Abstract: The spread of technology and culture together with a rapid growth of human population has spread the desertification process to every continent. Degradation is a problem with ancient roots. Cutting of forests, overgrazing, and salt accumulation in irrigated lands led to desertification in Mesopotamia, and the lands bordering the Mediterranean more than 2000 years ago. Archaeologists have clearly shown that more than climate change we the humans have changed once rich and populous areas to desolation and poverty. Many ancient civilisations once enjoying a golden age crumbled in ruins and lie buried in debris, because of destructive treatment of the lands on which they were dependent for their living. The occupation of man has been so devastating that with a few exceptions, a desert condition is often associated with his long habitation of a region. In the first place, semi-arid to semi-humid regions proved the most favourable sites for the early development of human culture followed by their degradation through processes of soil erosion, accelerated by the exposure of soil surfaces protected by a dense plant cover. If we are to escape similar fate of induced impoverishment and the desiccation of land, it would be more plausible to start taking measures now through well organised ecological land use planning. The degradation cannot be arrested by physical or technical means alone. There is a large body of evidence available regarding the fact that these types of short time treatments have accentuated the problem quite seriously. In the valleys of Khorezm and Zeravshan there was formerly a flourishing strip of oasis which is now a desert, the reason being social and political dynamics of degradation. Following measures will prove more helpful in the long run: creating environmental awareness through environmental education at all levels, women should be given a pivotal role in decreasing population growth rate, socio-economic status of rural areas should be upgraded, land tenure systems and size of land holdings need be well planned, species with high potential for food, fibre and energy should be grown using ecological farming systems and marginal land for cultivation and grazing, cultural and religious hinderances should be evaluated together with prevailing political trends as these can interfere with the implementation of a programme.

Key Words: Land Degradation, Euphrates Basin, Eastern Anatolia Region, Türkiye.