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# The journey of the Global Soil Partnership

GLOBAL SOIL  
PARTNERSHIP  
12<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly  
03-05 June 2024

## Lifeng Li

Director, Land and Water Division, FAO





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# Soil before 2012 ?

- ❖ **A void on soil governance** at global level
- ❖ **Soil investment** far too **low**
- ❖ **Soil degradation**, a continuous serious threat
- ❖ **Outdated soil information** at global and regional levels
- ❖ **Weakening of national soil institutions**
- ❖ **Soils without a voice in the global agenda**



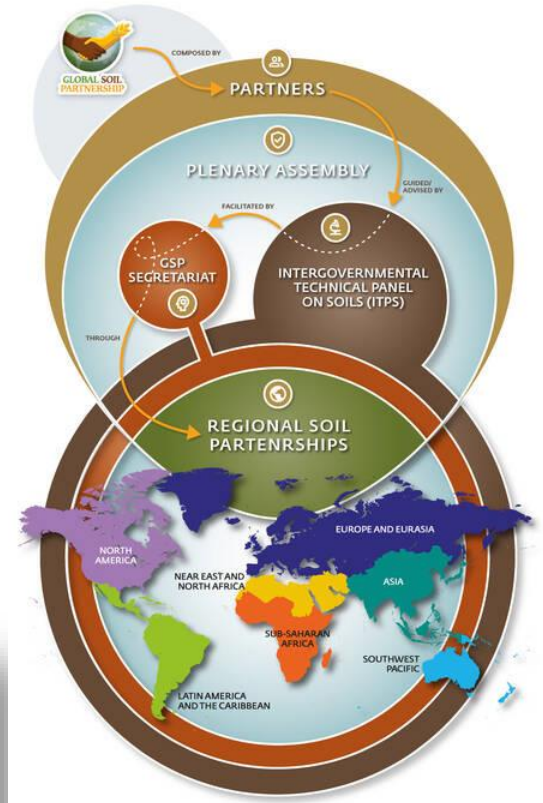
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**GSP** was established in **2012** by **FAO Members** with the **mission** to promote sustainable soil management for all & position soils in the Global Agenda



CL 145/REP

151 ISSN 1520-1520

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**REPORT**

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**OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO**

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Hundred and Forty-fifth Session  
Rome, 3-7 December 2012

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# What about the journey and the key achievements?



