

The Ailing Planet - Nani Palkhivala

Term	Explanation
gripped the imagination of	Captured the attention and interest of people very strongly. Here it describes the worldwide appeal of the Green Movement. Example: One cannot recall any movement in world history which has gripped the imagination of the entire human race so completely and so rapidly as the Green Movement which started nearly twenty-five years ago.
Green Movement	A movement that promotes protection of the environment and responsible use of natural resources. The author presents it as a major change in human thinking. Example: One cannot recall any movement in world history which has gripped the imagination of the entire human race so completely and so rapidly as the Green Movement which started nearly twenty-five years ago.
has not looked back	Has continued to progress without losing momentum. The expression emphasises the growth of the environmental movement. Example: Since then, the movement has not looked back.
irrevocably	In a way that cannot be reversed or undone. The author hopes the change in humanity's view of the planet will be permanent. Example: We have shifted — one hopes, irrevocably — from the mechanistic view to a holistic and ecological view of the world.
mechanistic view	A way of seeing the world as a machine made up of separate parts. The author contrasts it with a view that recognises connections among living systems. Example: We have shifted — one hopes, irrevocably — from the mechanistic view to a holistic and ecological view of the world.
a holistic and ecological view	An understanding of the world as an interconnected whole whose living parts depend on one another and their surroundings. It requires people to consider the effects of their actions on the entire planet. Example: We have shifted — one hopes, irrevocably — from the mechanistic view to a holistic and ecological view of the world.
holistic	Considering something as a complete, interconnected whole. Here it means looking beyond isolated human interests. Example: We have shifted — one hopes, irrevocably — from the mechanistic view to a holistic and ecological view of the world.
ecological	Concerned with the relationships between living organisms and their environment. It stresses the dependence of humans on the natural world. Example: We have shifted — one hopes, irrevocably — from the mechanistic view to a holistic and ecological view of the world.
perceptions	Ways of seeing, understanding or interpreting something. The author describes a fundamental change in how people understand the earth. Example: It is a shift in human perceptions as revolutionary as that introduced by Copernicus who taught mankind in the sixteenth century that the earth and the other planets revolved round the sun.
revolutionary	Bringing about a far-reaching or fundamental change. The new environmental outlook is compared with a major transformation in scientific understanding. Example: It is a shift in human perceptions as revolutionary as that introduced by Copernicus who taught mankind in the sixteenth century that the earth and the other planets revolved round the sun.
consciousness	Awareness or understanding. Here it refers to growing recognition that the earth functions as a connected living system. Example: For the first time in human history, there is a growing worldwide

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|                               | consciousness that the earth itself is a living organism — an enormous being of which we are parts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| organism                      | An individual living being. The author uses the idea figuratively to present the earth as a whole with interdependent parts. <b>Example:</b> For the first time in human history, there is a growing worldwide consciousness that the earth itself is a living organism — an enormous being of which we are parts. |
| metabolic needs               | Requirements connected with the processes that sustain life. Applied to the earth, the expression highlights the natural processes on which its health depends. <b>Example:</b> It has its own metabolic needs and vital processes which need to be respected and preserved.                                       |
| vital processes               | Essential activities that keep a living system functioning. The author argues that the earth's life-supporting processes must be protected. <b>Example:</b> It has its own metabolic needs and vital processes which need to be respected and preserved.                                                           |
| vital signs                   | Indicators of the condition of a living body. Here they metaphorically represent evidence of the planet's environmental health. <b>Example:</b> The earth's vital signs reveal a patient in declining health.                                                                                                      |
| a patient in declining health | Someone whose physical condition is becoming worse. The metaphor presents the earth as a sick being in need of care. <b>Example:</b> The earth's vital signs reveal a patient in declining health.                                                                                                                 |
| ethical obligations           | Duties arising from principles of right and wrong. The author argues that humans have a moral responsibility to protect the planet. <b>Example:</b> We have begun to realise our ethical obligations to be good stewards of the planet and responsible trustees of the legacy to future generations.               |
| good stewards of the planet   | Responsible caretakers of the earth and its resources. The expression stresses care and management rather than unrestricted exploitation. <b>Example:</b> We have begun to realise our ethical obligations to be good stewards of the planet and responsible trustees of the legacy to future generations.         |
| stewards                      | People entrusted with looking after something on behalf of others. Here it describes humanity's responsibility towards the earth. <b>Example:</b> We have begun to realise our ethical obligations to be good stewards of the planet and responsible trustees of the legacy to future generations.                 |
