

sixth extinction pdf

sixth extinction pdf is a term often associated with the groundbreaking work of Elizabeth Kolbert, whose influential book explores the ongoing mass extinction event driven by human activity. This article delves into the concept of the sixth extinction, its scientific basis, and the implications for biodiversity and the planet's future. Readers will find an overview of the historical context of extinction events, the role of human impact, and how the sixth extinction differs from previous mass extinctions. Additionally, the availability and significance of the sixth extinction pdf format for educational and research purposes will be examined. This comprehensive article is designed to provide a clear understanding of the topic, making it a valuable resource for students, educators, and environmentalists alike. The following sections outline the detailed aspects of the sixth extinction and the relevance of accessing the content in PDF form.

- Understanding the Sixth Extinction
- Historical Mass Extinction Events
- Human Impact and Biodiversity Loss
- Scientific Research and Documentation
- The Importance of the Sixth Extinction PDF Format
- Accessing and Utilizing Sixth Extinction PDFs

Understanding the Sixth Extinction

The term "sixth extinction" refers to the ongoing, dramatic loss of species worldwide, which many scientists argue constitutes a mass extinction event comparable to the five previous ones in Earth's history. Unlike earlier extinctions caused by natural phenomena such as volcanic eruptions or asteroid impacts, the sixth extinction is predominantly driven by anthropogenic factors. This extinction event is characterized by an accelerated rate of species disappearance, attributed to habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, and overexploitation of natural resources.

Definition and Scope

The sixth extinction encompasses the rapid decline in global biodiversity occurring over the last several centuries and intensifying in recent decades. It involves not only the loss of animal and plant species but also the degradation of ecosystems that sustain life. The scope extends from large mammals to microorganisms, affecting ecological balance and human well-being.

Key Drivers of the Sixth Extinction

Human activities are the primary catalysts behind this extinction event. The main drivers include:

- Deforestation and habitat fragmentation
- Climate change induced by greenhouse gas emissions
- Pollution of air, water, and soil
- Overhunting and overfishing
- Introduction of invasive species disrupting local ecosystems

Historical Mass Extinction Events

To comprehend the significance of the sixth extinction, it is essential to review the Earth's previous mass extinction events. These events shaped the evolutionary pathways of life and altered the planet's biodiversity dramatically.

The Big Five Extinctions

The five major mass extinctions in Earth's history include:

1. **Ordovician-Silurian Extinction** - Approximately 444 million years ago, resulting in the loss of around 85% of marine species.
2. **Late Devonian Extinction** - Occurred about 372 million years ago, affecting marine life and reef ecosystems.
3. **Permian-Triassic Extinction** - Around 252 million years ago, known as "The Great Dying," wiping out about 96% of marine species and 70% of terrestrial vertebrates.
4. **Triassic-Jurassic Extinction** - Approximately 201 million years ago, paving the way for dinosaur dominance.
5. **Cretaceous-Paleogene Extinction** - About 66 million years ago, famously causing the extinction of non-avian dinosaurs.

Differences from the Sixth Extinction

While previous extinctions were triggered by natural disasters or extraterrestrial impacts, the sixth extinction is unique because it results from human influence. The rate of species loss today is estimated to be 100 to 1,000 times higher than the natural background extinction rate, emphasizing the unprecedented nature of this event.

Human Impact and Biodiversity Loss

Human expansion and industrialization have led to profound environmental changes that threaten global biodiversity. The sixth extinction highlights the direct and indirect consequences of these changes.

Habitat Destruction and Fragmentation

Urban growth, agriculture, and infrastructure development reduce and isolate natural habitats, limiting species' ability to survive and reproduce. Fragmented habitats also prevent gene flow, leading to population declines.

Climate Change Effects

Rising global temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events disrupt ecosystems and species' survival. Coral bleaching, shifting migration patterns, and altered reproductive cycles are examples of climate change impacts.

Pollution and Overexploitation

Contaminants in water bodies, soil, and air affect species health and reproductive success. Overfishing and hunting deplete populations faster than they can recover, leading to local or global extinction.

Scientific Research and Documentation

Extensive research underpins the understanding of the sixth extinction. Scientists use field studies, fossil records, and modeling to document species decline and predict future trends.

Role of Ecologists and Conservationists

Ecologists analyze ecosystem dynamics and species interactions, while conservationists develop strategies to mitigate biodiversity loss. Collaborative efforts aim to preserve endangered species and restore habitats.

Data Sources and Methodologies

Research relies on diverse data, including:

- Species population surveys
- Remote sensing and satellite imagery
- Genetic studies and biodiversity databases
- Climate models and ecological simulations

The Importance of the Sixth Extinction PDF Format

The sixth extinction pdf format serves as a crucial medium for disseminating scientific knowledge and raising awareness. PDFs provide accessible, portable, and reliable copies of research papers, books, and reports related to the sixth extinction.

Advantages of PDF for Educational and Research Purposes

The PDF format offers several benefits:

- **Universal Compatibility:** PDFs can be opened on virtually any device or operating system.
- **Preservation of Formatting:** Ensures consistent display of text, images, and graphs regardless of platform.
- **Searchability:** Allows users to quickly locate specific terms or sections.
- **Offline Access:** Enables reading without internet connectivity.
- **Annotation Features:** Supports note-taking and highlighting for study and review.

Common Types of Sixth Extinction PDFs

Available PDF documents include:

- Scientific articles detailing extinction rates and causes
- Books such as Elizabeth Kolbert's "The Sixth Extinction"
- Government and NGO reports on biodiversity conservation
- Educational materials and lecture notes

Accessing and Utilizing Sixth Extinction PDFs

Access to high-quality sixth extinction pdf resources enhances learning and supports informed action. Understanding how to find and use these documents effectively is important for students, researchers, and advocates.

Sources for Sixth Extinction PDFs

Reliable sources for obtaining sixth extinction PDFs include academic databases, institutional repositories, and official environmental organizations. Many universities provide access through their libraries, while some publications offer free versions compliant with open-access policies.

Best Practices for Using PDFs

Maximizing the utility of sixth extinction PDFs involves:

1. Verifying the credibility of the source
2. Using PDF readers with annotation tools for active engagement
3. Organizing documents systematically for easy reference
4. Sharing relevant PDFs within academic or conservation communities
5. Updating collections as new research emerges

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Sixth Extinction' PDF about?

The 'Sixth Extinction' PDF typically refers to the digital version of the book 'The Sixth Extinction' by Elizabeth Kolbert, which explores the ongoing mass extinction event caused by human activity and its impact on Earth's biodiversity.

Where can I legally download the 'Sixth Extinction' PDF?

