

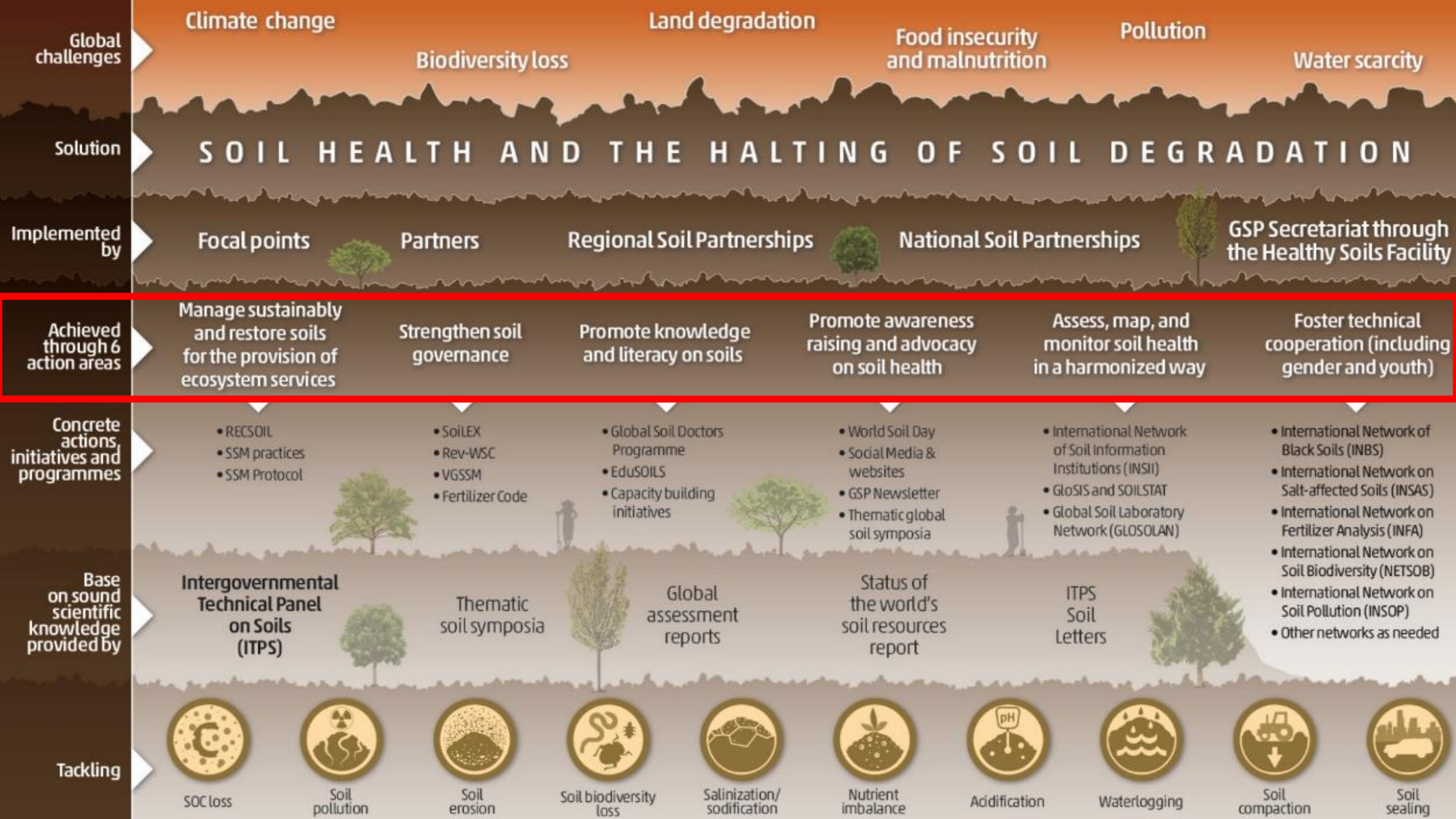


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The NENA Soil Partnership: Current Status, challenges and opportunities

*Rachid Moussadek
NENA Soil Partnership Chair*





NENA Soil Partnership

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Palestine.

