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Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly

Twelfth session

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Report on the financial status of the Global Soil Partnership (GSPPA: XII/2024/5)

Executive summary

- The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has continued to implement a wide range of activities in all the regions globally and actively mobilize resources from state and non-state actors. The GSP Members, partners and stakeholders have continued to provide in-kind and financial contributions for specific outputs both at global and national level.
- As per previous sessions, a financial report is herewith presented on an annual basis. It refers to the expenditures carried out in 2023 and presents the approximate available budget for the period 2024–2025 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 the 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 GSP Action Framework 2022-2030 by contributing to the Healthy Soils Facility Trust Fund and by providing sufficient financial and in-kind contributions to specific activities.

Financial status of the Global Soil Partnership

1. The Plenary Assembly may recall that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s contribution from its regular budget – as specified in the terms of reference (ToRs) approved by the FAO Council¹ – is limited to hosting the GSP Secretariat and core support staff at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. At present, the GSP Secretariat is composed of three posts: a Senior Land and Water Officer (P5 level, upgraded in 2024 from P4 to P5 level), a Technical Officer on soils (P3 level), and a General Service Staff (G4 level). The Land and Water Division currently has a General Service Staff pool support system which provides continuous support as needed. Therefore, the General Service Staff is not solely dedicated to the GSP but to the entire division. Similarly, the GSP Secretariat could also receive the support from the pool whenever needed. Additionally, FAO has supported the organization of all twelve plenary assemblies held to date, including the current one (Table 1).
2. As part of FAO's commitment to support soil-related activities at regional and country level, FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects, part of FAO's regular budget, were approved to further enhance GSP activities (Table 2).
3. The Secretariat's priority during this period has been to respond to requests from FAO Members for technical support in matters related to soil governance and the sustainable management of soils. In this regard, resource mobilization efforts included the recruitment of staff and consultants funded from trust funds and the implementation of global, regional, national, and field activities.
4. Since the establishment of the GSP, the Healthy Soils Facility Programme Document² was created as a multidonor umbrella platform. Through it and through other multidonor and single donor trust fund projects, remarkable gains have been achieved in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources. These have been the result of a long-standing relationship built with partners over time, as well as a good delivery of outputs within the pre-defined timeframe and the implementation of a successful public awareness strategy on the importance of soils globally. 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 5 million (about USD 5.4 million) since 2015 to date. These funds have been particularly instrumental in the establishment and consolidation of the GSP. The current contribution of EUR 1.5 million is advancing the implementation of sustainable soil management at the field level through the Recarbonization of Agricultural Soils (RECISOIL) initiative and the Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP), supporting the activities of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS), strengthening the Global Soil Information System (GloSIS) and its data products, as well as other awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.
6. The Russian Federation has provided funding via three successive projects over the period 2015–2024, amounting to USD 5 million. This financial assistance has been of paramount importance in the establishment of the Glinka World Soil Prize, the execution of the implementation plan of the Eurasian Soil Partnership, the preparation of normative documents and knowledge products, and in the implementation of different projects on soil salinity and capacity development.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/about/why-the-partnership/terms-of-reference/en/>

² <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/programme-projects/healthy-soils-facility/en/>

7. Switzerland has provided an overall contribution of approximately USD 1.6 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. An additional USD 817 000 was provided in 2021 as per paragraph 9.
8. The Kingdom of the Netherlands has provided an overall financial contribution up to 2024 amounting to USD 900 000. The initial contribution of USD 150 000 was done through a multidonor project which ended in 2018 and renewed its support with a further 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 for various technical reports, training on sustainable soil management, and the organization of global symposia. An additional USD 300 000 was provided in 2022 as per paragraph 9.
9. A new multidonor project was established for the period 2021–2024, supported by three FAO Members: Australia with a budget of AUD 250 000, the Kingdom of the Netherlands with EUR 300 000, and Switzerland, with CHF 750 000 (about USD 817 884). The project focused on enhancing soil health and the provision of ecosystem services by soils through RECSOIL and the GSDP. The project resulted in: (i) the strengthening of national and regional capacities in sustainable soil management; (ii) the effective implementation of sustainable soil management on the ground via RECSOIL, and (iii) the generation and use of soil information for better decision-making. The contribution, via a multidonor project, is highly appreciated for the efficiency, cost-effectiveness and flexibility related to its structure. Other donors are invited to emulate this example.
10. China contributed USD 1 million for two South–South Cooperation projects on soil fertility in Rwanda and Uganda. New projects to raise an additional USD 3 million are being discussed with relevant representatives. The potential new projects would benefit Ethiopia and Kenya with an amount of USD 0.5 million each, and one global project of USD 2 million on soil health which will be implemented in Cambodia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe. The project is expected to start in the period 2024–2025.
11. 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. For the period 2024–2027, Germany has pledged to provide additional EUR 1.6 million for restoring soil health and productivity for safe, nutritious, and resilient agrifood systems (Soils4Nutrition phase II). The proposed project aims to empower farmers with skills and practices to improve soil fertility and the nutritional value of food.
12. 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. The project has had a successful implementation, and a budget increase was negotiated for additional USD 750 000, making the overall contribution by the Republic of Korea to be USD 2 150 000.
13. The United States Department of State has provided the largest budget for a single project to date, totalling USD 20 million, with an anticipated additional USD 10 million expected by May 2024, one year after the initial disbursement. This substantial funding supports specific

