

Environmental problems in world's literature – list of literary works

Global environmental challenges are a unifying concern for people around the world. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, human health and welfare, land degradation, drought, some of the major environmental catastrophes from the past : the collapse of Maya civilization, the Dust Bowl, the Chernobyl disaster are just a few from a long list of global environmental challenges that cross national boundaries and require international cooperation .

Environmental problematic reflected in world's literary work can prompt more concern, provoke attitude, inspire action.. But it is also true that literature addressing environmental degradation helps us better understand and care more deeply about damage at all scales. Sometimes creative works can even transform our values and behaviors vis-a vis the environment.

Stories from fiction and literature that engage with the ambiguities of ecological problems and their impact on human life and future talked about in many more ways than the science, eco criticism or the news articles used to do and can be valuable and really engaging tools for environmental action.

From water pollution to global warming, from land and soil degradation to human security and migration, environmental issues affect every person, animal, community, and nation on the planet. As increasing evidence supports the devastating effect humans have on the environment, more people are taking steps to protect the environment and educate others about environmental problems by looking at the major environmental concerns.

Today we offer you a list of literary works (among which a few nonfiction works) that have reflected environmental problems and disasters.

Can a novel or poem make a more sustainable world? The answer is with you...

What we believe is: As awareness of these problems grows, people become more involved in finding solutions.

Our first choice starts with the world's classic novel

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**Steinbeck, John (1939) *The Grapes of Wrath*. Penguin Classics; Reissue edition (March 28, 2006)
ISBN 978-0143039433**

The Pulitzer Prize - winning epic of the Great Depression, a book that galvanized—and sometimes outraged—millions of readers.

First published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California. Out of their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity. A portrait of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of one woman's stoical strength, the novel captures the horrors of the Great Depression and probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America. At once a naturalistic epic, captivity narrative, road novel, and transcendental gospel, Steinbeck's powerful landmark novel is perhaps the most American of American Classics.

Here are a few quotes from *Grapes of Wrath*.

"Houses were shut tight, and cloth wedged around doors and windows, but the dust came in so thinly that it could not be seen in the air, and it settled like pollen on the chairs and tables, on the dishes."

- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ch. 1

"They breathe profits; they eat the interest on money. If they don't get it, they die the way you die without air, without side-meat."

- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ch. 5

"Is a tractor bad? Is the power that turns the long furrows wrong? If this tractor were ours, it would be good - not mine, but ours. We could love that tractor then as we have loved this land when it was ours. But this tractor does two things - it turns the land and turns us off the land. There is little difference between this tractor and a tank. The people were driven, intimidated, hurt by

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both. We must think about this."

- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ch. 14

"And the great owners, who must lose their land in an upheaval, the great owners with access to history, with eyes to read history and to know the great fact: when property accumulates in too few hands it is taken away. And that companion fact: when a majority of the people are hungry and cold they will take by force what they need. And the little screaming fact that sounds through all history: repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed."

- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ch. 19

"How can you frighten a man whose hunger is not only in his own cramped stomach but in the wretched bellies of his children? You can't scare him--he has known a fear beyond every other."

- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, Ch. 19

1. Abbey, Edward.(1971). *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*.

Ballantine Books

ISBN 978-0345326492

When *Desert Solitaire* was first published in 1968, it became the focus of a nationwide cult. Rude and sensitive. Thought-provoking and mystical. Angry and loving. Both Abbey and this book are all of these and more. Here, the legendary author of *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, *Abbey's Road* and many other critically acclaimed books vividly captures the essence of his life during three seasons as a park ranger in southeastern Utah. This is a rare view of a quest to experience nature in its purest form -- the silence, the struggle, the overwhelming beauty. But this is also the gripping, anguished cry of a man of character who challenges the growing exploitation of the wilderness by oil and mining interests, as well as by the tourist industry. Abbey's observations and challenges remain as relevant now as the day he wrote them. Today, *Desert*

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Solitaire asks if any of our incalculable natural treasures can be saved before the bulldozers strike again.

