

LANDMARK

LAND MANAGEMENT: ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE BASE

Habitat and Biodiversity



The multitude of soil organisms and processes, interacting in an ecosystem, making up a significant part of the soil's natural capital, providing society with a wide range of cultural services and unknown services.

Soil provides a habitat to both above and below ground biodiversity



Photo Credit: Prof. Karl Ritz and Prof. Paul Chamberlain

Life in soil and size ranges

PLANT ROOTS

MAMMALS cm

INSECTS
ARACHNIDS
MOLLUSCS
WORMS mm

PROTOZOA
NEMATODES

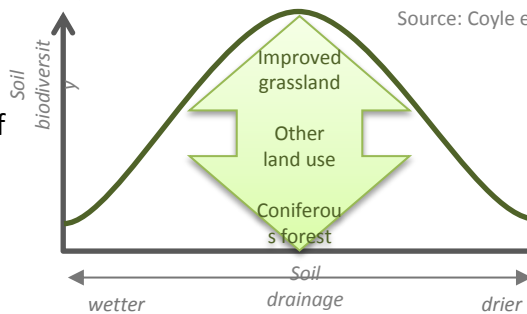
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Role of Biodiversity:

- Nutrient cycling
- Improve soil structure
- Recycling and detoxification of chemical pollutants
- Resilience to climate change

Provision of soil biodiversity in relation to land use and soil drainage

Source: Coyle et al., 2014



Biodiversity has a key role in maintenance and improvement all the other soil functions



Best management practice:

- Minimal till agriculture
- Rotations
- Increase organic matter
- New policy measures focused on soil biodiversity