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WHERE  
FOOD  
BEGINS

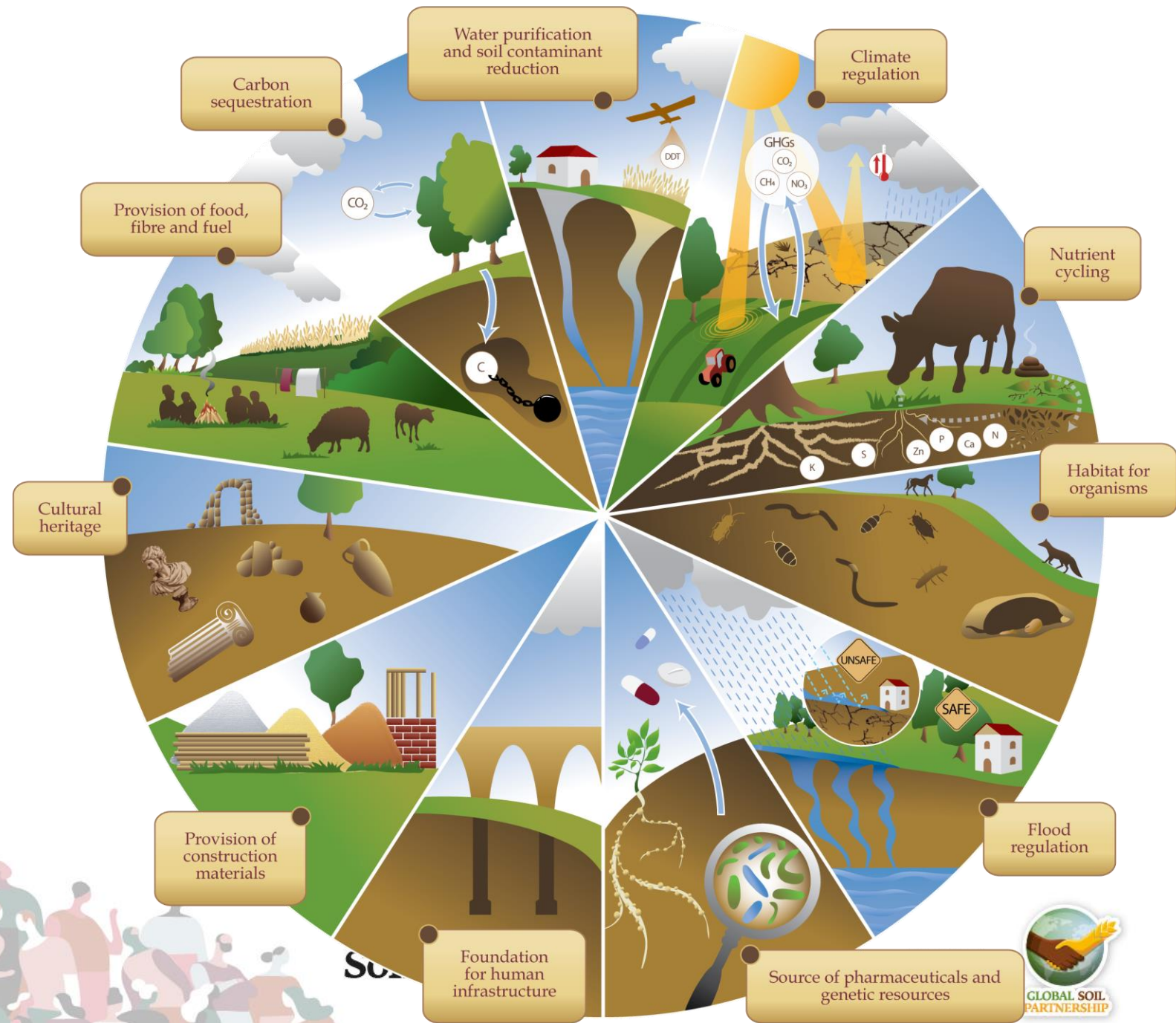


of our **food**  
comes from  
soils



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... but also the foundation of the ecosystem services and functions that enable life on earth





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***'Without healthy soils,  
life on earth would be  
unsustainable'***

