

All living organisms are impelled to survive and to reproduce. Each animal, plant, bacterium and virus is adapted to its environment and interacts with its own kind and with other species.

Ecology is the study of these interactions; in effect, of all creatures' struggle for survival. In *Global Ecology* Colin Tudge examines the roles of adaptation, competition and co-operation, chemistry and genetics, behaviour, evolution and population dynamics, together with the often disturbing effects that humankind has on nature's delicate balance.

Written to enlarge upon and complement the *Ecology* exhibition at The Natural History Museum, London, *Global Ecology* offers an informal introduction to the principal ideas in one of the most rapidly advancing, and urgent, of modern sciences.

Colin Tudge was educated at Dulwich College and Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he read zoology in the early 1960s. Since then, he has written about animals and plants, agriculture and conservation. His books include *The Famine Business* (1977), *Future Cook* (1980), *The Food Connection* (1985) and *Food Crops for the Future* (1988). He has been features editor of *New Scientist*, and a science presenter for BBC Radio 3. He is currently writing a book about captive breeding, to be called *Last Animals at the Zoo*.

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