

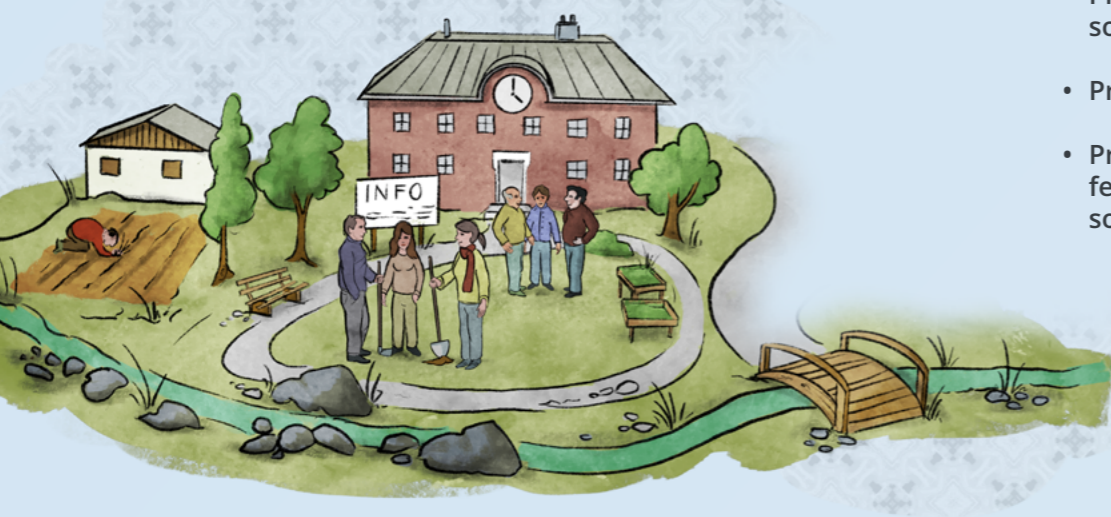
# SOIL ETIQUETTE



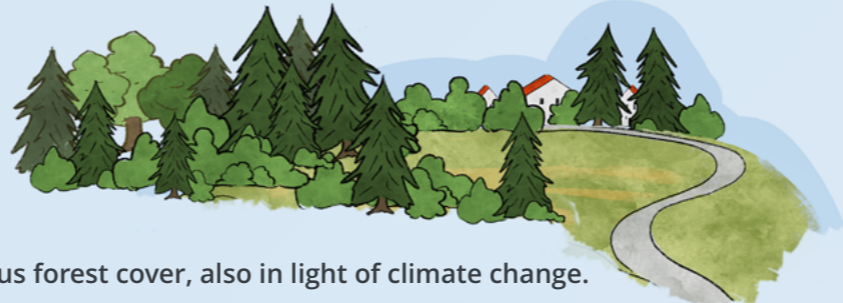
## Agriculture



- Reduce erosion by practising contour planting and keeping soil covered.
- Practise cultivation of cover crops, conservation tillage and other techniques that increase soil organic matter, and thereby mitigate climate change.
- Practise crop rotation and intercropping, and increase crop diversity.
- Promote agro-ecological farming and rational use of organic and mineral fertilizers; maintain soil fertility and protect the soil itself as a vital habitat for soil organisms.
- Reduce the use of pesticides and avoid soil contamination.
- Limit traffic on fields to the minimum, particularly on wet and compaction-sensitive soils.



## Forestry



- Foster continuous forest cover, also in light of climate change.
- Boost mixed forest structure and tree species composition to improve soil quality.
- Use forest structure and tree species composition adapted to the site conditions.
- Promote natural regeneration with carefully selected tree species.
- Avoid clear-cutting, especially on steep slopes.
- Encourage gap regeneration techniques.
- Leave small branch, leaf, and bark litter to ensure site productivity.
- Adapt machinery and the use thereof to minimize soil degradation.