**UN Secretary-General  
Ban Ki-moon  
World Soil Day 2014**



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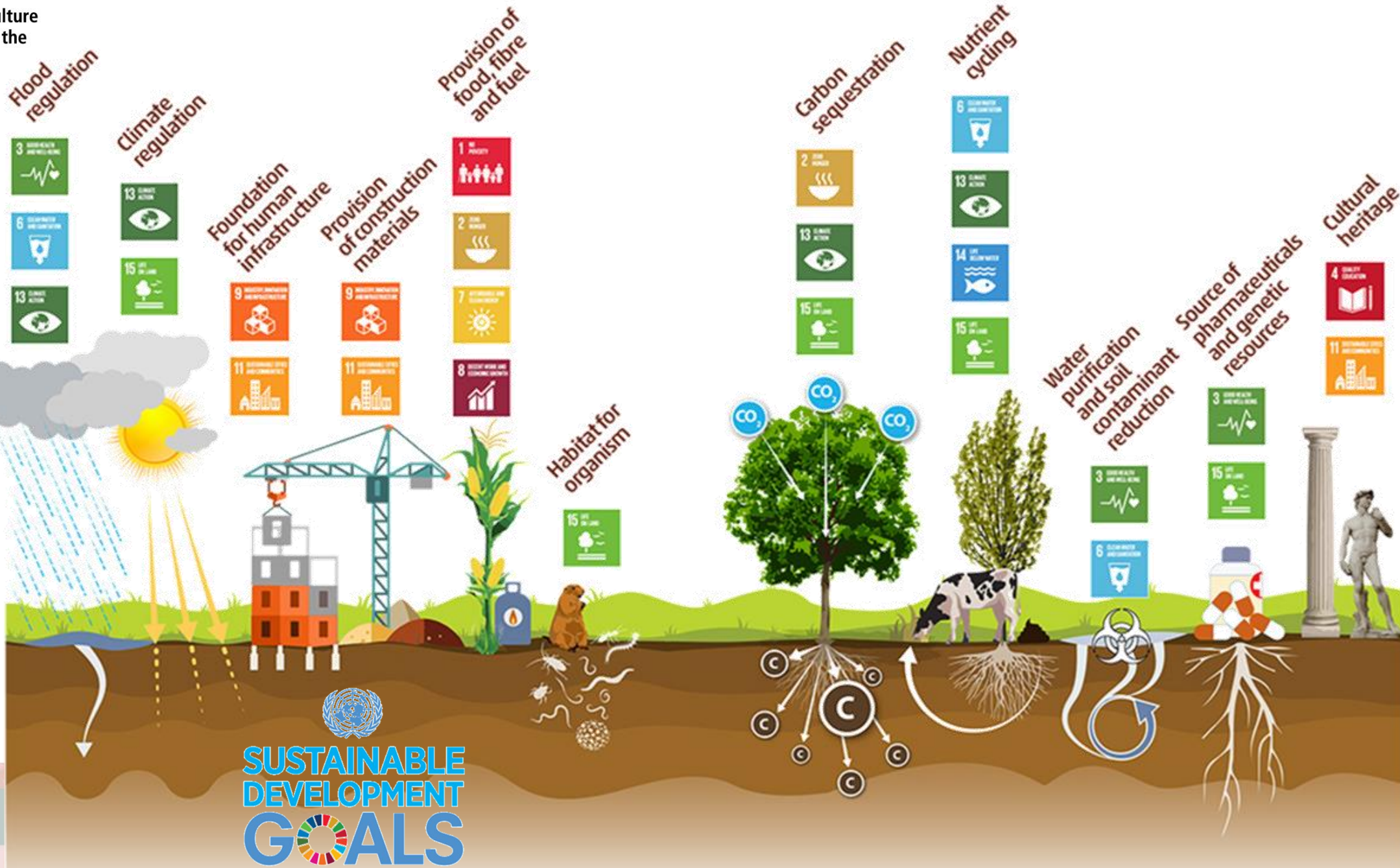


**Advocacy for inclusion of soils into  
SDGs. Of the 17 goals, four contains  
targets related to soils**





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SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



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# The first results

Declared by the  
68th UN General Assembly  
(A/RES/68/232)



2015  
International  
Year of Soils



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General Assembly

Distr.: General  
7 February 2014

Sixty-eighth session  
Agenda item 25

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2013**

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/444)]

**68/232. World Soil Day and International Year of Soils**

*The General Assembly,*

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of its annex on the agreed criteria for their proclamation, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, stating that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Noting that soils constitute the foundation for agricultural development, essential ecosystem functions and food security and hence are key to sustaining life on Earth,

Recognizing that the sustainability of soils is key to addressing the pressures of a growing population and that recognition, advocacy and support for promoting sustainable management of soils can contribute to healthy soils and thus to a food-secure world and to stable and sustainably used ecosystems,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,<sup>1</sup> Agenda 21,<sup>2</sup> the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,<sup>4</sup> the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)<sup>5</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.L.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., annex II.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution S-19/2, annex.

<sup>4</sup> Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

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# GSP mandate and governance



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# Mission



**GLOBAL SOIL  
PARTNERSHIP**

## Mission

- Develop awareness and build capacities
- Use best available science
- Facilitate knowledge and technology exchange
- Promote sustainable soil management and use

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# GOVERNANCE

## PARTNERS



- FAO members
- GSP partners
- Appointed focal points by partners

## SECRETARIAT



coordinates and facilitates GSP actions via regional partnerships.



