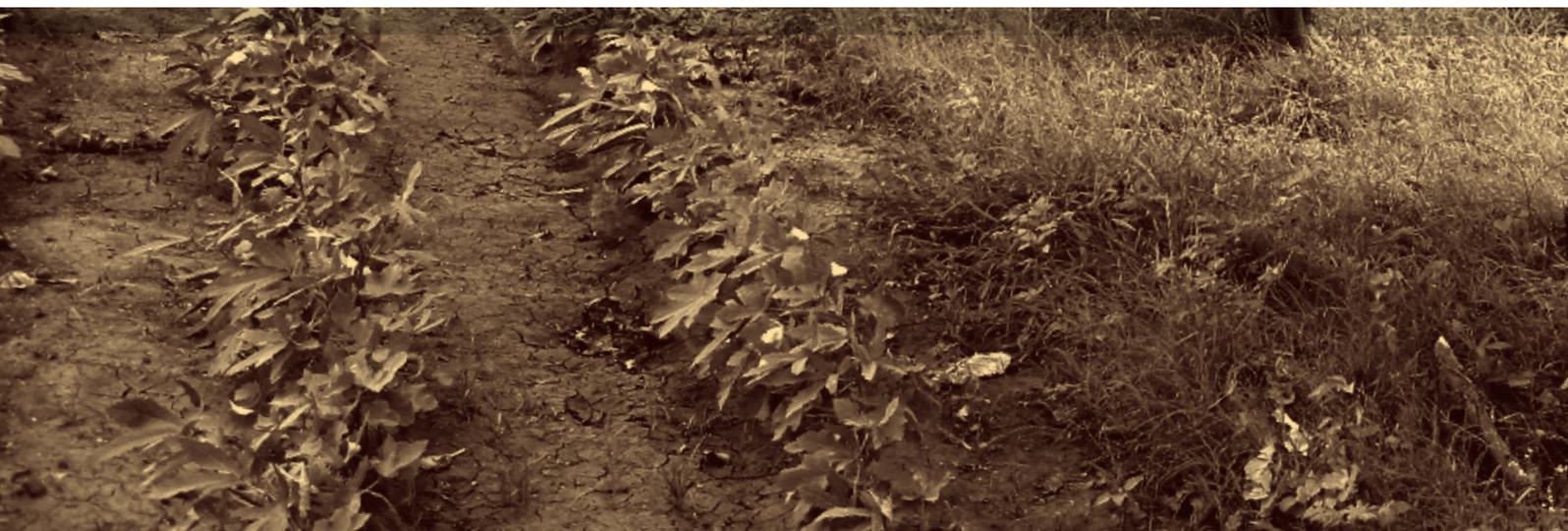




GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP



WHY A GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP?

CURRENT SCENARIO

Increasing land degradation, impacts of climate change, drought and desertification resulting in lower productivity of arable lands and ecosystem services.

TRENDS

Population growth and diet change require increased demand for food, water, fiber, forage, bioenergy and further environmental services.

SOIL RESOURCE

Acknowledged for its key role in ensuring food security and ecosystems services. Yet fragile resource because of its nature (non renewable on human time frame).

RESPONSES BY MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Many efforts addressing soil resource, but mainly: fragmented, uncoordinated, not addressing current challenges, not involving local communities and institutions.

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

“SECURING SOIL RESOURCES TODAY, GUARANTEEING HUMAN LIVES TOMORROW”

- A Global Soil Partnership as unified and authoritative voice for advocating, raising awareness and coordinating global actions on soils as a vital resource for achieving sustainable development beyond Rio+20.
- A GSP addressing the linkages between food security, ecosystem services, sustainable development and poverty reduction by promoting the sustainable management of soils at all levels based on the best science available and considering the diverse regional contexts.

