Soil is home to more than 25% of our planet's biodiversity. Yet, we know only 1% of this universe.
SOIL CONTAINS THE MOST DIVERSE TERRESTRIAL COMMUNITIES ON THE PLANET

In just 8 cm of soil, there are 13 quadrillion living organisms.

The weight of bacteria in 1 hectare of soil is equivalent to the weight of 2 cows.

There are more organisms in 1 gram of healthy soil than there are people on Earth.
SOIL ORGANISMS WORK IN A COORDINATED EFFORT TO SUSTAIN LIFE ON EARTH

Species richness is an essential component of a healthy soil, which in turn produces more nutritious and safer food.

Soil organisms support plant growth and improve agriculture production.

THE GLOBAL POPULATION WILL REACH ALMOST 10 BILLION BY 2050

SUSTAINABLE SOIL MANAGEMENT COULD PRODUCE UP TO 58% MORE FOOD

7d 24h 365d

Species richness is an essential component of a healthy soil, which in turn produces more nutritious and safer food.
SOIL ORGANISMS...

50% OF THE PLANET’S SOIL PASSES THROUGH THE GUT OF EARTHWORMS EVERY YEAR

SOIL IS A VAST AND NATURAL PHARMACY

Most antibiotics are made from soil micro-organisms

Play a key role in climate change adaptation and mitigation by storing carbon in the soil

Contribute to the remediation of soil pollution by breaking down contaminants

Are a source of medicines and support human health

PENICILLIN

50%
Unsustainable soil management practices

MONOCULTURES LIMIT THE PRESENCE OF BENEFICIAL BACTERIA, FUNGI AND INSECTS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO ECOSYSTEM DEGRADATION

Erosion
75 billion tons of soils and their organisms are stripped from the land by wind and water erosion each year.

Pollution
Pollution causes a cascade of soil degradation processes and affects soil organisms by reducing biomass and species richness.

Surface sealing and urbanization
In Europe, 11 hectares of soil are sealed under expanding cities every hour.

Cost of inaction:
50 billion € per year and could reach 14,000 billion € in 2050.

SOIL BIODIVERSITY IS A NATURE BASED SOLUTION
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Stimulate interest in soil biodiversity at school
- Minimize the use of fertilizers in gardens/farms
- Support agro-ecological tourism
- Reduce your food waste by composting
- Clean-up your neighbourhood
- Take part in World Soil Day and raise awareness
- Take a magnifying glass and enjoy the smaller things in life
- Dispose of your garbage and masks responsibly
- Keep soil alive
- Protect soil biodiversity

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