- Established in [April 2012](#) to enhance collaboration between member countries in the region.
- The partnership aims to facilitate knowledge and data sharing, overcome the challenges of food security, increased carbon sequestration, land degradation, and encourage environment protection and sustainable soil management practices to mitigate and adapt to a changing climate.
- National needs and priorities were translated into regional actions through the [NENA implementation plan](#), which is revised at the yearly NENA plenary meetings. To note that the lack of financial resources hampered the timely implementation of the plan, which needs to be updated to the new GSP Action Framework.



GSP – NENA

Current Status





Governance

Activities in NENALAB are coordinated by the Chair with the support of the vice-Chair from the Near East and the vice-Chair from North Africa

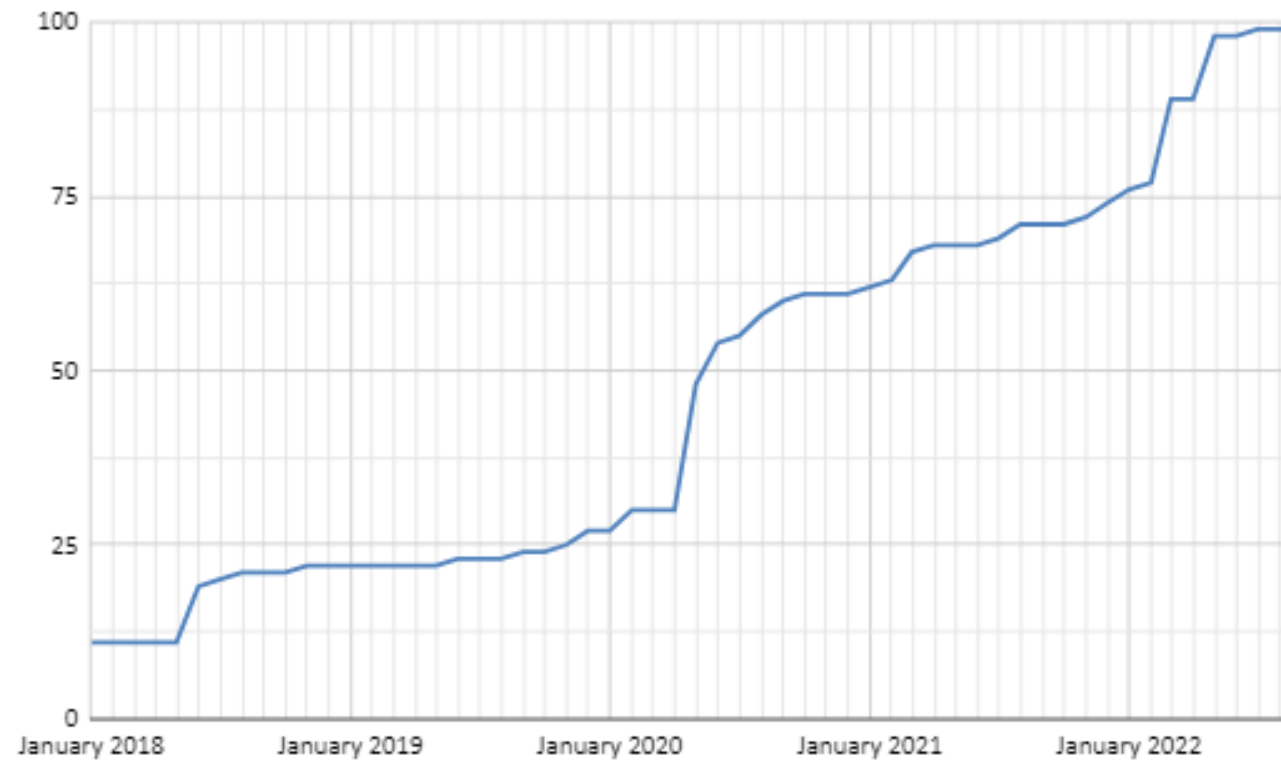
2023-2025

Chair: Ms Riham Zahalan (Syria)

Vice-Chair for the Near East: Ms Yara Khairallah (Lebanon)

Vice-Chair for North Africa: Mr Abdelmjid Zouahri (Morocco)

Network growth



NENA TCP Project - Soil information component

Project objectives:

- have a better **understanding of the status of soil resources** in the NENA region
- explore the **potential of and scale up** sustainable soil management (**SSM**)
- contribute to execution of the **NENA Soil Partnership's implementation plan**
- **address** national/regional **needs and priorities**
- **11 Countries** involved - Iran, Lebanon, Oman, Tunisia, Sriya, Sudan, Yemen, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine

