

AFRICA'S GIRAFFE

Conservation Status & Distribution

Thank you to Cindy Armstrong, Billy Dodson and Ann & Steve Toon for providing the images and map.

Taxonomy & Populations

Class: Mammalia (Mammals)

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Giraffidae

Genus, Species and Subspecies:

Giraffa camelopardalis

G. c. antiquorum
G. c. camelopardalis
G. c. peralta

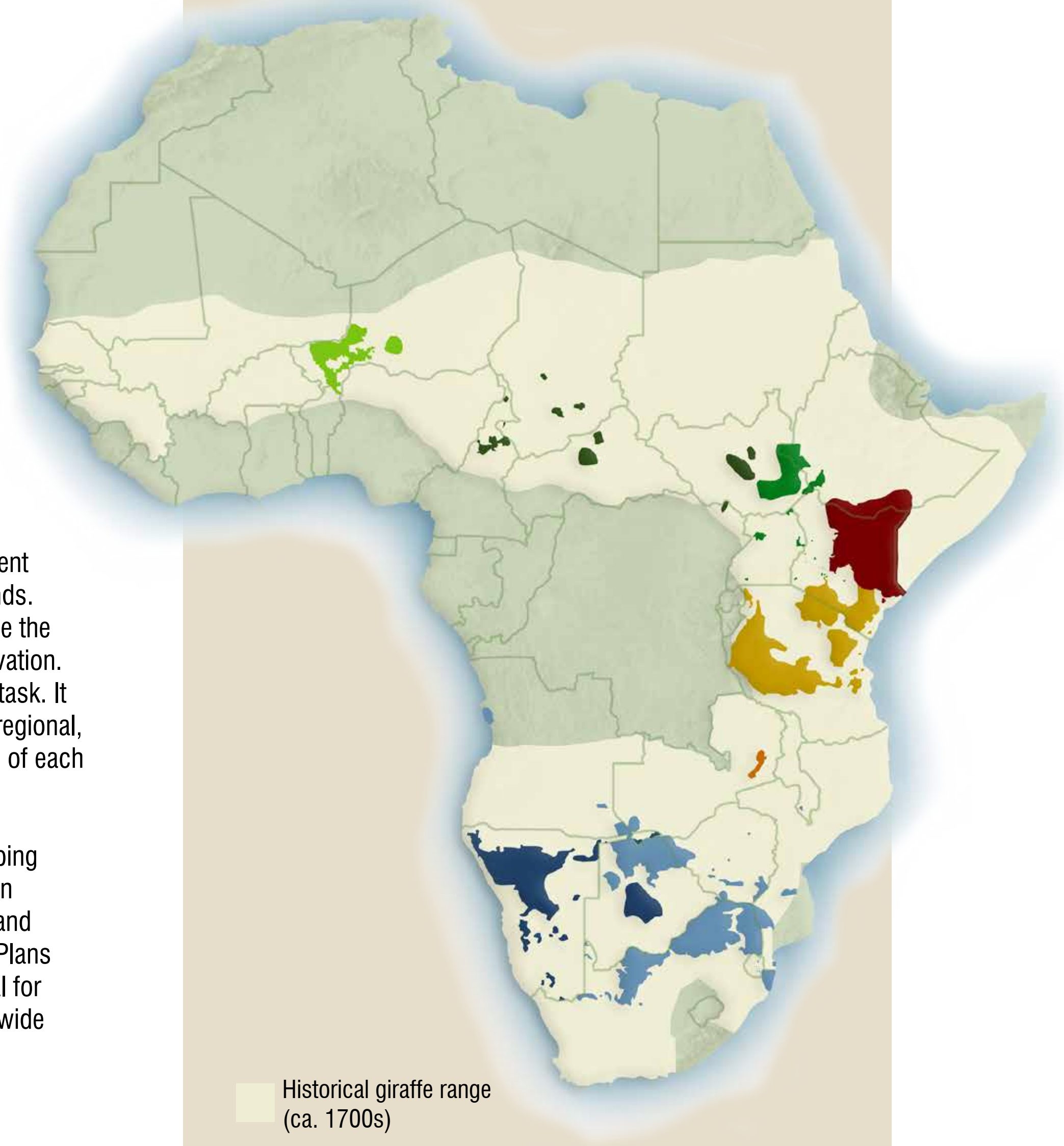
Giraffa giraffa

G. g. angolensis
G. g. giraffa

Giraffa reticulata

Giraffa tippelskirchi

G. t. thornicrofti
G. t. tippelskirchi



Masai giraffe	<i>Giraffa tippelskirchi</i>	45,400
Luangwa giraffe	<i>G. t. thornicrofti</i>	650
Masai giraffe	<i>G. t. tippelskirchi</i>	44,750
Northern giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	5,900
Kordofan giraffe	<i>G. c. antiquorum</i>	2,300
Nubian giraffe	<i>G. c. camelopardalis</i>	3,000
West African giraffe	<i>G. c. peralta</i>	600
Reticulated giraffe	<i>Giraffa reticulata</i>	15,950
Southern giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>	49,850
Angolan giraffe	<i>G. g. angolensis</i>	20,200
South African giraffe	<i>G. g. giraffa</i>	29,650

Status and Statistics

In the 1980s, giraffe numbers in Africa were estimated at more than 155,000 individuals. Today, GCF estimates the current Africa-wide giraffe population at approximately 117,000 individuals. This is a drop by almost 30%, which is a slightly less bleak outlook than previously portrayed in the 2016 IUCN Red List assessment, which estimated giraffe at less than 100,000 individuals. This updated information is based on a combination of improved data and actual increases in numbers. Unfortunately, in some areas traditionally regarded as prime giraffe habitat, numbers are thought to have dropped by 95%.

With the new scientific findings by GCF and partners of four distinct species of giraffe, which have significant conservation implications, it is hoped that the specific and updated information will soon be taken into consideration by the IUCN for further conservation assessments. Most importantly, it would give each giraffe species its own taxonomical status and thus conservationists a mandate for increased and targeted protection.

In 2016, the giraffe as a species was uplisted from *Least Concern* to *Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List. In 2018/19, eight of the nine currently recognised subspecies were assessed and are now listed on the IUCN Red List. All of these assessments were based on GCF's foundational work.

IUCN Red List

As a species:
Giraffe

Vulnerable

The listed subspecies:

Angolan giraffe
Kordofan giraffe
Masai giraffe
Nubian giraffe
Reticulated giraffe
Rothschild's giraffe
Luangwa (Thornicroft's) giraffe
West African giraffe

Least Concern
Critically Endangered
Endangered
Critically Endangered
Endangered
Near Threatened
Vulnerable
Vulnerable