## Natural hazard management

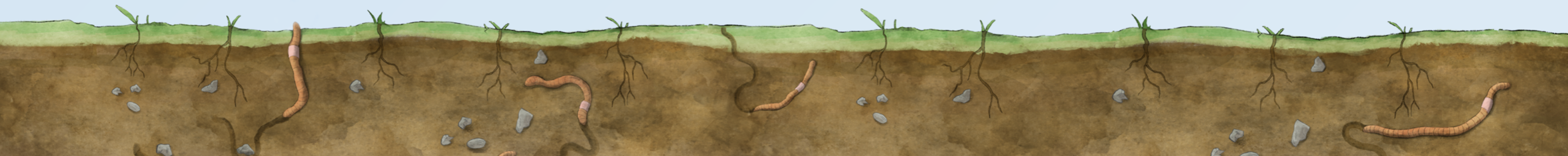


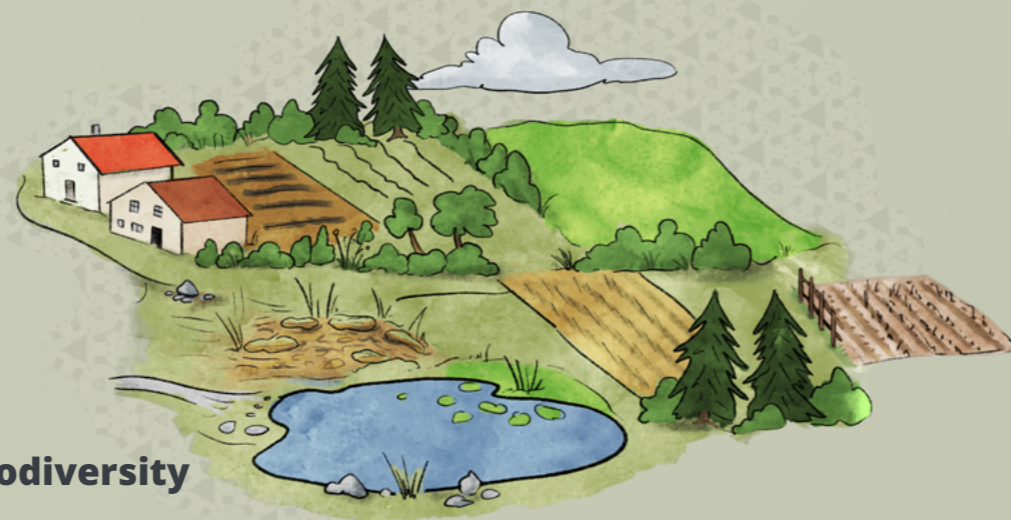
- Be aware of natural hazards and the role of soils in your area.
- Carefully plan land use to decrease the risk of natural hazards.
- Maintain permanent vegetation cover from valley to peak.
- Adapt vegetation structure and species composition to natural hazard types.
- Evaluate the current and potential effectiveness of protection forests.
- Maintain and carefully manage protection forests.
- Avoid soil sealing and promote water infiltration.
- Promote integrated risk management by balancing nature-based solutions and civil engineering techniques.

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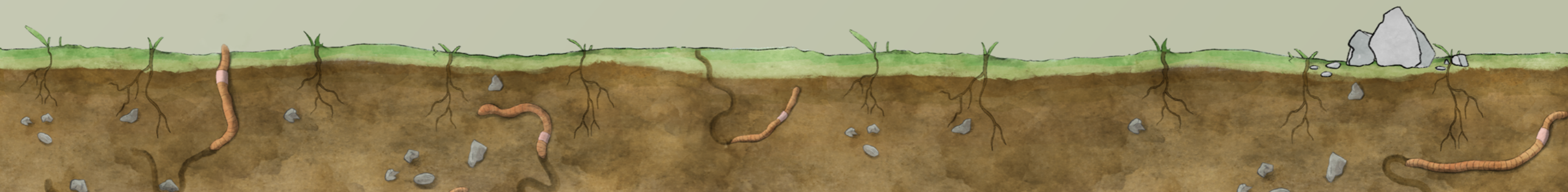
## Nature protection and biodiversity

- Respect soils as an essential part of ecosystems, especially in the Alpine region.
- Identify and protect rare and special soil types as an element of the natural heritage.
- Protect carbon-rich soils, especially moors, bogs, and peatland.
- Protect and manage species-rich grasslands and forest habitats to safeguard soil and above-ground biodiversity.
- Avoid fertilization and the use of pesticides in nature-protected areas.



## Spatial planning and urban environment

- Consider soil functions and soil ecosystem services in planning processes.
- Minimize soil sealing (covering soil with concrete, buildings, etc.), e.g. by soil-saving architecture and promoting permeable surfaces.
- Avoid urban sprawl, especially on highly productive and environmentally important soils.
- Reuse old buildings and foster the clean-up, decontamination, remediation, and re-utilization of industrial sites.
- Use machinery prudently during the construction of buildings and infrastructure; ensure careful topsoil removal and promote its local re-use.
- Avoid contamination and excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides in gardens, lawns, parks, and along roadsides.



## Tourism



- Limit the loss, compaction, and contamination of soils when developing tourism infrastructure.
- Plan hiking and mountain bike trails carefully and ensure adequate soil protection measures to decrease erosion.
- Restore soils in ski runs to minimize erosion and introduce local grass species to make a resistant grass cover and improve biodiversity.
- Promote soil-saving tourism infrastructure and provide public transport in order to limit soil sealing.
- Raise soil awareness among visitors and locals by increasing information on soils.

