

Pacific- Extraordinary/22/Report



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



Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Pacific Soil Partnership

Online meeting, 4 August 2022

Pacific-Extraordinary/22/Report

**Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Pacific Soil
Partnership**

Online meeting, 4 August 2022

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2022

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Table of contents

1. Introduction	5
2. The new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030	5
3. Pacific Soil Partnership governance	7
4. Urgent activities	7
5. PSP work plan	9
6. Conclusions and way forward	9
Annex I. Agenda	10
Annex II. List of participants	11

1. Introduction

As agreed at the fifth meeting of the Pacific Soil Partnership (PSP) in April 2022 (report available [here](#)), an extraordinary meeting of the PSP was organized on 4 August 2022. Agenda available in Annex I. List of participants available in Annex II. The meeting aimed to align the structure and work plan of the partnership to the new Action Framework 2022-2030 of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), which was endorsed at the [10th GSP Plenary Assembly](#) in June 2022.

Compared to previous PSP meetings, the extraordinary session was opened to national focal points and to GSP partners and ITPS members from the Pacific region.

2. The new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

Ms. Caon introduced participants to the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030, which is available in Annex I of the GSP Plenary Assembly document number 2 ([here](#)). The GSP proposed for its members and partners to endorse a new action framework because:

- Progress in executing the global implementation plan (GIP) of the 5 Pillars of Action has not been the same for all pillars;
- Funding to implement the pillar GIPs did not materialize as planned, and implementation was therefore slow;
- Changes and new priorities have been introduced over the years according to the outcomes of global symposia and emerging issues;
- The pillar structure and their implementation plans have proven to be useful for the instalment of the GSP Framework and general objectives but have limited the execution of activities and the mobilization of resources;
- The pillars address cross-cutting issues that allow progress towards the ambition of the GSP;
- The current pillar organizational structure can be seen as an obstacle to engaging stakeholders less familiar with UN structures, procedures, and language, who considered the GSP structure to be overly formal and rigid;
- To focus on addressing the global societal and environmental challenges by improving soil health and mitigating soil threats by scaling up global SSM;
- To acknowledge and build on the key achievements and results of the GSP over the last ten years;
- To recognize the role of the many existing international commitments and initiatives, which partially recognize the role of soils in addressing global challenges but whose implementation is still rudimentary; and
- To further develop the GSP towards a flexible action-oriented or outcomes-oriented approach.

In the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 (see figure 1), Pillars of Action have been replaced by Action Areas linked to concrete actions, initiatives and programmes. In this regard, the new action framework is made up by clear actions and targets focused on addressing the different global challenges – from food insecurity, climate change, pollution, land degradation and the loss of biodiversity – through the improvement and enhancement of soil health. Robust indicators will be developed and agreed with GSP members and partners to allow for the implementation of such activities to be monitored so that objectives can be achieved. GSP members and partners will also be supported to build their capacities to report progress based on indicators when needed.

