

Annex 3 - Financial Implications of a potential institutionalization of the Global Soil Partnership

Background

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) approved by the Council are specific about the partnership nature of the limits of FAO's contributions¹:

*“19. Financial implications of the GSP rely on the principle of “partnership”. Each GSP partner may contribute with different inputs to the successful implementation of the GSP.
20. FAO lead the GSP implementation process and will provide funds from its Regular Programme, to support the Secretariat by providing a full-time Professional staff member and General Service support, subject to the approval by its Governing Bodies. Extra-budgetary funds will be mainstreamed to support implementation of GSP actions, including regional and national GSP activities. “*

Resources

The GSP Secretariat is hosted at the Land and Water Division (NSL) in FAO's HQ. It includes one full-time P4 Professional as GSP Secretary and a G4 general service staff funded from the Regular Programme and 30 human resources funded with extra-budgetary resources (5 professionals, 23 international consultants and 2 interns).

The GSP Secretariat established the [Healthy Soils Facility](#) Trust Fund to mobilize resources for the promotion of sustainable soil management. Over the ten years of its existence, the Facility helped to mobilize USD 18.3 million from various resource partners (see Annex depicting the resource partners, including FAO members, UN agencies and private sector).

It is also important to acknowledge the in-kind contributions made by many GSP partners, which have enabled the execution of many of the activities in line with the concept of partnership. These in-kind contributions are not represented in this financial assessment.

During the 10 year period, the Organization has also made resources available to assist in solving technical problems in soil governance via its Technical Cooperation Programme (TCPs) supporting FAO members who identified soils as key area of cooperation. The approximate amount invested on this was USD 1.8 million.

It should be noted that the resource mobilization activities including the implementation of project activities were administered in accordance with the financial rules, procedures and project cycle of the Organization and all financial and administrative transactions were carried out through the accounts of the Organization.

Financial implications of a potential institutionalization

The analysis of legal and institutional implications of an eventual GSP institutionalization provides a component related to the financial implications against the Basic Texts of the Organization. It is assumed that the creation of a solely statutory body will imply the cease of the GSP, or alternatively the functioning of one Secretary for both GSP and Article VI/XIV/COAG Sub-committee.

Additional funds may be required, in particular related to securing resources to cover simultaneous interpretation and translation of documents for the Plenary sessions (currently estimated at USD 100 000 per year), as well as, to ensure more robust participation from developing countries in technical discussions on soil. It is expected that these costs will be covered by extra-budgetary contributions for which a resource mobilization proposal will be developed. Any changes to funding coming from the Regular Programme for a new statutory body would have to be approved by the FAO Conference.

¹ [CL 145/REP para 24](#) and appendix F

Expenses incurred by representatives of members, their alternates and advisers, when attending sessions of the new statutory body, as well as the expenses of observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations.

Annex – Mobilization of Extrabudgetary resources

Donors Government Sector (including UN agencies)	Amount (USD)
Australia	250,000
European Union	3,983,770
Germany	1,500,000
Iceland	5,817
Kingdom of Thailand	100,000
People's Republic of China	1,000,000
Republic of Korea	1,400,000
Russian Federation	5,000,000
Switzerland	1,597,000
The Netherlands	600,000
UNEP	240,000
Total	15,676,587

Donors Private Sector	Amount (USD)
Austrian Hail Insurance Company	11,500
International Association of Agriculture Production Insurers	11,500
International Fertilizer Association	98,000
PhosAgro	2,555,000
Total	2,676,000