

Giraffe Education And Research (GEAR) Lake Mbuoro National Park



Update Report

June 2019

Supported by



General News

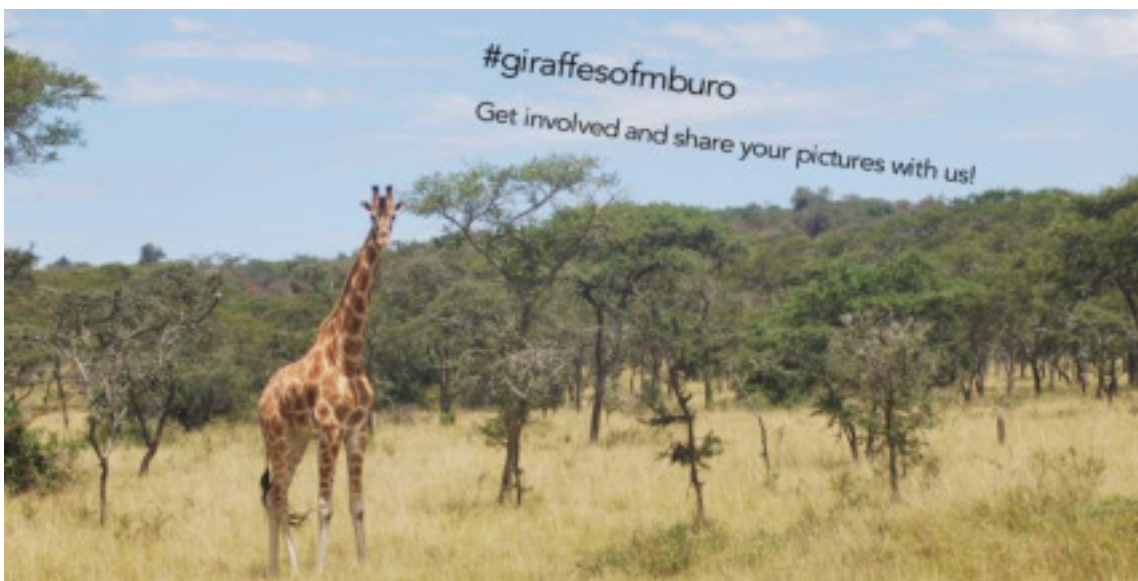
In April this year the registration of the Community-Based Organisation, Lake Mbuoro Communities (LMC) was completed. The focus of LMC is in sustainable social and environmental activities especially in education, environmental awareness, conservation and improving livelihood options. The GEAR project will now run under the umbrella of LMC which will make it easier to apply for donor grants.



With the opening of LMC's bank account GEAR was awarded a grant from the Rufford Foundation of £5,000. This grant supports both GEAR's education and monitoring programmes. GEAR was also successfully awarded an equipment grant from Idea Wild for items including a camera, binoculars, tablets and power banks. We are currently waiting for the delivery of the equipment.

In addition to the above equipment, GCF donated a camera for project use. It has proved to be a great asset allowing us to capture improved photographs as well as video footage.

Improved images will assist with the new Facebook forum established. The *Giraffes of Mbuoro* Facebook page is a trial to an app GEAR hopes to develop. Visitors to the park, tour operators, local guides and UWA rangers are encouraged to share photos and sightings of giraffe to the page or tag it with the hashtag @giraffesofmburo. This is a new citizen science initiative which we hope will be successful and lead to the development of a specific giraffe app for Lake Mbuoro.



Research & Monitoring

Monitoring trips conducted by GEAR local researcher Natamba Jotham and UWA personnel continued twice per week.



The health issue identified for Mystery's calf, required intervention and Dr. Robert Aruho operated on her. While the surgery helped to reduce the swelling in the ear Dr. Aruho identified cancer as the cause and has indicated that he may have to remove/amputate the ear in the near future.

All other giraffes appear healthy and well. Caroline continues to be mated but no signs of pregnancy yet.

The calves are growing quickly and the oldest is already 1.5 years old while the youngest was born four months ago. The two male calves, Nicky and Batgirl's calves, are spending time with the adult males and have started testing their strengths.



Above: Rocket and Batgirl's calf partake in a little light necking.

Education

Five more school trips were conducted for Kakagate Primary School, Akaku Primary School, Akayanja Primary School, Bisheshe Primary School and Kikatsi Primary School.

All trips were a success and we managed to find the giraffe. Follow-up visits were conducted to check activity books and gauge students' understanding of giraffe. Students had shared information they learnt on their trip with their peers, family and friends, widening the circle of giraffe education.



Completed pages in the GEAR activity books and posters made by students and displayed in school.



