



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

Document Consortium 7-1: Report of the Consortium Meeting n°6 - on line  
(10 December 2020)



## 7<sup>th</sup> Consortium Meeting

Wednesday 10 November 2021  
Glasgow (Scotland, UK) & online

### Opening

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

**The agenda** (see Consortium document 6-0) *was approved*.

**The report of the fifth Consortium meeting** (see document Consortium 6-1) in Madrid, on 11 December 2019, *was also approved*.

### General questions:

**Formal welcome of new Partners and Members of the Initiative since the last Consortium meeting** (see Consortium document 6-2):

Since the fifth Consortium meeting in Madrid in December 2019, the Bureau created in August 2019 has validated a list of 119 new partners including 46 new Members at its numerous meetings during 2020. Since then, 15 new organisations and countries have applied to join the Initiative as Partners or Members (7). 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 2020, 134 new organisations and countries have signed up to become Partners (134), some of which are also Members (53). The following table summarises the situation:

	Partners	including Members
States Provinces	2	2
International Organisations	3	2
Banks / Development Funds	0	0
Foundations	0	0
Producer Organisations	12	8
Research Institutes and Universities	10	7
Civil Society /NGOs	55	34
For-profit or commercial organisations	52	0
<b>Total 2020</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>53</b>

## Activity Report 2019-2020

The Executive Secretary presented the activities carried out in 2020 (document Forum 5-2).  
***The Consortium validated this report***

**Report on the activities of the "Bureau" since its creation** (see document Consortium 6-3):

The Executive Secretariat recalled how the Bureau was constituted.

The Bureau thus constituted held 7 meetings in 2020, and focused its work on

- The validation of membership applications from new Partners and Members between two Consortium meetings
- The selection of the last two members to be appointed to the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Initiative, which were validated by electronic vote of the Consortium
- The animation within each college
- The proposal to adapt the Presidency of the Initiative
- The validation of the change of the hosting entity of the Executive Secretariat of the Initiative
- The choice of dates and the agenda for the "4 for 1000" Day in 2020 with the choice of a discussion theme for the "4 for 1000" Day: *"Soil health to fight climate change in the framework of the "One Health" initiative and the necessary international solidarity"*.

In conclusion, the Members' Consortium thanked the Bureau for its work in 2020 and confirmed this work. ***The Activity Report of the Bureau was adopted.***

## **Proposals of the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) for the Roadmap 2021**

(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:

Partners and Members should:

- Take steps to assist in the development of MRV (Monitoring - Reporting - Verification) procedures. The STC believes that investing in this area is a priority and necessary.
- Continue their efforts to include soil carbon sequestration in NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions). This could be done by:
  - o Increasing collaboration between experienced countries and countries in need of assistance to develop and meet their SOC (Soil Organic Carbon) targets
  - o Increasing the number of countries engaged in SOC targets
  - o Improving SOC measurement and monitoring
  - o Better demonstrating the impact of SOC management practices and the benefits to farmers of changing their practices.
- Support the establishment of an international consortium for research and scientific cooperation on soil carbon sequestration
- Mobilise resources to implement good soil management practices
- Invest in the development of a partnership strategy to implement the Strategic Plan of the "4 per 1000" Initiative.

- Take the lead in implementing the “4 per 1000” Strategic Plan

#### Discussion:

Mr **Peter GUBBELS** asked Dr **Cornelia RUMPEL** whether it is necessary to have a scientific basis to really help a given country or region to develop the means to monitor, record and verify soil organic carbon, or whether larger scale projects or programmes can already start, through agroforestry or other means, to begin the process of enhancing soil organic carbon on the ground. In response, Dr. **RUMPEL** stressed that this MRV strategy is an ongoing discussion that follows the evolution of science, to which the IPCC's recommendations on what practices to apply and methods to use are adjusted. It is clear to her that projects will not wait for the final developments but must make sure that they always use the latest and best information available. It is extremely important that these strategies are established and used to attract funding, so that there is confidence that it is possible to increase soil carbon with the proposed practice(s).

Mr **Jean-Luc CHOTTE** (IRD) welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Plan and Vision. Considering it a very good step forward, he added that IRD supports the implementation of the objectives and targets, which have been identified during this long collaborative process in which the institution has actively participated. He said that the scientific approach should be part of the international agenda, as for example the Koronivia Joint work on agriculture, which will be evaluated very soon. He said that the Initiative could play an important role in this new movement and that it would be useful for the Initiative to take stock of other international initiatives such as the UNCCD, FAO, and the SPG, to ensure that it adds value at the global level. He thanked the Chair of the STC for her report on the activities of the STC and, suggested a strengthening of the links and relationship between the STC and the Research and Education College of the Forum. Finally, he stressed that he welcomed the establishment of working groups around the Strategic Plan on behalf of CIRAD, INRAE and IRD, which these research institutions were willing to participate in while ensuring that they did not create silos between the different objectives. In response, Dr. **Cornelia RUMPEL** thanked Mr. **CHOTTE** for his comments, encouragement and recommendations, especially regarding the Koronivia process. She stressed the importance of not working in silos within the Strategic Plan working groups, but in cooperation. Regarding closer links and collaboration between the STC and the Forum's scientific college, she said that she was in favour of intensifying this collaboration in order to benefit from all the science produced under the initiative. Continuing on the same subject, Mr **Paul LUU** recalled that with the collaborative platform, the Initiative had a tool to extend this collaborative work. He said that the Executive Secretariat, together with the Chair of the STC, would ensure that information was passed on and that dialogue within the scientific network of the “4 per 1000” Initiative was improved. Regarding the working groups, each one was created at the level of each objective of the Strategic Plan in order to work on the definition of actions and activities that would allow the 2030 and 2050 targets to be reached. Before the end of the analysis work, some of the working groups may be brought together to address actions related to several objectives within the action plan. This work will be pursued in full coordination and not in silo, in cohesion with the overall Strategic Plan.

