

# GEOGRAPHY

## Africa

## STANDARDS:

### **SS7G1 The student will locate selected features of Africa.**

- a. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map: the Sahara, Sahel, savanna, tropical rain forest, Congo River, Niger River, Nile River, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Victoria, Atlas Mountains, and Kalahari Desert.
- b. b. Locate on a world and regional political-physical map the countries of Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, and South Sudan.

# AFRICA



## I. Political Features:

Label the following countries on the map:

- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Egypt
- Kenya
- Nigeria
- South Africa
- Sudan
- South Sudan

# AFRICA

## II. Physical Features:

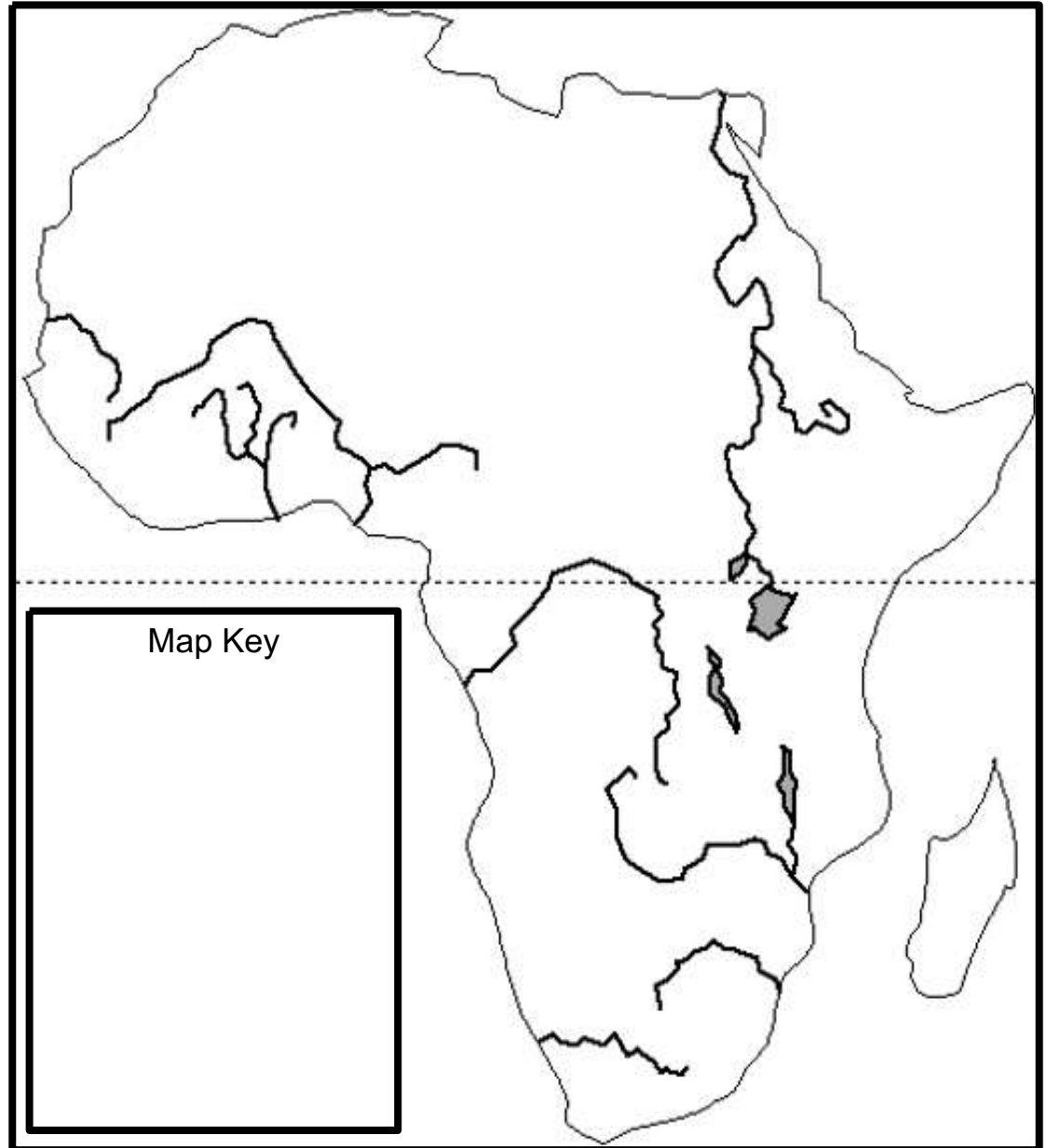
Create a map key that includes symbols for:

- Rivers
- Deserts
- Mountains
- Lakes
- Sahel
- Savanna
- Rainforest

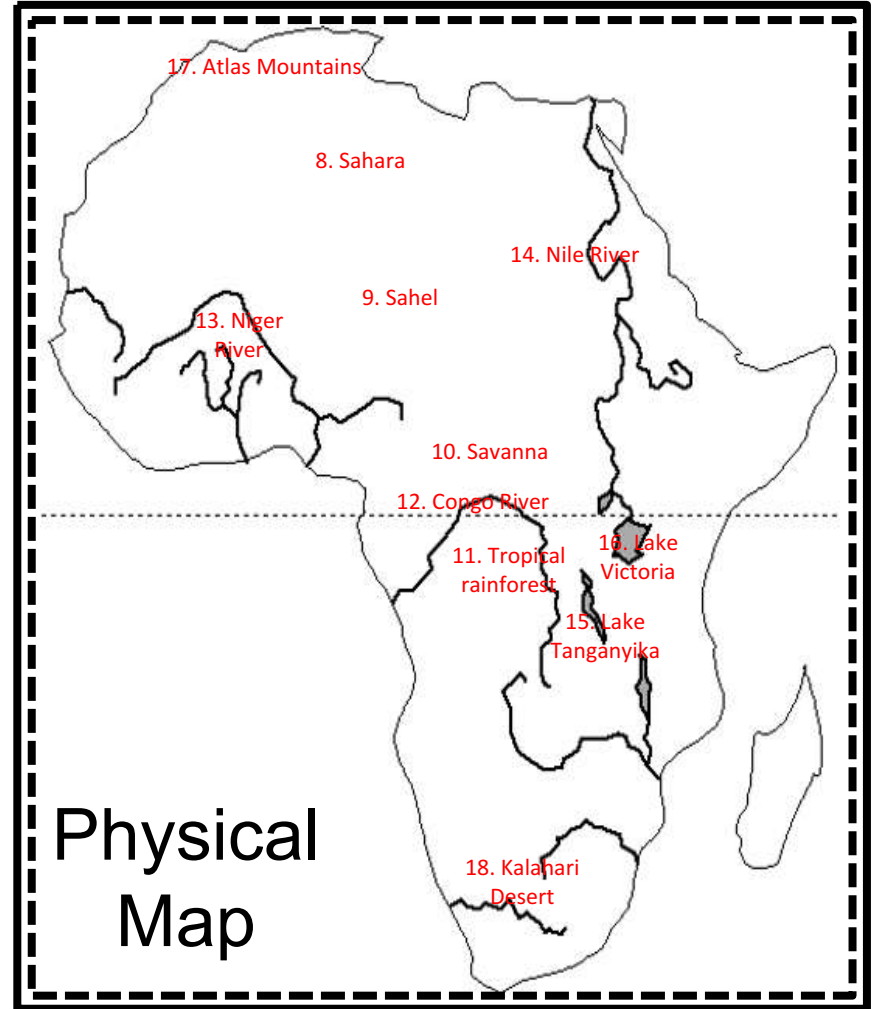
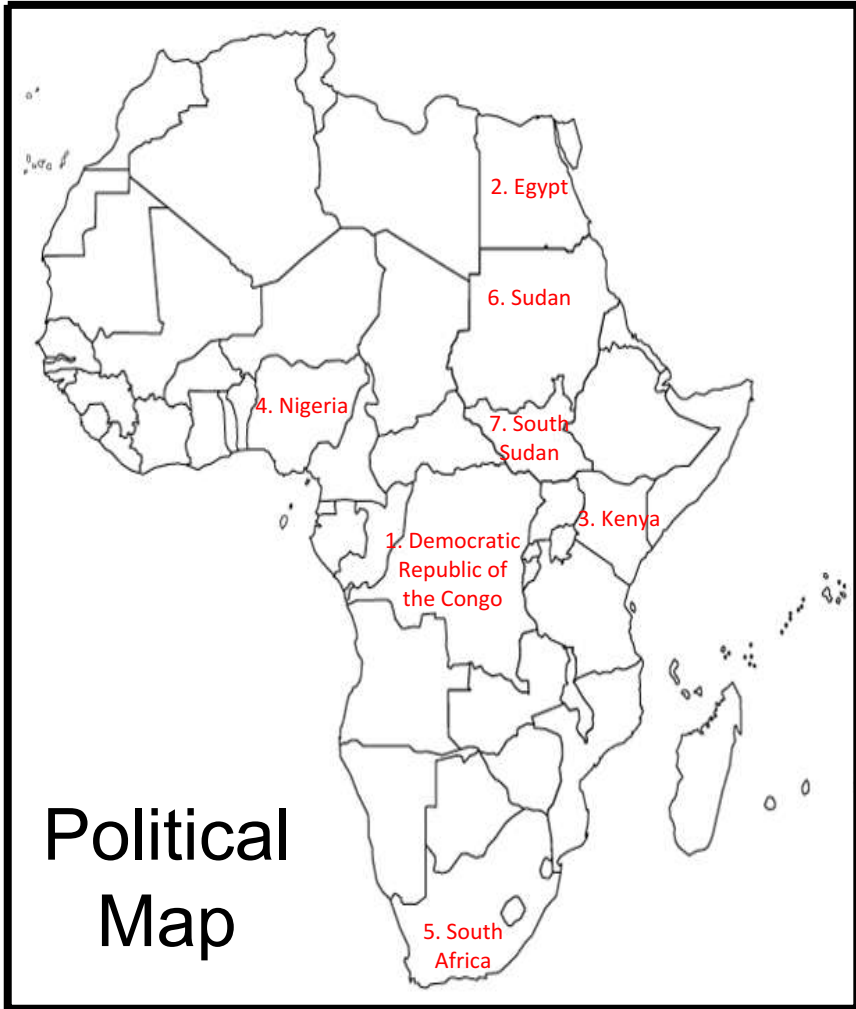
Label the following physical features:

- Sahara
- Sahel
- Savanna
- Tropical rain forest
- Congo River
- Niger river
- Nile River
- Lake Tanganyika
- Lake Victoria
- Atlas Mountains
- Kalahari Desert

Draw the symbol for each feature next to the correct label on the map. Color all symbols!



# AFRICA KEY



A satellite-style map of the African continent is centered on a dark blue background. The map shows various geographical features, including the Sahara Desert in the north, the Great Rift Valley running through the center, and the dense rainforests of the Congo basin. The text "Africa's Geography" is overlaid on the map in a large, bold, orange font with a black outline. The entire map is enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

# Africa's Geography

# AFRICA

- Africa is the world's second largest continent (11,700,000 miles).
- It is home to 52 countries, 1,000 different languages, and 800 million people.
  - 10% of the world's population lives in Africa.
- The vast African continent has almost every type of landform and climate.
- Africa can be divided into several regions, including the Sahara, the Sahel, the savannahs, and the tropical rain forests.