| trustees                      | People who hold or manage something for the benefit of others. The word suggests that humans must protect the earth for future generations. <b>Example:</b> We have begun to realise our ethical obligations to be good stewards of the planet and responsible trustees of the legacy to future generations.       |
| legacy                        | Something passed on by one generation to those who follow. Here it refers to the natural world that future generations will receive. <b>Example:</b> We have begun to realise our ethical obligations to be good stewards of the planet and responsible trustees of the legacy to future generations.              |
| sustainable development       | Development that meets present needs while preserving future generations' ability to meet theirs. It requires long-term care of resources and the environment. <b>Example:</b> The concept of sustainable development was popularised in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development.              |
| compromising                  | Weakening, endangering or reducing something. Here it means limiting the ability of future generations to satisfy their needs.                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|                      | <b>Example:</b> In its report it defined the idea as “Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”, i.e., without stripping the natural world of resources future generations would need.                                                                                                                                    |
| stripping            | Removing something extensively or completely. The expression warns against exhausting the natural resources that others will need. <b>Example:</b> In its report it defined the idea as “Development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”, i.e., without stripping the natural world of resources future generations would need. |
| dawned upon          | Gradually become clear or understood. It describes humanity’s growing awareness of its destructive effects on the earth. <b>Example:</b> Thanks to the efforts of a number of agencies in different countries, a new awareness has now dawned upon the most dangerous animal in the world.                                                                                                                   |
| domination           | Control exercised over others or over a system. Here it refers to treating nature as something humans may control and exploit. <b>Example:</b> He has realised the wisdom of shifting from a system based on domination to one based on partnership.                                                                                                                                                         |
| partnership          | A relationship based on cooperation and shared interests. The author proposes that people should live in cooperation with nature. <b>Example:</b> He has realised the wisdom of shifting from a system based on domination to one based on partnership.                                                                                                                                                      |
| catalogued           | Recorded and arranged systematically. Scientists have identified and listed many species, although others remain unknown. <b>Example:</b> Scientists have catalogued about 1.4 million living species with which mankind shares the earth.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| species              | Groups of living organisms recognised as distinct kinds. The passage stresses the great variety of life sharing the earth with humans. <b>Example:</b> Scientists have catalogued about 1.4 million living species with which mankind shares the earth.                                                                                                                                                      |
| reckon               | Estimate or consider something likely. Here it introduces scientists’ estimates of the number of unnamed species. <b>Example:</b> Estimates vary widely as regards the still-uncatalogued living species — biologists reckon that about three to a hundred million other living species still languish unnamed in ignominious darkness.                                                                      |
| languish             | Remain neglected or in an unsatisfactory condition. Here it figuratively describes species that remain unknown and unrecognised. <b>Example:</b> Estimates vary widely as regards the still-uncatalogued living species — biologists reckon that about three to a hundred million other living species still languish unnamed in ignominious darkness.                                                       |
| ignominious darkness | A shameful state of obscurity or neglect. The phrase suggests that unrecognised species deserve attention and understanding. <b>Example:</b> Estimates vary widely as regards the still-uncatalogued living species — biologists reckon that about three to a hundred million other living species still languish unnamed in ignominious darkness.                                                           |
| ignominious          | Shameful or bringing disgrace. Here it expresses disapproval of the neglect of unknown species. <b>Example:</b> Estimates vary widely as regards the still-uncatalogued living species — biologists reckon that about three to a hundred million other living species still languish unnamed in ignominious darkness.                                                                                        |
| inter alia           | A Latin expression meaning among other things. It indicates that ecology and the environment were only some of the commission’s concerns. <b>Example:</b> One of the early international commissions                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|                              | which dealt, inter alia, with the question of ecology and environment was the Brandt Commission which had a distinguished Indian as one of its members — Mr L.K. Jha.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| ecology                      | The study of relationships between organisms and their surroundings. Here it identifies an important area of international concern. <b>Example:</b> One of the early international commissions which dealt, inter alia, with the question of ecology and environment was the Brandt Commission which had a distinguished Indian as one of its members — Mr L.K. Jha.                                                                         |
