THE MAJOR SOIL TYPES OF EUROPE
Supporting the European Union’s Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection

What is soil?
Soil is a mixture of mineral particles, organic matter, water, and living organisms that forms as a result of the interaction between these components and the environment. Soil is an essential part of the Earth's living system, providing a habitat for plants and animals, and supporting agriculture, forestry, and other human activities. Soil is a key component of the Earth's ecosystems, regulating water, nutrient, and carbon cycles, and influencing climate.

Soil functions
Soil functions are critical to human well-being, including food and nutrient production, water regulation, climate regulation, and carbon sequestration. Soil functions are also important for the provision of ecosystem services, such as water purification, air filtration, and soil fertility.

The Soil Map of Europe
The Soil Map of Europe is a comprehensive mapping of soil types across Europe. It is based on the World Reference Base (WRB) classification system, which provides a standardized framework for describing soil properties and comparing soil characteristics across different regions. The Soil Map of Europe is a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, providing valuable information for soil management, conservation, and sustainable land use.

WRB Reference Soil Groups
The Soil Map of Europe is based on the World Reference Base (WRB) classification system, which provides a standardized framework for describing soil properties and comparing soil characteristics across different regions. The WRB classification system is designed to be objective, repeatable, and internationally recognized, allowing for the comparison of soil properties and the development of soil management strategies.

Supporting the European Union’s Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection
The Soil Map of Europe is part of the European Union's Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, which aims to promote soil conservation, improve soil management, and reduce soil degradation. The Soil Map of Europe is a key tool in supporting this strategy, providing valuable information for soil conservation and sustainable land use.

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