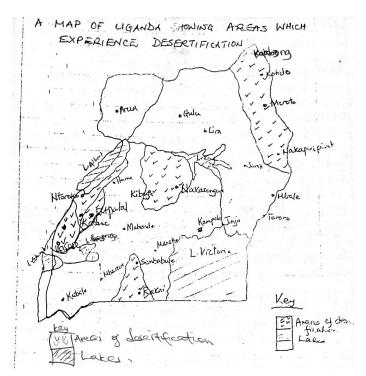
DESERTIFICATION IN UGANDA

The term desertification refers to the extension of desert - like conditions such as increased temperature, reduced rainfall, reduced humidity, strong winds, increased evaporation rates, loss of suface eater, less cloud cover to areas that were not originally having them.

Areas experiencing desert -like conditions in Uganda include the following;

- North Eastern Uganda areas e.g Moroto, kaabong, Kotido, Napak and Nakapiriprit.
- Nakasongola, Luwero and Kiboga in central Uganda.
- The rift valley floor (Albert flats) in areas like Ntoroko, Kikube, Buliisa and parts of Kasese.
- -The Ankole-Masakadry corridor areas e.g Rakai, Lyantonde, Sembabule, kiruhura and Isingiro.

A SKETCH MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING AREAS EXPERIENCING DESERTIFICATION



CAUSES OF DESERTIFICATION IN UGANDA

Human factors

- Poor agricultural practices e.g over grazing /over stocking in Kotido and Moroto, over cultivation in

Rakai lead to reduction in rainfall and reduced soil productivity.

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- Lumbering e.g in Bugoma and Budongo forests lead to reducing rainfall and increasing temperatures.
- Wood fuel extraction e.g charcoal burning in Nakasongola and Lyantonde reduce water vapour and

rainfall.

- Mining e.g gold mining in Kotido sand mining in Lyantonde lead to decline in vegetation cover and

hence reduced rainfall.

- Swamp draining /reclamation e.g in Rakai leading to depletion of water resources.
- Sinking /drilling of bore holes e.g in Moroto and Kotido leading to loss of surface water.
- Construction of roads e.g Mbarara -Masaka road ,Kampala Kiboga Hoima road leading to loss

of vegetation cover and hence reduced cloud cover and humidity.

 - Urbanisation /settlement in areas of Sembabule, Isingiro has lead to loss of wetlands hence reducing surface drainage.

Physical factors

- Influence of the rain shadow /leeward effect of high mountains create arid conditions on the leeward side e.g Kasese (Mt. Rwenzori) ,Nakapiriprit (Mt. Elgon)
- Pests and diseases e.g periodic invasion of locusts in Kotido and Kaabong which destroy green plant

cover hence reducing water vapour and rainfall totals.

- Presence of dry winds e.g the North East trades cause hot and dry conditions in Kaabong,Kotido,

Moroto, etc.

- Presence of wild animals e.g buffaloes and elephants in Queen Elizabeth N.P which feed on and

destroy plant cover which reduce cloud cover and rainfall amounts.

- Presence of scanty vegetation cover in areas of Moroto, Kotido, Sembabule leading to reduced

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water vapour.

- Limited occurrence of surface water e.g in Napak and Moroto leading to reduced cloud cover and

rainfall.

- Influence of low altitude in the rift valley leading to hot and dry conditions due to the passing over of winds e.g at Ntoroko.
- Global warming due to increased emission of green house gases in areas of Nakasongola, Moroto

etc

- Climatic change e.g prolonged drought conditions leading to loss of surface water.

EFFECTS OF DESERTIFICATION IN UGANDA

- Destruction of trees leading to energy crisis e.g in Nakasongola.
- Loss of biodiversity /death of animals due to pasture and water scarcity e.g in Kaabong
- Persistent famine/food shortage e.g in Isingiro due to crop failure and death of animals.
- Decline in the water table leading to increased water shortage for domestic and industrial use e.g

in Nakasongola.

- Displacement of people /refugee problem in areas like Moroto to unbearable increasing temperatures and water scarcity.
- poverty and loss of revenue to death of animals reared and reduced soil productivity in areas such

as Buliisa and Nakasogola.

- Increased government expenditure on environment conservation efforts effort e.g in Kaabong Rev qn: To what extent have human activities contributed to desertification in Uganda?

 Approach
- -Define desertification.
- Identify areas experiencing desertification in the different regions on Uganda by description

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and

- a sketch map.
- start with human activities causing desertification
- Transition statement.
- Give other factors (physical)
- NB: Each point raised should be clearly explained with illustrations of areas experiencing desertification in Uganda.