

May 2022



Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

Tenth session

Virtual, 23-25 May 2022

Report on the financial status of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) (GSPPA: X/2022/4)

Executive Summary

- Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has continued to implement a wide range of activities and to mobilize resources. Work has been carefully re-organized to make sure that outputs were delivered at headquarters and other locations.
- Furthermore, stakeholders and partners have continued to provide in-kind and financial contributions for specific activities, for instance through the provision of soil testing kits, by organizing meetings, providing training facilities, as well as inputs into key reports, technical guidelines or policy instruments developed under the aegis of the GSP.
- As per previous sessions, a financial report is presented below on an annual basis, i.e., referring to expenditure over the past year, 2021, and the likely available budget for the period 2022 –2023 and beyond (cf. tables 1 and 2 below).

Suggested actions by the GSP Plenary Assembly (PA)

The PA may wish to:

- appreciate the progress made in securing additional resources for implementing a number of GSP-sponsored actions and commend the resource partners who have contributed so far; and
- renew its call to all partners, and especially resource partners, to support the implementation of the new GSP action framework by contributing with voluntary funds to the Healthy Soils Multi-partner Platform and providing sufficient financial and in-kind contributions to specific activities.

4.1 Financial status of GSP

1. The PA may recall that FAO's contribution from its Regular Budget, as specified in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) approved by the FAO Council, is limited to hosting the GSP Secretariat at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, and only in terms of core support staff. Since November 2020, a new P3 technical officer position on soils was created by the Secretariat, demonstrating a clear commitment by the Organization to the growing interest in the cause of healthy soils.
2. The priority of the Secretariat was to enhance its technical capacities to respond to the requests for technical support from FAO Members. In this regard, all resource mobilization efforts included the recruitment of consultants following the related FAO policies.
3. As shown in the table below, another important contribution from FAO's Regular Budget came via the implementation of a number of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects which are of direct relevance to the GSP's activities.
4. Since the inception of the GSP and particularly after the establishment of the Healthy Soils Facility and its successor the Healthy Soils Multi-partner Platform, substantial progress has been made in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources. A brief recapitulation of contributions and projects is given in the following paragraphs.
5. Overall, the European Commission (EC) has provided EUR 3.5 million since 2015 to date, the equivalent of some USD 3.8 million. These funds were particularly instrumental during the GSP establishment phase, enabling it to establish various components, mainly the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soil (ITPS), the formulation of core normative tools and publications such as the Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR), the Revised World Soil Charter, the launch of World Soil Day (WSD), the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM), the Global Soil Organic Carbon map, as well as capacity development activities.
6. The Russian Federation has provided funding via three successive projects over the period 2015-2023 amounting to USD 5 million. This assistance has been of paramount importance, for instance in facilitating the preparation of the VGSSM, the establishment of the Glinka World Soil Prize, the execution of the implementation plan of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map, the State of Knowledge of Soil Biodiversity report, the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution report, and different projects on soil salinity and capacity development, etc.
7. The Switzerland has provided an overall contribution of USD 1 500 000. An initial contribution was made for the implementation of the International Year of Soils in 2015 to the tune of USD 100 000 and a further contribution of USD 30 000 was used for organizing the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17). A direct contribution of USD 650 000 was made allowing the GSP to execute multi-donor projects. This type of contribution is much appreciated, being very cost effective and it is hoped that other donors can emulate this example. Australia has contributed this year with a budget of USD 250 000 to the latest multi-donor project.
8. China provided an Associated Professional Officer to the Secretariat for 2017-2019. Another expert was also seconded to the Secretariat for four months during 2019. China has also contributed USD 1 million for two projects on soil fertility in two African countries, Rwanda and Uganda. New project pipelines to raise an additional USD 1 million are being discussed with relevant representatives..
9. The Netherlands provided funds to a multi donor project of USD 150 000 which ended in 2018 and renewed its support for an amount of USD 450 000 to another multi-donor project for the period

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2019-2021, ending in May 2021. Overall, the Netherlands has supported with USD 600 000. The resources were used for the preparation of campaign materials for World Soil Day (WSD), to draft various technical reports, to conduct training on sustainable soil management (SSM), and the organization of global symposia.

10. Germany has recently provided USD 1 500 000 for an important project (2019-2022) which is related to sustainable soil management (SSM) for nutrition-sensitive agriculture. It is being implemented in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and Malawi, and is mainly focused on improving the micronutrient content of food through SSM.
11. More recently, the Republic of Korea provided USD 1 400 000 for a project focused on the development of the Soil Atlas of Asia and National Soil Information Systems in member countries of the Asian Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (AFACI) for the period 2020-2023.
12. Consistent with the call from the PA to diversify resource partners, the private sector may be an important source of assistance to the GSP's operations. All potential private donors i.e., non-state stakeholders have to be scrutinized through special internal procedures in order to be considered eligible to become donors. For example, PhosAgro has contributed USD 150 000 in 2018 to the organization of the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution and the campaign, "Be the solution to soil pollution". Furthermore, they have contributed USD 1 200 000 for a project focused on the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and the Soil Doctors programme from 2019-2021. Additional budget was granted in 2021 for an amount of USD 1 200 000 making the overall contribution of USD 2 400 000 up to 2023.
13. The current picture shows that the budget available for 2021 and 2022 has increased in comparison to 2019, while more contributions are expected to materialize. Due attention is being paid to regular reporting in both narrative and financial form to the current donors, stressing the good results achieved and thus demonstrating that further support would be worthwhile.
14. It is also important to recognize the small financial and in-kind contributions made by partners, for instance in organizing GSP meetings, contributing to the global maps, translating documents, seconding staff to the Secretariat, etc. In 2022, the Land Development Department of Thailand donated 1 000 soil pH testing kits to be distributed to countries under the Soil Doctors Programme.
15. A more complete account of all financial contributions, including from TCP resources, is given in the following paragraph and tables. It is important to note that a regional TCP for the Near East and North Africa (NENA) and for Latin America (RLC) regions are being finalized at the time of writing.
16. Overview of resources to support GSP work, as follows:
 - **Previous years up to 2015: USD 2 878 274**
 - **Year 2016: USD 1 950 701**
 - **Year 2017: USD 2 759 788**
 - **Year 2018: USD 2 442 661**
 - **Year 2019: USD 3 649 868**
 - **Year 2020: USD 3 054 551**
 - **Year 2021: USD 6 945 970**
 - **Overall resources mobilized: USD 24 563 252**

