



AFRICA'S GIRAFFE

Conservation Status & Distribution

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



Conservation Status

The IUCN Red List:
 Vulnerable (VU): as one species (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)
 Endangered (2008): *G. c. peralta* (West African giraffe)
 Endangered (2010): *G. c. rothschildi* (Rothschild's giraffe – now subsumed into Nubian giraffe *G. c. camelopardalis*)

Taxonomy & Populations



Stakeholders

Giraffe, at present, occur in 21 African countries. They are found throughout different land-management regimes: from state-owned national parks to private and communal lands. Many of the organisations and individuals who work and live in these areas – often as participants in the wildlife industry – recognise the importance of giraffe and have become involved, either directly or indirectly, in the conservation of the species. As giraffe are widely distributed throughout Africa, their conservation is not an easy task.

It will be a challenge to establish and coordinate a continent-wide strategy and action plan that incorporates the priorities of each stakeholder, country, and the four species and their subspecies.

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. Priorities are critical for the development of a consolidated continent-wide strategy, which is the long-term objective.

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

As there is no officially recognised international trade in giraffe, the species is therefore not listed in this convention. However, GCF continues to monitor and investigate trade in giraffe parts and products, especially in East and Central Africa, where local and international trade appears to be on the increase.

Status and Statistics

Three decades ago, in the 1980s, the total number of all giraffe in Africa was estimated at approximately 155,000 individuals. The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group and GCF estimate the current Africa-wide giraffe population to be less than 100,000 individuals. This is a drop of almost 40%. In some areas traditionally regarded as prime giraffe habitat, numbers have dropped by more than 95%.

Limited conservation research has been undertaken on giraffe throughout Africa. Whilst the IUCN Red List currently recognises one species of giraffe and nine subspecies, new findings by GCF and partners suggest that there are actually four species and five subspecies of giraffe. It is hoped that this updated information will soon be taken into consideration by the IUCN for future conservation assessments.

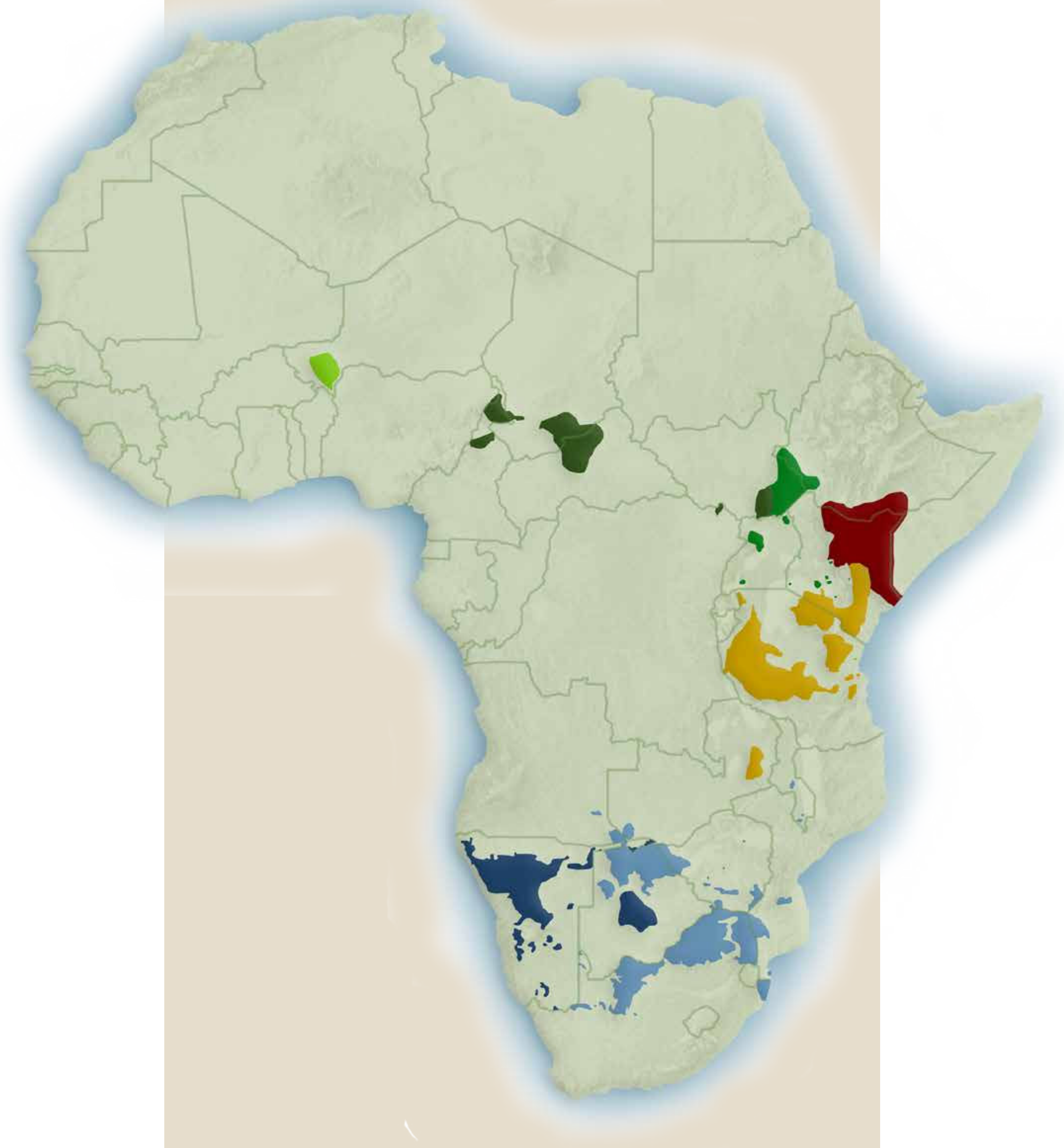
The four giraffe species have shown different population trends over the last three decades:

- **Northern giraffe** numbers have declined by more than 90%
- **Reticulated giraffe** numbers have declined by almost 80%
- **Masai giraffe** numbers have declined by more than 50%
- **Southern giraffe**, however, have increased their numbers by more than double.

As a species, the giraffe is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Two of the currently recognised subspecies are listed as Endangered with a high conservation priority, and updated assessments for most subspecies have been submitted for review. Their status on the IUCN Red List confirms the urgent need to conserve them.

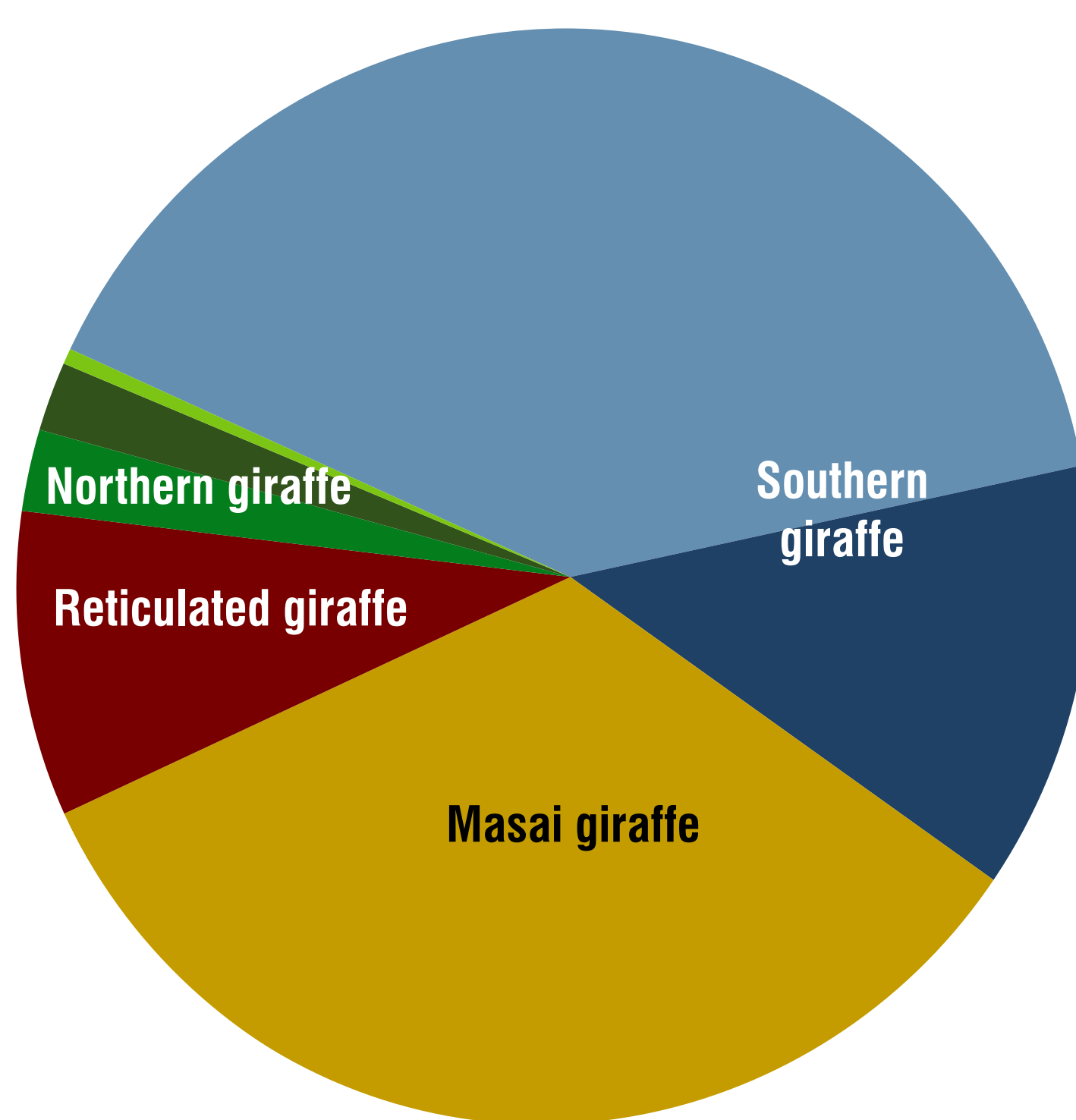
GCF researchers continue to develop the first-ever continent-wide giraffe-range-state country profiles. These profiles collate all historical and currently available census and anecdotal data on giraffe numbers and distribution, as well as threats to the specific region's or nation's giraffe. The most up-to-date population figures are listed in the graph below and they formed the basis for many of the new IUCN Red List assessments.

Should a new IUCN Red List assessment based on the proposed four species be undertaken, three of these would likely be listed as under severe threat.



