



Newsletter

#27 - January 2025



ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Dear Members and Partners,

The page of 2024 has just been turned. Welcome to 2025, and as is tradition, allow me to wish you and your loved ones a happy new year, with health above all and lots of simple everyday pleasures, serenity because we all need it, and success for your activities and projects for the benefit of our soils and their health.

2025 will be a special year for the Initiative, as it will be its 10th anniversary. It will be an excellent opportunity to look back on the first decade since COP 21 in Paris, to celebrate this anniversary with the entire network and all the players who make up the Initiative's driving forces, and also to look ahead to the next 10 years and all that remains to be done to move forward together in the right direction, based on the 2050 Strategic Plan. The first highlight of this celebration will be a high-level event on 24 April in Paris as part of ChangeNow at the Grand Palais, and a second highlight will take place during COP 30 in Belém at the end of the year.

The COPs of the three United Nations Conventions held in 2024 clearly highlighted the growing importance attached to the issue of soils, their capacity to sequester carbon, and their health, at a global level. This was particularly the case in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where COP 16 of the Convention to Combat Desertification was held. This convention, whose name may seem reductive, is in fact concerned with the land, and therefore the soils, and more particularly its degradation, or more precisely the way in which this degradation should be combated. On this occasion, France joined the list of countries declaring themselves to be affected by desertification, thus demonstrating that it is not only countries with deserts on their territory that are concerned, but also all countries that are partly or wholly affected by soil erosion and land degradation, particularly in a context of climate change characterised by ever longer periods of drought. COP 16 in Riyadh marked an important milestone with the creation of the Riyadh Action Agenda, which includes three areas for action (land - and soil - restoration, drought and water resilience, and agri-food systems) and three catalysts (financing, governance, and science, technology and innovation), while emphasising the essential role of financing in unlocking action. The involvement of businesses and the private sector in the discussions and the concrete implementation of actions on the ground through the 'Business4Land' initiative was another highlight of what is wrongly called 'the small COP'. The « 4 per 1000 » Initiative took part in a number of events and joined the Riyadh Action Agenda and the call made within the framework of Business4Land, because it is clear that it is in this convention that the issue of soils, carbon sequestration and their health is and will always be at the centre of discussions and decisions.

In 2025, only one COP will be held, that of the Climate Change Convention in Belém, Brazil, but this will be an opportunity for the Initiative to organise (funding permitting) the 9th « 4 per 1000 » Day, and to celebrate its 10th anniversary with the entire network, in a hybrid format to enable everyone to take part in person or online.

Coincidence or coincidence, this year Brazil will also be hosting a regional '4 by 1000' Latin America and Caribbean conference in Rio de Janeiro from 26 to 28 June, on the theme of 'soil carbon research'. The conference will be co-organised by the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative, Embrapa, UFG, CCarbon, rede ILPF, and the Soil Carbon International Research Consortium, which receives funding from the European Union as part of the ORCaSa project.

Other thematic or regional conferences are being discussed and prepared for the second half of the year, one for temperate climate countries, which should take place in Berlin, and the other for southern Africa, probably in Johannesburg.

To enable us to pursue the Initiative's activities and actions, the network must mobilise from the start of the year to help the Executive Secretariat raise the funds it needs to operate. We are working to consolidate public support in France, Germany and Spain, and it is essential that we continue to benefit from support from the private sector, and above all to increase this support, particularly via Hello Asso (<u>https://www.helloasso.com/associations/cda/formulaires/1/widget</u>). We need you now, because in a few weeks it may be too late.

Take care of yourselves, your loved ones and our soils.

Dr. Paul LUU, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative





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We are all concerned!

Every single one of us can take action to get things moving forward. Together we can make a difference. Our actions, individual or collective, can make things happen.

Join the Initiative!

The Executive Secretariat needs stronger means to implement its annual roadmap and organize statutory meetings in particular of the STC or regional meetings. If you wish to contribute to our common effort, please contact the Executive Secretariat: secretariat@4p1000.org



The 8th Day of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative with the 2024 theme: "Soil Health & SOC (Soil Organic Carbon): Measure, Assess for Scaling up good Practices", was organized in 2 online sessions on November 26 and 27, 2024: the 9th Forum of Partners, Tuesday 26 November 2024, and the 10th Consortium of Members, Wednesday 27 November 2024.

Open to all, the Partner Forum opened with a **Welcome Speech by Mr. Stéphane Le Foll**, President of **the international "4 per 1000" Initiative**, President of Le Mans Métropole and former French Minister of Agriculture [2012-2017], France, followed by the **Inaugural session** (Welcome address through speeches from Officials).

This year, Mr. Marc André Selosse, professor and biologist, MHN (Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France) gave an inspiring presentation.

Then, **Ms. Ercilia Sahores**, Vice-President of the **international "4 per 1000" Initiative**, International Director at Regeneration International, Organic Consumers Association and Vía Organica, Mexico, introduced **the High-Level Segment**, in which the following participants took part:

- Ms. Louise Baker, Managing Director, The Global Mechanism, UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)
- Ms. Natalia Rodríguez Eugenio, Soil scientist Land and Water Officer, FAO-GSP (Global Soil Partnership), International Organization (United Nations agency)
- Dr. Juan Lucas Restrepo Ibiza, Director General, The Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT
- Mr. John Barker, Director General, OIV (International Organisation of Vine and Wine)
- Mr. Teodoro Miano, Secretary General, CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies)
- Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Vice-President of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, African Union Special Envoy on Food Systems
- Mr. Patrick Worms, President, IUAF (International Union of Agroforestry)
- Ms. Diane Masure, President, APAD (Association for the Promotion of a Sustainable agriculture), France
- Ms. Valérie Verdier, CEO, IRD (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development), France
- Dr. Julien Demenois, Researcher in functional ecology, co-Leader of the ESTIME team, "4 per 1000" focal point at Cirad, on behalf of Ms Elisabeth Claverie de Saint Martin, CEO, Cirad (*French International Agricultural Research Centre for International Development*)
- Ms. Suzanne Reynders, Coordinator, Soil Carbon IRC (International Research Consortium), program ORCaSa, led by INRAE (*French National Research Institute for Agriculture and Environment*), France
- Mr. David Nabarro, Strategic Director, 4SD Foundation, Switzerland
- Mr. Pierre Abadie, Group Climate Director, Tikehau Capital, France.

Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, then presented the 2024 Activity Report of the International 4 by 1000 Initiative.

Dr. Beverley Henry, co-Chair of the **"4 per 1000" Scientific Technical Committee (STC)**, Adjunct Associate Professor at Queensland University of Technology, Australia, presented the "4 per 1000" STC Activity Reports and the link with the Soil Carbon IRC (International Research Consortium).

Various speakers gave information on the "4 per 1000" Regional Conferences in 2024 & 2025 and the United Nations COPs in 2024 & 2025.

Ms. Ercilia Sahores, Vice-President of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, International Director at Regeneration International, Organic Consumers Association and Vía Organica, Mexico,, moderated and concluded the Partners' Forum.

Wednesday 27 November 2024, 10th Consortium of Members held its meeting, for the presentation and adoption of the roadmap and the 2025 budget.

All presentations and documents relating to the 8th Day of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative are available by clicking <u>here</u>. Videos of the High-Level Segment and Forum of Partners are available <u>here</u>.



The 2024 Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from Monday November 11 to Friday November 22, 2024.

Numerous events took place within the 148 Pavilions. More than half the Pavilions at COP 29 were national or regional (79 Pavilions), 62 Pavilions were "other", and 7 Pavilions were dedicated to the Agri-Food sector, so 10% of Pavilions were devoted to agriculture.

In narrow collaboration with Save Soil and SEKEM, two policies brieves were prepared and shared with the three networks for endorsement before the UNFCCC COP 29 in Baku (Azerbaijan) and UNCCD COP 16 in Riyadh (Saoudi Arabia):

- "Securing Our Future: Making Climate Finance Work for Agricultural Soil' - Policy Brief n°1 - UNFCCC COP 29. This Policy brief was endorsed by more than 80 organizations.

- "Securing our Future: Expanding Scope of Land Restoration Funds to Impact All Geographies' - Policy Brief n°2 - UNCCD COP 16. The group of organizations endorsing this document are committed to reversing and preventing land degradation, meeting the UNCCD's G20 GLI target (to achieve a 50% reduction in global land area degradation by 2040), and realizing the varied benefits that accrue from sustainably managed lands.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative took part in 12 parallel events on November 14, 15, 16 and 18, 2024.



