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## Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

### Eleventh session

Hybrid, 12–14 July 2023

### Report on the financial status of the Global Soil Partnership (GSPPA: XI/2023/5)

#### Executive summary

- The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has continued to implement a wide range of activities and mobilize resources from a variety of sources. The work has been reorganized to ensure the delivery of results at headquarters and decentralized level, taking into account the impacts and constraints arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and global challenges.
- 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 technical inputs into key reports, technical guidelines or policy instruments developed by 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 (2022), and the likely available budget for the period 2023–2024 and beyond (see Table 1 and Table 2).

#### Suggested actions by the GSP Plenary Assembly

The Plenary Assembly may wish to:

- appreciate the progress made by the GSP Secretariat in securing additional resources for the implementation of GSP Action Framework 2022-2030;
- commend resource partners who have contributed to the advancement of the GSP; and
- renew its call to all partners, and especially resource partners, to support the implementation of the new GSP Action Framework 2022–2030 by contributing to the Healthy Soils Multidonor Platform and by providing sufficient financial and in-kind contributions to specific activities.

## 5.1 Financial status of the Global Soil Partnership

1. The Plenary Assembly may recall that FAO's contribution from its regular budget, as specified in the terms of reference (ToRs) approved by the FAO Council<sup>1</sup>, is limited to hosting the GSP Secretariat at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, and to core support staff. Since October 2020, FAO has created a new post of Technical Officer on soils (P3 level) in support of the GSP Secretariat, demonstrating a clear commitment of the Organization to the growing interest in the cause of healthy soils. Additionally, FAO has supported the organization of all eleven Plenary Assemblies held to date, including the current one (Table 1).
2. As part of FAO's commitment to support soil activities at regional and country level, a number of FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects, part of its regular budget, were approved to further enhance GSP activities (Table 2).
3. The Secretariat's priority during this period has been to enhance its technical capacities to respond to requests for technical support from FAO Members. In this regard, all resource mobilization efforts included the recruitment of staff and consultants funded from trust funds in accordance with related FAO policies.
4. Since the inception of the GSP and particularly after the establishment of the Healthy Soils Facility and its successor the Healthy Soils Multidonor Platform, substantial progress has been made in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources. A brief overview of contributions and projects is given in the following paragraphs and in Table 3.
5. Overall, the European Union has provided EUR 3.5 million (about USD 3.8 million) since 2015 to date (June 2023). These funds were particularly instrumental during the GSP establishment phase, enabling the development of 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 Information System (GloSIS) and its data products, as well as the implementation of 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 financial 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 State of Knowledge of Soil Biodiversity report, the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution report, and different projects on soil salinity and capacity development.
7. Switzerland has provided an overall contribution of USD 1.5 million. An initial contribution of USD 100 000 was made for the implementation of the International Year of Soils in 2015 and a further contribution of USD 30 000 was provided for organizing the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17). A direct contribution of USD 650 000 was made for the period 2018–2021, allowing the GSP to execute multidonor projects.
8. The Kingdom of the Netherlands provided funds of USD 150 000 to a multidonor project which ended in 2018 and renewed its support for an amount of USD 450 000 to the previously mentioned multidonor project for the period 2018–2021. The resources were used for the preparation of campaign materials for World Soil Day and of various technical reports, training on sustainable soil

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<sup>1</sup> FAO Council 145<sup>th</sup> Session (CL 145/LIM/7 Rev.1)

management, and the organization of global symposia. Considering the additional funds provided by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the multidonor project in 2022, its total contribution amounts to USD 900 000.

