



The international «4 per 1000» Initiative “Soils for Food Security and Climate”



Document Consortium 8-1 – Report of the 7th Consortium Meeting
– Glasgow (10 November 2021)

8th Consortium Meeting

Wednesday 16 November 2022

in Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt) & on-line via Zoom

Opening

The Consortium meeting was officially opened by the Chairman of the day, Mr. **Stéphane LE FOLL**, President of the Consortium of Members.

The President congratulated the Members of the Consortium for the role they collectively play in the fight against climate change through soils, which are one of the important elements of the global strategy. He measured the distance covered since Paris, passing through Marrakech, Bonn, Katowice, etc. and thought that this was a matter of satisfaction for all. The current stage is that of a scientific concretization of the technical itineraries applicable to each ecosystem in order to reach the level of absorption that we wish for agricultural soils and to reinforce the perennial storage capacities in these soils. This is the challenge of the strategic plan and the diplomatic steps for its implementation. He thanked the French Minister, Mr. Julien de Normandie for his personal message and his intervention in the plenary of the High-Level Segment, confirming France's support for the Initiative and its relay at the European level. The work has started with Pascal CANFIN at the level of the European Parliament, in order to be able to act at the European level. All these elements are subjects of satisfaction, for which he thanks the Executive Secretariat, its Vice-Presidents, the members of the Scientific and Technical Council, as well as all the Members of the Consortium for their important role. Mr. LE FOLL considers that the Initiative has reached a maturity that allows the subject of the importance of agricultural soils to occupy a major place, which is in itself a victory. It is now important to transform the trial, and to make sure that the fact of having put agriculture back at the heart of the debates on climate change as a solution and not only as a problem, bears fruit. He congratulated all the actors who led to this result and who made it possible to organize the "4 per 1000" day in Glasgow, on the sidelines of COP 26.

The agenda (see Consortium document 7-0) *was approved*.

The report of the sixth Consortium meeting (see document Consortium 7-1) online, on 10 December 2020, *was also approved*.

General questions:

Formal welcome of new Partners and Members of the Initiative since the last Consortium meeting (see Consortium document 7-2):

Since the sixth Consortium meeting online in December 2020, the Bureau created in August 2019 has validated a list of 96 new partners including 37 new Members at its numerous meetings during 2021. Since then, 11 new organisations and countries have applied to join the Initiative as Partners or Members (5). The dossiers of each organisation provided by the applicants have been previously checked by the Executive Secretariat (ExSec).

The Consortium validated all new membership applications as presented by the Executive Secretariat and confirmed those validated by the Bureau. In total for 2021, 107 new organisations and countries have signed up to become Partners (107), some of which are also Members (42). The following table summarizes the situation:

	Partners	including Members
States Provinces	2	2
International Organisations	2	1
Banks / Development Funds	0	0
Foundations	2	1
Producer Organisations	8	5
Research Institutes and Universities	4	3
Civil Society /NGOs	43	30
For-profit or commercial organisations	46	-
Total 2020	107	42

Activity Report 2020-2021

The Executive Secretary presented the activities carried out in 2021 (document Forum 6-2). **The Consortium validated this report**

Report on the activities of the "Bureau" since its creation (see document Consortium 7-3):

The Executive Secretariat recalled how the Bureau was constituted, and its composition.

The Bureau thus constituted held 5 meetings in 2021, and focused its work on

- The validation of membership applications from new Partners and Members between two Consortium meetings
- participation in the virtual fair during the EU Green Week of the European Union and the meetings of the Community of practices Nexus "Climate-Soil"
- The animation within each college (Task Force, follow up of the elaboration of the Implementation Plan, etc.)
- Merging of the two declarations of intent for application to join the Initiative,
- Selection of applications for the position of Incoming Vice-President and monitoring of the election
- The choice of dates and the agenda for the "4 per 1000" Day in 2021 with the choice of a discussion theme: *"Mobilization of stakeholders through multi-stakeholder coalitions for the implementation of the "4 per 1000" Strategic Plan to 2050"*.

