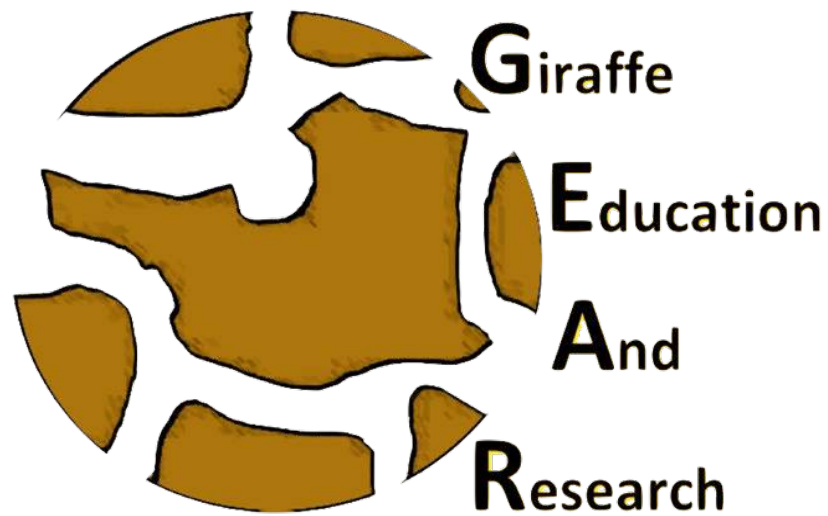


Giraffe Education And Research (GEAR) Lake Mburo National Park



Update Report

March 2019

Supported by



The beginning of GEAR’s second year of operations kick started with a meeting of in country partners.

The new year bought a new Community Conservation Warden, Kirabo Gertrude, and a new Research and Monitoring Warden, Kirumira Dorothy to Lake Mbuoro National Park (LMNP). Both wardens were updated on the projects actions and objectives in a meeting held on the 22nd February at park headquarters. The year’s objectives and operations were discussed and a plan for the year decided upon.

Research & Monitoring

Regular monitoring trips continued from last year with two trips per week. Each trip is conducted by GEAR researcher Natamba Jotham and an UWA ranger. The key findings from these trips this year have been:

After an absence of more than a month Valentine reappeared with the others. We had fully expected her to be with a calf as she had been heavily pregnant and her disappearance following the same pattern of the 7 other females who disappeared off then returned with calves. Upon her return, she looked a lot skinnier, she didn’t have swollen udders and the males were interested in her. All these signs which have led us to conclude she did deliver a calf but it did not survive. It is unknown if it was still-born or died due to a leopard attack or illness. We believe this is the first calf that did not survive.



Later in January Mystery was noted absent from the rest of the giraffe. She reappeared on the 2nd of February with a calf in tow.

Happy news followed again the next month when Irish appeared with her calf on the 5th March.

Left: Mystery & calf.

Below: Irish and calf



The only female to yet show signs of pregnancy is Caroline. She remains flirtatious with the males and does not have the size of being pregnant. We are not sure why, when all the other females have reproduced, she has yet to show signs of pregnancy. She might be younger than the other females but she appears to be similar size to the others. The monitoring team is keeping a close eye on her.



Caroline and Leiden before Kule pushed him away.



We have recently observed a minor health concern with one of the giraffe. Mystery's calf has a very swollen ear. UWA vets have been informed and together with UWA we monitor her closely. The swelling appears to be reducing slowly reducing so we hope that it will heal by itself in time.

We are hopeful that the baby boom will continue as all female giraffe in the population are receiving a lot of male attention. Kule seems to be the most dominant male. We often observe him to chase away the other three males when a female of interest is around.



Kule urine testing Nicky



Leiden and Bernard necking

The monitoring team is still struggling to gather early and late activity budget observations but we are working on a new action plan which should help tackle this issue.

