

## 18.5 Human Actions Harmed Ecologically Vulnerable Regions in Africa

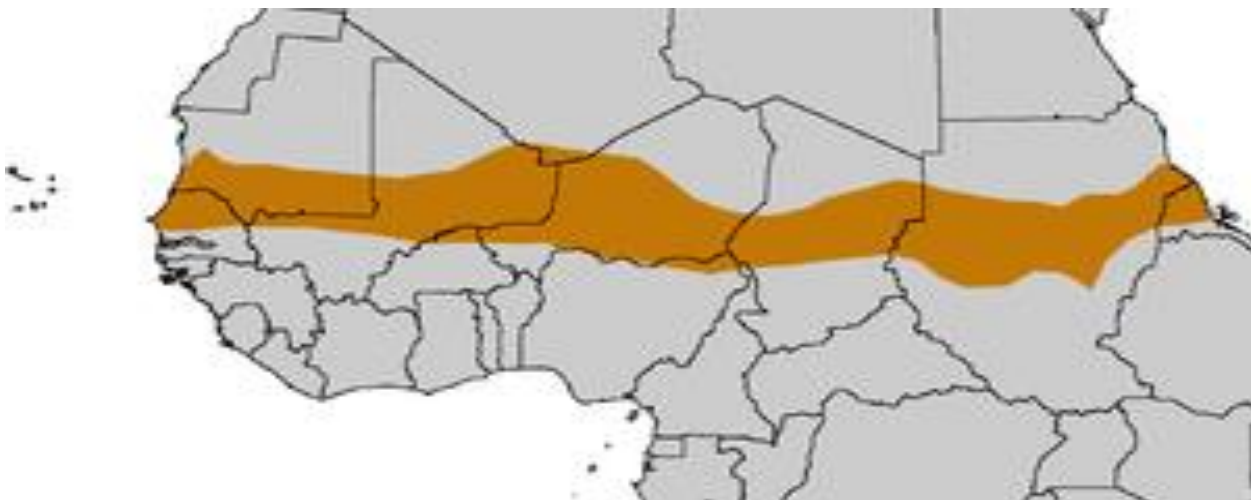
**Do Now:** Read the passage and answer questions 1-3.

The Sahel climate zone includes all or part of the northern African countries of Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea. It is mostly semiarid grassland that receives low to a very low annual precipitation. In the 20th century in the Sahel there were major droughts that caused starvation, political unrest and a scarcity of natural resources. From 1972 to 1984, the zone had its worst recorded drought. More than 100,000 people died and more than 750,000 were left in need of food. Determining the cause of these droughts has been a sharply debated issue in the scientific community.

**Vocabulary:** climate zone, semiarid, precipitation, drought, environment, ecologically vulnerable

### Questions

1. Where is the Sahel?
2. List 3 countries located in the Sahel climate zone.
3. What ecological problem has made life on the Sahel so difficult?



**Video:** Hungry for Profit (24:25)

### Questions

1. Which African country located in the Sahel region is the subject of this report?
2. Which European country has close ties with this African country?
3. What is the primary crop in this country?
4. Why is this the primary crop?
5. What is the impact of this form of agriculture on the local environment?
6. How have human actions harmed this ecologically vulnerable region?

**Question for discussion:** In 1950, Africa was home to 227 million people and 273 million livestock. By 2007, there were 965 million people and 824 million livestock. As of 2010, Senegal was losing 125,000 acres of productive land each year or the equivalent in land of 165,000 football fields. Who or what is responsible for what is happening in Senegal?