

THE DESERTIFICATION CRISIS



For many years, the vast grasslands of the world have been turning into barren deserts. This process, called desertification, is happening at an alarming rate.

Desertification is due to agriculture – or the production of food and fiber from the world's land *by human beings for human beings*. In the past, large herds of herbivores moved over the grasslands. Herds grazed, defecated, stomped and salivated as they moved around, building soil and deepening plant roots. Over time, the wild herds were replaced by small numbers of domestic livestock and fire. Without the constant activity of large numbers of herbivores, the cycle of biological decay on the grasslands was interrupted and the once-rich soil turned into dry, exposed desert land. **Desertification plays a critical role in climate change because dry, bare soil is unable to store carbon, releasing it into the atmosphere.**

“If we completely eliminated carbon emissions from fossil fuels tomorrow, current agricultural practices would continue to create enormous areas of bare soil that are unable to store carbon.” – Allan Savory



Degraded land loses its ability to produce food and store water and carbon

5 billion hectares (12 billion acres) of grasslands around the world are facing the threat of desertification.

THE SAVORY INSTITUTE

The Savory Institute empowers people to use properly managed livestock to heal the grasslands of the world by teaching them how to manage holistically, using a decision making framework that results in ecologically regenerative, economically viable and socially sound management of natural resources.

Holistic Management helps land managers, ranchers, policymakers and others understand the relationship between large herds of wild herbivores and the grasslands and develop strategies for managing livestock to mimic those wild herds to heal the land. Holistic Management increases the organic matter in the soil and therefore increases carbon sequestration, mitigating global climate change.

Holistic Management is successful, cost-effective, highly scalable and nature-based. It is sustainable because it actually increases land productivity, livestock stocking rates and profits for landowners.

Today, there are successful Holistic Management practitioners spread across the globe, from Canada to Patagonia to Zimbabwe to Australia to Scandinavia. More than 10,000 people have been trained in Holistic Management and its associated land and grazing planning procedures and over 40 million acres are managed holistically worldwide.



Nature provides the solution: wild herds of migrating herbivores interacting with their predators

For more information, please visit www.savoryinstitute.com



ABOVE: Zimbabwe After 2 Growing Seasons

Left: Late 2006: Low numbers of mismanaged livestock

Right: Early 2009: Properly managed livestock using Holistic Management (400% increase in livestock numbers)

RIGHT: Stream in Wyoming
(Photos taken on same day)

Left: Upstream land: Properly managed livestock using Holistic Management (150% increase in livestock numbers)

Right: Downstream Land: Livestock managed conventionally



BELOW: Photos of Properly Managed Livestock using Holistic Management