## ITPS



advise the GSP and FAO itself as well provide an authoritative technical voice on global soil issues.

## REGIONAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP



collaborate with FAO, national entities, and regional institutions.



## PLENARY ASSEMBLY



reviews GSP actions and facilitates balanced regional decisions.



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# Technical networks

**GLOSOLAN**  
Global Soil Laboratory  
Network



**INBS**  
International Network  
of Black Soils



**INSOILFER**  
International Network  
on Soil Fertility and Fertilizers



**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



## Tackling soil threats



Awareness



Biodiversity



Capacity dev



Info and data



Erosion



Fertility



Governance



Pollution



Salinity



SOC



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# Key achievements



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# World Soil Day throughout the years



**2015**  
International Year  
of Soils



**2016**  
Soils and pulses,  
symbiosis for life



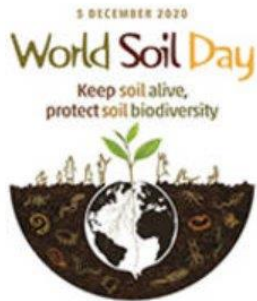
**2017**  
Caring for the  
planet starts from  
the ground



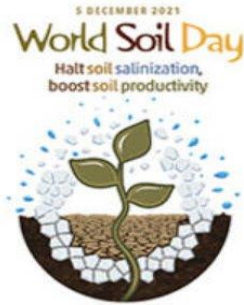
**2018**  
Be the Solution  
to Soil Pollution



**2019**  
Stop soil erosion,  
Save our future



**2020**  
Keep soil alive,  
protect soil  
biodiversity



**2021**  
Halt soil  
salinization, boost  
soil productivity



**2022**  
Soils, where  
food begins



**2023**  
Soil and Water:  
a source of life



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# Global symposia throughout the years



**2015**  
International Year  
of Soils



**2016**  
Soils and pulses,  
symbiosis for life



**2017**  
Caring for the  
planet starts from  
the ground



**2018**  
Global symposium  
on soil pollution



**2019**  
Global symposium  
on soil erosion



**2020**  
Global symposium  
on soil  
biodiversity



**2021**  
Global symposium  
on salt-affected  
soils



**2022**  
Global symposium  
on soil for  
nutrition



**2023**  
Global symposium on soil  
and water



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5 December

# 10 years of World Soil Day celebrations!

2023: Record year!

+ 10 000 events  
registered on the WSD  
interactive map

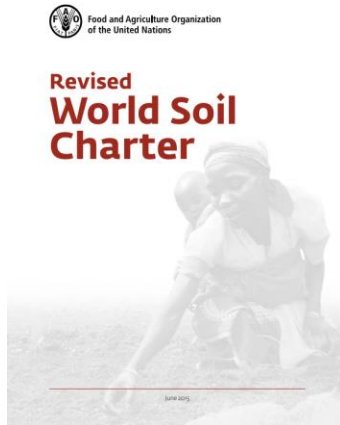


WSD events  
2013 - 2023

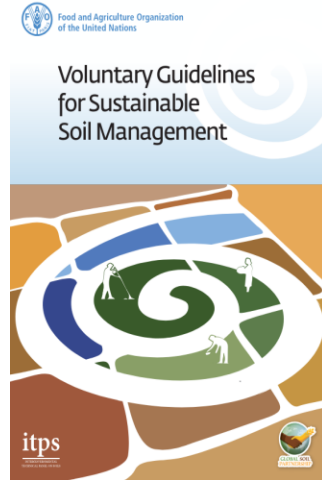
Number of WSD events Countries hosting WSD events



