



Quarterly conservation update – Kordofan giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*), Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

September - November 2018

Summary

1. A total of 26 different giraffe have been identified out of a total population of 48 giraffe, as assessed in April 2018.
2. Two ossicone-units that were donated by the GCF in April 2018 were recalled by Savannah Tracking before future fitting. They are planned to be deployed at the end of dry season by late March 2019.
3. A scientific paper on the population structure and spatial ecology of Garamba's giraffe, following the research efforts of 2016-2017, has been drafted and submitted for publication.
4. AP giraffe research assistant, Achille Diodio, started to work as planned in Garamba NP since mid-September 2018.
5. New classification of Kordofan giraffe as “Critically Endangered” on the [IUCN Red List](#) in mid-November.

Programme

A population assessment on the Kordofan giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*) in the Garamba complex was published in April 2018 and estimated the population at 48 individuals.

During this last quarter (September-November), a total of 58 giraffe (in 30 herds) were observed. Of those observed, only 26 individual giraffe could be identified, leaving 22 giraffe not accounted for during this quarter. However, only a small portion of the observed giraffe could be identified as the majority of observations were undertaken by ranger patrols who have no cameras at hand to collect photos. We do hope that with proposed additional support from the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) we will be able to assist with this in the future – very exciting and will help with ongoing monitoring. Moreover, with wet season reaching its peak in August, the dense vegetation cover is a large constraint to research activities, limiting giraffe observations to aerial surveys as the grass grows as high as three metres! With the upcoming dry season in December and January, and bushfires burning last year's grasses, it is likely more giraffe will be seen next quarter. Stay tuned.

Seven of the eleven juvenile giraffe identified in April 2018 were observed during the quarter. The remaining four juvenile giraffe are possibly still alive but further monitoring will confirm this in the coming quarter. No new juveniles were observed during this quarter.

Two solar-powered GPS satellite ossicone units were donated by GCF to the project in April 2018 to aid in the monitoring of the giraffe in the Garamba complex. Unfortunately, the units were recalled back to the supplier Savannah Tracking to ensure they are working well with the now planned deployment at the end of dry season in March/Apr 2019. Hopefully this work will help our ongoing efforts to monitor the giraffe more regularly.

Following the research activities of 2016-17, a scientific paper has been drafted by Mathias D'haen, Dr. Karolina Brandlova (Czech University of Life Sciences) and Dr. Julian Fennessy (GCF) and was submitted for publication. While the paper focusses on the population structure and spatial ecology of Garamba's giraffe, more detail on the giraffe's threats and status is given in Mathias D'haen's Masters thesis that was submitted and accepted in early-mid 2018.

In September Mr. Achille Diodio Sorue, a giraffe research volunteer, started working in Garamba NP with African Parks. Originally from the region around Garamba, Diodio studied a Bachelors in Science at the University of Kisangani, DRC, after which he undertook a Master's at North West Forestry University in China. Diodio's work will mostly focus on conducting fieldwork and identification of the giraffe, however it is planned that he will be looking more into possible threats and demography work in the following months. It is great to have young interested DRC conservationists involved in the programme and provides a valuable opportunity for increasing capacity in country.



Mr. Achille Diodio on a field mission monitoring Garamba's giraffe.

With an estimated population of 2,000 individuals and globally decreasing, Kordofan giraffe in November 2018 were evaluated by IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group led by GCF's Dr Julian Fennessy and classified as "Critically Endangered". As such, there has never been a more important time to ensure the long-term safety of Garamba's giraffe.



A herd of Kordofan giraffe in Garamba National Park, this group represents almost 1 fifth of the Park's population.

With the additional support of

