

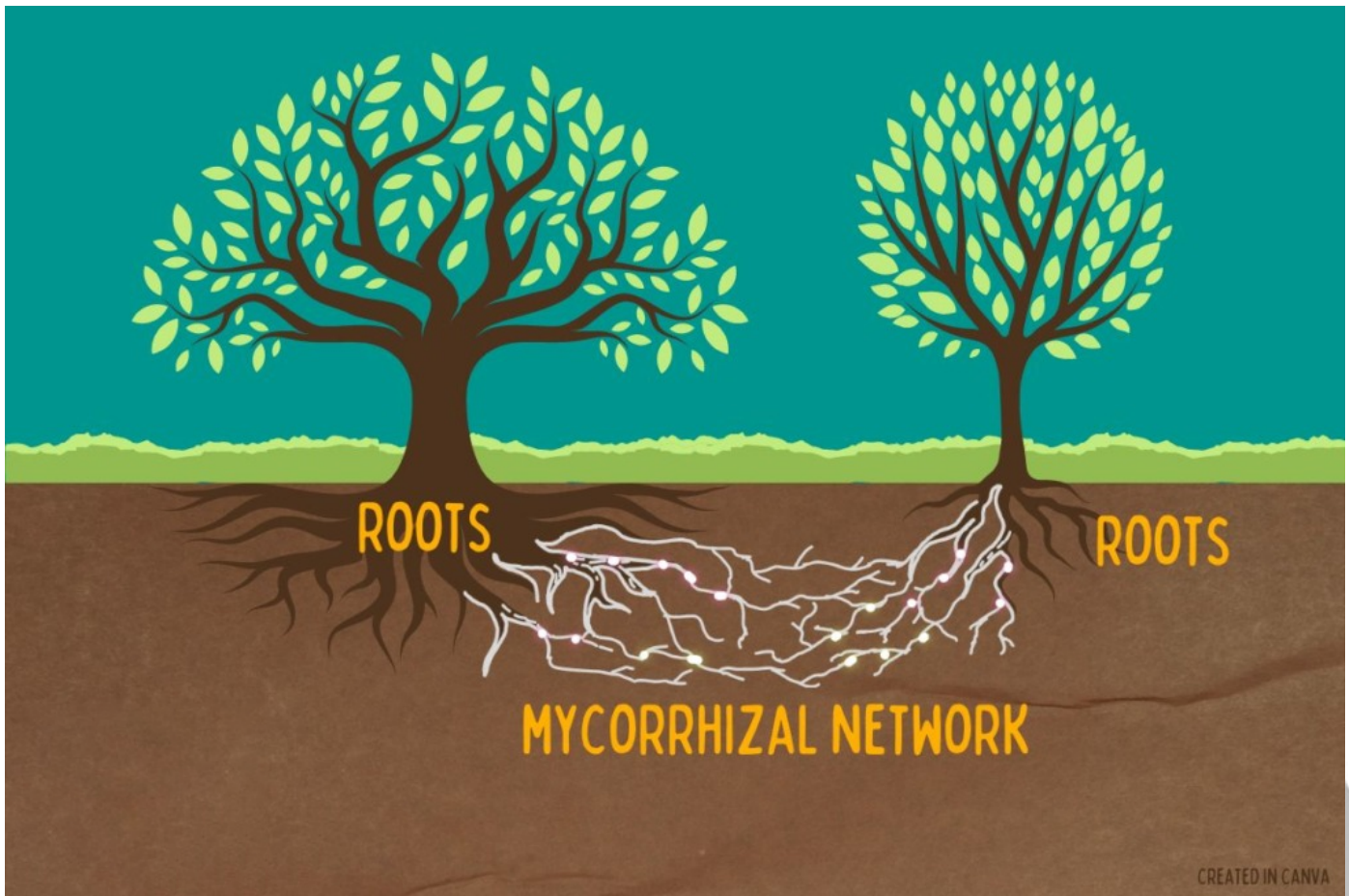


SPUN Atlas Highlights Gaps in Mycorrhizal Fungi Conservation

[Source: DTE](#)

The **Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN)** has launched the **Underground Atlas**, which shows that **over 90% of [mycorrhizal fungi](#) hotspots lie outside [protected areas](#)**, despite their key role in **nutrient cycling and [carbon sequestration](#)**.

- **Role in Ecosystem:** Mycorrhizal **fungi** form symbiotic relationships with over **80% of plants**, **aiding nutrient absorption like phosphorus** and playing a key role in carbon sequestration by utilizing **CO₂** from plant roots.
 - They store around **13 billion tonnes of CO₂ annually**, or one-third of global fossil fuel emissions.
- **Types of Mycorrhizal fungi:**
 - **AM (Arbuscular Mycorrhizal) fungi:** They penetrate root cells, common in crops and grasses.
 - **Hotspots:** Brazilian Cerrado, Southeast Asia, West Africa
 - **EcM (Ectomycorrhizal) fungi:** They wrap around roots, common in forest trees like **oak and pine**.
 - **Hotspots:** Canada, Siberia, Central Europe, Western US.
- Recognising the ecological significance of fungi and other soil organisms, the **FAO** launched the **Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory (GLOBSOB)** at **[COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Canada](#)**, a global effort to monitor, protect, and integrate soil life into environmental policy.



Read More: [Flora Fauna and 'Funga'](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/spun-atlas-highlights-gaps-in-mycorrhizal-fungi-conservation>