

**CLIMATE**

## **Extreme Heat and Desertification:**

What is Desertification?  
Desertification is the persistent degradation of dryland ecosystems by variations in climate and human activities. This situation has occurred due to global warming and extreme climate change which is also undermining the eco system and bringing so many changes that are not healthy for the environment. This climate generally occurs in places that already face the hot weather and no signs of rain. This has not only affected flora and fauna but also humans.



Desertification occurs as a result of a long-term failure to balance human demand for ecosystem services and the amount the ecosystem can supply. The pressure is increasing on dryland ecosystems for providing services such as food, forage, fuel, building materials, and water which is needed for humans, livestock, irrigation, and sanitation. Some 10 to 20% of drylands are already degraded, and ongoing desertification threatens the world's poorest populations and the prospects of poverty reduction. barrier to meeting basic human needs in drylands.

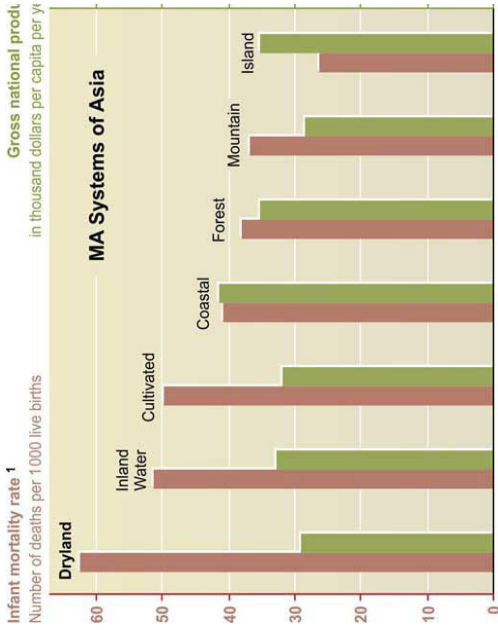


Desertification affects a wide range of services provided by ecosystems to humans: products such as food and water, natural processes such as climate regulation, but also non-material services such as recreation, and supporting services such as soil conservation. Changes can be quantified and methods are available to prevent, reduce, or reverse them. When faced with desertification, people often respond by making use of land that is even less productive, transforming pieces of range-land into cultivated land, or moving towards cities

Desertification takes place in drylands all over the world. Some 10 to 20% of all drylands may already be degraded, but the precise extent of desertification is difficult to estimate, because few comprehensive assessments have been made so far.



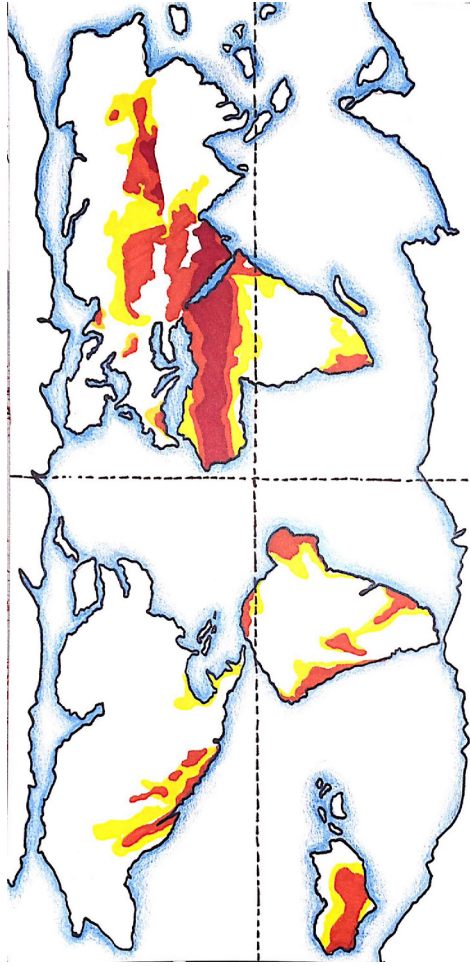
Historically, dryland livelihoods have been based on a mixture of hunting, gathering, farming, and herding. This mixture varied with time, place, and culture, since the harsh conditions forced people to be flexible in land use. Population growth has led to the extension of cultivated lands and the irrigation of these lands has brought about desertification, as well as other environmental problems. Policies that can lead to an unsustainable use of resources and lack of infrastructure are major contributors to land degradation.



<sup>1</sup> Number of children less than one year old dying in a year, per 1000 live births during that year

Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Population growth and increased food demand are expected to drive the expansion and intensification of land cultivation in drylands. If no countermeasures are taken, desertification in drylands will threaten future improvements in human well-being and possibly reverse gains in some regions. Local adaptation and conservation practices can mitigate some losses of dryland services, but it will be difficult to reverse losses in terms of biodiversity and in the provision of food and water which is linked to biodiversity.



This is a map in which the continental figures were created when people believed that the earth was flat. The red colour shows extreme desertification.

As a designer it is very important to consider every aspect of its impact, may it be on humans or the environment including the flora and the fauna. Climate change is a big issue that has risen in the past few decades, which can be threat to us in the coming years. As a designer we could design posters and raise awareness through our art works and get involved in this campaign together. This is the best way as it attracts more audience. Design machines that are energy efficient and use solar power that to a large extent can reduce down energy consumption and pollution. Also make energy efficient and eco friendly houses and objects that can make-work easier for people and at the same time help the environment. Even though these are small steps to make our surroundings better but these small steps make a huge difference.

