

*“It seems that human development can only lead to ever greater degradation of the land all of us depend on. We urgently need a strategy that will permit both development and conservation. The starting point of that strategy is the land itself...”*

A new approach  
to land use  
planning  
and  
management

# OUR LAND OUR FUTURE

OUR LAND OUR FUTURE • A new approach to land use planning and management



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



# You are here...

Planet Earth is  
a beautiful place.  
But it also has  
serious problems,  
and sooner or later  
we will have  
to face them...





# Population growth

Between 1950 and 1990, the world's population doubled – to more than 5 000 million – and the global economy grew by more than 3 percent a year. If trends continue, by the middle of the next century the Earth could be home to 10 000 million people and the global economy will have expanded five times over. This exponential growth is creating critical demand for food, energy, income and services.

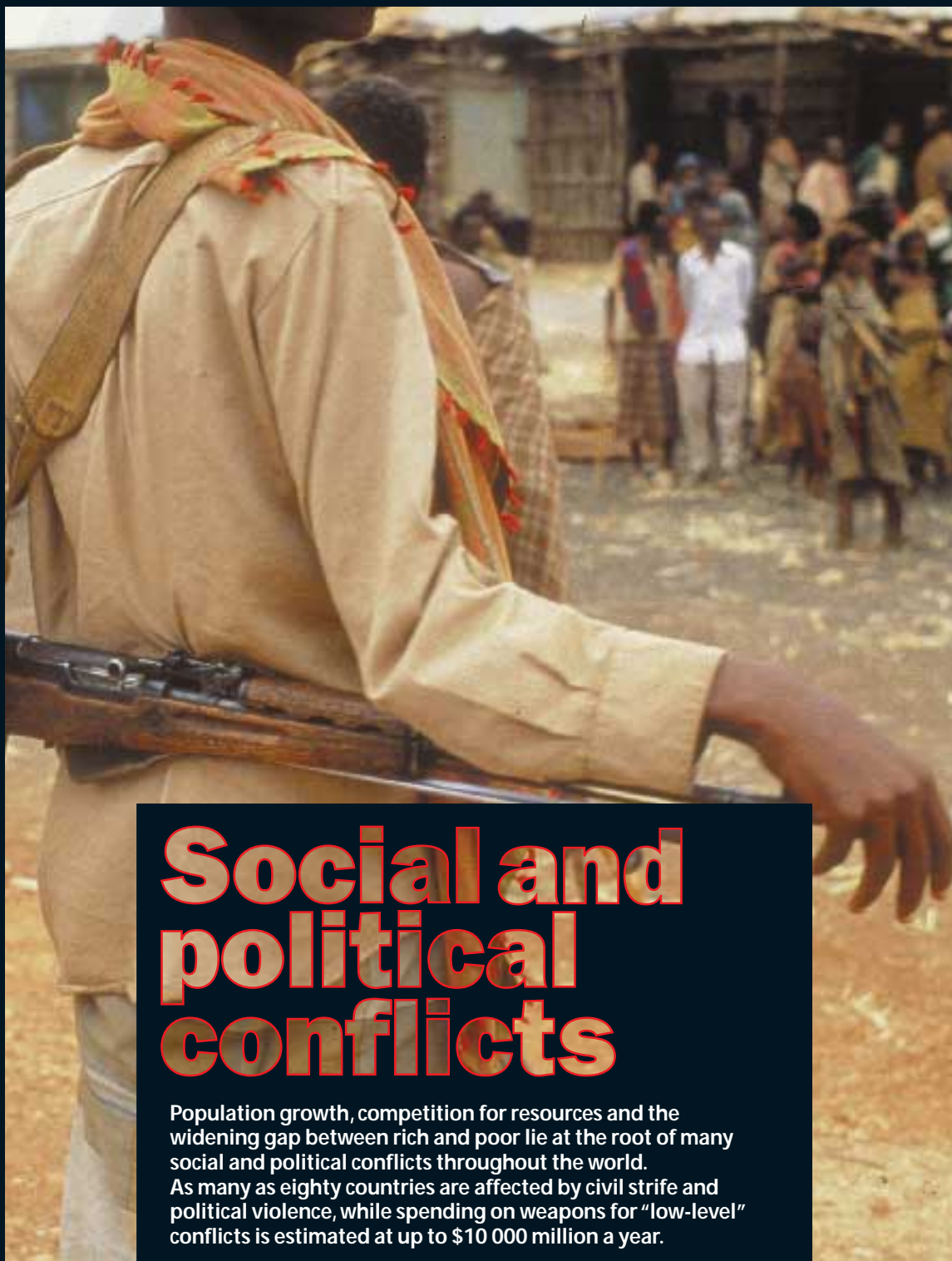


# Hunger and poverty

Just to feed everybody adequately, food production will have to double within about 30 years. But the shortfall in domestic cereals production in the developing world is expected to widen – from less than 100 million tons today to more than 250 million tons in the year 2025.

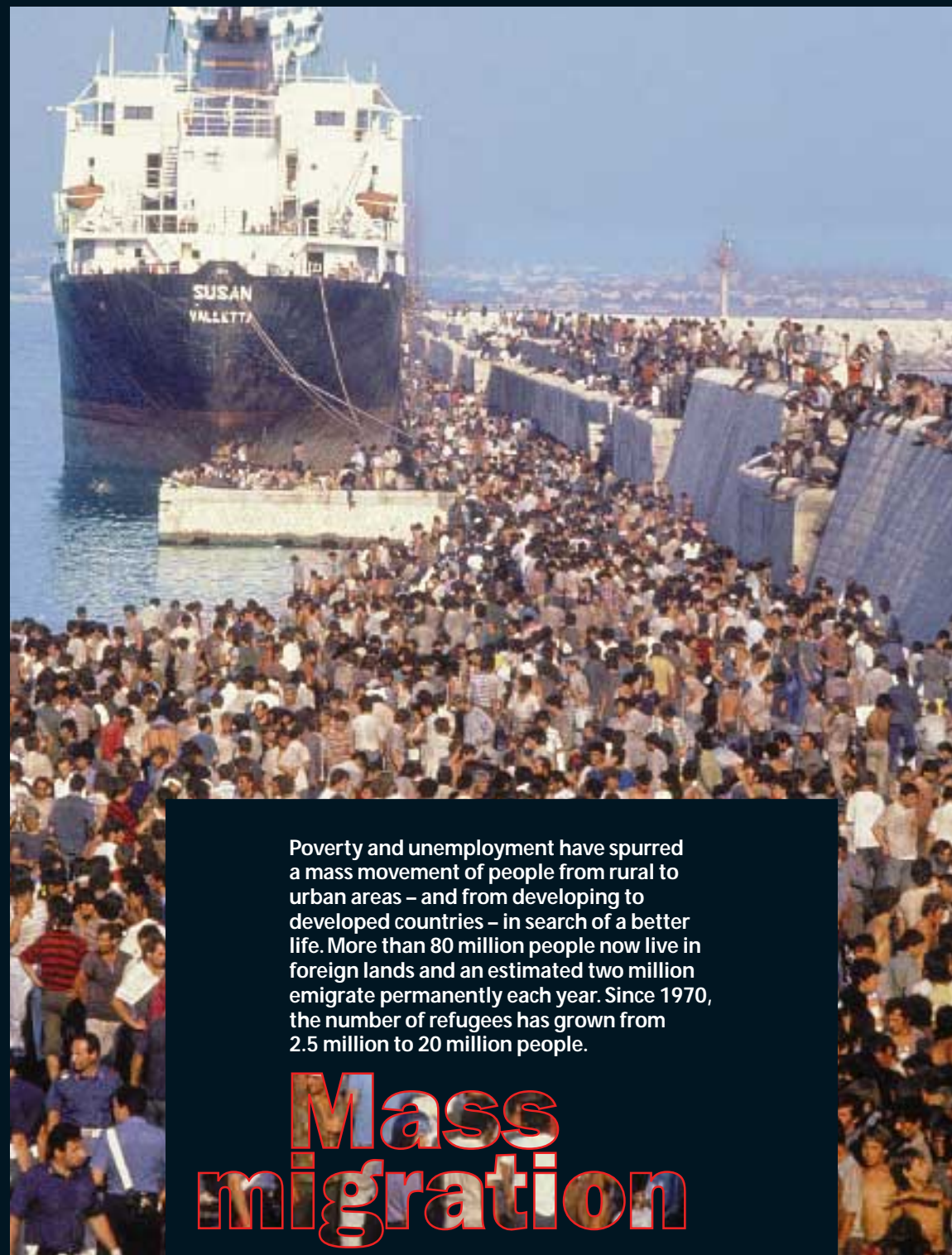
More than 800 million people are chronically malnourished, and 1 100 million live in absolute poverty.