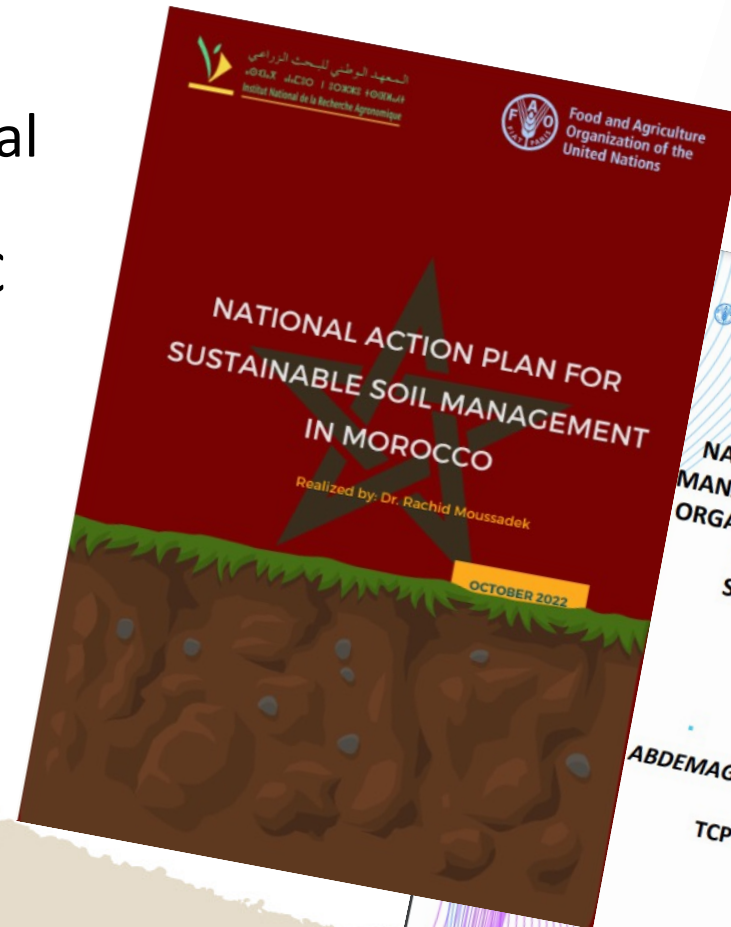


Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map geodata [shapefiles]. New York, USA, United Nations, modified by the authors. Notes: Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

