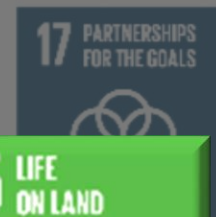
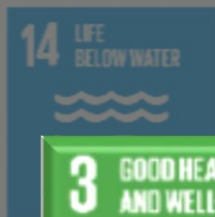


MANAGING OUR LAND: THE MULTI-FUNCTIONAL APPROACH



Prof. Rachel Creamer, Soil Biology Group, Wageningen University



CHALLENGE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

UNDERSTANDING SOIL FUNCTIONS

The concept of five aggregated soil functions :

- Primary productivity: food, fibre, fuel
- Water regulation & purification
- Habitat for functional & intrinsic biodiversity
- Carbon regulation & sequestration
- Nutrient Cycling



Schulte et al., 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & POLICY 38 (2014) 45–58



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Functional land management: A framework for managing soil-based ecosystem services for the sustainable intensification of agriculture[☆]

Environmental Science & Policy 56 (2016) 39–48

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Review

A Functional Land Management conceptual framework under soil drainage and land use scenarios

Cait Coyle^{a,b,*}, Rachel E. Creamer^c, Rogier P.O. Schulte^d, Lillian O'Sullivan^e, Phil Jordan^d

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Making the most of our land: managing soil functions from local to continental scale

Rogier P. Schulte^{1,2}, Francesca Bampa¹, Marion Bardy³, Cait Coyle^{1,4,5}, Reamonn Fealy⁶, Ciro Gardi⁷, Bhim Ghaley⁸, Phil Jordan⁹, Hjalmar Laudon⁸, Cathal O'Donoghue⁶, Daire O'Hallachain¹, Lillian O'Sullivan¹, Michiel Rutgers¹⁰, Johan Six¹¹, Gergely L. Toth¹², Dirk Vrebos¹³, Rachel Creamer¹

How do we increase our productivity?



A photograph of a flooded residential street. In the foreground, two men are wading through the murky water. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket and a beanie. The man on the right is wearing a patterned shirt, suspenders, and red gloves, carrying a large bundle of fabric. In the background, another person is visible, and a red telephone booth stands near some houses. The water is deep enough to reach the men's thighs.

We need better water
regulation by our land...

We need to protect our
carbon resources



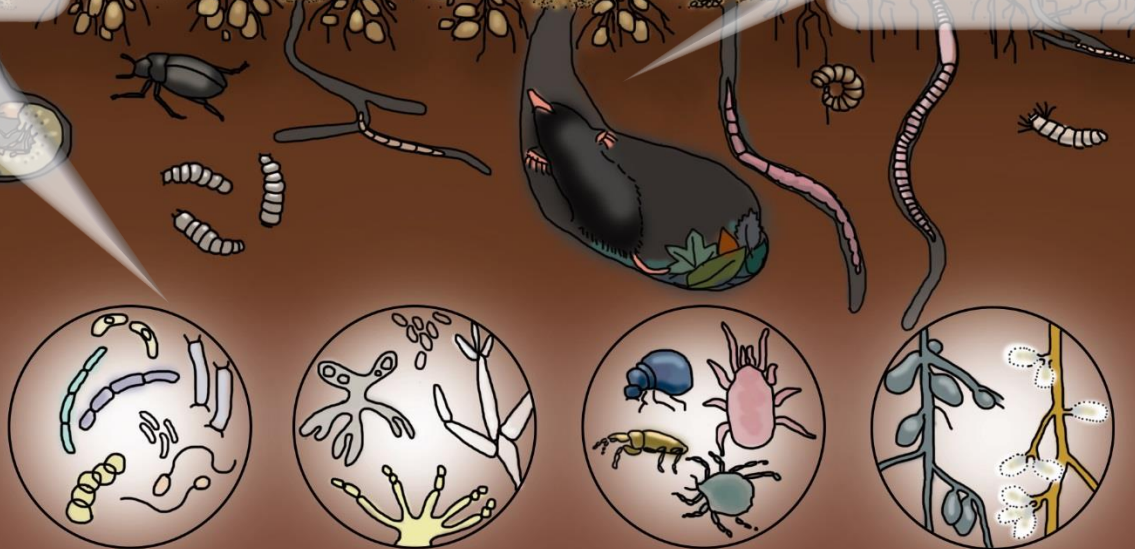
We need to find a
home for our waste...





Soil biodiversity is the
driver of many
processes in soils

Protect the home of
biodiversity



FUNCTIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT - THE CONCEPT

“All soils perform all functions...

...but different parts of the land(scape) are
better at delivering different functions...”

Schulte et al., 2014

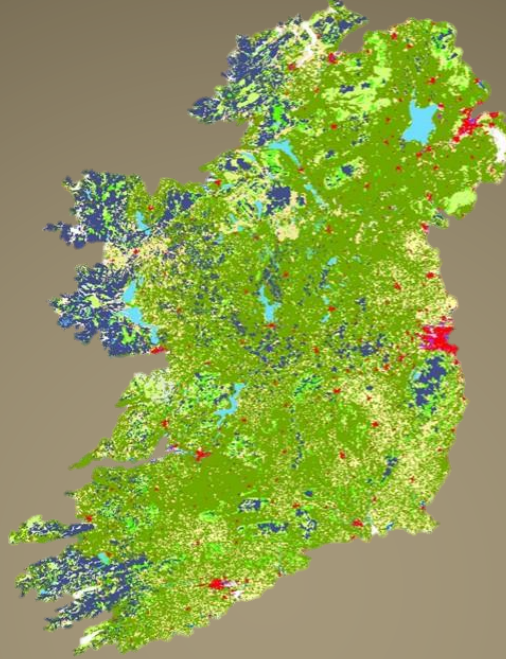


The capacity of soils to perform each of the five soil functions depends on land use and landscape

