

Strategy

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Vision 2050

Worldwide healthy and carbon-rich soils to combat climate change and end hunger.

Mission

Provide a supportive framework and action plan to conceptualize, implement, promote and follow up actions, on Soil Health (SH) and Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), through an enhanced collaboration between stakeholders of the "Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)" sector, in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ambition

- Accelerate Climate Change MITIGATION
- Intensify the ADAPTATION of Agriculture to Climate Change
- Improve FOOD SECURITY

The ambition of the "4 per 1000" Initiative is to encourage land users to move towards a diversified, productive, resource-efficient and highly resilient agriculture and forestry based on appropriate management of natural resources, in particular land, soils and water, strengthening farming activities and the global economy ensuring sustainable development.

This Initiative invites all stakeholders (producers, scientific community, private sector, non governmental organizations (NGOs), regional and local authorities, countries, international organizations, development banks, foundations, etc.) to promote and implement science-based practical actions to maintain and manage soils to be healthy and living, and thus fertile, and be a carbon sink and not a source, based on successful experiences and support of science and rational methodology.

The Initiative wants to involve stakeholders to contribute to develop a global monitoring platform to better quantify soil carbon stocks and establish adequate public policies encouraging farmers and foresters to adopt agricultural practices that conserve and increase soil carbon stocks.

Guiding Principles

We believe in:

- SH is at the center of actions
- Farmers/foresters are key actors at the center and managers of their farming/forestry systems.
- A territorial approach that respects land rights and holders, adjusts to local conditions, follows the subsidiarity principle and strengthens local ownership of action.
- A science-based and result-oriented approach, with the help of an international multidisciplinary "4 per 1000" Initiative Scientific and Technical Committee (STC).
- A "4 per 1000" Initiative Executive Secretariat that facilitates and organizes, and Members and Partners who voluntarily act and implement.
- A focus on strengthening inter-institutional collaboration.
- A multi-stakeholder approach and a public-private cooperation that promote mutual support between actors, open access and open data and optimal allocation of resources including to farmers/foresters.
- The ability to learn, agility, willingness and team spirit at all levels provide the flexibility and drive needed to meet the complex challenges ahead.
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people in agriculture.
- The inclusion of ethnic minority groups.

Goals and Objectives

Goal A - INCEPTION & CONCEPTUALIZATION
Facilitate the inception and conceptualization of policies, instruments, and mechanisms that support stakeholders' capacity to implement the Initiative.

A1 NDCs (CF / GF)	A2 Project Development (CF)	A3 Share Experiences (CF)	A4 Stakeholder Interaction (CF)	A5 Carbon markets (GF)	A6 Conceptual Framework (CF)
Ensure SH and SOC are vital components of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Support the development and implementation of numerous innovative projects on SH and SOC	Facilitate an active multi-stakeholder exchange on innovations and success stories	Facilitate a regional stakeholder exchange to initiate evidence-based transformative programs for on-the-ground action	Improve the transparency, accessibility, and configuration of carbon market mechanisms	Develop a conceptual framework illustrating the interrelations between the driving factors of SH, SOC, and carbon balance in AFOLU systems

Goal B - IMPLEMENTATION

Enhance the enabling environment for large-scale implementation of the Initiative on the ground.

B1 Investment Plans (CF)	B2 Technology Database (GF)	B3 GAFOLUP Helpdesk (GF)	B4 MRV Tools (GF)
Encourage the development and implementation of investment plans reflecting the targets set out in the NDCs	Provide an easily accessible database of good practices for SH to practitioners	Develop and implement a decentralized helpdesk providing advice for the successful adoption of Good Agricultural, Forestry, and Other Land Use Practices (GAFOLUP)	Provide tools for Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) of SH and SOC to practitioners

Goal C - PROMOTION

Advocate and raise awareness to foster a commitment to the Initiative's vision by all stakeholders.

C1 Advocacy & Awareness (CF)	C2 Urge Soil Regeneration (GF)	C3 Increased investments (CF)	C4 Branding & Certification (CF)
Increase the awareness of all stakeholders regarding the decisive role of SH in tackling climate change and improving food security	Ensure that production is based on the principles of agroecology.	Boost investments in SH and SOC	Develop, improve and implement SH branding mechanisms.

Goal D - COLLABORATION

Foster interaction and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve the Initiative's vision.

D1 Collaborative Platform (CF)	D2 Regional networks (CF)	D3 Youth & Seniors (GF)	D4 Partnerships & Alliances (CF)
Provide a digital collaborative platform, including regional portals	Establish, develop and expand "4 per 1000" regional networks	Foster the engagement of youth and seniors in the transition to agroecology for SH and climate	Establish partnerships and alliances to enhance transformative action on the ground

Goal E - FOLLOW UP

Establish an international science-based framework for monitoring, reporting & verification, and impact assessment.

