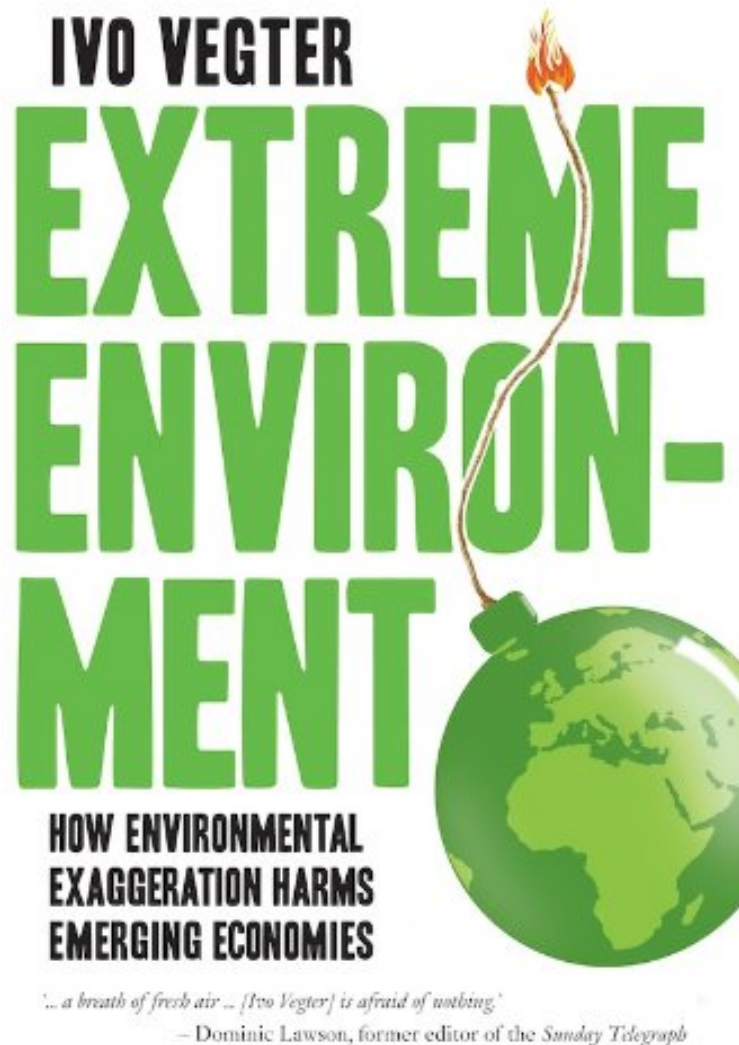


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Extreme Environment: How environmental exaggeration harms emerging economies

Ivo Vegter

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Extreme Environment promises to provoke fresh and spirited debate about the modern environmental movement and the many ways in which environmentalism, media, economics, public policy and the politics of liberty intersect. In order to reduce poverty and continue to raise living standards requires a sensible, balanced approach to a healthy, productive environment. No country, but especially not those in the developing world, can afford to be manipulated by the self-interested moralising and alarmism perpetrated by some special interest groups. Exaggeration by environmentalists, many journalists and even some scientists causes undue fear and anxiety among those who don't already dismiss the green lobby for crying wolf. Worse, misinformation affects regulation and policymaking in ways that actively harm developing economies. Starting with well-researched work questioning the claims of opponents to shale-gas drilling, or "fracking", Ivo Vegter argues that public opinion and policy ought to be informed by accurate data and reasoned argument. Using a wide range of examples, from nuclear accidents and oil spills to food additives and agricultural chemicals, he demonstrates why we should be as sceptical of the emotive rhetoric of environmentalists, which just as often turns out to be alarmist, or even false, as we are of corporate spin. Globally relevant, but offering a unique perspective from a developing country - South Africa - this book is a must-read for every thinking person who cares about the world we live in.

About the AuthorIVO VEGTER is a journalist and columnist who writes for publications such as The Daily Maverick, CAR magazine and ITWeb Brainstorm, and has occasionally reported for the Mail Guardian, The Times and various other mainstream publications. Born in Holland, he was raised and educated in South Africa. Ivo has been a finalist in two categories of the Mondi Magazine Awards, and in 2011 was a finalist for the prestigious Bastiat Prize for Journalism, awarded by the International Policy Network to recognise writing that explains and promotes the principles of a free society. Extreme Environment is his first book.