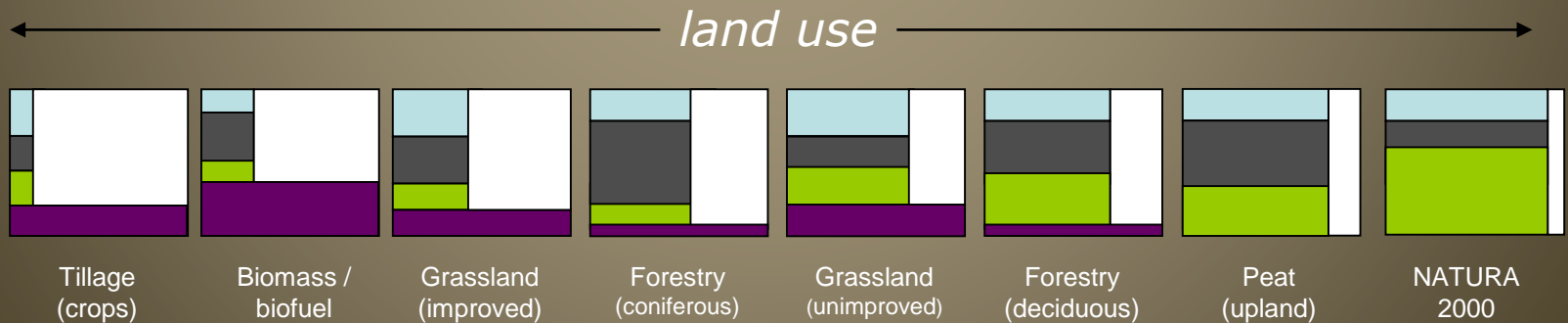


FUNCTIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT - THE CONCEPT

(Dwyer et al., 2013)

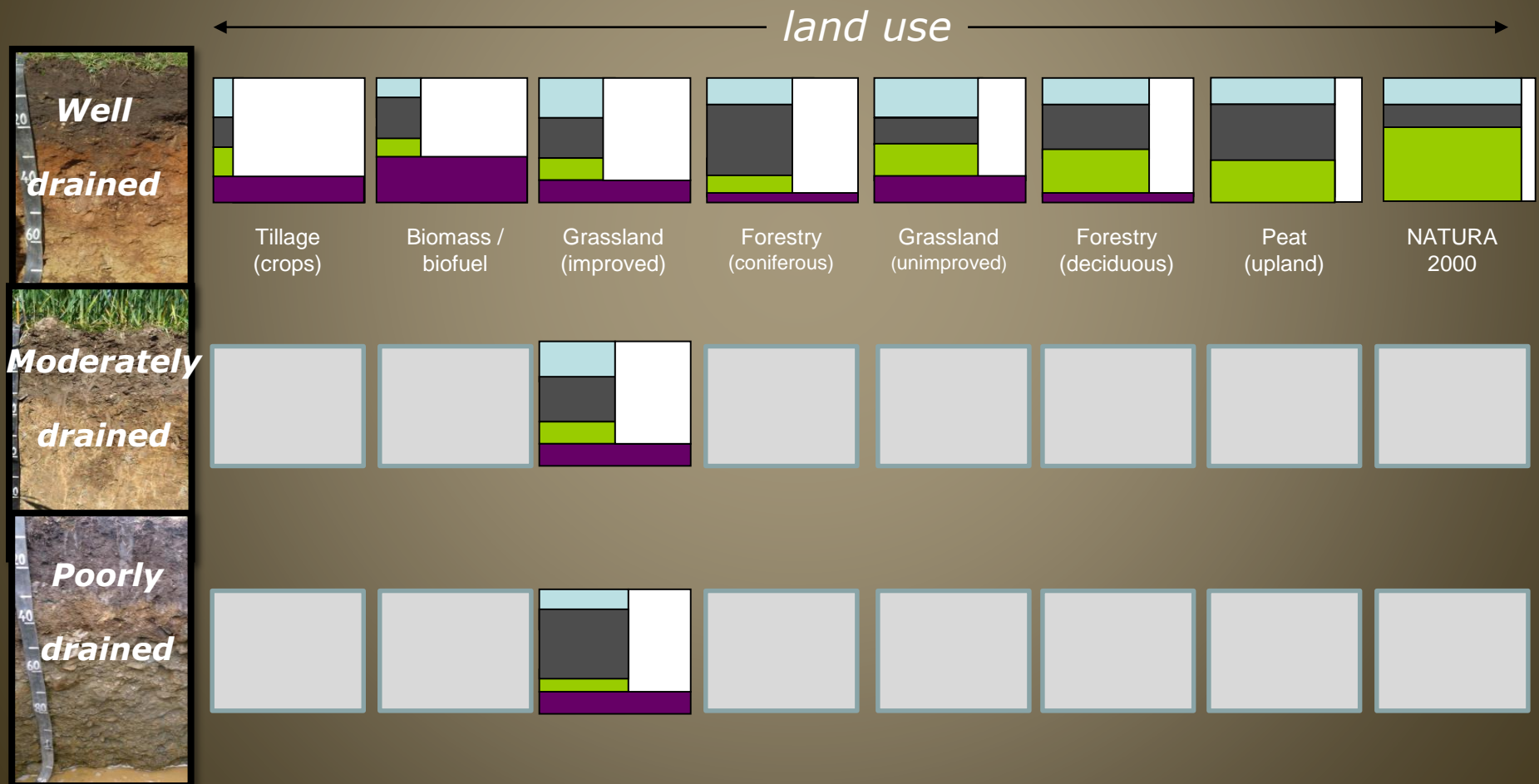


Relative importance depends on land use


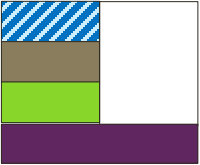


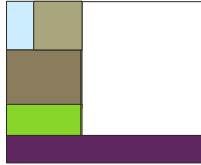
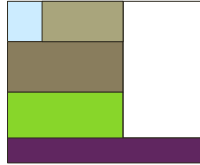
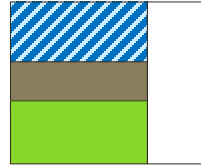



