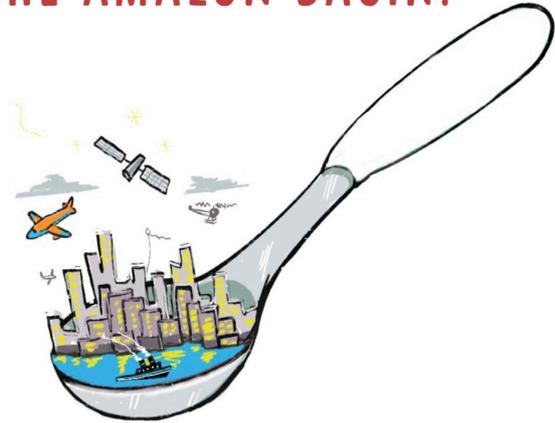


# THE LOWDOWN ON THE UNDERGROUND



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

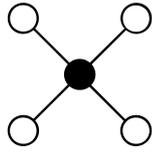
THERE CAN BE  
10,000 TO 50,000  
SPECIES IN LESS  
THAN A TEASPOON  
OF SOIL.



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.