You can legally download the 'Sixth Extinction' PDF from official sources such as libraries that offer eBook lending, authorized bookstores, or platforms like Google Books or Amazon Kindle if they provide a PDF version. Avoid pirated copies to respect copyright laws.

Who is the author of 'The Sixth Extinction' and what are their credentials?

Elizabeth Kolbert is the author of 'The Sixth Extinction.' She is a staff writer for The New Yorker and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist known for her work on environmental issues and science reporting.

What are the main themes covered in the 'Sixth Extinction' PDF?

The main themes include the history of past mass extinctions, the current

human-driven extinction event, the science behind species loss, and the environmental consequences of biodiversity decline.

Is 'The Sixth Extinction' suitable for academic research?

Yes, 'The Sixth Extinction' is widely regarded as a credible and well-researched source, often cited in environmental science and ecology studies, making it suitable for academic research and reference.

Does the 'Sixth Extinction' PDF include scientific data and case studies?

Yes, the book includes numerous scientific studies, data, and real-world case studies that illustrate species extinction events and environmental changes contributing to the current biodiversity crisis.

How has 'The Sixth Extinction' influenced public awareness about biodiversity loss?

The book has significantly raised public awareness about the severity of human impact on the planet's ecosystems, inspiring discussions, educational programs, and policy considerations related to conservation and climate change.

Additional Resources

1. The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert

This Pulitzer Prize-winning book explores the ongoing mass extinction caused by human activity. Kolbert combines scientific research with compelling storytelling to reveal how species around the world are disappearing at an unprecedented rate. The book offers a sobering look at biodiversity loss and its implications for the future of life on Earth.

2. Extinction: How Life on Earth Nearly Ended 250 Million Years Ago by Douglas H. Erwin

Erwin examines the Permian-Triassic extinction event, the most severe extinction in Earth's history. The book provides detailed scientific insights into the causes and consequences of this mass extinction. It also draws parallels to current environmental challenges and the potential for a modern extinction event.

3. The End of the Wild by Stephen M. Meyer

Meyer discusses the accelerating loss of wildlife and natural habitats worldwide. He explores the ecological, economic, and ethical importance of preserving biodiversity. The book serves as a call to action to protect the planet's remaining wild places from further destruction.

4. Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life by Edward O. Wilson

Renowned biologist Edward O. Wilson proposes setting aside half of the Earth's surface as a natural reserve to protect biodiversity. The book argues that such bold conservation efforts are necessary to prevent a sixth mass extinction. Wilson combines scientific evidence with passionate advocacy for preserving life on Earth.

5. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* by Jared Diamond

Diamond explores historical examples of societal collapse linked to environmental degradation and resource depletion. The book offers lessons on how human decisions can either mitigate or exacerbate ecological crises. It provides a broader context for understanding the sixth extinction within human history.

6. *Life on a Young Planet: The First Three Billion Years of Evolution on Earth* by Andrew H. Knoll

This book covers the early history of life on Earth, highlighting evolutionary milestones and past extinctions. Knoll emphasizes the resilience and adaptability of life through deep time. Understanding this history provides perspective on the current extinction crisis.

7. *Biodiversity and Conservation* by Michael J. Jeffries

Jeffries provides a comprehensive overview of biodiversity concepts, threats, and conservation strategies. The book addresses the scientific principles behind species loss and ecosystem protection. It is an essential resource for understanding the challenges posed by the sixth extinction.

8. *The Future of Life* by Edward O. Wilson

Wilson discusses the environmental threats facing the planet and the importance of biodiversity conservation. The book highlights both the causes of species decline and potential solutions. It is a hopeful call to action to safeguard Earth's natural heritage.

9. *Our Final Hour: A Scientist's Warning* by Martin Rees

Astrophysicist Martin Rees examines existential risks to humanity, including environmental collapse and mass extinction. The book warns of the fragile state of human civilization in the face of technological and ecological dangers. It urges proactive measures to avoid catastrophic outcomes.

Sixth Extinction Pdf

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The Sixth Extinction: An Unfolding Catastrophe and the Urgent Need for Conservation

A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Addressing the Sixth Mass Extinction Event

This ebook delves into the alarming reality of the sixth mass extinction, exploring its causes, consequences, and potential solutions. We will examine the scientific evidence, discuss the ethical implications, and offer practical steps individuals and governments can take to mitigate this global

crisis. The detailed analysis includes the latest research findings, highlighting the urgency of conservation efforts and the need for collective action to protect biodiversity.

Ebook Title: The Sixth Extinction: A Deep Dive into the Crisis and the Path Forward

Contents Outline:

Introduction: Defining the Sixth Extinction and its historical context.

Chapter 1: The Evidence for a Sixth Mass Extinction: Examining the rates of species extinction and the scientific data supporting the claim.

Chapter 2: The Primary Drivers of Extinction: Analyzing the role of human activities, including habitat loss, climate change, pollution, and overexploitation.

Chapter 3: Case Studies of Endangered Species: Exploring specific examples of species facing extinction and the challenges they encounter.

Chapter 4: The Ripple Effects of Biodiversity Loss: Examining the cascading impacts on ecosystems and human well-being.

Chapter 5: Conservation Strategies and Success Stories: Highlighting effective conservation methods and showcasing positive examples of species recovery.

Chapter 6: Policy and Legislation for Conservation: Analyzing the role of government policies and international agreements in protecting biodiversity.

Chapter 7: Individual Actions to Combat Extinction: Offering practical steps individuals can take to contribute to conservation efforts.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key findings and emphasizing the importance of collective action to prevent further biodiversity loss.

Detailed Explanation of Outline Points:

Introduction: This section sets the stage by defining the term "sixth mass extinction," placing it within the context of previous extinction events, and outlining the scope of the ebook. It will establish the urgency and importance of understanding this global crisis.

Chapter 1: The Evidence for a Sixth Mass Extinction: This chapter presents compelling scientific data, including extinction rates, species population declines, and habitat loss statistics, to demonstrate the reality of the ongoing extinction event. It will cite peer-reviewed research and reputable sources.

Chapter 2: The Primary Drivers of Extinction: This chapter dissects the multifaceted causes of the extinction crisis, focusing on human activities. It will analyze the impact of habitat destruction, climate change, pollution (including plastic pollution and chemical contamination), and overexploitation of natural resources.

Chapter 3: Case Studies of Endangered Species: This chapter uses specific examples of endangered species – perhaps focusing on different biomes – to illustrate the various threats facing different organisms. This provides a tangible understanding of the crisis beyond statistics.