9. A new multidonor project has been established for the period 2021–2024, supported by Switzerland with CHF 750 000 (about USD 817 884), Australia with a budget of USD 250 000 and the Kingdom of the Netherlands with USD 300 000.
10. This type of contribution in a multidonor project is appreciated for the efficiency and flexibility related to its structure, being very cost-effective. Other donors are invited to emulate this example.
11. China provided an Associated Professional Officer to the Secretariat for 2017–2019. China has also contributed USD 1 million for two South–South Cooperation projects on soil fertility in two African countries, namely Rwanda and Uganda. New projects to raise an additional USD 4.5 million are being discussed with relevant representatives. The potential new projects would benefit Kenya and Ethiopia with an amount of USD 0.5 million each, Sri Lanka with USD 1.5 million and one global project of USD 2 million managed by FAO headquarters on soil health.
12. Germany provided USD 1.5 million for a four-year project (2019–2022) related to sustainable soil management for nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The project was implemented in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and Malawi, and focused on identifying sustainable soil management practices adapted to local conditions to improve the micronutrient content of food.
13. The Republic of Korea provided USD 1.4 million 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. Negotiations are ongoing for a budget increase of USD 750 000.
14. The Plenary Assembly had called on diversifying resource partners and thus the private sector was an important source of assistance to the GSP operations. All potential private donors i.e., non-state stakeholders must be analysed through special internal procedures in order to be considered eligible to become donors. For example, PhosAgro has contributed with 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 1.2 million for a project focused on the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and the Global Soil Doctors Programme from 2019–2021. Additional budget was granted in 2021 for an amount of USD 1.2 million making the overall contribution of USD 2.55 million up to 2023. The GSP Secretariat is exploring other potential private sector donors who could contribute to GSP activities provided they comply with the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025 and FAO’s related policies.

15. The current picture shows that the budget available for 2022 and 2023 has increased in comparison to 2020, while additional contributions are expected. Due attention is being paid to regular reporting in both narrative and financial form to the donors, stressing the results and impacts achieved and thus demonstrating that further support would be worthwhile. An overview of resources available per year for GSP work, is provided below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Amount mobilized (USD)</b>
up to 2015	2 878 274
2016	1 950 701
2017	2 759 788
2018	2 442 661
2019	3 649 868
2020	3 054 551
2021	6 945 970
2022	3 836 186
<b>Overall resources mobilized</b>	<b>27 517 999</b>

16. It is also important to recognize the small financial and in-kind contributions made available by partners, for example in organizing GSP meetings, contributing to the global maps, translating documents, seconding personnel to the Secretariat, among others. In 2022, the Land Development Department of Thailand donated 1 000 soil pH testing kits to be distributed to countries under the Global Soil Doctors Programme.
17. Furthermore, the GSP Secretariat personnel provide technical assistance to field projects managed by FAO Decentralized Offices. Such assistance was delivered for activities related to sustainable soil management and the use and integration of GSP tools and normative documents. Table 4 provides an overview of the projects to which GSP Secretariat personnel provided technical assistance.
18. The GSP Secretariat has implemented activities amounting to USD 3 342 742 in the year 2022. Detailed information is provided in Table 5.

**Table 1. FAO's contribution from its regular budget to the GSP in 2023/2024.**

<b>Regular Programme</b>	<b>Budget available (USD)</b>
GSP Secretariat staff	906 408
GSP Plenary Assembly	100 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 006 408</b>

**Table 2. Ongoing TCP projects funded by FAO regular budget\***

TCP projects	Total budget (USD)	Expenditures (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	440 000	282 943	157 057
TCP /MEX/3901 Recarbonización de suelos silvopastoriles RECISOILMEX - Estudio de factibilidad	200 000	0	200 000
TCP /CPR/3806 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Black Soils in Jilin Province	200 000	90 532	109 468
TCP /VIE/3901 Support for development of national soil health strategy and action plan	400 000	889	399 111
TCP /RAB/3802 Capacity development for the sustainable management of soil resources in the NENA region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	400 000	235 502	164 498
TCP /MOR/3902 Appui technique au Département de l'Agriculture pour une gestion durable des sols au Maroc	150 000	0	150 000
TCP /RLA/3805 Apoyo a la cooperación regional para la gestión climática de los ecosistemas agrícolas con énfasis en agua y suelo	375 000	303 339	71 661
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 165 000</b>	<b>913 205</b>	<b>1 251 795</b>

\*These projects are not directly implemented by the GSP Secretariat but support a number of GSP activities in the countries and regions.