In conclusion, the Members' Consortium thanked the Bureau for its work in 2021 and confirmed this work. **The Activity Report of the Bureau was adopted.**

Proposals of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) for the Roadmap 2022
(See presentation made during the meeting by the Chair of the STC)

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

- the mission and the definition of the Initiative should be revised with the help of the Bureau and a Task Force involving all colleges.
- Continue to raise general awareness on soil Health and soil carbon sequestration for agricultural production and international trade of soil-based products and resilience of production systems.
- Reinforce the regional “4 per 1000” actions and networks.
- Support countries wishing to enhance transparency through more specificity around soil carbon in their NDCs and lower costs MRV strategies
- Support the Secretariat to facilitate funding for continuous plans and activities.

Adoption of the “4 per 1000” Implementation Plan of the 2050 Strategic Plan

After the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2050 last year with a Vision, a Mission, guiding principles, and organized in 6 goals composed from 3 to 6 objectives (description, baseline 2020, and targets 2030 and 2050), the Delphi study to elaborate the implementation Plan was organized. The questions were to develop the problem, the causes of the objectives, the critical success factors and barriers to implement actions.

This leads to the preparation of 2 versions (one short and one long – documents Consortium 7-6) of the implementations plan and recommendations concerning the wording of each objective of the Strategic Plan to prepare a second version. This was a huge work of exchange and participations of the Task Forces.

The next steps will be to:

- Score the relevant activities by voluntary partners and members, to classify and regroup them to prioritize activities.
- On this basis, the Implementation plan of the Initiative will be elaborated, and the objectives of the Strategic Plan will be adapted.
- Those two documents will remain “living documents”.

So, it is proposed to the Consortium of members to approve:

- The result of the Delphi Study
- The complete methodology including the next steps presented above.

Discussion:

Mr. **John KAKANGA**, farmer from Uganda working with grassroot communities, thanks the Secretariat for this big work. He stressed three points:

- How can the work done at the grassroot level by local communities mainly in developing countries be promoted?
- Farmers need good practices in different regions of the world, and lots of practices are already existing and not the books, how can we work on that?
- “Twin Regions” project was introduced this morning, and could we have precision on who will manage the project, “4 per 1000” Initiative, an independent structure? And how could we get support and assistance through it?

Paul LUU insists on the good work done in the field by farmers and how to get lessons from the successes and the failures. The Strategic Plan includes several objectives on exchange of information between farmers, particularly in comparable agro-pedo-climatic conditions even if they are not from the same continent. The Initiative would like to promote the creation of a

large database on practices with tutorial, videos, etc... based on knowledges and experiences in a peer to peer and not top-down approach.

A gentleman “**John**” (the name was not audible) from the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food who joined the Initiative few years ago, underlines the work done and the thinking invested in the implementation plan, and regrets that resources are not sufficient to fulfil all the wish list. He explains that they would like to work at different level including the international level (UNFCCC, KJWA, etc...). He wonders how to act to make use of the pivotal situation in negotiations to take profit of the thinking invested in the implementation plan.

Mr. Paul LUU agrees that the implementation plan even though not being exhaustive is the most complete as possible including various categories of objectives and actions. Of course, the “4 per 1000” Initiative does not expect all partners and members to implement each single objectives of the plan. As it was previously indicated, it is proposed that each partner select several objectives in line with their own objectives and activities. It can be the same with the implementation plan. One step will be for the “4 per 1000” Initiative to ask all partners to provide information on their own competencies and actions, to help the Initiative to identify complementarities and partners to build alliances, or simply taking notes that they want to act on a specific part of the strategic Plan.

Secondly, concerning the relation between the implementation plan and the negotiations, Paul LUU confirms that contributions to the work of KJWA through the STC were prepared and transmitted to increase the awareness on carbon sequestration and soil health. The presence in the discussion of negotiators help them to understand how we can work together. How the work outside UNFCCC can be organized involving various stakeholders. For instance, A1 objective or the Strategic Plan concerns NDCs and soil health and carbon sequestration. From the time this work on that subject started, not only by the “4 per 1000” Initiative, the number of countries, including soil health and carbon sequestration in their NDCs increased. The idea is to have all the countries do so in the future in spite of all incertitude concerning non-permanence, feasibility, etc... That is why, the Initiative needs to have relation with negotiators.

