

## Attachment A: Sub-Saharan Africa Glossary

**escarpment.** A steep cliff; steep side of a plateau.

**erg.** Large area of sand dunes.

**Sahel.** Band of semi-arid land south of the Sahara.

**deforestation.** Process of stripping land of its trees.

**desertification.** Transition of arable land into desert.

**coup.** Use of force in an attempt to take over a government.

**animism.** Traditional religion of Africa based on belief that things in nature have spirits.

**malnutrition.** Lack of a healthy diet.

**famine.** Widespread shortage of food.

**apartheid.** Policy of strict racial segregation that was practiced in South Africa. The word means “apartness.”

**sanctions.** Actions taken to punish a country for a policy (such as apartheid) and to bring pressure to change.

**rift valley.** Deep land depression caused where the Earth’s crust stretches. The Great Rift Valley is in eastern Africa.

**Swahili.** Language spoken by many people in east Africa.

**subsistence agriculture.** Raising only enough food to support the family.

**staple crop.** Main food of a region.