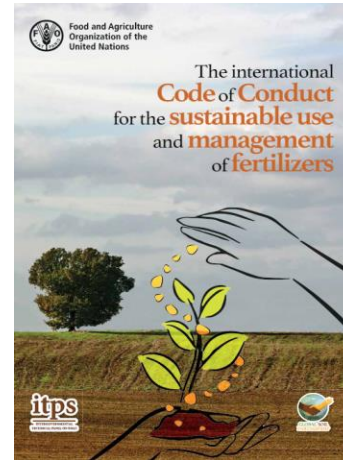
# Normative documents



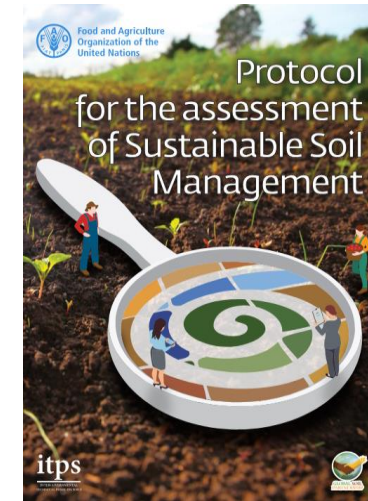
**Revised World Soil Charter**



**Protocol for the Assessment of Sustainable Soil Management**



**The international Code of Conduct for the sustainable use and management of fertilizers,**



**Protocol for the Assessment of Sustainable Soil Management**



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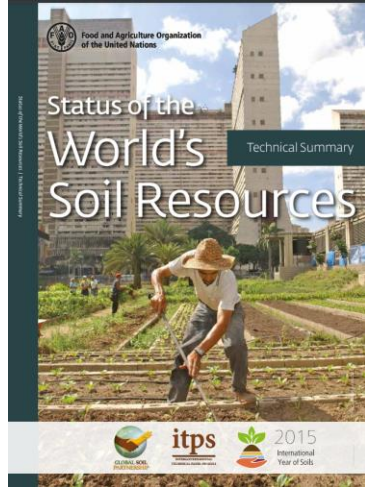




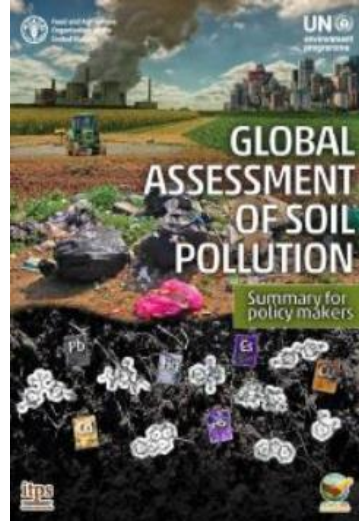
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# Key publications

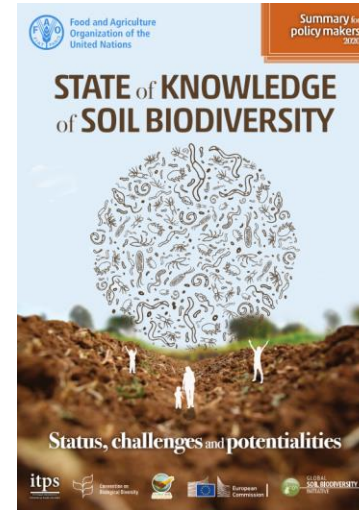
## Global Assessments



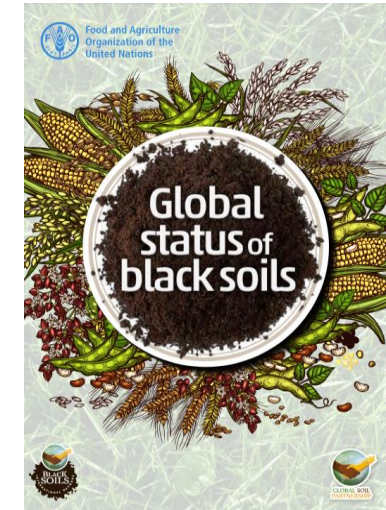
Revised World  
Soil Charter



Global assessment  
of soil pollution



State of Knowledge of  
Soil Biodiversity - Status,  
challenges and  
potentialities. Summary  
for policymakers



