



The problem arises when deserts form as a result of our activities. Our exploitation of the soil can damage it and transform precious landscapes into deserts where absolutely nothing at all grows... Look at these mountains... They used to be covered in trees and plants. But then loggers came with enormous saws and cut it all down. They took all the wood away and left nothing in its place... Who will protect the earth from the forces of the sun, wind and rain now?

In some parts of the planet, the soil is very rich and fertile, but it is exploited too heavily. Look at these tobacco fields in Malawi, in Africa. Every year, many kilos of tobacco leaves are harvested. The people do this to earn money because they are very poor, but they don't leave the soil enough time to rest and recover from the effort of nourishing so many plants. If we continue at this rate, the soil will end up drying out and then no more plants will ever grow. Then where will the people find the money they need to live?



The soil is also damaged if we contaminate it with residues from factories or if we throw waste away where we're not supposed to. These chemicals contaminate the soil and prevent life from developing... Can you imagine if a friend came to your house, ate a banana and threw the skin on the sofa? What would you say to him? It is extremely important that we dispose of waste in the correct place. Preventing soil contamination is everybody's responsibility.

