Contents

	List of figures	X111
	Foreword by Professor Paul R. Ehrlich	xv
	Acknowledgements	xvii
	Introduction	1
1	Energy is life	5
	Productivity and food webs 6 Keystone species 8 Diversity, stability, resilience and ecosystem services 10 How much is humanity's fair share? 12	
2	The great cycles	15
	The water cycle 15 The nitrogen cycle 17 The sulphur cycle 19 The phosphorus cycle 21 The carbon cycle 23	
3	Ecosystem services – essential but overlooked	27
	Ecosystem services listed by Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 30 Ecosystem services and 'TEEB' 33 State of play of ecosystem services 34 Valuing ecosystem services 37	
4	Collapse	43
	Examples of ecosystem collapse 46 Causes of ecosystem collapse 50 Holding off collapse 52	

5	Psychological, cultural and spiritual dependence on Nature	55
	Social, educational, recreational and cultural values 56 Spiritual and psychological values 57 The transformative power of wild Nature 59 A sense of wonder 62 Anti-spirituality in Western culture 63 Conclusion 64	
6	The great divide – anthropocentrism vs ecocentrism	67
	Anthropocentrism 68 Ideologies – modernism 70 Intrinsic value and the revolt against modernism 70 Ideologies – postmodernism 73 Questioning reality and 'Nature scepticism' 75 Anthropocentrism continues in society and academia 78 How do we bridge the great divide? 80	
7	Dealing with denial	83
	Scepticism vs denial 84 Denial is common 85 The history of denial 87 Ideological basis for denial 90 Psychological types of denial 90 Ways we let denial prosper 93 Conclusion 96	
8	Do we have a problem?	99
	Ecocide? 100 But is it really a problem? 102 Crisis or catastrophe? 105 A deeper problem? 105 Conclusion 109	
9	Solutions to keep our roots in the Earth	111
	Scale of the problem 111 Worldview, ethics, values and ideologies 113 The growth economy and consumerism 117 Population 122 Reducing poverty 125 Education and communication 126	
	Ecological sustainability - the key focus 127	

Technology - a renewable future 129	
The politics of it all! 136	
The 'Great Work' 137	
Conclusion - regrowing our roots in the Earth	138

References	143
Index	157