

June 2024



# Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

## Twelfth session

Hybrid, 3–5 June 2024

**Status of the implementation of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030  
(GSPPA: XII/2024/2)**

### Executive summary

- The [Global Soil Partnership \(GSP\) Action Framework 2022-2030 - \*Healthy soils for a healthy life and environment: from promotion to consolidation of sustainable soil management\*](#) (hereafter as “The GSP Action Framework”) was adopted by the [tenth GSP Plenary Assembly](#), and further endorsed by the 28th session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28).
- The GSP Action Framework includes a set of targets for each of its six action areas. To define indicators to measure progress towards these targets, a specific working group was set up to develop the Indicator System of the GSP Action Framework (ISAF). This working group has met four times to date.
- It was also proposed to develop a Global Soil Health Index (GSHI) to measure progress towards the vision of the GSP Action Framework: “*A world in which soils are healthy and resilient, ensuring the sustained provision of ecosystem functions and services for all, leaving no one behind.*”
- At the fourth meeting of the ISAF working group on 6 March 2024, the initially proposed GSHI was revised to align it with the ten soil threats identified in the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, with an emphasis on the assessment and monitoring of soil threats and degradation processes as proxies for soil health.
- Concrete activities under each of the six action areas of the GSP Action Framework are presented in documents 6 to 10. This document focuses on the development of the ISAF and the GSHI.
- The set of key performance indicators for the GSP Action Framework and the concept note for the Global Soil Health Indicator System (GSHIS) are to be discussed and finalised at the fifth meeting of the ISAF working group, to be held on 15 May 2024. The final proposal will be presented during the 12th GSP Plenary Assembly for consideration.

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July 2023

**Suggested actions by the GSP Plenary Assembly**

The Plenary Assembly may wish to:

- acknowledge the progress done in the definition of the indicator system of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 and the Global Soil Health Indicator System (GSHIS); and
- urge the ISAF working group and the GSP Secretariat to finalise the indicator system of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 and the GSHIS.

### Status of the implementation of the GSP Action Framework 2022-2030

1. Ten years after its establishment and following a consultative process, the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Plenary Assembly adopted at its tenth session a new [GSP Action Framework 2022-2030- \*healthy soils for a healthy life: from promotion to consolidation of sustainable soil management\*](#) (hereafter as “The GSP Action Framework”), which was further endorsed by the [28th session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture \(COAG 28\)](#).
2. The GSP Action Framework builds on the successful work of the GSP members and partners over the previous ten years. It consists of six action areas and targets that contribute to tackle the different global challenges – food insecurity, climate change, pollution, land degradation and the loss of biodiversity – through the improvement and enhancement of soil health.
3. The six action areas were designed to provide a concrete framework for existing GSP initiatives, programmes and networks in line with the previous GSP pillars of action. Each action area includes a set of targets to guide the work and activities of the GSP Secretariat, the Regional Soil Partnerships, the International Technical Networks and the Members and partners in their own capacities and the design of new activities.
4. The main driver for setting concrete targets for each action area of the GSP Action Framework was the concern shared by Members and partners that there is no monitoring system in place to assess the impact of the multiple GSP actions and no clear and achievable direction, as the implementation plans of the previous pillars were very ambitious.
5. Each target should have a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) to assess and monitor progress in each action area. At the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly, it was also agreed to design a Global Soil Health Index (GSHI) to measure progress towards the vision of the GSP Action Framework: *“A world in which soils are healthy and resilient, ensuring the sustained provision of ecosystem functions and services for all, leaving no one behind. To this end, the GSP must work to improve and maintain the health of at least 50 percent of the world’s soils by 2030.”*
6. Following the adoption of the GSP Action Framework by the 10th GSP Plenary Assembly, the GSP Secretariat established a specific working group to design the indicator system of the GSP Action Framework (ISAF) and the GSHI. Progress on the design of the ISAF was presented and welcomed by the 11th GSP Plenary Assembly, which requested the GSP Secretariat to continue supporting the ISAF working group to enable it to present the indicator system proposal to the 12th GSP Plenary Assembly.
7. The ISAF working group has met five times to review and finalize the concept note for the indicator system of the GSP Action Framework. At the fourth meeting of the ISAF working group, held on 6 March 2024, it was agreed to revise the initially proposed GSHI to align it with the ten soil threats identified in the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, with an emphasis on the assessment and monitoring of soil threats and degradation processes as proxies for soil health.
8. This proposal is justified by the complexity of assessing soil health and developing a single index that reflects the wide variety of soil types and land uses worldwide. In addition, the GSP has been working on the assessment of soil threats, through the organization of thematic symposia, development of global maps and global assessment reports, and should therefore build on the information gathered to date.
9. The ISAF will therefore be composed of two different sets of indicators: KPIs to monitor the progress on the GSP action areas, called the GSP Performance Indicator System (GPIS); and soil threats and soil degradation indicators to track progress towards the vision of the GSP Action

Framework, which seeks to improve and maintain soil health globally, called the Global Soil Health Indicator System (GSHIS).

10. At the time of preparing this document, the fifth meeting of the ISAF working group, scheduled for 15 May 2024, has not taken place. At that meeting, the ISAF working group is expected to discuss and finalise the set of GPIS and the concept note for the GSHIS. The outcome of the ISAF working group meeting will be presented for consideration of the 12th GSP Plenary Assembly.