components of the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS)² initiative through the SoilFER project. The project aims at enhancing agrifood systems resilience in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa and focuses on generating essential soil mapping data and information to support farmers and governments in making informed decisions about crop selection, fertilizer use, and sustainable soil and land management. The project has a four-year duration and includes five beneficiary countries: Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, and Zambia.

14. Successful negotiations have also been carried out with Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MoFA]), which will provide funding for a project focused on VACS. This project particularly emphasizes crop suitability and the promotion of selected crops within VACS and aims to improve soil fertility and productivity. The project is designed to increase yields, enhance decision-making for crops, fertilizers, and soil and land management practices at various scales, and enhance food security, especially for smallholders. It will generate solid data and develop high-resolution maps to support data-driven decision-making at the national level. The project has a budget of USD 6 million and it is expected to commence in May 2024.
15. The Plenary Assembly regularly invites resource partners to increase their contributions and calls on the GSP Secretariat to diversify funding sources according to relevant FAO policies. As per FAO policy, all potential non-state donors and stakeholders must go through a due diligence process, which is a special internal procedure in order to be considered eligible to provide resources to FAO.
16. In this regard, the GSP has benefited from the contribution of the PhosAgro Company since 2018. An initial contribution of USD 150 000 supported the organization of the Global Symposium on Soil Pollution and the World Soil Day campaign *Be the solution to soil pollution*. Furthermore, PhosAgro has contributed USD 1.2 million for a project focused on the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and the GSDP from 2019 to 2021. An additional budget of USD 1.2 million was granted to continue the project until 2023. In early 2024, an additional contribution of USD 3 million was provided, bringing the overall PhosAgro's financial support to the GSP to a total of USD 5 410 398.
17. The GSP Secretariat is exploring other potential private sector donors who could contribute to GSP activities, provided that they are able to comply with the [FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025](#) and other FAO-related policies.
18. In addition, the GSP has implemented several specific initiatives, such as the GSDP and the RECSOIL initiative. The total budget invested in the GSDP from 2021 to 2024 is estimated at USD 1 024 940, creating 657 trainers, 1 832 soil doctors, and an estimated number of 11 545 farmers in 21 countries who have benefited from this programme. Direct implementation through FAO projects amounted to USD 681 740. The national promoters of the GSDP and GSP Members have covered a significant part of the training costs in some cases and provided in-kind contributions (such as translations and trainers) amounting to circa USD 343 200, as reported to FAO by Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Mexico, Nigeria, Saint Lucia, Tajikistan, Thailand, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
19. In terms of RECSOIL implementation, other FAO projects and initiatives and partners' investments are enabling its scaling up in the various countries where it is being implemented. It is worth mentioning the case of Costa Rica, where RECSOIL is contributing to the efforts of the Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA) programme, a joint effort between the Costa Rican Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Environment and Energy,

FAO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support of the International Climate Initiative. To date, the SCALA programme has supported the organization of RECSOIL training workshops, and the Costa Rican Coffee Institute (ICAFE) and the Dos Pinos producers' cooperative are covering the costs of soil sampling and analysis for carbon stock monitoring.

20. The current overview shows that the budget available for 2024 and 2025 has increased compared to 2023–2024. As a result of this successful resource mobilization, the Land and Water Division and the GSP have made an adequate internal reorganization in terms of staff recruitment and division of roles to ensure adequate, timely, and efficient coverage of all the technical outcomes.
21. 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 delivered/spent per year to support the functioning of the GSP is provided as follows:

Year	Amount delivered/spent (USD)
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
2023	10 275 948
Overall resources mobilized	37 793 947

22. Furthermore, the GSP Secretariat personnel provide technical assistance to field projects managed by the FAO Decentralized Offices Network. Such assistance is delivered for activities related to sustainable soil management and the use and integration of GSP tools and normative documents in other projects and initiatives. Table 4 provides an overview of the projects to which GSP Secretariat personnel have provided technical assistance.
23. The overall expenditure on soils throughout FAO, including the GSP Secretariat and the Decentralized Offices Network, amounts to USD 10 275 948 in 2023. This has been the highest implementing budget the GSP has had until now (Table 5).

