In the face of environmental degradation, species extinction and climate change, scientific knowledge, political processes or economic incentives do not tell us what we ought to do. The missing premise of the argument, and the much-needed centerpiece in the debate to date, has been the need for ethical values, moral guidance and principled reasons for doing the right thing for the future of our planet, its animals, its plants and its people.

In seeking moral guidance as to the ethical values involved in this crisis, the editors of *Moral Ground* propose the question: "Do we have a moral obligation to take action to protect the future of a planet in peril?" They seek the answer to this from over eighty visionaries – theologians and religious leaders, naturalists, scientists, elected leaders, business leaders, activist and writers – from all over the world. They group the replies under the following headings:

**Do we have a moral obligation to take action to protect the future of a planet in peril?**

- Yes, for the survival of humankind
- Yes, for the sake of the children
- Yes, for the sake of the Earth itself
- Yes, for the sake of all forms of life on the planet
- Yes, to honour our duties of gratitude and reciprocity
- Yes, for the full expression of human virtue
- Yes, for all flourishing is mutual
- Yes, for the stewardship of all creation
- Yes, because compassion requires it
- Yes, because justice demands it
- Yes, because the world is beautiful
- Yes, because we love the world
- Yes, to honour the and celebrate the Earth and Earth systems
- Yes, because our moral integrity requires us to do what is right

Before you read the book, you might attempt to choose which of these statements best challenges you to action for the planet.