

West African Giraffe in Niger 2022 Update



t the beginning of the 20th century the West African giraffe (Giraffa camelopardalis peralta) were widely distributed, from Nigeria to Senegal. By the mid-1990s only 49 individuals remained in West Africa, all of them in the 'Giraffe Zone' in Niger. With international support, the Niger government embarked on their commitment to formally protect these survivors. Today, the Niger government is firmly committed to protecting their giraffe and to securing their future in the wild. In 2006, Niger became the first country in Africa to develop a National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, with an updated version in 2015. The GCF team have been integrally involved in supporting the development and implementation of Niger's plans and associated actions.

In 2018 GCF, together with the Government of Niger, translocated eight West African giraffe to the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve to establish a new satellite giraffe population to assist the population's growth in number and range. Gadabedji formed part of the historic range of the West African giraffe before they were locally extirpated in the 1970s due to a severe drought and illegal hunting.

In November 2022, a second group of four giraffe were translocated to the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve under heavy military protection to bolster the small existing population. The population now stands at 14 individuals and is monitored regularly by two GCF eco-quards.

Today, we estimate that there are **690 West African** giraffe remaining in Niger, most of these live in the

'Giraffe Zone' east of the capital Niamey. It is part of the transition zone of Niger's W National Park Biosphere Reserve, which includes the central zone of Kouré, the Dallol Bosso, and the Fakara Plateau.

GIRAFFE MONITORING STATISTICS

GADABEDJI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Ecoguards equipped with motorbikes, binocular, Cybertracker, GPS InReach



GIRAFFE ZONE

2 Travelled
Coguards
equipped with
motorbikes, binocular,
Cybertracker, GPS
InReach

1,066

Recorded Giraffe

Sightings

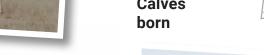
Giraffe 14

(4 male and 10 female) are regularly sighted and closely monitored.

3 Calves 10,028 km

Travelled on motorbike to monitor giraffe.

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41 Calves born West African
Giraffe in Niger
690