**Desert**

**Savanna**

**Rainforest**

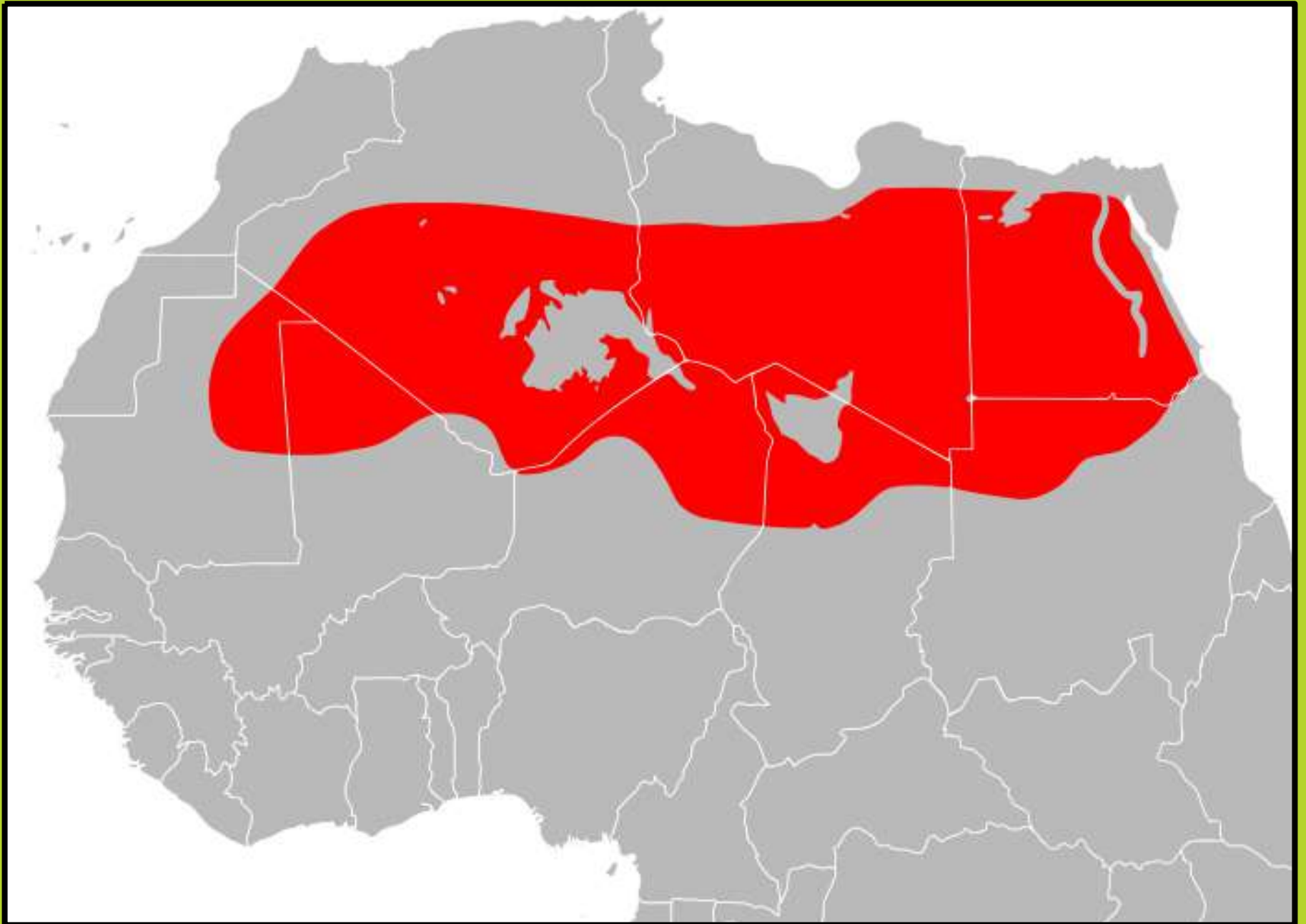
**Savanna**

**Desert**



# The Sahara

- The Sahara is the world's largest hot desert (3,500,000 miles).
  - It runs across the width of northern Africa and covers 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the continent.
- It divides the continent into two distinct regions – North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.
- The Sahara is covered with sand dunes, rocky hills, and stretches of gravel that continue for miles and miles.





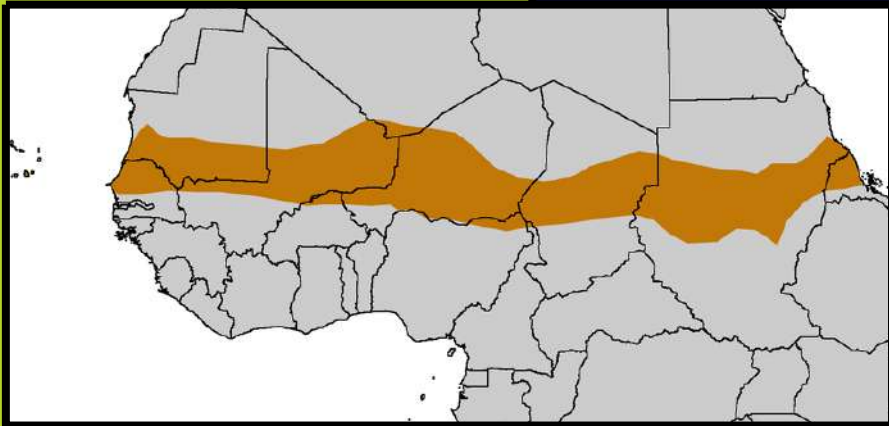
# The Sahara

- Very few people live in the desert because it is considered one of the harshest places to live in the world.
- The people who do live here are called nomads.
- They move from place to place, usually traveling by camel, looking for food & water.



