

A graphic illustration for the 'Landscape Restoration Evidence Series'. It features a stylized landscape with green hills, trees, and a blue sky with a yellow sun. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of people working in a field. To the right, a globe is shown with green patches representing restored land. The text 'Landscape Restoration Evidence Series' is written in white on a dark green background.

Landscape Restoration Evidence Series

COALITION OF ACTION FOR SOIL HEALTH - CA4SH



09

The main objective of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) is to improve soil health globally by addressing critical implementation, monitoring, policy, and investment barriers that constrain farmers from adopting and scaling healthy soil practices.



Why achieving soil health is so critical

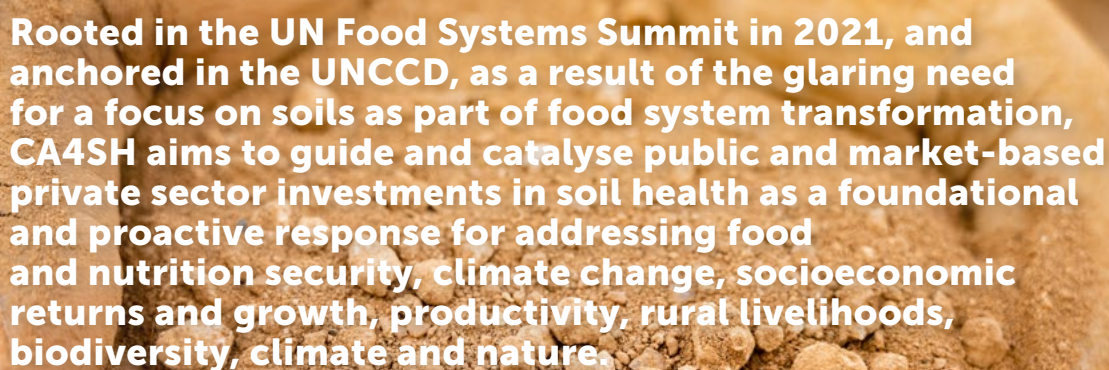
Soil health is the very foundation of our food systems and provides several vital ecosystem services, including land productivity, flood regulation, nutrient cycling, and carbon sequestration. Healthy soil is critical for increasing food and nutrition security, improving livelihoods, reaching climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, enhancing above and below ground biodiversity, restoring ecosystems and providing many other benefits for people.

Healthy soil hosts more biodiversity in one teaspoon than there are humans on Earth. Yet today's soils face an unprecedented crisis. Over

one-third of the Earth's surface is degraded¹, negatively affecting over 3.2 billion people.

Continuing business as usual is no longer an option if both people and the planet are to thrive.

Globally we are at a crossroad. We need to ensure the pathway for achieving soil health addresses the critical economic, structural, and technical capacity barriers that prevent farmers and land managers from accessing finance, productive inputs and information. These are critical to enhance the scaling of healthy soil practices and ecosystem functioning.

A close-up photograph of two hands cupped together, holding a small amount of dark, rich soil. The soil is being held gently, and the hands are positioned to showcase the texture and color of the earth.

Rooted in the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021, and anchored in the UNCCD, as a result of the glaring need for a focus on soils as part of food system transformation, CA4SH aims to guide and catalyse public and market-based private sector investments in soil health as a foundational and proactive response for addressing food and nutrition security, climate change, socioeconomic returns and growth, productivity, rural livelihoods, biodiversity, climate and nature.



The goals of the Coalition include:

- **Integrate soil health considerations in policy** across the development, environment, and climate change domains, and along value chains.
- **Expand on research in development** into soil health practices, monitoring and evaluation, and financial tools and mechanisms.
- Significantly **increase** the number of hectares of **land under improved practices for soil health**.
- Significantly increase investments in soil health, by a margin of 5-10 fold above current financing commitments.



Top-soil is being lost at an annual rate of approximately **36 billion tons**, and global cropland erosion at **17 billion tons**, resulting in USD **\$300 billion in lost** agriculture production annually.



CA4SH brings several new dimensions to the efforts to enhance soil health across landscapes:

- A focus on **soil as a unifier** across the complex and inter-related global challenges of food and nutrition security, poverty reduction, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Championing the business case for **private investment in soil as a capital asset**, and alternative to the current limited number of commodity-focused investments (e.g., coffee, cocoa, palm oil).
- **Alignment of multiple public and private stakeholders** to address the soil health investment gap and incentivize and reward farmers implementing actions to enhance soil health.
- Adopting a **systemic approach to improving soil health aimed at simultaneously delivering co-benefits** to production, the environment, climate change resilience and mitigation, and the economy.
- Alignment of grower, investor, financial markets and other key stakeholders along value chains, to **collectively address social, economic and technical barriers** experienced by farmers in adopting healthy soil practices.
- Shift from contextualized, actions to enhance soil health, to **evidence-based outcomes delivered by non-prescriptive agronomic management approaches**.