Education

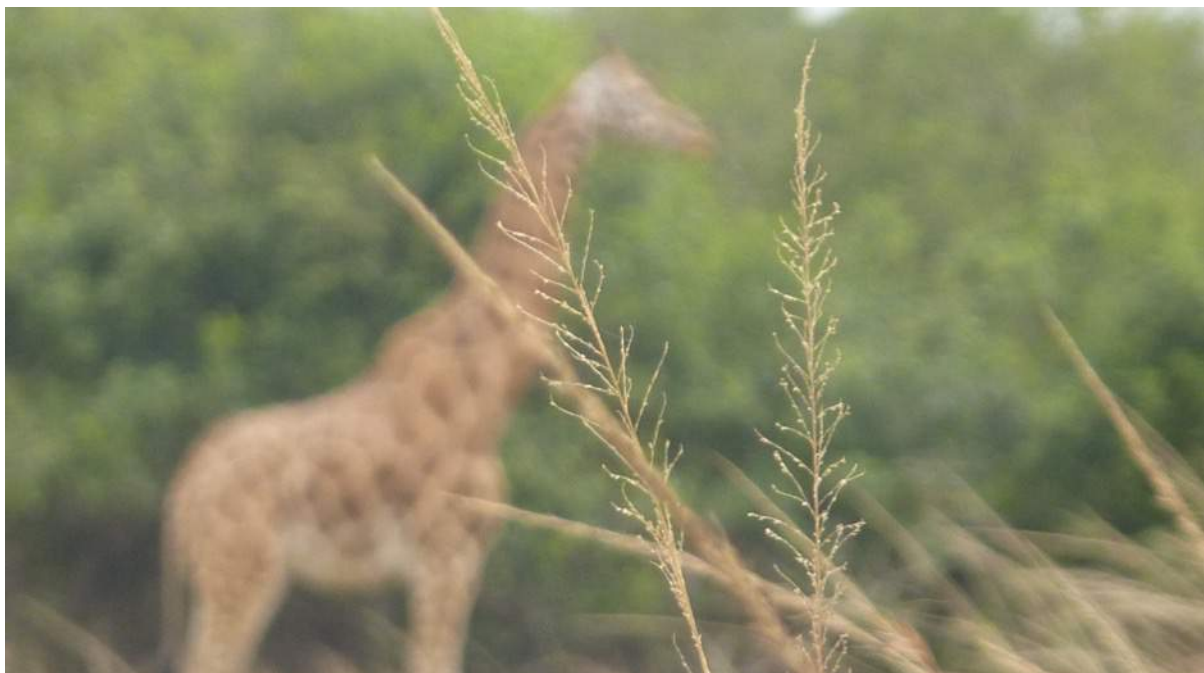
Schools around the western border of the park have been sensitized about the park day trips. It was decided to conduct seven trips in the first term and eight in the second term. The Community Conservation department requested for three specific schools to be included in these trips. These are schools who had submitted a request for help from UWA for conducting a school trip but which, due to mechanical problems with their truck, UWA had been unable to facilitate.

Two trips have been conducted on 28th and 29th March with Parental Care Primary School and Rwemikunyu Primary School. Both groups saw the giraffe on their trips. The new trip programme includes a cooked lunch at the Conservation Education Centre to which GEAR contributed 1,500 Uganda Shilling per student and students/parent contributed the remaining 2,500 per student.





The remaining first term trips are scheduled from the 1st-5th April for Kakagate Primary School, Akaku Primary School, Akayanja Primary School, Bishesehe Primary School and Kikatsi Primary School.



Summary of data collected

Date	Observers	Herd Size	ID's	GPS-lat	GPS-long	Behaviour/Notes
19-Jan-19	Jotham, Micheal	12	Valentine, Bernard, Kule, Ru, Leiden, Irish, Juliana, Caroline, Batgirl, Rocket, Morse, & Batgirl's calf.	-0.594623333	30.99468167	Valentine is with the herd once more. Leiden and Kule are exhibiting sexual behaviour toward Valentine.
22-Jan-19	Miriah, Jotham	13		-0.556636667	30.98901167	
22-Jan-19	Miriah, Jotham	6	Bernard, Valentine, Rocket, Leiden, Irish, Caroline	-0.590808333	30.99801	
29-Jan-19	Miriah, Jotham	19	Valentine, Morse, Bernard, Marion, Ru, Suni , Leiden, Kule, Juliana, Rocket, Nicky Batgirl, & 7 young ones	-0.570773333	30.98918	Mystery is missing in the herd
29-Jan-19	Miriah, Jotham	2	Caroline, Irish	-0.598233333	30.98279167	
02-Feb-19	Micheal, Jotham	6	Marion, Juliana, Morse and their calves	-0.570623333	30.98928833	
02-Feb-19	Micheal, Jotham	9	Kule, Mystery, Batgirl, Suni, Nicky	-0.557555	30.98798667	Mystery has reappeared with a calf
09-Feb-19	Miriah, Jotham	2	Nicky and Kule.	-0.57094	30.98929	
09-Feb-19	Miriah, Jotham	2	Marion & it's calf	-0.562058333	30.97943333	
09-Feb-19	Miriah, Jotham	3	Ru, Irish & one calf	-0.588816667	31.00082833	
12-Feb-19	Miriah, Jotham	10	Mystery, Batgirl, Kule, Marion, Suni, Nicky, Juliana & 5 calves.	-0.565316667	30.97960333	Nicky is mating with Kule.
16-Feb-19	Elisha, Jotham	2	Marion & it's calf.	-0.555913333	31.00005333	
16-Feb-19	Elisha, Jotham	7	Nicky, Juliana, Mystery & 4 calves.	-0.55625	30.988985	
16-Feb-19	Elisha, Jotham	8	Ru, Irish, Batgirl, Caroline, Morse, & calves.	-0.598691667	30.98240667	

