

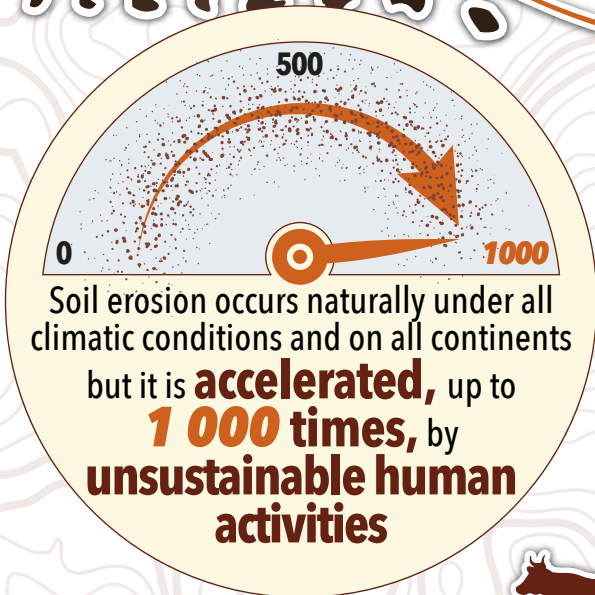


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



SOIL EROSION

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



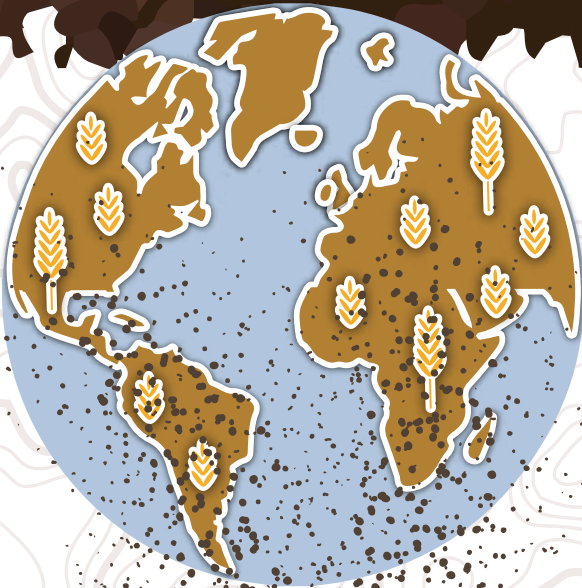
Human-induced erosion is mainly caused by the removal of vegetative cover, down-slope tillage, overgrazing, deforestation, land leveling, and improper land-use changes