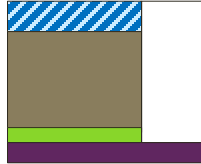
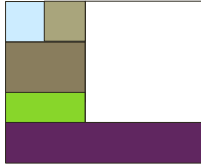
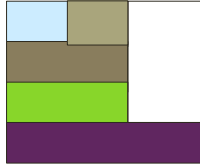
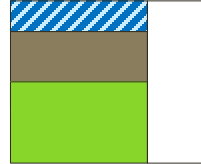
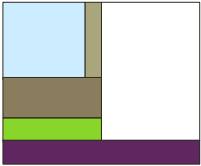

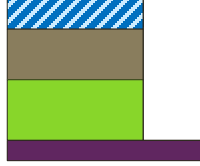

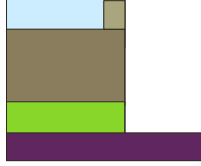







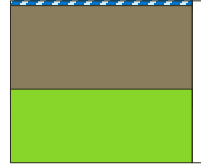


FUNCTIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT - THE CONCEPT





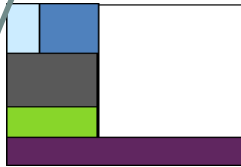
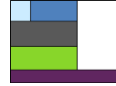
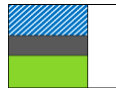



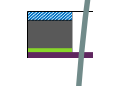
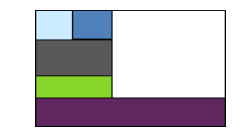
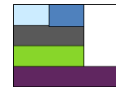
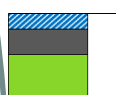


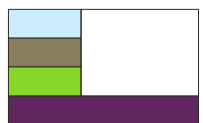
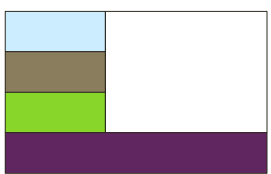



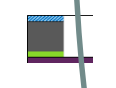
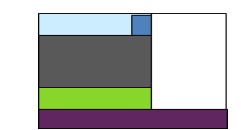
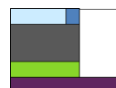
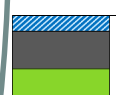



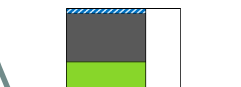


Relative importance depends on land use x soil:



SOIL FUNCTIONS MATRIX

	ARABLE	BIO- ENERGY	BROADLEAF FOREST	CONIFEROUS FOREST	MANAGED GRASS	OTHER GRASS	NATURA 2000
WELL & EXCESSIVE							
MODERATELY & IMPERFECT							
POORLY							
PEAT							

SOIL FUNCTIONS MATRIX – AREA LAND USE BY DRAINAGE

	ARABLE	BIO ENERGY	BROADLF FOREST	CONFERS FOREST	MANAGED GRASS	OTHER GRASS	NATURA 2000	
EXCESSIVELY & WELL DRAINED								<u>Legend (% Area)</u>
MODERATELY & IMPERFECTLY DRAINED								≤ 1  ≥ 1 ≤ 10  ≥ 10 ≤ 20  ≥ 20 ≤ 30 
POORLY DRAINED								
PEAT								

