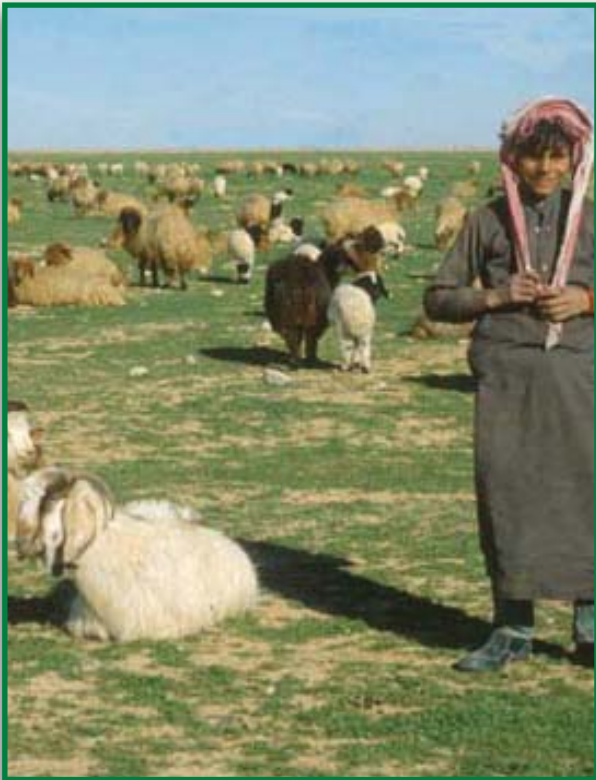


# Veldcare combats overgrazing in the rural areas of South Africa to improve livestock production



Overgrazed area

Overgrazing is a condition which occurs when the grasses are exposed to severe grazing for extended periods of time or without sufficient recovery periods. In most cases it is caused by overstocking and poorly agricultural management practices such as non-division of camps to allow resting. The implication of overgrazing is that the veld will no longer carry a large number of livestock because the grazing capacity has decreased. The condition of the veld mostly in the

communal areas is very poor because farmers allow their livestock to graze everywhere.

The impact of overgrazing on the environment is that it diminishes humus in the soil, which includes a decreased nutrient status, water-holding capacity and the rivers become dirty. When the grasses are heavily grazed they produce fewer seeds and decreasing recruitment of new individuals into the population. Soil compaction by wind and water also increases in the presence of a reduced vegetation cover and so rates of soil erosion increase and the area becomes desert. VeldCare addressed this problem through the construction of fences and divided the area into camps for rotational grazing purposes. So the livestock will be managed efficiently and production will improve.



Overgrazed area



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Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
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