

















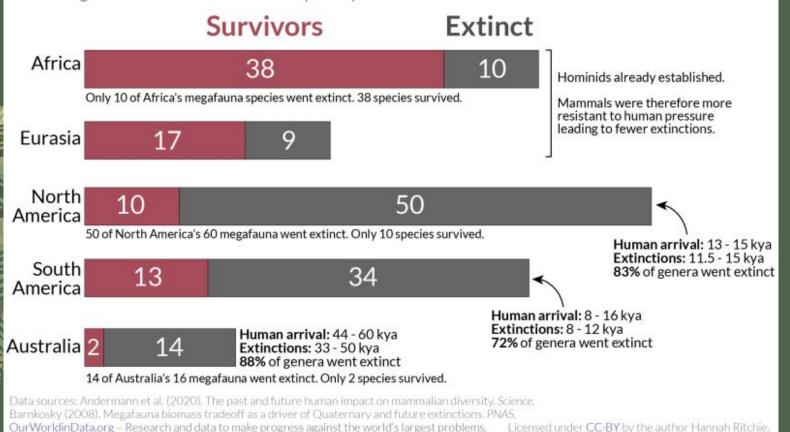




Megafauna losses at the Quaternary Extinction



The Quaternary extinction event (52,000 years BC to 9,000 years BC) killed >178 species of the world's largest mammals. Humans were the primary driver of these extinctions.



Human migration and the extinction of large mammals Our World in Data The Quaternary Megafauna extinction killed off more than 178 of the world's largest mammal species from 52,000 to 9,000 BC. These extinctions closely mapped human migrations across the world's continents. Overhunting is thought to be the leading driver of these extinctions. European lion went extinct 14.000 years ago Europe Human arrival: 35 to 45 kya Extinctions: 23 to 45 kya; then 10 to 14 kya American mastodon went extinct North America 36% went extinct 11.000 years ago Human arrival: 13 to 15 kva Extinctions: 11 to 15 kya 83% went extinct Arabian Peninsula Human arrival: 50 to 60 kya Human arrival: 20 to 24 kya Indo-Malava Human arrival: 44 to 73 kva **Africa** Hominids had evolved alongside large mammals so they were more Australia resistant to human pressure. Madagascar Human arrival: 4 to 10 kya 20% went extinct Human arrival: 40 to 50 kva Extinctions: 33 to 50 kya 88% went extinct South America Human arrival: 8 to 16 kya Extinctions: 8 to 12 kya 72% went extinct New Zealand

Data Source: Andermann et al. (2020). The past and future human impact on mammalian diversity. Science. Images sourced from Noun Project. OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems. Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie.

Human arrival: 1 to 2.5 kya

All species of ground sloth went extinct 11,000 to 12,000 years ago.

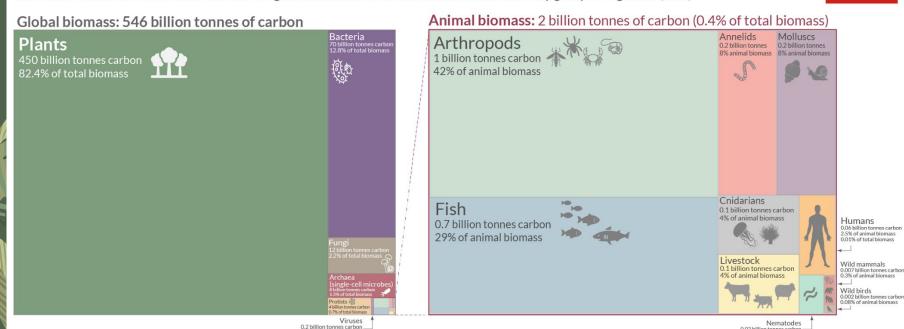
Many species of giant kangaroo

went extinct during this period.

Life on Earth: the distribution of all global biomass

Our World in Data

Biomass is measured in tonnes of carbon. The global distribution of Earth's biomass is shown by group of organism (taxa).



Data source: Bar-On, Y. M., Phillips, R., & Milo, R. (2018). The biomass distribution on Earth. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Icons from Noun Project

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0.02 billion tonnes carbon 0.8% of animal biomass

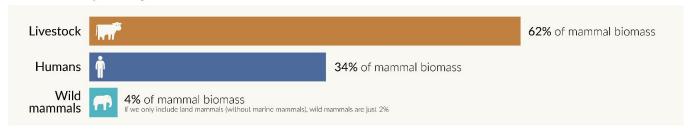
Wild mammals and birds are just a fraction of humans and our livestock



Animals are compared in terms of biomass, measured in tonnes of carbon.

Mammals

All mammals – including land and marine – have a combined biomass of around **162 million tonnes of carbon**. Wild mammals are just 4% of global mammal biomass



Birds

All birds have a combined biomass of around **7 million tonnes of carbon**.

Poultry – mostly chickens – biomass weigh more than twice that of wild birds.



Source: Bar-On et al. (2018). The biomass distribution on Earth. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.





Hör Svante Pääbos egna ord om priset i klippet. Foto: Thomas Dietze/AP/TT

Svenska biologen Svante Pääbo får Nobelpris i medicin

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Årets Nobelpris i fysiologi eller medicin tilldelas den svenska biologen Svante Pääbo för "hans upptäckter rörande utdöda homininers arvsmassa och människans evolution".