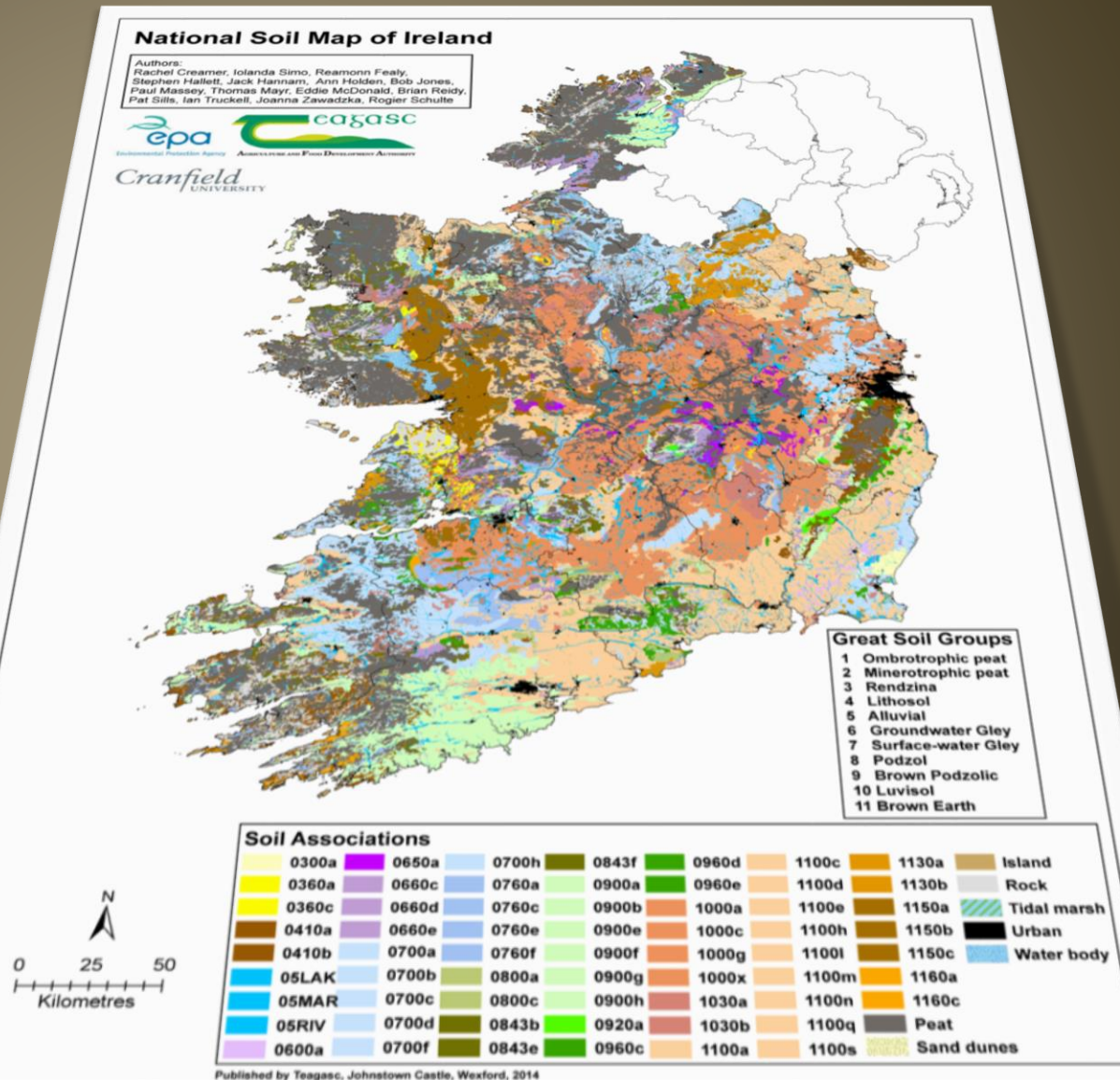
NATIONAL SCALE APPLICATION

Irish Soil Information System

11

66

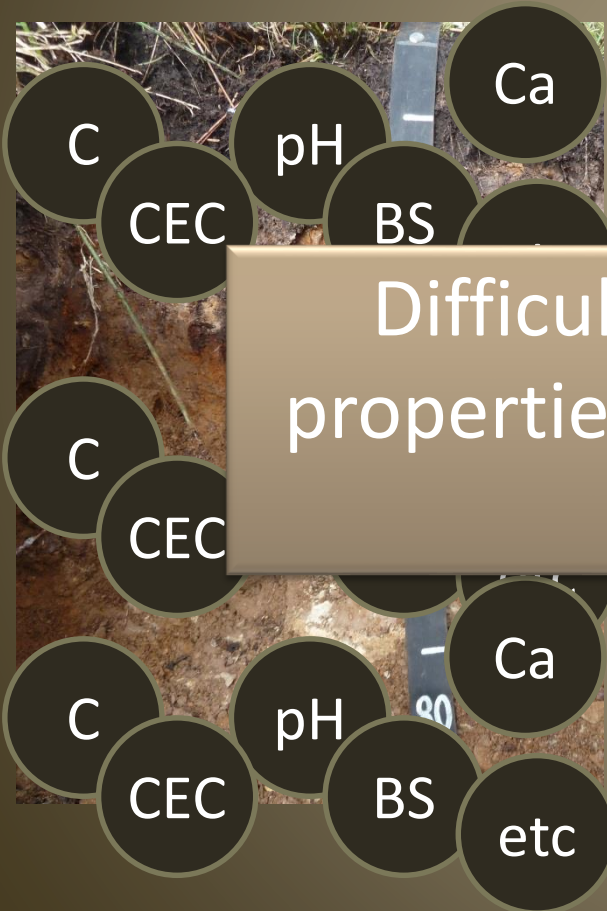
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DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH

Option 1: soil properties

Soil A



Soil B



Soil C



Difficulty in measuring multiple soil properties down the profile at the larger scale.



DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH

Option 2: categorical approach

Soil A



Soil B



Soil C



213 series or 66 soil sub-groups
recognised in Ireland
Still a lot of categories for describing soil
relationships to functions

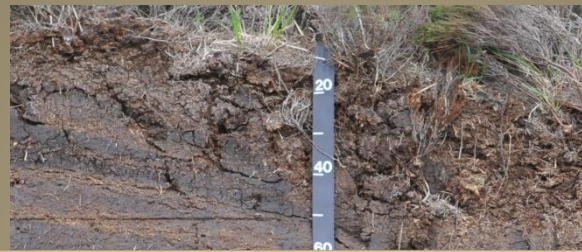
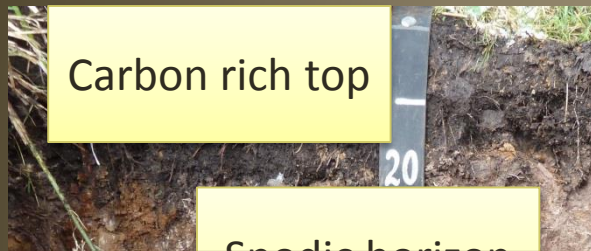
DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH

Option 3: diagnostic approach

Soil A

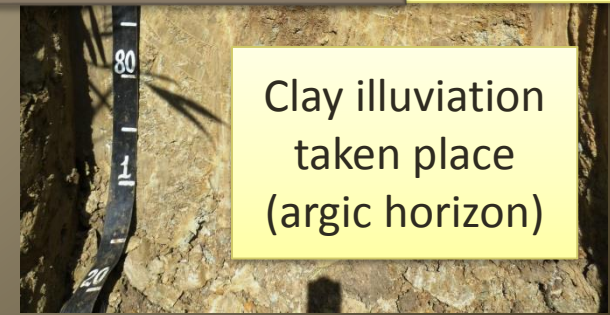
Soil B

Soil C



Five diagnostic classes which describe the main 'drivers' of processes in soils.

presence of
gnation
(gleying)



Scoring Org

0	Miner
0.5	Hum.
1	Histic

Linking diagnostic features to soil microbial biomass and respiration in agricultural grassland soil: a large-scale study in Ireland

A. RICHTER^{a,b}, D. Ó. HUALLACHÁIN^b, E. DOYLE^a, N. CLIPSON^a, J. P. VAN LEEUWEN^c, G. B. HEUVELINK^d & R. E. CREAMER^{b,e}

^aSchool of Biology and Environmental Science, Earth Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, D04 V1W8, Ireland, ^bTeagasc Johnstown, Environment Research Centre, Co. Wexford Y35 Y521, Ireland, ^cBiometris, Wageningen University and Research, Droevendaalsesteeg 4, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands, ^dISRIC, Droevendaalsesteeg 3, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands, and ^eSoil Biology and Biological Soil Quality, Wageningen University and Research, Droevendaalsesteeg 4, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands

422 A. Richter et al.

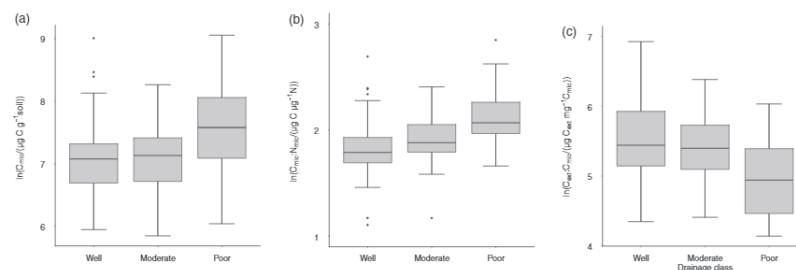
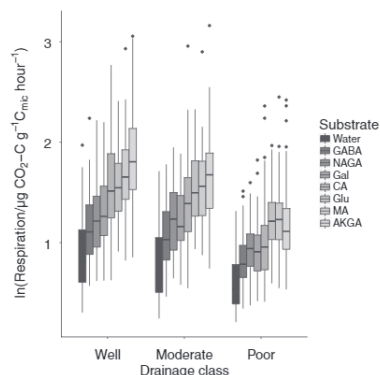


Figure 5 Box and whisker plots of ln-transformed (a) microbial biomass carbon (C_{mic} in mg C g^{-1} soil), (b) microbial biomass carbon and nitrogen ratio ($C_{mic}:N_{mic}$ in mg C mg^{-1} N) and (c) biomass specific available carbon ($C_{ext}:C_{mic}$ ratio in $\mu\text{g C}_{ext} \text{mg}^{-1} C_{mic}$). Data are shown for each diagnostic drainage class: well drained ($n=74$), moderately drained ($n=36$) and poorly drained ($n=46$). Boxes display lower and upper quartiles and median. Whiskers show $1.5 \times$ interquartile range.



microbial properties. Physicochemical properties, especially OM, WHC, N and pH (Table 4), are shown as significant predictors. Organic matter content, in particular, explained the most variation within $C_{mic}:N_{mic}$ (30%) and $C_{ext}:C_{mic}$ (28%), WHC was the best predictor for C_{mic} (52%) and N_{mic} (38%), and N was the best predictor for C_{ext} (33%) and $C_{mic}:C_{org}$ (32%). Argillicity affected $C_{mic}:C_{org}$ and CAI, whereas drainage class explained a significant proportion of the variation for C_{mic} , $C_{mic}:N_{mic}$, C_{ext} and $C_{ext}:C_{mic}$. Organic matter content and drainage class were tested further for interaction, but regression models revealed no interaction between the two variables in relation to $C_{mic}:N_{mic}$ and $C_{ext}:C_{mic}$. Microbial C, however, shows a steeper response with increasing OM in poorly drained soil when compared with moderately and well-drained soils (Figure 7).

Environmental factors related to multiple substrate-induced respiration

Spodic class

no Bs horizons present
profile contains Bs horizon enriched in iron oxides, aluminium with humus
Podzolic
profile contains eluviated E horizon and Bs horizon enriched in iron oxides, aluminium with humus

Table 3
Assignment of the six dominant

Dominant Identifiers

Subgroup

011.0 Natural Ombrotrophic
017.0 Drained Ombrotrophic
018.0 Cut Ombrotrophic Pea
019.0 Anthropogenic Ombrotrophic
021.0 Natural Mineralotrophic
027.0 Drained Mineralotrophic
028.0 Cut Mineralotrophic Pea
030.0 Typical Rendzinas
031.0 Histic Rendzinas

B1

ty

Calcareous

Q5

Q5

Q5

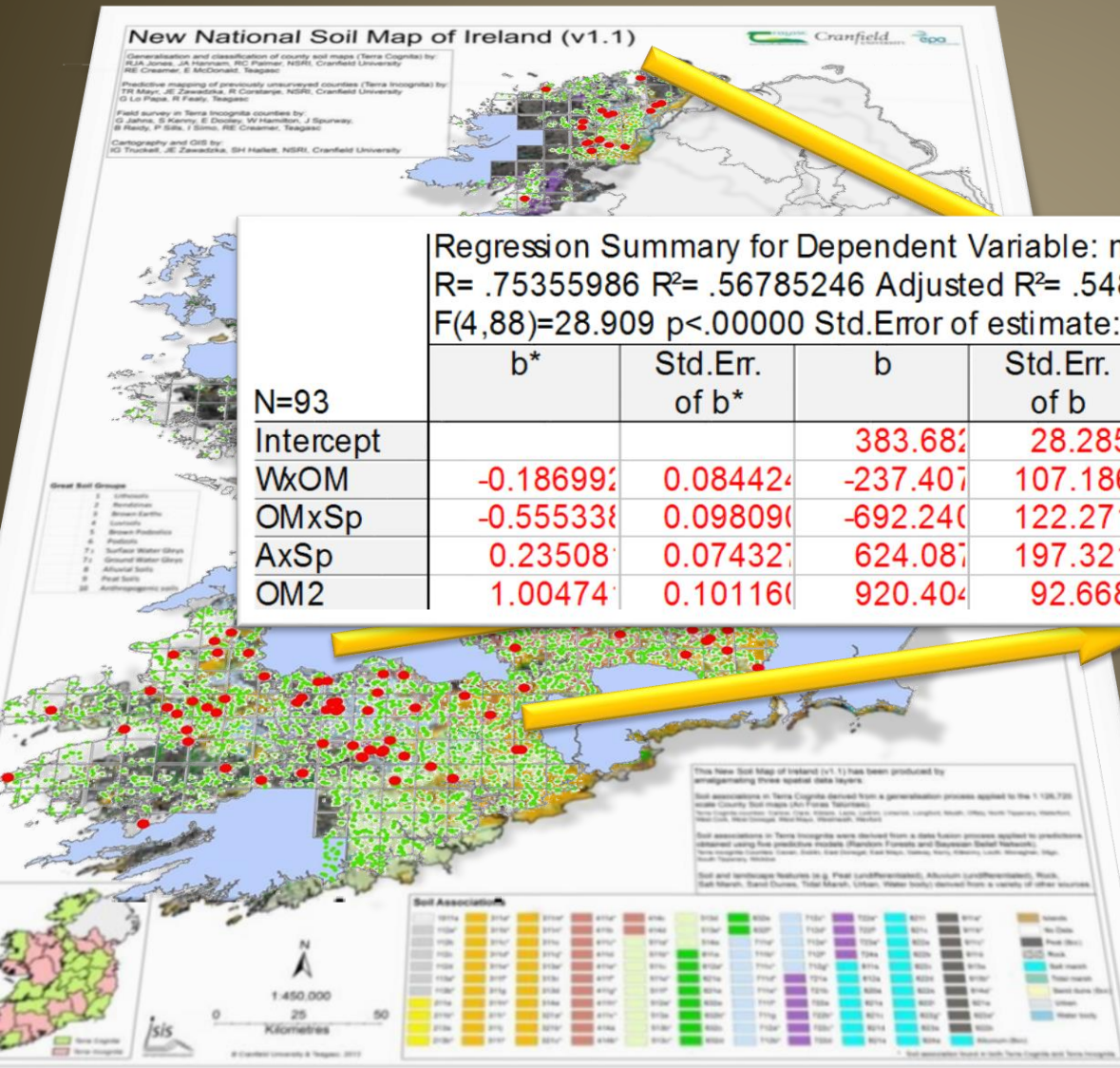
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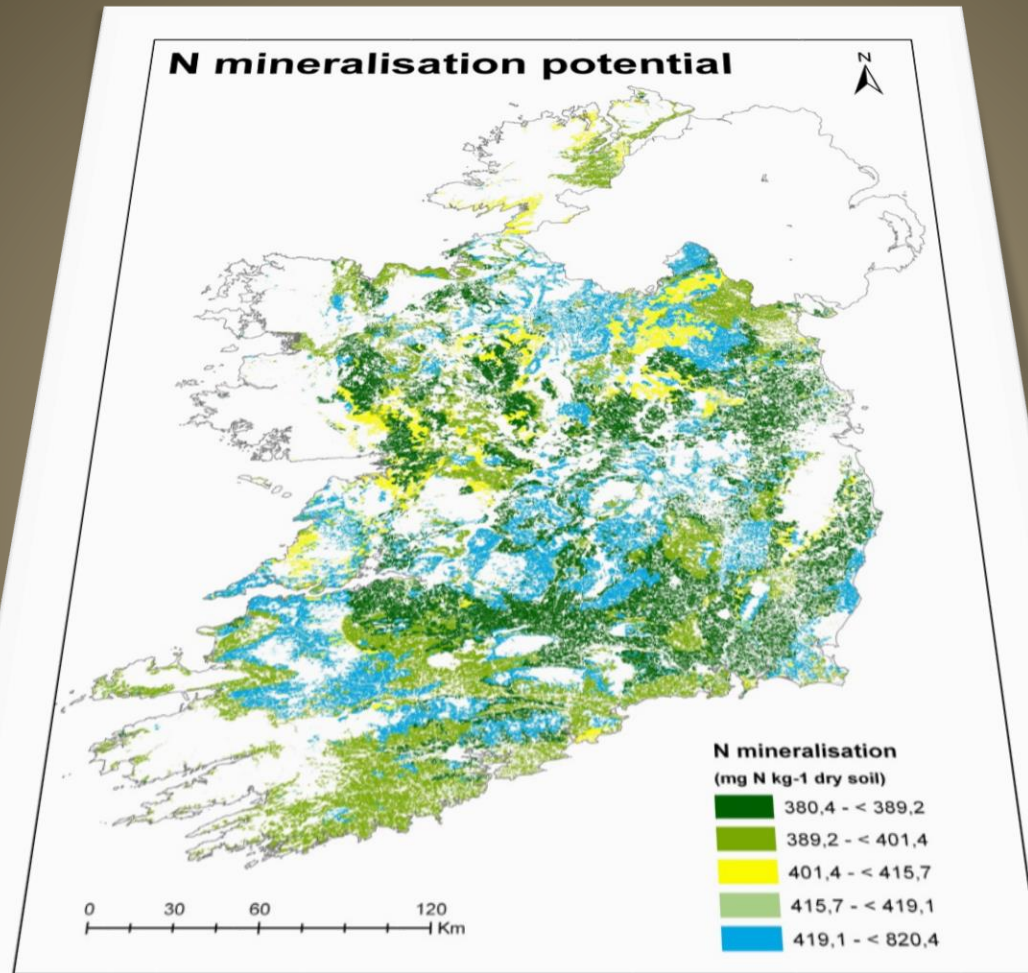
NUTRIENT CYCLING

Example: soil specific nutrient advice

N-fertilizer =
N-requirement
Generalisation

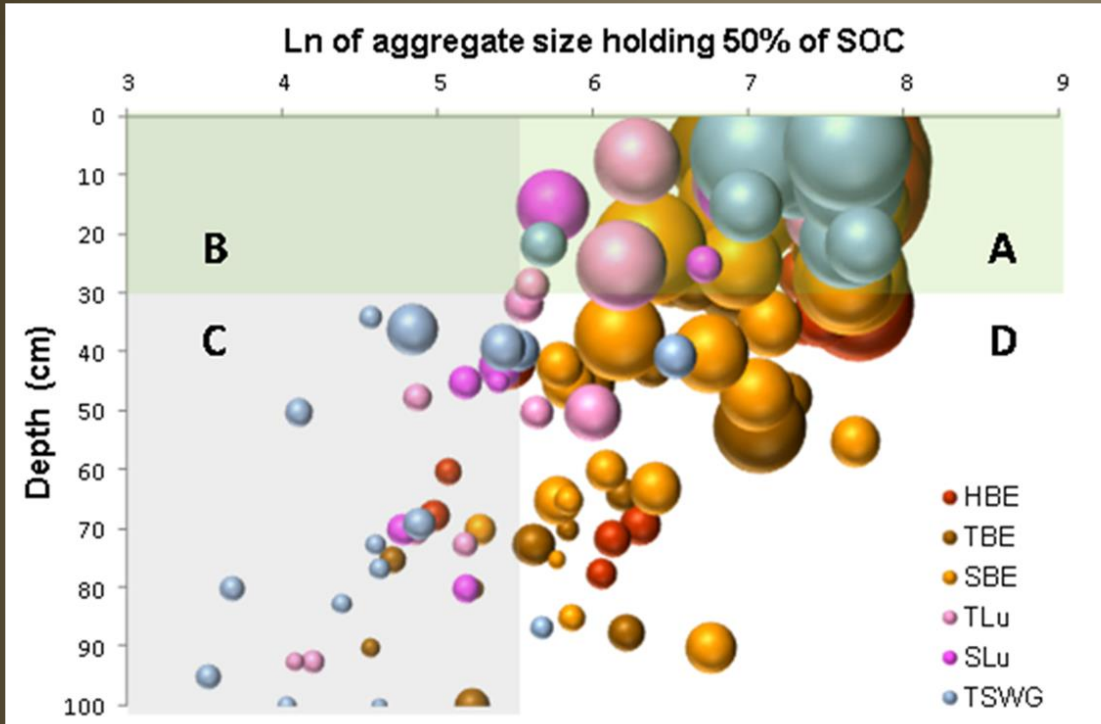


NUTRIENT CYCLING

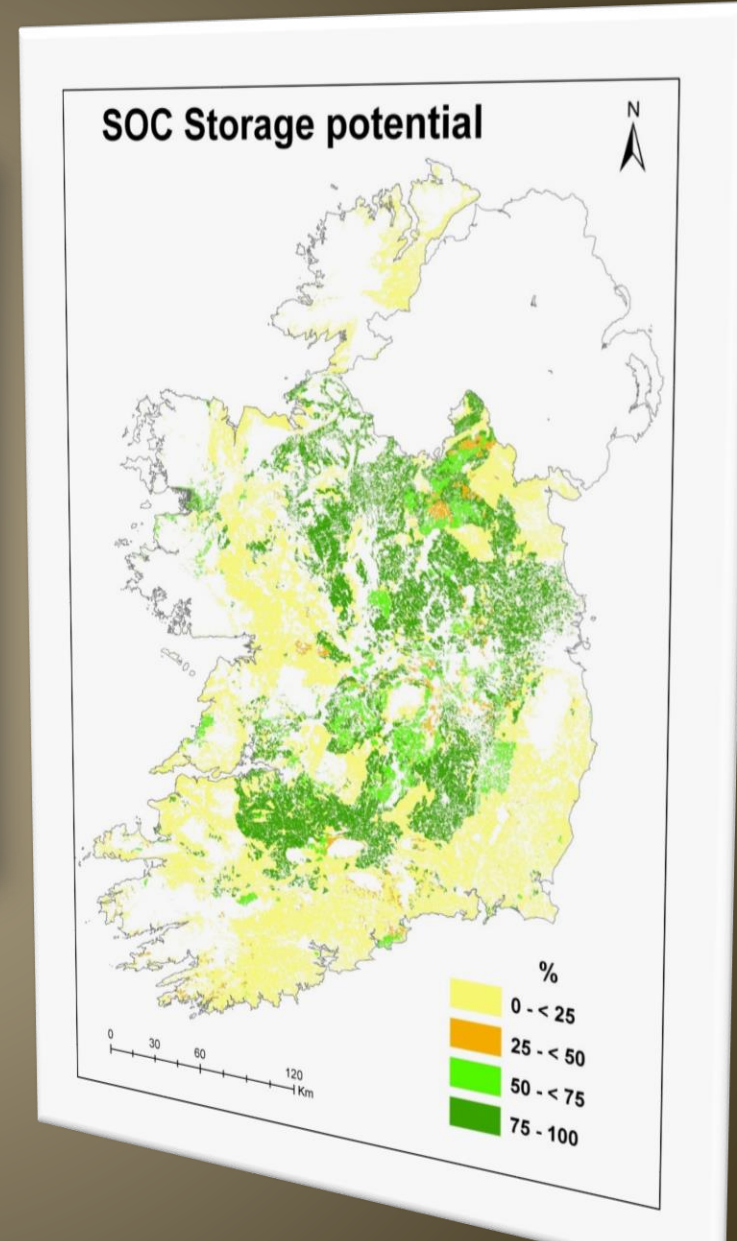


$$\text{N-mineralisation} = \alpha + \beta_1 * \text{SOC}^2 - \beta_2 * \text{SOC} * \text{Wetness} - \beta_3 * \text{SOC} * \text{Spodicity} + \beta_4 * \text{Spodicity} * \text{Argic}$$

CARBON SEQUESTRATION



Torres-Sallan, G. Schulte, R.P.O., Lanigan, G.J., Byrne, K.A., Reidy, B., Simo, I., Six, J., Creamer, R.E. (2017). Clay illuviation provides a long-term sink for C sequestration in subsoils. *Nature Scientific Reports* 7:45635.



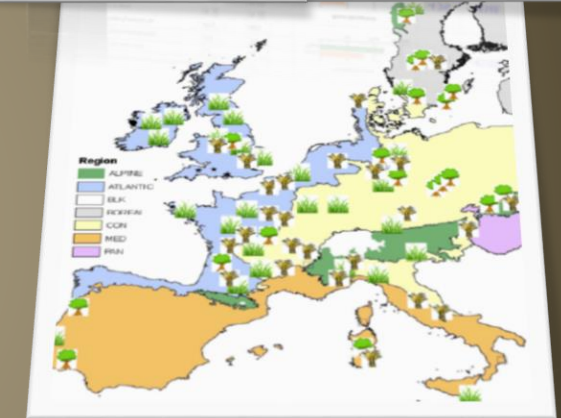
$$\text{Stability} = \text{intercept} - \beta_1 \times \text{depth} \times -\beta_2 \times \text{depth} \times \text{argillicity}$$

Objective: to quantify the supply of soil functions across the EU as determined by soil properties, land use and soil management practices.



THREE SPATIAL SCALES

- 1. Farm scale:** Develop an agricultural Decision Support Tool (DST) for soil management
- 2. Country scale:** Design a monitoring scheme for Soil Functions that is applicable at regional scale, for a range of soil types, land uses and pedo-climatic zones;
- 3. EU scale:** Develop a policy framework for 'Functional Land Management' at European scale that aims to optimise the sustainable use of Europe's soil resource



MONITORING SOIL FUNCTIONS

- ☒ Soil Biodiversity and Habitat
- ☒ Nutrients

Chemical	Physical	Biology	In field	Function
OC/TN	Bulk density	Fun: Bac biomass ratio	Thickness of organic layer	Yield
pH	Texture	Bacterial biomass (DNA)	soil depth <50 >50)	