Stakeholders

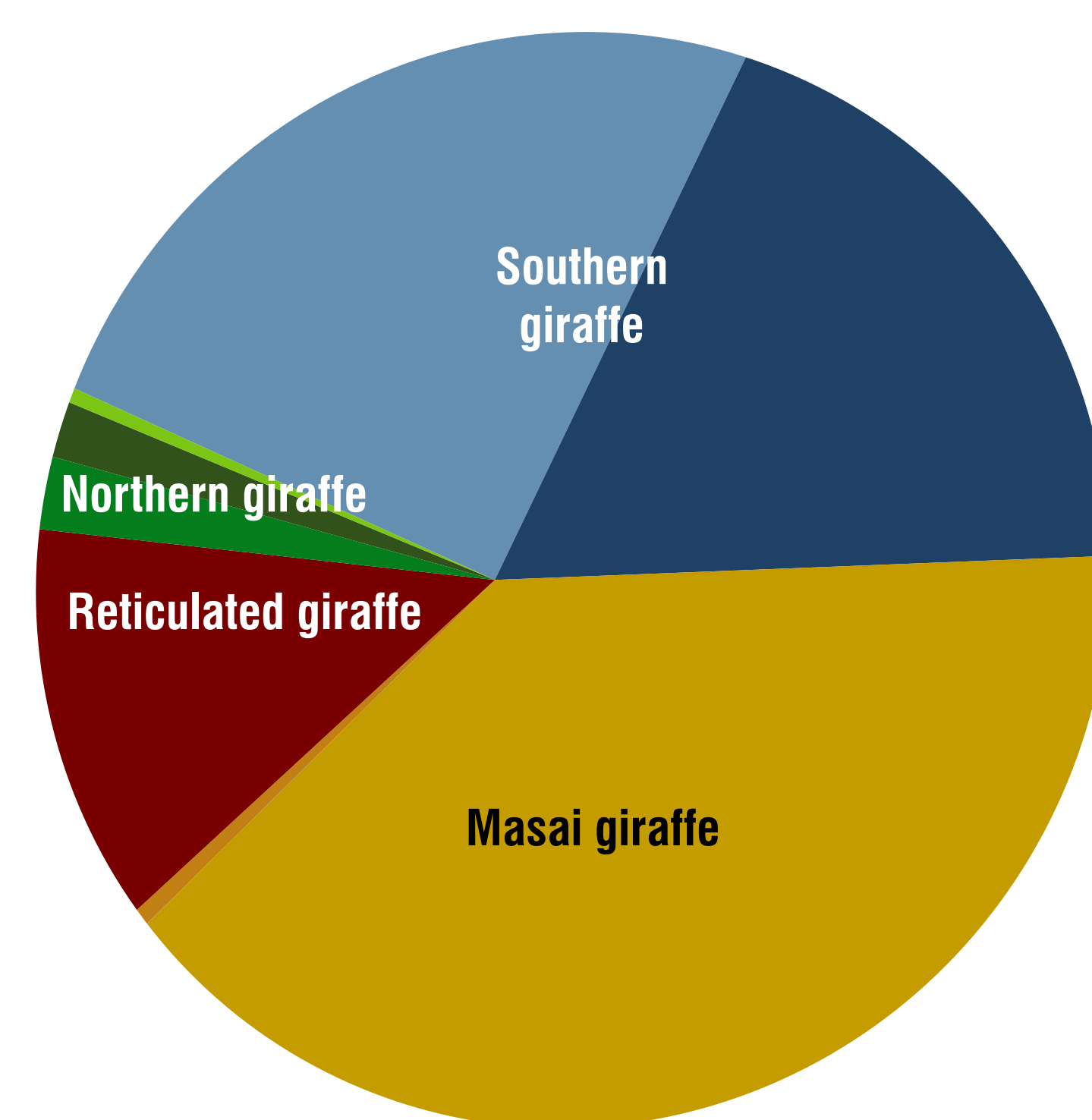
Occurring naturally in 21 African countries, giraffe live throughout all land-management regimes: from state-owned national parks and reserves to private and communal lands. Many of the individuals and organisations who live and work in these areas recognise the importance of giraffe and have become directly or indirectly involved in their conservation. As giraffe are widely distributed throughout Africa, their conservation is not an easy task. It is vitally important, but also challenging, to develop and coordinate continent-wide, regional, national or species-specific strategies and action plans that incorporate the priorities of each country, every stakeholder, and the four species of giraffe.

Although giraffe conservation should be seen as an Africa-wide initiative, GCF is helping to tackle it by starting with a country-by-country and species-by-species approach in partnership with relevant stakeholders. So far, GCF has supported the development and implementation of the first-ever National Giraffe Conservation Strategies and Action Plans for six countries and one regional Strategy (KAZA TFCA). These strategies are critical for the long-term objective of developing and operationalising a consolidated continent-wide approach to giraffe conservation.

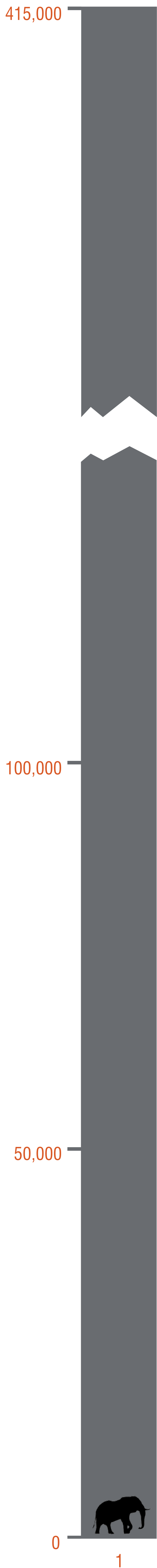
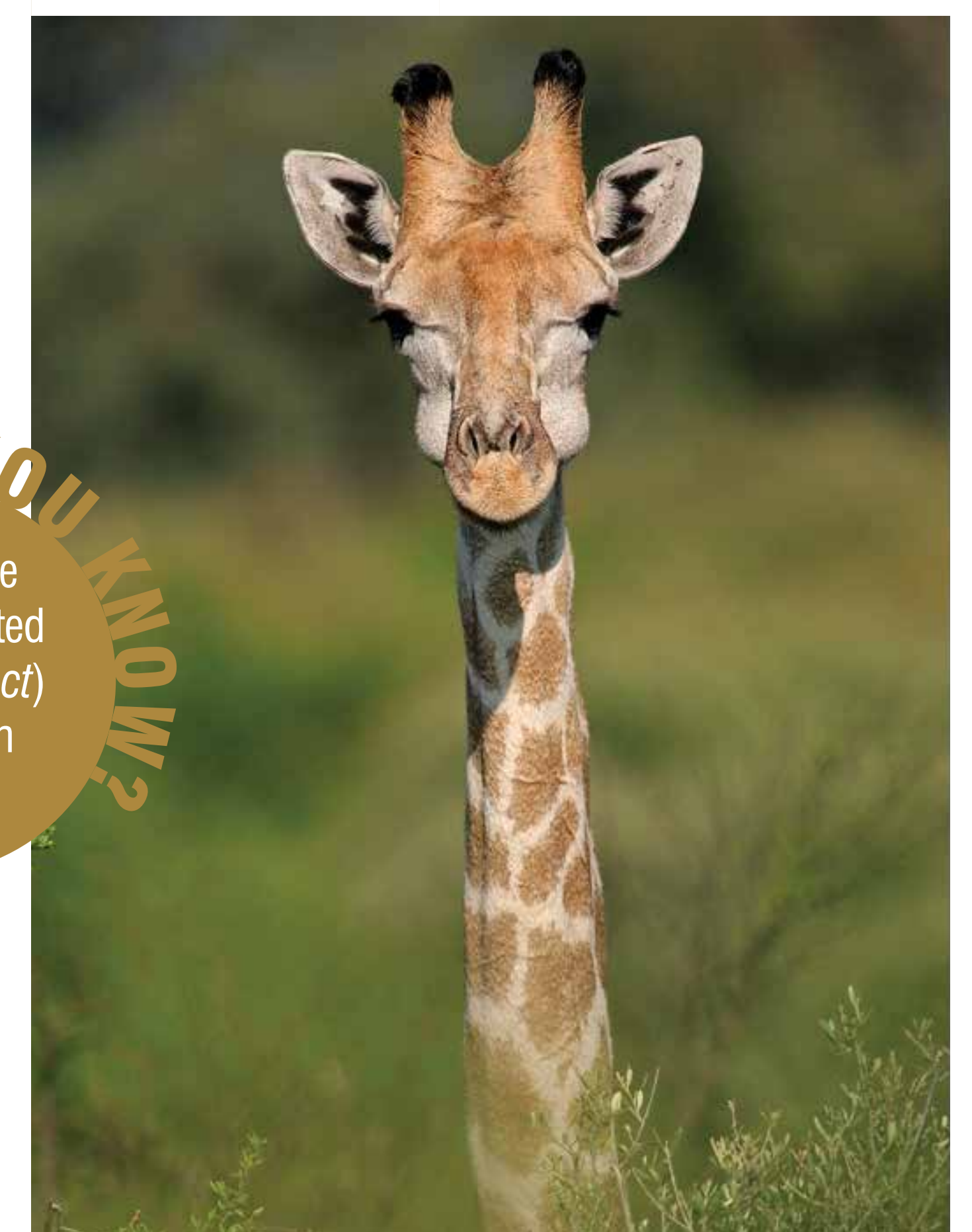
International Conventions

Although there is limited recognised international trade in giraffe, they were listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 2019. GCF is committed to monitoring current circumstances regarding the trade of giraffe (local vs. international) and providing recommendations for future assessments. In 2018, giraffe were added to Appendix II of the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) in recognition of their transboundary movements and a need for increased conservation protection and monitoring across international boundaries. GCF played an instrumental role in the development of the proposal for this listing for the Government of Angola and the United Nations.

1. African savanna elephant	415,000
2. Hippo	130,000
3. Giraffe (all)	117,000
4. Southern giraffe	49,850
5. Masai giraffe	45,400
6. Lion	30,000
7. Reticulated giraffe	15,950
8. Cheetah	10,000
9. Northern giraffe	5,900
10. Black rhino	5,455
11. Mountain gorilla	1,004



DID YOU KNOW?
Giraffe have been extirpated (locally extinct) in 7 African countries.



The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) is dedicated to a sustainable future for all giraffe populations in the wild. GCF is the only NGO in the world that concentrates solely on the conservation and management of giraffe in the wild throughout Africa.

giraffeconservation.org