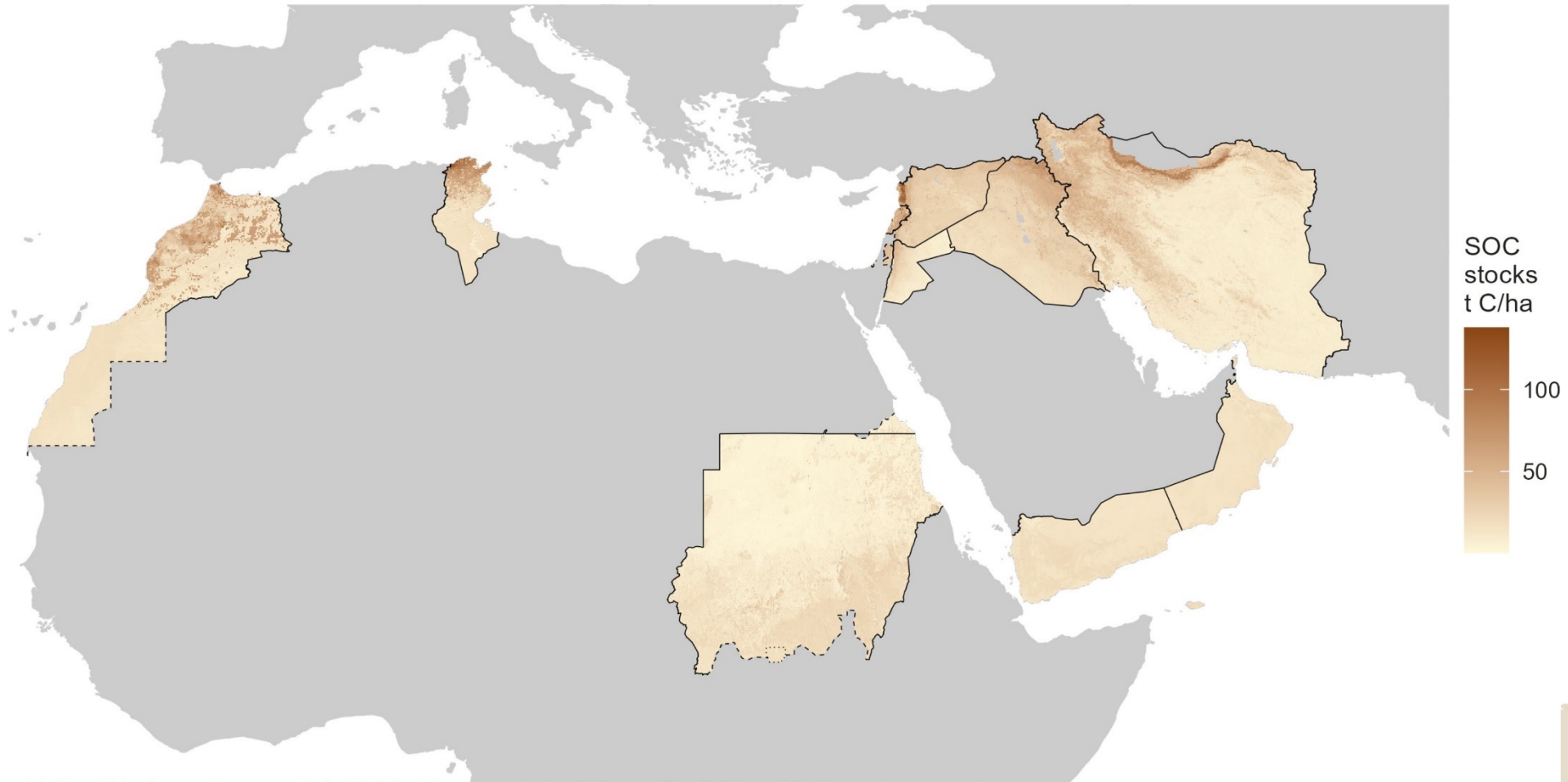
NENA TCP Project - Soil information component

Project outputs:

- (Output 1) Production of national thematic maps (e.g: SOC stocks, Salt-affected soils map, and SOC sequestrationa potential)
- (Output 2) National action plan, Rrgional action plan
- (Output 3) Two regional workshops:
 - GSOCseq
 - GSASmap