- 2. Alexievich, Svetlana. (2006). Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster. Picador.
ISBN 978-0312425845**

On April 26, 1986, the worst nuclear reactor accident in history occurred in Chernobyl and contaminated as much as three quarters of Europe. Voices from Chernobyl is the first book to present personal accounts of the tragedy. Journalist Svetlana Alexievich interviewed hundreds of people affected by the meltdown---from innocent citizens to firefighters to those called in to clean up the disaster---and their stories reveal the fear, anger, and uncertainty with which they still live. Comprised of interviews in monologue form, Voices from Chernobyl is a crucially important work, unforgettable in its emotional power and honesty. nonfiction

- 3. Andrews, Sarah.(1998) Mother Nature (Em Hansen Mystery #3) St. Martin's Paperbacks
ISBN 978-0312966164**

Geologist Em Hansen digs into greed, deception, murder...and other natural disasters.

Looking to distract herself from the grief she feels over her father's recent death, geologist Em Hansen agrees to investigate the rocky murder of fellow geologist Janet Pinchon. Asked to step in by Janet's father, a powerful senator, Em travels to Northern California where Janet's body was found in a roadside ditch.

Soon hired by the environmental firm where Janet worked, Em steps into her life to find some answers. But shadowed by the darkness of her own past, Em must face more than shady politicians, greedy land developers, and an endangered ecosystem. This spunky geologist must grapple with her deepest

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fears to survive an assault by a vengeful Mother Nature...and a killer with a heart of stone.

4. Atwood, Margaret. (2010). The Year of the Flood Paperback. Anchor.

ISBN-13: 978-0307455475

Set in the visionary future of Atwood's acclaimed *Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood* is at once a moving tale of lasting friendship and a landmark work of speculative fiction. In this second book of the *MaddAddam* trilogy, the long-feared waterless flood has occurred, altering Earth as we know it and obliterating most human life. Among the survivors are Ren, a young trapeze dancer locked inside the high-end sex club *Scales and Tails*, and Toby, who is barricaded inside a luxurious spa. Amid shadowy, corrupt ruling powers and new, gene-spliced life forms, Ren and Toby will have to decide on their next move, but they can't stay locked away.

5. Atwood, Margaret.(2004) *Oryx and Crake*.

ISBN-13: 978-0385721677

Oryx and Crake is at once an unforgettable love story and a compelling vision of the future. Snowman, known as Jimmy before mankind was overwhelmed by a plague, is struggling to survive in a world where he may be the last human, and mourning the loss of his best friend, Crake, and the beautiful and elusive Oryx whom they both loved. In search of answers, Snowman embarks on a journey—with the help of the green-eyed Children of Crake—through the lush wilderness that was so recently a great city, until powerful corporations took mankind on an uncontrolled genetic engineering ride. Margaret Atwood projects us into a near future that is both all too familiar and beyond our imagining .

6. Atwood, Margaret (2014) *MaddAddam (The Maddaddam Trilogy)*.

Anchor.

ISBN-13: 978-0307455482

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A New York Times Notable Book

A Washington Post Notable Book

A Best Book of the Year: The Guardian, NPR, The Christian Science Monitor, The Globe and Mail

A GoodReads Reader's Choice

In this final volume of the internationally celebrated MaddAddam trilogy, the Waterless Flood pandemic has wiped out most of the population. Toby is part of a small band of survivors, along with the Children of Crake: the gentle, bioengineered quasi-human species who will inherit this new earth. As Toby explains their origins to the curious Crakers, her tales cohere into a luminous oral history that sets down humanity's past—and points toward its future. Blending action, humor, romance, and an imagination at once dazzlingly inventive and grounded in a recognizable world, MaddAddam is vintage Atwood—a moving and dramatic conclusion to her epic work of speculative fiction.

