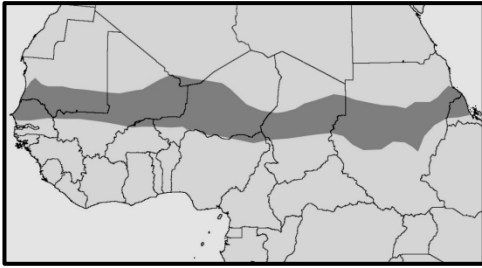


Surviving in the Sahel



<http://www.nanduti.com.py/v1/noticias-mas.php?id=48562&cat=Internacionales>

The "Sahel" is a dry grassland area just _____ of the _____ Desert.

The Sahel doesn't have a lot of _____ or grass, and _____ is unpredictable. The rainy season is _____ (June to September), so it's hard to grow things.

People in the Sahel are fighting to keep the Sahara Desert from _____
_____ Sahel land.

CAUSES of Sahel desertification:

■ Since the 1970s, there have been several _____.

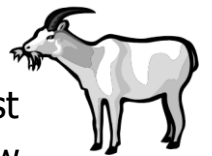
■ There is a HIGH _____ In the Sahel. 45% of the population is younger than _____ years old. More people means the land is _____.

They cut more trees for:

- _____
- _____
- _____ posts

They clear more land for _____ (and many still use slash-and-burn).

Land is _____ by herders. When the animals tear up most the plants and eat even the _____, it's hard for the plants to grow back.



Loss of plant cover leads to soil erosion.

★ All of this leads to _____.

_____ is washed away and blown away. This makes farming even harder.

The erosion is also damaging the Sahel's main water source – the Niger River. The river is getting clogged up from erosion. The Niger River is the 3rd largest river in Africa, and several Sahel countries depend on it for water. It is also a

major _____ route. Forty years ago, the Niger River was navigable from July through January.

But today, you can't get through in July, August, September, or most of October. By the end of _____, you can finally sail the river. And between drought and erosion run-off, the _____ of the Niger are also disappearing. This means there is less water for _____ irrigation, for _____, and for _____.

Satellite photographs show that the Sahara has _____ some in the last 15 years. Trees and farmland are GROWING.

Reasons:

① more _____ fall (but the Sahel is now having another _____, which is causing more problems _____)

② better _____ practices

Example:

- "Magic _____" lined up across fields slow _____.
- Mini-"_____" slow erosion.
- _____ breaks - _____ made from branches - slow erosion.
- Farming "_____" catch water & protect from wind.
- Crop rotation keeps _____ (especially nitrogen) in the soil.



<http://images.cdn.fotopedia.com/flickr-194194438-original.jpg>
http://www.rural21.com/uploads/RTEmagicC_publication_32.pdf.jpg

③ Reforestation – planting new trees – makes a big difference. Trees can

- stabilize the soil with their _____ (slow erosion)
- protect soil from hard rain with their _____ (slowing erosion)

Desertification is happening all over the world.

But it is most serious in _____, where _____ of the continent is already dry grasslands or desert.