Students on their trips into the park, accompanied by UWA personnel and GEAR local researcher

Numerous schools have contacted the GEAR project hoping to be selected as a beneficiary of the school trips. GEAR has noted that it is the transport which is the largest obstacle for schools when it comes to arranging a field trip. GEAR is exploring options of how to improve and extend its community education project.

As part of community education, GEAR promoted a football match held on World Giraffe Day (WGD) on 21 June. Two local teams, the Giraffe and Buffalos, were established by community members and have played against each other a few times per year. A match was organised on WGD to spread awareness for giraffe conservation within the community. Buffalos entered the match as firm favourites having beaten the Giraffe in the past three matches. However, it seemed it was the giraffe's day when they took the match 3-1.

Educational posters were displayed at the match for spectators and players to read. GCF's poster on the giraffe of Uganda had been translated by GEAR to the local vernacular Runyankole. These posters were distributed to two schools in the area after the soccer match and more will be printed and donated to other schools.

World Giraffe Day Football Match, 21st June 2019



Summary of Data Collected

Date	Observers	Herd Size	ID's	GPS-lat	GPS-long
06-Apr-19	Jotham, Michael	18	Irish, Caroline, Marion, Morse, Batgirl, Bernard, Kule, Leiden, Rocket, Nicky, Ru, Nicky and six calves.	-0.591613333	30.99275667
09-Apr-19	Miriah, Jotham	8	Mystery, Batgirl, Irish, Bernard, Rocket and 3 calves.	-0.595815	30.97998833
16-Apr-19	Miriah, Jotham	14	Leiden, Marion, Morse, Bernard, Rocket, Nicky, Irish, Mystery, Valentine, Suni and 6 young ones.	-0.585575	30.99969
16-Apr-19	Miriah, Jotham	24	Kule, Rocket, Bernard, Marion, Morse, Caroline, Ru, Batgirl, Suni, Nicky, Valentine, Leiden, Juliana, Mystery, Irish and 9 calves	-0.58604	31.00076
20-Apr-19	Michael, Jotham	20	Irish, Mystery, Caroline, Suni, Ru, Juliana, Batgirl, Marion, Morse, Valentine, Bernard and 9 calves.	-0.585178333	31.000655
23-Apr-19	Miriah, Jotham	24	Juliana, Nicky, Marion, Caroline, Mystery, Irish, Morse, Batgirl, Valentine, Ru, Kule, Bernard, Rocket, Leiden, Suni and 9 calves.	-0.589936667	30.99414667
27-Apr-19	Ivan, Jotham	3	Leiden, Rocket, Bernard.	-0.60952	30.96778
27-Apr-19		22	Kule, Morse, Marion, Mystery, Ru, Valentine, Bernard, Leiden, Rocket, Juliana, Batgirl, Irish, Suni and 9 calves.	-0.594395	30.98920667

07-May-19	Adriano, Jotham	22	Mystery, Rocket, Morse, Suni Marion, Kule , Irish, Juliana, Valentine, Caroline, Ru, Leiden, Nicky and 9 calves.	-0.587188333	31.000765
11-May-19	Adriano, Jotham	15	Morse, Nicky, Kule, Rocket, Caroline, Batgirl, Juliana, Suni and 7 calves.	-0.58686	31.00053333
14-May-19	Catherine, Jotham	7	Mystery, Irish, Juliana and 4 calves.	-0.59587	30.97938333
14-May-19	Catherine, Jotham	17	Batgirl, Valentine, Kule, Ru, Leiden, Suni, Nicky, Marion, Rocket and 5 calves.	-0.606691667	30.97115667
18-May-19	Catherine, Jotham	2	Marion and her calf.	-0.59585	30.98875333
21-May-19	Catherine, Jotham	6	Mystery, Irish, Marion and 3 calves.	-0.582573333	31.01196
21-May-19	Catherine, Jotham	11	Caroline, Kule, Ru, Nicky, Suni, Valentine, Morse and 4 calves.	-0.5986	30.97915667
28-May-19	Catherine, Jotham	3	Batgirl, Marion, 1 calf	-0.597061667	30.98273
28-May-19	Catherine, Jotham	18	Bernard, Rocket, Ru, Suni, Caroline, Nicky, Juliana, Kule, Irish, Morse and 8 calves.	-0.59478	30.99504667
01-Jun-19	Miriah, Jotham	3	Irish and 2 calves	-0.59244	30.99091333
01-Jun-19	Miriah, Jotham	24	Mystery, Rocket, Marion, Morse, Caroline, Nicky, Kule, Batgirl, Ru, Juliana, Suni, Valentine, Leiden, Bernard, Irish and 9 calves.	-0.59114	30.99250167
08-Jun-19	Catherine, Jotham	14	Mystery, Irish, Batgirl, Juliana, Morse, Kule, Leiden	-0.597333333	30.99017333
11-Jun-19	Catherine, Jotham	9	Leiden, Bernard, Rocket, Morse, Batgirl, Valentine, and 3 calves.	-0.591035	30.99253