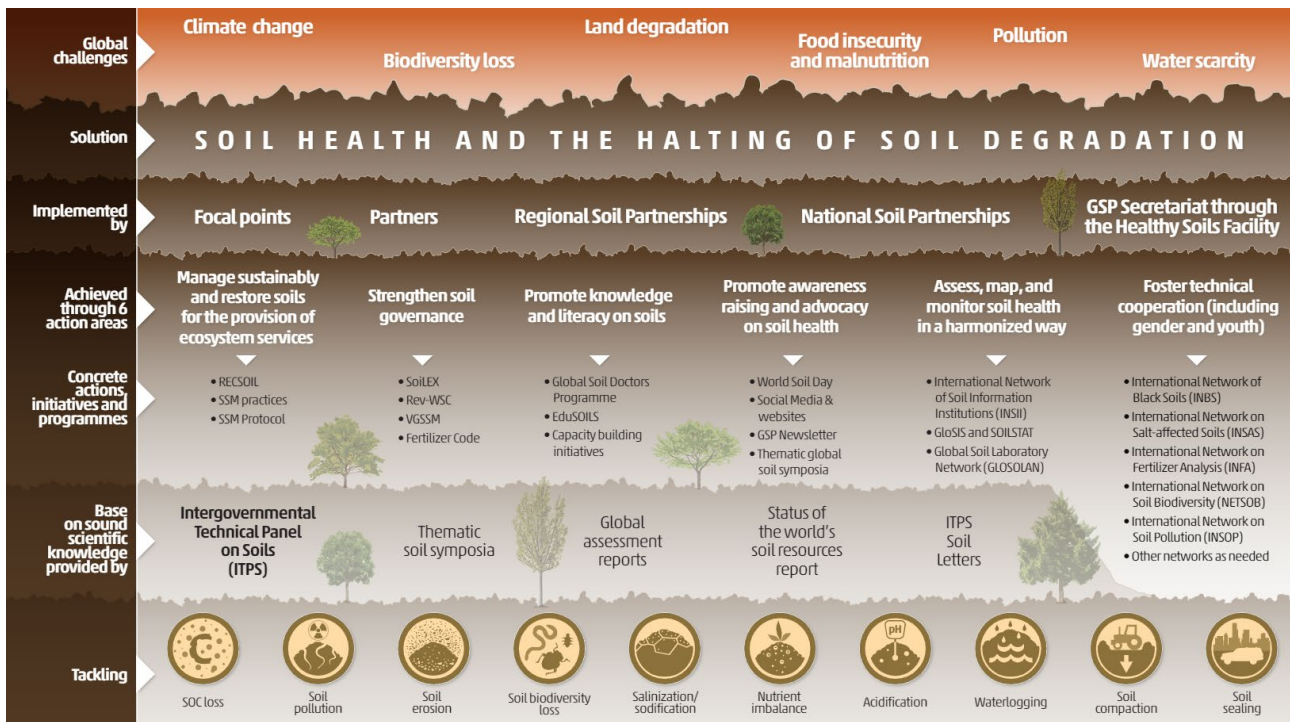


Figure 1. GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

The development and collection of quantifiable information on the impact of the GSP on the status and trends of soil health and on people's lives, as well as on the capacity of countries to collect data and information to assess and monitor soils, will:

- Provide a real measure of the impact of the GSP on sustainable soil management and soil governance;
- Facilitate Resource Mobilization efforts;
- Increase ownership;
- Multiply the reach of the Partnership's activities; and
- Allow for a more comprehensive assessment and monitoring of soil health and its' contribution to all global environmental challenges thanks to the development and adoption of targets and indicators in line with international agreements.

Detailed information on targets and indicators is available in Annex I of the GSP Plenary Assembly document number 2 ([here](#)). The key performance indicators will be further developed by a dedicated technical working group and with the support of the ITPS and all GSP technical Networks, and that the GSP will leverage those targets and indicators defined by the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development that are relevant to monitor soil health and for which countries are already generating information.

The Action Framework also proposes the development of a Soil Health Index (SHI), as a composite index including the indicators endorsed in the SSM Protocol to provide a proxy on the soil health status at global level. The Global Soil Information System (GloSIS), and the Global Soil Health and Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOSOB), will be the main global data platforms to provide soil data and statistics for data driven indicators (3 and 5) sets, whereas SoilSTAT provides official national soil statistics for agreed indicators, following existing UN standards.

The new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 will not change the financing of the GSP.

3. Pacific Soil Partnership governance

Because of the disappearance of the Pillars of Action and the introduction of Action Areas, the entrance into force of the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 imposes some changes to the governance of the Pacific Soil Partnership.

Several proposals were discussed during the meeting and ultimately explored through an online survey. The main results of the online survey and the meeting discussion are herewith reported. The majority of the Pacific focal points, partners and ITPS members suggested:

- To establish a **Pacific Soil Partnership Steering Committee**. In addition to Ministerial representative, the Steering Committee should ensure regional representation and be composed also of members of academia and the Pacific Islands Farmer Organizations;
- To explore the possibility to give a coordination role to ITPS representatives from the Pacific; and
- NOT to elect **Action Areas' Chairs**.

Because of the need for all Regional Soil Partnerships to move in the same direction, a final decision on the new Pacific Soil Partnership governance was not made at the meeting. Indeed, regional inputs collected through the online survey will be brought to the attention of the GSP at an inter-regional meeting that will be organized as soon as all Regional Soil Partnerships have expressed an opinion on how to respond to the new GSP Action Framework.

To note that the ITPS members from the region asked for information on how they could further support the partnership in addition to representing it in the ITPS.

The PSP also stressed the need to mobilize financial resources to support PSP representatives in their roles. In this regard, all work is currently done on a voluntary basis and this is not sustainable. It is important to raise awareness on the need to financially support PSP representatives in their role with the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry. Still, national activities are currently disconnected from global activities and this is not efficient in terms of human and financial resources management. The organization of a meeting with the Ministries on the topics might be needed. The Pacific Week of Agriculture also represents a good opportunity to bring these issues to the attention of national governments. The PSP governance is currently looking into how to initiate the discussion reaching out also to FAOSAP.

4. Urgent activities

The meeting represented a good opportunity to remind or inform countries, partners and the ITPS members from the Pacific on urgent activities that require their attention.

- **Data management and mapping activities.** Ms. Isabel Luotto (GSP Secretariat) introduced participants to the Global Soil Nutrient and Soil Nutrient Budget Map (GSNmap) that will provide soil nutrient as well as soil nutrient budget maps to optimize the sustainable management of soil nutrients. The map will be produced using a two phase approach (see Figure 2).