"Invest in Soil Health: Fostering the future of climate change mitigation and adaptation" - COP29 Side Event Room 4 - 14 Novembre 2024

Soil health regenerative practices are difficult to implement at scale. Leveraging finance is a key incentive for just transition. Organised by the British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) in partnership with CIFOR-ICRAF, CA4SH, CIRAD & Partners, this session explored practices benefiting soil health, data driven agricultural transition and investment opportunities to facilitate climate mitigation and adaptation.

- With: Prof. Jack Hannam, BSSS President (Chair)
 - Dr. Paul Luu, international "4 per 1000" Initiative
 - Dr. Dipayan Dey, South Asian Forum for Environment
 - Dr Carolina Nascimento, Four Paws
 - Ms. Juliana Luiz, Escolhas Institute
 - Mr. Isaac Kabongo, Ecological Christian Organization
 - Ms. Salome Owuonda, Africa Centre for People, Institutions and Society (ACEPIS).

"Upscalling Regeneration Agriculture" - COP 29 - COP 29 - Action on Food Hub Pavilion - 14 November 2024

SEKEM and the EBDA discussed their 40,000 farmers initiative to support and train smallholder farmers to transition to regenerative agricultural practices, improving soil health, water conservation, and climate resilience. **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative participated in this side event.





"Agroecology Solutions Dinner" - Shakh Gardens, Bakou - 14 November 2024

The Future Economy Forum and Food Tank jointly organized during COP29 in Baku a series of evening dialogues on the theme "Scaling Regenerative Agriculture Innovations." These events brought together leaders from across sectors for climate solutions-focused evenings, cultivating the exchange of diverse stakeholder perspectives in an atmosphere of respectful and constructive dialogue.

Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative participated in this dinner, invited by SEKEM.

"Shifting to process-based compensation for Farmers" - COP 29 - Save Soil Pavilion (Save Soil D6, Blue Zone) - 15 November 2024

Current climate finance often relies on outcome-based compensation, where farmers are rewarded based on measurable environmental results, such as carbon sequestration. However, this approach can be restrictive and uncertain, especially for small-scale farmers who face challenges in meeting strict outcome requirements. Process-based compensation offers an alternative, rewarding farmers for adopting sustainable practices that have proven to lead to beneficial outcomes.

This panel explored the limitations of outcome-based compensation, discussed the potential of process-based models, and examined the barriers preventing their widespread adoption in agricultural finance.

Moderator: **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative Panellists:

- · Georges Bazongo, Directeur des programmes Tree Aid, Burkina Faso
- · Lysa Kisakye, Strategy Lead One Acre Fund, Rwanda
- Anand Ethirajalu, Project Director Cauvery Calling, Inde.

To view this event, click here.

"Empowering Climate Action" - Presentation of the UNFCCC Policy Brief - Action on Food Hub Pavilion - 15 November 2024

A UNFCCC COP 29 policy brief "Securing Our Future: Making climate Finance Work for Agricultural Soils" was prepared by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative in narrow collaboration with Save Soil and SEKEM, and shared with the three networks for endorsement before the UNFCCC COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The policy brief was presented during this event.



"Regenerative Agriculture Innovations - Solutions Dialogue & Dinner" - Shakh Gardens, Bakou - 15 November 2024

The Future Economy Forum and Food Tank jointly organized during COP29 in Baku a series of evening dialogues on the theme "Scaling Regenerative Agriculture Innovations". These events brought together leaders from across sectors for climate solutions-focused evenings, cultivating the exchange of diverse stakeholder perspectives in an atmosphere of respectful and constructive dialogue.

Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative participated in this dinner, invited by SEKEM.



"Sustany Our Future: Water Scarcity, Climate Change and Regenerative Agriculture" - COP 29 - Action on Food Hub Pavilion - 16 November 2024

SEKEM collaborated with FRA, Future Economy Forum, and Value Network Ventures Advisory Services (VNV) to explore sustainable strategies for water conservation and regenerative agriculture, addressing climate change and water scarcity. **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative participated in this side event. Find out more <u>here</u>.



"Enhacing Soil Health for Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation and Desertification control: a cross-sectoral Approach" - COP 29 - Pavilion F9, Baku Olympic Stadium, Baku, Azerbaijan - 16 November 2024

Organized mainly by CIFOR-ICRAF, CA4SH, CIMMYT, WWF International, Emerging Ag, this event focused on soil health as a key area for action across climate, desertification, and biodiversity agendas. It underscored soil health's critical role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, combating desertification, and supporting biodiversity and ecosystems. Discussions highlighted how improving soil health can strengthen food systems, improve food security, enhance biodiversity, and promote overall environmental sustainability. Additionally, the event provides key insights to inform national plans on desertification, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and biodiversity strategies.

The event aimed to develop actionable recommendations for COP 29, COP 16 in Riyadh, and beyond, building on the key outcomes of CBD COP16. It sought to catalyze global commitment to prioritizing soil health by emphasizing its indispensable role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), preserving biodiversity, and driving transformational environmental change.

Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, spoke at this side event. To view the event, click <u>here</u>.

"Empowering Farmers: Progress and Future Pathways for Carbon Farming" - COP 29 - Save Soil Pavilion (Save Soil D6, Second Level in the Blue Zone) - 16 November 2024

Over the past year, significant strides have been made in enhancing farmers' resilience to climate change through sustainable soil management and collective action. While the evolution of carbon finance policies has opened new avenues for farmers, market access challenges persist. What innovative measures and protocol changes have been implemented to ease these barriers? And how can they be scaled to ensure carbon farming becomes a reliable income source for small-scale farmers worldwide?

This session explored recent achievements and the necessary steps forward to establish agriculture as a key player in climate solutions.

Panellists:

- Macaulay Jones Independent Consultant Agriculture, Sustainability & Trade, based in Germany
- Thoraya Seada Director Carbon Footprint Center, SEKEM Initiative, Egypt
- Luke Viljoen Country Manager One Acre Fund Zambia
- Madhav Mittal Banas Save Soil Farmer Producer Company
- Georges Bazongo Treeaid

Moderator: Martin Frick job.

Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the International Initiative "4 per 1000" attended this event. To view this event, click <u>here</u>.





"Livestock Induced Emission Management" - COP 29 - Blue Zone, TERRE - Global Carbon Council Pavilion F3 - 16 November 2024

Livestock rearing is an important livelihood activity across the globe while also accounting for approximately 14.5% global GHG emissions. Direct emission from livestock sources refers to enteric fermentation, excretions and respiration while indirect emissions are through allied activities in livestock and manure management. Productive potential, feeding and management systems vary in different agroecological conditions. Livestock rearers especially small farmers, face challenges like availability of resources, inputs and services. Various actions in this line would help to improve animal health management and reduce emissions.

Organised by <u>BAIF</u> (BAIF Development Research Foundation), the session deliberated on emission management strategies in different agroecological conditions, challenges, role of multiple stakeholders and further acceleration of adoption pathways.

- Introduction & setting the context by Ms. Sneha Shinde, Thematic Programme Executive, BAIF Development Research Foundation & Dr. Raviraj Jadhav, Programme Director, BAIF
 Development Research Foundation
- Improved animal health and feeding for reduced emissions among smallholders in Africa by Dr. Laura Cramer, Specialist Policy Engagement, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Influence of soil health in emission management by Dr. Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Global Research Leader: Soil and Land Health, CIFOR ICRAF, Co lead: Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH)
- "4 per 1000" orientation for agriculture in the future to combat climate change by **Dr. Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary, international "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Low emission dairy systems by Mr. Donald Moore, Executive Director, Global Dairy Platform
- Addressing methane emission challenge: BAIF's experience in livestock development from India by **Mr. Sandipkumar Yadav**, Chief Programme Executive, BAIF Development Research Foundation.

Facilitation by Dr. Raviraj Jadhav, Programme Director, BAIF Development Research Foundation.

"Initiatives and Challenges towards Revitalised Soil from a Governmental Perspective" - COP 29 - Save Soil Pavillion (Save Soil D6, Second Level in the Blue Zone) - 18 November 2024

This panel brought together country representatives to share experiences and challenges in addressing soil degradation. This session fostered global knowledge sharing and collaboration, exploring national initiatives, barriers, and successes in soil conservation. Through open dialogue, participants gained insights into effective policies, programs, and strategies implemented by nations worldwide, highlighting opportunities for improved soil health, sustainable land use, and environmental resilience. Avec **Moldabaeva Saule Sundatpaevna**, Director of Department of Management of Planning and Analysis of Agriculture, Kazakhstan; **Jakhongir Talipov**, Head of Department GEF-GCF OFP International Cooperation and Grants, Ministry for Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Republic of Uzbekistan; **Dr Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, and **William Hohenstein**, Director of USDA's Office of Energy and Environmental Policy, within the Office of the Chief Economist. Moderator: **Praveena Sridhar**, Chief Science & Technology Officer , Save Soil Movement. To view this event, click <u>here</u>.

