

## Post-Translocation Survey Report

### Lake Mburo National Park, Uganda

30 March – 1 April 2023

#### Background

Lake Mburo National Park (NP) supports one of Uganda's five populations of the critically endangered Nubian giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis*). Although Lake Mburo NP is relatively small, encompassing an area of approximately 260 km<sup>2</sup>, it plays a large role in Uganda's giraffe conservation efforts. Giraffe were first introduced to Lake Mburo NP in 2015. The founder population was comprised of 15 giraffe (4 males and 11 females), all of which were sourced from the Murchison Falls NP population.

Since the initial translocation in 2015, GCF has supported continual monitoring of the Lake Mburo NP giraffe population and documented its growth. The first documented birth was in August 2018, and anecdotal reports suggest the current population may be as large as 52 individuals. To better understand recruitment, survival, and post translocation distribution of this newly established population, we conducted a systematic individual based photographic survey.

#### Methods

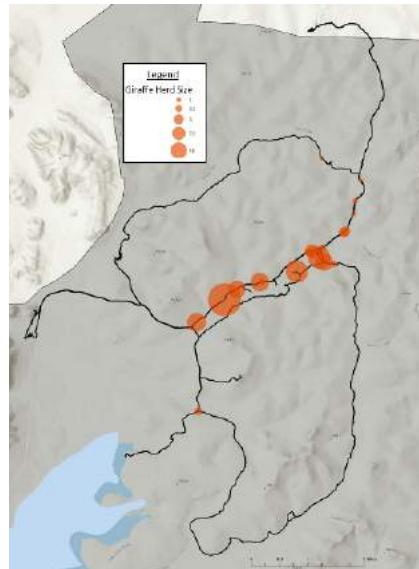
On 30 March -1 April 2023, a field team comprised of members from GCF, UWA, and CZ conducted a photographic survey of Lake Mburo NP's giraffe population. using individual-based spatially explicit photographic survey methods.

#### Results

During the survey, we observed **37 unique giraffe**, including **14 newly identified individuals**. All but four of the initial founder populations were

observed during this survey. These giraffe were primarily

observed in the central low-elevation *Vachellia* savannahs along Zebra Track. This population growth is a positive early indicator of translocation success. Continued post-translocation population monitoring is critical for documenting continued recruitment rates and calf survival in this newly re-established population.



**Figure 1:** Distribution and giraffe herd size encountered during the surveys.

#### Acknowledgements

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