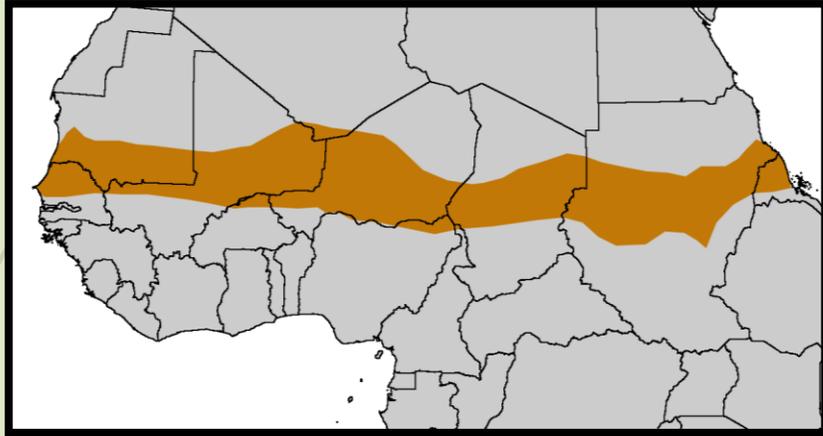


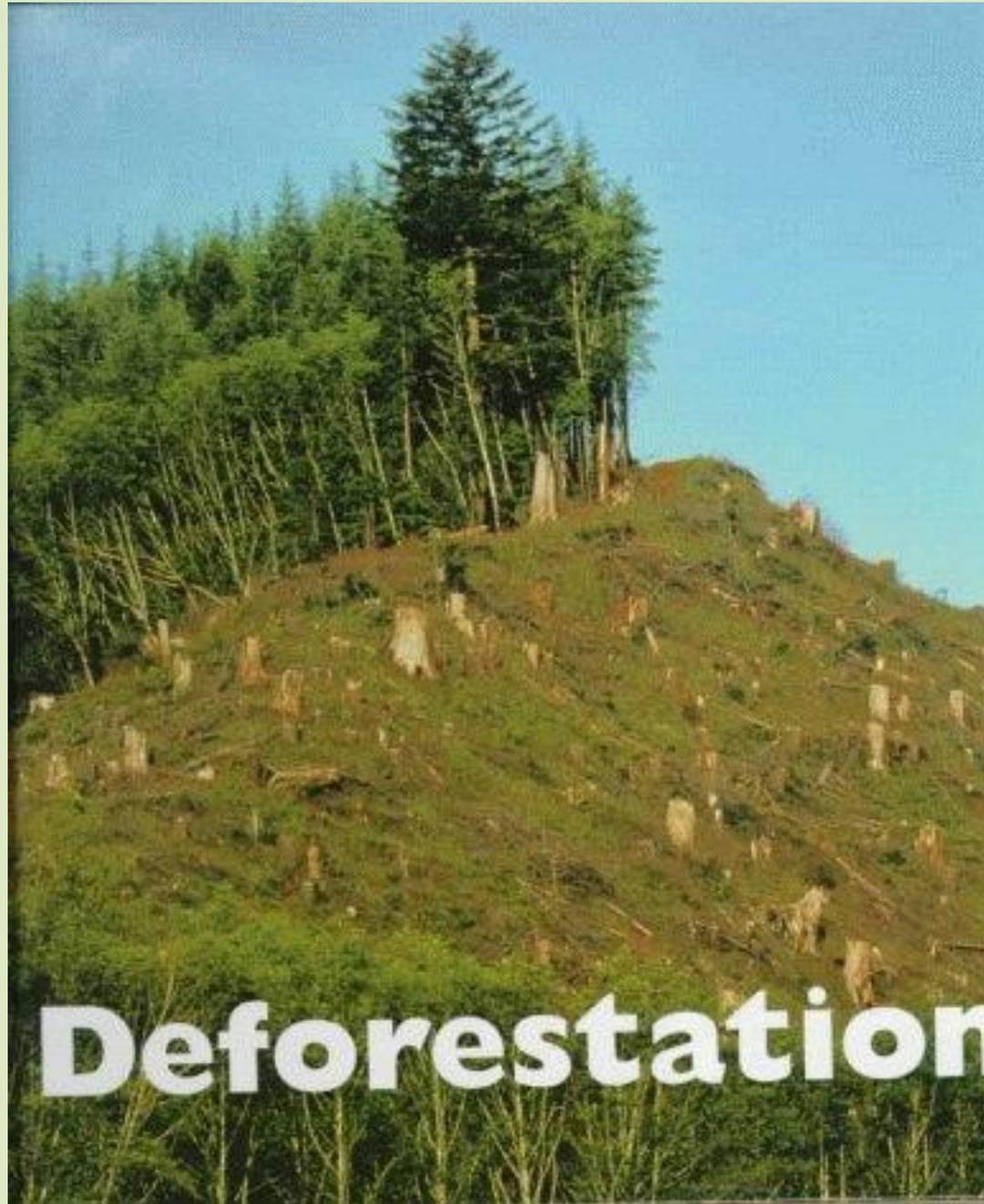


# **Deforestation & Poaching in Africa**

# Explain the relationship between poor soil and deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

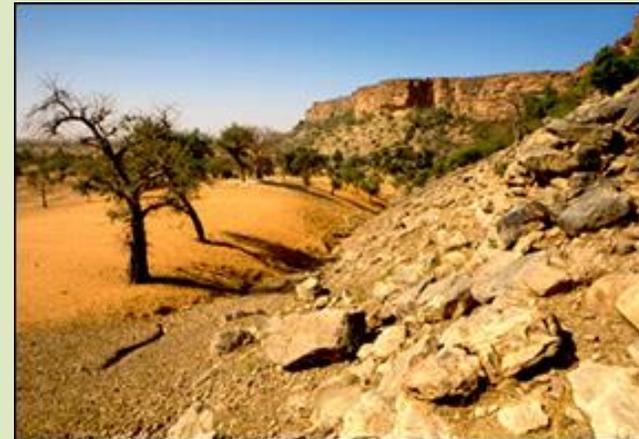


- The **Sahel** is an area of Africa south of the Sahara Desert.
- It is an example of how poor farming practices and the destruction of trees and shrubs can lead to an expanding desert.
- Centuries of farming and grazing along with less rainfall have gradually damaged land in the Sahel.
- Millions of people struggle to farm in its poor soil.



**Deforestation**

- **Deforestation** is the destruction of trees and other vegetation.
- This continues to be a problem in the Sahel and elsewhere in Africa.
- Animals have been allowed to graze too heavily in an area and strip all the vegetation from the soil.
- People who need fuel, need timber for houses, want to sell timber for profit, or who hope to be able to clear new farmland cut down the trees that help hold the soil in place.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq2UHiyYwLo>

