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## **Late Quaternary environmental change in the Kalahari**

The Kalahari, a 2.5 million square kilometre sedimentary basin in southern Africa, stretches from the Orange River at 29°S northwards to the equator, ranging from grassland savanna to tropical rain forest. The core 'desert' is found in Botswana and surrounding states. Largely semi-arid, with a variety of vegetation and animal resources, it lacks surface water and thus requires specialist strategies for human survival. Nevertheless, human occupation has a long history here: the first Australopithecine fossil was discovered on the fringe of the Kalahari at Taung in 1925 (Dart 1926), and the Tsodilo Hills, a refuge site in north-west Botswana, has a settlement record extending back 100 000 years (Robbins et al. 1994).