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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

EARTH DAY
50TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL ISSUE

HOW WE LOST THE PLANET

A Pessimist's Guide
to Life on Earth
in 2070

NOT
READY TO
GIVE UP?

HOW WE SAVED
THE WORLD



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THE CASE FOR CATASTROPHE

The world will be a much more dangerous place, where flooding, drought, fire, and unrest have forced millions from their homes.

BY ELIZABETH KOLBERT

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A WORLD LOST

Losing a landscape—through climate change, disaster, or development—takes an emotional toll.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETE MULLER

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THE WORLD IN 2070

In the next 50 years, our environment is set to change drastically.

BY KAYA LEE BERNE, ALEJANDRA BORUNDA, RILEY D. CHAMPINE, AND JASON TREAT

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FIFTY YEARS OF DAMAGE

The recent fires across Australia are one of many signs over the past five decades that Earth and its inhabitants are in the midst of a crisis.



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ON THE COVER
 Unchecked climate change will hit Africa especially hard.
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