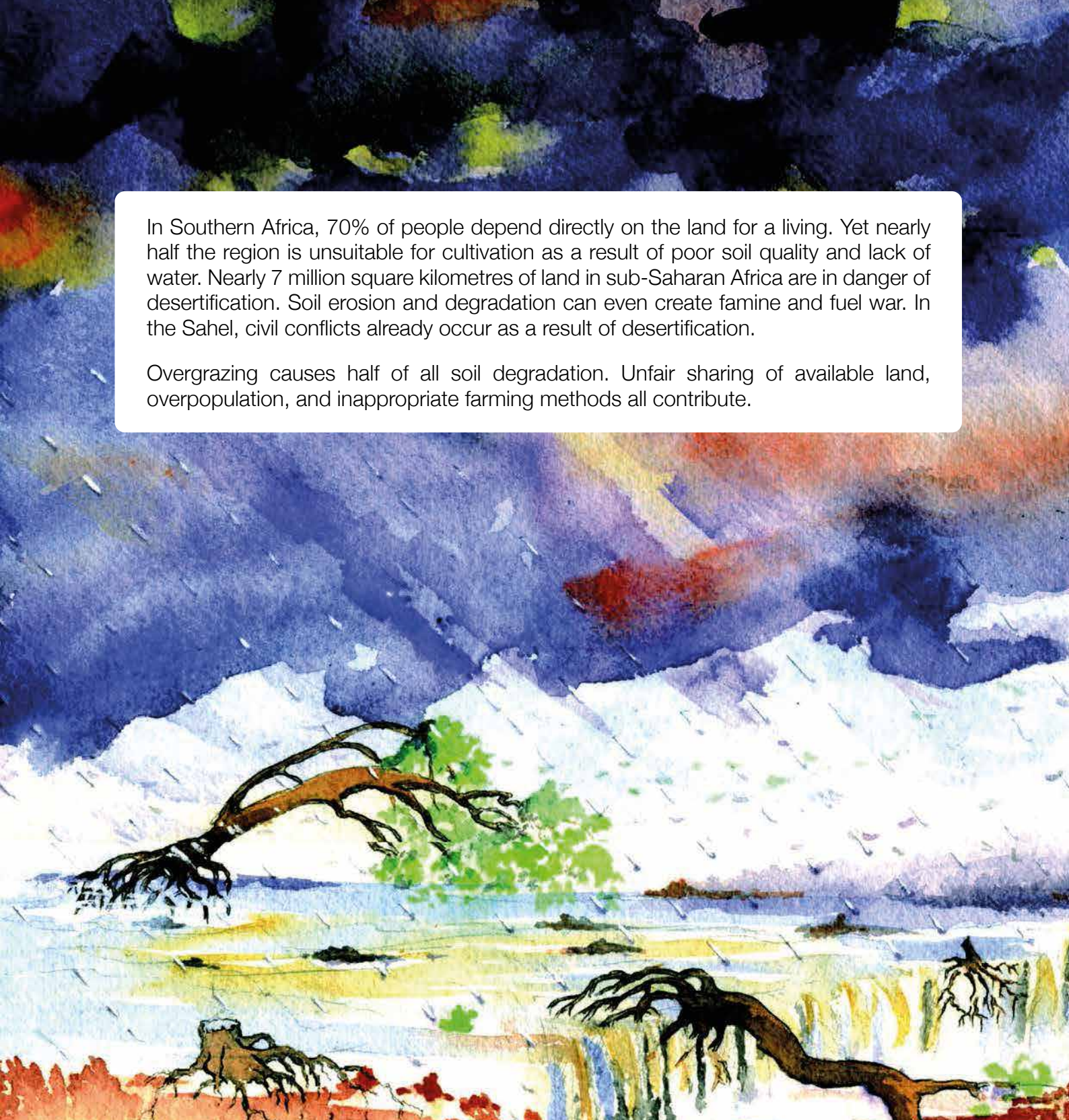




## EROSION ALERT

Ninety-nine per cent (99%) of our food comes from the soil. Yet soil is in danger! Each year, Southern Africa loses more than ten thousand million wheel-barrow loads of soil to erosion.

Soil erosion is the process whereby soil gets worn away over time. When the trees, scrub and grassland are removed by people who wish to grow crops, graze animals or use the wood then the main source of organic matter and shelter is also taken away. Parched by the sun, washed by water, blown by wind, eventually, the soil is no longer fertile. Nothing can grow in it.



In Southern Africa, 70% of people depend directly on the land for a living. Yet nearly half the region is unsuitable for cultivation as a result of poor soil quality and lack of water. Nearly 7 million square kilometres of land in sub-Saharan Africa are in danger of desertification. Soil erosion and degradation can even create famine and fuel war. In the Sahel, civil conflicts already occur as a result of desertification.

Overgrazing causes half of all soil degradation. Unfair sharing of available land, overpopulation, and inappropriate farming methods all contribute.

**The soil is like a human body. In order to flourish it must be fed and nurtured. If we force the soil to work for us, growing our food year after year, and give it nothing in return, eventually, it dies.**