Chapter 4: The Ripple Effects of Biodiversity Loss: This chapter explores the cascading effects of biodiversity loss on ecosystem functioning, including impacts on food security, water resources, climate regulation, and human health. It will highlight the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

Chapter 5: Conservation Strategies and Success Stories: This chapter focuses on successful conservation strategies, such as habitat restoration, captive breeding programs, and community-based conservation initiatives. It will provide examples of species that have been successfully rescued from the brink of extinction.

Chapter 6: Policy and Legislation for Conservation: This chapter analyzes the role of national and international policies, legislation, and treaties in protecting biodiversity. It will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of current conservation frameworks.

Chapter 7: Individual Actions to Combat Extinction: This chapter empowers readers by outlining practical actions they can take, such as reducing their carbon footprint, supporting sustainable businesses, advocating for conservation policies, and participating in citizen science projects.

Conclusion: This concluding section summarizes the key takeaways from the ebook, emphasizing the critical need for urgent and collective action to address the sixth mass extinction. It will reiterate the importance of individual and collective responsibility.

Keywords: Sixth extinction, biodiversity loss, mass extinction, endangered species, climate change, habitat loss, pollution, conservation, sustainability, environmental protection, wildlife conservation, ecological crisis, species extinction, extinction rates, biodiversity crisis, conservation strategies, environmental policy, sustainable development

Recent Research Highlights:

Recent research published in Science and Nature journals consistently highlights alarming trends in biodiversity loss, exceeding previous estimates. Studies show accelerating extinction rates across various taxa, particularly in tropical regions and marine ecosystems. The impact of climate change, intensified by human activities, is consistently identified as a major driver, accelerating habitat loss and altering species distributions. Research also underscores the interconnectedness of extinction events, demonstrating how the loss of one species can trigger a cascade of negative effects throughout the ecosystem.

Practical Tips to Mitigate the Sixth Extinction:

Reduce your carbon footprint: Adopt sustainable transportation, energy-efficient appliances, and a

plant-based diet.

Support conservation organizations: Donate to or volunteer with organizations dedicated to protecting biodiversity.

Advocate for strong environmental policies: Contact your elected officials to urge them to support legislation that protects the environment.

Educate yourself and others: Learn about the crisis and share your knowledge with friends and family.

Make sustainable choices: Support businesses and products that prioritize environmental sustainability.

Reduce plastic consumption: Minimize your use of single-use plastics and recycle properly.

Conserve water and energy: Practice water conservation at home and work and reduce energy consumption.

Support sustainable agriculture: Choose locally sourced, organic food whenever possible.

Participate in citizen science projects: Contribute to data collection and research efforts that monitor biodiversity.

FAQs:

1. What is the Sixth Extinction? The Sixth Extinction refers to the ongoing, human-caused mass extinction event, characterized by unprecedented rates of species loss.
2. What are the main causes of the Sixth Extinction? Habitat loss, climate change, pollution, overexploitation of resources, and invasive species are the primary drivers.
3. How is climate change contributing to the Sixth Extinction? Climate change alters habitats, disrupts ecosystems, and increases the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, threatening species survival.
4. What are the consequences of biodiversity loss? Biodiversity loss can lead to ecosystem collapse, reduced food security, water scarcity, and increased vulnerability to disease.
5. What are some successful conservation strategies? Habitat restoration, captive breeding programs, protected areas, and community-based conservation have shown positive results.
6. What can individuals do to help prevent extinction? Reduce carbon footprint, support conservation organizations, advocate for policy change, make sustainable choices, and participate in citizen science.
7. What is the role of government in addressing the Sixth Extinction? Governments play a critical role in developing and enforcing environmental regulations, protecting habitats, and funding conservation initiatives.
8. Are there any positive examples of species recovery? Yes, several species have been brought back from the brink of extinction through dedicated conservation efforts.
9. What is the future outlook for biodiversity? The future of biodiversity depends on immediate and concerted action to reduce the drivers of extinction and implement effective conservation strategies.

Related Articles:

1. The Unseen Extinction: The Silent Loss of Invertebrate Biodiversity: This article explores the often-overlooked extinction crisis among invertebrate species and their vital roles in ecosystems.
2. Climate Change and the Sixth Extinction: A Synergistic Threat: This article analyzes the intertwined relationship between climate change and biodiversity loss, highlighting the accelerating impact of both.
3. Habitat Fragmentation and its Impact on Endangered Species: This article delves into the negative effects of habitat fragmentation on species survival, illustrating the challenges of maintaining connected ecosystems.
4. The Role of Invasive Species in Driving Extinction: This article examines the role of invasive species in disrupting ecosystems and contributing to the decline and extinction of native species.
5. Community-Based Conservation: Empowering Local Communities to Protect Biodiversity: This article showcases successful examples of community-based conservation initiatives and their importance in preserving biodiversity.
6. The Economic Value of Biodiversity: Why Conservation is Essential for Human Well-being: This article emphasizes the economic benefits of biodiversity, showcasing the link between healthy ecosystems and human prosperity.
7. The Ethical Dimensions of the Sixth Extinction: Our Moral Responsibility to Protect Life: This article explores the ethical implications of biodiversity loss and human responsibility to protect life on Earth.
8. Technological Solutions for Conservation: Drones, AI, and Genetic Engineering: This article examines innovative technological approaches to monitoring, protecting, and restoring biodiversity.
9. The Sixth Extinction and the Future of Human Civilization: A Call to Action: This article provides a compelling analysis of the interconnectedness between biodiversity loss and human well-being, emphasizing the need for urgent action.

sixth extinction pdf: The Sixth Extinction Elizabeth Kolbert, 2014-02-11 ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW'S 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR A major book about the future of the world, blending intellectual and natural history and field reporting into a powerful account of the mass extinction unfolding before our eyes Over the last half a 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 *The Sixth Extinction*, two-time winner of the National Magazine Award and New Yorker writer Elizabeth Kolbert draws on the work of scores of researchers in half a dozen disciplines, accompanying many of them into the field: geologists who study deep ocean cores, botanists who follow the tree line as it climbs up the Andes, marine biologists who dive off the Great Barrier Reef. She introduces us to a dozen species, some already gone, others facing extinction, including the Panamian golden frog, staghorn coral, the great auk, and the Sumatran rhino. Through

these stories, Kolbert provides a moving account of the disappearances occurring all around us and traces the evolution of extinction as concept, from its first articulation by Georges Cuvier in revolutionary Paris up through the present day. The sixth extinction is likely to be mankind's most lasting legacy; as Kolbert observes, it compels us to rethink the fundamental question of what it means to be human.