Mr. **Jean-François SOUSSANA** underlines the effort done to prepare such a document which remains very complex even in its short version. The challenge ahead is to prioritize actions and define “low hanging fruits” which can be seen as contributions of the “4 per 1000” Initiative. He encourages to work on that topic, as many countries are already working on their own action plan, as it was clear during the High-Level Segment. The Initiative could talk to all countries to try to define a spreadsheet on what they are really doing in terms of funding policies, beneficiaries, agricultural practices, monitoring, measuring systems and so on. It would be a good way to show how big and how ambitious is the initiative (even though considering only countries). With the help of STC and others, it would then be possible to quantify that potential of what countries are doing. For instance, the potential of the “4 per 1000” Initiative is well known in France. Doing so, in a limited time (2 years maybe), the “4 per 1000” Initiative could be in a position to indicate how many farmers in each country are involved in practices storing carbon, and how many tons of carbon would be potentially sequestered. This would help a lot in terms of communication and impact.

Paul LUU confirms that this question is very important and that it is addressed in the Strategic Plan by the objective F3 “4 per 1000 Dashboard”. But as it was proposed, the work needs to start from the beginning, and a spreadsheet would be a good start. It is suggested that Mr. SOUSSANA transmit to the Executive Secretary a list of items important to follow, and the “4 per 1000” Initiative will organize a survey at the country level.

A question arose from **internet** concerning the deadline to agree on a Tribune to be published in an international newspaper. Paul LUU precises that deadline is postponed to the morrow.

The result of the Delphi Study, the complete methodology and the implementation plan V1 were adopted.

Work Programme for 2022: Roadmap and Budget

Roadmap 2022

The Executive Secretariat (Mrs. **Béatrice BRETON-ASKAR**) recalling the “4 per 1000” operational framework and the objective to promote coalitions and alliances to emerge to implement the strategic plan, presented the proposed Roadmap for the year 2022 (see document 7-5).

The Core Facilities are the skeleton of the “4 per 1000” yearly Roadmap, which is thus divided into 6 major chapters relating to the 6 Core Facilities

1. Core Facility I - Strategy

After the validation of the Strategic Plan in 2020, the Implementation Plan will be submitted for final approval in 2022, and inception of coalitions (partnerships and alliances) would be introduced at the end of 2022.

2. Core Facility II - Governance & Administration

- Continuation of the meeting of the “4 per 1000” Initiative Bureau
- Continuation of the work of the Scientific and Technical Committee, including
 - Research areas and scientific cooperation, particularly in the context of the end of CIRCasa and the beginning of ORCasa
 - Work on the evaluation of projects (launch of a third international call for projects)
 - Other activities (documents on the scientific aspects of "4 per 1000" and the implementation of good practices, preparation of a "4 per 1000" book, and harmonisation and standardisation of MRV measures on soil carbon)

3. Core Facility III - Advocacy & Awareness

- Promotion of the “4 per 1000” Initiative
- “4 per 1000” Communication Strategy
 - Development and animation of the group of regional correspondents
 - The new “4 per 1000” website
 - Strengthen the presence of the initiative on the social networks
 - Continued publication of the newsletter in French, English and Spanish and press review
 - Development of press relations
- Contribution to international discussions and debates on soil carbon sequestration
 - Create synergies by participating and contributing to cross-fertilisation
 - Opening the Forum meetings to other actors
 - Promote a harmonised vision between the different UN agencies and the three Rio conventions.

