregions/Threats section of their chapter by March 30, 2024 and circulate it to the other ITPS members in their region.
- The ITPS members from the region will complete the graphical summary of state and trend by April 19, 2024. <Exercise today>

RA Review and Approval Timetable

- Megan

RA Review and Approval Timetable

- The ranking of the threats will be done by the ITPS members for the region, the Lead Authors for the regional chapter and the Chair of the Regional Soil Partnership for that region. This ranking will take place after completion of the regional assessment review process (approximately between July and September, 2024).
- All regional chapters will be reviewed and approved by the ITPS at the November 2024 ITPS meeting.

Assessment of State and Trend

<Document: Assessment of State and Trend in the 2025 Status of the World`s Soil Resources Report 2024_03_19>

Each Regional Assessment chapter will include a graphical assessment of the state and trend of soil threats in that region. <Example>

For regions with subregions the assessments will initially be done on the state and trend of threats in the subregion and then a region-wide assessment will be completed.

Assessment of State and Trend

The assessment of state and trend will be made by the ITPS members for that region. The ITPS members may solicit input from other experts but the final assessment will be by the ITPS members.

What is being assessed?

For agricultural, urban and managed forested lands, the assessment is of the management practices that have been in place through time, specifically how sustainable these practices are according to the definitions and guidelines previously established by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.

What is being assessed?

Many soils without active management (for example, Arctic and tundra area) are threatened by human-induced global warming. A separate assessment of threats to soil functions posed by global warming and the regions where the threats are greatest will be completed as part of the report.

What is being assessed?

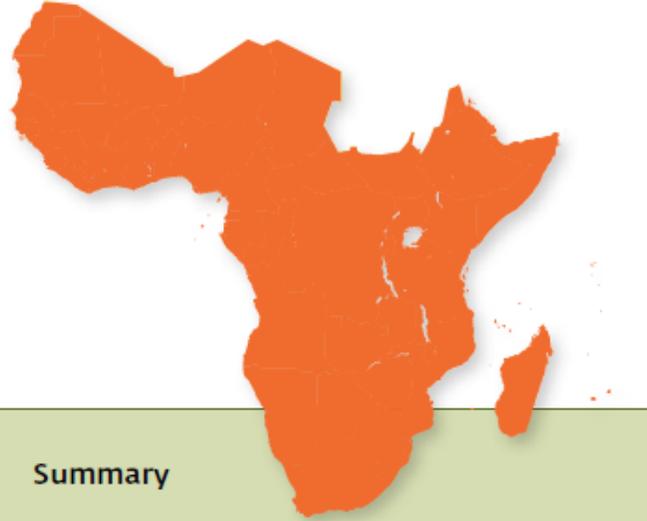
The assessment of state for managed soils is made for the period from 2005 to 2015. Members of a regional panel may choose a different assessment period for a given threat and in this case the period being assessed should be stated in the assessment.

The assessment of trend is for the period from 2015 to the time of the assessment.

What is being assessed?

State	Initial state of soil management in the assessment period
Very Poor	The management practices in place led to severe erosion with significant impacts on air and water quality.
Poor	The management practices in place led to severe erosion with significant in-field impacts.
Fair	The management practices in place led to minor soil loss.
Good	The management practices in place led to very minor soil loss.
Very Good	The management practices in place led to soil loss at the slowest level possible for that region.

Table 1 | Summary of soil threats (listed in order of importance), condition, trends and uncertainties for Africa South of the Sahara



Threat to soil function	Summary
Soil erosion	Soil erosion constitutes > 80% of land degradation in SSA, affecting about 22% of agricultural land and all countries in the region. The majority of causes related to the exposure of the bare soil surface by cultivation, deforestation overgrazing and drought.
Organic carbon change	The replacement of the natural vegetation reduces nearly always the soil carbon level. Further carbon release from the soil is caused by complete crop removal from farmlands, the high rate of organic matter decomposition by microbial decomposition accentuated by high soil temperature and termite activities in parts of SSA.
Nutrient imbalance	Nutrient imbalance, which is generally manifested by the deficiency of key essential nutrients is mainly due to the fact that fertilization has not been soil and crop specific, farmers are unable to pay the price for fertilizers and the inability to follow the rates that are recommended. Nearly all countries in the region show a negative nutrient balance.
Loss of soil biodiversity	SSA suffers the world's highest annual deforestation rate. The areas most affected are the in the moist areas of West Africa and the highland forests of the Horn of Africa. Cultivation, introduction of new species, oil exploration and pollution reduce the population of soil organisms thus reducing faunal and microbial activities.
Soil acidification	Over 25% of soils in Africa are acidic. Most of these occur in the wetter parts of the continent. In South Africa it poses as a serious chemical problem and the greatest production-limiting factor.
Waterlogging	Most waterlogging threats are due to rise in water table due to poor infiltration/drainage or occurrence of impervious layer in the subsoil. Waterlogging generally reduces crop productivity, but in paddy fields is deliberate and beneficial.
Compaction	The major cause of compaction is pressure on the soil from heavy machinery. It is more serious in forested regions where land clearing (and even other cultivation activities) cannot be done without mechanization.