7. Ballard, J. G. (2012) *The Drought: A Novel*. Liveright; Reprint edition. 978-0871404015

An apocalyptic dystopia like no other, one whose "originality and power [of] vision can be felt" (Times Literary Supplement). Weird and mesmerizingly grotesque, *The Drought* tells the chilling story of the world on the brink of extinction, where a global drought, brought on by industrial waste, has left mankind in a life-or-death search for water. Violence erupts and insanity reigns as the human race struggles for survival in a worldwide desert of despair.

8. Ballard, J. G. *The Drowned World: A Novel*. Liveright; 50th Anniversary edition (2013) ISBN 978-0871403629

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A thrilling adventure with “an oppressive power reminiscent of Conrad” (Kingsley Amis), considered by many to be Ballard’s finest. In the novel that catapulted him to international acclaim upon its publication in 1962, J.G. Ballard’s mesmerizing and ferociously prescient *The Drowned World* imagines a terrifying future in which solar radiation and global warming has melted the ice caps, and Triassic-era jungles have overrun a submerged and tropical London. Set during the year 2145, the novel follows biologist Dr. Robert Kerans and his team of scientists as they confront a surreal cityscape populated by giant iguanas, albino alligators, and endless swarms of malarial insects. Nature has swallowed all but a few remnants of human civilization, and slowly, Kearns and his companions are transformed—both physically and psychologically—by this prehistoric environment. *The Drowned World* is both a thrilling adventure and haunting examination of the effects of environmental collapse on the human mind.

9. Bashir, Halima & Lewis, Damien. (2009). *Tears of the Desert: A Memoir of Survival in Darfur*. Random House Reader's Circle). One World Ballantine ISBN 978-0345510464

Tears of the Desert is the first memoir ever written by a woman caught up in the war in Darfur. It is a survivor’s tale of a conflicted country, a resilient people, and an uncompromising spirit. (nonfiction)

10. Carson, Rachel. (2002) *Silent Spring*. Houghton Mifflin Company; Anniversary edition ISBN 978-0618249060

Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* was first published in three serialized excerpts in the *New Yorker* in June of 1962. The book appeared in September of that year and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. Carson’s passionate concern for the future of our planet reverberated powerfully throughout the world, and her eloquent book was instrumental in

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launching the environmental movement. It is without question one of the landmark books of the twentieth century. nonfiction

**11. Flint, Julie & Waal, Alex de. *Darfur: A New History of a Long War (African Arguments)*. Zed Books
ISBN 978-1842779507**

The humanitarian tragedy in Darfur has stirred politicians, Hollywood celebrities and students to appeal for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. Beyond the horrific pictures of sprawling refugee camps and lurid accounts of rape and murder lies a complex history steeped in religion, politics, and decades of internal unrest. *Darfur* traces the origins, organization and ideology of the infamous Janjawid and other rebel groups, including the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement. It also analyzes the confused responses of the Sudanese government and African Union. This thoroughly updated edition also features a powerful analysis of how the conflict has been received in the international community and the varied attempts at peacekeeping. (nonfiction)

12. Fraser, Ronald. (2015) *Drought: A Novel*. Verso.

ISBN 978-1781688977

“He turned his back on the old man to mourn in silence this unnecessary death and his part in it; but the sight of the coffin brought anger instead ...”

In 1957, burned-out journalist John leaves London to recover in the Andalusian haven of Benalamar. Here he finds a village that has not changed since the Civil War, but when a foreign businessman, Bob, comes with plans to develop the area, the community is sent into turmoil. As a time of drought threatens, Bob promises to build a reservoir but this has unforeseen consequences. When a local farmer, Miguel, commits suicide, John is sent off on an investigation that leads back into recent history, lost love, and civil war.

13. Giono, Jean. (1985). *The Man Who Planted Trees*. Chelsea Green Publ. Co.; 3rd edition

This short story, translated into thirteen languages, tells the story of a shepherd planting trees and transforming a desert into a beautiful place to live in, where water flows again and houses with gardens replace ruins. The free generosity of the man, who had lost his son and wife and decides to give life again to an apparently barren place and ceaselessly plants trees while two wars destroy the country, shows the power of each individual's actions. The short story mingles the tones of a fable and a realistic narrative: the character is imaginary, but the place it deals with, the Forest of Vergons, was really transformed by reforestation, as 100,000 hectares of trees have been planted since World War I. The tale shows the effectiveness of a small gesture, made by a single man, which results in the transformation of a landscape and the renewal of life where it had nearly disappeared. In 2005 Wangari Maathai, Kenyan environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, published a new foreword to the English translation of Giono's classic tale.