- **Droughts**, or periods of little rainfall, have hurt the Sahel, too.
- The people who live in these areas often face starvation and poverty. Many move into urban areas hoping to find work, but most only find more poverty.
- In recent years, the UN and the World Food Bank have come to the aid of those living in parts of the Sahel. They have worked to find solutions to help the people survive and live a better life.

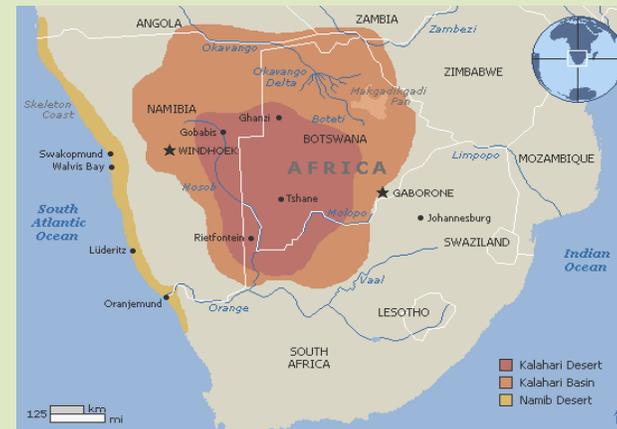




## Explain the impact of desertification on the environment of Africa from the Sahel to the rainforest

- The Sahel is one part of Africa that is experiencing severe problems with **desertification**, the process of the desert expanding into areas that had formerly been farmland.
- As the land is overused, the soil becomes poor and powdery.
- The winds coming from the **Sahara** gradually blow the dry topsoil away, leaving a barren and rocky land.
- Periods of drought have made this situation worse.
- As the desert expands, people are less able to grow food to feed themselves.
- In the Sahel, however, a majority of the **desertification** is the result of the actions of people, **deforestation**, rather than climate.