| successors                   | People who come after others or take their place. The word refers to the generations that will inherit the planet. <b>Example:</b> The First Brandt Report raised the question — “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”                                                                                                                                    |
| a scorched planet            | An earth damaged as though burnt by intense heat. The expression evokes a dry, degraded world left to future generations. <b>Example:</b> The First Brandt Report raised the question — “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”                                                                                                                             |
| scorched                     | Burnt or dried severely by heat. Here it helps create a disturbing picture of environmental destruction. <b>Example:</b> The First Brandt Report raised the question — “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”                                                                                                                                              |
| impoverished landscapes      | Areas of land depleted of natural richness and productivity. The phrase describes the loss of fertile soil, vegetation and other resources. <b>Example:</b> The First Brandt Report raised the question — “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”                                                                                                           |
| impoverished                 | Made poor or deprived of essential resources. In context, it refers to the reduced richness of the natural environment. <b>Example:</b> The First Brandt Report raised the question — “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”                                                                                                                               |
| ailing environment           | A natural world in poor or worsening health. The expression continues the central comparison of the earth with a sick patient. <b>Example:</b> The First Brandt Report raised the question — “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”                                                                                                                        |
| ailing                       | Unwell or in a weakened condition. Here it describes environmental decline. <b>Example:</b> The First Brandt Report raised the question — “Are we to leave our successors a scorched planet of advancing deserts, impoverished landscapes and ailing environment?”                                                                                                                                                                           |
| principal biological systems | The main natural systems that sustain life and provide resources. The author identifies fisheries, forests, grasslands and croplands as fundamental to the economy. <b>Example:</b> Mr Lester R. Brown in his thoughtful book, The Global Economic Prospect, points out that the earth’s principal biological systems are four — fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands — and they form the foundation of the global economic system. |
| fisheries                    | Areas or resources used for catching or raising fish. They provide food and livelihoods but can be damaged by excessive harvesting. <b>Example:</b> Mr Lester R. Brown in his thoughtful book, The Global Economic Prospect, points out that the earth’s principal biological systems are four — fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands —                                                                                             |

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|                              | and they form the foundation of the global economic system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| grasslands                   | Areas where grasses are the main vegetation. They support wildlife and grazing animals and form one of the four systems discussed. <b>Example:</b> Mr Lester R. Brown in his thoughtful book, The Global Economic Prospect, points out that the earth's principal biological systems are four — fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands — and they form the foundation of the global economic system. |
| croplands                    | Land used for growing crops. Its productivity is essential to the supply of food. <b>Example:</b> Mr Lester R. Brown in his thoughtful book, The Global Economic Prospect, points out that the earth's principal biological systems are four — fisheries, forests, grasslands, and croplands — and they form the foundation of the global economic system.                                                  |
| petroleum-derived synthetics | Artificial materials manufactured using substances obtained from petroleum. They are mentioned as an exception to the raw materials supplied by the four biological systems. <b>Example:</b> In addition to supplying our food, these four systems provide virtually all the raw materials for industry except minerals and petroleum-derived synthetics.                                                   |
| unsustainable level          | A degree of use or pressure that cannot continue without exhausting or damaging resources. Human demands become unsustainable when nature cannot recover sufficiently. <b>Example:</b> In large areas of the world, human claims on these systems are reaching an unsustainable level, a point where their productivity is being impaired.                                                                  |