4. Core Facility IV - Networking & Collaboration

- Continued work on the collaborative platform and its operation
 - Identification of all Partners in the Initiative and 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 animation of a group of friends of the "4 per 1000".
- Establishing a regional level within the initiative
 - Organisation of meetings at regional level
 - Continued development and animation of the group of regional correspondents
- 5. Core Facility V - Partnerships & Alliances
 - Creation of Partnerships to support Core Facilities
 - Inception of Alliances to support Global Facilities
- 6. Core Facility VI - Cross-Cutting Actions
 - Strategic Objective F1: Twin Regions
 - Strategic Objective F2: Resource Mobilization
 - Funder engagement
 - Seeking funding for the Executive Secretariat of the Initiative
 - Work on potential of Green Finance and Carbon Markets Initiatives
 - Exploration of the possibilities and the usefulness of the creation of a foundation
 - Call for Funding towards the general public and among the Friends of the "4 per 1000" Initiative
 - Other funding pathways will be studied
 - Strategic Objective F3: "4 per 1000" Dashboard

Discussion:

Ms. **Laura HOIJER** (BSAG) underlines that the carbon market is mentioned in the roadmap 2022, and that BSAG pilot a carbon market action for an EU project. She proposes a collaboration to the "4 per 1000" Initiative in order to organize workshop or another kind of event in 2022.

The proposal was welcomed by the Executive Secretariat.

Ms. **Barbara** (no name indicated) from Zambia working for small scale women farmers, thanks the Initiative "4 per 1000" for the feeling not to be alone in Africa. She stresses the fact that there are a lot of talks about carbon market and carbon farming, and people in Africa feel like outside the conversation. Africa is the dark continent, but mainly because it is not in the light of the conversation. What is happening in the COP conferences show the gap between the conversation and what is happening on the ground. Even though there are projects on the ground, they do not seem to contribute to a general movement. She wonders what the plan is, in the future, on the carbon market to involve the African farmers, because in spite of the limited weight of Africa at the industrial level, Africa is a large part of the solution. She asks how we can bring Africa back on the table, how do we disseminate information widely on all those important questions of Carbon market, Carbon credit, Carbon farming.

Ms. Béatrice BRETON-ASKAR confirms that Africa is really part of the solution, and that the "4 per 1000" Information is working and will work more on dissemination of the information towards Africa. M. Paul LUU thanks Barbara for her comments. He precises that the "4 per 1000" Initiative organises regularly regional meeting and had its last meeting in South Africa in October 2018. Time could have come to organize a new regional meeting in 2022 or 2023, with the help of some partners for instance in Morocco or in Ivory Coast and having as main subject: "How can Africa being a major actor on the carbon market?", share experiences and build for the future.

Mr. **John KAKANGA** rises two points. One concerns “twin Region” project to which he contributed and asks if he did a mistake by disseminating information about it. It seems to have a general appreciation of the project, so what will happen on that project? The second concerns the fact that “soil health” should be made a topical issue, being recognized as a special issue because everything is depending on soil, and particularly the poor and the vulnerable lives. We need to act together to make this subject being considered seriously by UN, such as water, forest, etc.

Mr. Paul LUU recalls that the “4 per 1000” Initiative signed a declaration suggesting to UN to consider soils as public goods such as water in order to protect them on the planet. The “4 per 1000” initiative will continue the work on that matter.

The Roadmap 2022 has been adopted.

Budget 2021

The Executive Secretary presented the balance sheet for the financial year 2021 and the provisional budget for 2023 (see document 7-7).

Even though the annual budget for 2021 was adopted at the level of 955 k€ (715 k€ of core budget + 240 k€ for regional meeting), only 446,783 € were available and 307,316 € spent in 2021 (including 31,148 € of overheads). This does not include the in-kinds contribution valued at 43,000 €.

It was stressed that all people working within or with the Executive Secretariat (consultants) are working without really counting their hours and accept that situation. The Executive Secretary underlines the fact that this will not last for ever. He indicated that the cost of the Glasgow meeting was around 6,000 £, and it was a miracle to being able to have a hybrid meeting of such an importance with 4 computers connected through internet to ZOOM. By chance, it works but there was no plan B. It would be great to have the real means to work correctly and spend more time in brainstorming and networking than on administrative work. He thanks the French Ministry of agriculture which increases slightly the allocation for 2022, and German and Spanish ministries of agriculture and other partners and members which provide support to the Initiative. But he also declares frankly that he was very close to lock down the whole initiative at the end of 2021 due to the lack of appropriate resources.