14. Goldsworthy, Vesna. (2015). *Chernobyl Strawberries*. Bitter Lemon Press. ISBN: 9781908524478

"Exceptional. If there has been a more honest, calm, and profoundly moving memoir written in the last few years, then I've missed it."—Times Literary Supplement. How would you make sense of your life if you thought it might end tomorrow? In this captivating and best-selling memoir, Vesna Goldsworthy tells the story of herself, her family, and her early life in her lost country. There follows marriage, a move to England, and a successful media and academic career, then a cancer diagnosis and its unresolved consequences. A profoundly moving, comic, and original account by a stunning literary talent .

15. Oreskes, Naomi & Conway, Erik. M (2014). *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future*. Columbia University Press ISBN 978-0231169547

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The year is 2393, and the world is almost unrecognizable. Clear warnings of climate catastrophe went ignored for decades, leading to soaring temperatures, rising sea levels, widespread drought and--finally--the disaster now known as the Great Collapse of 2093, when the disintegration of the West Antarctica Ice Sheet led to mass migration and a complete reshuffling of the global order. Writing from the Second People's Republic of China on the 300th anniversary of the Great Collapse, a senior scholar presents a gripping and deeply disturbing account of how the children of the Enlightenment--the political and economic elites of the so-called advanced industrial societies--failed to act, and so brought about the collapse of Western civilization.

In this haunting, provocative work of science-based fiction, Naomi Oreskes and Eric M. Conway imagine a world devastated by climate change. Dramatizing the science in ways traditional nonfiction cannot, the book reasserts the importance of scientists and the work they do and reveals the self-serving interests of the so called "carbon combustion complex" that have turned the practice of science into political fodder. Based on sound scholarship and yet unafraid to speak boldly, this book provides a welcome moment of clarity amid the cacophony of climate change literature.

**16. Kolbert, E. (2015). *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* . Picador.
ISBN 978-1250062185**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

A NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST

Over the last half-billion years, there have been Five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. In prose that is at once frank, entertaining, and deeply informed, New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no

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species has before. Interweaving research in half a dozen disciplines, descriptions of the fascinating species that have already been lost, and the history of extinction as a concept, Kolbert provides a moving and comprehensive account of the disappearances occurring before our very eyes. She shows that the sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy, compelling us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human. nonfiction

**17. Kunstler, James Howard. (2011) The Witch of Hebron: A World Made by Hand. Grove Press.
ISBN 0802145442**

Already a renowned social commentator and a best-selling novelist and nonfiction writer, James Howard Kunstler has recently attained even greater prominence in the global conversation about energy and the environment. In the sequel to his novel, *World Made by Hand*, Kunstler expands on his vision of a post-oil society with a new novel about an America in which the electricity has flickered off, the Internet is a distant memory, and the government is little more than a rumor. In the tiny hamlet of Union Grove, New York, travel is horse-drawn and farming is back at the center of life. But it's no pastoral haven. Wars are fought over dwindling resources and illness is a constant presence. Bandits roam the countryside, preying on the weak. And a sinister cult threatens to shatter Union Grove's fragile stability.

In a book that is both shocking yet eerily convincing, Kunstler seamlessly weaves hot-button issues such as the decline of oil and the perils of climate change into a compelling narrative of violence, religious hysteria, innocence lost, and love found.

**18. Kunstler, James Howard (1994).The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape . Free Press
ISBN 978-0671888251**

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The Geography of Nowhere traces America's evolution from a nation of Main Streets and coherent communities to a land where every place is like no place in particular, where the cities are dead zones and the countryside is a wasteland of cartoon architecture and parking lots.