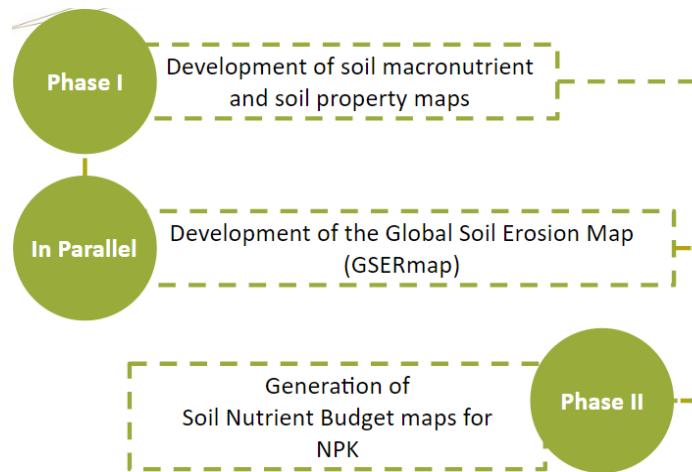


Figure 2. GSNmap - two phase approach

As done for other GSP maps, countries will be provided with technical specifications and country guidelines, and a capacity building programme will be established. All countries were kindly asked to submit the name of their expert to work on this map at <https://forms.gle/PADLtfB3nqEApifU9>.

A reminder to submit the name of the experts to work on the global soil erosion map was also made. Countries can proceed at the following link <https://forms.gle/fe7VcQPPvWVMhHYi7>.

Concerns on the preparation of these maps were raised by some countries that pointed out that countries are often not ready in terms of data or capacities to respond to GSP requests on mapping. The problem is greater in the Pacific Islands. A proposal to partner with the United States on data collection and capacity building was made since they are members of the Pacific Community.

5. PSP work plan

Mr. Filippo Benedetti (GSP Secretariat) led the discussion over the alignment of the PSP work plan agreed at the fifth PSP meeting to the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030, see table 1.

Table 1. PSP work plan adapted to the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

Pillar	Activities in the PSP work plan 2022-23	Current status	New action areas according to the new GSP Action Framework
1	RECSOIL	Interested countries are encouraged to contact Ms. Natalia Rodriguez Eugenio for further information at Natalia.rodriguezeugenio@fao.org	Manage sustainably and restore soils for the provision of ecosystem services
2	Global Soil Doctors Programme	Contacts established in Vanuatu. Contact the Soil Doctors programme coordinators (Silvia.Pioli@fao.org , carolina.oliverasanchez@fao.org) to get more information about the possibility of implementing the programme in more Pacific countries	Promote knowledge and literacy on soils
3	NA		
4	Digital soil mapping and INSII	Follow up with country representatives	Assess, map and monitor soil health in a harmonized way
5	Pacific Soil Laboratory Network (ASPAC)	Work plan ongoing	Assess, map and monitor soil health in a harmonized way

6. Conclusions and way forward

The next PSP meeting will be organized as soon as the Chairs of the Regional Soil Partnerships meet with the GSP Secretariat and agree on a coordinated way to implement the new GSP Action Framework 2022-2030.

Annex I. Agenda



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Extraordinary Session

Pacific Soil Partnership Meeting

4 August 2022

from 11PM to 1AM CEST (Rome time)

from 7:00 - 9:00 AM Australian Eastern Time (AET)

Virtual meeting

4 August 2022	
11:00 – 11:40	Item 1. The new GSP Action Framework <i>Ms. Lucrezia Caon, GSP Secretariat</i>
11:40 – 12:00	Item 2. New Pacific Soil Partnership governance <i>Mr. Filippo Benedetti, GSP Secretariat</i>
12:00 – 12:40	Item 3. Urgent activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data management and mapping activities, <i>Ms. Isabel Luotto, GSP Secretariat</i>
12:40 - 1:00	Item 4: Pacific Soil Partnership work plan 2022-2023 <i>Mr. Filippo Benedetti, GSP Secretariat</i>
1:00	Closure of the meeting

Annex II. List of participants

Ms. Lucrezia Caon, Global Soil Partnership, FAO

Ms. Isabel Luotto, Global Soil Partnership, FAO

Mr. Filippo Benedetti, Global Soil Partnership, FAO

First Name	Last Name	Role at the GSP	Institution	Country
Mumbi	Kamau	Focal Point	DAFF	Australia
Laura	Johnson	Focal Point	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Australia
William	Wigmore	Focal Point	Ministry of Agriculture	Cook Islands
John	Oakeshott	Focal Point	The Pacific Community (SPC)	Fiji
Marissa	Cook	Focal Point	Department of Environmental Management & Agriculture	Nauru
Jordana	Pointon-Haimona	Focal Point	Ministry for Primary Industries	New Zealand
Mateaki	Koaneti	Focal Point	MPI	New Zealand
Viliami	Manu Maff	Focal Point	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests	Tonga
Penelope	Wensley	GSP partner	Office of the National Soils Advocate	Australia
Peter	Wilson	GSP partner	CSIRO	Australia
Rob	De Hayr	GSP partner	ASPAC	Australia
Gerard	Grealish	GSP partner	CSIRO	Australia
Mahimairaja	Santiago	GSP partner	Sugar Research Institute of Fiji	Fiji
Sam	Carrick	GSP partner	Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research	New Zealand
Jane	Lattimore	GSP partner	Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research	New Zealand
Nat	Tuivavalagi	GSP partner	Private Consultant	Samoa
Md Abdul	Kader	GSP partner	University of South Pacific	Samoa
Siosiu	Halavatau	GSP partner	Independent Consultant	Tonga
Vunivesi	Minoneti	GSP partner	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry	Tonga