

Endangered species of lions



African lions

- Threats : In the past two decades, there is a rapid decline in the population of African lions . According to experts , it is 30 to 50 % of the total population .
- In 1950, the number of African lions is about 400 000 at the beginning of 1990 - 100,000 in 2002 - 2004 - 47 000 to 16 500 individuals.



Reasons

The main reasons for reducing the number of the African lion are infectious diseases , trophy hunting and habitat loss . The main threat - conflicts with humans. People are trying to protect pets and their own lives , often ruthlessly kill lions (poisoned bait - a common practice to destroy them) . In addition , the West African lion isolated from lions that inhabit Central Africa . This aspect has a negative impact on reproduction and , ultimately , on the genetic diversity of the species.

A major role in maintaining populations of African lions playing the creation of national parks and game reserves . The most famous of them - Etosha National Park in Namibia , Serengeti National Park in Tanzania , and Kruger National Park in South Africa.

Extinct lions

Cave lion (Latin *Panthera leo spelaea*.) - An extinct subspecies of lions lived in the Pleistocene period in Europe and Siberia. It comes almost creating the largest family of cats . For a long time nothing was known about this lion is a German physician engaged in the natural sciences , Georg August Goldfuss found the skull of a cave lion , and did not describe it. Now this subspecies became particularly distinguished from other members of this species

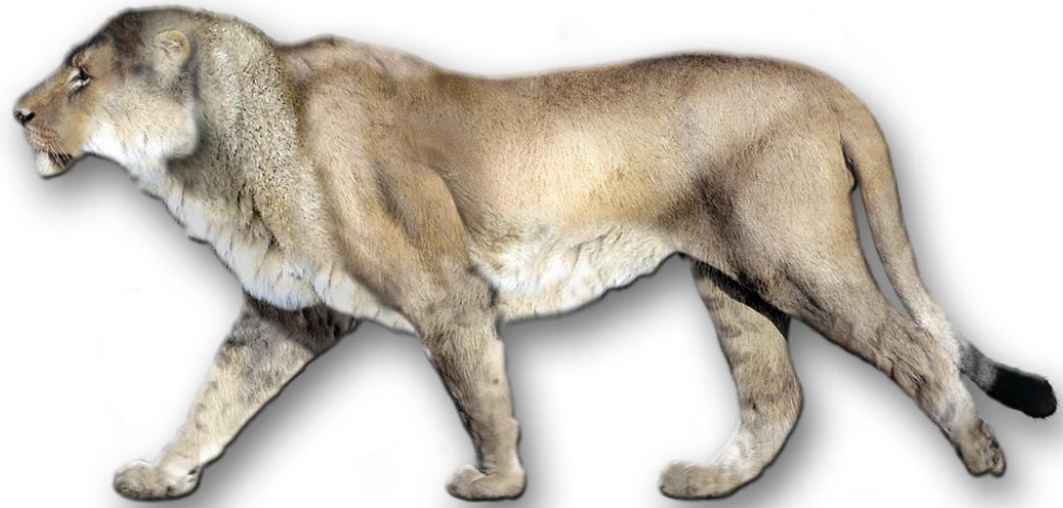
cave lion (*Panthera leo spelaea*)

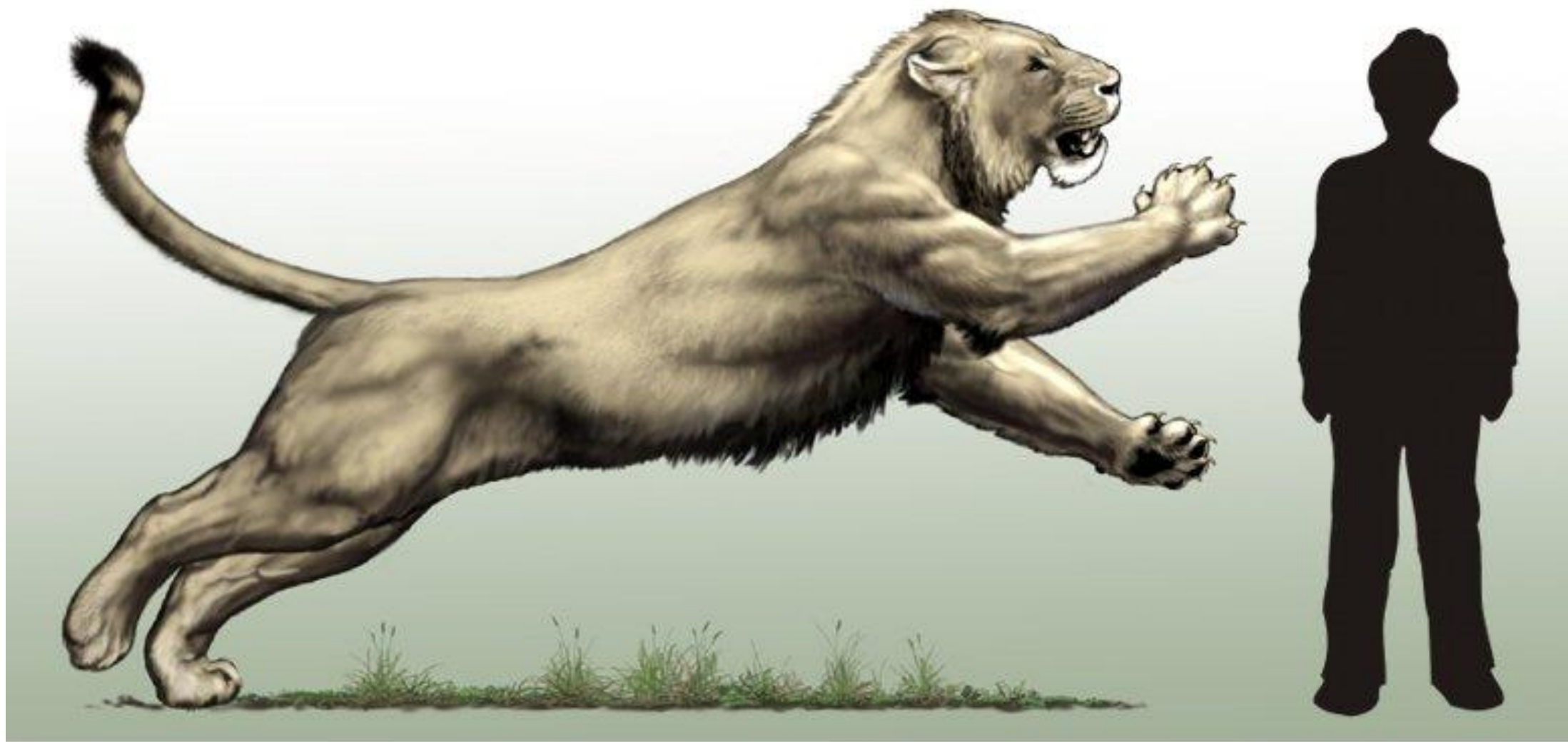
30 cm 
12 inches 



American lion

- American Lion (Latin *Panthera leo atrox*.) - An extinct subspecies of lion, who lived on the American continent in the upper Pleistocene. He was in close relationship with the also extinct cave lion (*Panthera leo spelaea*).









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