Also need text to highlight specific locations with highest potential Threat

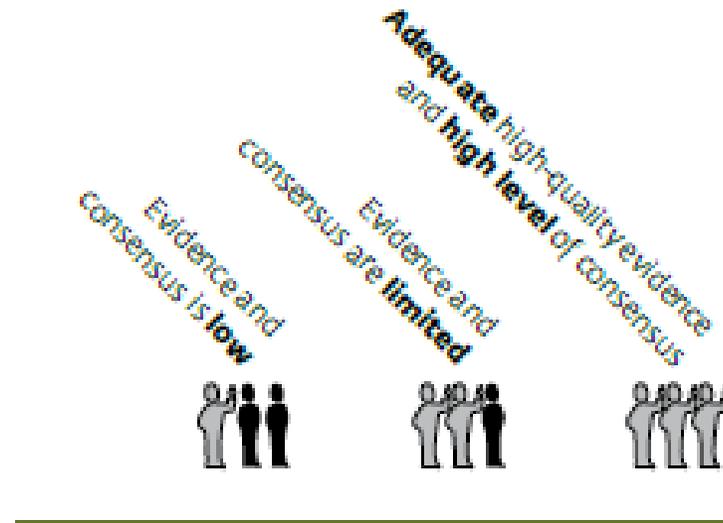
In 2015 ranked by severity

What is being assessed? Trend

Trend	Description
Stable	Widespread adoption of sustainable soil management practises occurred prior to the assessment period and they continued to be used during the assessment period.
Improving	Widespread adoption of sustainable soil management practises occurred during the assessment period.
Deteriorating	Continued widespread use of management practises known to accelerate risks to soil functions occurred during the assessment period.
Variable	No clear trend in adoption of sustainable soil management practises was evident during the assessment period

Assessment of Confidence

In the SWSR 2015 report there was an estimate of uncertainty (confidence) made for state and for trend for each risk to soil functions. Three classes of uncertainty were used: evidence and consensus are low; evidence and consensus are limited; and adequate high-level evidence and high level of consensus.



Assessment of Confidence

The assessment of uncertainty for state and for trend will be completed by the ITPS in consultation with other experts. The assessment should be based on the material presented in the section.

Exercise: Assessment for your region

ITPS Review and Approval Procedures

Report is a product of the ITPS and must be approved by ITPS

ITPS Review and Approval Procedures

Third meeting of the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly. 22-24 June 2015. GSPPA-III/15/Report

“In conclusion, the *Assembly took note with appreciation* of the SWSR as a unique store of information to serve as a basis for discussion and consultation, particularly for enhanced understanding of soil issues and scope for improvement measures. (p.8)

The Assembly agreed that its own endorsement of the full and summary reports was not required, and that the report would be a major technical output of the ITPS. (p.8)”

ITPS Review and Approval Procedures

Report is a product of the ITPS and must be approved by ITPS



ITPS Review and Approval Procedures

All parts of the report must be reviewed by ITPS members prior to presentation of the full report at the March 2025 ITPS meeting.

Review process for RAs previously discussed.

ITPS Review and Approval Procedures

Literature Review Chapters

Briefly the individual sections from the chapters are sent to two or more external reviewers under the supervision of the Review Editor.

Upon submission of the reviews, the Review Editor works with the Managing Editor to resolve issues and prepare a second draft of the text.

ITPS Review and Approval Procedures

Literature Review Chapters

The suggested approach for review by the ITPS is to have three-person teams of ITPS members assigned to each section/chapter to review the content. The ITPS team members could request revisions to the material and the Managing Editor and Review Editor would respond to these requests.

Ultimately the ITPS teams would recommend acceptance of the section/chapter to full ITPS at the March 2025 meeting.

Summary for Policymakers

The Summary for Policymakers is the principal means by which the information in the full report will be communicated to policy makers and soil managers.

The Summary for Policy makes will be translated into the six official UN languages; the main report would only be available in English.

Summary for Policymakers

The Summary will..

- be no more than 20 pages of text.
- emphasize new information on the efficacy of sustainable management practices published since 2015.
- include graphical summaries of the state and trend for the seven regions and the subregions.
- not include references but will instead provide links to the relevant sections of the main report. (??)

Process for creating SFP

- The graphical summaries of the state and trend for the regions will be developed as part of the regional assessment chapters.

Process for creating SFP

- Brief summaries of the literature review sections of the report will be prepared by the Editorial Team and provided to the ITPS members who are overseeing the review and approval process for the literature review sections.
- The ITPS members will write the material for the Summary for Policymakers for the sections they are responsible for (i.e. those that they reviewed) between **November 1 and December 15, 2024**.

Process for creating SFP

- The Editorial Team will compile the information into a final draft of the Summary for Policymakers (January 2025) and submit the summary to the FAO review process (February 2025).
- The Summary for Policymakers will be submitted to the ITPS for approval at the March 2025 ITPS meeting.