



## DESERTIFICATION AND BIODIVERSITY

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**DESERTIFICATION:** the process by which fertile land becomes desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agriculture<sup>1</sup>

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### Facts about Desertification:

- Due to drought and desertification, 12 million hectares of fertile land is lost each year (23 hectares per minute). Within one year, 20 million tons of grain could have been grown<sup>2</sup>.
- 74% of the poor are directly affected by land degradation globally<sup>6</sup>.
- Habitat loss and deterioration, largely caused by human actions, have reduced global terrestrial habitat integrity by 30%<sup>6</sup>.

What are 3 human activities that might cause habitat loss?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Desertification: Definition of Desertification. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.lexico.com/definition/desertification>

<sup>2</sup> Forests, desertification and biodiversity – United Nations Sustainable Development. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>