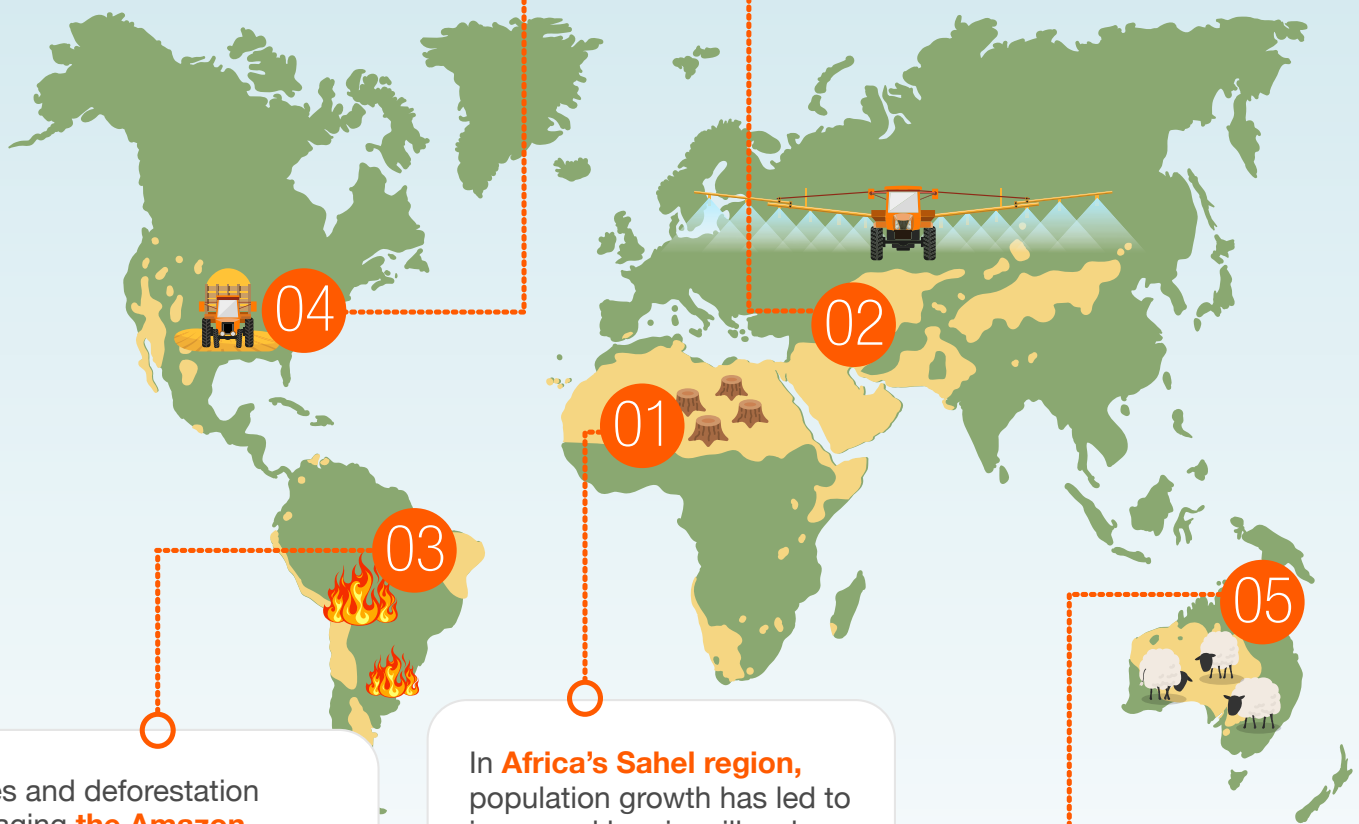


# The areas of the world most vulnerable to desertification and why

The effects of climate change, in the form of increased droughts and forest fires, and over-farming are desertifying large **parts of the western and southwestern United States**.

In the **regions of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which surround the Aral Sea**, overuse of water for irrigation has been one of the factors responsible for the shrinking of the sea, transforming it into a saline desert.



Fires and deforestation ravaging **the Amazon rainforest in Brazil**, directly or indirectly related to livestock farming, are creating an arid zone incapable of sustaining vegetation.

In **Africa's Sahel region**, population growth has led to increased logging, illegal farming and land clearing for housing.

In **northern and western parts of Australia**, it is due to the effects of overgrazing, overcultivation. Deforestation, lack of irrigation and increased drought are degrading the land.

Source: USDA (U. S. Department of Agriculture).