ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL WARMING[1]
PROBLEMS AND STRATEGIES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT[2]

I- Assessment of the situation

a- Current effects
b- Future ills

II- Shifting opinions

a- Governments' responsibility
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III- Are there any solutions ?

a- Fossil-fuels accused
b- Urban policies
c- Clean energy
d- Tourism

IV- Environment and business

Notes typographiques

. *Le vocabulaire thématique en gras ; je vous recommande de vous constituer des FICHES THEMATIQUES de vocabulaire. L'enrichissement de votre vocabulaire passe nécessairement par l'apprentissage par cœur de telles listes. Toutefois, il peut être plus facile de retenir le vocabulaire en contexte, d'où son inclusion ici au sein de phrases rédigées.*

. *Les informations les plus importantes sont soulignées.*

. *Le vocabulaire en italique est utile pour les essais (mots de liaison, connecteurs logiques etc)*

Les notes de bas de page :

. *les notes en rouge concernent la civilisation et l'histoire*

. *les notes en vert concernent le vocabulaire, les questions de langue, la grammaire*

[1] Réchauffement climatique/ de la planète
[2] Développement durable

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I- Assessment[3] of the situation

As *exposed*[4] in Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and in many scientific reports, the Earth is endangered by **global warming**. This phenomenon is now acknowledged worldwide and not only the concern of radical environmentalists[5]. *Evidence of this lies* in the 2007 Nobel Prize awarded to Al Gore and the IPCC[6] for their commitment. Consequences of such a change in global climate are manifold[7], *all the more so since* for the past 10 years or so things have been unraveling[8]. Temperature has been rising particularly fast near the poles.

a- Current effects

The current spate[9] of higher temperatures is not within the range[10] of natural events: in some regions, because of the ravages of heat on the land, some endangered species[11] have disappeared.

Examples:

(1) In the US and in Europe winter snows melt away earlier making for an erratic[12] season at ski resorts. The Alps shift from snowy winter destinations to summer havens from the heat since the Mediterranean shores of Europe could become barely habitable in summers.

(2) Beetle infestation has taken to the forest that mantles the upper slopes of mountains, killing trees weakened by record heat. Fires become commonplace since the land is parched[13]. Nature seems to be confused. In the American Southwest there used to be four seasons and now there are two; the region is in the midst of an eight-year drought[14].

(3) Findings[15] in recent drafts[16] show that the Arctic Ocean could largely be devoid of sea ice in summers in this century; winters will no longer get cold enough to kill off different pests[17] and diseases. Even now, noxious[18] species are marching northwards across America, proliferating in Scandinavia while tropical highlands around the world are witnessing an invasion of mosquitoes carrying malaria.

b- Future ills

A dreadful report by the IPCC

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[3] Bilan
[4] Dénoncé [faux ami]
[5] Écologistes
6 Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur le réchauffement climatique (GIEC)
[7] Divers
[8] Les choses se sont clarifiées
[9] Série
[10] Ne sont pas de l'ordre de/ dépassent le cadre de
[11] Espèces menacées
[12] Imprévisible
[13] Desséché
[14] Sécheresse
[15] Découverte
[16] Avant projet
[17] Insectes nuisibles
[18] Nuisible

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The warnings are not recent: in 2001 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicted that global warming would lead to many ills[19], *including* greater numbers of extinctions[20], growing **shortages**[21] of water, higher incidence of tropical diseases, and **lower yields**[22] from agriculture.

This is worsened[23] by global air travel that has become one of the greatest threats[24] to **biodiversity** and public health by driving the spread[25] of alien[26] species and infectious diseases to new habitats. Travel networks link remote[27] and isolated ecosystems, boosting the spread of micro-organisms and insects which thrive[28] *at the expense of*[29] native species to unprecedented[30] levels.

If the **warming** goes on, some South Pacific islands will be swamped[31] by **rising sea levels**[32] and an increased frequency of tropical storms[33] and tsunamis, *according to* the latest report from the IPC. Island economies will also suffer as warming waters damage[34] coral reefs[35] and hurt fishing industries, the report said.

Floods[36], storms, erosion and other coastal hazards[37] thus threaten vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities[38] that support the livelihood of island communities.

Changes driven by the buildup of heat-trapping emissions[39] in the atmosphere also include increases in plankton growth, shrinkage[40] of alpine and polar glaciers.

Climate patterns shift in ways that will bring benefits in some places, including more rainfall and longer growing seasons[41] in high latitudes, opening Arctic seaways[42], and reduced deaths from cold, but significant human hardship and ecological losses[43] in other areas. Indeed, most shifts will prove harmful *in the long run*[44]. For example, while in temperate and higher latitudes warming could be friendlier to farming, it would also cause a proliferation of weeds[45] that are *likely to*[46] imperil[47] forests.

Most regions of the world are likely to see more harm than benefits from the changes, such as downpours[48], as well as a relentless[49] intrusion of rising seas along crowded coasts and around

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[19] Maux
[20] Disparition (d'une espèce)
[21] Pénurie
[22] Rendement
[23] Aggravé
[24] One of the + plural
[25] Propagation
[26] Etrangères (au milieu d'origine)
[27] Eloigné
[28] Proliférer
[29] Aux dépends de
[30] Sans précédent
[31] Inondé
[32] Hausse du niveau de la mer
[33] Tempêtes tropicales
[34] Endommager
[35] Récifs coralliens
[36] Inondations
[37] Risques (faux ami !)
[38] Installations (faux ami !)
[39] Emissions (de carbone) augmentant le rayonnement solaire
[40] Réduction
[41] Périodes de culture (i.e. : quand les terres agricoles peuvent être exploitées => par exemple, augmentation du nombre de récoltes annuelles)
[42] Passage maritime
[43] Pertes
[44] A long terme
[45] Mauvaises herbes
[46] To be likely to : être susceptible de
[47] Mettre en danger
[48] Averse
[49] Impitoyable, sans répit

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