Table 1: Ongoing projects from voluntary contributions and FAO's contributions

Years 2022-2023 available budgets (as of 1 January 2022)			
Voluntary Contributions (Projects)	Project NTE	Total Budget (USD)	Budget Available (USD)
GCP/UGA/059/CPR (Capacity development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa (1) – Uganda)	05-Jul-22	500,000	183,903
GCP /RWA/040/CPR (Capacity Development on sustainable Soil Management for Africa (2) – Rwanda)	05-Jul-22	500,000	199,681
GCP /GLO/730/GER (Sustainable soil management for nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia period 2018-2021)	31-Aug-22	1,500,000	107,476
MTF/GLO/962/PHO (Implementation of Sustainable Soil Management through the Soil Doctors programme and the Global Soil Laboratory Network)	30-Jun-23	2,410,398	877,290
GCP/GLO/031/ROK (Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia and National Soil Information Systems 2020-2023)	31-Aug-23	1,400,000	672,638
GCP/GLO/772/RUS Support to the promotion of sustainable soil management in the framework of the Global Soil Partner - GSP Russian funded project - Phase III	31-Dec-23	2,000,000	2,000,000
GCP /GLO/1008/MUL Enhancing soil health and the provision of ecosystem services by soils through RECISOIL and Soil Doctors	30-Sep-24	1,050,894	1,050,894
UTF /AZE/021/AZE (Improvement of Seed and Agro-Chemical Lab and Certification Services under Agrarian Services Agency)	15-Dec-24	1,800,000	1,800,000
GCP /SLC/214/GFF (Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable Food Systems Project: SOILCARE(FSP))	23-Nov-25	7,271,963	4,418,008
GCP /SLC/215/SCF (Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable food systems Project: SOILCARE-SCCF (FSP))	23-Nov-25	883,242	456,418
Total		19,316,497	11,766,308
TCP projects	Project NTE	Total Budget (USD)	Budget Available (USD)
TCP/LIR/3804 (Strengthening soil analysis and information systems to enhance sustainable soil management and support evidence-based decision making in Liberia)	28-Feb-23	440,000	250,701
TCP/RAB/3802 (Capacity development for the sustainable management of soil resources in the NENA region to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs))	31-Dec-22	400,000	245,985
TCP/CPR/3806 (Conservation and Sustainable Management of Black Soil in Jilin Province)	30-Apr-23	200,000	198,232
TCP/STP/3802/C1 (Appui à la caractérisation des sols agricoles de Sao Tomé et Príncipe)	28-Feb-22	67,000	32,412
TCP/TUR/3802/C2 (Enhancement of soil and fertilizer management)	28-Feb-22	95,000	16,250
TCP/RLA/3805 (Apoyo a la cooperación regional para la gestión climática de los ecosistemas agrícolas con énfasis en agua y suelo)	30-Nov-22	375,000	223,639
Total		1,577,000	967,219
Regular Programme		Total Budget 2021-2022 (USD)	Budget Available (USD)
GSP Secretariat staff		906,408	906,408
Plenary Assembly of GSP		100,000	100,000
Total		1,006,408	1,006,408
Overall Available Balance as of 1 January 2022			13,739,935

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Voluntary contributions under negotiation		
Project	Donor	Total amount (USD)
GCP /AZE/019/GFF (Towards Land Degradation-Neutral Azerbaijan (FSP))	GEF	2,091,781
Total Estimate		2,091,781

TCP under negotiation		
Project	Donor	Total amount (USD)
Recarbonización de suelos silvopastoriles RECSOILMEX - Estudio de factibilidad		200,000
Total Estimate		200,000

Table 2: Expenditures 2021

Total spent in 2021	
Voluntary Contributions	Expenditures (USD)
MTF/GLO/962/PHO	615,652
GCP/GLO/853/RUS	409,963
GCP /GLO/730/GER	575,481
GCP/GLO/993/EC	285,365
GCP/GLO/031/ROK	385,338
GCP /RWA/040/CPR	189,568
GCP /UGA/059/CPR	225,013
UNJP/ALB/016/UNJ	30,584
GCP /SLC/216/SCF	7,856
GCP /SLC/214/GFF	2,853,955
GCP /SLC/215/SCF	426,824
Total	6,005,599
TCP projects	
TCP/THA/3703	40,106
TCP/RAB/3802	28,137
TCP/BHU/3703	45,322
TCP/LIR/3804	117,768
TCP/CPR/3806	1,768
TCP/STP/3802/C1	35,590
TCP/TUR/3802/C2	76,391
TCP/RLA/3805	151,361
Total	496,443
Regular Programme	
GSP Secretariat staff	443,928
Total	443,928
Overall Expenditures 2021	6,945,970