Environmental Issues in the Developing World 2

(a) *The words in the box can be used to fill gaps* **1 - 16**. *However, in many cases, you will either have to change the form or the tense. Use each word once only.*

cede	expand	flatten	prowl
motivate	compel	stampede	push out
catch up	compromise	win out	encroach
contribute	nullify	diminish	claim

While there will always be a minority of poachers **1.** _____ *by their innate cruelty and greed, it is probably fair to say that the vast majority are* **2.** _____ *in this awful activity out of economic necessity. Similarly, in developing countries where overpopulation is becoming increasingly problematic, and as communities* **3.** _____ *further and further* _____ *into the wilderness to find a place to live, they are* **4.** _____ *on the habitat of wild and dangerous animals more and more. There is bound to be increased contact between and conflict with natural predators and wild animals that would not otherwise be in the line of fire, and this is another cause of their* **5.** _____ *numbers. When it is a straight choice between survival and an environmental conscience, the former* **6.** _____ *every time, and instinct as well as their sense of responsibility to their families will compel farmers and community leaders to hunt and kill dangerous predators* **7.** _____ *around their villages in the night, and herds of elephants capable of* **8.** _____ *their way through and* **9.** _____ *whole towns. Moreover, many of these communities lead an agrarian lifestyle, and when their livestock - and so, by implication, their livelihood - is threatened by predation, this will also inevitably* **10.** _____ *them to act to* **11.** _____ *the threat. And there are other considerations, too; after all, livestock needs a place to graze and land is also required for the cultivation of crops. And with an ever-expanding number of mouths to feed, the only logical solution is to* **12.** _____ *more of the land for agricultural purposes. This leads to trees being cut down, and* **13.** _____ *the stability of the soil. Precious nutrients are quickly washed away and the land becomes more and more arid,* **14.** _____ *to another of the dangerous climate-related phenomena; that of desertification. Indeed, deforestation and the* **15.** _____ *of the deserts go hand-in-hand. Not alone are farmers claiming more of the land for themselves then, vast swathes of habitat are being* **16.** _____ *to the advancing desert. For many wild animals, their entire ecosystem is being destroyed, putting their long-term survival in extreme doubt.*

(b) *Match the words in* **Column A** *taken from Text* **(a)** *above with their definitions in* **Column B**.

Column A	Answer	Column B
(a) innate		**(i)** something you are born with
(b) conscience		**(ii)** very dry and hostile to life
(c) agrarian		**(iii)** a long strip or large area (of land)
(d) cultivation		**(iv)** the drying out of land to the extent that it becomes very arid
(e) arid		**(v)** the felling, burning or removal by other means of very large numbers of trees
(f) desertification		**(vi)** all the living things in an area and how they interact
(g) deforestation		**(vii)** the farming of land / preparing of land for crops
(h) swathe		**(viii)** of or relating to agriculture
(i) ecosystem		**(ix)** the part of you that judges whether your actions are moral or immoral

(c) *Use the words from* **Column A** *above to complete these sentences.*

1. His _____ sense of empathy with the natural world saw him champion the cause of the endangered grey wolf population, despite how unpopular this made him amongst the local population, which was mainly comprised of sheep farmers.

2. His guilty _____ prevented him from granting planning approval for the new mall. It would not only have been an eyesore but also the death knell of the local snail population.

3. The _____ is very finely balanced and the invasion of this non-marsupial creature will have a devastating effect on local wildlife.

4. _____ of the land brought them into direct conflict with the natural world. Only, in this case, the latter won out; eventually, the abundance of predatory animals in the area became too much of a liability for the locals to put up with and they left, surrendering their farms back to Mother Nature.

sachphotos.com

LIVEWORKSHEETS