" Food and Agriculture Systems Stakeholders Dinner" - Mugham Club, Bakou - 18 November 2024

The Future Economy Forum and Food Tank jointly organized during COP29 in Baku a series of evening dialogues on the theme "Scaling Regenerative Agriculture Innovations". These events brought together leaders from across sectors for climate solutions-focused evenings, cultivating the exchange of diverse stakeholder perspectives in an atmosphere of respectful and constructive dialogue. **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative participated in this dinner.





Our Land. Our Future.

16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2-13 December 2024



The 16th UNCCD session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 13 December 2024.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative took part in 18 events on 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 et 11 December, 2024.

"Expert Consultation Session: Laying the Foundations for the B4L Working Groups" - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 25, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 4 December 2024

According to the UNCCD's 2024 financial assessment, US\$878 billion is lost each year due to land degradation, desertification and drought (DLDD). Addressing these challenges would cost only US\$4.6 trillion, far less than the projected losses.

The UNCCD acknowledges the private sector's role in land degradation but sees it as key to the transition toward sustainable land management. To drive this shift, the **Business for Land Initiative** (B4L) was launched at the 2024 World Economic Forum. B4L is the UNCCD's main initiative to engage the private sector in sustainable land and water management. It helps companies and financial institutions manage risks and seize opportunities tied to land degradation and drought. B4L aims to restore 1.5 billion hectares of land by 2030, contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), a global commitment to achieve net zero land degradation by 2030, as well as enhancing drought resilience. The Business 4 Land initiative aims to drive innovative, land-positive and drought-resilient solutions that contribute to sustainable land management, drought resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

Bringing together diverse stakeholders from the private sector as well as individuals and organisations supporting land-positive business initiatives, this session co-organised by UNCCD, gathered valuable perspectives on critical actions needed to support businesses and financial institutions in advancing land-positive practices and value-chain transformations.

Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, took part in the session.

On that day, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative signed the <u>Call to Action: 'Business for Land, A Business Agenda for</u> <u>Restoring 1.5 Billion Hectares of Land and Increasing Drought Resilience</u>', and became a Member of Business for Land.



BUSINESS FOR LAND FORUM - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 33, Action Dome, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 4 December 2024

The Business 4 Land Forum, co-organized by UNCCD during the pivotal COP16, convened top-level decision-makers from business, government, and civil society to discuss concrete actions in addressing one of the most pressing global challenges of our time: restoring and protecting the world's soils and water resources.

Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, took part in the session "Unlocking Opportunities in Sustainable Land, Soil and Water Management".

Find out more <u>here</u>.





Public-Private Dialogue: 'Unleashing investment in sustainable land management for people, nature and climate' - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 11, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 4 December 2024

Convened by two observers of the convention: the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and Ambition Loop, with the support of the COP Presidency, this public-private dialogue was part of the action agenda of UNCCD COP16 and aimed to enhance the dialogue between parties and the private sector by exploring how public-private collaboration can rapidly scale solutions and investments for sustainable land management including regenerative agriculture. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, took part in this dialogue.

"How can businesses strengthen farmers' environment to help them implement the best practices for land and soil health: assessment and advice" - COP16, Blue Zone, Business4Land Pavilion, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 4 December 2024

Soil and soil health are at the heart of agriculture, and agriculture is the only sector that can help address all challenges faced by humankind, namely climate change, desertification, erosion of biodiversity and food insecurity. Yet, over one-third of the Earth's surface is degraded, affecting 3.2 billion people globally. Though small-holders farmers play a critical role in maintaining healthy soil, they often lack access to necessary knowledge and resources. Policy makers, scientists, but also businesses are key in that work.

Organized by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, this event explored the role businesses can play in helping farmers to adopt and implement best practices for soil and land health, particularly concerning the environment. Companies and business associations explained how they influence their respective value chains through their relationships with the farmers who supply them with raw materials. Companies involved in the measurement of important soil parameters for the assessment of soil health shed light on the challenges to be met and the advances being made, in particular through the use of artificial intelligence. Finally, other companies involved in providing technical support to farmers in their agro-ecological transition testified to the need to provide answers to producers' ongoing questions.

Paul Luu, Executive Secretary, international "4 per 1000" Initiative moderated this side event, with speakers including Adrienne de Malleray from GENESIS, Sebastien Roumegous from Biospheres, Sandrine Sommer from Moet Henessy and Stéphane Hallaire from Reforest'Action.



'Soil carbon sequestration: status and challenges for scaling up' - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 24, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 5 December 2024

Soils host the largest terrestrial carbon pool and play a crucial role in the global carbon balance by regulating dynamic biochemical processes and the exchange of greenhouse gases (GHG) with the atmosphere. However, roughly 33% of the world's soils are degraded, which has led to large losses of SOM and hence SOC.

Many initiatives and efforts are working towards maintaining soil carbon stocks and sequestering where feasible. After the last seven years where soil carbon sequestration has been identified as one of the nature base solutions to address the multiple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, there is a need to review the progress made and challenges faced in doing so.

Organized by National center vegetation cover (NCVC), this event brought key speakers and initiatives to share the status and challenges in soil carbon sequestration in

different ecosystems. This includes soil inorganic carbon in drylands.

Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, took part in a round table discussion on overcoming barriers and scaling up soil carbon sequestration with Ing. Ahmad Alanazi, Director General of National center vegetation cover (NCVC) and Dr. Felipe Ortega Schlingmann of the European Investment Bank.

The event was moderated by Ronald Vargas.





"Rejuvenating degraded lands and preventing degradation of agricultural lands to meet a 50 per cent reduction in degraded lands by 2040" - COP16, Blue Zone, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 5 December 2024

During the event, co-organized by Save Soil and the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, the Policiy Brief: "Securing our Future: Expanding Scope of Land Restoration Funds to Impact All Geographies" was presented.

This policy brief was prepared by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative in narrow collaboration with Save Soil and SEKEM and shared with the three networks for endorsement before the UNCCD COP 16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In continued support of the UNCCD's tireless efforts over the last 3 decades to halt and reverse land degradation, this document, endorsed by UNCCD-accredited organizations, and organizations working for soil health and sustainable agricultural prosperity, requests the UNCCD to:

Speakers:

- · Mme Praveena Sridhar, Conscious Planet, Save Soil Movement, India
- Dr Claudia Schepp, Scientific Director, internationale "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Mr Oliver Oliveros, Agroecology coalition, Italie
- Mr Laurent Cournac, IRD, France.

Click here to consult the Policy Brief.



Organized by Moët Hennessy, this event enabled to share the key highlights of the 2nd edition of World Living Soils Forum 2024 with Advisory Board members and to highlight the importance of acting collectively to accelerate and scale up the transition to regenerative agriculture.

This event was moderated by **Jimena Morales Velasco** of ChangeNOW, with speakers including: **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, **Stéphane Hallaire** from Reforest'Action, **Sandrine Sommer** from Moët Hennessy, **Adrienne de Malleray** from GENESIS and **Hannah Schragmann** from Soilytix.

"Provide small-farmers adequate tools and approaches to monitor soil health at the farmer level for accelerate their resilience to aridification" - COP16, Blue Zone, Food & Agriculture Pavilion, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 5 December 2024

Co-organized by the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, IRD and CIRAD, this event focused on land aridification and tools for measuring, monitoring soil health to empower small-scale farmers in adapting their production to become more resilient to aridity. Several case studies (annual crop, agroforestry, pastoralism) were presented.

Representatives from scientific research institutions ("4 per 1000" network promoting soil carbon sequestration to combat climate change, food insecurity, biodiversity erosion and desertification) talked about issues and progress made in MRV tools and methods available.



With:

- Dr. Paul Luu, Executif Secretary, international "4 per 1000" Initiative, moderator
- Dr. Jean-Luc Chotte, IRD
- · Dr Jean-Daniel Cesaro, CIRAD
- Ms. Maelys Paquette, Deloitte sustainability France
- Ms. Praveena Sridhar, Conscious Planet Save Soil movement (Isha foundation).

To watch the event, please click here.







"Soil Health for Food Security and Resilience" - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 23, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 5 December 2024

This event explored the socio-economic, policy, and practical aspects of conserving and enhancing soil health for food security and resilience. It brought together soil policy advocates, researchers, investors, businesses, government, and farming communities to discuss strategies for integrating soil health into national and international policies, financing mechanisms, and on-the-ground practices.

Moderated by **Ms. Leigh Ann Winowiecki**, Global Soil and Land Health Research Lead, CIFOR-ICRAF, Co-Leader of CA4SH.