E1 MRV Systems (GF)	E2 Soil Health Observatory (GF)	E3 Impact Assessment (GF)
Provide a catalog of MRV systems for decision-makers	Enable near real-time monitoring of SH and SOC	Provide impact assessment tools (IATs) to evaluate the consistency of actions with the "4 per 1000" vision

Goal F - CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS

Promote long-term viability and scaling up of the Initiative through citizen involvement, resource mobilization, and reporting on progress.

F1 Twin Regions (GF)	F2 Resource Mobilization (CF)	F3 "4 per 1000" Dashboard (CF)
Establish the Twin Regions concept to boost SH and climate action	Mobilize sufficient resources to ensure the implementation of the strategy and functioning of the Executive Secretariat	Provide a "4 per 1000" dashboard delivering near real-time quantitative information on the progress of the Initiative

CF: Core Facility | **GF:** Global Facility

Goals, Objectives and Targets

Goal A - INCEPTION & CONCEPTUALIZATION

Facilitate the inception and conceptualization of policies, instruments, and mechanisms that support stakeholders' capacity to implement the Initiative.

Label	A1 NDCs (CF)	A2 Project Development (GF)	A3 Share Experiences (CF)	A4 Stakeholder Interaction (CF)	A5 Carbon markets (GF)	A6 Conceptual Framework (CF)
Description	Ensure SH and SOC are vital components of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Support the development and implementation of numerous innovative projects on SH and SOC	Facilitate an active multi-stakeholder exchange on innovations and success stories	Facilitate a regional stakeholder exchange to initiate evidence-based transformative programs for on-the-ground action	Improve the transparency, accessibility, and configuration of carbon market mechanisms	Develop a conceptual framework illustrating the interrelations between the driving factors of SH, SOC, and carbon balance in AFOLU systems
Baseline 2022	All United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) parties include SH and SOC in their NDCs and consider both in their national agriculture, forestry, and land use plans and programs.	Innovative on-the-ground projects, which focus on SH and SOC and are consistent with the "4 per 1000" vision as well as with the set of criteria and indicators for formative project evaluation developed by the STC, are encouraged, facilitated, and funded.	Relevant ideas, innovations, and success stories (bottom-up and top-down approaches) from the "4 per 1000" stakeholders are compiled, communicated globally, discussed, and considered.	Regional stakeholders meet and interact to build evidence-based programs for on-the-ground action, emphasizing the dialogue between policymakers and scientists.	The best carbon market mechanisms and offsets for soil carbon sequestration are screened, compiled, and shared to contribute to their further improvement, transparency, and accessibility.	A scientific conceptual framework that illustrates the interrelations between the main driving factors, including socioeconomic aspects, for SH, SOC, and, ultimately, a positive carbon balance in AFOLU systems has been developed with research programs, international scientific cooperation and the STC.
Target 2030	All countries that are members and partners of the "4 per 1000" Initiative include quantitative targets for SH and SOC in their NDCs and related documents and reference them in their national plans and programs for agriculture, forestry, and land use.	International mechanisms which fund projects focusing on SH and climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration (including local and small-scale projects) are established and operate based on a harmonized system for project development, monitoring, and evaluation. The "4 per 1000" call-for-projects and the scientific-technical advice support at least 30 projects a year in the acquisition of funding and the alignment with the Initiative's vision, based on the "4 per 1000" reference criteria and indicators for formative project assessment.	5 thematic events per year A virtual fair involving 50% of the partners	1 (online) meeting per year in each region following a long-term concept with collaborative activities between the meetings	The "4 per 1000" Initiative has identified 3 to 5 commendable compensation schemes and shares them among the network through the collaborative platform and the Initiative's website.	A scientific conceptual framework has been elaborated and is used for internal and external communication and decision-making.
Target 2050	All UNFCCC Parties include quantitative targets for SH and SOC in their NDCs and related documents and reference them in their national plans and programs for agriculture, forestry, and land use.	All partner countries and organizations of the "4 per 1000" Initiative implement projects on the ground that contribute to the realization of the "4 per 1000" vision and the reference criteria and indicators of the international mechanism established in 2030.	10 thematic events per year A virtual fair involving all partners	3-5 (online) meetings per year in each region following a long-term concept with collaborative activities between the meetings	3 to 5 alternative economic instruments providing a real financial incentive that drives the transformation towards agroecology have been explored and/or developed.	The scientific conceptual framework has been updated and is used for internal and external communication and decision-making.

