

Giraffe = a Vulnerable Species



Did you know that there are fewer giraffe left in Africa than there are elephant? In fact giraffe numbers have dropped from 155,000 in the 1980s to less than 100,000 today. This means that there are four times less elephant than giraffe remaining in Africa. This is why conservationists are working hard to understand and protect these amazing animals. Recently, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed giraffe as vulnerable to extinction. This means that there is a real danger giraffe could go extinct during our lifetime. Yet lots of people around the world think that giraffe are everywhere in Africa. So giraffe need some special love and attention.

Why does it matter?

Giraffe are very important to the environment: think of all the leaves that would go wasted if there were no giraffe to reach the top branches. They are also very important to tourism. Lots of people from around the world come to Africa every year to see wildlife including giraffe. Plus, why would you not want to see them roaming around the bushveld? Imagine Namibia without giraffe!

Why are giraffe vulnerable?

Giraffe like many animals in Africa are struggling because of habitat loss. We humans and our livestock take up a lot of space and there are more of us every day. Another threat to giraffe is poaching. In some areas of Africa, poachers kill giraffe for food – think how many people you could feed with a giraffe! Sadly, giraffe are already extinct (no more living animals exist) in at least seven countries in Africa.

This is why we at the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) have been working hard for many years to protect and conserve giraffe in the whole of Namibia and Africa. We work in many different countries throughout Africa – all from our little office here in Windhoek.



Spotlight = Namibian Giraffe

Giraffe have lived in Namibia for thousands of years. We know this from bones and rock art that was found in the Kunene Region.



Today giraffe occur throughout Namibia and we believe that there are more than 12,000 giraffe in Namibia in total. We can be very proud of this as giraffe numbers are dropping in most other countries, but here in Namibia they are increasing. This is a great conservation success due to the excellent collaboration of the Namibian government, private land owners and conservation organisations. Namibia is one of the only countries in the world where giraffe numbers are increasing.

Southern Africa is home to almost half of the entire giraffe population in Africa.

Here in Namibia there are giraffe almost everywhere. There are lots of places to see giraffe even very close to Windhoek, for example in Daan Viljoen Game Reserve or Okapuka Ranch.

Sometimes you can even see them on the way to the airport or Okahandja. Next time you are driving out that way, keep a look out!



If you would like to see a giraffe and go on a fun outing with your school class, scouts group or similar, get in touch. We at the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) run a programme that would take your group on a field trip to Daan Viljoen Game Reserve.

The Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) is a new and exciting programme by GCF. KEEP aims at grade 3 & 4 students in the Khomas Region and we want to teach you what difference YOU can make to conservation and the natural environment of Namibia. While we are in the field you get the chance to see all sorts of wildlife from giraffe to dung beetle. KEEP has been running for just over one year now and so far we have already taken over 2,500 children from the Khomas Region into the field for a day. Why don't you come and join us too? To find out more and get involved visit our website
<https://giraffeconservation.org>
or drop us an email
info@giraffeconservation.org