Global Status of Black Soils



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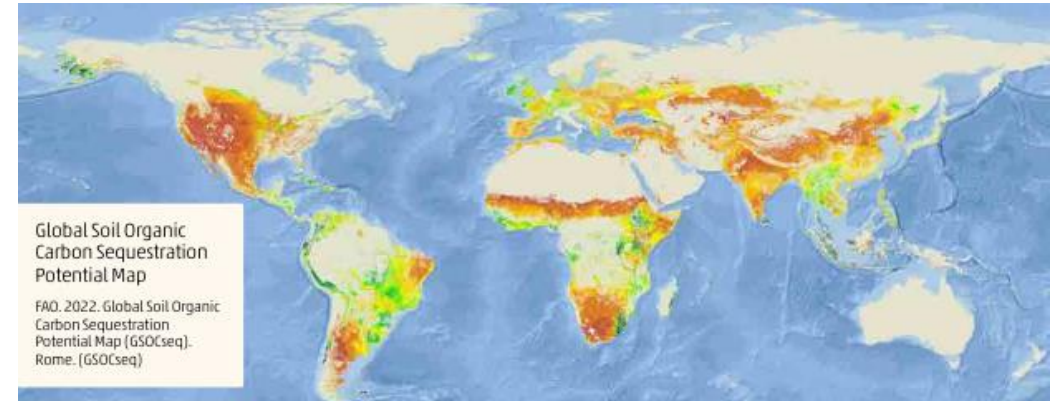


# Mapping & capacity building

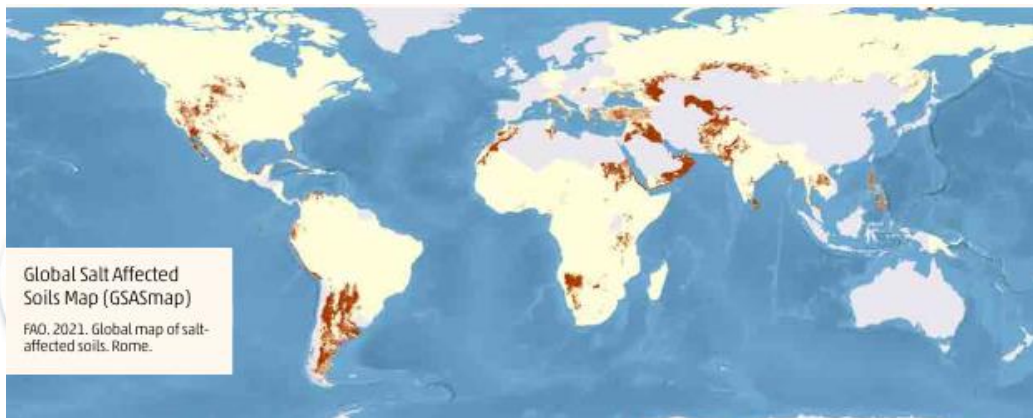
### Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap)



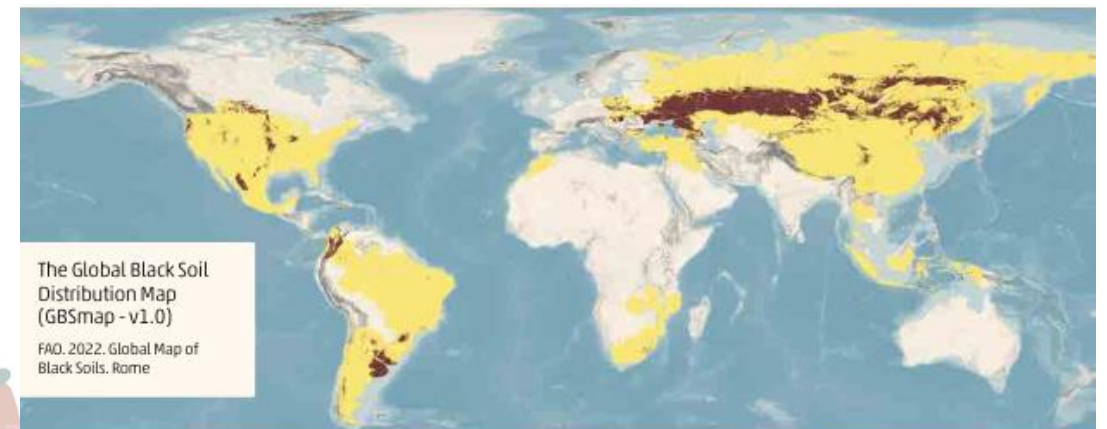
### The Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GSOCseq)