Goal B - IMPLEMENTATION

Enhance the enabling environment for large-scale implementation of the Initiative on the ground.

Label	B1 Investment Plans (CF)	B2 Technology Database (GF)	B3 GAFOLUP Helpdesk (GF)	B4 MRV Tools (GF)
Description	Encourage the development and implementation of investment plans reflecting the targets set out in the NDCs	Provide an easily accessible database of good practices for SH to practitioners	Develop and implement a decentralized helpdesk providing advice for the successful adoption of Good Agricultural, Forestry, and Other Land Use Practices (GAFOLUP)	Provide tools for Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) of SH and SOC to practitioners

Baseline 2022	National and supranational strategies (including incentive and regulatory mechanisms) and responsible investment plans for SH derived from the targets set in the NDCs are developed and implemented.	A technology database allows land managers to quickly access information and build capacity to improve SH and increase SOC for all agro-pedo-climatic regions.	Science-based regional helpdesks for (a) planning local GAFOLUP policies, (b) establishing and applying carbon sequestration compensation schemes, and (c) promotion of actions at appropriate levels following the principle of subsidiarity and fostering ecosystem services are developed and implemented.	An updated and improved, global, user-friendly MRV toolkit on SH and SOC, providing, i.a., tools for cost-benefit analysis, evaluation, monitoring, and decision support systems is available and freely accessible online.
Target 2030	All country members and partners of the "4 per 1000" Initiative include SH and SOC as quantitative targets in their investment plans and related documents and refer to them in their national agriculture, forestry, and land use plans and programs.	An advanced and updated database is available for SOC and SH improvement in two other regions. Reviews and assessments are conducted every year.	The helpdesk is active in 5 regions.	Existing MRV tool kits have comparable and clearly defined outputs available on the electronic platform.
Target 2050	All UNFCCC country parties include SH and SOC as quantitative targets in their investment plans and related documents and refer to them in their national agriculture, forestry, and land use plans and programs.	An advanced and updated database related to SOC and SH improvement is delivered globally.	The helpdesk is globally active, with more countries and sub-regions involved.	The MRV toolkit provides an important foundation for the development and application of a dynamic and ecosystem-based diagnosis of SH.

Goal C - PROMOTION

Advocate and raise awareness to foster a commitment to the Initiative's vision by all stakeholders.

Label	C1 Advocacy & Awareness (CF)	C2 Urge Soil Regeneration (GF)	C3 Increased investments (CF)	C4 Branding & Certification (CF)
Description	Increase the awareness of all stakeholders regarding the decisive role of SH in tackling climate change and improving food security	Ensure that production is based on the principles of agroecology.	Boost investments in SH and SOC	Develop, improve and implement SH branding mechanisms.
Baseline 2022	Decision-makers and the general public are aware of the interdependence between soil, climate, and food security and recognize the central role of the "4 per 1000" Initiative as a driver for change.	Value chain actors in agriculture and forestry and land managers have undergone a paradigm shift from "exploitation of soils" to "regeneration of soils" and have adopted the science-based principles of agroecology and sustainable land management.	Convince policymakers and funders to increase commitments and investments in AFOLU in favor of SH and carbon sequestration.	SH branding mechanisms (seals, certification, awards, labeling, etc.), including a "4 per 1000" brand, are developed, improved, and implemented as a benchmark for SH and SOC build-up.
Target 2030	Information and education materials (PR kits, etc.) on the importance of soils for climate and food security are available in the 5 UN languages on the "4 per 1000" electronic platform and website. The "4 per 1000" network conducts at least 10 awareness-raising events, targeting decision-makers and the general public every year.	50% of value chain actors in agriculture and forestry have adopted the principles of agroecology and sustainable land management.	In 2030, the Top 80** institutions have been reached. ** Referring to the Funders' overview study "Mapping of active Finance Providers" delivered by the Consultancy team: Perspectives Climate Group in Dec. 2021 (funded by German agency for development (GIZ)).	SH branding mechanisms are fully operational.
Target 2050	The "4 per 1000" network conducts at least 50 awareness-raising events per year, targeting decision-makers and the general public (policymakers, public, schools, farmers, land planners, and other stakeholders and influencers).	100% of value chain actors in agriculture and forestry have adopted the principles of agroecology and sustainable land management in practice.	In 2050, all policymakers and funders have been contacted.	SH branding mechanisms have been assessed, updated, and fully operational.

Goal D - COLLABORATION

Forster interaction and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve the initiative's vision.