# The Sahel

- The Sahel is a strip of dry grassland that is located south of the Sahara and north of the equator that separates the desert from tropical rain forests.
- The word “Sahel” means “border” or “margin”.
- It is a dry, semi-arid region that is slowly turning into desert.
- It gets more rainfall than the desert, but still receives very little (ranging from 6-20 inches).







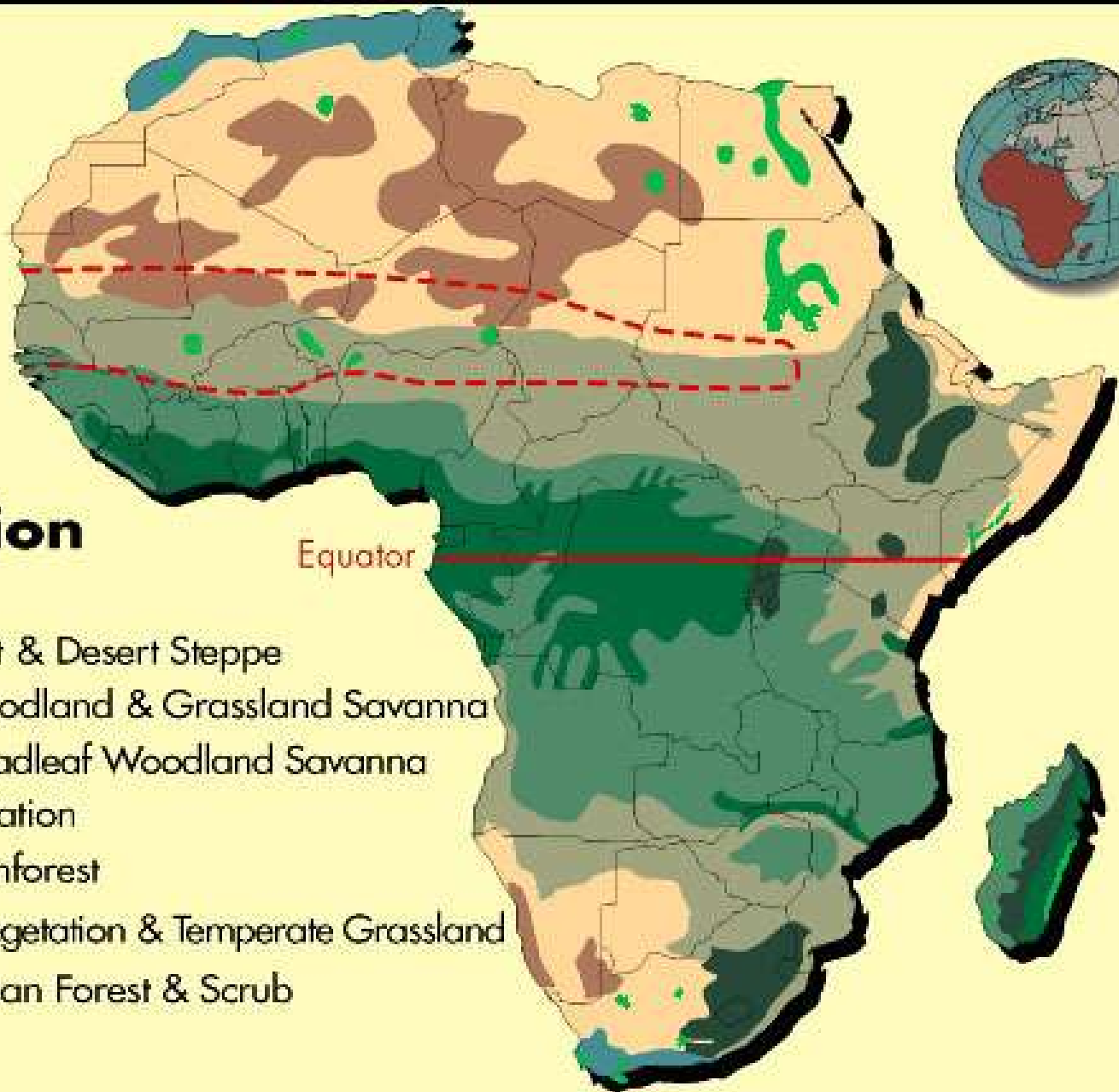
# The Sahel

- The Sahel is relatively flat with few mountains and hills.
- People have tried to live here but generations of overgrazing and desertification have caused soil erosion.
- Vegetation is sparse here—grasses and shrubs are unevenly distributed.



# Savanna

- The African savannas are hot, dry grasslands that are located near the Equator and cover almost half of Africa.
- They actually cover the regions just north and south of the rainforests that lie along the equator.
- The African savanna is the largest in the world (over 4.5 million square miles).