26-Feb-19	Miriah, Jotham	8	Leiden, Valentine, Caroline, Morse, Kule, Ru, Bernard, Rocket.	-0.5876	31.00159167	Bernard was exhibiting sexual behaviour toward Morse. Ru and Morse are not with their calves.
26-Feb-19	Miriah, Jotham	14	Marion, Juliana, Nicky, Mystery, Suni, Batgirl and 8 calves.	-0.562336667	30.98050333	
05-Mar-19	Miriah, Jotham	12	Leiden, Kule, Marion, Irish, Ru, Suni, Nicky and five calves.	-0.598946667	30.99364833	Irish has given birth
12-Mar-19	Miriaah, Jotham	1	Mystery's calf.	-0.555615	30.98745333	Saw Mystery's calf with a swollen ear
14-Mar-19	Miriah, Jotham	17	Valentine, Morse, Marion, Kule, Nicky, Suni, Bernard, Rocket, Caroline, Ru, Leiden	-0.591785	30.99184	
14-Mar-19	Miriah, Jotham	6	Mystery, Batgirl Juliana & 3 calves.	-0.556455	31.001155	
16-Mar-19	Micheal, Jotham	12	Kule, Ru, Batgirl, Nicky, Marion, Morse, Caroline & 5 calves.	-0.591066667	30.98052833	
26-Mar-19	Miriah, Jotham	2	Irish and her calf.	-0.594361667	30.987465	
29-Mar-19	Jotham, Miriah	6	Mystery, Suni, Juliana and 3 calves.	-0.562978333	30.98093667	

Activity Budgets

Month: January
Observer: Jotham, Miriah, Michael

Hour: 7-8am 8-9am 9-10am 10-11am 11-12pm 12-1pm 1-2pm 2-3pm 3-4pm 4-5pm 5-6pm 6-7pm

Activity

Feeding				8	42	79	31	50	44	10		
Resting				0	8	21	8	9	6	2		
Ruminating				6	21	52	49	82	26	4		
Walking				1	36	34	23	54	31	10		
Grooming				1	9	13	10	29	21	2		
Sexual Behaviour				0	0	8	2	0	4	0		
Excretion				0	7	12	9	5	18	6		
Vigilance				2	7	16	28	27	25	2		
Interaction				0	2	0	2	6	6	0		
Drinking				0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other				0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	0	0	0	18	132	235	162	262	181	36	0	0

Month: February

Observer: Jotham, Miriah, Michael, Elisha

Hour: 7-8am 8-9am 9-10am 10-11am 11-12pm 12-1pm 1-2pm 2-3pm 3-4pm 4-5pm 5-6pm 6-7pm

Activity

Feeding				5	73	89	133	49	11			
Resting				0	16	22	22	14	8			
Ruminating				0	61	36	56	8	7			
Walking				2	41	40	83	22	3			
Grooming				1	13	20	33	10	2			
Sexual Behaviour				0	12	18	8	0	0			
Excretion				0	13	8	43	9	2			
Vigilance				1	13	19	44	13	3			
Interaction				0	0	2	2	0	0			
Drinking				2	3	0	2	0	0			
Other				0	0	0	0	0	0			
Total	0	0	0	11	245	254	426	125	36	0	0	0

Month: March

Observer: Jotham, Miriah, Michael

Hour: 7-8am 8-9am 9-10am 10-11am 11-12pm 12-1pm 1-2pm 2-3pm 3-4pm 4-5pm 5-6pm 6-7pm

Activity

Feeding				3	119	142	56					
Resting				0	8	23	32					
Ruminating				0	38	33	2					
Walking				3	73	88	21					
Grooming				0	28	36	20					
Sexual Behaviour				0	0	6	0					
Excretion				0	27	31	8					
Vigilance				4	40	31	11					
Interaction				0	6	4	0					
Drinking				0	1	0	0					
Other				0	1	0	0					
Total	0	0	0	10	341	394	150	0	0	0	0	0

This report was compiled in partnership with and supported by:

