



THE WONDER UNDERFOOT

Soil is a fragile resource, created over decades. In parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, it takes around forty years to create one millimetre of topsoil.

How is the soil made? Originally, much of the land we now use for agriculture was under forest. Soil is created from fallen leaves, wood, other plant parts and the breaking up of rock underneath. Soil animals move and feed in the organic matter, breaking it down and forming soil. Of course in order for soils to form, the temperature and climate has to be right for animals to live. Almost a third of Africa's land area is desert made of mineral soils with scarcely any life inside.