

CASE STUDY

A NATURAL SOLUTION FOR HEALTHIER FORESTS

Sibelco's innovative new Soilfeed range of material solutions help to naturally restore forest soils to full health, playing a key role in protecting the biodiversity of one of the world's most precious habitats.

Soil is a vital element of the forest ecosystem, helping to regulate important processes such as nutrient uptake, decomposition and water availability.

But forest soils are particularly susceptible to the effects of acid rain caused by atmospheric pollution, whilst some sandy woodland soils are naturally acidic. The soils of conifer forests can also be prone to acidity as conifer trees tend to absorb more airborne nitrogen and sulphur. If a soil is too acidic it becomes deficient in essential macronutrients, leaving trees and plants less

healthy and more vulnerable to disease. Sibelco's innovative new Soilfeed range of material solutions are slow-release treatments, providing a range of long-lasting benefits with just one application. Soilfeed helps to naturally restore damaged soils, steadily increasing pH levels to reduce acidity whilst adding new mineral nutrients. Soilfeed is a processed volcanic rock, formed through the cooling and solidification of magma or lava. Scientific studies show that volcanic ash has created the world's most fertile soils.

Generated during the mining of nepheline syenite rock at Sibelco's operations in Norway, Soilfeed is 100% natural with no chemical additives – it is created by nature and returned to nature in a 'cradle to cradle' cycle. Compared with other soil improvement products, Soilfeed has a relatively low carbon footprint and has none of the adverse side-effects associated with chemical-based soil fertilisers.

By returning soil to full health naturally, Soilfeed helps to protect both flora and fauna and support the biodiversity of our planet's precious forests.



forests are home to more than **50%** of the **world's plant and animal species**



forests provide **jobs** for over **13 million people** worldwide



after oceans, forests are the world's **largest storehouse** of **carbon**



forests cover around **4 billion hectares** or **30%** of the earth's land surface