- Another place where rapid desertification is happening is East Africa.
- In Ethiopia, people who have lived for generations by farming and raising grazing animals like sheep and goats are finding they have less and less land available to them.
- The **Kalahari Desert** is a desert that covers part of the southern tip of Africa.
- The people around this desert face the same problems.
- Pressure from increasing populations, the need for fuels like firewood and brush, and the constant grazing of animals have worn away soil and introduced **desertification**.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DrZMo03OS0&feature=related>

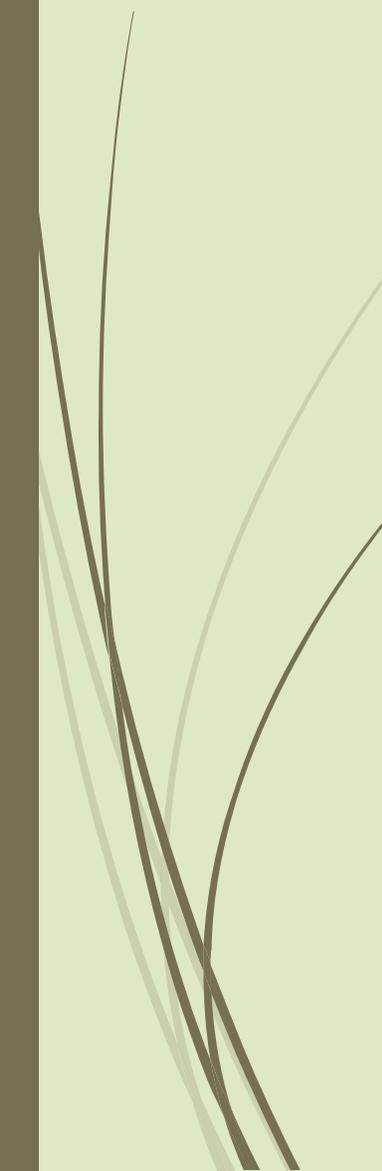
# A warm Continent

- The Sahara is the largest desert in the world
- Only about 20% of Africa is desert
- Travel in the Sahara is risky because of extreme conditions





# A grassy continent

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- ▶ Tropical grasslands cover most of the continent, One example of this grassland is the Serengeti plain in northern Tanzania
  - ▶ The abundance of grass makes the plains a great place for grazing animals.
  - ▶ Huge herds of wildebeests, gazelles, and zebras roam there

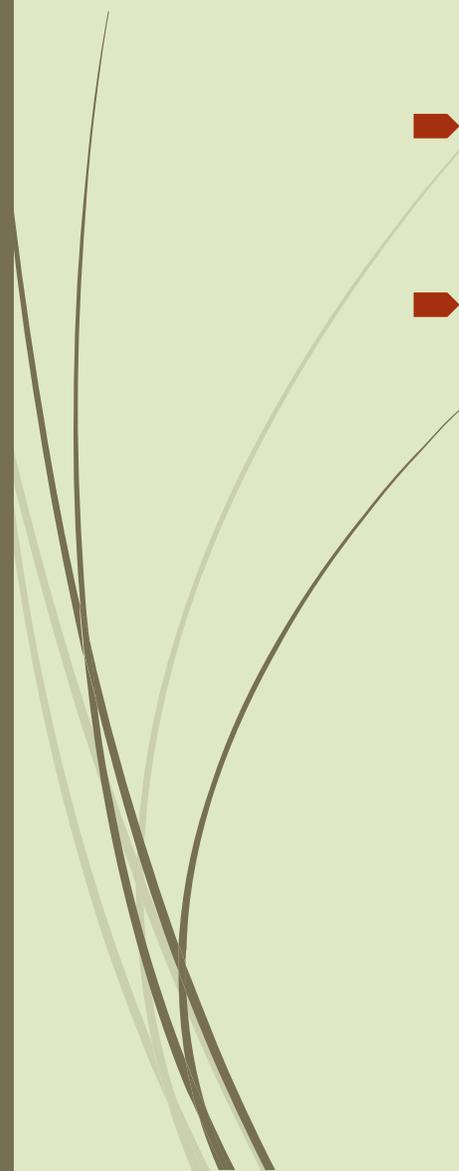




# Poaching

- Poaching is the illegal hunting of animals for Profit
- In 1970 there were about 2.5 million African Elephants
- Poaching and habitat encroachment reduced that number to an estimated 350,000



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- The main reason for the sharp decline is that elephants have ivory, which is very valuable in parts of the world
  - Black Rhinos are also in danger for their horns with a current black market value of about \$2,500 dollars
  - Numbers of black Rhinos in Africa have dropped from 65,000 in 1982 to less than 2500
- 





[Animal Planet - Battleground: Rhino Wars](#)