# Social and political conflicts

Population growth, competition for resources and the widening gap between rich and poor lie at the root of many social and political conflicts throughout the world. As many as eighty countries are affected by civil strife and political violence, while spending on weapons for "low-level" conflicts is estimated at up to \$10 000 million a year.

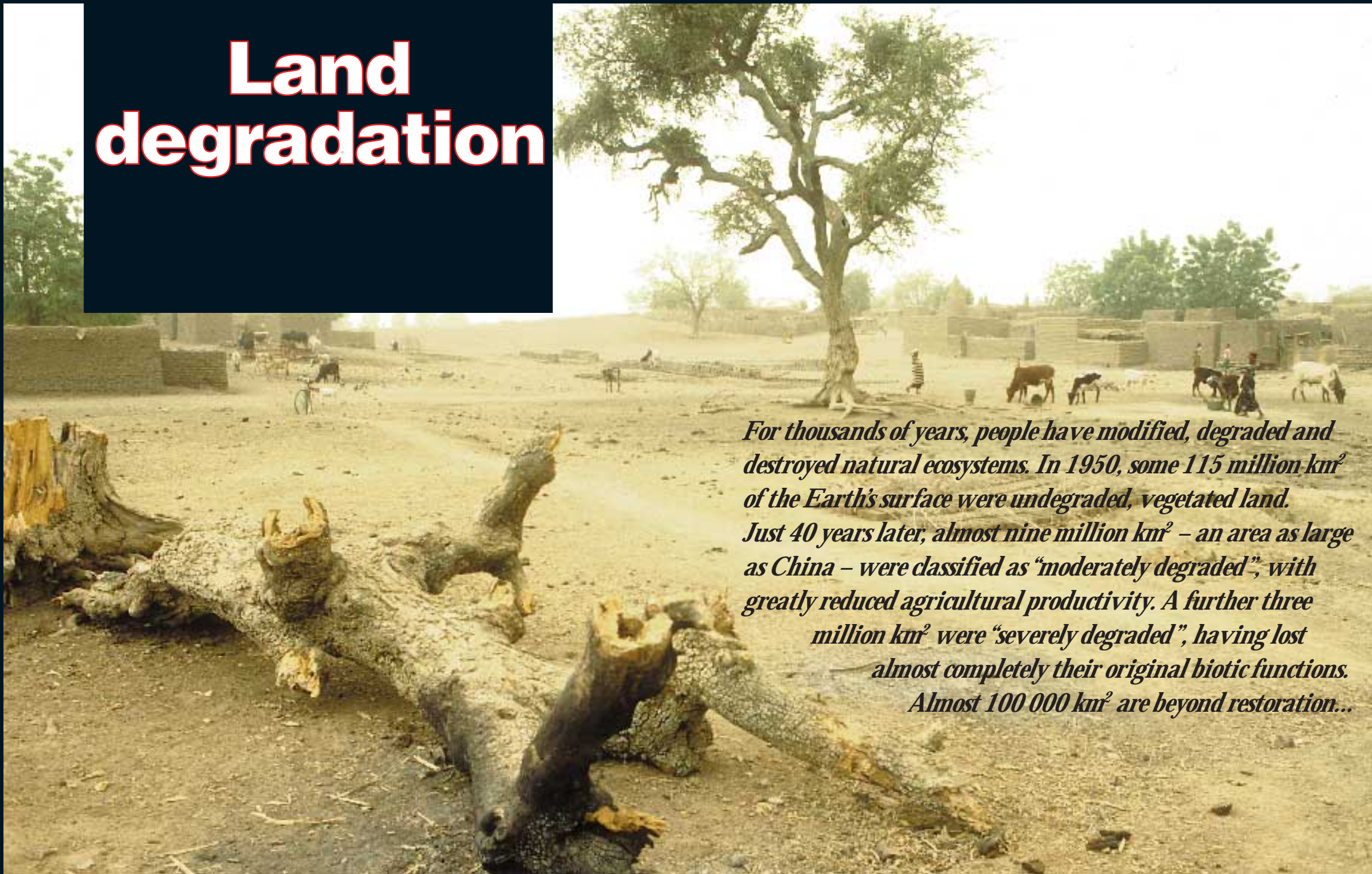


Poverty and unemployment have spurred a mass movement of people from rural to urban areas – and from developing to developed countries – in search of a better life. More than 80 million people now live in foreign lands and an estimated two million emigrate permanently each year. Since 1970, the number of refugees has grown from 2.5 million to 20 million people.

# Mass migration



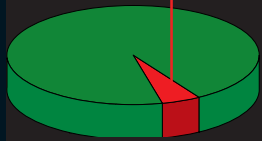
# Land degradation



*For thousands of years, people have modified, degraded and destroyed natural ecosystems. In 1950, some 115 million km<sup>2</sup> of the Earth's surface were undegraded, vegetated land. Just 40 years later, almost nine million km<sup>2</sup> – an area as large as China – were classified as “moderately degraded”, with greatly reduced agricultural productivity. A further three million km<sup>2</sup> were “severely degraded”, having lost almost completely their original biotic functions. Almost 100 000 km<sup>2</sup> are beyond restoration...*



5 800 000 km<sup>2</sup> degraded by deforestation

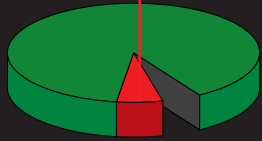


2.2 million km<sup>2</sup> of tropical forest were destroyed, mainly to provide new land for food production. Worldwide, tropical forests are being cleared at a rate of about one percent each year, with annual losses of as high as two percent in West Africa.