The 2022 budget is roughly equivalent to last year, with a main budget of €730,000, to which would be added €240,000 for the organisation of regional meetings, i.e. a total annual budget of €970,000.

Discussion:

Mr. Thibaut NANCY from the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food confirms that the ministry will allow two contributions in 2022. One of 150 k€ for the Initiative functioning and 100 k€ through FAO for projects on tools.

Mr. Andrew (no Name) from Uganda, visual designer invited by John KAKANGA, proposes to help on the design of website.

A **question** arose from internet on the risk for the Initiative to be threatened by such a low-level budget. Paul LUU answers that it is definitively the case if the Secretariat cannot gather a sufficient level of budget.

Concerning self-assessment tools, the budget allocated by the French ministry of Agriculture and Food through FAO will be used for that purpose.

The Consortium validated the 2022 budget proposed by the Executive Secretariat.

Statutory and “4 per 1000” meetings in 2022

The Executive Secretary presented the list of STC and “4 per 1000” meetings in 2022 with possible venues (see document 7-4). STC meetings will be held back-to-back with other relevant meetings/conferences. The Secretariat is cautious about maintaining meetings due to the pandemic, and the possibility of holding its meetings virtually.

Northern Europe “4 per 1000” Regional Meeting (June 2023)

Ms. **Elisa VAINIO**, Project manager at Baltic Sea Action Group (Finland), then, presented the 1st “4 per 1000” Northern Europe Regional Meeting, to be held from 6 to 8 June 2023 in Helsinki, Finland. This meeting will gather not only Nordic countries and organizations but all stakeholders from Northern Europe during three days (a 2 day event & the 3rd day for field trips) and will have the following theme: “More Carbon in the Soil for multiple Benefits”. The conference will focus on Healthy Soils, MRV and Peatlands.

A dedicated website already exists at the following address: www.bsag.fi/en/4p1000-2023/

The Consortium validated the timetable proposed by the Executive Secretariat.

Presentations for information

Perspective of the official launch of the “Twin Region” Project

Mr. **Marc BERNARD** presented the Next Steps of the Twin-Regions Action. Twin-Regions is more a methodology than a project, which is positioned at the level of Beneficiaries if we look at the “4 per 1000” Operational Framework. The project will take place between places (cities, regions) which are, for some, CO₂-sink regions [mainly Africa, South America and Asia] and others which are CO₂-source regions like Europe, Northern America, etc. The objectives set would be to reach adoption in 20 countries in 2030, in all countries in 2050.

Then, Mr. Marc BERNARD presented a comparison, built on graphs and tables, about the current situation in Copargo, Benin and the city of Alfter in Germany.

The idea would be to twin the two regions in order to create a Twin-Region carbon Market between the two communities. CO₂-sink region (like in Benin) would need to develop a credible carbon sequestration offer and the CO₂-source regions (like in Germany) would need to express their demand for Carbon sequestration by implementing a Carbon accounting system and an equitable cost sharing mechanism, like for waste or for wastewater management.

The next steps will consist in launching a Call for Expression of Interest as well a social media campaign.

If Partners and Members of the “4 per 1000” Initiative would like to receive more information about Twin-Regions, they can register on the dedicated website:

[Come together - Twin Regions - Twin Regions \(afris.org\)](http://afris.org)

Perspective of the creation of an International Consortium after CIRCASA project with the ORCASA Project

Dr **Jean-François SOUSSANA**, INRAE [Institut National de Recherche sur l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement / *French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment*] (France), first, mentioned the European context regarding soils. In Europe, 60 to 70% of EU soils are being degraded, which costs 50 billion Euros a year to EU. There is,