| productivity                 | The capacity to produce useful resources or output. Here it refers to the ability of natural systems to supply food and materials. <b>Example:</b> In large areas of the world, human claims on these systems are reaching an unsustainable level, a point where their productivity is being impaired.                                                                                                      |
| impaired                     | Weakened or damaged so that something works less effectively. Excessive human pressure reduces the productivity of natural systems. <b>Example:</b> In large areas of the world, human claims on these systems are reaching an unsustainable level, a point where their productivity is being impaired.                                                                                                     |
| barren wastelands            | Unproductive areas with little vegetation or capacity to support crops. The phrase shows what damaged grasslands may become. <b>Example:</b> When this happens, fisheries collapse, forests disappear, grasslands are converted into barren wastelands, and croplands deteriorate.                                                                                                                          |
| barren                       | Unable to produce much vegetation or crops. Here it describes the loss of the land's fertility and usefulness. <b>Example:</b> When this happens, fisheries collapse, forests disappear, grasslands are converted into barren wastelands, and croplands deteriorate.                                                                                                                                        |
| deteriorate                  | Become progressively worse in quality or condition. It describes the decline of agricultural land under environmental pressure. <b>Example:</b> When this happens, fisheries collapse, forests disappear, grasslands are converted into barren wastelands, and croplands deteriorate.                                                                                                                       |
| over-fishing                 | Catching fish faster than populations can replenish themselves. It threatens the continuing supply of fish and the health of fisheries. <b>Example:</b> In a protein-conscious and protein-hungry world, over-fishing is common every day.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| decimated                    | Severely reduced or destroyed on a large scale. Here it describes the extensive cutting of forests for firewood. <b>Example:</b> In poor countries, local forests are being decimated in order to procure                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|                             | firewood for cooking.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| procure                     | Obtain something, usually through effort. People cut local forests to obtain fuel for cooking. <b>Example:</b> In poor countries, local forests are being decimated in order to procure firewood for cooking.                                                                                                                                                              |
| the powerhouse of evolution | A place that strongly supports the development and diversity of life. The metaphor highlights the importance of tropical forests to biological diversity. <b>Example:</b> Since the tropical forest is, in the words of Dr Myers, “the powerhouse of evolution”, several species of life face extinction as a result of its destruction.                                   |
| extinction                  | The complete disappearance of a species. Forest destruction puts the survival of many forms of life at risk. <b>Example:</b> Since the tropical forest is, in the words of Dr Myers, “the powerhouse of evolution”, several species of life face extinction as a result of its destruction.                                                                                |
| precede                     | Come before something in time. The statement contrasts forests existing before humanity with deserts left behind by human destruction. <b>Example:</b> It has been well said that forests precede mankind; deserts follow.                                                                                                                                                 |
| patrimony                   | A valuable inheritance received from earlier generations. The world’s tropical forests are presented as a shared natural inheritance. <b>Example:</b> The world’s ancient patrimony of tropical forests is now eroding at the rate of forty to fifty million acres a year, and the growing use of dung for burning deprives the soil of an important natural fertiliser.   |
| eroding                     | Gradually wearing away or being lost. Here it describes the continuing destruction of tropical forests. <b>Example:</b> The world’s ancient patrimony of tropical forests is now eroding at the rate of forty to fifty million acres a year, and the growing use of dung for burning deprives the soil of an important natural fertiliser.                                 |
| deprives                    | Takes away or prevents someone or something from having what is needed. Burning dung prevents the soil from receiving it as fertiliser. <b>Example:</b> The world’s ancient patrimony of tropical forests is now eroding at the rate of forty to fifty million acres a year, and the growing use of dung for burning deprives the soil of an important natural fertiliser. |
| cope with                   | Manage or meet a difficulty or demand. Here it concerns providing enough wood to satisfy expected fuel needs. <b>Example:</b> The World Bank estimates that a five-fold increase in the rate of forest planting is needed to cope with the expected fuelwood demand in the year 2000.                                                                                      |
| endeavour                   | Make a serious effort to achieve something. In the quoted constitutional provision, it expresses a duty to work towards environmental protection. <b>Example:</b> Article 48A of the Constitution of India provides that “the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country”.                      |