11-Jun-19	Catherine, Jotham	9	Suni, Ru, Kule, Nicky, Irish, Juliana, Caroline, Marion, Mystery	-0.58943	30.99476833
11-Jun-19	Catherine, Jotham	22	Morse, Batgirl, Ru, Juliana, Kule, Suni, Caroline, Irish, Mystery, Valentine, Nicky, Bernard, Leiden, Rocket and 8 calves.	-0.585558333	30.999775
15-Jun-19	Catherine, Jotham	4	Mystery, Irish and 2 calves	-0.594278333	30.982525
18-Jun-19	Catherine, Jotham	3	Leiden, Rocket, Bernard.	-0.588878333	30.99452333
18-Jun-19	Catherine, Jotham	24	Leiden, Bernard, Kule, Rocket, Morse, Caroline, Valentine, Suni, Nicky, Batgirl, Ru, Juliana Marion, Irish, Mystery and 9 calves.	-0.59332	30.99094
22-Jun-19	Michael, Jotham	24	Mystery, Valentine, Bernard, Leiden, Kule, Suni, Marion, Rocket, Ru, Nicky, Morse, Juliana, Irish, Caroline, Batgirl and 9 calves.	-0.603456667	30.97652167
25-Jun-19	Catherine, Mugisha, Jotham	9	Mystery, Irish, Juliana	-0.58684	31.00361
06-Jul-19	Michael, Jotham	24	Juliana, Marion, Ru, Mystery, Valentine, Kule, Irish, Morse, Suni, Bernard, Leiden, Caroline, Rocket, Nicky, Batgirl and 9 calves.	-0.604446667	30.97581667
09-Jul-19	Catherine, Andrew, Jotham	24	Rocket, Leiden, Irish, Juliana, Nicky, Ru, Batgirl, Valentine, Suni, Caroline, Bernard, Kule, Mystery, Morse, Marion and 9 calves.	-0.588226667	30.99991167



22-Jul-19	Catherine, Jotham	21	Marion, Valentine, Suni, Morse, Nicky, Caroline, Irish, Batgirl, Juliana, Ru, Mystery, Kule, and 9 calves.	-0.594595	30.99352
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Month: April

Observer: Jotham, Michael, Miriah, Ivan

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			174	123	400	389	47				176	22
Resting			0	50	339	206	1				63	13
Ruminating			21	35	300	227	32				78	17
Walking			103	66	212	283	31				101	26
Grooming			39	28	99	110	12				32	4
Sexual Behaviour			0	0	10	6	2				14	2
Excretion			30	25	50	70	9				1	6
Vigilance			49	45	122	95	9				31	6
Interaction			4	2	6	12	0				12	0
Drinking			0	1	2	1	1				2	0
Other			0	0	4	4	0				0	0
Total	0	0	420	375	1544	1403	144	0	0	0	510	96

Month: May

Observer: Jotham, Adriano, Catherine

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			37	50	160	115	11		40	59	88	46
Resting			9	0	57	125	8		0	0	8	0
Ruminating			4	13	122	83	6		27	38	24	18
Walking			34	39	145	82	6		43	49	67	43
Grooming			10	14	52	35	4		18	18	27	16
Sexual Behaviour			0	4	16	20	2		0	8	11	2
Excretion			4	7	39	18	1		14	18	20	20
Vigilance			16	25	63	47	1		31	27	41	25
Interaction			0	0	9	9	0		4	12	21	14
Drinking			0	4	5	1	2		3	5	9	4
Other			0	0	0	0	0		0	2	4	2
Total	0	0	114	156	668	535	41	0	180	236	320	190

Month: June

Observer: Jotham, Miriah, Catherine, Micheal

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			68	103	171	288	101	30	8	6	67	
Resting			0	0	75	213	85	19	1	4	21	
Ruminating			19	14	101	157	30	12	6	3	33	
Walking			28	52	123	163	27	13	4	2	41	
Grooming			14	19	57	78	13	2	1	3	28	
Sexual Behaviour			0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Excretion			9	11	44	53	9	1	0	2	12	
Vigilance			18	32	86	95	21	20	4	2	31	
Interaction			0	4	4	32	0	0	2	0	6	
Drinking			0	1	17	22	1	2	1	0	3	
Other			10	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	166	238	684	1103	287	99	27	22	242	0

This report was compiled in partnership with and supported by:

