



Environmental Issues of Africa

Deforestation

- Definition: the clearing of trees
 - Causes: Commercial logging, road building, agriculture, mining, new settlements, slash + burn farming
 - Effects:
 - no roots to hold soil in place
 - erosion by wind + rain
 - exposed to heat from sun
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desertification
- Region in Danger: Congo Tropical Rain forest

Desertification

- Definition: the process by which fertile land becomes a desert
 - Causes:
 - Poor farming practices (such as slash-and-burn farming)
 - Deforestation (land-clearing)
 - Overgrazing of livestock
 - Removing surface + underground water for industrial or home use
 - Drought (lack of rainfall)
 - Effects:
 - People + animals leave.
- Region in Danger: Sahel

Water Pollution

- Causes:
 - pesticides, fertilizers, human + animal waste, storm water runoff, mining, manufacturing, oil spills
 - Effects:
 - ruins land for farming
 - ruins water for fishing
 - Lack of clean drinking water causes disease + death.
 - Coastal beaches are unsafe for swimming.
 - Decreased food security (having access to food)
 - Related to increased poverty + lack of education
- * Government stability + action are needed to help solve the problem.

Unequal Distribution of Water

- Uses of water: Drinking, hygiene, business/industry, irrigation (the watering of land for crops)
- Some parts have adequate freshwater access, but water is scarce in other parts (such as the Sahara + parts of sub-Saharan Africa).
- As the population grows, the demand for fresh water is greater than the supply.
- Women + children mainly walk many miles daily to get water → loss of education time