And panellists:

- Mr. Stewart Maginnis, Deputy Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Ms. Praveena Sridhar, Director of Science and Technology, Save Soil
- Ms. Victoria Crawford, Director of Agriculture and Food, WBCSD
- **Dr. Irene Heuser**, Chair of the Specialist Group on Soil Law and Sustainable Agriculture, World Commission on Environmental Law (UICN WCEL)
- Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretariat, international "4 per 1000" Initiative
 Mr. John Mundy, Director of Global Partnerships, Climate Finance and
- Mr. John Mundy, Director of Global Partnerships, Climate Finance and Technology, One Acre Fund
- Ms. Belén Citoler, Deputy Director, Forum rural mondial
- Mr. Joao Campari, Global Practice Lead Food and Agriculture Organization, WWF International.





"Cultivating Change for Land Degradation Neutrality through Evidence-based Policy and Practice" - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 05, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 5 December 2024

Co-organized by WWF International, CIFOR-ICRAF, CA4SH, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, Rabobank, Action on Food Hub, European Carbon Farmers and IICA, this event highlighted on-the-ground implementation and opportunities for evidence-based policy frameworks to contribute to food systems transformation and land restoration, from the soil up. It brought together stakeholders from research, policy, development, farmer organizations, policymakers and governments to discuss opportunities to engage and integrate soil health into policy and strategies at national, regional and international level - and ultimately contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) goals). Intervenants :

- · Ms. Christine Magaju, Research Associate, Soil and Land Health, CIFOR-ICRAF, moderator
- Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary, international "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Mr. Chaney St. Martin, International Technical Specialist in Water and Soil Management, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- Ms. Martina Fleckenstein, Global Policy Director, Food, WWF International
- **Ms. Lieke Verhofstad**, Strategic relationships, transition of natural and food systems, global food and energy networks, Rabobank
- Ms. Anuja Malhotra, Policy Manager, Center for Policy Design (CDP), ATREE
- · Mr. Lokesh Goud Dabbi, CA4SH Youth4Soil
- · Mr. Tor-Gunnar Vågen, Principal Scientist and Head of SPACIAL, CIFOR-ICRAF
- Ms. Sara Omi, President, Coordination of Territorial Women Leaders (CMLT) of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)
- Mr. Hakim Beliarine, Chairperson, Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers' Forum (ESAFF)
- Ms. Rebbie Hawara, Africa Director; Country Representative, ICRISAT.





"Riyadh Action Agenda: Agri-Food Systems Dialogue" - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 32, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 6 December 2024

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative has joined the Riyadh Action Agenda for its implementation. **Paul Luu**, Executive Secretary of the "4 per 1000" Initiative, took part in these exchanges.



"Global movements to scale land and soil regeneration: The behavioural science approach" - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 07, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 7 December 2024

Co-organized by IUAF, CIFOR-ICRAF and the Merz Institute, this side event focused on the findings of behavioural science to drive adaptive behaviours that are self-reinforcing, review successful campaigns encouraging social change in African dryland contexts, and discussed how to encourage regenerative, collaborative and resilient behaviour between smallholders, communities, community groups and larger organisations. It used the lenses of behavioural, evolutionary and complexity science to review examples of successful and unsuccessful movement buildings in African smallholder contexts.

With speakers:

- · Mr. Patrick Worms, President, IUAF and Science Policy Advisor, CIFOR-ICRAF,
- Mr. Volli Carucci, Director of Resilience and Food Systems, WFP
- Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary, international "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Ms. Martina Fleckenstein, Director of Global Food Policy, WWF International
- Mr. Joseph Merz, Director General, The Merz Institute
- Dr. Fiona Flintan, Senior Scientist Livestock and Climate, Rangelands and Pastoral Systems, Land Governance and Planning, ILRI
- Dr. Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Global Soil and Land Health Research Lead, CIFOR-ICRAF.



"The Abidjan Legacy Program: an integrated model for ecosystem restoration and sustainable development of rural communities" - COP16, Blue Zone, Ivory Coast pavilion, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 7 December 2024

During the event, Mr. **Abou BAMBA**, Coordinator of the Abidjan Legacy Program, gave an overview of the progress of the <u>Abidjan legacy programme</u>, which is an ambitious multipartner large-scale restoration programme to support the sustainability of comodities while

protecting and restoring land and forests, promoting farmer's livelihoods and improving community resilience in the face of climate change. While ensuring food security and preserving ecosystems through 112 projects implemented from north to south and east to west in Ivory Coast, the Abidjan Legacy Program has positioned itself as a socio-economic development program in its two years of existence.

Panelists included Dr. Zeynu Ummer, Director of the UNDP resilience Hub for Africa, and Dr. Claudia Schepp, Scientific Director -International "4 per 1000" Initiative.

A closing speech was given by **Dr. Eugène Aka Aouélé**, President of the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Council of Ivory Coast, head of delegation in Riyadh.

Dr. Zeynu Ummer and Dr. Claudia Schepp complemented the government of Ivory Coast on this ambitious and very timely programme, which addresses the entire value chain and aiming at economic development while protecting and restoring nature and offers great opportunities for rural women and youth.









"Forests by Heartfulness: The Heartfulness Way of Restoring Ecosystems through Soil Health, Lake Rejuvenation, and Afforestation" - COP16, Blue Zone, Restoration Pavilion, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 7 December 2024

Forests by Heartfulness is an initiative of Heartfulness Institute to nurture, protect and conserve native, endemic and endangered tree species of India. This workshop reminded of the profound connection between human wellbeing and the health of our environment. It aimed to explore this relationship by delving into innovative practices that harmonise human activities withnature's rhythms.

Distinguished speakers brought a wealth of knowledge and experience:

- Dr. Ananya Saritha Rao, Senior Scientist, Heartfulness Institute, extensively studied the terrestrial carbon cycle in India and has been instrumental in conservation projects at Kanha Shantivanam, Hyderabad
- Mr. Sriram Raghavendran, Director at the Heartfulness Institute, has shared his insights on personal growth and resilience through various platforms, including the Heartfulness Magazine
- Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, brought a global perspective on soil health and its critical role in combating climate change.

To learn more about the 'Forests by Heartfulness' initiative, click here.



"Designing soil health indicators to evaluate sustainability of land use systems and achieve Land Degradation Neutrality" - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 03, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 9 December 2024

Organized by IRD, the aim of this multistakeholder event was:

- to take stock of existing soil health indicators that provide a documented scientific basis for analyzing the impact of aridity and land use on soil function sustainability, and evaluate their suitability to different purposes and contexts,

- to share experiences on ways and means to assess and monitor soil health for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality.

Panelists:

- · Dr. Laurent COURNAC, IRD (moderator)
- · Dr. Isabelle Bertrand, INRAE
- · Dr. Sekouna Diatta, ASERGMV, Senegal
- Dr. Paul Luu, international "4 per 1000" initiative
- Dr. Leigh Ann Winowiecki, Coalition of Action for Soil Health
- · Ms. Praveena Sridhar, Save Soil Movement.

COP16 RIYADH REGENERATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR DESERTIFICATION, CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & FARMERS

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Solutions Dinner - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 9 December 2024

This Solutions Dinner co-hosted by Future Economy Forum and Imar and Climate Solutions.

Claudia Schepp and Paul Luu from the international "4 per 1000" Initiative took part in the dinner.





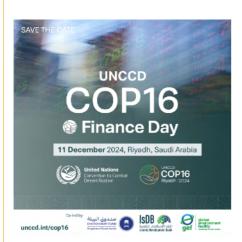


"Securing the future for people and planet – managing soils for a resilient, sustainable future - COP16, Blue Zone, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia" - 10 December 2024

Organized by British Society of Soil Science, this interactive session, chaired by pre-eminent scientist Prof. Jack Hannam explored effective soil use and management to promote resilience and adaptation in the context of expanding land degradation, rising global temperatures, extreme weather events and large biodiversity loss. Key themes to be addressed included the role of policy interventions in mitigating soil degradation, how to balance multiple societal demands from soils in policy, integrating traditional knowledge into modern governance frameworks, and the socioeconomic implications of soil management decisions. Moreover, the session explored where there are opportunities for crosssectoral collaboration, citizen engagement, and international cooperation in advancing soil policy agendas.

Speakers:

- · Professor Jack Hannam, 2023 2024 President of the British Society of Soil Science
- · Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the International Initiative "4 per 1000"
- Ms. Olga Andreeva, Programme Officer of Scientific Affairs at the UNCCD
- Mr. Lulseged Tamene Desta, Landscape Ecologist
- Ms. Sophie Aylmer, Head of Policy for Farm Animals and Nutrition at FOUR PAWS, the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence.