## Vegetation

- Desert
- Semi-Desert & Desert Steppe
- Tropical Woodland & Grassland Savanna
- Tropical Broadleaf Woodland Savanna
- Oasis Vegetation
- Tropical Rainforest
- Mountain Vegetation & Temperate Grassland
- Mediterranean Forest & Scrub
- - The Sahel

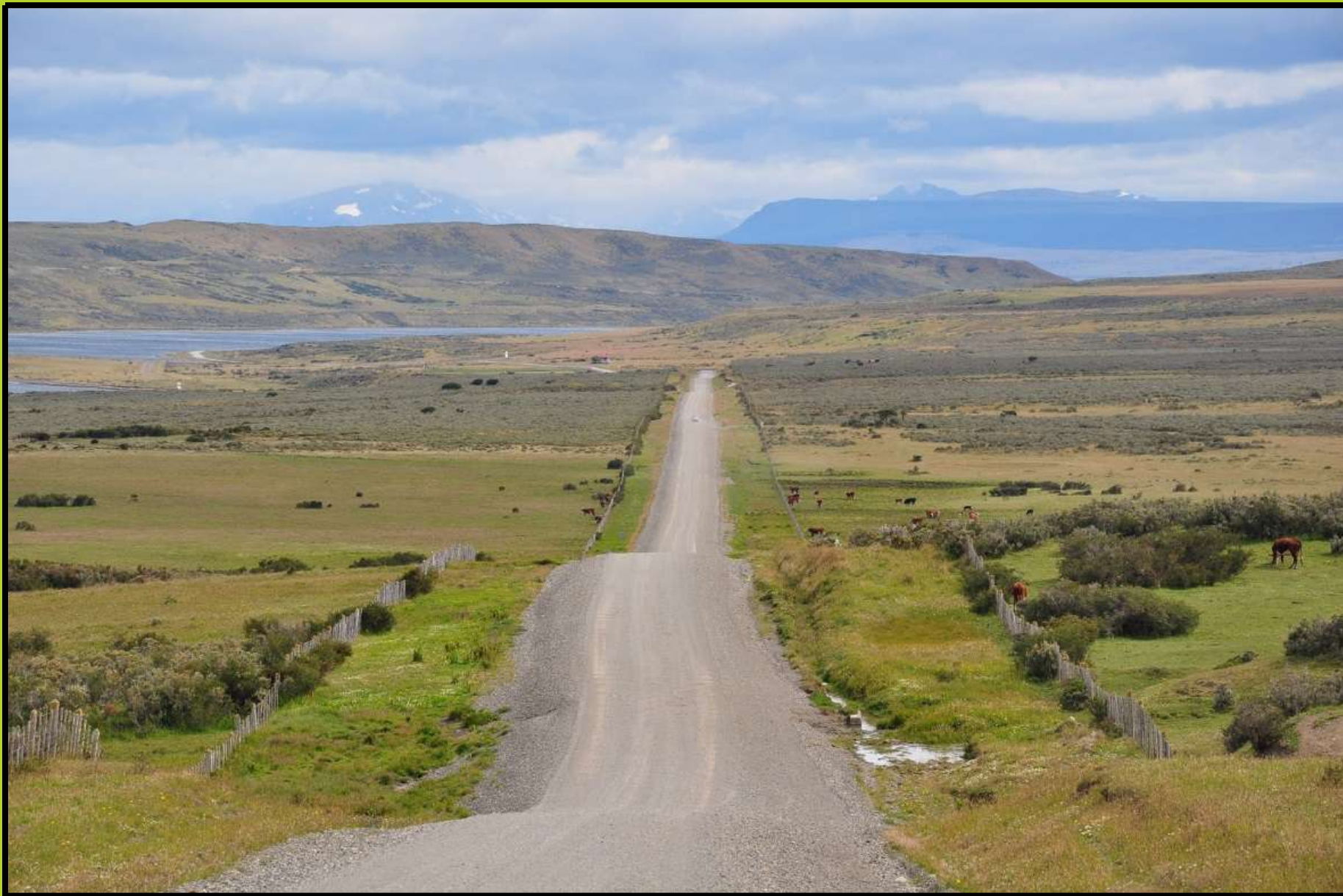
Equator



# Savanna

- There is a large variety of wildlife in the African savannas, including lions, zebras, & elephants.
- Farming is good here, but only if there is good rainfall.
  - Grasses and grains like wheat, oats, and sorghum grow in the region.
- The area receives enough rain to support drought resistant undergrowth, but not enough to support forest-type vegetation.
  - Grasses are tall and thick, while trees are short and scattered.







# Tropical Rain Forest

- Africa's tropical rain forest is located along the central coast of Africa, near the Equator, and lies in the Congo River Basin.
- The rain forest covers  $1/5^{\text{th}}$  of the land surface of Africa and touches 37 countries.
- The rain forest has a hot, humid climate with an annual rainfall of over 17 feet.



Equator

Atlantic  
Ocean

Indian  
Ocean

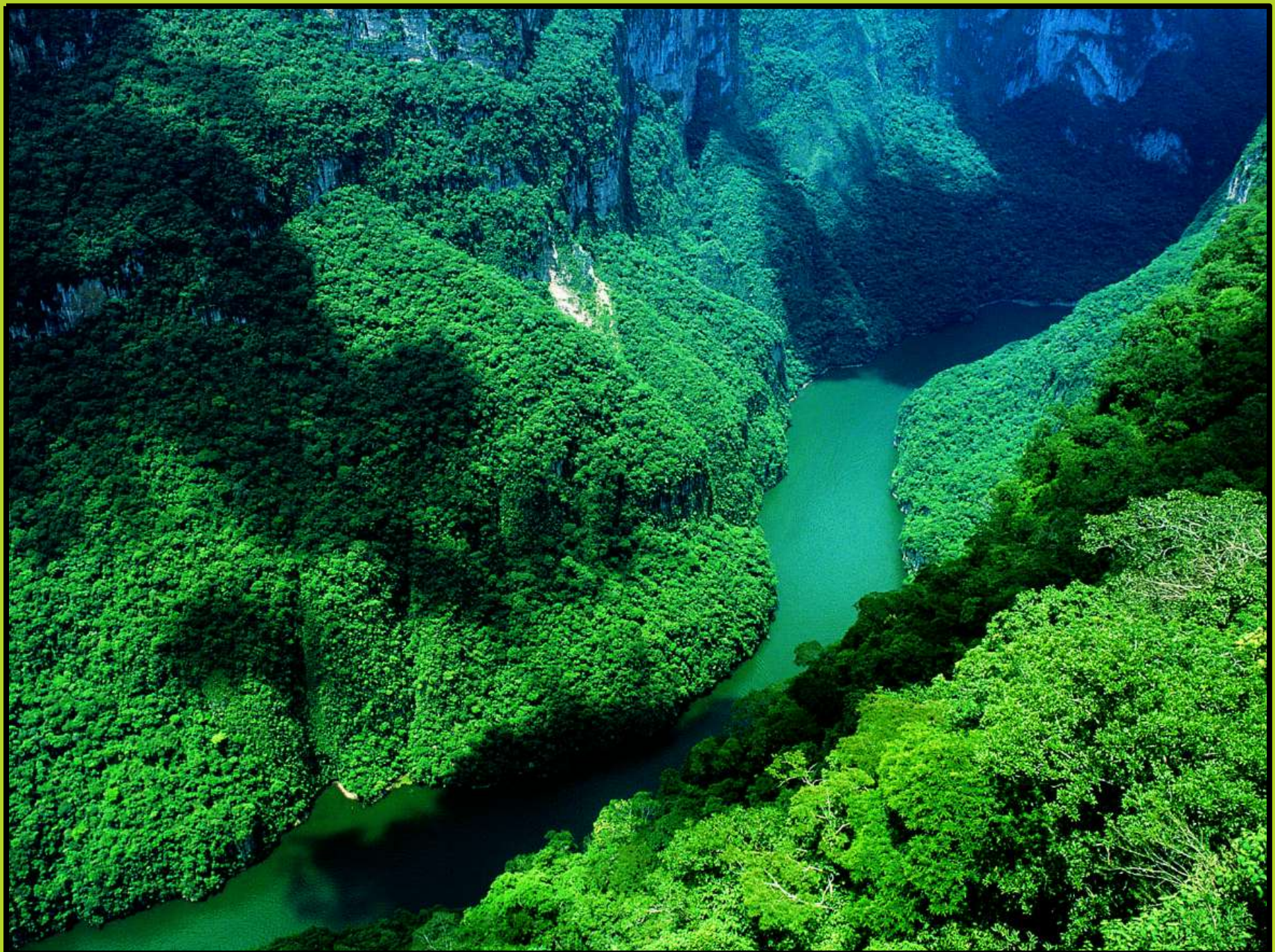
 Tropical Rain Forest

AFRICA



# Tropical Rain Forest

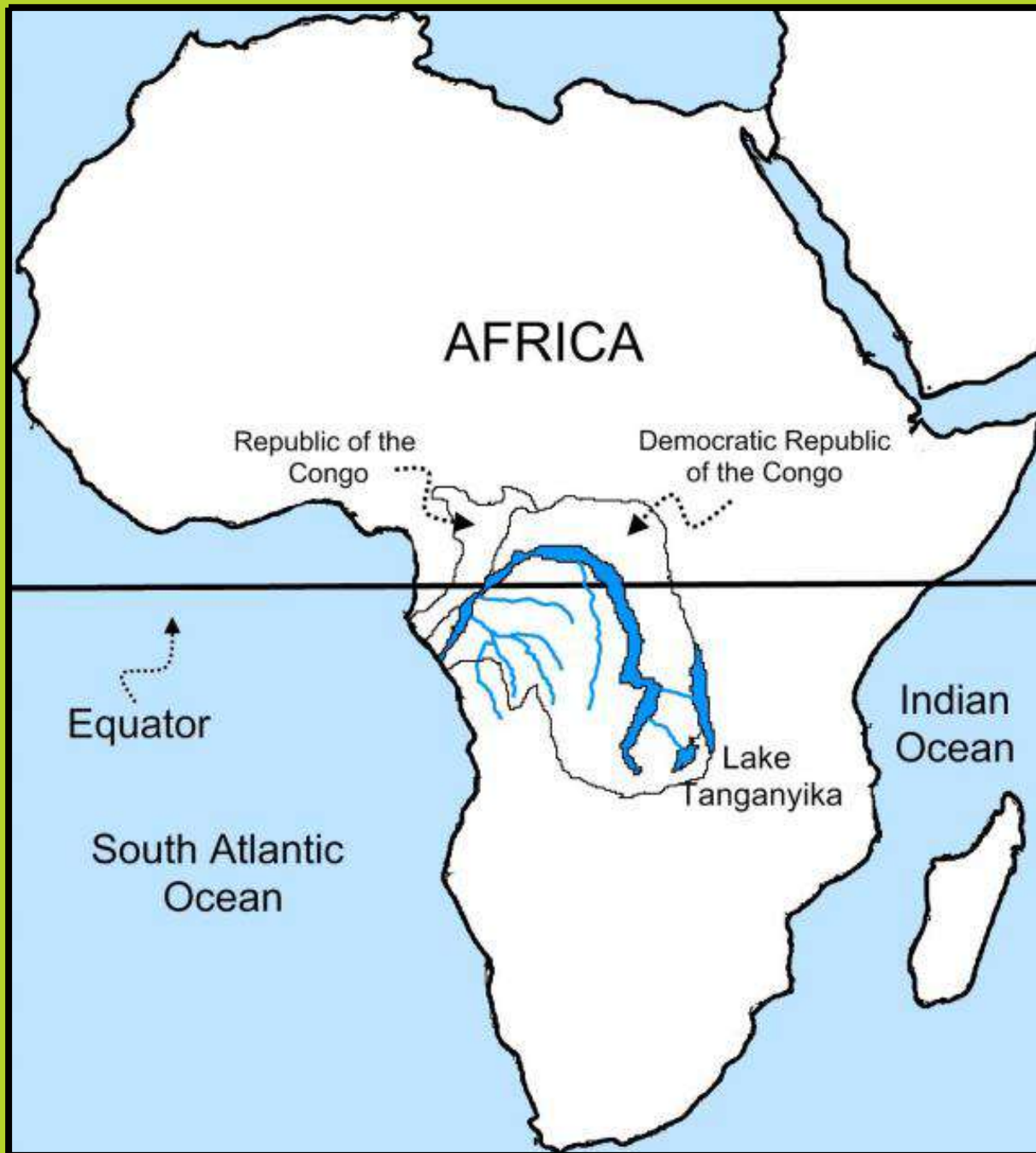
- Africa's tropical rain forest is home to a large variety of animals.
- Trees are so thick and tall that sunlight never reaches the forest floor!
  - The trees grow hundreds of feet tall.
- It's the second largest rain forest in the world; the Amazon rain forest in Brazil is the largest.
- Unfortunately, about 90% of this rain forest has shrunk due to deforestation.