Soil erosion is the

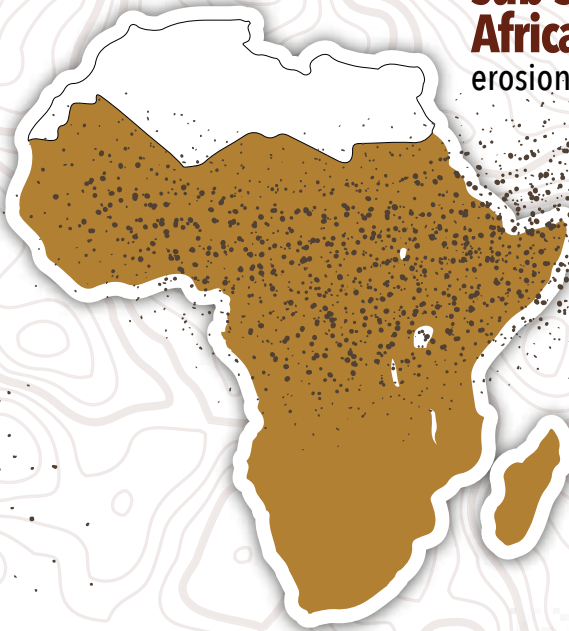
#1 threat to our planet's soils

5 SOIL EROSION FACTS

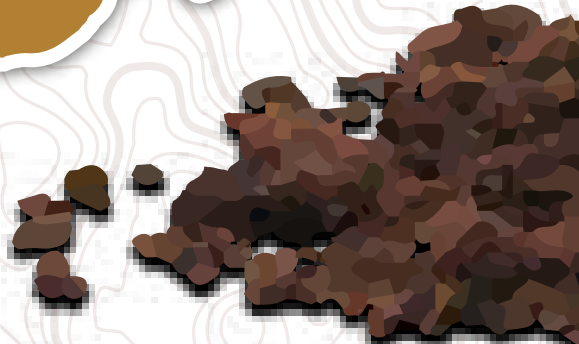


By 2050, soil erosion could lead up to a **10% loss** in crop production

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



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**



It can take up to **1 000** years to produce just **2-3 cm** of soil



The equivalent of **1 soccer pitch** of soil is eroded every **5 seconds**



5 IMPACTS OF SOIL EROSION

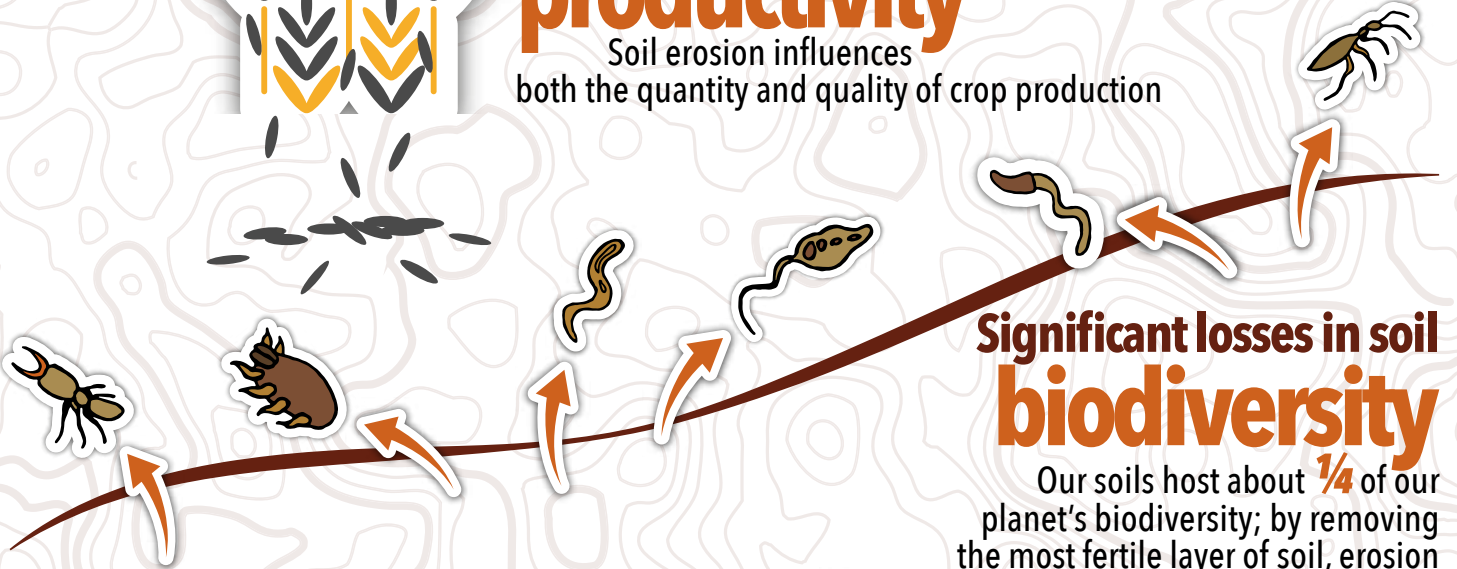
Decreased soil **health** and **productivity**

Soil erosion influences both the quantity and quality of crop production



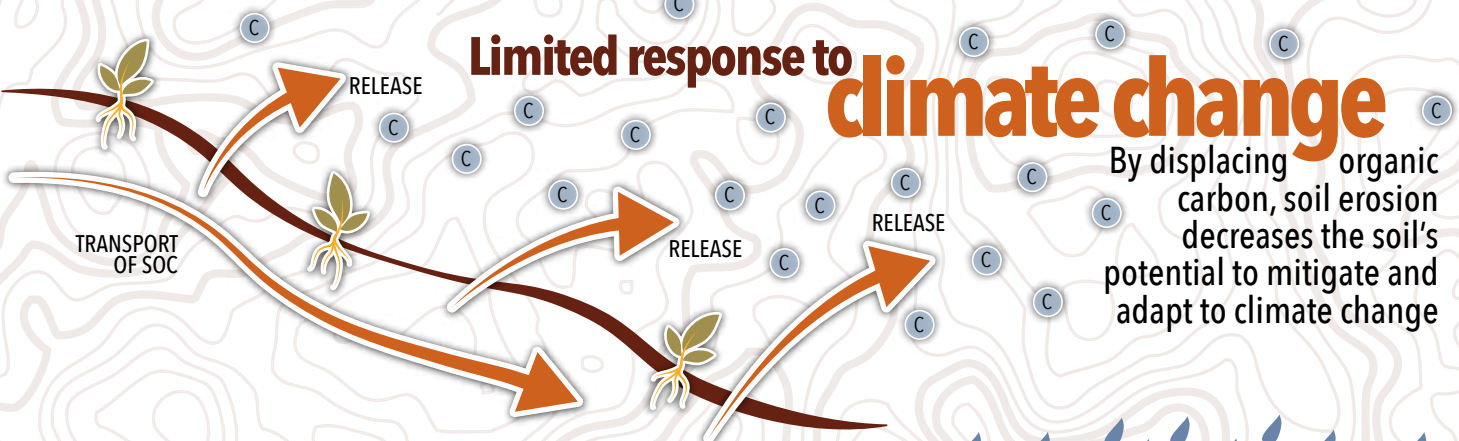
Significant losses in soil **biodiversity**

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



Limited response to **climate change**

By displacing organic carbon, soil erosion decreases the soil's potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change



Increased risk of **landslide** and **flooding**

Soil erosion can affect the infiltration, storage and drainage of water in the soil, which amplifies hydrogeological risk



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



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

policy-makers

should integrate sustainable soil management policies in a broader resource management agenda



civil society

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



scientists

should continue to pursue innovative solutions and technologies to assess, control and prevent soil erosion

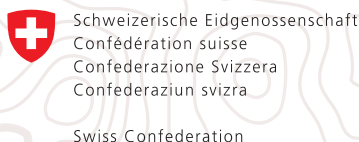


#StopSoilErosion

is key to the achievement of the
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Thanks to the financial support of



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