"Financing Soil Health and Land Restoration for Food Security and Resilience" - COP16, Blue Zone, MET 06, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia - 11 December 2024

This event focused on mobilizing resources and innovative financing mechanisms to support soil health and land restoration at multiple scales - from farm-level initiatives to national and international strategies. It explored how healthy soil can act as a critical ally in climate mitigation and adaptation, combating drought, conserving biodiversity, food security, and achieving the goals of Land Degradation Neutrality.

The discussion aligned with COP16's agenda, particularly in terms of enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and communities to drought and desertification, with a strong emphasis on soil health and land restoration as a key strategy to achieve this resilience.

Speakers:

- · Dr. Claudia Schepp, Scientific Director, "4 per 1000" Initiative
- Prof. Jack Hannam, President, BSSS
- Ms. Cristiane Gomas Julião, GATC (Woman Representative. Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil)
- Mr. Merjin Dols, Co-founder of Future Economy Forum
- Ms. Jyoti Jankowski, Strategy & Operations Lead, North America Conscious Planet-Save Soil
- Dr. Jean Charles Le Vallée, IICA Représentative for Canada, UNCCD Focal Point
- Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development
- · Dr. Ermias Betemarian, Land Health Scientist, CIFOR-ICRAF.



"4 questions to ... "

Ms. Frida Krifca President of CIHEAM

" ... The " 4 per 1000" Initiative highlights the power of collective action, emphasizing that even incremental improvements in soil carbon storage—just 0.4% per year—can have profound impacts on mitigating climate change while improving soil health and productivity. It represents hope, innovation, and a commitment to safeguarding our planet for future generations."



Frida Krifca © CIHEAM

#27

1/ Ms. Frida Krifca, could you introduce yourself in a few words?

I am the President of CIHEAM, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies. Previously, I served as the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in Albania, where I focused on advancing sustainability, innovation, and empowering rural communities.

My journey into the agriculture sector is rooted in a deep appreciation for the interconnectedness of people, land, and sustainability. My passion stems from a recognition of agriculture's unique role—not just as an economic activity, but as a foundation for belonging, food security, rural development, and environmental stewardship.

Having worked closely with rural communities, farmers, and policymakers, I witnessed the transformative power of agriculture in creating opportunities, preserving traditions, and fostering resilience against global challenges.

The love for this sector is fueled by its complexity and potential: it is a space where innovation meets heritage, where tradition, science and human effort come together to shape a better future.

In such context, agriculture development, is more than a profession—it is a calling to support the people who cultivate the land, protect ecosystems, and ensure that future generations can thrive.

This passion drives my leadership and commitment to making the sector more inclusive, sustainable, and forward-thinking by enhancing regional cooperation in the Mediterranean and address key challenges.

2/ As President of the CIHEAM, what are the main actions you take in connection with the international "4 per 1000" Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate'?

The main actions we take in connection with the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, Soils for Food Security and Climate include:

- 1. Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices
 - Supporting agroecology, conservation agriculture, and climate-smart farming to enhance soil carbon storage while improving food security and rural livelihoods.
 - Encouraging crop diversification, agroforestry, and regenerative practices in Mediterranean agriculture.
- 2. Fostering Research and Innovation
 - Funding and facilitating research on soil health, carbon sequestration, and sustainable farming methods.
 - Encouraging the adoption of innovative technologies and techniques that align with the "4 per 1000" principles.
- 3. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
 - Organizing training programs, workshops, and seminars to educate farmers, researchers, and policymakers on best practices for soil management and climate resilience.
 - Promoting knowledge exchange among Mediterranean countries to share successful models and techniques.
- 4. Encouraging Policy Alignment
 - Supporting the development of policies that integrate soil health into national and regional strategies for food security and climate change adaptation.
 - Advocating for financial incentives and support systems that empower farmers to adopt sustainable practices.

.../...

.. "4 questions to ... Ms. Frida Krifca, President of CIHEAM"

- 5. Building Partnerships
 - Strengthening collaboration with the "4 per 1000" Initiative, international organizations, research institutions, and local stakeholders.
 - Facilitating dialogue among partners to align efforts and achieve shared goals for sustainable land use and climate action.

6. Monitoring and Impact Assessment

- Encouraging the implementation of monitoring systems to measure progress in soil carbon storage and related benefits.
- Sharing data and results to showcase the impact of aligned initiatives on food security and climate resilience.

By taking the above actions, CIHEAM contributes to the global mission of improving soil health, enhancing agricultural sustainability, and addressing climate challenges in the Mediterranean region and beyond.

3/ What does the international "4 per 1000" Initiative represent for you?

"4 per 1000" Initiative represents a transformative approach to addressing some of the most pressing global challenges —climate change, food security, and sustainable land management. For me, it embodies a vision where agriculture is not just a source of sustenance but a solution to carbon sequestration, biodiversity preservation, and rural resilience.

This initiative highlights the power of collective action, emphasizing that even incremental improvements in soil carbon storage—just 0.4% per year—can have profound impacts on mitigating climate change while improving soil health and productivity. It represents hope, innovation, and a commitment to safeguarding our planet for future generations.

In my role, the "4 per 1000" Initiative inspires me to champion practices and policies that align with its goals, promote collaboration among stakeholders, and amplify the voices of those working to build a more sustainable and equitable agricultural system.

4/ What message do you want to convey to the "4 per 1000" Partners and Members?

The Mediterranean region, a cradle of agricultural innovation and resilience, faces critical challenges, including climate change, land degradation, and population growth. These pressures demand collaborative solutions, and the "4 per 1000" Initiative exemplifies the kind of international cooperation necessary to ensure a sustainable future.

At CIHEAM, we firmly believe in the transformative power of agriculture—not just as a means of food production but as a tool for ecological restoration, economic development, and social equity. Your commitment to enhancing soil carbon stocks aligns seamlessly with CIHEAM's objectives to promote sustainable farming systems, safeguard biodiversity, and empower rural communities.

Our shared mission is clear: to create resilient food systems by regenerating the very foundation of life—our soils. This requires integrating scientific research, local knowledge, and innovative practices to maximize impact while ensuring inclusivity. Together, we can transform challenges into opportunities for growth, equity, and sustainability.

As partners in this critical endeavor, let us continue to inspire action, promote best practices, and amplify the voices of the farmers, researchers, and policymakers who make this mission possible. The future of our planet depends on our ability to work collectively across borders, sectors, and disciplines.

CIHEAM stands ready to strengthen this partnership, contribute its expertise, and support the "4 per 1000" Initiative in shaping a more sustainable world for generations to come.

Thank you for your commitment!

More information on CIHEAM : https://www.ciheam.org/fr/





The 1st Mediterranean regional conference of the international initiative "4 per 1000" was held from October 21 to 23, 2024 in Rabat, Morocco.

This conference with the theme "*Together, let's support Soil Health in the Mediterranean context*", involved experts from Mediterranean countries, in relation to soil organic carbon, climate change mitigation and adaptation, focusing on agroecology.

On 22 October 2024, Dr. Paul Luu, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, opened the conference, and introduced the High-level inauguration session.

Different themes were discussed during this "4 per 1000" Mediterranean Regional Conference:

$\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Challenges and opportunities for soil health and agriculture in the region

Session lead: Paul Luu, Executive Secretary, the international "4 per 1000" Initiative

This session provided a brief overview of the most pressing challenges effecting soil health (salinization, erosion, drought, loss of biodiversity) and the resulting effects for production, society and the environment. At the same time, this session highlighted the potential for regional food production and how strengthening agroecology can help to harness it.

Carbon sequestration in arid zones

Session lead: Rachid Moussadek, ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas)

• MRV [Monitoring, Reporting & Verification] and indicators for soil organic carbon and soil health

Session lead: Paul Luu, Executive Secretary, "4 per 1000" Initiative

This session explored the latest developments of MRV tools and systems and reflects on soil health indicators in the region. The international "4 per 1000" Initiative, in partnership with the FAO, the FARM Foundation and Deloitte Sustainability (France), carried out work on <u>MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) tools and systems to Soil Health in the context of agroecology and the "4 per 1000" Initiative.</u>

Success factors for the transition to sustainable agriculture

This session shed light on the elements needed for a successful transition to sustainable agriculture and discusses associated challenges and success factors.

3 parallel sessions were organized:

Parallel Session 1: Holistic production systems

Session lead: **Ghizlane Echgadda**, Research Professor, Plant Protection and Environment Department, ENA (Ecole Nationale d'Agriculture /National School of Agriculture) Meknès (Morocco)

Agroecology aims to establish resilient agroecosystems, which foster circularity and rely on diversity. This session explored holistic approaches to the design of production systems for the major regional produces, like cereals and crops, fruits and nuts, olives, meat, etc., placing a special focus on combined systems (agriculture-forestry-pastoralism) and shed light on challenges and opportunities in the establishment and maintenance of these systems.