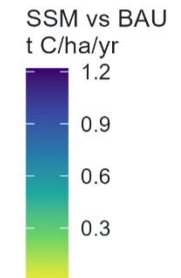
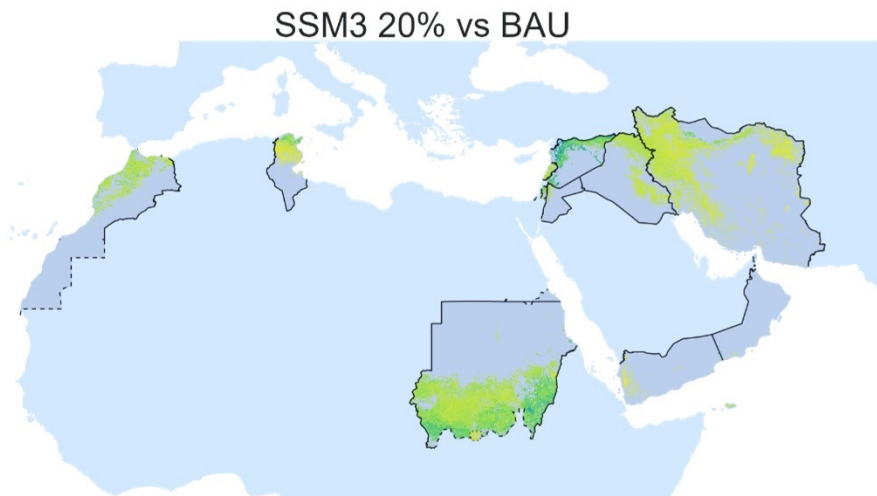
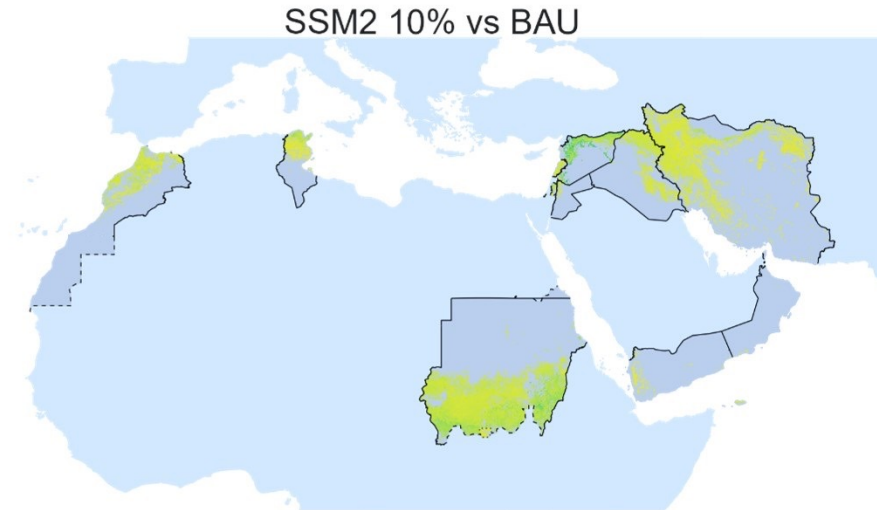
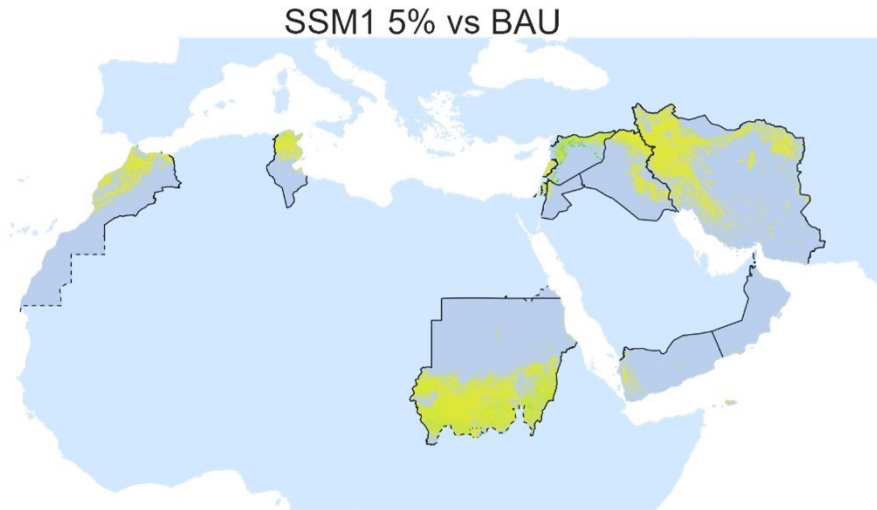


Updated soil organic carbon stock maps



Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map geodata [shapefiles]. New York, USA, United Nations, modified by the authors. Notes: Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