Table 1. FAO's contribution from its regular budget to the GSP in 2024/2025.

Regular programme	Budget available (USD)
GSP Secretariat staff	965 880
GSP Plenary Assembly	100 000
Total	1 065 880

Table 2. Ongoing Technical Cooperation Programme projects funded by FAO's regular budget*

TCP projects	Total budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD) until 31 December 2023	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	462 836	-22 836
TCP /MEX/3901 Recarbonización de suelos silvopastoriles RECSOILMEX - Estudio de factibilidad	260 000	0	260 000
TCP /CPR/3806 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Black Soils in Jilin Province	200 000	176 920	23 080
TCP /VIE/3901 Support for development of national soil health strategy and action plan	400 000	9 387	390 613
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	385 328	14 672
TCP /MOR/3902 Appui technique au Département de l'Agriculture pour une gestion durable des sols au Maroc	150 000	10 904	139 096
TCP /RLA/3805 Apoyo a la cooperación regional para la gestión climática de los ecosistemas agrícolas con énfasis en agua y suelo	375 000	369 956	5 044
Total	2 225 000	1 415 331	809 669

*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 as of January 2024			
Voluntary contributions	Total budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD) until 31 December 2023	Budget available (USD)
GCP /GLO/1128/EC Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership	1 651 983	97 864	1 554 119
MTF/GLO/962/PHO Implementation of sustainable soil management through the Soil Doctors Programme and the Global Soil Laboratory Network	2 410 398	2 156 003	254 395
GCP /GLO/031/ROK Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia and National Soil Information Systems	2 150 000	1 410 882	739 118
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	1 365 869	634 131
GCP /GLO/1008/MUL Enhancing soil health & provision of ecosystem services by soils through RECISOIL and Soil Doctors	1 350 894	1 099 414	251 480
GCP /GLO/1127/USA Soil mapping for resilient agrifood systems in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa (SoilFER)	20 000 000	746 311	19 253 689
Total	29 563 275	6 876 343	22 686 932

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

Voluntary contributions	Total budget	Expenditure (USD) until 31 December 2023	Budget available (USD)
GCP /AZE/019/GFF Towards Land Degradation-Neutral Azerbaijan (FSP)	2 091 781	160 939	1 930 842
GCP /UGA/059/CPR Capacity development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa (1) - Uganda	500 000	497 755	2 245
GCP /RWA/040/CPR Capacity Development on sustainable Soil Management for Africa (2) - Rwanda	500 000	449 181	50 819
UTF /AZE/021/AZE Improvement of Seed and Agro-Chemical Lab and Certification Services under Agrarian Services Agency	1 800 000	273 694	1 526 306
GCP /SLC/214/GFF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable Food Systems Project: SOILCARE(FSP)	7 271 963	4 903 324	2 368 639
GCP /SLC/215/SCF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable Food Systems Project: SOILCARE-SCCF (FSP)	883 242	426 887	456 355
EP/BIH/018/GEF Creating an enabling environment to support the implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target in Bosnia and Herzegovina	843 242	32 178	811 064
GCP /MOL/006/GFF Enabling a policy environment for integrated natural resources management and implementation of an integrated approach to achieve land degradation neutrality in Moldova (MSP)	1 666 895	560 772	1 106 123

GCP /BOL/053/GFF Strengthening the integral and sustainable management of biodiversity and forests - Bolivian Chaco (FSP)	3 502 968	113 925	3 389 043
GCP /BOL/702/GFF Program to sustainably manage and restore land and biodiversity in the Guadalquivir Basin (FSP)	1 555 012	26 890	1 528 122
GCP /VEN/020/GFF Manejo integrado de paisajes de uso múltiple para el desarrollo sostenible de los Andes Venezolanos (FSP)	5 329 452	1 226 159	4 103 293
GCP /HON/050/GFF Protecting biodiversity and recovering degraded ecosystems - RECOVER Honduras (FSP)	1 726 484	369 091	1 357 393
GCP /KAZ/005/GFF Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland Project	1 940 367	26 699	1 913 668
GCP /SEC/293/GFF Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (`CACILM2`) (FSP)	10 874 659	9 086 968	1 787 691
GCP /UZB/020/GFF Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan (FSP)	3 776 941	498 618	3 278 323
GCP /TUV/001/GFF Integrated Agro-ecosystem Approach for enhancing Livelihoods and Climate Resilience in Tuvalu (FSP)	2 639 726	42 526	2 597 200
GCP /TRI/11259P/GFF Trinidad and Tobago - Nature Based Solutions in Productive Landscapes (PPG)	150 000	36 916	113 084
Total	47 052 732	18 732 522	28 320 210