VISION AND MISSION

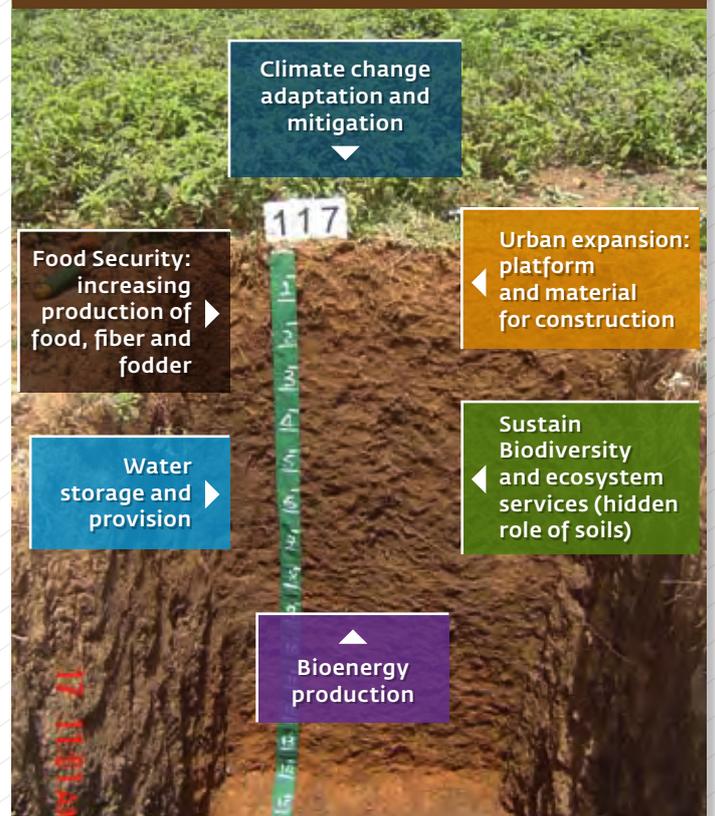
- The Global Soil Partnership's vision is to improve global governance of the limited soil resources of the planet in order to guarantee healthy and productive soils for a food secure world, and to sustain other essential ecosystem services.
- The Global Soil Partnership's mission is to develop awareness and contribute to the development of capacities, build on best available science, and facilitate/contribute to the exchange of knowledge and technologies among stakeholders for sustainable management of soil resources at all levels.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Through enhanced and applied knowledge about soil resources, the Global Soil Partnership will:

- Create and promote awareness among stakeholders that healthy soils and sustainable soil management are the precondition for human well-being;
- Address critical soil issues that are globally and regionally relevant for sustaining the provisioning ecosystem services through soils, paying attention to links with water and other resources;
- Guide acquisition of soil knowledge and targeted research in accordance with national conditions and needs to address applied challenges on the ground;
- Develop sustainable management strategies for different soils considering their potentials and limitations for different types of uses;
- Promote access to soil information and advocate the need for new soil surveys and data collection;
- Promote investment and technical cooperation in all related soil issues to address fundamental issues in different regions;
- Promote institutional strengthening and capacity development of soil institutions at local, national, regional and interregional levels; and
- Promote necessary public and governmental awareness of soils through recognition of the World Soil Day (December 5th) and celebration of the International year of Soils.

SOILS UNDER PRESSURE: EXPECTED SOIL FUNCTIONS IN 2012 AND BEYOND



PILLARS OF ACTION

Because it's everywhere, we tend to overlook the fact that soil is a limited natural resource.

The GSP will address five main pillars of action:

- 1 Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity.
- 2 Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soils.
- 3 Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions.
- 4 Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines;
- 5 Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources;



Soils, the foundation of agricultural development and ecological sustainability, provide the basis for food, feed, fuel and fiber production, clean water availability, nutrient cycling, organic carbon stocks, one quarter of global biodiversity, and serve as a platform for construction and construction material.

The world's limited area of healthy soils are increasingly under pressure from competing land uses. Soil degradation threatens this vital resource, weakening efforts to increase food production for a growing population.

Soils are often perceived as a second-tier priority and no international governance body to support coordinated global action on their management exists. A unified and authoritative voice for soil management is needed to better coordinate efforts and pool limited resources.

The Global Soil Partnership aims to address the soil issues from the field using the best science possible. Regional partnerships will implement the actions of the GSP, while addressing local needs with local stakeholders and fostering south-south cooperation. Technical guidance to the Global Soil Partnership will be provided by an Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils.

The ultimate twinned goal of the GSP is the sustainable management and productive use of the soil resources of the world.

Soil resources are limited and need to be preserved for feeding the growing population of the world by 2050.



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