sixth extinction pdf: Field Notes from a Catastrophe Elizabeth Kolbert, 2015-02-03 A new edition of the book that launched Elizabeth Kolbert's career as an environmental writer--updated with three new chapters, making it, yet again, irreplaceable (Boston Globe). Elizabeth Kolbert's environmental classic *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* first developed out of a groundbreaking, National Magazine Award-winning three-part series in *The New Yorker*. She expanded it into a still-concise yet richly researched and damning book about climate change: a primer on the greatest challenge facing the world today. But in the years since, the story has continued to develop; the situation has become more dire, even as our understanding grows. Now, Kolbert returns to the defining book of her career. She has added a chapter bringing things up-to-date on the existing text, plus three new chapters--on ocean acidification, the tar sands, and a Danish town that's gone carbon neutral--making it, again, a must-read for our moment.

sixth extinction pdf: Catastrophic Thinking David Sepkoski, 2023-12-06 A history of scientific ideas about extinction that explains why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to "think catastrophically" about extinction. We live in an age in which we are repeatedly reminded—by scientists, by the media, by popular culture—of the looming threat of mass extinction. We're told that human activity is currently producing a sixth mass extinction, perhaps of even greater magnitude than the five previous geological catastrophes that drastically altered life on Earth. Indeed, there is a very real concern that the human species may itself be poised to go the way of the dinosaurs, victims of the most recent mass extinction some 65 million years ago. How we interpret the causes and consequences of extinction and their ensuing moral imperatives is deeply embedded in the cultural values of any given historical moment. And, as David Sepkoski reveals, the history of scientific ideas about extinction over the past two hundred years—as both a past and a current process—is implicated in major changes in the way Western society has approached biological and cultural diversity. It seems self-evident to most of us that diverse ecosystems and societies are intrinsically valuable, but the current fascination with diversity is a relatively recent phenomenon. In fact, the way we value diversity depends crucially on our sense that it is precarious—that it is something actively threatened, and that its loss could have profound consequences. In *Catastrophic Thinking*, Sepkoski uncovers how and why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to think catastrophically about extinction.

sixth extinction pdf: The Sixth Extinction Richard E. Leakey, 1996-10-01 Richard Leakey, One Of The World's Foremost Experts On Man's Evolutionary Past, Now Turns His Eye To The Future And Doesn't Like What He Sees. To the philosophical the earth is eternal, while the human race -- presumptive keeper of the world's history -- is a mere speck in the rich stream of life. It is known that nothing upon Earth is forever; geography, climate, and plant and animal life are all subject to radical change. On five occasions in the past, catastrophic natural events have caused mass extinctions on Earth. But today humans stand alone, in dubious distinction, among Earth's species: *Homo Sapiens* possesses the ability to destroy entire species at will, to trigger the sixth extinction in the history of life. In *The Sixth Extinction*, Richard Leakey and Roger Lewin consider how the grand sprawl of human life is inexorably wreaking havoc around the world. The authors of *Origins* and *Origins Reconsidered*, unimpeachable authorities on the human fossil record, turn their attention to the most uncharted anthropological territory of all: the future, and man's role in defining it. According to Leakey and Lewin, man and his surrounding species are end products of history and chance. Now, however, humans have the unique opportunity to recognize their influence on the global ecosystem, and consciously steer the outcome in order to avoid triggering an unimaginable upheaval.

sixth extinction pdf: After Extinction Richard Grusin, 2018-03-20 A multidisciplinary exploration of extinction and what comes next What comes after extinction? Including both prominent and unusual voices in current debates around the Anthropocene, this collection asks authors from diverse backgrounds to address this question. After Extinction looks at the future of humans and nonhumans, exploring how the scale of risk posed by extinction has changed in light of the accelerated networks of the twenty-first century. The collection considers extinction as a cultural, artistic, and media event as well as a biological one. The authors treat extinction in relation to a variety of topics, including disability, human exceptionalism, science-fiction understandings of time and posthistory, photography, the contemporary ecological crisis, the California Condor, systemic racism, Native American traditions, and capitalism. From discussions of the anticipated sixth extinction to the status of writing, theory, and philosophy after extinction, the contributions of this volume are insightful and innovative, timely and thought provoking. Contributors: Daryl Baldwin, Miami U; Claire Colebrook, Pennsylvania State U; William E. Connolly, Johns Hopkins U; Ashley Dawson, CUNY Graduate Center; Joseph Masco, U of Chicago; Nicholas Mirzoeff, New York U; Margaret Noodin, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Jussi Parikka, U of Southampton; Bernard C. Perley, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Cary Wolfe, Rice U; Joanna Zylińska, Goldsmiths, U of London.

sixth extinction pdf: Extinction Ashley Dawson, 2016-08-01 Some thousands of years ago, the world was home to an immense variety of large mammals. From woolly mammoths and saber-toothed tigers to giant ground sloths and armadillos the size of automobiles, these spectacular creatures roamed freely. Then human beings arrived. Devouring their way down the food chain as they spread across the planet, they began a process of voracious extinction that has continued to the present. Headlines today are made by the existential threat confronting remaining large animals such as rhinos and pandas. But the devastation summoned by humans extends to humbler realms of creatures including beetles, bats and butterflies. Researchers generally agree that the current extinction rate is nothing short of catastrophic. Currently the earth is losing about a hundred species every day. This relentless extinction, Ashley Dawson contends in a primer that combines vast scope with elegant precision, is the product of a global attack on the commons, the great trove of air, water, plants and creatures, as well as collectively created cultural forms such as language, that have been regarded traditionally as the inheritance of humanity as a whole. This attack has its genesis in the need for capital to expand relentlessly into all spheres of life. Extinction, Dawson argues, cannot be understood in isolation from a critique of our economic system. To achieve this we need to transgress the boundaries between science, environmentalism and radical politics. Extinction: A Radical History performs this task with both brio and brilliance.

sixth extinction pdf: Under a White Sky Elizabeth Kolbert, 2021-02-09 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sixth Extinction* returns to humanity's transformative impact on the environment, now asking: After doing so much damage, can we change nature, this time to save it? RECOMMENDED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA AND BILL GATES • SHORTLISTED FOR THE WAINWRIGHT PRIZE FOR WRITING • ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The Washington Post • ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: Time, Esquire, Smithsonian Magazine, Vulture, Publishers Weekly, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal • "Beautifully and insistently, Kolbert shows us that it is time to think radically about the ways we manage the environment."—Helen Macdonald, The New York Times That man should have dominion "over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth" is a prophecy that has hardened into fact. So pervasive are human impacts on the planet that it's said we live in a new geological epoch: the Anthropocene. In *Under a White Sky*, Elizabeth Kolbert takes a hard look at the new world we are creating. Along the way, she meets biologists who are trying to preserve the world's rarest fish, which lives in a single tiny pool in the middle of the Mojave; engineers who are turning carbon emissions to stone in Iceland; Australian researchers who are trying to develop a "super coral" that can survive on a hotter globe; and physicists who are contemplating shooting tiny diamonds into the stratosphere to cool the earth. One way to look at human civilization, says Kolbert, is as a ten-thousand-year exercise in defying nature. In *The Sixth Extinction*, she explored

the ways in which our capacity for destruction has reshaped the natural world. Now she examines how the very sorts of interventions that have imperiled our planet are increasingly seen as the only hope for its salvation. By turns inspiring, terrifying, and darkly comic, *Under a White Sky* is an utterly original examination of the challenges we face.

sixth extinction pdf: *Biological Extinction* Partha Dasgupta, Peter Raven, Anna McIvor, 2019-09-05 Questions why species are becoming extinct, and how we can protect the natural world on which we all depend.