### Global Salt-Affected Soils Map (GSASmap)



### The Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap – v1.0)





# WHAT'S NEXT?

## Global Soil Partnership in action



### The vision

*A world in which soils are healthy and resilient,  
ensuring the sustained provision of ecosystem functions  
and services for all, leaving no one behind.*



### Action areas

Sustainable soil  
management



Soil  
governance



Soil  
knowledge  
and literacy



Awareness raising  
and advocacy



Assessment,  
mapping and  
monitoring



Technical  
cooperation



# GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

**Action Framework** adopted by the  
10th GSP Plenary Assembly and  
endorsed by the 28th Session of the  
COAG (2022)



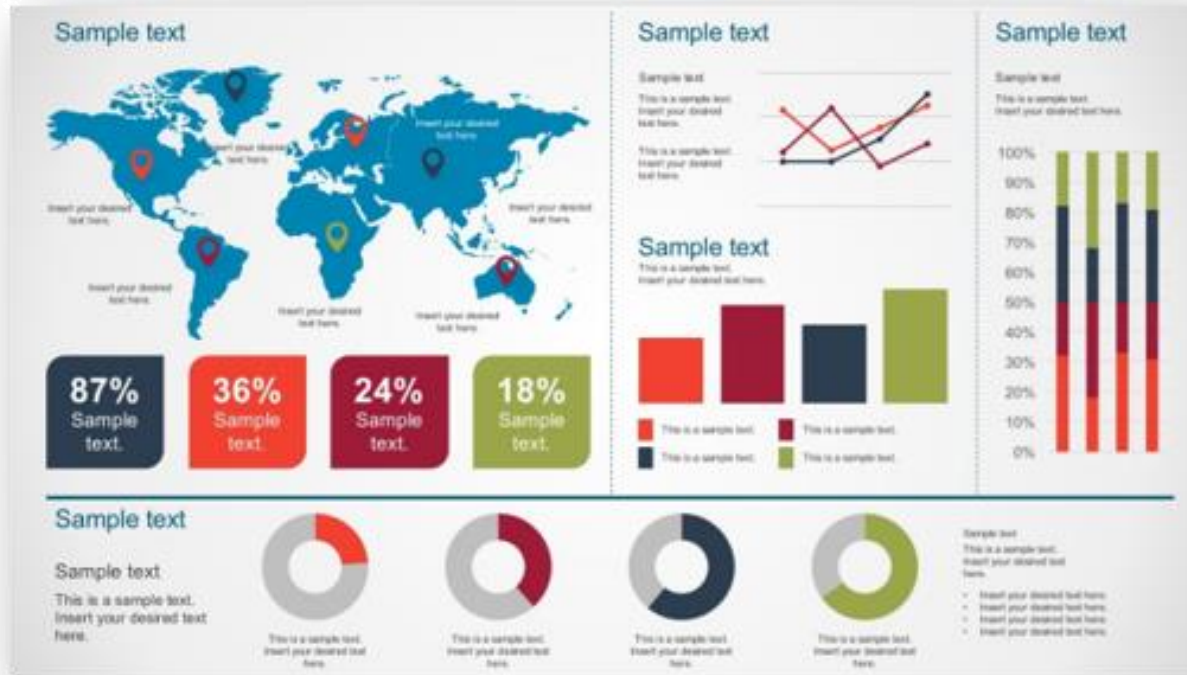
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# Global Soil Health Dashboard

Approach: Soil Threats/Degradation as a proxy for soil health







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# THANK YOU



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