Vast reserves of forest have been degraded by large-scale logging and clearing for farm and urban use. Between 1975 and 1990, more than



6 800 000 km<sup>2</sup> degraded by overgrazing

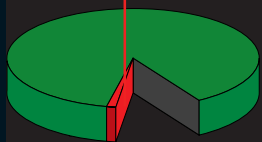


exposing soil to wind and water erosion. As rangeland productivity declines in developing countries, more forests and farm land are being converted to grazing.

Overgrazing has damaged 20 percent of the world's pasture and range lands. Recent losses have been most severe in Africa and Asia. Typically, animal herds compact soil around waterholes and strip the land of vegetation, reducing its capacity to retain moisture and



1 370 000 km<sup>2</sup> degraded for fuel wood



1 730 million m<sup>3</sup> of fuelwood are taken from forests and plantations. As population pressure mounts, rural people are removing vegetation from higher and steeper areas, exposing more and more land to erosion.

Fuelwood and charcoal are the primary sources of energy in many parts of the world. Each year an estimated



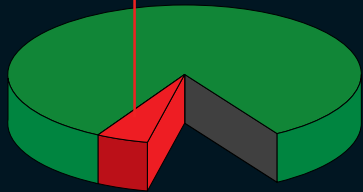




**Wind erosion** degrades land left bare of vegetation. It affects more than a third of land in the Near East and almost a quarter of Africa north of the equator.

**Water erosion** affects mainly steep land or unprotected sloping areas. It causes soil losses estimated at 25 000 million tonnes every year.

5 500 000 km<sup>2</sup> degraded by agricultural mismanagement



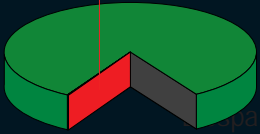
**Soil salinization and waterlogging** are caused by poor drainage of irrigated land. Globally, about 400 000 km<sup>2</sup> of land are affected.