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sixth extinction pdf: *Extinctions in Near Time* Ross D.E. MacPhee, Hans-Dieter Sues, 2013-11-09 Near time -an interval that spans the last 100,000 years or so of earth history-qualifies as a remarkable period for many reasons. From an anthropocentric point of view, the out standing feature of near time is the fact that the evolution, cultural diversification, and glob al spread of *Homo sapiens* have all occurred within it. From a wider biological perspective, however, the hallmark of near time is better conceived of as being one of enduring, repeat ed loss. The point is important. Despite the sense of uniqueness implicit in phrases like the biodiversity crisis, meant to convey the notion that the present bout of extinctions is by far the worst endured in recent times, substantial losses have occurred throughout near time. In the majority of cases, these losses occurred when, and only when, people began to ex pand across areas that had never before experienced their presence. Although the explana tion for these correlations in time and space may seem obvious, it is one thing to rhetori cally observe that there is a connection between humans and recent extinctions, and quite another to demonstrate it scientifically. How should this be done? Traditionally, the study of past extinctions has fallen largely to researchers steeped in such disciplines as paleontology, systematics, and paleoecology. The evaluation of future losses, by contrast, has lain almost exclusively within the domain of conservation biolo gists. Now, more than ever, there is opportunity for overlap and sharing of information.

sixth extinction pdf: *Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction* Michelle Nijhuis, 2021-03-09 Winner of the Sierra Club's 2021 Rachel Carson Award One of Chicago Tribune's Ten Best Books of 2021 Named a Top Ten Best Science Book of 2021 by Booklist and Smithsonian Magazine At once thoughtful and thought-provoking," *Beloved Beasts* tells the story of the modern conservation movement through the lives and ideas of the people who built it, making "a

crucial addition to the literature of our troubled time (Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction*). In the late nineteenth century, humans came at long last to a devastating realization: their rapidly industrializing and globalizing societies were driving scores of animal species to extinction. In *Beloved Beasts*, acclaimed science journalist Michelle Nijhuis traces the history of the movement to protect and conserve other forms of life. From early battles to save charismatic species such as the American bison and bald eagle to today's global effort to defend life on a larger scale, Nijhuis's "spirited and engaging" account documents "the changes of heart that changed history" (Dan Cryer, *Boston Globe*). With "urgency, passion, and wit" (Michael Berry, *Christian Science Monitor*), she describes the vital role of scientists and activists such as Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, reveals the origins of vital organizations like the Audubon Society and the World Wildlife Fund, explores current efforts to protect species such as the whooping crane and the black rhinoceros, and confronts the darker side of modern conservation, long shadowed by racism and colonialism. As the destruction of other species continues and the effects of climate change wreak havoc on our world, *Beloved Beasts* charts the ways conservation is becoming a movement for the protection of all species including our own.

sixth extinction pdf: *How to Clone a Mammoth* Beth Shapiro, 2020-09-08 An insider's view on bringing extinct species back to life Could extinct species, like mammoths and passenger pigeons, be brought back to life? In *How to Clone a Mammoth*, Beth Shapiro, an evolutionary biologist and pioneer in ancient DNA research, addresses this intriguing question by walking readers through the astonishing and controversial process of de-extinction. From deciding which species should be restored to anticipating how revived populations might be overseen in the wild, Shapiro vividly explores the extraordinary cutting-edge science that is being used to resurrect the past. Considering de-extinction's practical benefits and ethical challenges, Shapiro argues that the overarching goal should be the revitalization and stabilization of contemporary ecosystems. Looking at the very real and compelling science behind an idea once seen as science fiction, *How to Clone a Mammoth* demonstrates how de-extinction will redefine conservation's future.

sixth extinction pdf: *Terra* Michael J. Novacek, 2007-11-13 In this brilliant synthesis of evolutionary biology, paleontology, and modern environmental science, Novacek shows how all three can help readers understand and prevent what he and others call today's mass extinction event.

sixth extinction pdf: *Resurrection Science* M. R. O'Connor, 2015-09-15 **A Library Journal Best Book of 2015 ** **A Christian Science Monitor Top Ten Book of September** In a world dominated by people and rapid climate change, species large and small are increasingly vulnerable to extinction. In *Resurrection Science*, journalist M. R. O'Connor explores the extreme measures scientists are taking to try and save them, from captive breeding and genetic management to de-extinction. Paradoxically, the more we intervene to save species, the less wild they often become. In stories of sixteenth-century galleon excavations, panther-tracking in Florida swamps, ancient African rainforests, Neanderthal tool-making, and cryogenic DNA banks, O'Connor investigates the philosophical questions of an age in which we play god with earth's biodiversity. Each chapter in this beautifully written book focuses on a unique species--from the charismatic northern white rhinoceros to the infamous passenger pigeon--and the people entwined in the animals' fates. Incorporating natural history and evolutionary biology with conversations with eminent ethicists, O'Connor's narrative goes to the heart of the human enterprise: What should we preserve of wilderness as we hurtle toward a future in which technology is present in nearly every aspect of our lives? How can we co-exist with species when our existence and their survival appear to be pitted against one another?

sixth extinction pdf: *Imagining Extinction* Ursula K. Heise, 2016-08-10 We are currently facing the sixth mass extinction of species in the history of life on Earth, biologists claim—the first one caused by humans. Heise argues that understanding these stories and symbols is indispensable for any effective advocacy on behalf of endangered species. More than that, she shows how biodiversity conservation, even and especially in its scientific and legal dimensions, is shaped by cultural assumptions about what is valuable in nature and what is not.

sixth extinction pdf: The Sixth Extinction (young readers adaptation) Elizabeth Kolbert, 2024-02-06 In this young readers adaptation of the New York Times-bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Sixth Extinction*, Elizabeth Kolbert tells us why and how human beings have altered life on the planet in a way no species has before. 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 monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. Adapting from her New York Times-bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning adult nonfiction, Elizabeth Kolbert explores how humans are altering life on Earth.

