Soil erosion is the removal of the most fertile top layer of soil from the land surface through water, wind and tillage.

Soil erosion occurs naturally under all climatic conditions and on all continents but it is accelerated, up to 1,000 times, by unsustainable human activities.

Human-induced erosion is mainly caused by the removal of vegetative cover, down-slope tillage, overgrazing, deforestation, land leveling, and improper land-use changes.

Soil erosion is the #1 threat to our planet’s soils.
The equivalent of 1 soccer pitch of soil is eroded every 5 seconds.

By 2050, soil erosion could lead up to a 10% loss in crop production.

If nothing is done, by 2050 the estimated crop yield losses would be equivalent to removing 1.5 million km² of land from crop production – or roughly all the arable land in India.

Over 80% of soil degradation in sub-saharan Africa is due to soil erosion.

It can take up to 1,000 years to produce just 2-3 cm of soil.
5 IMPACTS OF SOIL EROSION

- **Increased risk of landslide and flooding**
  Soil erosion can affect the infiltration, storage and drainage of water in the soil, which amplifies hydrogeological risk.

- **Limited response to climate change**
  By displacing organic carbon, soil erosion decreases the soil's potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- **Significant losses in soil biodiversity**
  Our soils host about $\frac{1}{4}$ of our planet’s biodiversity; by removing the most fertile layer of soil, erosion causes a soil biodiversity decline.

- **Decreased soil health and productivity**
  Soil erosion influences both the quantity and quality of crop production.

- **Increased risk of soil and water pollution**
  Soil particles displaced by wind and water can lead to off-site soil and water pollution which has implications on our health.
farmers can adopt sustainable soil management practices such as: cover crops, crop rotation, limited tillage, keeping soil surface vegetated, building terraces or wind breaks/shelter belts
drawers
everyone can plant vegetation to protect the soil. Grasses, shrubs, trees and ground cover will develop a root system keeping the soil firmly anchored to the ground
civil society should raise awareness about the importance of soils, particularly among young people政策制定者 should integrate sustainable soil management policies in a broader resource management agenda
scientists should continue to pursue innovative solutions and technologies to assess, control and prevent soil erosion

civil society should raise awareness about the importance of soils, particularly among young people

#StopSoilErosion is key to the achievement of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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