Label	D1 Collaborative Platform (GF)	D2 Regional networks (CF)	D3 Youth & Seniors (GF)	D4 Partnerships & Alliances (CF)
Description	Provide a digital collaborative platform, including regional portals	Establish, develop and expand "4 per 1000" regional networks	Foster the engagement of youth and seniors in the transition to agroecology for SH and climate	Establish partnerships and alliances to enhance transformative action on the ground
Baseline 2022	A boosted electronic collaborative platform, including regional portals, facilitates and strengthens collaboration and exchange between stakeholders within and around the Initiative.	"4 per 1000" regional networks are established, developed, and expanded.	Youth and senior networks are mobilized and support producers (farmers, pastorals, and foresters) and local action groups in their transition towards agroecology and sustainable land management.	Partnerships and alliances within the "4 per 1000" network and other related global funding and implementing organizations, networks, and initiatives are established and enhance the support and enabling environment for transformative action on the ground.

Target 2030	Collaborative platform 2.0 is developed at the 5 regional levels of the Initiative and is fully operational for all members and partners of the "4 per 1000" Initiative and all interested actors.	"4 per 1000" regional networks are established in all regions and active in partner and member countries.	"4 per 1000" partners have established active partnerships with regional youth and senior networks.	Further partnerships and alliances with related global networks and initiatives have been established, and 50% of the "4 per 1000" partners are engaged in partnerships or alliances.
Target 2050	The collaborative platform is fully operational.	"4 per 1000" regional networks are established and active in all regions and countries.	Partnerships with youth and senior networks are active in all regions.	Further partnerships and alliances with related global networks and initiatives have been established, and 100% of the "4 per 1000" partners are engaged in partnerships or alliances.

Goal E - FOLLOW UP				
Establish an international science-based framework for monitoring, reporting & verification, and impact assessment.				
Label	E1 MRV Systems (GF)	E2 Soil Health Observatory (GF)	E3 Impact Assessment (GF)	
Description	Provide a catalog of MRV systems for decision-makers	Enable near real-time monitoring of SH and SOC	Provide impact assessment tools (IATs) to evaluate the consistency of actions with the "4 per 1000" vision	
Baseline 2022	A catalog of MRV systems* (remote sensing, databases, sensors, etc.), that provides accurate and reliable information on SH and SOC stock change at various scales is accessible. *Objective B4 is aimed at practitioners in the field. E1 is aimed at decision-makers.	SH and SOC are monitored in near real-time at global, regional, and national levels.	Impact assessment tools (including the socioeconomic dimension) evaluate if projects, practices, or programs are in line with the vision of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, and are accessible and continuously improved.	
Target 2030	A complete overview of the 20 significant operators and their monitoring systems is available.	The establishment of a real-time observatory for SH and SOC.	Users have online access to essential impact assessment tools.	
Target 2050	A "4 per 1000" catalog covering all monitoring systems is available.	Real-time SH & SOC observatory is operational at global, regional, and sub-regional levels.	Users have online access to updated and extended impact assessment tools.	

Goal F - CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS			
Promote long-term viability and scaling up of the Initiative through citizen involvement, resource mobilization, and reporting on progress.			
Label	F1 Twin Regions (CF)	F2 Resource Mobilization (CF)	F3 "4 per 1000" Dashboard (CF)
Description	Establish the Twin Regions concept to boost SH and climate action	Mobilize sufficient resources to ensure the implementation of the strategy and functioning of the Executive Secretariat	Provide a "4 per 1000" dashboard delivering near real-time quantitative information on the progress of the Initiative
Baseline 2022	The concept of "Twin Regions," aiming to unleash the synergistic potential of cooperation between contrasting and complementary regions to combat climate change, restore ecosystems, and improve livelihoods, is adopted.	The "4 per 1000" Initiative has mobilized sufficient resources to ensure the implementation of the strategy and the functioning of the Executive Secretariat to achieve the envisaged impact.	A "4 per 1000" dashboard delivering near real-time information on the progress of the Initiative, considering Partners and Members and their actions, is available.
Target 2030	The "Twin Regions" concept is adopted by communities in 20 "4 per 1000" partner countries.	The aspired annual budget in 2020 was 961 000€ (including the core budget of 721 000€), but the available funding was only 450 000€. A baseline for investments in SH projects on the ground has not been established.	By the end of 2022, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be established. By the end of 2023, the dashboard will be operational and regularly updated.
Target 2050	The "Twin Regions" concept is adopted by communities in all "4 per 1000" partner countries.	The level of investments has doubled as compared to 2030.	The "4 per 1000" dashboard is operational, regularly updated, and recognized as an international standard.

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