| safeguard                   | Protect against harm or damage. Here it refers to preserving forests and wildlife. <b>Example:</b> Article 48A of the Constitution of India provides that “the State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country”.                                                                                     |
| anguish                     | Intense distress or sorrow. The author uses it to convey frustration at the failure to implement protective laws. <b>Example:</b> But what causes endless anguish is the fact that laws are never respected nor enforced in India.                                                                                                                                         |

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| enforced               | Made effective by ensuring that rules or laws are obeyed. The author criticises the gap between legal provisions and actual practice. <b>Example:</b> But what causes endless anguish is the fact that laws are never respected nor enforced in India.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| bonded labour          | Work demanded to repay a debt under conditions that restrict a worker's freedom. It appears as an example in the author's criticism of social practices that continue despite legal prohibitions. <b>Example:</b> (For instance, the Constitution says that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished, but they flourish shamelessly even after forty-four years of the operation of the Constitution.) A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near catastrophic depletion of India's forests over the last four decades. |
| abolished              | Formally ended or done away with. Here it refers to the intended elimination of harmful social practices. <b>Example:</b> (For instance, the Constitution says that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished, but they flourish shamelessly even after forty-four years of the operation of the Constitution.) A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near catastrophic depletion of India's forests over the last four decades.                                                                                         |
| flourish               | Continue to exist strongly or grow successfully. Used critically, it describes harmful practices that remain widespread. <b>Example:</b> (For instance, the Constitution says that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished, but they flourish shamelessly even after forty-four years of the operation of the Constitution.) A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near catastrophic depletion of India's forests over the last four decades.                                                                          |
| catastrophic depletion | An extremely damaging reduction in the amount of a resource. The phrase conveys the seriousness of forest loss. <b>Example:</b> (For instance, the Constitution says that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished, but they flourish shamelessly even after forty-four years of the operation of the Constitution.) A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near catastrophic depletion of India's forests over the last four decades.                                                                                   |
| catastrophic           | Causing very great damage or disaster. It emphasises the scale of the environmental loss described. <b>Example:</b> (For instance, the Constitution says that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished, but they flourish shamelessly even after forty-four years of the operation of the Constitution.) A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near catastrophic depletion of India's forests over the last four decades.                                                                                               |
| depletion              | The reduction or exhaustion of a supply. Here it refers to the shrinking extent of forests. <b>Example:</b> (For instance, the Constitution says that casteism, untouchability and bonded labour shall be abolished, but they flourish shamelessly even after forty-four years of the operation of the Constitution.) A recent report of our Parliament's Estimates Committee has highlighted the near catastrophic depletion of India's forests over the last four decades.                                                                                                       |
| designated             | Officially identified or classified for a particular purpose. Some areas labelled as forests contain hardly any trees. <b>Example:</b> Large areas, officially designated as forest land, "are already virtually treeless".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| virtually treeless     | Almost entirely without trees. The phrase exposes the difference between an official label and the condition of the land. <b>Example:</b> Large areas, officially designated as forest land, "are already virtually treeless".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| aerial photography                    | Photographs taken from above the ground, usually from aircraft or other elevated platforms. It enables the study of environmental conditions over large areas. <b>Example:</b> A three-year study using satellites and aerial photography conducted by the United Nations, warns that the environment has deteriorated so badly that it is 'critical' in many of the eighty-eight countries investigated. |
| critical                              | Extremely serious and requiring urgent attention. Here it describes the dangerous condition of the environment in many countries studied. <b>Example:</b> A three-year study using satellites and aerial photography conducted by the United Nations, warns that the environment has deteriorated so badly that it is 'critical' in many of the eighty-eight countries investigated.                      |