Parallel Session 2: Vineyards and wine

Session lead: Alejandro Fuentes Espinoza, Head of Unit Economy and Law, OIV (International Organisation of Vine and Wine)

Taking stock of the work of the OIV and the players involved in sustainable soil management: Focus on good practices and the identification of parameters and criteria for the correct analysis (measurement) of soil organic matter.

Parallel Session 3: Agroecology for local development

Session lead: **Elen Lemaitre-Curri**, Deputy Director, CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) Montpellier (France)

Empowerment of local producers and consumers is a crucial element of agroecology. This session explored how agroecology can drive local and regional socio-economic development, and how policies and private sector engagement can foster the needed changes.

To watch Day 1, click here.



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Wednesday 23 October 2024, the last day of the Mediterranean regional conference of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative was dedicated to the development of a regional Roadmap for Agroecology and Soil Health in the region.

Several sessions were held:

Holistic approaches to water management

Session lead: Matthieu Brun, Scientific Director, FARM Foundation

This session aimed to introduce innovative and holistic approaches to water management and irrigation, at a field but also at catchment and landscape scale with a special focus on the close inter-linkages of water and soil management. Besides the technical aspects, it shed light on political incentives and social innovations supporting adaptation.

Philippe Drobinski, Director of the Dynamic Meteorology Laboratory and the interdisciplinary Energy4Climate Centre, presented the special report 'Interlinking climate change with the Water - Energy - Food - Ecosystems (WEFE) nexus in the Mediterranean Basin'.

Business models for soil health

Session lead: Franck Boissinot, Director General, Biosphères (France)

• Multi-stakeholder exchange on opportunities, needs for action and barriers to implementation regarding agroecological approaches and soil health in the region.

Regional cooperation and networks

Session lead: **Sandrine Dury**, Regional Director for the Mediterranean, Middle East and Balkan countries, Cirad (French International Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) (France)

- · Possibilities for regional cooperation and ways to fully embed soil health in existing collaborations
- · Presentation and validation of the Regional Roadmap.

Click here to watch Day2.

For more information on this 1st "4 per 1000 » Mediterranean Regional meeting of the Initiative, click <u>here</u>.

The Executive Secretariat of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative would like to extend its warmest thanks to all the partners and supporters in the organization of this conference, and to all the participants.



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On the occasion of the 12th Ministerial Meeting of CIHEAM in Rabat, Morocco, on 25 October 2024, Mr. Stéphane Le Foll, President of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, transmitted to Mrs. Frida Krifca, President of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the recommendations for a Regional Roadmap on Soil Health for the Mediterranean.

This amazing document, entitled '<u>A regional 6 year-Roadmap 12025-2030</u>] for the Mediterranean geographical area, in line with the « 4 per 1000 » Strategic Plan 2050 & the CIHEAM Strategic Plan 2030' is the final result of a working session which took place during the first "4 per 1000" Mediterranean Regional Conference.

The 12th Ministerial Meeting of CIHEAM in Rabat, Morocco, brought together representatives from the 13 Mediterranean member countries to address key issues around food sovereignty and sustainable food systems in the region. Discussions focused on the various political, economic, environmental, and humanitarian crises impacting food sovereignty in the Mediterranean basin and the strategies to overcome these challenges. Emphasis was placed on supporting innovation, education, youth and women's inclusion, and transitioning towards a more resilient agriculture sector. Find out more here.



On October 29, 2024, the Scientific and Technical Committee of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative organized a seminar entitled "Balancing Soil Carbon Gains and Nitrous Oxide Emissions: Evaluating the Net Impact of Natural Climate Solutions in Croplands".

Soil-based natural climate solutions (NCS) can contribute to net carbon dioxide removal in croplands. However, concerns exist that increasing soil organic carbon through NCS might also elevate soil nitrous oxide emissions, potentially offsetting the benefits of carbon sequestration. This underscores the importance of adopting a net GHG approach when assessing the impact of these interventions.

Dr. Shelby McClelland, New York University, and **Dr. Mark Farrell**, CSIRO Australia, discussed findings from field experiments and simulations to determine whether management practices like reduced tillage and cover crops could lead to increased nitrous oxide emissions, potentially negating the global benefits of soil organic carbon. Additionally, they explored management solutions based on scientific understanding to enhance productivity while minimizing the impact on soil and the environment.

Dr. Jagdish K. Ladha, University of California, Davis, "4 per 1000" Scientific and Technical Committee, took part in these exchanges, and **Dr. Budiman Minasny**, The University of Sydney, "4 per 1000" Scientific and Technical Committee, moderated this online seminar.

To view or replay the "4 for 1000" Scientific and Technical Committee's online seminars, click here.



Last December, Dominique Arrouays, a great soil scientist of international renown, passed away.

Dominique Arrouays joined INRA as a research engineer in 1983. He was Director of INRA's InfoSol unit, in charge of coordinating France's soil mapping and monitoring programs from 2000 to 2011, and President of the French Association for Soil Studies from 2013 to 2015. Also in charge of international programs, his research focused on soil mapping and monitoring, and in particular on the contribution of numerical and statistical techniques to the spatial analysis of soil distribution and properties, as well as temporal changes in soil quality.

World-renowned expert, he was a member of the IPCC, as well as of the Intergovernmental Technical Group on Soils set up by the FAO as part of the Global Soil Partnership. His activities on behalf of the French Association for Soil Science (AFES) and the International Union of Soil Science (IUSS) were instrumental in the creation of the Parliamentary Club for Soil Protection and Research in 2014, as coordinator of the international GlobalSoilMap program, and as editor-in-chief of the journal "Etude et gestion des sols". Dominique Arrouays' skills go beyond his undisputed recognition in scientific research.

World expert on soils and the major planetary issues linked to them, it was he who, with Jérôme Balesdent, proposed the "4 per 1000" global calculation to highlight the importance of soil carbon.

The world of soil science, the world of science as a whole, is today saddened to have lost one of its most brilliant representatives.

The "4 per 1000" Initiative has lost one of its fathers. We extend our warmest and most sincere condolences to his family and friends.

© Photo: Les Mardis de l'Espace des sciences

∑arthworm



On 17 December 2024, the international ""4 per 1000"" Initiative and the Earthworm Foundation France team organized an online seminar 'AGRIBOUSSOL, a measurement tool for the transition to regenerative agriculture'.

The transition to regenerative agriculture needs to be considered and evaluated using a holistic approach that considers the major issues linked to agriculture. These include soil regeneration, preserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and preserving water resources.

Transition players (companies, suppliers - cooperatives - traders, farmers) share common objectives but not necessarily the exact needs in terms of transition reporting and steering. It is, therefore, necessary for a tool to link the needs of the various players to simplify the transition process.

Measurement and its translation via relevant indicators in the field make it possible to:

- provide a clear picture of performance trends,
- finance the transition (payment by results) and provide farmers with appropriate technical support.

To meet these challenges, Earthworm Foundation has worked with the support of a scientific committee to develop a tool that meets the transition's needs: AGRIBOUSSOL.

The webinar covered:

- 1. The importance of soils in a global approach with Claire Chenu
- 2. Paul Luu's assessment of the needs of the various stakeholders
- 3. The AGRIBOUSSOL tool (structure and indicators), presented by Antoine Brasset
- 4. Feedback from AGRIBOUSSOL users with **Damien Ferrand** from the Groupe Oxyane cooperative.

Click <u>here</u> to watch the webinar.



On October 8-9, 2024 in Arles (France), Moet Hennessy and ChangeNOW organized the 2nd edition of the World Living Soils Forum (WLSF), an international event dedicated to soil preservation.

For two days, experts and speakers shared knowledge, best practices and innovations to protect and regenerate the soil in a wide scale of fields.

Stéphane Le Foll, President of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, took part in the session 'The state of the soil 10 years after the Paris Agreement' (October 8, 2024). Click <u>here</u> to watch the session.

Dr. Paul LUU, Executive Secretary of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative participated in the session 'Defining the policy agenda for regenerative agriculture' (October 8, 2024). To see the session, click <u>here</u>.

Béatrice Breton-Askar, Director of Strategic Partnerships & Global Outreach, international "4 per 1000" Initiative moderated the <u>'Carbon and environmental credits</u>' session (October 9, 2024).

To view all replays, click here.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative has been a member of the Advisory Board Meeting since the 1st edition of the World Forum on Living Soils in June 2022.