Available P/K	Infiltration capacity	Fungal biomass (DNA)	groundwater table within 50cm	
CEC	Soil moisture deficit (#days > field capacity)	Earthworm abundance	soil drainage class	

t al. (2005)

orth

h

al

North



- ☒ Microbial
 - ☒ Bacterial biomass
 - ☒ Fungal biomass
 - ☒ Fungal:Bacterial biomass ratio
- ☒ Faunal
 - ☒ Earthworm diversity
 - ☒ Nematode diversity
 - ☒ Microarthropod diversity
 - ☒ Enchytraeid diversity
- ☒ Management related
 - ☒ Pesticide application
 - ☒ Land use
 - ☒ Sterilization management
- ☒ Structure
 - ☒ Vertic/Fragic horizon
- ☒ Soil attributes
 - ☒ Texture
 - ☒ Bulk density
- ☒ Management attributes
 - ☒ Tillage
 - ☒ Trampling

LANDMARK MANAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE:

Appendix 2. Questionnaire for cereal farm visits (answers to given by ticking boxes)

1. Farm

			0	1-25	26-50	51-75	76-99	100
1.1	Land cover	Share (%) of cereals in UAA						

1.2	Farm management type	Conventional	Integrated	Organic	Conservation
-----	----------------------	--------------	------------	---------	--------------

1.3	Artificial drainage measures (e.g. tile drains, ditches)	Yes	No
-----	----------------------------------------------------------	-----	----

1.4	Irrigation measures (e.g. flooding, sprinklers, drippers)	Yes	No
-----	-----------------------------------------------------------	-----	----

Skip 1.5 if answer to 1.4 is 'No'

1.5	Irrigation rate (mm/season) = (l/m ² /season)	0-40	41-80	>81
-----	----------------------------------------------------------	------	-------	-----

Skip 1.6 if answer to 1.4 is 'No'

1.6	Irrigation frequency	1	2-3	4-5	>6
-----	----------------------	---	-----	-----	----

Understanding the role of soils in Functional Land Management

