Stakeholders

Giraffe, at present, occur in 27 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 giraffes and have become involved, either directly or indirectly, in the conservation of the species. As giraffes 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, 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. Priorities are critical for the development of a consolidated continent-wide strategy, which is the long-term objective.

CITES

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.

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

Three decades ago, in the 1980s, the total number of all giraffe in Africa was estimated at approximately 150,000 individuals. The IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group and GCF estimate the current Africa-wide giraffe population to be approximately 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 90%.

The research that has been done on giraffe throughout Africa is extremely limited. While 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 important to note 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 80%
- **Reticulated giraffe**: numbers have declined by almost 60%
- **Masai giraffe**: numbers have declined by more than 50%
- **Southern giraffe**: numbers have increased by more than 40%

As a single species, the giraffe is currently listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List. A recent Red List assessment submission to IUCN proposes giraffe be listed as a species under threat. Already two of the currently recognised subspecies have been elevated to Endangered, and high conservation priority is highlighted in the urgent need for future updates including all species, driven by solid baseline data throughout the continent.

GCF continues to develop the first-ever continent-wide, giraffe range-state conservation assessments. These profiles collect all historically and currently available census and anecdotal data on giraffe numbers and distribution, as well as threats to its specific region or nation’s giraffe. The most up-to-date population figures are shown in the database, and form the basis for most of the new IUCN Red List assessment.

If an IUCN Red List assessment was undertaken based on the proposed four species, three of those would likely be listed as under threat.

### Status and Statistics

- **Masai giraffe**: Giraffa tippelskirchi, 52,500
- **Northern giraffe**: Giraffa camelopardalis, 4,500
- **Reticulated giraffe**: Giraffa camelopardalis, 2,000
- **Nubian giraffe**: Giraffa camelopardalis, 250
- **West African giraffe**: Giraffa peralta, 20
- **Northern giraffe**: Giraffa peralta, 8,700
- **Southern giraffe**: Giraffa camelopardalis, 32,500
- **Angolan giraffe**: Giraffa peralta, 13,050
- **South African giraffe**: Giraffa peralta, 20,000

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