#### Work Programme for 2021: Roadmap and Budget

##### **Roadmap 2021**

The Executive Secretary presented the proposed Roadmap for the year 2021 (see document 6-5) which foresees, among others:

1. *Continuation of the work of the Scientific and Technical Committee, including*
  - Research areas and scientific cooperation
  - 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)
2. 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".
3. *Specific work to be done with public and private funders*
  - Continuation of the donor awareness and fundraising campaign
  - Build a network of partnerships
  - Build on the Consortium's decision to create a foundation.
  - Work on mainstreaming green finance and the carbon markets initiative
4. *Establishing a regional level within the initiative*
  - Promotion of the initiative
  - Organisation of meetings at regional level
5. *Contribution to international discussions 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.
6. *Communications*
  - Development and animation of the group of regional correspondents
  - Continued maintenance of the website
  - Continued publication of the newsletter in French, English and Spanish
  - Development of press relations
  - Presence of the initiative on social networks/social media

Comments from the floor:

The members stressed the importance of informing people about the work of the Initiative through communication on social networks and the website. The initiative encourages through the regional meetings it organises to build, animate and help regional networks, with the help of the Executive Secretariat and the Ambassadors of the Initiative at regional level. The objective is to work together, to develop regional networks, in particular via the collaborative platform.

***The Roadmap 2021 has been adopted.***

## **Réunions statutaires et réunions relatives à l'initiative « 4 pour 1000 » en 2021**

Le Secrétaire Exécutif a présenté la liste des réunions du CST et de l'Initiative en 2021 avec les lieux possibles (voir document 6-6). Les réunions du CST seront tenues dos à dos avec d'autres réunions/conférences pertinentes. Le Secrétariat fait preuve de prudence quant au maintien des réunions du fait de la pandémie, et de la possibilité de tenir ses réunions en virtuel.

### Commentaire de l'assistance :

Il est souligné qu'il est important que la Commission européenne, au moment où se négocie la nouvelle PAC, puisse intégrer, avec le Parlement, de manière plus claire l'enjeu du stockage de carbone dans les sols. Il est suggéré de prévoir une réunion sur les mesures possibles à mettre en place pour le stockage de carbone en Europe afin d'intégrer le stockage du carbone dans les décisions de la PAC. Dans ce contexte, l'initiative pourra utilement prendre contact avec les représentants des ministères nationaux qui sont impliqués dans la définition des inventaires des émissions de GES et dans les efforts et engagements nationaux. L'initiative peut jouer un rôle de médiateur entre les ministères, les réseaux scientifiques voir des parties prenantes afin de renforcer les engagements, leur transparence et la qualité des inventaires. L'assistance souligne que c'est un point critique pour avancer dans la direction du stockage de carbone mais aussi pour l'engagement du secteur privé puisque cet engagement doit être compatible avec l'effort de rapportage des Etats.

Il est également suggéré que les conseils de l'Initiative ne proviennent pas uniquement des scientifiques mais aussi des agriculteurs et ainsi avoir une offre claire des producteurs sur la façon dont ils peuvent contribuer.

***Le Consortium a validé le calendrier proposé par le Secrétariat Exécutif.***

## **Statutory and "4 per 1000" meetings in 2021**

The Executive Secretary presented the list of STC and "4 per 1000" meetings in 2021 with possible venues (see document 6-6). 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.

### Comment from the floor:

It was stressed that it is important that the European Commission, at a time when the new CAP is being negotiated, can integrate, together with the Parliament, the issue of carbon storage in soils more clearly. It was suggested that a meeting be planned on the possible measures to be put in place for carbon storage in Europe in order to integrate carbon storage into the CAP decisions. In this context, the Initiative could usefully contact representatives of national ministries that are involved in defining GHG emission inventories and national efforts and commitments. The Initiative can play a mediating role between ministries, scientific networks and stakeholders in order to strengthen the commitments, their transparency and the quality of the inventories. It was pointed out that this is a critical point for moving forward on carbon storage, but also for private sector engagement as this engagement needs to be compatible with the reporting efforts of governments.