In elegant and often hilarious prose, Kunstler depicts our nation's evolution from the Pilgrim settlements to the modern auto suburb in all its ghastliness. The Geography of Nowhere tallies up the huge economic, social, and spiritual costs that America is paying for its car-crazed lifestyle. It is also a wake-up call for citizens to reinvent the places where we live and work, to build communities that are once again worthy of our affection. Kunstler proposes that by reviving civic art and civic life, we will rediscover public virtue and a new vision of the common good. "The future will require us to build better places," Kunstler says, "or the future will belong to other people in other societies."

19. Kunstler, James Howard. (2014) A History of the Future: A World Made By Hand. Atlantic Monthly Press. ISBN 978-0802122520

A History of the Future is the third thrilling novel in Kunstler's "World Made By Hand" series, an exploration of family and morality as played out in the small town of Union Grove.

Following the catastrophes of the twenty-first century—the pandemics, the environmental disaster, the end of oil, the ensuing chaos—people are doing whatever they can to get by and pursuing a simpler and sometimes happier existence. In little Union Grove in upstate New York, the townspeople are preparing for Christmas. Without the consumerist shopping frenzy that dogged the holidays of the previous age, the season has become a time to focus on family and loved ones. It is a stormy Christmas Eve when Robert Earle's son Daniel arrives back from his two years of sojourning throughout what is left of the United States. He collapses from exhaustion and illness, but as he recovers tells the story of the break-up of the nation into three uneasy independent regions and his journey into the dark heart of the New Foxfire Republic

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centered in Tennessee and led by the female evangelical despot, Loving Morrow. In the background, Union Grove has been shocked by the Christmas Eve double murder by a young mother, in the throes of illness, of her husband and infant son. Town magistrate Stephen Bullock is in a hanging mood.

A History of the Future is attention-grabbing and provocative, but also lyrical, tender, and comic—a vision of a future of America that is becoming more and more convincing and perhaps even desirable with each passing day.

20. Marcel, Pagnol. (1988). The water of the hills (collective name for two novels by Marcel Pagnol. *Jean de Florette* and *Manon of the Springs*, both originally published in 1963. Both books were filmed in 1986) North Point Press; Fourth Printing edition
ISBN 978-0865473126

Jean de Florette (1986) novel

Jean de Florette 120 min - Drama - August 1987 (USA)

"A greedy landowner and his backward nephew conspire to block the only water source for an adjoining property in order to bankrupt the owner and force him to sell." <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0091288/>

Manon of the Spring (1986)novel .Manon des sources" (original title)

113 min - Drama - December 1987 (USA)

"A beautiful but shy shepherdess plots vengeance on the men whose greedy conspiracy to acquire her father's land caused his death years earlier."

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0091480/>

In Jean de Florette and Manon of the Springs, Marcel Pagnol (called by Andre Malraux "one of the great writers of our generation" and by Jean Renoir "the leading film artist of his age") achieve the fullest and most satisfying expression of a story that haunted him for years, a Provençal legend of vengeance exacted by a mysterious sheperdess. Pagnol brings to his treatment of this powerful, moving story his dramatist's sense of place, ambience, and character and his keen understanding of the Provençal countryside and its people. Rich with twists and ramifications, Jean de Florette and Manon of the

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Springs sets an idealistic city man against two secretive and deceitful Provençal country men in a superbly realized story of a struggle for life, of crime and punishment, of betrayal and revenge, and of judgment and forgiveness. In this edition, illustrated with images from the acclaimed film adaptation by Claude Berri, North Point presents Pagnol's enduring story in W.E. van Heyningen's exact and sensitive translation.

**21. Monod, Théodore. *L'éméraude des Garamantes* (French)(1999) The emerald of Garamantes. Actes Sud.
ISBN 978-2742724000**

In *L'éméraude des Garamantes*—which follows Méharées, the wise man of the desert as he was often called, a botanist, zoologist, and naturalist—Théodore Monod thinks about man's way of being in the world through his own experience. Monod's fascination for the Jardin des Plantes in Paris when he was a child led him to his curiosity about nature. His walks in the Sahara Desert were part of his fight for the preservation of the desert and for ecosystems more widely. From the beautiful description of the desert of Sahara to a mythical gem allowing him to speak about the various stones that can be found here and their exploitation, he introduces readers to the desert through its landscapes, stones, plants, animals, and men living in it. In this book, Monod speaks about the animal condition in a philosophical way, insisting that the animal is not an object and that it is necessary for the human conscience to open up and recognize the ethical implications of our treatment of other species.

**22. Montero, Rosa. (2012) *Tears in Rain*. AmazonCrossingEnglish
ISBN 978-1612184388**

Rosa Montero is an award-winning journalist and novelist, and many of her novels have been translated into numerous languages. The novel—the title of which is a reference to *Blade Runner*—is one of her first incursions into science fiction. It portrays a futuristic Madrid in which replicants and aliens cohabit

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uneasily with humans. Clean air and water have been privatized and are available only to the wealthy, fresh food is a luxury, and the poor have become indentured servants who support the market economy. The novel offers a detective plot, led by a hard-boiled female cyborg, as well as a profound analysis of otherness, scientific progress, and the consequences of the environmental crisis such as climate change, pollution, drought, and toxic waste.

**23. Officer, Charles & Page, Jake.(2000)Earth and You: Tales of the Environment. Peter E. Randall Publisher; 1st edition
ISBN 978-0914339878**

A wonderful read of a book illuminating the challenge of the environment, its scale, scope, and complexity, and although we have done this to ourselves, the authors have a refreshing optimism that human creativity can rise to the challenge." -- Thomas E. Lovejoy, Counselor to the Secretary for Biodiversity and Environmental Affairs, Smithsonian Institution "A needed diagnosis for a planet worth saving." -- Richard D. Lamm, former Governor, Colorado . "I found the book a thoroughly useful and refreshing account of the environmental disasters that have shaped policy in the United States in recent years. I expect the book to be widely used and heavily quoted." -- George M. Woodwell, Director, Woods Hole Research Center (nonfiction)

**24. Parker, David Forster (2013) *Florida Land Grab: A Novel*. iUniverse
ISBN978-1475987959**

Wealthy Canadian Nash Logan dreams of building a posh community in Florida and embarks on a search for land to do just that. He builds a small research team, led by distinguished urban planner Dr. Mark Wilkins. Wilkins's wife, Bobbie, a professional writer, and her younger sister, Linda Cummins, an attractive and recently divorced nurse, join them to enjoy a vacation. Logan

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and his team travel throughout Florida via his yacht and helicopter, as Wilkins orients Logan to the state development history in an effort to identify potential site locations. But what began as a pleasant vacation and dream fulfilled becomes a nightmare when criminals intent upon laundering drug profits through his new land development venture threaten their plans-and their lives. Logan and his team join forces with federal drug enforcement agents to entrap the criminals. Government protection is not enough, though, as Logan loses a member of his team and finds himself in a battle to the death on land and sea. Now Logan must fight to save his crew and his dreams and end the reign of a drug cartel".

**25. Percy, Benjamin (2015) *The Dead Lands: A Novel*. Grand Central Publishing
ISBN 978-1455528240**

In Benjamin Percy's new thriller, a post-apocalyptic reimagining of the Lewis and Clark saga, a super flu and nuclear fallout have made a husk of the world we know. A few humans carry on, living in outposts such as the Sanctuary-the remains of St. Louis-a shielded community that owes its survival to its militant defense and fear-mongering leaders.

Then a rider comes from the wasteland beyond its walls. She reports on the outside world: west of the Cascades, rain falls, crops grow, civilization thrives. But there is danger too: the rising power of an army that pillages and enslaves every community they happen upon.

Against the wishes of the Sanctuary, a small group sets out in secrecy. Led by Lewis Meriwether and Mina Clark, they hope to expand their infant nation, and to reunite the States. But the Sanctuary will not allow them to escape without a fight.