The <u>report of the World Living Soils Forum 2024</u> was published to mark World Soil Day on December 5. With over 40 hours of discussions featuring renowned experts, the account of inspiring stories, and the presentation of relevant solutions, it presents the key ideas shared during the Forum.

A <u>Call for Action for Living Soils</u> was launched at the World Forum on Living Soils 2024.

Save the date!

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD - COP16) will resume from February 25 to 27 in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The summit was suspended on November 2 in Cali, Colombia, in the absence of an agreement on financing biodiversity conservation. More information here.

ChangeNOW, The world expo of solutions for the planet - 24-25-26 April 2025 - Grand Palais, Paris, France

Launched in 2017, <u>ChangeNOW</u> is a social enterprise that accelerates the environmental and social transition by fostering the deployment of concrete actions and solutions responding to the biggest challenges of our century.

An event celebrating 10 years of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative will take place during ChangeNow, on April 24, 2025, starting at 5pm. More information to come.

The Latin American and Caribbean Soil Carbon Research Symposium (LAC Soil Carbon) 2025 - June 25-28, 2025 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Latin American and Caribbean Soil Carbon Research Symposium (LAC Soil Carbon) 2025 aims to promote the importance of sustainable agricultural production for socioeconomic development and food security at both regional and global levels.

Promoted by the Soil Carbon International Research Consortium (IRC) and the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, the event will focus on organic carbon in soil, an essential resource for agricultural production. Over four days, researchers, students, experts and practitioners will gather to exchange ideas and discuss regional and global challenges in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and preserving soil health.

Simultaneous translation will be available during the event in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

Information and registration here.



Our Partners and Members act!

Preserving and improving Soil Health

According to functional agencies, Vietnam's agricultural land is severely degraded, requiring specific measures to preserve, protect and improve soil health.

As a result, at the end of October 2024, Vietnam launched the "Improving Soil Health and Crop Nutrition Management to 2030, with a Vision to 2050" project. This project thus gradually contributing to building Vietnam's agricultural sector for sustainable development and ecological security. To find out more, click <u>here</u>.

Farmers in Vietnam's Mekong Delta are set to receive nearly \$40 million in carbon credit payments through the "One Million Hectares High Quality and Low-Carbon Rice in the Mekong

Delta" Project (1M Ha Project) implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam.

This 1M Ha Project backed by the Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF), aims to increase the sustainability and value of Vietnamese rice while supporting the country's commitment to environmental protection and net-zero emissions by 2050. Find out more <u>here</u>.

Investing in food production and nature

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) of United Kingdom allocated a <u>budget of £5 billion for farming and the environment</u> <u>over the next 2 years</u>. This funding ever dedicated to supporting sustainable food production and nature recovery. It will support not only the direct grants but also help safeguard against disease threats, provide recovery funds for farmers affected by extreme weather, and sustain projects that improve both farming productivity and biodiversity.

As a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative, **Slovenia's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is involved in a wide range of activities relating to agriculture**, agricultural production methods, livestock farming, climate change and risk management in agriculture, pollinator protection ... To find out more, click <u>here</u>.

The Triple Gap in Finance for Agrifood Systems

FAO, CLIC and CPI published a joint <u>report</u> taking a unique, two-pronged approach to estimating investment needs for transitioning agrifood systems to low-carbon, climate-resilient, and nature-positive pathways.

New \$282 million GEF program targets climate and environment action through agriculture and food systems

<u>The Global Environment Facility-funded initiative</u> focuses on promoting sustainable and resilient crops, commodities, livestock and aquaculture systems across 32 countries

The Nature Conservancy and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) strengthen their partnership for the protection of biodiversity at UNCCD COP16

<u>The wide-ranging MoU</u> formalises a commitment to step up collective efforts to support biodiversity and climate positive outcomes.



Our Partners and Members act!

Fertile and Healthy Soils in the Sahel: The Key Role of the Soil Values Program

Soil degradation causes decreases in agricultural productivity and economic income for millions of people across Africa. The Soil Values program aims to combat soil degradation through the ISFM appraach and collaboration.

Soil Values, a 10-year program (2024-2034) financed by the <u>Netherlands Directorate-General for International Cooperation</u> (<u>DGIS</u>), is a transformative initiative unfolding across Burkina Faso, Mali, Northern Nigeria, and Niger, where the primary objective is to establish sustainable soil fertility management as a cornerstone within the farming systems of the Sahelian and Guinea Savanna regions.

Soil Values is being implemented by the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) in collaboration with core partners SNV and Wageningen University and Research (WUR) and various knowledge partners, such as AGRA, the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), ISRIC – World Soil Information, and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and works through existing national projects, programs, policies, and organizations, such as World Bank's Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP).

Accelerating sector transitions through stronger international collaboration

CGIAR has published the '2024 Breakthrough Agenda Report - Agriculture, Accelerating sector transitions through stronger international collaboration'. This report assesses the status of international collaboration toward implementing sustainable practices in agriculture and finds that while efforts are being made, they are not yet delivering the levels of investment and deployment required to drive reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions required to meet international climate goals. It calls on governments to strengthen collaboration in key areas – such as financial and technical assistance, knowledge exchange, demand creation, and the development of common metrics and indicators – to accelerate the much-needed transition to clean, sustainable, agricultural practices.



"L'urgence de l'adaptation": an educational dialogue tool to help Mediterranean farmers adapt to climate change

The Mediterranean is a hot spot for climate change: it is warming 20% faster than the rest of the world. The years 2022 and 2023, marked by prolonged droughts, heatwaves and floods, illustrate this. In the front line against these threats, the Mediterranean agricultural world must find the means to adapt as quickly as possible.

This document by Précila Rambhunjun and Matthieu Brun (FARM Foundation), is an in-depth analysis of the specific challenges facing Mediterranean agriculture in the face of climate change.

The book is part of phase I of the Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change in the Mediterranean (AACC-Med) project run by the FARM Foundation, in partnership with CIHEAM Montpellier, the Crédit Agricole Regional Banks 'Alpes Provence', 'Provence Côte d'Azur', 'Sud Méditerranée', 'Languedoc' et 'Corse', Crédit Agricole Italia, Crédit Agricole of Morocco, and the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Land use and land use changes in West Africa and its influence on soil carbon

The project "Soil restoration and multifunctionality of degraded forest landscapes in lvory Coast" (Terri4Sol) presents a document entitled "Land use and land use change in West Africa and their influence on soil carbon".

This document offers a comprehensive analysis of the role of soil carbon and the impact of land use practices. You'll find clear data and explanatory graphics, as well as information on agroforestry and forest preservation legislation.

The Terri4Sol project, coordinated by CIRAD and mostly funded by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), has been launched to foster sustainable management practices in the post-forest landscapes of lvory Coast, the aim being to restore their soils and their multifunctionality.



Our Partners and Members act!

Preserving soil quality: towards a reference framework of indicators - Results of a collective study

Conducted by INRAE, a study on soil quality carried out by a collective of 19 researchers from 10 French and Canadian research and higher education organizations has identified 47 indicators that can qualify and objectify soil quality.

<u>The study</u>, funded by Ademe, OFB and the French Ministries of the Environment and Agriculture, takes stock of the scientific knowledge available on the indicators that can be mobilized to support public policies on the preservation of this fundamental resource.

Bethel Business and Community Development Centre (BBCDC) educates on Sustainable Development in Lesotho

Lesotho suffers from some of the worst land degradation and erosion in the world. Reversing desertification is one of the primary activities at BBCDC.

Since 1993 a steady program of landscaping, planting, water resources development and soil building is pursued. <u>BBCDC</u> students and staff have built their own learning center, comprising four separate workshops and studios, including an 'Environmental Sciences and Agroecology' workshop.

Climate-Smart Agriculture: Preparing Farms for Tomorrow's Weather

As the world grapples with the effects of climate change, farmers find themselves on the frontlines, confronting unpredictable weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and soil degradation. In this new era of agricultural challenges, Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) stands out as a beacon of hope. More than just a farming method, CSA is a transformative approach that integrates sustainable land management and agroecology to build resilience, enhance productivity, and ensure environmental sustainability.

To delve deeper into actionable strategies and insights on CSA, visit the Farmer's Pride International Blog for the full article.

A documentary that explores the interconnectedness of food, the environment, and climate

"Roots of renewal" documentary follows Sustainable Harvest International's Founder, Flo Reed, as she journeys across Central America to reveal the transformative power of small-scale farms.