How will CA4SH operate?

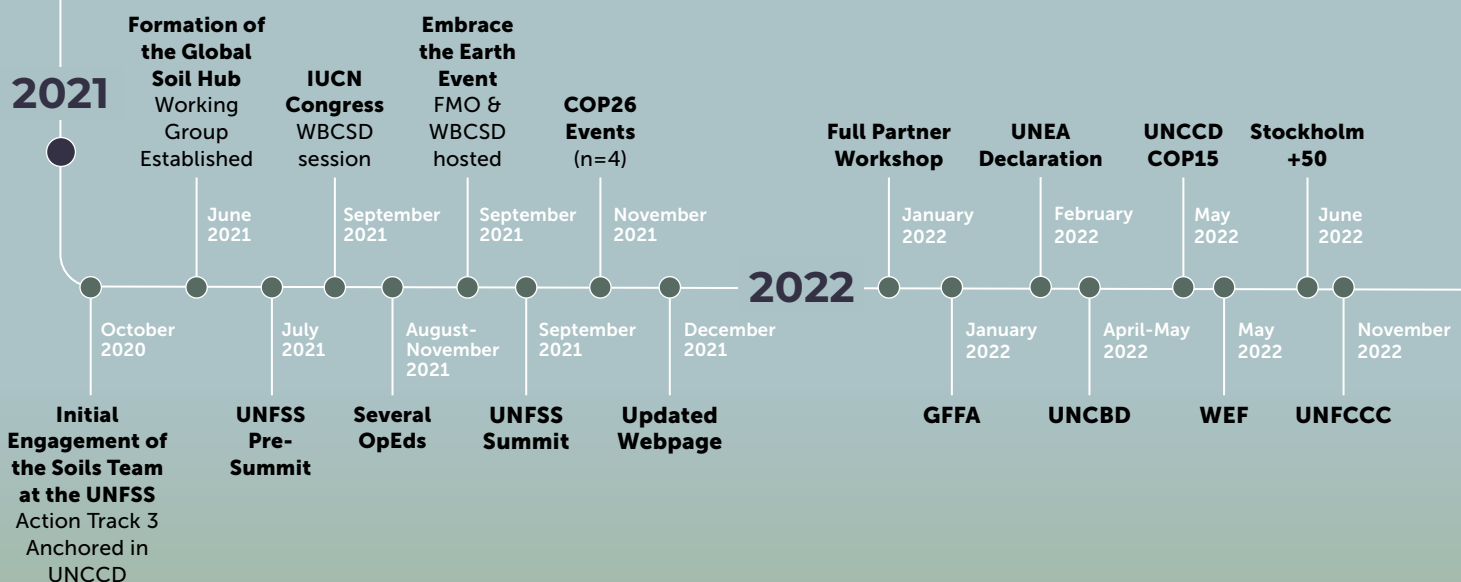
The Coalition will advocate for multi-stakeholder action to facilitate the adoption and scaling of healthy soil practices across diverse landscape. This includes process to guide and catalyze public and private sector investments in soil health, with positive outcome for people and nature.

In addition the CA4SH will align and leverage off the work of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Coalition members



Linking and leveraging off existing initiatives





CA4SH will be operationalized through regional hubs to support the specific needs and priorities of stakeholders in different geographies



Core Pillars



1. Accessible and inclusive multi-stakeholder actions to empower smallholder farmers.



2. Transparent and accountable business solutions for public and private investments that promote equity.



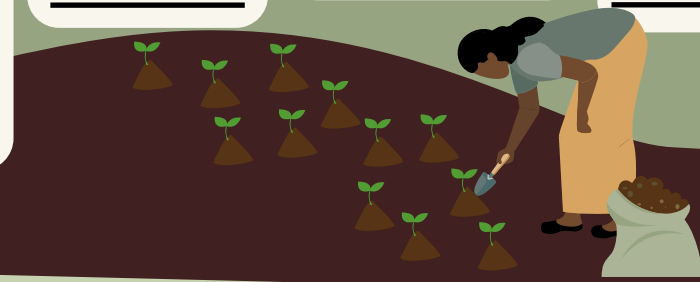
3. Evidence-based policy as an enabler for all, at all scales.



4. Capacity building for on-ground implementation and monitoring.



5. Implementation of robust soil health monitoring frameworks to track interventions over time.



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Further resources

- Blog - The U.N. Food Systems Summit is laying the groundwork for change – from the soil up
- Blog – How can soil save us all
- Blog - Coalitions in the context of the Food Systems Summit
- Video on the coalition
- Video on the importance of healthy soils for functioning ecosystems



This evidence series was developed by researchers and practitioners spearheading the new Landscape Restoration TPP, with support from GLF www.globallandscapesforum.org