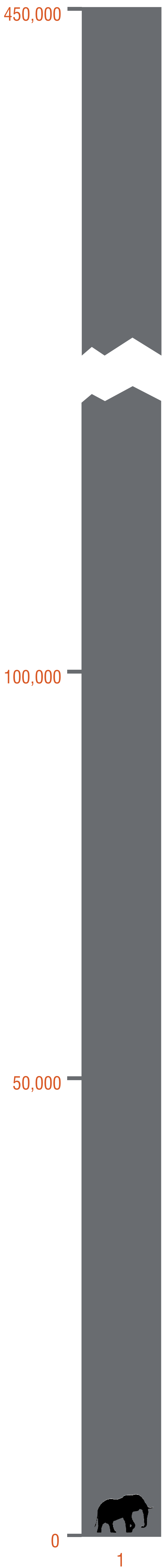
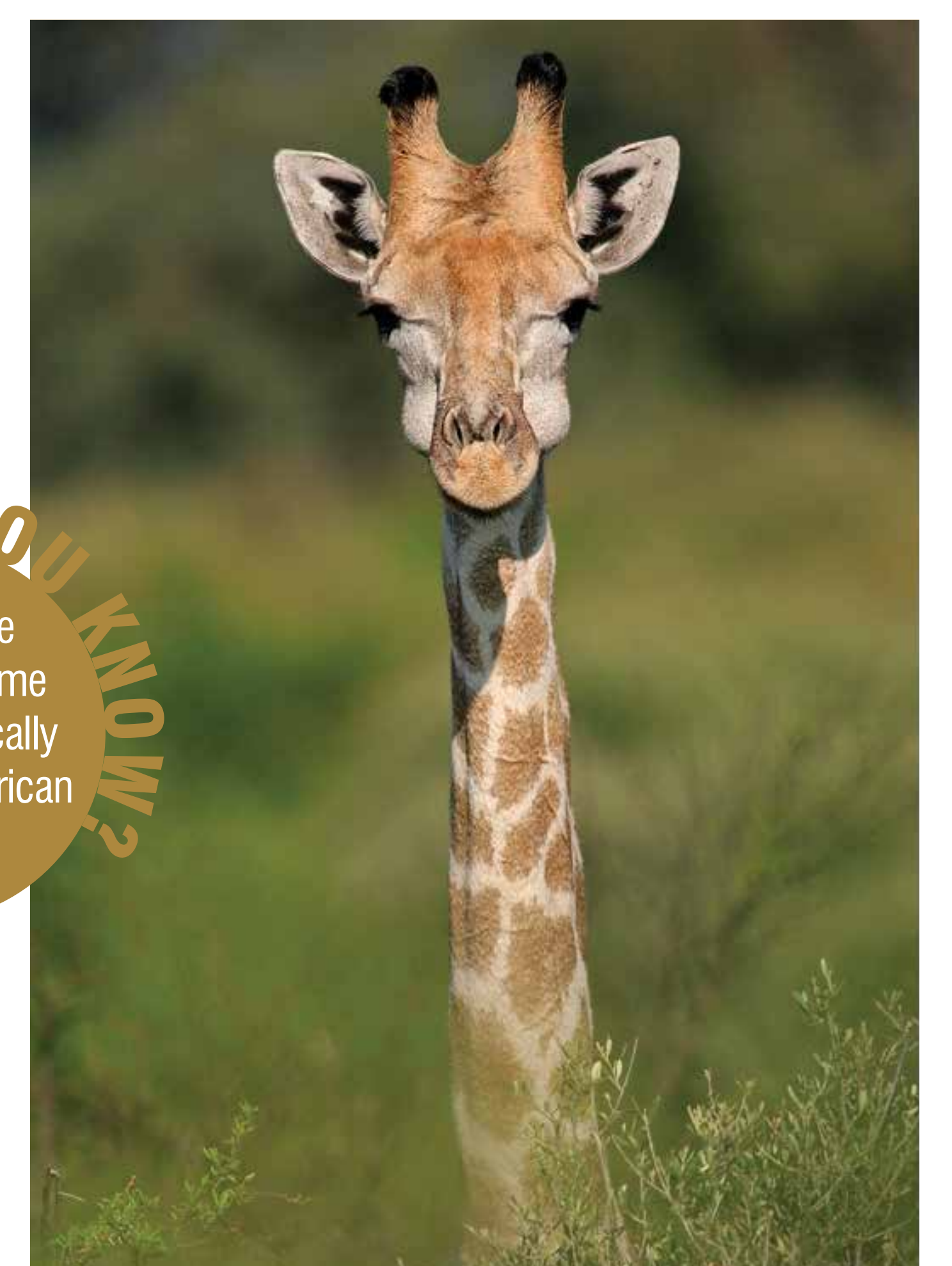
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

1. African elephant	450,000	VU
2. Hippo	125,000	VU
3. Giraffe (all)	98,445	VU
4. Southern giraffe	52,050	NE
5. Masai giraffe	32,500	NE
6. Lion	20,000	VU
7. Reticulated giraffe	8,700	NE
8. Cheetah	7,500	VU
9. Black rhino	5,250	CR
10. Northern giraffe	5,195	NE
11. Mountain gorilla	880	CR



DID YOU KNOW?
 Giraffe have already become extirpated (locally extinct) in 7 African countries!

Masai giraffe	<i>Giraffa tippelskirchi</i>	32,500
Northern giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	5,195
Kordofan giraffe	<i>G. c. antiquorum</i>	2,000
Nubian giraffe	<i>G. c. camelopardalis</i>	2,645
West African giraffe	<i>G. c. peralta</i>	550
Reticulated giraffe	<i>Giraffa reticulata</i>	8,700
Southern giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>	52,050
Angolan giraffe	<i>G. g. angolensis</i>	13,050
South African giraffe	<i>G. g. giraffa</i>	39,000



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