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

Table 5. Expenditures on projects in 2023 (funds delivered/spent)

This table indicates the expenses of the year 2023 only, whereas the tables above indicate cumulative expenditures per project.

Total Spent in 2023	
Voluntary Contributions	Expenditures (USD)
GCP/AZE/019/GFF Towards Land Degradation-Neutral Azerbaijan (FSP)	160 939
MTF/GLO/962/PHO Implementation of Sustainable Soil Management through the Soil Doctors programme and the Global Soil Laboratory Network	171 442
GCP/GLO/031/ROK Development of the Soil Atlas of Asia and National Soil Information Systems	386 599
GCP/GLO/772/RUS Support to the promotion of sustainable soil management in the framework of the Global Soil Partnership - Phase III	740 172
GCP /RWA/040/CPR Capacity Development on sustainable Soil Management for Africa (2) - Rwanda	133 588
GCP /UGA/059/CPR Capacity development on Sustainable Soil Management for Africa (1) - Uganda	40 123
GCP /GLO/1008/MUL Enhancing soil health & provision of ecosystem services by soils through RECSOIL and Soil Doctors	611 122

UTF/AZE/021/AZE Improvement of Seed and Agro-Chemical Lab and Certification Services under Agrarian Services Agency	172 661
GCP/GLO/1127/USA Soil mapping for resilient agrifood systems in Central America and sub-Saharan Africa (SoilFER)	746 311
GCP/GLO/1128/EC Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership	97 864
GCP /SLC/214/GFF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable Food Systems Project: SOILCARE (FSP)	2 044 614
GCP /SLC/215/SCF Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable food systems Project: SOILCARE-SCCF (FSP)	-208
EP/BIH/018/GEF Creating an enabling environment to support the implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target in Bosnia and Herzegovina	32 178
GCP /MOL/006/GFF Enabling a policy environment for integrated natural resources management and implementation of an integrated approach to achieve land degradation neutrality in Moldova (MSP)	156 227
GCP /BOL/053/GFF Strengthening the integral and sustainable management of biodiversity and forests - Bolivian Chaco (FSP)	113 925
GCP /BOL/702/GFF Program to sustainably manage and restore land and biodiversity in the Guadalquivir Basin (FSP)	26 890
GCP /VEN/020/GFF Manejo integrado de paisajes de uso múltiple para el desarrollo sostenible de los Andes Venezolanos (FSP)	1 149 897
GCP /HON/050/GFF Protecting biodiversity and recovering degraded ecosystems - RECOVER Honduras (FSP)	268 439
GCP /KAZ/005/GFF Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland Project	26 698
GCP /SEC/293/GFF Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey (`CACILM2`) (FSP)	1 662 432
GCP /UZB/020/GFF Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan (FSP)	452 928
GCP /TUV/001/GFF Integrated Agro-ecosystem Approach for enhancing Livelihoods and Climate Resilience in Tuvalu (FSP)	42 526
GCP /TRI/11259P/GFF Trinidad and Tobago - Nature Based Solutions in Productive Landscapes (PPG)	36 916
Total	9 274 286

TCP projects	Expenditures (USD)
TCP/RAB/3802 Capacity development for the sustainable management of soil resources in the NENA region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	149 826
TCP/LIR/3804 Strengthening soil analysis and information systems to enhance sustainable soil management and support evidence-based decision making in Liberia	179 894
TCP/CPR/3806 Conservation and Sustainable Management of Black Soil in Jilin Province	86 388
TCP/RLA/3805 Apoyo a la cooperación regional para la gestión climática de los ecosistemas agrícolas con énfasis en agua y suelo	66 624
TCP/VIE/3901 Support for development of national soil health strategy and action plan	8 498
TCP/MOR/3902 Appui technique au Département de l'Agriculture pour une gestion durable des sols au Maroc	10 904
Total	502 134
Regular Programme	
GSP Secretariat staff	443 928
Plenary Assembly of GSP	55 600
Total	499 528
Overall Expenditures 2023	10 275 948