

UN votes to fight back against destruction of natural world. Guardian Weekly, 18 June 2010, by Juliette Jowit (column by John Vidal)

spearhead [vt] = to lead an organized action

habitat [n] = the natural home of a plant or animal

platform [n] = an opportunity to express your ideas to a large number of people

credit somebody with (doing) something [idiom] = to believe or admit that someone has a quality, or has done something good

fringe [adj] = less important or popular than the main group etc, or whose opinions are not accepted by most other people involved in the same activity (↔ mainstream)

breakthrough [n] = an important new discovery in something you are studying, especially one made after trying for a long time

coral reef [n] = a line of hard rocks formed by coral, found in warm sea water that is not very deep

underpin [vt] = to give strength or support to something and to help it succeed

stimulate [vt] = to encourage or help an activity to begin or develop further; to encourage someone by making them excited about and interested in something

discontent [n] = a feeling of being unhappy and not satisfied with the situation you are in

endanger [vt] = to put someone or something in danger of being hurt, damaged, or destroyed

raid [vt] = to enter a place, usually using force, and steal from it; to attack a place without warning; to visit a person or place without warning to look for criminals, illegal goods, drugs, etc

adapt to [phv] = to gradually change your behaviour and attitudes in order to be successful in a new situation

watchdog [n] = a person or group of people whose job is to protect the rights of people who buy things and to make sure companies do not do anything illegal or harmful

undermine [vt] = to gradually make someone or something less strong or effective

give in [phv] = to give a piece of work or something you have written to someone in authority; to finally agree to do or accept something that you had at first opposed, especially because someone has forced or persuaded you to

IPCC = Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change