

# Desertification reasons, endangering and tendency in China's land

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Desertification in China has spread about 26 220 000 km<sup>2</sup>, most of them in western of China. The type, size and endanger lever of the desertification in arid, semi-arid areas of western of China are the most concentrated and serious.

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## 1 Reasons of desertification formation

1.1 The rapid growth of population and the laggard management is the internal driving force of expanding desertification: The requirement of food, fuel and other fundamental subsistence increase with the population growth, which give land raised pressure. The population exceeded the capacity of the ecological environment and excessive exploit the resources lead to environmental degradation. It is the rapid population growth and laggard production management, causing the unreasonable development and utilization of resources, deteriorate the ecological environment, accelerating and expanding the desertification.

1.2 Humanity unreasonable use of resources speed up desertification

1.2.1 Overcharging cultivating: Lack of protect cultivation after reclaim, the soil erosion by wind or buried by sand, the yield sharp declined, the people had to give up farming, on the one hand the land abandoned became sandy, on the other hand there are new grassland or fixed land reclaimed, fall into a vicious circulation.

1.2.2 Overcharging grazing: Use meadows without maintain, the productivity of natural grassland is low, with the increase of population and interests of market-driven, the people increasing livestock blindly, leading to the serious overloading of pasture, the herdsman even contest , fight each other for pasture.

1.2.3 Overcharging Woodcutter: Because of fuel shortage, peasants and herdsman use natural plants and animals manure as fuel.

1.2.4 Overcharging pluck: The peasants and herdsman in order to increase their incomes , unplanned, uncontrolled plucking medical weed and so on. In doing this, they shovel out lawns and excavators hole, severely damaging the grasslands, and greatly accelerated the erosion desertification process.

1.2.5 Abuse of water resources: In desert areas ,the performance of abuse of water resources is the lack of surface water planning and arrangements in the upper, middle and lower stage, exploitation of underground water excessively, the irrigation use too much water.

1.2.6 Indiscriminate mining: Because of people pay little attention to ecological and environmental protection when people development and mining roads, towns and other fundamental construction, often lead to the occurrence of desertification.

## 2 Desertification endangering

2.1 Farmland, grassland degradation, the reducing of utilizable land areas, the agricultural and domestic productivity decline.

2.2 Dynamic Community recession, a reduction in biodiversity.

2.3 Silting the channel and river bed, buried, pressed and blocking roads, damaged traffic, water conservancy facilities.

2.4 Sandstorms frequent occurrence, deterioration of the ecological environment, ecological disaster increase.

## 3 Tendency of desertification

After half a century, the Work to Combat Desertification in China achieved great achievements, but the situation is still very serious by the status and development trend. Despite the parts had improved, but the integration is still expanding, the speed desertification expanding is acceleration, in 1950s the speed is annual 1560 km<sup>2</sup> ,in 1970's it is 2100 km<sup>2</sup>, the current speed is 2460 km<sup>2</sup>. The desert oasis edge, grassland farming-pastoral areas and agricultural development zone is most serious, some potential desertification of land is gradually evolving to real desertification land.