sixth extinction pdf: Flight Ways Thom van Dooren, 2014-06-03 A leading figure in the emerging field of extinction studies, Thom van Dooren puts philosophy into conversation with the natural sciences and his ethnographic encounters to vivify the cultural and ethical significance of modern-day extinctions. Unlike other meditations on the subject, *Flight Ways* incorporates the particularities of real animals and their worlds, drawing philosophers, natural scientists, and general readers into the experience of living among and losing biodiversity. Each chapter of *Flight Ways* focuses on a different species or group of birds: North Pacific albatrosses, Indian vultures, an endangered colony of penguins in Australia, Hawaiian crows, and the iconic whooping cranes of North America. Written in eloquent and moving prose, the book takes stock of what is lost when a life form disappears from the world—the wide-ranging ramifications that ripple out to implicate a number of human and more-than-human others. Van Dooren intimately explores what life is like for those who must live on the edge of extinction, balanced between life and oblivion, taking care of their young and grieving their dead. He bolsters his studies with real-life accounts from scientists and local communities at the forefront of these developments. No longer abstract entities with Latin names, these species become fully realized characters enmeshed in complex and precarious ways of life, sparking our sense of curiosity, concern, and accountability toward others in a rapidly changing world.

sixth extinction pdf: The Epochal Event Zoltán Boldizsár Simon, 2020-07-23 This book is a unique attempt to capture the growing societal experience of living in an age unlike anything the world has ever seen. Fueled by the perception of acquiring unprecedented powers through technologies that entangle the human and the natural worlds, human beings have become agents of a new kind of transformative event. The ongoing sixth mass extinction of species, the prospect of a technological singularity, and the potential crossing of planetary boundaries are expected to trigger transformations on a planetary scale that we deem catastrophic and try to avoid. In making sense of these prospects, Simon's book sketches the rise of a new epochal thinking, introduces the epochal event as an emerging category of a renewed historical thought, and makes the case for the necessity of bringing together the work of the human and the natural sciences in developing knowledge of a more-than-human world.

sixth extinction pdf: Volcanism, Impacts, and Mass Extinctions: Causes and Effects Gerta Keller, Andrew C. Kerr, 2014-09-16 Comprises articles stemming from the March 2013 international conference at London's Natural History Museum. Researchers across geological, geophysical, and biological disciplines present key results from research concerning the causes of mass extinction events--

sixth extinction pdf: Your Inner Fish Neil Shubin, 2008-01-15 The paleontologist and professor of anatomy who co-discovered Tiktaalik, the "fish with hands," tells a "compelling scientific adventure story that will change forever how you understand what it means to be human" (Oliver Sacks). By examining fossils and DNA, he shows us that our hands actually resemble fish fins, our heads are organized like long-extinct jawless fish, and major parts of our genomes look and function like those of worms and bacteria. *Your Inner Fish* makes us look at ourselves and our world in an illuminating new light. This is science writing at its finest—enlightening, accessible and told with irresistible enthusiasm.

sixth extinction pdf: Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life Edward O. Wilson, 2016-03-07 An

audacious and concrete proposal...Half-Earth completes the 86-year-old Wilson's valedictory trilogy on the human animal and our place on the planet. —Jedediah Purdy, New Republic In his most urgent book to date, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and world-renowned biologist Edward O. Wilson states that in order to stave off the mass extinction of species, including our own, we must move swiftly to preserve the biodiversity of our planet. In this visionary blueprint for saving the planet (Stephen Greenblatt), Half-Earth argues that the situation facing us is too large to be solved piecemeal and proposes a solution commensurate with the magnitude of the problem: dedicate fully half the surface of the Earth to nature. Identifying actual regions of the planet that can still be reclaimed—such as the California redwood forest, the Amazon River basin, and grasslands of the Serengeti, among others—Wilson puts aside the prevailing pessimism of our times and speaks with a humane eloquence which calls to us all (Oliver Sacks).

sixth extinction pdf: Extinction Studies Deborah Bird Rose, Thom van Dooren, Matthew Chrulew, 2017-05-02 Extinction Studies focuses on the entangled ecological and social dimensions of extinction, exploring the ways in which extinction catastrophically interrupts life-giving processes of time, death, and generations. The volume opens up important philosophical questions about our place in, and obligations to, a more-than-human world. Drawing on fieldwork, philosophy, literature, history, and a range of other perspectives, each of the chapters in this book tells a unique extinction story that explores what extinction is, what it means, why it matters—and to whom.

sixth extinction pdf: In the Light of Evolution National Academy of Sciences, 2017-01-01 Biodiversity-the genetic variety of life-is an exuberant product of the evolutionary past, a vast human-supportive resource (aesthetic, intellectual, and material) of the present, and a rich legacy to cherish and preserve for the future. Two urgent challenges, and opportunities, for 21st-century science are to gain deeper insights into the evolutionary processes that foster biotic diversity, and to translate that understanding into workable solutions for the regional and global crises that biodiversity currently faces. A grasp of evolutionary principles and processes is important in other societal arenas as well, such as education, medicine, sociology, and other applied fields including agriculture, pharmacology, and biotechnology. The ramifications of evolutionary thought also extend into learned realms traditionally reserved for philosophy and religion. The central goal of the In the Light of Evolution (ILE) series is to promote the evolutionary sciences through state-of-the-art colloquia-in the series of Arthur M. Sackler colloquia sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences-and their published proceedings. Each installment explores evolutionary perspectives on a particular biological topic that is scientifically intriguing but also has special relevance to contemporary societal issues or challenges. This tenth and final edition of the In the Light of Evolution series focuses on recent developments in phylogeographic research and their relevance to past accomplishments and future research directions.

sixth extinction pdf: Dodging Extinction Anthony D. Barnosky, 2014-10-01 Paleobiologist Anthony D. Barnosky weaves together evidence from the deep past and the present to alert us to the looming Sixth Mass Extinction and to offer a practical, hopeful plan for avoiding it. Writing from the front lines of extinction research, Barnosky tells the overarching story of geologic and evolutionary history and how it informs the way humans inhabit, exploit, and impact Earth today. He presents compelling evidence that unless we rethink how we generate the power we use to run our global ecosystem, where we get our food, and how we make our money, we will trigger what would be the sixth great extinction on Earth, with dire consequences. Optimistic that we can change this ominous forecast if we act now, Barnosky provides clear-cut strategies to guide the planet away from global catastrophe. In many instances the necessary technology and know-how already exist and are being applied to crucial issues around human-caused climate change, feeding the world's growing population, and exploiting natural resources. Deeply informed yet accessibly written, Dodging Extinction is nothing short of a guidebook for saving the planet.

