

The Global Soil Partnership

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Global Soil Partnership | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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

Since its creation, the GSP has become an important partnership where global soil issues are discussed and addressed by multiple stakeholders. Key outputs demonstrate that the partnership was needed to fill an existing gap in the promotion of sustainable soil management. Among those outputs are: (i) the establishment of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, (ii) the submission of the proposal for a UN World Soil Day (5 December) and the International Year of Soils 2015, (iii) the preparation of the revised World Soil Charter, (iv) the production of the Status of the World's Soil Resources (SWSR) report, (v) the establishment of Regional Soil Partnerships, (vi) the establishment of national soil information systems and (vii) the development of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM), which were endorsed by the FAO Council in December 2016. Ultimately, a series of global symposiums on the ten soil threats identified in the SWSR are being annually organized by the GSP as a mean to implement the VGSSM.

Additionally, the GSP is posing great attention on capacity building on digital soil mapping in developing countries, which is needed also to report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, the year 2017 was dedicated to organize trainings on digital soil organic carbon (SOC) mapping resulting in the development of national SOC maps and the first-ever global soil organic carbon (GSOC) map, produced using a bottom-up approach and needed to report on SDG 15.3.1.

Keywords: Global Soil Partnership, Soil governance, Soil threats, Sustainable Development Goals, Sustainable Soil Management, Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management.