A prolonged drought in East Africa in 2011 has had devastating effects on people and the environment in the Horn of Africa and most especially in Somalia.

More than 12 million people living in four countries in the Horn of Africa were in a desperate situation (see attached map). By October 2011, a British aid agency was feeding over 2.4 million people living in refugee camps.

The next rainy season also did not bring relief to people in these camps. It just spread another new threat of waterborne diseases. By December 2011, food insecurity and famine had hit "emergency levels" with no sign of any relief of climatic change.
FIGURE 2.4

FIGURE 2.5

[Adapted from Strahler, 1966]
The Republic of Congo (DRC) has the largest tropical rainforest in Africa, covering over 100 million hectares. However, the future of the DRC’s forests is in question due to population growth exceeding 3%. The demand of fuelwood exceeds availability.

Plantation agriculture and commercial farming are also on the increase. Both of these threaten the DRC’s extensive rainforest.
CASE STUDY: Money in the bank

After the 12 January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Americans gave almost $2 billion through different charities, towards relief aid. The earthquake killed over 200,000 people and left more than one million homeless. Aid in the form of food parcels was given to women, who it is believed are more caring in ensuring that their children are fed.

However, various claims of corruption and the selling of food on the black market have been made. The mayor of Port au Prince, the capital of Haiti, has been accused of bribery and corruption. Recent reports show that the money sent by many charities has not been spent and is still in the bank. Sixty American charities were surveyed by The Chronicle of Philanthropy. The outcome was that more than 60% of the $1.5 billion they have raised as funds for the Haiti earthquake was still in the bank.

[Source: Adapted from: Reuters, 2010 and 2011]
FIGURE 4.5

[Image of a map of South Africa with city names and numerical data points.]