sixth extinction pdf: The 6th Extinction Elizabeth Kolbert, 2015-01-06 WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW'S 10 BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD FINALIST

A major book about the future of the world, blending intellectual and natural history and field reporting into a powerful account of the mass extinction unfolding before our eyes 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 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.

sixth extinction pdf: The Uninhabitable Earth David Wallace-Wells, 2019-02-19 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “The Uninhabitable Earth hits you like a comet, with an overflow of insanely lyrical prose about our pending Armageddon.”—Andrew Solomon, author of *The Noonday Demon* NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New Yorker • The New York Times Book Review • Time • NPR • The Economist • The Paris Review • Toronto Star • GQ • The Times Literary Supplement • The New York Public Library • Kirkus Reviews It is worse, much worse, than you think. If your anxiety about global warming is dominated by fears of sea-level rise, you are barely scratching the surface of what terrors are possible—food shortages, refugee emergencies, climate wars and economic devastation. An “epoch-defining book” (The Guardian) and “this generation’s *Silent Spring*” (The Washington Post), *The Uninhabitable Earth* is both a travelogue of the near future and a meditation on how that future will look to those living through it—the ways that warming promises to transform global politics, the meaning of technology and nature in the modern world, the sustainability of capitalism and the trajectory of human progress. *The Uninhabitable Earth* is also an impassioned call to action. For just as the world was brought to the brink of catastrophe within the span of a lifetime, the responsibility to avoid it now belongs to a single generation—today’s. **LOGLISTED FOR THE PEN/E.O. WILSON LITERARY SCIENCE WRITING AWARD** “The Uninhabitable Earth is the most terrifying book I have ever read. Its subject is climate change, and its method is scientific, but its mode is Old Testament. The book is a meticulously documented, white-knuckled tour through the cascading catastrophes that will soon engulf our warming planet.”—Farhad Manjoo, The New York Times “Riveting. . . . Some readers will find Mr. Wallace-Wells’s outline of possible futures alarmist. He is indeed alarmed. You should be, too.”—The Economist “Potent and evocative. . . . Wallace-Wells has resolved to offer something other than the standard narrative of climate change. . . . He avoids the ‘eerily banal language of climatology’ in favor of lush, rolling prose.”—Jennifer Szalai, The New York Times “The book has potential to be this generation’s *Silent Spring*.”—The Washington Post “The Uninhabitable Earth, which has become a best seller, taps into the underlying emotion of the day: fear. . . . I encourage people to read this book.”—Alan Weisman, The New York Review of Books

sixth extinction pdf: Beyond the Sixth Extinction Shawn Sheehy, 2018-10-09 Elaborate pop-ups feature some wonderfully creepy creatures that just might dominate the ecosystem and be essential to our planet’s survival in an eerily realistic future world. Whether or not we know it, the sixth global extinction is already under way, propelled not by a meteor but by human activity on Earth. Take a long step forward into the year 4847 with the help of stunning pop-ups portraying eight fantastical creatures, along with spreads and flaps presenting details about each one. Paper engineer Shawn Sheehy envisions the aftermath of extinction as a flourishing ecosystem centered around fictional creatures that could evolve from existing organisms. Promising high appeal for science-fiction fans of all ages — and plenty of food for discussion — this evolutionary extravaganza offers a time line of the six extinction events in Earth’s history, a “field guide” to each creature, a diagram of species relationships, a habitat map of the (imagined) ruins of Chicago, and an illuminating author’s note.

sixth extinction pdf: Vanished Giants Anthony J. Stuart, 2021-01-28 Featuring numerous illustrations, this book explores the many lessons to be learned from Pleistocene megafauna, including the role of humans in their extinction, their disappearance at the start of the Sixth Extinction, and what they might teach us about contemporary conservation crises. Long after the extinction of dinosaurs, when humans were still in the Stone Age, woolly rhinos, mammoths, mastodons, sabertooth cats, giant ground sloths, and many other spectacular large animals that are no longer with us roamed the Earth. These animals are regarded as “Pleistocene megafauna,” named for the geological era in which they lived—also known as the Ice Age. In *Vanished Giants: The Lost World of the Ice Age*, paleontologist Anthony J. Stuart explores the lives and environments of these animals, moving between six continents and several key islands. Stuart examines the animals themselves via what we’ve learned from fossil remains, and he describes the landscapes, climates, vegetation, ecological interactions, and other aspects of the animals’ existence. Illustrated throughout, *Vanished Giants* also offers a picture of the world as it was tens of thousands of years ago when these giants still existed. Unlike the case of the dinosaurs, there was no asteroid strike to blame for the end of their world. Instead, it appears that the giants of the Ice Age were driven to extinction by climate change, human activities—especially hunting—or both. Drawing on the latest evidence provided by radiocarbon dating, Stuart discusses these possibilities. The extinction of Ice Age megafauna can be seen as the beginning of the so-called Sixth Extinction, which is happening right now. This has important implications for understanding the likely fate of present-day animals in the face of contemporary climate change and vastly increasing human populations.

sixth extinction pdf: *The Illegal Wildlife Trade* Daan P. van Uhm, 2016-11-15 In this book the author examines the illegal wildlife trade from multiple perspectives: the historical context, the impact on the environment, the scope of the problem internationally, the sociocultural demand for illegal products, the legal efforts to combat it, and several case studies from inside the trade. The illegal wildlife trade has become a global criminal enterprise, following in the footsteps of drugs and weapons. Beyond the environmental impact, financial profits from the illegal wildlife trade often fund organized crime groups and violent gangs that threaten public safety and security in myriad ways. This innovative volume covers several key questions surrounding the wildlife trade: why is there a demand for illegal wildlife products, which actors are involved in the trade, how is the business organized, and what are the harmful consequences. The author performed ethnographic fieldwork in three key markets: Russia, Morocco, and China, and has constructed a detailed picture of how the wildlife trade operates in these areas. Conversations with informants directly involved in the illegal business ensure unique insights into this lively black market. In the course of his journey the author follows the route of the illegal wildlife trade from poor poaching areas to rich business districts where corrupt officials, legally registered companies, wildlife farms and sophisticated criminal organizations all have a share. A fascinating look inside the world of poachers, smugglers and traders.

sixth extinction pdf: *1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals* Ulf Gärdenfors, A. J. Stattersfield, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Species Survival Commission, 1996 The 1994 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals was a major advance on its predecessors in clarity of layout and amount of information presented. This is taken further in the 1996 edition, which is also the first global compilation to use the complete new IUCN Red List category system.