**26. Pohl, Frederik. (2014) *Chernobyl: A Novel* . Tor Books.
ISBN 978-0765375964**

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Chernobyl: The very name conjures the catastrophe that the world feared could happen someday at a nuclear power plant. On April 26, 1986, a power surge caused the core of one of the reactors to explode, spewing a cloud of radioactive steam into the air. More than four thousand people died, as many as a half-million suffered potentially cancer-causing exposure, and the city around the plant became a toxic wasteland in which nothing could live. Before the disaster at the Chernobyl plant, nuclear catastrophe had been only a fear, a threat. But when the Chernobyl plant was destroyed, those fears were suddenly all too real.

Frederik Pohl's novel about this disaster was written months after the tragic events. He had the cooperation of many people inside the USSR with access to technical information and first-person accounts of the events of what is still the most tragic nuclear event in human history and only one of two level-7 nuclear accidents, along with the Fukushima disaster of 2011.

This is fiction, but it is the most riveting, realistic account of what happened that has ever been written. It is also a cautionary tale that reminds us of the dangers of nuclear power plants and the terrible devastation they can unleash.

27. Rabhi, Pierre. (2006). *As in the Heart So in the Earth: Reversing the Desertification of the Soul and the Soil*. Park Street Press,U.S

Shows how the growing desertification of North Africa is a reflection of the "desert" that is claiming the hearts and souls of the inhabitants of the Western world. This book seeks to initiate the reader into a time when the people that dwelled on this planet did so harmoniously and could converse easily with the land. (nonfiction)

**28. Roedel, Shannon Van. (2009) *Desert Fire: A Novel*. Kregel Publications
ISBN-13: 978-0825439223**

On assignment in Darfur, journalist Julia Keegan is determined to open the eyes of average Americans to the atrocities taking place there-and to distance herself from the dark shadow cast by her father, a man she's never really

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known. So when Joel Maartens, her father's young lawyer, shows up in Sudan, Julia is completely unprepared to respond. She has steeled herself against the horrors of genocide, but she isn't prepared to face her own past.

As Joel's and Julia's lives are redefined by the injustice and violence around them, both are forced to face truths they would rather leave concealed. Fighting for justice is no easy task, but learning to forgive in the face of hatred may be the resolution that Joel and Julia both desperately need. nonfiction

**29. Serres, Michel. (1995). The Natural Contract . University of Michigan Press
ISBN 978-0472065493**

This essay gives a philosophical answer to the dangers threatening the planet. The book questions man's attitude toward the earth. The solution to the damages caused by man's exploitation of the planet's resources dwells in the association of two laws: "to love one another," which implies not only caring for our neighbor but caring for all of mankind; and "to love the world," this second law being divided into the local law linking us to the ground where our ancestors lie and a new global law encompassing the whole planet. Evoking history, science, politics, and education, Serres urges readers to learn love for the world and to teach love. The book answers and completes Rousseau's *Le Contrat social* and places man's duties to the earth at the core of human ethics. Serres advocates the necessity of an agreement of reciprocity, a symbiosis between humans and the earth(**nonfiction**)

**30. Smith, Martin Cruz.(2006) Wolves Eat Dogs (Arkady Renko Novels) .
Gallery Books.
ISBN 978-0671775957**

In his groundbreaking *Gorky Park*, Martin Cruz Smith created an iconic detective of contemporary fiction. Quietly subversive, brilliantly analytical, and haunted by melancholy, Arkady Renko survived, barely, the journey from the

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Soviet Union to the New Russia, only to find his transformed nation just as obsessed with corruption and brutality as was the old Communist dictatorship. In *Wolves Eat Dogs*, Renko returns for his most enigmatic and baffling case: the death of one of Russia's new billionaires, which leads him to Chernobyl and the Zone of Exclusion -- closed to the world since 1986's nuclear disaster. It is still aglow with radioactivity, now inhabited only by the militia, shady scavengers, a few reckless scientists, and some elderly peasants who refuse to relocate. Renko's journey to this ghostly netherworld, the crimes he uncovers there, and the secrets they reveal about the New Russia make for an unforgettable adventure .