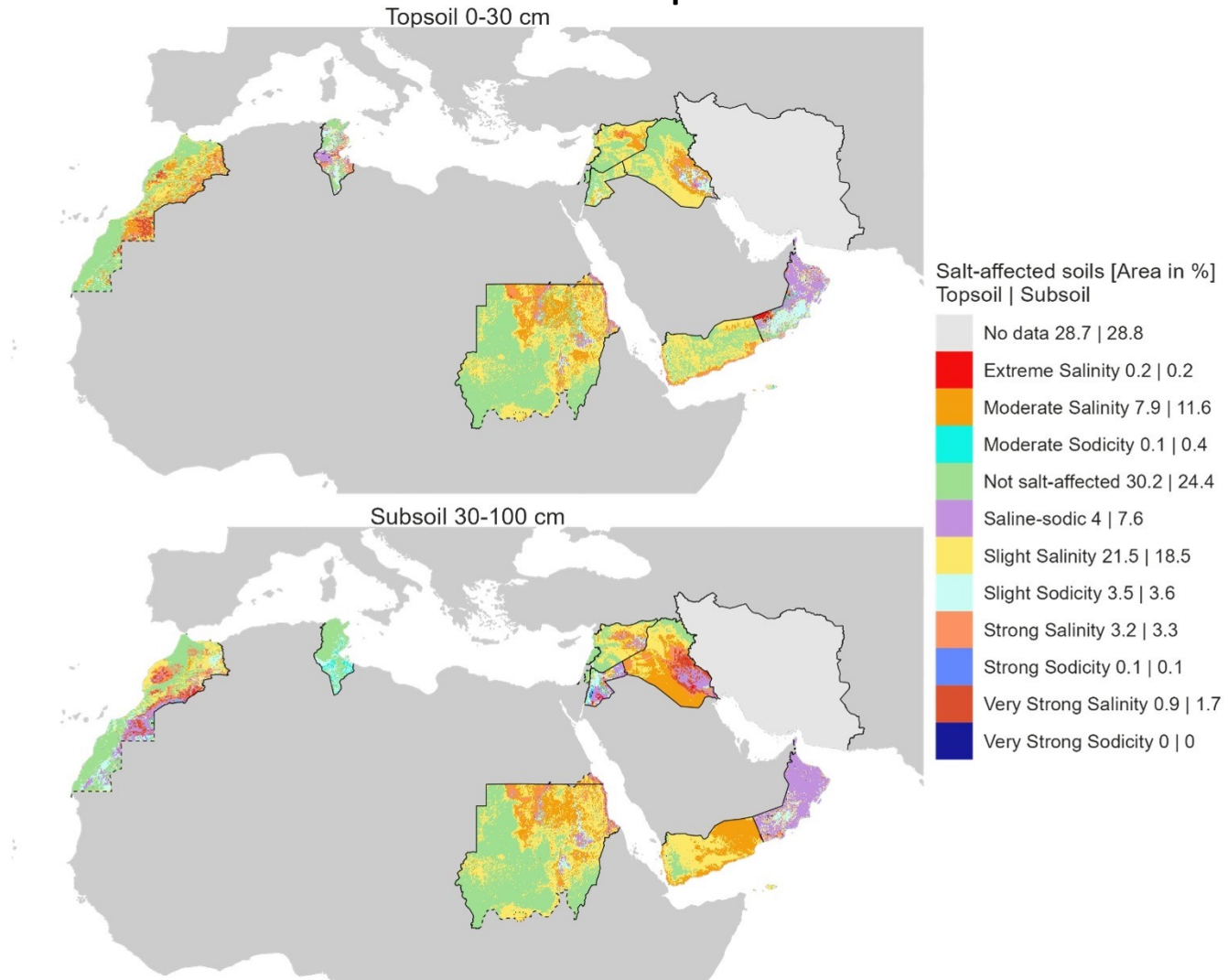
Soil organic carbon sequestration potential maps



Scenario-based modeling to assess how much soil organic carbon could be sequestered by adopting sustainable soil management practices.

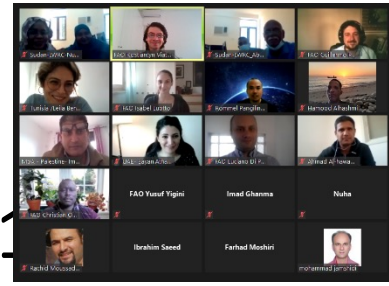
Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map geodata [shapefiles]. New York, USA, United Nations, modified by the authors. Notes: Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Updated salt-affected soils maps



Source: United Nations Geospatial. 2020. Map geodata [shapefiles]. New York, USA, United Nations, modified by the authors. Notes: Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

Capacity Development



Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential Map - GSOCseq v1.1

- **Two regional trainings** to model and map SOC sequestration potential under the GSOCseq framework were organized and attended by over **50 participants** and **20 countries**
 - NENA Regional GSOCseq Training (30 Nov - 4 Dec 2020)
 - NENA TCP GSOCseq Training (21-25 Feb 2022)

Global Salt-Affected Soils Map (GSASmap v1.0)

- A regional training under the NENA TCP project of country experts was held in 2022 and attended by 27 experts from 8 countries (7-11 February 2022)

GSNmap - Global Soil Nutrient Maps

February 13 - 17, 2023 - Virtual

Initiative: GSNmap - Phase I. mapping current status of soil nutrients at national scale.