# Congo River

- The Congo River is located in west central Africa.
- It begins in central Africa, near Lake Tanganyika, and flows west.
- It crosses the equator twice and is surrounded by rainforest.



AFRICA

Republic of the  
Congo

Democratic Republic  
of the Congo

Equator

South Atlantic  
Ocean

Lake  
Tanganyika

Indian  
Ocean





# Congo River

- The Congo River is the second longest river in Africa and the fifth longest in the world.
- It's over 3,000 miles long.



# Niger River

- The Niger River is located in western Africa.
- It flows through Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, & Nigeria.
- The Niger River is the third largest river in Africa.
  - It runs over 2,600 miles.



# Niger River

- The mouth of the Niger River flows through a large delta, often referred to as the “Oil Delta” because of the petroleum industry that’s centered here.



# Nile River

- The Nile River is located in eastern Africa.
- It starts in the mountains of central Africa and flows northward through eastern Africa and empties into the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Nile is the world's longest river at 4,150 miles.







# Nile River

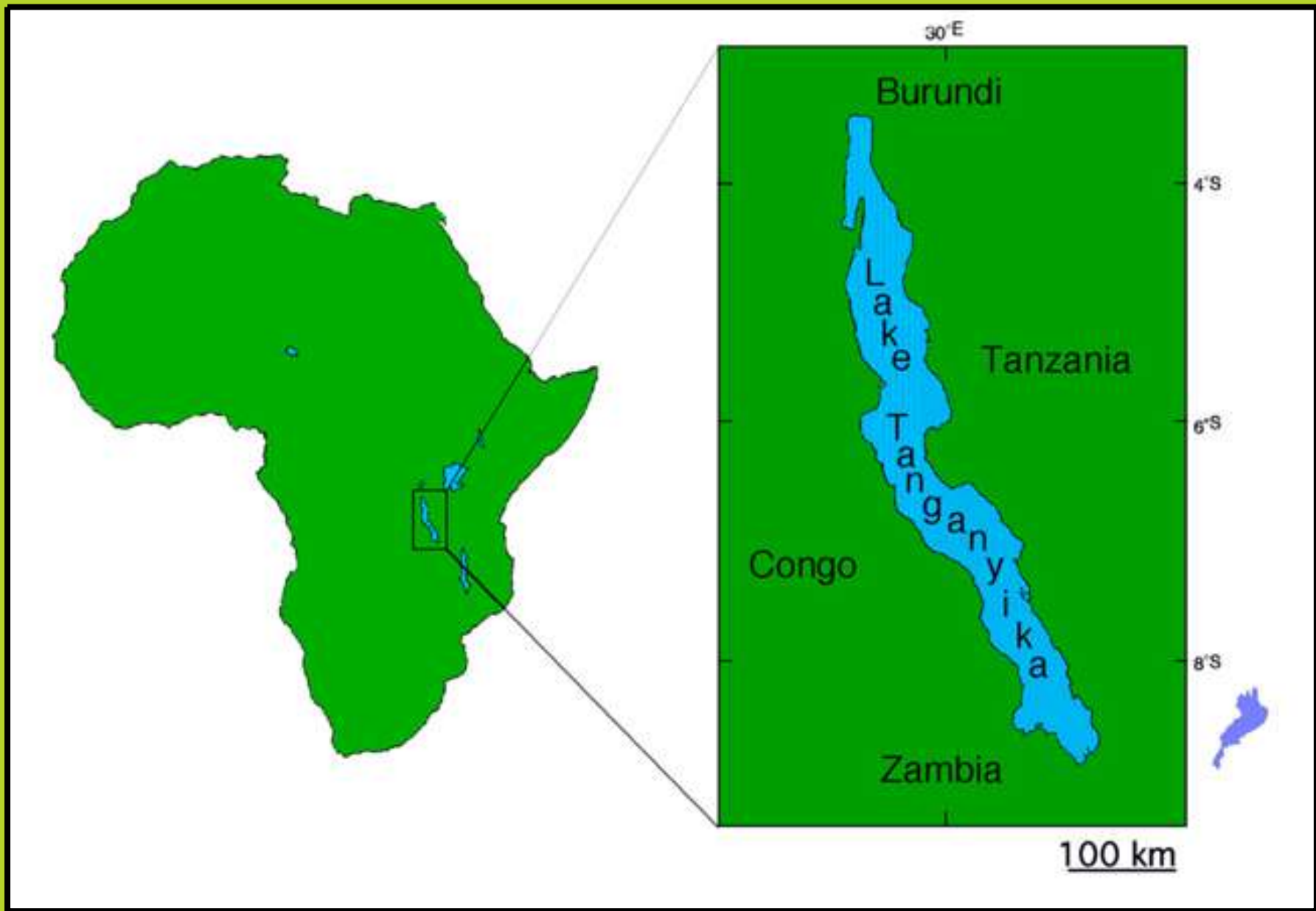
- The Nile River provides water for Sudan and Egypt.
- It's an important waterway for transporting people and goods.
- The Nile also provides a source of irrigation for agriculture.





