



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



Arrangement for the
establishment of the Global Soil
Information System (GLOSIS)
including the International
Network of Soil Information
Institutions (INSII)

June 2017

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The Global Soil Partnership Partners,

Recognizing the importance of sustainable soil management which is central to the mandate of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), and

Confirming the need to have efficient and reliable soil data and information available for sound decision making,

Agree to:

- a) work jointly on the establishment of the Global Soil Information System and its associated products under the framework of Pillars 4 and 5 of the GSP and related agreed Plans of Action, based on agreed technical specifications and standards which would embody a GSP Data Policy;
- b) nominate national soil technical institutions in FAO member countries to join the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII);
- c) contribute with expertise, data/information sharing, and other forms of technical support to the establishment of the Global Soil Information System and its associated products;
- d) cooperate through various modalities, including:
 - exchange of expertise on issues related to Pillars 4 and 5 of the Global Soil Partnership;
 - soil data sharing;
 - development and harmonization of representative soil data sets;
 - exchange of these data through standards-based procedures;
 - joint organization of/participation in training courses and workshops;
 - exchange of relevant publications and methodologies.

In particular, GSP Partners will undertake the following tasks of mutual interest:

- to carry out an assessment of existing soil data, including a gap analysis in the light of the Pillar 4 data requirements;
- to develop methods to fill data gaps as needed, and to develop data extracts suitable for Pillar 4 products;
- to exchange data for building the following Pillar 4 global data products: Tier 1 and Tier 2 soil profile data bases, global soil polygon map, version 0 and version 1 soil grids, and SoilSTAT; preferably, data should not be physically exported but shared using web-based technology (for product definitions, see [Pillar 4 Plan of Action](#));
- to use standards-based web data formats (WMS, WFS, WCS); this would require that the locally stored soil data, or extracts of those, are pre-processed (harmonized), and transformed using a protocol for the web-based exchange of digital soil data (SoilML, Pillar 5);
- to apply the highest level of harmonization possible and necessary, in order to allow for the integration of these data sets into the global product scheme;
- to provide documentation about the national or local data sets via meta data and additional information needed to assess the source, methodology and accuracy of the data shared.

Further agree on the following provisions:

1. Intellectual Property Rights. Title rights, including intellectual property rights and copyrights of the data shall remain with the originating parties which grant to FAO a non-exclusive royalty-free perpetual license to use such data for non-commercial purposes and with a view to implementing FAO's mandate. Use of such data shall include storage, display and publication through the Global Soil Information System.

FAO, when using the data, will acknowledge that the latter contains proprietary and confidential information protected by copyright.

This arrangement does not imply any ownership rights of the data.

2. Confidentiality. Data items or information that are considered confidential should be identified as such and should not be communicated to any other person or entity without prior written permission. FAO shall not disclose or use information or documents communicated to it or brought to its attention in the framework of this arrangement for any purposes other than those set out in this arrangement. This provision shall survive the expiration or termination of this arrangement.

FAO may share, on a confidential basis, data with the Global Soil Spatial Data Infrastructure Centre (GSSDIC), which shall not further disseminate any data.

3. Financial implications. Each Party will meet its own costs and expenses, as may be incurred in the implementation of this arrangement.

4. Entry into force, modification and termination. This arrangement shall become operational upon approval by the 5th GSP Plenary Assembly in accordance with Rule V of the GSP Rules of Procedure. The GSP Plenary Assembly may amend or terminate this arrangement in accordance with the same rule. In the event of termination, the GSP Partners will agree on measures for the orderly conclusion of ongoing activities.