



« 4 per 1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and the Climate »

Document Consortium 6-1: Report 5th Consortium - Madrid



6th Meeting of the Consortium

Thursday 10th December 2020

12:00 to 14:00

Online via ZOOM

Opening

The Consortium meeting was officially opened by the President of the day, Mr. Wolfgang ZORNBAACH,

The **agenda** (see document 5-0) was approved.

The **report of the fourth meeting of the Consortium** (see document 5-1) in Katowice on December 12, 2018 was also approved.

General matters:

Formal welcome of new partners and members to the Initiative since the last Consortium meeting (see document 5-2):

Since the fourth meeting of the Consortium in Katowice in December 2018, the Board established in August 2019 validated a list of **58 new partners and 23 new members** at its second meeting. Since then, 19 new organizations and countries have applied to join the Initiative as partners or members. The files of each organization provided by the applicants have been previously verified by the Executive Secretariat (ExSec).

The Consortium validated all the new membership applications as presented by the Executive Secretariat and confirmed those validated by the Bureau. **In total for 2019, 76 new organizations and countries have signed up to become partners (76), some of which have also signed up to become members (29).** The following table summarizes the situation:

	Partner	Among which Member
Countries and provinces	4	3
International Organisations	0	0
Banks / Development Funds	0	0
Foundations	0	0
Producers Organizations	8	2
Research Instituts & universities	6	5
Civil Society/NGOs	29	19
For-Profit or commercial Organizations	29	0
Total 2019	76	29

The Executive Secretariat was requested to present the applications for membership in a document outlining the motivations and activities of the applicants in relation to the Initiative, either for validation by the Bureau or by the Consortium.

Activity Report 2018-2019 (see document Forum 4-2)

The Executive Secretary presented the activities carried out in 2019. The Consortium validated this report.

Report on the activities of the "Bureau" since its creation (see document 5-3):

The Executive Secretariat presented the way in which the Bureau had been constituted following the decision of its creation taken by the Consortium at its meeting in Katowice, through an elective process within each college (with the exception of that of the companies that are not part of the Consortium) which took place on June 12 and July 1, 2019 by electronic means.

The Bureau thus constituted held two meetings in 2019, and focused its work on:

- The preparation of the Terms of Reference for the Bureau (presented in the documents for the Consortium);
- Validation of new partners and members between two Consortium meetings;
- The elaboration of a mechanism for selecting and proposing to the Consortium scientists to be appointed to the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Initiative, notably through the creation of an ad hoc selection committee;
- The animation within each college;
- The preparation of the annual day of the Initiative organized during the COP.

In conclusion, the Consortium of Members thanks the Bureau for its work in 2019 and confirms this work.

Partial renewal of the membership of the CST on the proposal of the Bureau (see document 5-4):

The Executive Secretariat summarized the decisions previously taken by the Consortium on this matter, namely:

- Exceptional extension of the first term of the members of the Scientific and Technical Committee by one year to 3 years (until the end of 2020) ;
- replacement of Professor Pete SMITH who wished to retire at the end of his two-year term, by Dr. Beverley HENRY, of Australian nationality.
- replacement of the volunteer members of the STC at the 5th meeting of the Consortium (4 in number), in December 2019, and to entrust the newly created Bureau with the work of selecting and proposing new STC members for appointment to the Consortium.

He also specified the procedure put in place to ensure the selection of new CST members (call for candidates, establishment of an ad hoc selection committee by the Bureau, work of this committee and proposals made to the Bureau on a list of selected candidates), and presented the list of the 4 scientists proposed by the Bureau to the Consortium for nomination.

Discussion and decision:

The Consortium took good note of these proposals, noting however that although this list respected the geographical distribution of candidates and the gender balance within the CST, it did not address the under-representation of socio-economic skills.

After clarifications were made on the composition of the list transmitted by the Bureau (list ranked in order of selection and not an open list), the Consortium decided to appoint the first two scientists at the top of the list (Professor **Budiman MINASNY** from Australia and Professor **Saïdou Nourou SALL** from Senegal) and to request the Executive Secretariat to proceed with a new call for candidates specifically reserved for socio-economists and/or economists, and then to ask the Bureau to propose to it for validation by electronic means a list of two names composed of at least one woman. This new selection and nomination process should take place before the next meeting of the CST so that the CST can meet in its entirety.

Proposals of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the 2020 Roadmap and on the vision and mission of the Initiative (see presentation made during the session by the CST Chair).

Dr. **Cornelia RUMPEL**, President of the STC, presented the following orientations and recommendations to the Consortium:

- The Consortium should provide the Initiative with a vision and an action plan to provide a framework for countries/regions to develop policies to facilitate the increase of soil organic carbon (SOC).
- The Initiative must continue its actions to raise awareness about COS, and the Consortium must encourage actions on 4 major topics:
 - o Promote the conduct of studies by countries/regions to assess COS stock changes and stockpiling potential with the aim of including COS in NDCs;
 - o Quantify changes in COS stocks for different land uses and land management practices in order to set up COS monitoring systems;
 - o Facilitate international coordination of COS research through the creation of an International Research Consortium (IRC).
 - o Promote the adoption of good practices through shared innovations, facilitating the establishment of "living laboratories".
- The Consortium must appoint 2 new members of the CST on the basis of proposals made by the ad hoc selection committee and request a new call for applications to select the two remaining members to be appointed.
- The number of meetings outside the COPs should be increased to facilitate and accelerate exchanges and interactions between the CST and the Consortium.

Discussion and Decision:

The Consortium members took the opportunity of this agenda item to stress the importance for the Initiative to have a long-term strategic document that would allow partners and members to make long-term commitments to soil organic carbon. Like the major conventions that emerged from Rio, and in the context of the UN SDGs, it is vital that the Initiative positions itself in this environment, provides itself with a vision and an action plan, as well as a methodology for achieving its objectives. The strategy of the Initiative should thus include a vision, one or several missions, and a series of concrete objectives that can be translated into an action plan.

In terms of timing, COP 26 seemed a reasonable deadline, but several members having pointed out the large number of high-level meetings starting in June 2020, it was decided to prepare an advanced version of the strategy by the end of May, with the objective of validating the Consortium electronically in the process. The interest of a face-to-face meeting for this exercise having been marked, this solution was not retained by the Consortium, preferring a written consultation.

In conclusion, the Consortium of Members requests the Executive Secretariat to develop with the Bureau a Strategy for the Initiative, which it will validate electronically at the end of the first half of 2020.

Roadmap 2020 (see document 5-5)

The Executive Secretary presented the proposed roadmap for the year 2020.

Among other things, it foresees:

- 1) *Continuation of the work of the Scientific and Technical Committee, in particular*

- Research axes and scientific cooperation
 - Work on project evaluation (a second international call for projects will be launched; partners are invited to submit a project for evaluation)
 - Engaged in discussions on harmonization and standardization of COS monitoring, reporting and auditing.
- 2) *Continued work on the collaborative platform and its operation through a change in carrier software.*
- Identification of all partners in the initiative; asks partners to be very active on the platform
 - Maps with geographical location of members and partners
 - Creation of a place to collect information on practices
 - Development of the work within each college, and the creation of a group of friends of the "4 per 1000".
- 3) *Specific work to be done with public and private donors*
- Continuation of the donor awareness and fundraising campaign
 - Building a network of partnerships
 - Building on the Consortium's decision to create a foundation.
 - Work on the consideration of green finance and the carbon markets initiative
- 4) *Establishment of a regional level within the initiative*
- Promotion of the initiative
 - Organization of meetings at the regional level
- 5) *Contributing to international discussions on soil carbon sequestration*
- Create synergies by participating in and contributing to cross-exchanges
 - Open Forum meetings to other stakeholders
 - Promote a harmonized vision between the different UN agencies and the three Rio conventions.
- 6) *Communication*
- Development and animation of the group of regional correspondents
 - The website must be maintained at all times
 - Continued publication of the newsletter in French, English and Spanish.
 - Development of press relations
 - Presence of the initiative on social networks/social media

Feedback from the audience:

It is suggested to the Executive Secretariat to privilege the use of a unique logo (currently the logo is declined in 3 languages: French, English and Spanish) in order to harmonize the communication supports, probably around "4p1000" currently used for the e-mail addresses and the web site.

The Consortium validates the roadmap proposed by the Executive Secretariat.

Statutory meetings and meetings related to the "4 per 1000" initiative in 2020 (see document 5-6):

The Executive Secretary presented the list of STC and Initiative meetings in 2020 with possible locations. STC meetings will be held back-to-back with other relevant meetings/conferences.

For example, back-to-back with the Latin America regional meeting in June in Brazil, or the 4th Day of the Initiative in Glasgow in November.

Comments from the audience:

The next COP 26 in Glasgow will have a strong "Agriculture" footprint with the end of the so-called Koronivia discussions and perhaps a new impetus, especially during the first week. It is suggested to think about the possibility of scheduling the Initiative Day during this week in order to benefit from the presence of delegations and "agriculture" experts, even though the experience in Madrid shows that negotiations can take place night and day, leaving little or no space for a meeting like the Initiative Day. The Consortium relies on the wisdom of the Executive Secretariat and the Presidency.

The IUCN GA, scheduled for June in Marseilles, should be the occasion for parallel meetings on agriculture and nature-based solutions. The "4 per 1000" Initiative would have all its place for the organization of such a side event.

It is suggested to the Executive Secretariat to plan a joint meeting of the Bureau and the CST on the occasion of the next COP.

The Consortium validates the calendar proposed by the Executive Secretariat.

Financial and human resources issues (including information on the composition of the ExSec)
Adoption of the 2020 budget (see document 5-7):

The Executive Secretary presents the balance sheet for fiscal year 2019 and the projected budget for 2020. The budget is roughly equivalent to last year with a main budget of €721,000, to which would be added €240,000 for the organization of regional meetings, for a total annual budget of €961,000.

Comments from the audience:

- The representative of Ird confirms a financial contribution to the Initiative, the amount of which is still to be determined;
- The representative of the French Ministry of Agriculture announced an amount of €100,000 for 2020 and the continued secondment of the Executive Secretary;
- The representative of the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture announced a contribution whose form and amount are yet to be determined;
- The representative of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture announced an amount of €20,200 for 2020 and the continued secondment of the Science Officer;
- The representative of the German Ministry of Agriculture confirmed the continued provision of experts to the Executive Secretariat, and its willingness to finance one or more projects;
- The representative of CIRAD confirms the continued secondment of a part-time person to the Executive Secretariat.

In addition, the Executive Secretariat clarified the tax regime applicable to the Executive Secretariat of the Initiative. Thanks to its hosting by an international organization having a headquarters agreement with France, the CGIAR System Organization, Executive Secretariat of the "4 per 1000" Initiative which does not have a legal status, benefits indirectly from a tax exemption regime for services and goods. Its operating budget is therefore not burdened by the payment of taxes to the country of its headquarters.

The Consortium validates the 2020 budget proposed by the Executive Secretariat.

Change of scale with a "4 per 1000" foundation (see document 5-8):

The Executive Secretariat presented the results of the in-depth study carried out by Beatrice BRETON-ASKAR concerning the options to strengthen the resources of the Executive

Secretariat. The first one consists in raising mandatory contributions for the private partners of the Initiative according to their size, and the second one is based on the creation of a foundation under French law within the framework of the Fondation de France or the Institut de France.

Comments from the audience:

Clarification on the fact that the proposal of contributions was not for decision but simply informative.

Clarification on the fact that a foundation would make it possible to attract private funding (companies and individuals) that could benefit from tax receipts. This foundation would serve primarily to finance the operations of the Executive Secretariat, and possibly, depending on the funds available, to finance operational projects in the field, particularly those resulting from positive evaluations by the STC.

On the basis of these clarifications, the Consortium of Members approves the principle of the creation of a "4 per 1000" Foundation and requests the Executive Secretariat to continue the work in order to submit to it, after examination by the Bureau, a document on the creation of such a foundation for approval at its next meeting.

Report of the Symposium « Agriculture is the solution! for climate change » at Shiga (Japan):

From 13 to 17 May 2019, the Symposium "Agriculture is the solution! for climate change" was held in Asia. It was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, in collaboration with FAO and the "4 per 1000" Initiative. The Executive Secretary presented the details and results of this Symposium in Asia.

This Symposium was organized on three days, with a very high assistance on the first day (about 700 participants with an introduction by the Minister of Agriculture of Japan), a field trip on the second day and a workshop on the third one gathering 130 persons. A seminar involving about 20 persons from IPCC, FAO, MAFF Japan and "4 per 1000" Initiative was organized on the fourth day. The main conclusions and recommendations from those meetings are the following.

Key messages:

All participants highlighted the extreme vulnerability of agriculture to climate change and its variability and, the urgency of accelerating action before it is too late, as evidenced by the IPCC special report on 1.5°C.

Agriculture is a uniquely placed, lying at the interface of food security, nutrition and other human needs, meaning that only a holistic approach can tackle the inter-linked challenges underlying food and agriculture systems under climate change, including biodiversity loss, land degradation, ecosystem pollution and health impacts, and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

This also leads to the recognition that adaptation and mitigation cannot be separated when concerning the agriculture sectors.

Key Messages: agriculture

Multistakeholders exchanges, bringing together farmers, governmental and non-state actors, such as civil society organizations, communities, researchers and academics, and the other private and public food systems' stakeholders, are fundamental for inclusive decision-making and the successful uptake of climate actions on the ground.

Farmers are at the center of addressing climate change and are key to scaling up proven solutions. We need champion farmers to share good practices and testify as to what works.

Consumers, governments and all stakeholders in this common challenge must recognize the valuable role of farmers, at the forefront of climate change and the caregivers of global food security and nutrition.

Key Messages: Soil and Soil organic Carbon

Healthy soils offer multiple win in terms of food security, mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and other ecosystem services.

There is an urgent need to better inform farmers of the importance of maintaining or increasing when possible soil carbon for healthy and fertile soils, their livelihoods and addressing climate change. There is also an urgent need to support farmers, who like to do more.

Risk-responsive support mechanisms must be put in place to support farmers to maintain healthy soils and address climate-related risks, including economic incentives and certification schemes, access to insurance, timely information and easy-to-implement measurement and monitoring systems.

Long term experiments should be facilitated in order to allow sciences to provide results based on long enough series.

Consortium conclusion

At 18:30, the agenda having been finished, the meeting was closed by the President, Mr. **Wolfgang ZORNBACH**.