| distorting                            | Changing something in a harmful or misleading way. The author argues that rapid population growth is adversely shaping humanity's future. <b>Example:</b> There can be no doubt that the growth of world population is one of the strongest factors distorting the future of human society.                                                                                                               |
| fertility                             | The level or pattern of childbearing in a population. Here it is discussed in relation to income, education and health. <b>Example:</b> Fertility falls as incomes rise, education spreads, and health improves.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| development is the best contraceptive | A figurative claim that social and economic improvement can help reduce birth rates. The author links development with better education, income and health. <b>Example:</b> Thus development is the best contraceptive.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| contraceptive                         | Something used to prevent conception or pregnancy. Here the word is used metaphorically to describe development's effect on population growth. <b>Example:</b> Thus development is the best contraceptive.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| beget                                 | Produce offspring or father children. In the passage, it refers to having children. <b>Example:</b> The rich get richer, and the poor beget children which condemns them to remain poor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| condemns                              | Forces someone into an undesirable condition. The author uses it to describe the continuing poverty associated with large dependent families. <b>Example:</b> The rich get richer, and the poor beget children which condemns them to remain poor.                                                                                                                                                        |
| compulsorily sterilised               | Made unable to reproduce through a procedure imposed without voluntary choice. The author explicitly says that people should not be treated in this manner. <b>Example:</b> It is not suggested that human beings be treated like cattle and compulsorily sterilised.                                                                                                                                     |
| voluntary family planning             | Choosing freely whether and when to have children and how many to have. The phrase stresses personal choice in decisions about family size. <b>Example:</b> But there is no alternative to voluntary family planning without introducing an element of coercion.                                                                                                                                          |
| coercion                              | Pressure, threats or force used to make people do something against their will. The term contrasts with voluntary choice in the discussion of population policy. <b>Example:</b> But there is no alternative to voluntary family planning without introducing an element of coercion.                                                                                                                     |
| perpetuation of poverty               | The continued existence of poverty over time. The expression presents poverty as a condition passed on or prolonged rather than overcome. <b>Example:</b> The choice is really between control of population and perpetuation of poverty.                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| perpetuation            | The act of causing something to continue. Here it describes the persistence of economic hardship. <b>Example:</b> The choice is really between control of population and perpetuation of poverty.                                                                                                                                    |
| hungry hutments         | Poor dwellings whose occupants suffer from hunger. The expression places the human suffering associated with poverty before the reader. <b>Example:</b> No one familiar with the conditions in India would doubt that the hope of the people would die in their hungry hutments unless population control is given topmost priority. |
| topmost priority        | The greatest importance or urgency given to a task. The author argues that population control should receive this level of attention. <b>Example:</b> No one familiar with the conditions in India would doubt that the hope of the people would die in their hungry hutments unless population control is given topmost priority.   |
| transcending concern    | A concern that goes beyond narrow interests or ordinary divisions. Here it encompasses the survival of both humanity and the entire planet. <b>Example:</b> For the first time in human history we see a transcending concern — the survival not just of the people but of the planet.                                               |
| transcending            | Going beyond a limit, boundary or narrower interest. The word stresses the broad scope of environmental responsibility. <b>Example:</b> For the first time in human history we see a transcending concern — the survival not just of the people but of the planet.                                                                   |
| demise                  | Death or an end to existence. Here it refers to the possible destruction of humanity or its way of life. <b>Example:</b> The environmental problem does not necessarily signal our demise, it is our passport for the future.                                                                                                        |
| passport for the future | Something that enables progress towards a secure future. The metaphor suggests that responding to environmental challenges can create hope and opportunity. <b>Example:</b> The environmental problem does not necessarily signal our demise, it is our passport for the future.                                                     |
| ushered in              | Introduced or marked the beginning of something. The new environmental outlook has begun an age of greater responsibility. <b>Example:</b> The emerging new world vision has ushered in the Era of Responsibility.                                                                                                                   |