sixth extinction pdf: *The Fall of the Wild* Ben A. Minteer, 2018-12-11 The passenger pigeon, the great auk, the Tasmanian tiger—the memory of these vanished species haunts the fight against extinction. Seeking to save other creatures from their fate in an age of accelerating biodiversity loss, wildlife advocates have become captivated by a narrative of heroic conservation efforts. A range of technological and policy strategies, from the traditional, such as regulations and refuges, to the novel—the scientific wizardry of genetic engineering and synthetic biology—seemingly promise solutions to the extinction crisis. In *The Fall of the Wild*, Ben A. Minteer calls for reflection on the ethical dilemmas of species loss and recovery in an increasingly human-driven world. He asks an

unsettling but necessary question: Might our well-meaning efforts to save and restore wildlife pose a threat to the ideal of preserving a world that isn't completely under the human thumb? Minter probes the tension between our impulse to do whatever it takes and the risk of pursuing strategies that undermine our broader commitment to the preservation of wildness. From collecting wildlife specimens for museums and the wilderness aspirations of zoos to visions of "assisted colonization" of new habitats and high-tech attempts to revive long-extinct species, he explores the scientific and ethical concerns vexing conservation today. *The Fall of the Wild* is a nuanced treatment of the deeper moral issues underpinning the quest to save species on the brink of extinction and an accessible intervention in debates over the principles and practice of nature conservation.

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sixth extinction pdf: *The Anthropology of Extinction* Genese Marie Sodikoff, 2012 The Anthropology of Extinction offers compelling explorations of issues of widespread concern.

sixth extinction pdf: *Outside the Anthropological Machine* Chiara Mengozzi, 2020-05-14 In the midst of the climate crisis and the threat of the sixth extinction, we can no longer claim to be the masters of nature. Rather, we need to unlearn our species' arrogance for the sake of all animals, human and non-human. Rethinking our being-in-the-world as *Homo sapiens*, this monograph argues, starts precisely from the way we relate to our closer companion species. The authors gathered here endeavour to find multiple exit strategies from the anthropocentric paradigms that have bound the human and social sciences. Part I investigates the unexplored margins of human history by re-reading historical events, literary texts, and scientific findings from an animal's perspective, rather than a human's. Part II explores different forms of human-animal relationships, putting the emphasis on the institutions, spaces, and discourses that frame our interactions with animals. Part III engages with processes of translation that aim to render animals' experience and perception into human words and visual language.

sixth extinction pdf: *The Sixth Extinction* James Rollins, 2015 A remote military research station in Utah sends out a frantic distress call, ending with a chilling final command: Kill us all. By the time help arrives every living thing for fifty miles has been annihilated. And blight is spreading. To halt the inevitable, Commander Gray Pierce and Sigma must unravel a threat that rises out of the distant past, to a time when Antarctica was green and life on Earth balanced on a knife edge. Following clues from an ancient map rescued from the lost Library of Alexandria, Sigma will discover the truth about an ancient continent, about a new form of death buried under miles of ice, and the coming extinction of mankind.

sixth extinction pdf: *Conservation Biology in Sub-Saharan Africa* Richard Primack, Johnny W. Wilson, 2019-09-10 Conservation Biology in Sub-Saharan Africa comprehensively explores the challenges and potential solutions to key conservation issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. Easy to read, this lucid and accessible textbook includes fifteen chapters that cover a full range of conservation topics, including threats to biodiversity, environmental laws, and protected areas management, as well as related topics such as sustainability, poverty, and human-wildlife conflict. This rich resource also includes a background discussion of what conservation biology is, a wide range of theoretical approaches to the subject, and concrete examples of conservation practice in specific African contexts. Strategies are outlined to protect biodiversity whilst promoting economic development in the region. Boxes covering specific themes written by scientists who live and work throughout the region are included in each chapter, together with recommended readings and suggested discussion topics. Each chapter also includes an extensive bibliography. Conservation Biology in Sub-Saharan Africa provides the most up-to-date study in the field. It is an essential resource, available on-line without charge, for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as a handy guide for professionals working to stop the rapid loss of biodiversity in Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere.

sixth extinction pdf: *The Big Ratchet* Ruth DeFries, 2014-09-09 How an ordinary mammal manipulated nature to become technologically sophisticated city-dwellers -- and why our history points to an optimistic future in the face of environmental crisis. Our species long lived on the edge

of starvation. Now we produce enough food for all 7 billion of us to eat nearly 3,000 calories every day. This is such an astonishing thing in the history of life as to verge on the miraculous. The Big Ratchet is the story of how it happened, of the ratchets -- the technologies and innovations, big and small -- that propelled our species from hunters and gatherers on the savannahs of Africa to shoppers in the aisles of the supermarket. The Big Ratchet itself came in the twentieth century, when a range of technologies -- from fossil fuels to scientific plant breeding to nitrogen fertilizers -- combined to nearly quadruple our population in a century, and to grow our food supply even faster. To some, these technologies are a sign of our greatness; to others, of our hubris. MacArthur fellow and Columbia University professor Ruth DeFries argues that the debate is the wrong one to have. Limits do exist, but every limit that has confronted us, we have surpassed. That cycle of crisis and growth is the story of our history; indeed, it is the essence of The Big Ratchet. Understanding it will reveal not just how we reached this point in our history, but how we might survive it.

sixth extinction pdf: *The Princeton Guide to Ecology* Simon A. Levin, Stephen R. Carpenter, H. Charles J. Godfray, Ann P. Kinzig, Michel Loreau, Jonathan B. Losos, Brian Walker, David S. Wilcove, 2012-09-30 The Princeton Guide to Ecology is a concise, authoritative one-volume reference to the field's major subjects and key concepts. Edited by eminent ecologist Simon Levin, with contributions from an international team of leading ecologists, the book contains more than ninety clear, accurate, and up-to-date articles on the most important topics within seven major areas: autecology, population ecology, communities and ecosystems, landscapes and the biosphere, conservation biology, ecosystem services, and biosphere management. Complete with more than 200 illustrations (including sixteen pages in color), a glossary of key terms, a chronology of milestones in the field, suggestions for further reading on each topic, and an index, this is an essential volume for undergraduate and graduate students, research ecologists, scientists in related fields, policymakers, and anyone else with a serious interest in ecology. Explains key topics in one concise and authoritative volume Features more than ninety articles written by an international team of leading ecologists Contains more than 200 illustrations, including sixteen pages in color Includes glossary, chronology, suggestions for further reading, and index Covers autecology, population ecology, communities and ecosystems, landscapes and the biosphere, conservation biology, ecosystem services, and biosphere management

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