Outcomes of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon 2017

Luca Montanarella

European Commission
GSP-ITPS Chair
IPBES-LDRA Co-Chair
THE 27 SCIENTISTS MEMBERS OF THE ITPS 2015-2018
Proposed by GSP Partners and nominated by FAO Members

NORTH AMERICA
• Mr. Dan Pennock (Canada)
• Mr. Gary M. Pierzynsky (United States of America)

EUROPE
Chair: Mr. Luca Montanarella (EC)
• Mr. Gunay Erpul (Turkey)
• Mr. Rainer Horn (Germany)
• Mr. Peter de Ruiter (The Netherlands)
• Mr. Pavel Krasilnikov (Russian Federation)

AFRICA
• Mr. Nsalambi V. Nkongolo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
• Mr. Bhanooduth Lalljee (Mauritius)
• Ms. Isaurinda dos Santos Baptista Costa (Cape Verde)
• Ms. Botle Mapeshoane (Lesotho)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
• Mr. Juan Antonio Comerma (Venezuela)
• Mr. Miguel Taboada (Argentina)
• Ms. Maria de Lourdes Mendonca Santos Breffin (Brazil)
• Mr. Fernando Garcia Préchach (Uruguay)
• Ms. Oneyda Hernandez Lara (Cuba)

ASIA
• Mr. Patiram Brajendra (India)
• Mr. Sopon Chomchan (Thailand)
• Mr. Kazuyuki Yagi (Japan)
• Mr. Bahruloom Amanullah (Pakistan)
• Mr. Gan-Lin Zhang (China)

NEAR EAST
• Mr. Talal Darwish (Lebanon)
• Mr. Ahmad S. Muhaimeed (Iraq)
• Mr. Saeb AbdelHaleem Khresat (Jordan)

SOUTH WEST PACIFIC
• Mr. Neil McKenzie (Australia)
• Mr. Siosiua Halavatau (Tonga)

1 also members of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land Degradation
2 also members of the IPBES Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment
3 also member of the IPCC Elaboration of the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
Interface with other pertinent bodies and initiatives

- **IPCC**
  - Formally recognized as observer organization within IPCC plenary
  - *Global Soil Organic Carbon Symposium 2017*

- **IPBES**
  - Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment

- **UNCCD-SPI**
  - *Global Soil Organic Carbon Symposium 2017*
  - Global Soil Organic Carbon map (SDG 15.3 Sub-Indicator)
  - Global Soil Erosion Assessment

- **4pour1000**
  - Participation as observer in the 4pour1000 Committee for Science and Technology meetings
Milestone event

• One of the largest scientific events held at FAO
• Successful and timely delivery of mandate to collaborate with other panels and organize thematic conferences related to climate change and food security
• First event co-organized by different UN organizations on the role of SOC for climate change, food security and SDGs agendas and gather scientific evidence for policy development
Participants

- 488 participants from 111 countries
Communication

• Symposium opened with remarks by the FAO Director-General Graziano da Silva and by President of the Republic of Fiji

• Broad online media coverage: Reuters, EFE, APP (Pak), El Pais, Fiji TV, Pacific Island News Association, Daily Mail (UK), Fiji Times, The Nation (Pak), Pan African Press (Sen), El Nuevo Diario (Nic), Neue Zuricher Zeitung (CH), Las Provincias.
Dedicated website and news release in all official FAO languages, webcast, slideshare.

Video animation on SOC

Intensive promotion in social media platforms (facebook, Twitter), expert interviews.
Communication toolkit

• Launch of the first SOC reference book
• GSOC17 welcome kit
Scientific Outreach

• Over 100 oral and 34 poster presentations
  → Proceedings
  → Special Issues in *Global Change Biology*
    and in *SOIL* (tbc)

Main Outcome

→ Outcome Document
  (supported by messages from three themes, revised by co-organizing panels)
Recommendations
Outcome Document

• **Prevent SOC losses** by maintaining current SOC stocks (especially in carbon-rich soils) as the minimum action on SOC management.

• **Prioritize soils with the highest carbon stocks** in the development of national and regional policies on soil conservation to prevent SOC losses.

• **Support land-users sufficiently** to implement and sustain appropriate soil and land management practices to protect and enhance SOC under local conditions for long-term benefit.
Recommendations
Outcome Document

• Organize **capacity development** and training for countries to **develop national reference values for SOC stocks**, as well as the necessary data management capacities and facilities.

• Establish a working group to develop feasible and regionally contextualized **guidelines for measuring, mapping, monitoring and reporting on SOC** that can be adapted locally to monitor SOC stocks and stock changes to support management decisions.
Recommendations Outcome Document

• In estimates of the potential for SOC sequestration, include the full GHG balance and consider possible interactions between the carbon and nitrogen cycles that could affect the climate change mitigation potential of applied practices.

• The design of implementation strategies and appropriate soil and land management practices for SOC protection and sequestration should consider land use and the local environmental, socio-economic, cultural and institutional contexts, and potential barriers to adoption.

• Identify and specify the tangible short-term and long-term benefits for farmers of management practices for SOC sequestration to trigger their adoption, and introduce mechanisms to incentivize the adoption of such practices.
Further actions

- Submit Outcome Document to: COP13-UNCCD, COP23-UNFCCC, COP CBD, FAO Council
- Implementation of the International Network of Black Soils (launched at the GSOC17)
- Establish two working groups under the GSP:
  1. to develop guidelines for measuring, mapping, monitoring and reporting on SOC
  2. In line with the VGSSM, develop a technical manual on managing SOC at regional and national level
Soil Organic Carbon Data

SDG (2.4, 15.2, 15.3)
Rio+20

UNCCD
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNFCCC/IPCC
IPCC AR, GHG (MRV) (AFOLU), INDC, REDD+

GSP
UN World Soil Charter
Voluntary Guidelines for SSM
Global Soil information System and SoilSTAT

UN-FAOSTAT
FAO STAT (agro-env indicators and UN statistics), Agriculture productivity

UNCBD/IPBES
National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Aichi Targets
Convention on Biological Diversity

Pillar 4 | INFORMATION and DATA
GSOCmap Product Timeline
Thank you for your interest!

http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu