



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

Document Consortium 6-5



6th Meeting of the Consortium

Wednesday 10 December 2020

13:00 to 15:00

Online with Zoom

Roadmap for 2021 and long-term perspectives

In line with the actions carried out in 2020 by the Executive Secretariat of the Initiative and in the context of the Strategic Plan of the Initiative (reference to the objective(s) of the Plan mentioned in the title or sub-title of activities), it is proposed that the following activities will be undertaken during the year 2021, including some long-term perspectives.

1) Continuation of the work of the Scientific and Technical Committee

a) Research orientations and scientific cooperation (Objective A6)

- Continue the **precise inventory of research actions currently conducted** in terms of carbon sequestration in soils and the results available to have an overall vision of research gaps and needs, with the support of partners from the College "Research and Education Institutions"; **Identification of promising research projects that needs to be supported**;
- Follow and strengthen collaboration with projects such as CIRCASA, SOCa, CaSA network and other programs, initiatives and collective projects of scientific cooperation in the field of soil carbon sequestration in order to have a **global vision of "who does what and where", to establish a thematic and geographical mapping of these partnerships** (synthesis document and mapping to be posted on the Initiative website and the collaborative platform); In particular in 2021, contribute to the **constitution of the International Research Consortium** that will be put in place at the end of the CIRCASA Project, at the end of the first quarter of 2021;
- Increase the collaborative work with partners, in particular CIRCASA, on the **mapping of "hotspots"** where soil carbon sequestration potential is highest, or soil carbon loss is most urgent to be tackled.

b) Work on projects evaluation (Objectives A2-A3-A6-B3-B4-C4-E3)

- On the basis of the procedure and the documentations elaborated by the STC, and of the two first editions of the call (2019 and 2020), perenise **an annual international call for projects** that will be assessed with the help of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the Executive Secretariat. All positively assessed projects will be proposed to funders for support.
- Continuation of the development of **specifications for the development of a tool or further adaptive development of an existing tool** to facilitate self-assessment by project holders before consideration by the STC and to facilitate the evaluation through the STC.

- Continue to work with funder agencies, donors and organizations quality assurance in voluntary carbon markets to **mainstream the inclusion of soil carbon in existing project evaluation and certification schemes on the basis of the "4 per 1000" Initiative's set of indicators and criteria.**

c) Other works (Objectives A4-A5-B4-E1-E2)

- Contribute to the elaboration by the Bureau and the Executive Secretariat of a **plan of actions for the "4 per 1000" Initiative**, based on the Strategic Plan;
- Continuation of the production of **synthesis documents on the scientific aspects of the "4 per 1000" Initiative** such as position papers, and scientific synthesis;
- **Continuation of the active contribution to the elaboration of documents concerning the implementation or the elaboration**, with the participation of the actors in the fields (farmers, foresters, etc ...) **of good practices** making it possible to increase the quantity of carbon stored in the soils, in accordance with the objectives of the "4 per 1000" Initiative;
- Active contribution to the **drafting of a global book on the "4 per 1000" Initiative.**
- Actively contribute on **discussions regarding harmonization and standardization of measuring, monitoring, reporting and verifying soil carbon**, through collaboration with the Global Soil Laboratory Network of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), the national standards bodies of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the certification organizations. In addition, promote the knowledge sharing and co-creation through country case studies on enhanced and harmonized reporting of soil carbon under the three Rio Conventions in line with national natural resource planning and management.

2) Continued work on the collaborative platform and its operation (Objectives B2-B3-D1-F3)

Thanks to the improvements brought to the version 2.0 of the Collaborative Platform, it really started to be animated by partners with the help of the Executive Secretariat to meet the expectations of the users.

Users will be encouraged to use the platform, along the following lines:

a) Clear identification of all partners in the Initiative

All **partners** of the Initiative will need to have a **descriptive sheet describing its activities and interests**, in order to enable the most efficient networking possible. The posters having been prepared for the meetings of the Consortium in Montpellier (June 2017), Bonn (November 2017), and Katowice (December 2018) and Madrid (December 2019) have been and will be used to feed these sheets, with the help of partners themselves. A large part of the work was conducted in 2019, but some partners and members have still to provide the relevant information.

b) Maps with geographic location of members and partners

A **mapping tool accessible from the Initiative's website** was set up in December 2019 to easily locate partners and members of the Initiative and to allow contact between

neighboring partners. But some additional works have to be done in line with the new version of the website.

c) Establishment of a place for collecting information on practices

The objective will be to establish the most exhaustive **inventory of existing agricultural and forestry practices** around the world, in lines with the objectives of the "4 per 1000" Initiative. A standardized descriptive sheet inspired by the work developed in collaboration with the GSP following the GSOC 2017 or by WOCAT, will be developed including a precise description of the practice (including tutorials), its conceptual bases (field experience or scientific), the results obtained, and the areas concerned.

The objective is clearly now to implement and update **a global digital data base on good practices** according to agro-pedo-climatic areas of the world in close collaboration with existing data bases (WOCAT and FAO for instance) and active stakeholders in that sector. Regional contribution could be helpful in that context. **This data base should be based on existing data bases and developed in partnership with all other stakeholders working in that domain, in order to avoid duplication.**

d) Development of work within each college

Within each college of the Forum, on the base of the work of the past meetings of the Forum, and the animation started by the elected members of the Bureau, and the work with the Task-Forces on the Strategic Plan, a global plan of action will be prepared.

Support mechanisms will be set in place, financial availability permitting, **in order to facilitate the participations and contributions of representatives from farmers and foresters** at regional or global meetings organized by the "4 per 1000" Initiative, as main actors in the field.

e) Creation of the "Friends of the 4 per 1000" Group

Creation of the "Friends of the 4 per 1000" Group by **opening the collaborative platform to actors in the fields including farmers and people who support the Initiative**, which can relay the information and become true ambassadors through the animation of the group, the creation of key topics on the forum, the development of a database of information accessible to all.

3) Specific work to be done with public and private funders

In order to accelerate the outreach to donors, it is imperative that the Initiative acts in favor of the widest possible mobilization of public and private funds to support the actions implemented by the project holders in the field. In this respect, it will be necessary to conduct the following actions, in the continuation of the work done in 2019.

a) Funders engagement and partnerships (Objectives C3-D4-E3)

After a large **donors' awareness and fundraising campaign conducted in 2019**, and interesting returns from funders, results remained lower than expectation. We need to accelerate sustainable fundraising for projects in the field and pay special attention to the expectations of funders in terms of evaluation and project indicators.

Building a network of strategic partnerships is one of the major keys to enter funding mechanisms which are very complex and different from one organization to another. Alliance with 2nd and/or 3rd parties are strategic to build upon key common experiences and is, also, the way to involve the beneficiary. In general, and whenever possible, it will be pursued that donors become partners of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.

On the basis of the selection of promising projects assessed by the STC following the annual call for projects for assessment, **work with donors in order to find financial support to hire consultants to conduct feasibility study for those projects** and allow them to reach the next stage for funding consideration by funders.

b) Seeking funding for the Executive Secretariat of the Initiative (Objective F2)

The leadership of the Executive Secretariat is vital to the Initiative and is only possible with the allocation of funding for its day-to-day operations. Beyond the support of the members and partners of the Initiative, **support by international foundations will be sought to secure and sustain this operation** from year to year.

The Resources mobilization position is key to support, in these specific tasks, the Executive Secretariat who has not enough resource to secure funding by itself.

The Consortium members will be encouraged to consider a multi-party contribution to secure the perenisation of this position. The total cost of this position could be equally split between a defined number of members.

c) Work on taking into account the Green finance and the Carbon Markets Initiative (Objectives A5-B3)

The **inclusion of soil carbon in carbon (offsetting) markets are a potential source of funding for the "4 per 1000" players in the field**. The reflection work based on the existing will be continued to consider the possibility to have access to such funding mechanisms.

d) Exploration of the possibilities and the usefulness of the creation of a foundation (Objective F2)

The "4 per 1000" Initiative is not intended to manage funding or funds for the development of practices, projects or policies to achieve its objectives. But in the context of the two first items [a) and b)], and in order to identify a way for the "4 per 1000" Initiative to have a greater autonomy to get certain means of work, **the creation of a foundation could be launched**, as it was decided by the Consortium of Members in Madrid in December 2019. However, in the light of the change of hosting entity (from CGIAR SO to the Alliance) from January 1st, 2021, possibility to receive funds from donors directly through the Alliance channel will be explored beforehand.

4) Establishment of a regional level within the Initiative

The partners and members have a particular interest in the region in which they are located. By working with the local relays they constitute, regionally specific possible actions can be identified.

a) Promotion of the Initiative (Objectives C1-C2-C3)

With the support of the Executive Secretariat, **each partner and member can promote the Initiative and build membership around it**. The process and the necessary documents are online on the Initiative's website and a communication kit was provided to all partners. A proactive action by everyone can significantly increase its overall impact.

b) Organization of meetings at regional level (Objective D2)

At the level of large regions (North, Central and South America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and Southern Africa, North Africa and Middle East, Europe, Central Asia, South-East, Oceania, etc.), the exchange of experiences, projects and knowledges are

promoted through the organization of regional forums. Synergies could be found with existing regional networks (eg. The Regional Soil Partnerships of the GSP) to build such gatherings.

Thanks to voluntary local relays among partners and members of the Initiative this local organization started in 2018 and continue in 2021. The aim is to organize regional forums regularly (every two to three years), as it was the case in Johannesburg for the Africa continent in October 2018, in Shiga (Japan) for Asia in May 2019, and online for North America in May 2020.

In 2021, priorities could be on the organization of such a meeting in Latin America, Europe and South-East Asia. Furthermore, a partnership with already planned large regional meetings, such as the **“African Agriculture Adaptation” Initiative** or **Global Landscapes Forum**, will be pursued.

5) Contribution to international debates on carbon sequestration in soils (Objectives A4-A6-D4)

Other initiatives, programs and partnerships include promoting the sequestration of carbon in soils. It is imperative in the continuation of the work done from 2016, in order not to duplicate their respective actions, to **create synergies in participating and contributing to cross-exchanges.**

- Participation in meetings, symposia and other conferences on this subject (targeting should be done to avoid dispersal, as well as the establishment of a calendar);
- Open the meetings of the Initiative Forum to other actors thinking about joining the "4 per 1000" Initiative, as it was done since Bonn in 2017;
- Address the issue of exchanges and synergies to be put in place during the other statutory meetings of the Initiative (Forum, Consortium and STC).
- Promote a harmonized view among different UN agencies (e.g. FAO, UNDP, UNEP, IFAD, etc.) and the three Rio conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD) on the topic of soil carbon sequestration.

6) Communication (Objectives C1-C2-C3)

In line with the actions launched or continued in 2020, actions in 2021 will follow 4 main lines:

- Supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- Encourage commitments and actions;
- To further expand the reach of the "4 per 1000" Initiative;
- Forge even more links with partners to maximize synergy.

The communication strategy and actions are in line with the Strategic Plan of the "4 per 1000" Initiative. Communication will support the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

a) Collaborative platform (version 2 in 2020)

Continued work on the hub, in particular:

- Animation of the colleges and development of work within each college
- Enrichment of the contents (practical and technical sheets, ...)
- Creation and development of a Wiki (knowledge bank)

- Facilitation of the group of volunteers and interns

Possibility to create training courses dedicated to colleges.

b) Development and animation of the regional correspondents' group

These are **the local relays and ambassadors of the "4 per 1000"**, based in large regions, and their roles are essential and multiple:

- Ensure a watch (strategic, sectoral, scientific, economic ...)
- Identify potential partners (research institutes, private companies, institutions)
- Encourage to support the "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Inform and guide the various potential partners and project leaders
- Receive requests and information
- Propose ideas, actions, topics, events ...
- Inform the Executive Secretariat and/or those concerned

c) The website of the "4 per 1000" Initiative

The **web site needs to be maintained permanently** which means writing or rewriting the contents in French, in English and translate in Spanish, but also increase the quantity and quality of information on-line, etc. Permanent search of information and keep in touch with key resource people is also vital for the enrichment of the web site.

Develop French, English and Spanish media watch and news related to the "4 per 1000", and update information available on the web site.

Development of the new version of the website (end 2020 – beginning 2021), with analysis of the different contents already online, content rewriting if necessary and creation of new blocks of information (success stories...).

d) Presence of the "4 per 1000" Initiative on social networks

It is essential to **continue the initiative's presence on social networks** in a global action plan to ensure in particular a coherence and synergy of the different messages and information, after the real success encountered in 2020 on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter (documentary research, daily publications, elaboration of a planning of events, news, enrichment of the network, development of collaboration with partners and members, animation of the group of volunteers and interns).

Creation online events (chats, video-conferencing, webinar, etc.) will be continued after the particular year 2020 due to CoVid19.

e) "4 per 1000" Newsletter

Continuation of the publication of the newsletter in French, English and Spanish. Development of relationship with regional "Ambassadors" in order to increase the amount of information and news from various regions of the world.

Work on the graphic design of the newsletter and launch of new sections (success stories, key figures, practical information sheets, etc.) (according to means available)

f) Development of press relations

Regular contacts with medias and journalists are indispensable for the general awareness about the Initiative. Development of press relationship will be facilitated by the followings:

- Creation and writing of a press kit;
- Writing and sending Press Releases;

- Identification of actions in the field and people able to respond according to different angles of treatment;
- Identification of "turnkey" topics (angle, images, interlocutors);
- Creating key messages;
- Update of the francophone media database;
- Relations with journalists.
- Possibility to invite (depending on the means) one or more journalists during COP26, to participate in the 5th Day of the Initiative.

g) Permanent strategic watch by themes (sectoral, scientific, economic ...)

- A weekly press review with an average of 10 articles or more than 500 articles per year.
- Focus according to the news
- Identify potential partners (research centers, companies, institutions...)
- Propose ideas, actions, topics, events ...
- Inform the Executive Secretariat and/or the persons concerned