



STRATEGIC PLAN

2ND VERSION - JUNE 2022





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, 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.

VISION 2050

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

MISSION 2030

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).



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

Goals are broad long-term aims that define accomplishment of the vision.

6-7	GOAL A INCEPTION & CONCEPTUALIZATION	Facilitate the inception and conceptualization of policies, instruments, and mechanisms that support stakeholders' capacity to implement the Initiative.
8-9	GOAL B IMPLEMENTATION	Enhance the enabling environment for large-scale implementation of the Initiative on the ground.
10-11	GOAL C PROMOTION	Advocate and raise awareness to foster a commitment to the Initiative's vision by all stakeholders.
12-13	GOAL D COLLABORATION	Foster interaction and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve the Initiative's vision.
14-15	GOAL E FOLLOW UP	Establish an international science-based framework for monitoring, reporting & verification, and impact assessment.
16-17	GOAL F CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS	Promote long-term viability and scaling up of the Initiative through citizen involvement, resource mobilization, and reporting on progress.

A - INCEPTION & CONCEPTUALIZATION

OBJECTIVES

Each objective is defined by its label, description, baseline 2022, target 2030 and 2050.

	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	BASELINE 2020	TARGET 2030	TARGET 2050
A1 NDCS (CF)*	Ensure SH and SOC are vital components of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).	All UNFCCC parties include SH and SOC in their NDCs and consider both in their national agriculture, forestry, and land use plans and programs.	In 2019, out of 196 countries' NDCs, only 28 specified SOC, peatland, or wetland targets, policies, or measures.	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.	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.
A2 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT (GF)*	Support the development and implementation of numerous innovative projects on SH and SOC.	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.	A call for projects was introduced. 5 to 10 high-quality projects were evaluated as being in line with the "4 per 1000" vision and the STC's set of criteria and indicators.	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.	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.
A3 SHARE EXPERIENCES (CF)	Facilitate an active multi-stakeholder exchange on innovations and success stories.	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.	Success stories are shared via newsletters, during the annual Forum of partners, and during events of the Climate-Soil Community of Practice (CoP).	5 thematic events per year A virtual fair involving 50% of the partners.	10 thematic events per year A virtual fair involving all partners
A4 STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION (CF)	Facilitate a regional stakeholder exchange to initiate evidence-based transformative programs for on-the-ground action.	Regional stakeholders meet and interact to build evidence-based programs for on-the-ground action, emphasizing the dialogue between policymakers and scientists.	One global and 1 to 2 regional (online) annual meetings with respective outcome reports.	1 (online) meeting per year in each region following a long-term concept with collaborative activities between the meetings	3-5 (online) meetings per year in each region following a long-term concept with collaborative activities between the meetings
A5 CARBON MARKETS (GF)	Improve the transparency, accessibility, and configuration of carbon market mechanisms.	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.	Qualitative data on Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), carbon markets, and compensation schemes in agriculture and forestry have been compiled and are freely accessible.	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.	3 to 5 alternative economic instruments providing a real financial incentive that drives the transformation towards agroecology have been explored and/or developed.
A6 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK (CF)	Develop a conceptual framework illustrating the interrelations between the driving factors of SH, SOC, and carbon balance in AFOLU systems.	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.	A multi-stakeholder discussion was started. Contribution to CIRCASA project and inception of the IRC.	A scientific conceptual framework has been elaborated and is used for internal and external communication and decision-making.	The scientific conceptual framework has been updated and is used for internal and external communication and decision-making.

* CF: Core Facility | GF: Global Facility

B - IMPLEMENTATION

	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	BASELINE 2020	TARGET 2030	TARGET 2050
B1 INVESTMENT PLANS (GF)	Encourage the development and implementation of investment plans reflecting the targets set out in the NDCs	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.	Inventory of strategies and investments plans	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.	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.
B2 TECHNOLOGY DATABASE (GF)	Provide an easily accessible database of good practices for SH to practitioners	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.	Presently, the "4 per 1000" Initiative does not provide access to databases with relevant content, and existing databases on good agricultural practices do not systematically indicate the potential impact on SH and climate.	An advanced and updated database is available for SOC and SH improvement in two other regions. Reviews and assessments are conducted every year.	An advanced and updated database related to SOC and SH improvement is delivered globally.
B3 GAFOLUP HELPPDESK (GF)	Develop and implement a decentralized helpdesk providing advice for the successful adoption of Good Agriculture and Other Land Use Practices (GAFOLUP)	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.	No helpdesk is active.	The helpdesk is active in 5 regions.	The helpdesk is globally active, with more countries and sub-regions involved.
B4 MRV TOOLS (GF)	Provide tools for Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) of SH and SOC to practitioners	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.	Existing tools and experts on MRV have been identified and are active in the 4p1000 network.	Existing MRV tool kits have comparable and clearly defined outputs available on the electronic platform.	The MRV toolkit provides an important foundation for the development and application of a dynamic and ecosystem-based diagnosis of SH.



