

**WIE DIE
METEORITEN
ENTSTEHEN**

Die Meteoriten sind die Überreste von Himmelskörpern, die von der Erde in den Weltraum geschleudert wurden. Sie bestehen aus Gestein, das vor Millionen von Jahren in anderen Teilen des Sonnensystems entstanden ist.



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WE ARE THE ASTEROID

The basis of We Are the Asteroid is an analogy between the activities of humans on Earth and an asteroid impact 66 million years ago. Along with other species, this led to the disappearance of the dinosaurs and thus to the fifth mass extinction.

Humans have been responsible for the extinction of animal species for thousands of years. Today, a massive acceleration of this destructive process can be observed and the threat of the sixth mass extinction looms. [1]

The decline of wild animals caused by humans contrasts with an unimaginable number of industrially farmed animals. Two areas that are closely linked: The expansion of agricultural land is one of the main drivers of the biodiversity crisis globally. [2] Grazing land and the cultivation of animal feed account for the majority of these areas. [3]

As meat and milk production is very inefficient compared to plant-based food production, an end to animal livestock farming would free up three quarters of all agricultural land as potential habitats for wildlife. [4]

We Are the Asteroid denounces this double lack of solidarity between humans and non-human animals. The artistic intervention encourages us to question the future viability of industrial livestock farming and to think about restoring the land that can be reclaimed from it.

[1] ROBERT COWIE ET AL. (2022) THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION

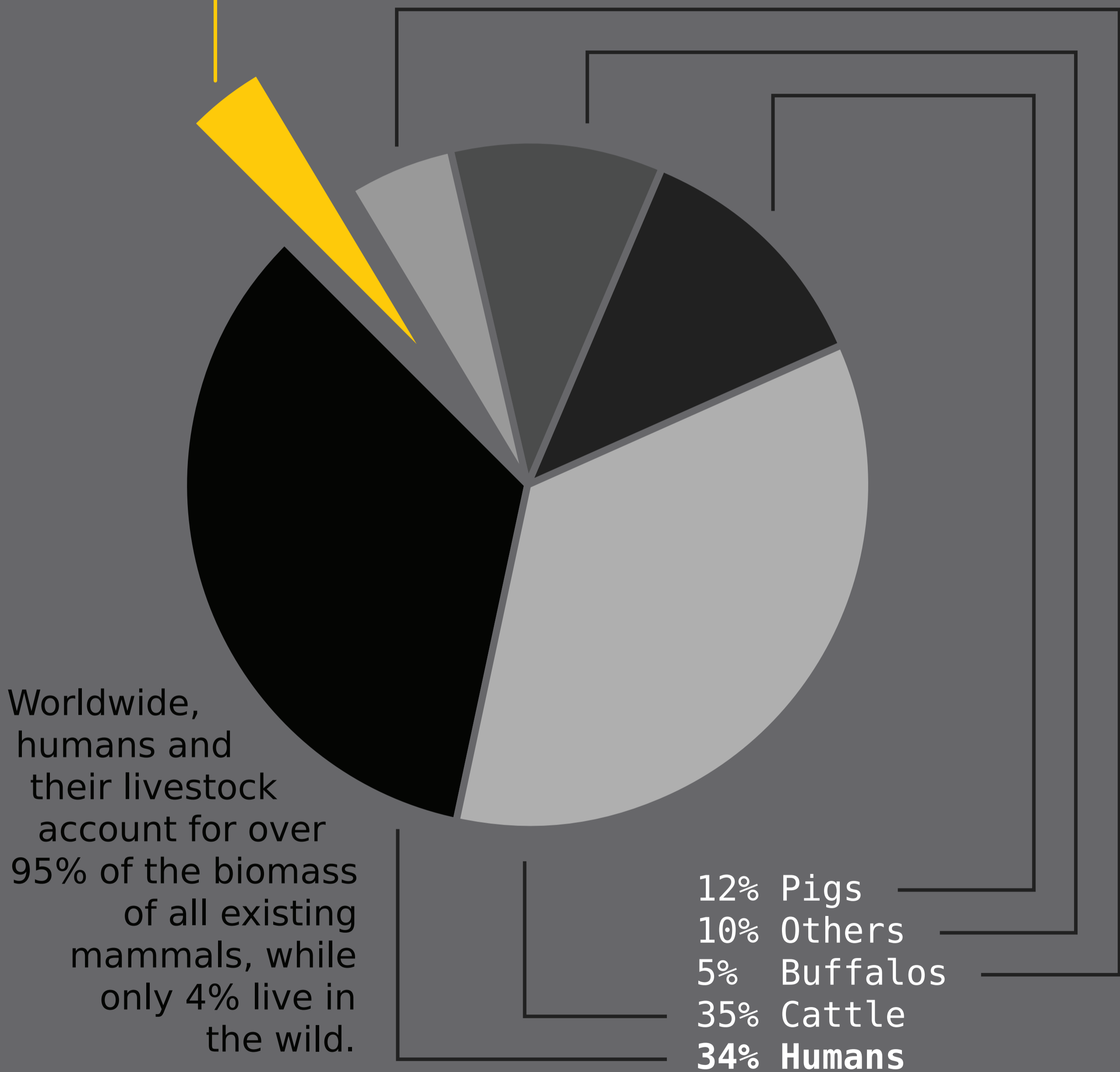
[2] WWF - LIVING PLANET REPORT (2022) BUILDING A NATUREPOSITIVE SOCIETY

[3] SKIDMORE ET AL. (2021) CATTLE RANCHERS AND DEFORESTATION IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

[4] HANNAH RITCHIE (2021) IF THE WORLD ADOPTED A PLANT-BASED DIET

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BIOMASS OF ALL MAMMALS

Only 4% of all mammals live in the wild. [1]



[1] YINON M. BAR-ON, ROB PHILLIPS, RON MILO (2018) THE BIOMASS DISTRIBUTION ON EARTH

THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION

The extinction of animal species is part of evolution and is called the background extinction rate. However, the current impact of humans is likely to increase this rate by a factor of 100 to 1000. [1]

Due to a lack of data, it is very difficult to make more precise statements, which is why more research is needed.

It is estimated that around one million species could become extinct in the next two decades. This would equate to 150 animal and plant species per day. [2]

Rainforests are mainly affected, as they are being cleared to make way mostly for agricultural land for animal feed production and for grazing land for cattle breeding. [3] Both animal feed and beef are imported to us on a large scale. [4]

In Austria, a large number of species are also endangered or already extinct. For example, it is unimaginable today that commercial fishing in the Inn was important until the 19th century [5] and ultimately stopped with the building of hydroelectric power plants. [6]

[1] ROBERT COWIE ET AL. (2022) THE SIXTH MASS EXTINCTION

[2] IPBES (2019) GLOBAL ASSESSMENT REPORT ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

[3] SKIDMORE ET AL. (2021) CATTLE RANCHERS AND DEFORESTATION IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

[4] HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG, GLOBAL 2000, VIER PFOTEN (2021) FLEISCHATLAS

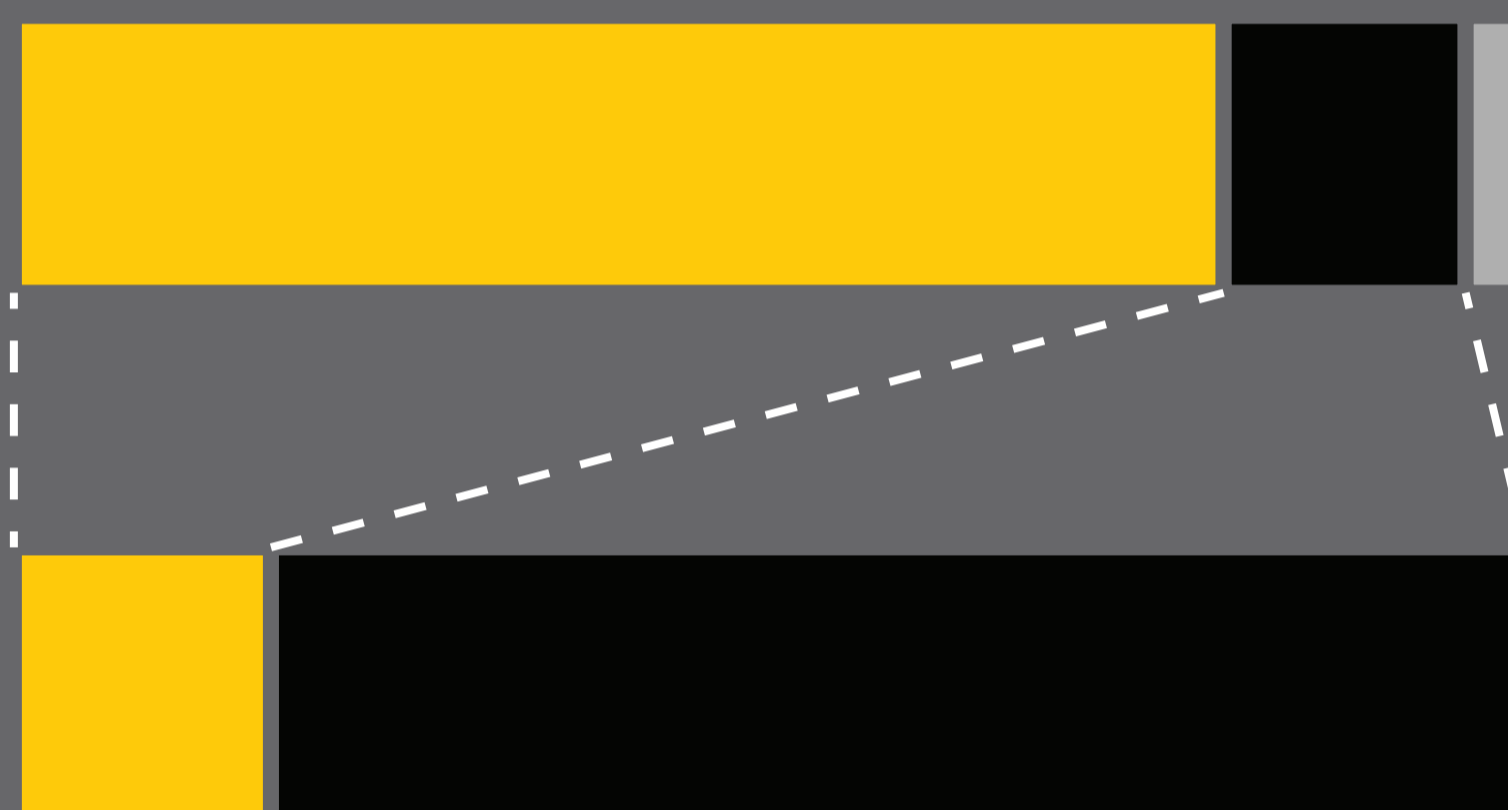
[5] PAUL EUGEN GRIMM: INN. IN: HISTORISCHES LEXIKON DER SCHWEIZ

[6] EBERHARD PFEUFFER (2014) BIODIVERSITÄTSVERLUST DURCH FLUSSVERBAUUNG

AREA REQUIREMENT FOR ANIMAL AND PLANT CALORIES

Use of global agricultural land:

80% livestock and animal feed
16% crops for human consumption
4% other useful plants



Calorie intake of all people:

17% animal-based
83% plant-based

[1]

Agricultural land is mainly used for livestock farming, but this only provides a small proportion of total calories. Plants, on the other hand, play only a minor role in total land consumption, but provide the majority of calories in the human diet.

One calorie of beef requires 100 times as much land to produce as one calorie of tofu. [2]

CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

Austria and Europe have shown in the past that wildlife conservation can be successful. The relocation of agricultural land to the Global South since the 1950s [1] and the expansion of nature reserves [2] have enabled many species to recover. [3]

These successes show that improvement is possible and that intact habitats are needed for biodiversity.

However, this should not obscure existing deficits. Our rivers in particular are not ecologically intact over long stretches due to heavy construction for regulation and hydropower generation. [4]

In addition, climate change and the use of pesticides [5] are putting many species under pressure. In the Alps, this threatens to lead to increased extinction, as species migration is difficult due to the highly fragmented landscape. [6]

In addition to the restoration of lost habitats, we are also called upon to monitor supply chains more closely: By importing meat and feed for our industrially farmed animals, we run the risk of contributing to the sixth mass extinction in the history of the planet.

[1] WORLD BANK GROUP - DATA - AGRICULTURAL LAND (% OF LAND AREA) - AUSTRIA

[2] OUR WORLD DATA (2021) SHARE OF LAND DEFINED AS NATURAL HABITAT

[3] LEDGER ET AL. (2022) WILDLIFE COMEBACK IN EUROPE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

[4] SCHMUTZ ET AL. (2010) ÖKOLOGISCHER ZUSTAND DER FLIESSGEWÄSSER ÖSTERREICHS

[5] HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG, GLOBAL 2000 (2022) PESTIZIDATLAS

[6] THUILLER ET AL. (2005) CLIMATE CHANGE THREATS TO PLANT DIVERSITY IN EUROPE



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PROJECT AS PART OF
KUNST IM ÖFFENTLICHEN RAUM TIROL (KÖR TIROL)

COORDINATION
KÜNSTLER*INNEN VEREINIGUNG TIROL (KÜVETI)

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LAND TIROL

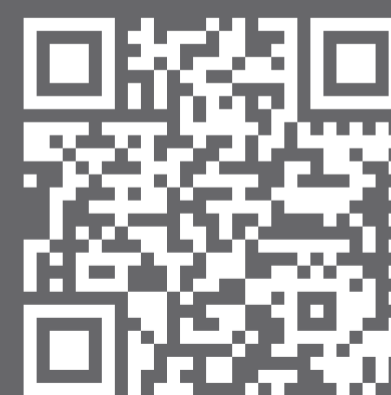
TEXTURES
ASTEROID VESTA
PHOTOGRAPHED 2011 BY SPACE PROBE DAWN
COURTESY NASA/JPL-CALTECH

RESOURCES
SCAFFOLDING IS RENTAL OBJECT
115 KG REINFORCING STEEL CORRESPONDS TO 195 KG CO₂
25 KG POLYESTER FROM 100% RECYCLED PET BOTTLES

IDEA & REALISATION
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