| Era of Responsibility   | A period characterised by recognition of duties towards the environment and future generations. It expresses the author's hope for a changed human outlook. <b>Example:</b> The emerging new world vision has ushered in the Era of Responsibility.                                                                                  |
| integrated whole        | A complete system whose parts are connected and work together. It describes the ecological view of the world. <b>Example:</b> It is a holistic view, an ecological view, seeing the world as an integrated whole rather than a dissociated collection of parts.                                                                      |
| dissociated             | Separated or treated as unrelated. The author rejects an understanding of nature as a collection of disconnected parts. <b>Example:</b> It is a holistic view, an ecological view, seeing the world as an integrated whole rather than a dissociated collection of parts.                                                            |
| crucial                 | Extremely important to the outcome of a situation. Industry has a decisive role in protecting the environment. <b>Example:</b> Industry has a most crucial role to play in this new Era of Responsibility.                                                                                                                           |
| transformation          | A major change in form, character or behaviour. Here it refers to the improvement possible if business leaders accept environmental responsibility. <b>Example:</b> What a transformation would be effected if more businessmen shared the view of the Chairman of Du Pont, Mr                                                       |

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|                                   | Edgar S. Woolard who, five years ago, declared himself to be the Company's "Chief Environmental Officer".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| effected                          | Brought about or caused to happen. It describes the change that responsible business leadership could produce. <b>Example:</b> What a transformation would be effected if more businessmen shared the view of the Chairman of Du Pont, Mr Edgar S. Woolard who, five years ago, declared himself to be the Company's "Chief Environmental Officer".                                                                                                                                                  |
| excel                             | Perform exceptionally well. The industrial leader presents strong environmental performance as necessary to continued success. <b>Example:</b> He said, "Our continued existence as a leading manufacturer requires that we excel in environmental performance."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| the current coin of English usage | Language or expressions that have become widely accepted and commonly used. The metaphor compares familiar words with money circulating among people. <b>Example:</b> Of all the statements made by Margaret Thatcher during the years of her Prime Ministership, none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as her felicitous words: "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease".                           |
| felicitous words                  | Words that are especially apt, effective or well chosen. The author praises the memorable way the environmental responsibility is expressed. <b>Example:</b> Of all the statements made by Margaret Thatcher during the years of her Prime Ministership, none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as her felicitous words: "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease".                                    |
| felicitous                        | Well suited to a purpose or expressed with particular skill. Here it describes the effectiveness of the quoted wording. <b>Example:</b> Of all the statements made by Margaret Thatcher during the years of her Prime Ministership, none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as her felicitous words: "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease".                                                         |
| freehold                          | Permanent ownership of property rather than possession for a limited period. In the quotation, it symbolises an unrestricted claim over the earth that no generation possesses. <b>Example:</b> Of all the statements made by Margaret Thatcher during the years of her Prime Ministership, none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as her felicitous words: "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease". |
| life tenancy                      | The right to possess or use property during one's lifetime. The metaphor presents each generation's stay on earth as temporary. <b>Example:</b> Of all the statements made by Margaret Thatcher during the years of her Prime Ministership, none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as her felicitous words: "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease".                                                 |
| full repairing lease              | An arrangement requiring the occupier to keep the property in repair. Here it represents humanity's duty to maintain and restore the planet during its temporary use. <b>Example:</b> Of all the statements made by Margaret Thatcher during the years of her Prime Ministership, none has passed so decisively into the current coin of English usage as her felicitous words: "No generation has a freehold on this earth. All we have is a life tenancy — with a full repairing lease".           |
| forefathers                       | Ancestors or members of earlier generations. The final quotation contrasts receiving the earth from the past with owing its care to the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|  | future. <b>Example:</b> In the words of Mr Lester Brown, “We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children.” |
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