C - PROMOTION

	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	BASELINE 2020	TARGET 2030	TARGET 2050
C1 ADVOCACY & AWARENESS (CF)	Increase the awareness of all stakeholders regarding the decisive role of SH in tackling climate change and improving food security.	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.	Sporadic events target the public on the importance of soils for climate and food security. There is a significant presence on social media, and a simple Public Relations (PR) Kit is available.	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.	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).
C2 URGE SOIL REGENERATION (GF)	Ensure that production is based on the principles of agroecology.	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.	Adoption rates of agroecology are insignificant. Products from agroecology play an insignificant role in global food supply chains. The soil exploitation paradigm prevails as a principle for land management.	50% of value chain actors in agriculture and forestry have adopted the principles of agroecology and sustainable land management.	100% of value chain actors in agriculture and forestry have adopted the principles of agroecology and sustainable land management in practice.
C3 INCREASED INVESTMENTS (CF)	Boost investments in SH and SOC.	Convince policymakers and funders to increase commitments and investments in AFOLU in favor of SH and carbon sequestration.	The Top 20* institutions were contacted end of 2020.	In 2030, the Top 80** institutions have been reached. <small>** Referring to the Funders' overview study "Mapping of active Finance Providers" delivered by the Consultancy team: Perspectives Climate Group in Dec. 2021 (funded by GIZ: German International Cooperation Agency for Development).</small>	In 2050, all policymakers and funders have been contacted.
C4 BRANDING & CERTIFICATION (CF)	Develop, improve and implement SH branding mechanisms.	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.	No widely recognized SH branding mechanisms exist.	SH branding mechanisms are fully operational.	SH branding mechanisms have been assessed, updated, and fully operational.



D - COLLABORATION

	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	BASELINE 2020	TARGET 2030	TARGET 2050
D1 COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM (GF)	Provide a digital collaborative platform, including regional portals.	A boosted electronic collaborative platform, including regional portals, facilitates and strengthens collaboration and exchange between stakeholders within and around the Initiative.	Collaborative platform 2.0 is fully operational for the Secretariat, the STC, and the Bureau.	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.	The collaborative platform is fully operational.
D2 REGIONAL NETWORKS (CF)	Establish, develop and expand "4 per 1000" regional networks.	"4 per 1000" regional networks are established, developed, and expanded.	1 to 2 "4 per 1000" annual regional meetings are organized.	"4 per 1000" regional networks are established in all regions and active in partner and member countries.	"4 per 1000" regional networks are established and active in all regions and countries.
D3 YOUTH & SENIORS (GF)	Foster the engagement of youth and seniors in the transition to agroecology for SH and climate.	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.	Sporadic contact with youth and senior networks.	"4 per 1000" partners have established active partnerships with regional youth and senior networks.	Partnerships with youth and senior networks are active in all regions.
D4 PARTNERSHIPS & ALLIANCES (CF)	Establish partnerships and alliances to enhance transformative action on the ground.	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.	Partnerships and alliances with a few global networks and initiatives have been established.	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.	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.

E - FOLLOW UP



	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	BASELINE 2020	TARGET 2030	TARGET 2050
E1 MRV SYSTEMS (GF)	Provide a catalog of MRV systems for decision-makers.	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.	Identification of the 5 major operators.	A complete overview of the 20 significant operators and their monitoring systems is available.	A "4 per 1000" catalog covering all monitoring systems is available.
E2 SH OBSERVATORY (GF)	Enable near real-time monitoring of SH and SOC.	SH and SOC are monitored in near real-time at global, regional, and national levels.	Identification of some significant operators.	The establishment of a real-time observatory for SH and SOC.	Real-time SH & SOC observatory is operational at global, regional, and sub-regional levels.
E3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT (GF)	Provide impact assessment tools (IATs) to evaluate the consistency of actions with the "4 per 1000" vision.	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.	Exploration of a possible collaboration with the developers of existing tools: FAO EX-ACT (Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool); Wocat CBP (Carbon Benefits Project) tool, etc.)	Users have online access to essential impact assessment tools.	Users have online access to updated and extended impact assessment tools.

F - CROSSCUTTING ACTIONS

	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	BASELINE 2020	TARGET 2030	TARGET 2050
F1 TWIN REGIONS (CF)	Establish the Twin Regions concept to boost SH and climate action.	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.	A pilot project is under evaluation to implement the "Twin Regions" concept in 3 distinct regions in Europe (France, Germany, and Spain) and Africa (Benin, DRC, Mali).	The "Twin Regions" concept is adopted by communities in 20 "4 per 1000" partner countries.	The "Twin Regions" concept is adopted by communities in all "4 per 1000" partner countries.
F2 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION (CF)	Mobilize sufficient resources to ensure the implementation of the strategy and functioning of the Executive Secretariat.	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.	The aspired annual budget in 2020 was 961K€ (including the core budget of 721 K€), but the available funding was only 450 K€. A baseline for investments in SH projects on the ground has not been established.	The aspired annual budget in 2020 was 961 K€ (including the core budget of 721 K€), but the available funding was only 450 K€. A baseline for investments in SH projects on the ground has not been established.	The level of investments has doubled as compared to 2030.
F3 "4 PER 1000" DASHBOARD (CF)	Provide a "4 per 1000" dashboard delivering near real-time quantitative information on the progress of the Initiative.	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.	Annual reports are available.	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.	The "4 per 1000" dashboard is operational, regularly updated, and recognized as an international standard.



THE " 4 PER 1000 " INITIATIVE: SOILS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE

The international " 4 per 1000 " Initiative, launched on December 1st, 2015 at COP 21,
is part of the **Global Agenda for Action**

Partner of:



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