



## Terms of Reference of the National Focal Points of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP)

### Background:

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) was established in December 2012 as a mechanism to develop a strong interactive partnership, and improved collaboration and synergy of efforts among stakeholders. From land users to policy makers, one of the key objectives of the WHA is to improve the governance and sustainable management of soils.

The 2nd session of the GSP Plenary Assembly, held in Rome from 22-24 July 2014, endorsed the proposal for FAO Members to nominate "GSP Focal Points" in order to improve communication between the GSP and FAO Members, which in turn will lead to increased participation in GSP activities.

In this regard, the Plenary Assembly instructed the Secretariat to send a request to Members, providing information on the requirements of such a role, and allowing sufficient time for national authorities to select focal points and alternates, if appropriate.

### Intended role of the GSP Focal Points

It is envisaged that the following GSP activities will be supported by the national focal points:

1. participate in the [GSP Plenary Assembly](#) for decision making and orientations of GSP activities. FAO Members are de jure and de facto partners of the GSP and as such can attend all sessions of the Plenary Assembly on a voluntary basis,
2. To place soils on the country's agenda at FAO and on the international agenda to promote sustainable soil management,
3. Incorporate national priorities into the global debate, and bring to the attention of the GSP Secretariat relevant developments in their country that may have implications for further cooperation on soils,
4. Outreach and distribute relevant communications, information material and invitations to meetings and consultations, received from the GSP Secretariat to the most appropriate governmental authorities and/or national institutions, as well as to any other relevant bodies dealing with soil-related issues in their country,
5. Promote and consolidate National and Regional Soil Partnerships,
6. Promote awareness raising activities organised for [World Soil Day](#).

### **Appointment of GSP Focal Points**

Focal points should preferably be senior government officials (e.g. from the Ministry of Agriculture) dealing with soil management and conservation.

Focal points are appointed by the Minister or Head of Department in charge of soils, through an official communication sent to 1) [GSP-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GSP-Secretariat@fao.org), 2) to the FAO Representation in the country.

A country may designate a focal point and possibly a substitute or alternate. The alternate can be an official or technical institution dealing with soil management and conservation issues.

### **Modalities of communication**

The GSP Secretariat will provide the focal points with information as it becomes available and post it on the GSP website <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/>, to ensure that they are aware of the activities and tools developed.

The GSP Secretariat would appreciate receiving the full contact information of the designated focal point and his/her alternate (name and title, postal address, telephone number(s) and email addresses) at the following email address: [GSP-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:GSP-Secretariat@fao.org).

Requests for additional information and clarification regarding the proposed focal points may be sent to the same e-mail address.