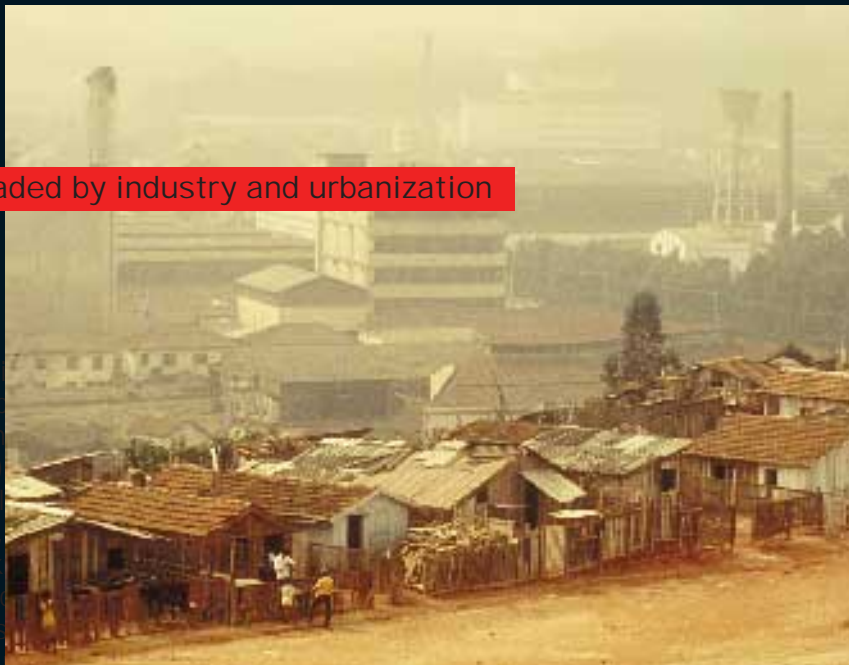
**Soil nutrient loss** occurs when land is farmed beyond its capacity. This is increasingly the case in areas of shifting (or "slash-and-burn") cultivation, where population pressure has reduced fallow periods to virtually zero.



195 000 km<sup>2</sup> degraded by industry and urbanization

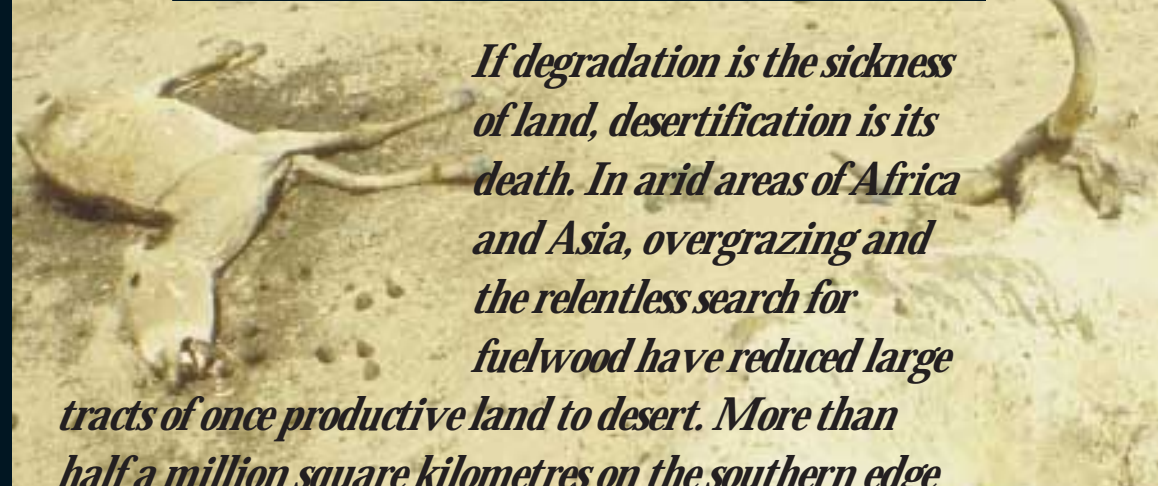


Urban growth, road building, mining and industry are degrading land worldwide. Often, valuable agricultural land is lost – during 1967-75, almost 30 000 km<sup>2</sup> of good crop land disappeared under concrete in the United States alone. Associated problems include pollution of soil by industrial and urban wastes, acid rain, overuse of inputs in feedlots, and oil and chemical spills.



# Desertification

## “The death of land”



*If degradation is the sickness of land, desertification is its death. In arid areas of Africa and Asia, overgrazing and the relentless search for fuelwood have reduced large tracts of once productive land to desert. More than half a million square kilometres on the southern edge*

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_12529](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_12529)

