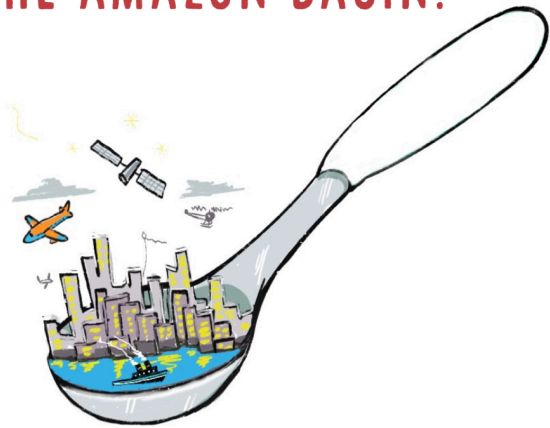


THE LOWDOWN ON THE UNDERGROUND



A HANDFUL OF SOIL HAS
MORE BIODIVERSITY
THAN ALL THE ANIMALS
OF THE AMAZON BASIN.

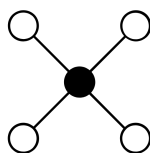
THERE CAN BE
10,000 TO 50,000
SPECIES IN LESS
THAN A TEASPOON
OF SOIL.



JUST A PINCH
OF SOIL CAN
CONTAIN A
KILOMETRE
OF FUNGAL
MYCELIUM.



ONLY 8% OF
FUNGAL SPECIES
ARE UNDERSTOOD
BY SCIENCE.



SEEDSCAPE

CULTIVATING CHANGE

IS YOUR SOIL SAFE FROM EROSION?

Groundcover is essential for soil health. Where the soil is left unprotected, up to 100 t/ha of valuable topsoil can be lost in a year (1 mm depth of soil over one hectare weighs around 10 t).

Falling raindrops possess energy that is dissipated on striking bare soil by breaking down soil structure and detaching and transporting soil particles. The detached particles typically form a surface seal that reduces soil infiltration rates and increases run-off.

Eroded soil cannot be readily replaced

Use this **Worksheet** to calculate the % of ground cover at your sample site.

1: Mark both toes of your boots with liquid paper or a white paint marker pen.

2: Start at the beginning of the sample transect and step out at least 25m parallel to the transect.

Ideally step out 50m or walk two 25m transects 10m apart.

3: Each time you take a step, stop, look down at your toe mark and observe what you see: bare ground, a plant, stubble/litter, manure or a rock.

4: Record what you see in the Table below.

5: When you have finished walking the transect, tally up all the results in the table below.

Then calculate the percentage Groundcover.

Groundcover Type		Tally of Observations	Total #		Calculation	
Plant					A	
Stubble/litter					Divided by	
Manure					A+B	
Rock					Equals	
Total Groundcover	A				Multiplied by 100	
Bare Ground	B				Equals % Groundcover	

Groundcover is assessed by dividing the total score for all observations except bare ground (A) by the total score for all observations (A) plus Bare Ground (B). Multiply your answer by 100 to get a percentage. Use the Calculation on the right of the Table to work it out.