**Table 3. Ongoing projects funded by voluntary contributions**

Budget available 2023–2024			
Voluntary contributions	Total budget (USD)	Expenditures (USD) as of 31 December 2022	Budget available (USD)
MTF /GLO/962/PHO Implementation of Sustainable Soil Management through the Soil Doctors programme and the Global Soil Laboratory Network	2 410 398	1 984 559	425 839
GCP /GLO/031/ROK Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia and National Soil Information Systems	1 400 000	1 024 222	375 778
GCP /GLO/772/RUS Support for the promotion of Sustainable Soil Management in the framework of the Global Soil Partnership - Phase III	2 000 000	625 699	1 374 301

GCP /GLO/1008/MUL Enhancing soil health & provision of ecosystem services by soils through RECSOIL and Soil Doctors	1 350 894	488 292	862 602
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 161 292</b>	<b>4 122 772</b>	<b>3 038 520</b>

**Table 4. FAO's contributions through technical support to FAO field projects related to soils\*\***

<b>Budget available 2023–2024</b>			
<b>Voluntary contributions</b>	<b>Total budget (USD)</b>	<b>Expenditures (USD) as of 31 December 2022</b>	<b>Budget available (USD)</b>
GCP /AZE/019/GFF Towards Land Degradation-Neutral Azerbaijan (FSP)	2 091 781	0	2 091 781
GCP /UGA/059/CPR Capacity development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa (1) – Uganda	500 000	0	500 000
GCP /RWA/040/CPR Capacity Development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa (2) - Rwanda	500 000	300 319	199 681
UTF /AZE/021/AZE Improvement of Seed and Agro-Chemical Lab and Certification Services under Agrarian Services Agency	1 800 000	101 035	1 698 965
GCP /SLC/214/GFF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable Food Systems Project: SOILCARE (FSP)	7 271 963	2 858 710	4 413 253
GCP /SLC/215/SCF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable food systems Project: SOILCARE-SCCF (FSP)	883 242	427 095	456 147
GCP /GLO/1127/USA*** Soil mapping for resilient agrifood systems in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa (SoilFER)	20 000 000	0	20 000 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>33 046 986</b>	<b>3 687 159</b>	<b>29 359 827</b>

\*\*The GSP Secretariat personnel provides technical support to these projects in components related to soils but do not manage the overall implementation.

\*\*\*This project will be implemented in Guatemala, Honduras, and Zambia until May 2027.

**Table 5. Expenditures in 2022**

<b>Total budget spent in 2022</b>	
<b>Voluntary contributions</b>	<b>Expenditures (USD)</b>
MTF /GLO/962/PHO Implementation of Sustainable Soil Management through the Soil Doctors programme and the Global Soil Laboratory Network	616 437
GCP /GLO/730/GER Sustainable soil management for nutrition-sensitive agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia	243 957
GCP /GLO/031/ROK Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia and National Soil Information Systems	460 107
GCP /RWA/040/CPR Capacity Development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa (2) - Rwanda	119 369
GCP /UGA/059/CPR Capacity development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa (1) - Uganda	232 618
GCP /GLO/1008/MUL Enhancing soil health & provision of ecosystem services by soils through RECSOIL and Soil Doctors	394 129
UNJP/ALB/016/UNJ Effective management of natural resources supporting the green economy for a sustainable development	4 516
GCP /SLC/216/SCF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable food systems Project: SOILCARE-SCCF (PPG)	7 000
GCP /SLC/214/GFF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable Food Systems Project: SOILCARE (FSP)	4 559
GCP /SLC/215/SCF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable food systems Project: SOILCARE-SCCF (FSP)	208
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 082 900</b>
<b>TCP projects</b>	<b>Expenditures (USD)</b>
TCP /RAB/3802 Capacity development for the sustainable management of soil resources in the NENA region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	206 716
TCP /LIR/3804 Strengthening soil analysis and information systems to enhance sustainable soil management and support evidence-based decision-making in Liberia	165 140
TCP /CPR/3806 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Black Soil in Jilin Province	88 764
TCP /STP/3802/C1 Appui à la caractérisation des sols agricoles de Sao Tomé et Principe	30 268
TCP /TUR/3802/C2 TCPF: Enhancement of soil and fertilizer management	18 176
TCP /RLA/3805 Apoyo a la cooperación regional para la gestión climática de los ecosistemas agrícolas con énfasis en agua y suelo	251 250

<b>Total</b>	<b>760 314</b>
<b>Regular Programme</b>	<b>Expenditures (USD)</b>
GSP Secretariat staff	443 928
Plenary Assembly of GSP	55 600
<b>Total</b>	<b>499 528</b>
<b>Overall expenditures 2022</b>	<b>3 342 742</b>