# Lake Tanganyika

- Lake Tanganyika is located in central Africa between Tanzania and Congo in the Great Rift Valley.
- Lake Tanganyika is the longest lake in the world.
- It is the deepest lake in Africa and the second deepest in the world.
- It's also one of the world's largest freshwater lakes.









# Lake Victoria

- Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and the second largest freshwater lake in the world. (Lake Superior is the largest.)
- It is located in central Africa and extends into three countries: Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.
- Lake Victoria is a headwaters reservoir for the Nile River.





# Lake Victoria

- Even though it is shallow, Lake Victoria is vital in supporting the millions of people that live nearby.
- It provides a living for many fishermen and attracts millions of tourists each year.



# Atlas Mountains

- The Atlas Mountains are a mountain range in north Africa.
- The mountains extend from Morocco to Tunisia, between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara desert.
- They separate the northern coastal regions from the Sahara Desert.



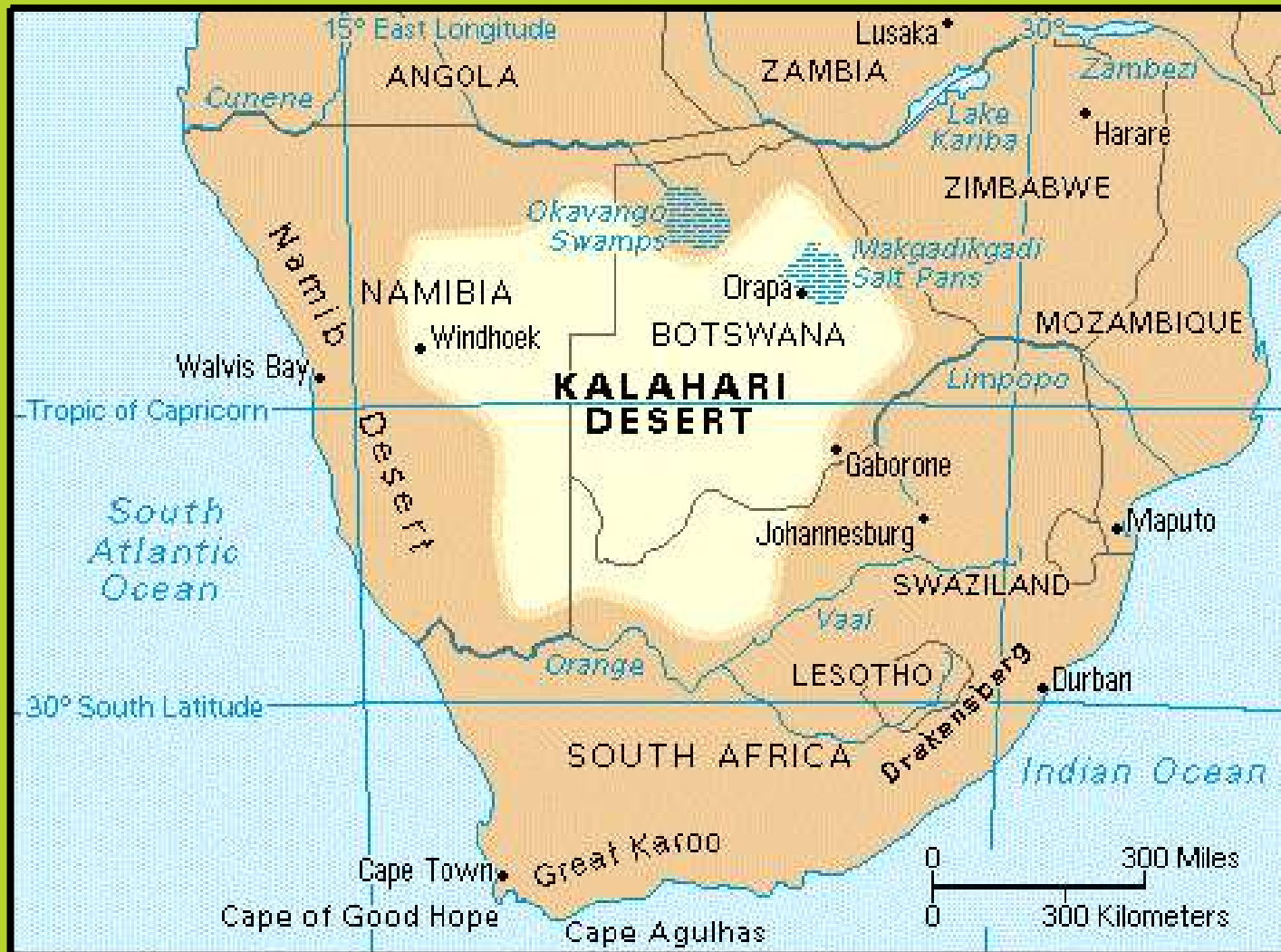






# Kalahari Desert

- The Kalahari Desert is a large arid to semi-arid sandy area that's located in southwestern Africa.
  - It covers parts of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.
- Its dunes range from 20 to 200 feet high and can be 50 miles long.
- The region is surrounded by semi-arid areas that are slowly becoming more dry due to desertification.





# Kalahari Desert

- The Kalahari Desert is not a “true” desert because it receives 3-10 inches of rain per year.
- Because of the precipitation and underground water supplies, grass, shrubs, and wild animals manage to live in the Kalahari desert.



