

Do you want to be a Giraffe Spotter?

Are you on safari in Kidepo Valley National Park?

Are you a local tour operator?
Or an UWA ranger?

You can become a 'citizen scientist' and play an important role in helping to understand and monitor the local Rothschild's giraffe population.



While on safari in the Kidepo Valley National Park (or in neighbouring communal areas) simply do the following:

- Take a photo of the RIGHT and/or LEFT SIDE of each giraffe (see example on the right).
- Record the location of the giraffe. You can simply use the GPS function of your camera (if available), a handheld GPS (decimal degrees or UTM UPS in WGS 1984), or note the map location/track name.
- Go online to **www.giraffespotter.org** and upload your photos and location.
- Or you can simply send the photos and location of the giraffe to us at:

kidepo@giraffeconservation.org

We will compare all photos with our database of individual giraffe and this will help us monitor the population and their development.

Together we can help conserve Uganda's endangered Rothschild's giraffe.

Rothschild's giraffe are listed as 'Endangered'

Rothschild's giraffe are sometimes also referred to as the Ugandan or Baringo giraffe, as they historically ranged throughout Uganda, west and central Kenya, and South Sudan. Interestingly, the majority of Rothschild's giraffe in Kenya today live outside their natural range, in contrast to those in Uganda and South Sudan.

Example photo



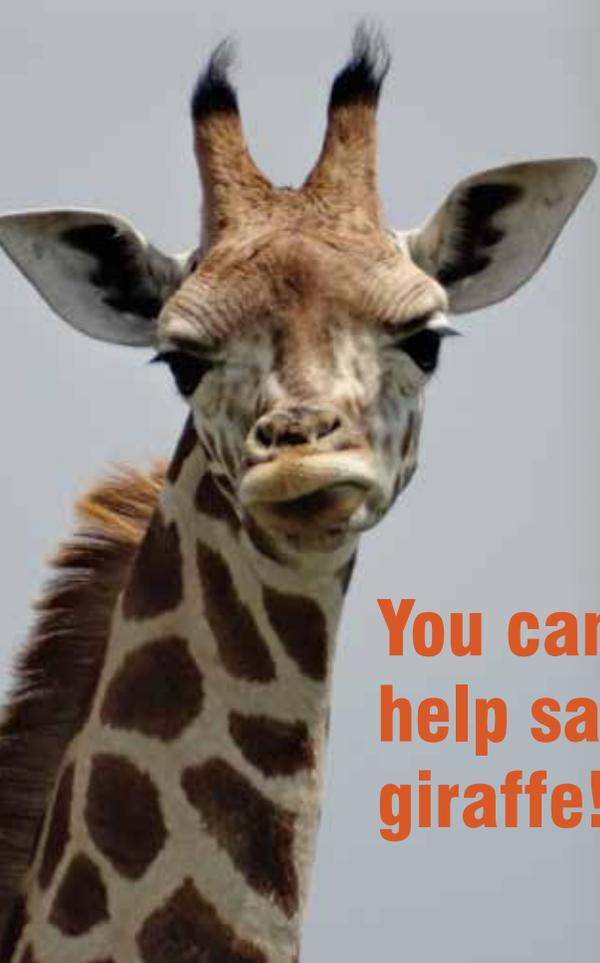
Uganda now hosts the largest population of Rothschild's giraffe in the world. With fewer than 1,500 individuals remaining in the wild, in 2010 the Rothschild's giraffe subspecies was classified as 'Endangered' and of high conservation importance on the IUCN Red List. Efforts to reintroduce a small number of these giraffe into their native range in Lake Baringo, Kenya, in 2011 have proved successful, and most recently 15 Rothschild's giraffe were re-introduced to Lake Mburo National Park in south-western Uganda.

Threats to the survival of giraffe in Kidepo Valley National Park

Illegal hunting (poaching) was a major issue in Kidepo Valley National Park in the past due to civil unrest in neighbouring South Sudan. In the 1990s the giraffe population in Kidepo Valley National Park was reduced to only three individuals. Whilst poaching has stopped, giraffe are still under threat by habitat loss and fragmentation, and disease. All these threats can ultimately be linked to human population growth.

The giraffe population has been supplemented with Rothschild's giraffe translocated from Kenya and the population has increased but it is still small and needs all our support.





You can help save giraffe!

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) is the only charity in the world that is entirely dedicated to giraffe conservation in the wild. We undertake conservation efforts across Africa and/or support initiatives on all nine currently recognised giraffe subspecies. Along with our research and conservation projects, GCF supports environmental education and community based programmes. We believe that it is critical for all of us to learn more about our environment and how best to conserve it. Here in Uganda we encourage you to visit the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre and read information provided by the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

To support this work and help us save giraffe in the wild, in particular those in Kidepo Valley National Park, please visit: www.giraffeconservation.org or contact us directly at: kidepo@giraffeconservation.org

How do you know it is a Rothschild's giraffe?

Rothschild's giraffe are easy to identify and have large, dark rectangular blotches that are set irregularly against a cream background. The lower legs are noticeably white and not patterned – it almost looks like they are wearing 'white socks'.



This project is a collaborative effort of:



Did you know no two giraffe have the same spot pattern?

Just like every human has unique fingerprints, every individual giraffe has its own unique spot pattern. Therefore, each individual giraffe can be identified by looking at its pattern. By taking photos of the giraffe in Kidepo Valley National Park and participating in this 'citizen science' project, you can help to determine the accurate number of giraffe in this population. These efforts will help us to better understand giraffe in the Park and in all of Uganda.