**31. Steward, L.K. (2012) *Land Grab*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN 978-1479144532**

When all of the world's land sinks, due to a catastrophic earthquake in the year 2020, the one and only remaining island is more valuable than gold to those left floating on the ocean, aboard thousands of surviving ships in this post-apocalyptic tale of adventure. One hundred years after the great sinking, parcels of the island are up for grabs and it will be a life or death struggle to obtain it. Read about the efforts of two young teams to win land, as a thousand teams fight to the death to do the same, before their century old vessels sink. To own land and move ashore is a matter of long-term survival for the small number of humans remaining on Earth .

**32. Wolf, Christa. *Accident: A Day's News: A Novel*. (2001). Phoenix Fiction. University of Chicago Press; University of Chicago Press Ed edition
ISBN 978-0226905068**

An East German writer, awaiting a call from the hospital where her brother is undergoing brain surgery, instead receives news of a massive nuclear accident at Chernobyl, one thousand miles away. In the space of a single day, in a

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potent, lyrical stream of thought, the narrator confronts both mortality and life and above all, the import of each moment lived-open, as Wolf reveals, to infinite analysis.

**33. Welles, Lee. (2007). Enter the Earth (Gaia Girls #1). Chelsea Green Publishing
ISBN 978-1933609010**

Elizabeth Angier was happy to be at the end of the school year. She thought her summer on the family farm would be full of work and play with her best friend, Rachel, and her other best friend, her dog, Maizey. However, Elizabeth didn't anticipate the Harmony Farms Corporation moving to her town. Her world starts to crumble as her best friend moves away and her parents whisper of farmers selling their land and the effects this factory farm operation could have on them. When she thinks things can't get much worse, she meets the most unusual creature, Gaia, the living entity of the Earth. Strange things begin to happen to her, around her, and through her! Elizabeth discovers that with these new powers comes responsibility. A dire mistake makes Elizabeth wonder if meeting Gaia has been a blessing or a curse. Will Elizabeth have the strength to fight a large corporation? Or will her upstate New York home be spoiled by profit driven pork production that fouls the air, land, and water?

34. Wijenaikē, Punyakante. *The Waiting Earth*. (1966) Colombo Apothecaries' Co; 1st Edition

Punyakante Wijenaikē's novel *The Waiting Earth* is set within the historical context of peasant resettlement in Ceylon during the 1950s and 1960s, a period that built on the Sinhala nationalism of the early twentieth century and intensified it. The story of Podi Singho and Sellohamy's marital discord and eventual reconciliation parallels a larger story of land control, ownership, and territoriality that enfolds their lives in the village within a narrative of the nation's formation and building. What is remarkable in the novel is its powerful representation of women's relationship with the land: unlike her husband, Podi Singho, who only thinks of land in terms of ownership and

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possession, Sellohamy is driven by her affection for “one patch of earth” in a manner that presents a compelling counternarrative to her husband’s acquisitiveness: “To her a harvest meant life. She loved it because it brought her fulfillment, the feeling that here at last she was doing a thing worthwhile. .

35. Zabytko, Irene. (2000)The Sky Unwashed. Algonquin Books; 1st edition ISBN 978-1565122468

Early on an April Saturday in 1986 in a farm village in Ukraine, widow Marusia Petrenko and her family awake to a day of traditional wedding preparations. Marusia bakes her famous wedding bread-a korovai-in the communal village oven to take to her neighbor's granddaughter's reception. Late that night, after all the dancing and drinking, Marusia's son Yurko leaves for his shift at the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl.

Inspired by true events, this unusual, unexpected novel tells how-and why- Marusia defies the Soviet government's permanent evacuation of her deeply contaminated village and returns to live out her days in the only home she's ever known. Alone in the deserted town, she struggles up into the church bell tower to ring the bells twice every day just in case someone else has returned. Poignant and truthful and triumphant, this timeless story is about ordinary people who do more than simply "survive."

Do you know of a great environmental novel that should be on this list? Send us a line to library@unccd.int

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