Raise funding to implant the POW of GSP NENA



GSP – NENA

Main Challenges



Regional Action Plan: Stock-taking

	Soil Governance	Soil Information and Data		
	Legislation Status	Soil Information System	Data Sharing	Data Harmonization
Iran	Implemented 1. Soil Protection Act. (10 June 2019); 2. Law on Preserving Land Use of Farms and Gardens (21 June 1995)	Established	Limited	Good
Iraq	Not Implemented 1. Law No.49 of 2015 protecting agricultural lands; 2. Law No. 27 of 2009 protection of the environment	Not Established	Limited	Limited
Jordan	Implemented 1. Regulations for the Protection of Agricultural Land No. (Z/11) of 2022; 2. Soil Protection Regulation No. 25 of 2005. 3. Agriculture Law No.13 of 2015. (08 March 2015); 4. Agriculture Sector Green Growth Action National Action Plan 2021–2025 (GG–NAP). (01 July 2020)	Established	Limited	Limited
Lebanon	Not Implemented 1. Law No.444 of 2002 on environmental protection. (29 July 2002); 2. Resolution No. 46/1 of 2009 on the mechanism for arranging and settling lands. (17 June 2009); 3. Decree No 2366 of 2009 defining the Comprehensive Plan for Lebanese Territory Arrangement. (20 June 2009); 4. Lebanon National Agriculture Strategy (NAS) 2020 – 2025. (2020)	Established	Limited	Good
Morocco	Implemented 1. Dahir n° 1–69-170 sur la défense et la restauration des sols. (25 July 1969); Le Programme d'Action National de Lutte Contre la Désertification au Maroc. Date of text: 01-01-2013 (National); 3. Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable 2030. (01 October 2017)	Not Established	Limited	Good
Oman	Implemented 1. Royal Decree No. 114/2001 issuing the Law on Conservation of Environment and Prevention of Pollution (14 November 2001); 2. Royal Decree No. 48 of 2006 issuing the Law on Agriculture (13 May 2006); 3. Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (SARDS) 2040 Investment Plan 2016–2020. (01 June 2016); 4. Ministerial Decision 84/2020 Issuing the Regulation Governing the Use	Not Established	Limited	Limited

How to turn Regional/National Plans into concrete actions ?

- The following priorities were shared and highlighted by numerous countries:
- The establishment of national and a regional Soil Information System as well as a Steering Committee in NENA
- The restoration of salt-affected soils as well as halting soil-salinization
- The revision, development and implementation of legislative tools specifically targeting soils
- The strengthening of soil laboratories



How to turn National Plans into concrete actions?

The following priorities were presented by the participating countries:

- *Yemen - Target 1 (T1): Strengthen Soil Policies and Legislation*
- *Morocco -Target 2 (T2): Development of a National and Regional Soil Information System (NSIS)*
- *Palestine - Target 2 (T2): Development of a National Soil Information System (NSIS)*
- *Syria - Target 2 (T2): Development of a National and Regional Soil Information System (NSIS & RSIS (regional SIS))*
- *Tunisia -Target 3 (T3): Realize the soil organic carbon sequestration potential of the country*
- *Algeria -Target 4 (T4): Reclaim salt-affected soils and improve their productivity*
- *Sudan -Target 4 (T4): Reclaim salt-affected soils and improve their productivity*
- *Iran - Target 4 (T4): Reclaim salt-affected soils and improve their productivity*
- *Lebanon - Target 5 (T5): Support and invest in soil laboratories.*





The Muscat Communiqué for Sustainable Soil Management in the NENA region , March 2023

The adoption of the Muscat Communiqué for Sustainable Soil Management in the NENA region by 12 senior representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources of the NENA region (People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kingdom of Morocco, Lebanese Republic, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Yemen, State of Palestine, Sultanate of Oman and Syrian Arab Republic). **The communiqué reaffirms the importance of sustainable soil management to boost soil health and delineates a common view regarding the region's priorities when it comes to protecting soils to increase food security, halt land degradation and adapt and mitigate climate change.**

The NENA Soil Partnership work plan 2023-25

- Develop a project proposal in close collaboration with the GSP Secretariat and the NENA regional office to be funded either by the GEF, EU-PRIMA and/or any other relevant entity focusing on the following priorities:
 - The establishment of National and a Regional Soil Information Systems
 - Build capacities on soil data management and mapping specifically focusing on salt-affected soils and soil organic carbon
 - Support and invest in soil laboratories
 - Strengthen coordination and collaboration under the new GSP action areas and among various stakeholders within the region





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Thanks for your attention