It was also suggested that the Initiative's advice should not only come from scientists but also from farmers and thus have a clear offer from producers on how they can contribute.

***The Consortium validated the timetable proposed by the Executive Secretariat.***

## Financial and human resources issues:

### **Budget 2021**

The Executive Secretary presented the balance sheet for the financial year 2020 and the provisional budget for 2021 (see document 6-7). The budget is roughly equivalent to last year, with a main budget of €715,000, to which would be added €240,000 for the organisation of regional meetings, i.e. a total annual budget of €955,000.

### Comments from the floor:

- CIRAD is planning 2 projects (South East Asia and Côte d'Ivoire) which should be implemented in 2021 and which should support regional actions for the benefit of the Initiative
- It is suggested to the Secretariat and the Initiative to develop a business model where it would be possible to clearly demonstrate the values of the Initiative's Partners
- EGIP Soil indicated that several meetings could be organised in 2021 in which the "4 per 1000" Initiative could participate.

***The Consortium validated the 2021 budget proposed by the Executive Secretariat.***

### **Revision of the Presidency and Vice-Presidency**

Following the difficulties encountered in having the President or Vice-President present at the Forum and Consortium meetings, and, considering the need for some continuity in the Presidency and Vice-Presidency and for a better gender and geographical mix, the Executive Secretariat proposes a change in the organisation of the Presidency and Vice-Presidency with the establishment of a "troika" (see document 6-4). The troika would consist of 3 members who would alternate between the functions of incoming vice-president, president and outgoing vice-president. The mandates would last 2 years, i.e. a total of 6 years for the same person, and would allow for continuity and stability in the action of the Presidency.

This system would be implemented from 1 January 2021. Mr MAYAKI would become the outgoing Vice-President and Mr LE FOLL would become the President. From then on, an election would be set up to elect an incoming Vice-President under specific conditions in order to promote the mix and diversity of geographical origin as well as the college to which they belong.

***The Consortium adopted this proposal.***

### **Presentations for information**

#### **North American Regional Meeting**

The meeting was originally scheduled for March 2020 in Canada. This meeting was finally held from 15 to 19 May 2020 online and gathered 250 participants from all walks of life (government institutions, NGOs, farmers, scientists, companies). 5 sessions of 90 to 120 minutes were organised. This meeting was possible thanks to the support of the French Embassy in Washington and Regeneration Canada.

The meeting allowed certain points to be put forward. For example, it was mentioned that ten American states have decided to promote the transition of their agriculture to regenerative agriculture or that California is investing a lot in the development of agroecology, particularly in the preparation and use of compost from organic household waste.

### **Latin America Regional Meeting** (16 December 2020).

Presentation of the online meeting of the "4 per 1000" Initiative for Latin America and presentation of the members and speakers who will intervene in this meeting.

The Initiative plans to hold a regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean from 12 to 14 May 2021 in Goiânia, Brazil. However, the question remains open, due to the evolution of the CoVid-19 pandemic, whether it should be held face-to-face or online, or whether it should be postponed again until 2022.

### **CIRCASA, towards an International Consortium for Soil Carbon Research in Agriculture**

Dr **Jean-François SOUSSANA** (INRAE) recalled that the CIRCASA project is composed of 22 partners from 17 countries, including the "4 per 1000" initiative. The project began in November 2017 for a period of 3 years (extended to 2021 due to the CoVid-19 pandemic).

The objective was to develop an international synergy around issues related to carbon sequestration in agricultural soils.

The project was based on 4 pillars

- Cutting-edge research to unlock soil carbon potential
- Evolution of carbon stocks and MRV standards
- Technological and agroecological innovations
- Enabling environment and knowledge co-creation (science-farmers)

The IRC implementation plan will be ready for the last CIRCASA meeting in February 2021. Regional meetings will be organised before the final meeting.

#### Comments from the floor:

The project does not only concern agricultural soils but all soils. This request comes from the European Commission to integrate the use of all soils.

### **Conclusions**

The President underlined that the Initiative is at a major stage of its existence due to its progressive structuring. It now seems necessary to move on to the concrete implementation of a number of objectives in the race to combat climate change.

The President emphasised and welcomed the importance of the ambition of the Administration of US President **Joe BIDEN** to return to the Paris Agreement. At the same time, he noted that the European Commission and the European Parliament lacked a clear commitment to taking account of soil in all its dimensions. He welcomed the meeting called for by the President of the European Parliament's Environment Committee, which should pave the way for global discussions on carbon storage and new forms of cooperation.

The President recalled the challenge of proposing new forms of cooperation between large emitting countries and regions with little surface potential for storage and those with low emissions but with a large surface potential for carbon storage. The Initiative can play an important role here through the "**Twin-Regions**" project, which is included in the Strategic Plan.

Finally, the President stressed that "carbon neutrality" will be an extremely important issue in the years to come, and that the Initiative has its place in this context.

### **Closing of the Consortium**

The agenda being exhausted, the meeting was closed by the President, Mr **Stéphane LE FOLL**.