"Roots of renewal" looks at the importance of agroecology through the experiences of these farmers and brings forward a powerful message: small-scale farmers, with the proper support, offer us tremendous hope for a resilient planet. This documentary was made possible by donors and co-producers Myriad, WaterBear, and David E. Shaw. Sustainable Harvest International is a Member of the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Kiss the Ground Launched Certified Regenerative Coffee Subscription Service

Kiss The Ground Coffee supports small-scale farms and regenerative farming with its coffee launch. To find out more <u>here</u>.

AGRI-HORTI-FORESTRY (Wadi) Program for Carbon Sequestration and Livelihoods of small and marginal farmers

BAIF has pioneered and up-scaled <u>the Wadi (backyard orchard in tribal dialect of Gujarat) programme</u> in South Gujarat which has helped to transform the lives of poor and needy families.

The Wadi programme, an integrated farming systems approach, includes horticulture and forestry tree species and crop diversification in the farming system. Emphasis is laid on promotion of fruit trees and indigenous and multipurpose forestry tree species to address the nutrition, fodder, timber and fuel wood requirements of the families, while improving their farm income. Appropriate initiatives are introduced for soil and water conservation as well as soil improvement. These initiatives have helped convert degraded lands into productive assets.

The GreenPods adventure in 4 minutes

<u>These 4 minutes by Valentin Plisson</u> sum up the first 4 years of the GreenPods adventure. More than €11M earmarked for regenerative agriculture, to develop 2 farms, plant nearly 120,000 trees, build a team of 11 employees... <u>GreenPods</u> is a partner in the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

Save the date!

4th World Alfalfa Congresse - from 3 to 6 November 2025 in Reims, France. The theme of this conference is: "Alfalfa to return to planetary limits". It will thus address various boundaries that are relevant to alfalfa-based production systems and the overall economic viability for farmers and markets. More information <u>here</u>.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC - COP 30) from 10 to 21 November 2025 in Belém, Brazil. More information to come here.

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The 9th International "4 for 1000" Initiative Day will probably be held in a hybrid format (face-to-face and online), on the sidelines of COP 30, in Belém, Brazil, on Wednesday November 19, 2025. More information to come.

The "4 per 1000" Scientific and Technical Committee meeting will take place on November 17 and 18, 2025 in Belém, Brazil.

Our Partners and Members act!





UNEP's 2024 Champions of the Earth recognizes six bold environmental leaders

On 10 Dec 2024, UN Environment Program announced the recipients of the 2024 Champions of the Earth, honoured for their outstanding leadership, brave actions, and sustainable solutions to tackle land degradation, drought and desertification.

For its efforts to address land degradation and desertification while fostering sustainable development, <u>SEKEM has been named a 2024</u> Champion of the Earth – the United Nations' highest environmental honour – in the Entrepreneurial Vision category. SEKEM is one of six laureates in the 2024 cohort.

SEKEM, a sustainable agriculture initiative, is helping farmers in Egypt transition to more sustainable agriculture. Its promotion of biodynamic agriculture plus afforestation and reforestation work has been transforming large swathes of desert into thriving agricultural business, advancing sustainable development across the country.

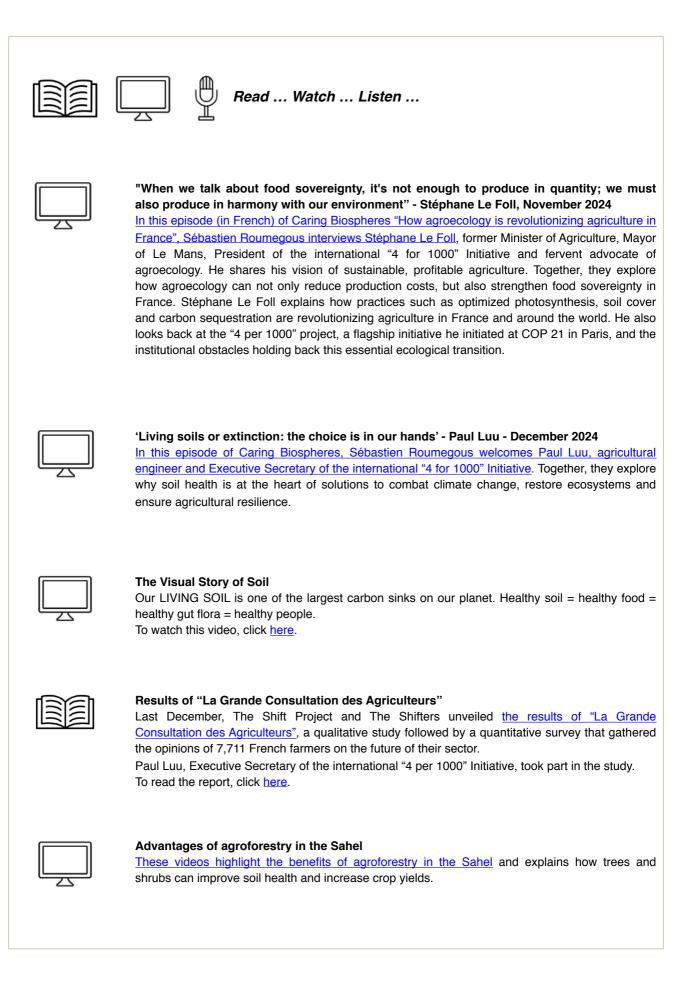


What is the international "4 per 1000" Initiative? Here we summarize it in a few lines.



The Executive Secretariat is still looking for a secondment related to a Communication officer and webmaster.

If your institution or organization wishes to provide such a secondment, please contact Dr. Paul LUU here.





Support the international 4 per 1000 Initiative!

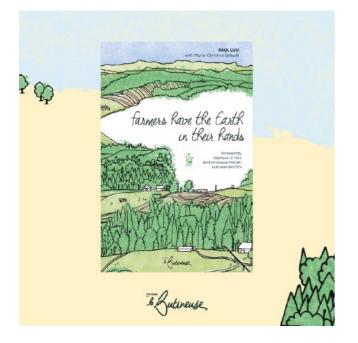


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Become a Benefactor / Donor of "4 per 1000"! To support us in our mission, to help us relentlessly put the voice of healthy, carbon-rich soils on the international agenda, we need your financial support. You can now do so by clicking on this link.

Please <u>contact us</u>, would you like more information. Thank you very much for your support and your donation!

As a private organisation based in France for tax purposes, or an individual resident in France for tax purposes, you can receive a tax receipt for your donation. This does not apply for other countries yet.



Support the "4 per 1000" Initiative by ordering the book 'Farmers have the Earth in their hands', directly on the Editions La Butineuse website by clicking <u>here</u>.

The ambition of this concise book, written for the general public, is to provide a simple and non-judgmental overview of today's agriculture and the solutions that will ensure the future of humanity on planet Earth. Starting from its scientific foundations and the history of its "r-evolutions", this book attempts to shed light on the issues at stake without sidestepping the disturbing questions. Agriculture is part of the solution to climate change, but too many people still ignore it.

This book is also available in French and Spanish versions.

All royalties from this book will be donated to the international "4 per 1000" Initiative.

To support and donate to the "4 per 1000" Initiative, please contact Ms. Béatrice Breton-Askar by e-mail: <u>here</u>. To view the presentation file, click <u>here</u>. We thank you in advance for your support.





They have joined the international "4 per 1000" Initiative! (between September and November 2024)

Civil society & non-profit organisations

CAHDIS - Senegal - Find out more here.

CADIF KENYA - Kenya - Find out more here.

Commercial & for-profit organisations

Bioani - Ivory Coast - Find out more here.

SEMMARIS - France - Find out more here.

Commercial & for-profit organisations

Sun'Agri - France - Find out more here.

Symphony du Vivant - France - Find out more here.

Vasudha Swaraj Pvt Ltd - India - Find out more here.

See here how to join the « 4 per 1000 » Initiative

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative in a figure ... 843 Partners including 369 Members! (January 2025)

All countries or organizations that wish join the Initiative (see here how to join) send their application to the Executive Secretary who controls the completeness.

If the application is complete, the Executive Secretary submits the list of new partners and members to be approved to the Consortium of Members or to the Bureau (depending on the time of year), at the beginning of each meeting. After this formal approval, the new partners and members are included in the official list.

Listing of the Consortium of Members and Forum of Partners of the Initiative



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If you would like the "4 per 1000" Initiative to relay your publications on its own social networks, please add the following mention at the bottom of the information you publish: @4p1000initiative



The international "4 per 1000: Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate"



https://4p1000.org

Partner of the
UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030



Any ideas, any suggestions...

For the next newsletter, please send us your information, your events,... **no later than March 10, 2025.** You can send an e-mail to <u>socialmedia.admin@4p1000.org</u>.

The international "4 per 1000" Initiative thanks pixabay.com for making the photos available free of charge.