



Annual Report 2022/23

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: STEPHANIE FENNESSY



Compiling the GCF Annual Report is always a daunting task. There is always so much to report. It is always a question of where to start and, importantly, who has the insight, time and talent to succinctly write about it all? Our team at GCF is small. We do not have the luxury of a dedicated communications team, which can dedicate time to writing and compiling such a report. So, inevitably, the annual report ends up on my ever-increasing to-do-list and then easily slips to the end of every week as I concentrate on tasks that seem much more urgent for giraffe – or, quite frankly, sometimes so much more fun.

As a team we are trying to streamline our administrative work, especially our reporting. We have asked ourselves: Who actually takes the time to read long reports these days? The focus today is on bite-sized, digestible chunks and easily accessible information. As a result, we have made the first move in the direction of impact reporting for most of our programmes and initiatives, keeping things short and sharp and highlighting a few important numbers and achievements – ideally illustrated through a few captivating images. That's it. If you are the exception and you would like to learn more about certain aspects of our work, please get in touch with us directly! Most of our partners and staff love this new reporting style, as it allows them to concentrate on being a louder voice

for giraffe and to making a difference for these iconic animals and their habitat.

But then again, change is not always easy. We are working hard to take our team with us on this conservation journey. In January, we brought most of our team together for an in-person planning session in Namibia. This was one of the best ideas we have had in a while. After years of Zoom and virtual team meetings, it was such a pleasure to discuss and plan exciting new work opportunities together, face-to-face, and to laugh together and reconnect on a personal level. GCF is so much more than a job for all of us. We are passionate about conservation and what we do. Working for GCF comes with a lot of freedom and for some lots of intrepid travel, but it also requires commitment on many levels.

One thing we have been reminded of over and over again this year is that our team is our most important asset. So, in line with all this, we decided to try something new and slightly different for this Annual Report. While we really want to highlight GCF's wide range of giraffe conservation actions, programmes and initiatives, we have endeavoured to do this from a different perspective. This time, we asked our team to share their highlights of our achievements during the reporting period. This approach has produced a combination of personal achievements and conservation actions. GCF is an effective team and we are proud of what we have accomplished in 2022/23. So, meet the team that is a voice for giraffe!

Stephanie Fennessy

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR: TILL HOLLMANN



After a few years of Zoom and Teams calls, it was great to meet face-to-face with partners and team members from all over Africa. Determined to hit the ground running and make 2023 the greatest year yet for giraffe conservation, our GCF conservation team and some of our board members came together at our head office in Windhoek, Namibia, to set the scene for the year ahead. From surveys and translocations to capacity building and considering potential future impacts of climate change, we discussed how to best implement our giraffe conservation actions throughout Africa. Seeing the immense value in physically coming together in one room, we now plan to conduct our planning sessions in this way annually.

While good near-term planning is important, long-term planning is critical in today's changing world. One of my highlights this year was meeting with researchers from the University of East Anglia at the Savannah Landscape Ecology and Education Centre (SLEEC) in the Etosha Heights Private Reserve, adjacent to the famous Etosha National Park in Namibia. Ellie Harris, PhD Researcher at the School of Environmental Sciences, Rachel Warren, Professor of Global Change and Environmental Biology, and Jeff Price, Professor of Climate Change and Biodiversity, joined us to present work on the vulnerabilities of giraffe to climate change and human activities. Ellie's important research will improve GCF's giraffe conservation actions by identifying areas that are most resilient to climate change (no-regret areas), which can be used for future

translocations or recommended as additions to the Protected Area Network.

This is now my third year serving on GCF's board, whose work spans 400,000 km² of giraffe habitat. While guiding an organisation's work dispersed across 19 African countries can seem a daunting task, GCF has a lean but very cause-driven board, with the right balance of skills and regional experience in conservation, as well as business acumen, to ensure that our partners on the ground can use their time to focus on saving giraffe. Being an NGO board member includes having to roll up your sleeves periodically, which is what we like to do. Now that travel has again become much easier, the board and I look forward to spending more time in Africa with GCF's family of partner organisations that share our mission to save giraffe in the wild.

Till Hollmann

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF)
is the only organisation in the world that concentrates
solely on the conservation and management of giraffe
in the wild throughout Africa.

We are a voice for giraffe!

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WHO IS GCF?

WE ARE THE VOICE FOR GIRAFFE!

GCF is dedicated to securing a future for all giraffe populations in the wild. We envision a world where all giraffe can live wild and free within their historical ranges or habitats throughout Africa and are protected by the people around them.

United by a common goal, GCF is a family of organisations consisting of the GCF Trust (Namibia), GCF-USA (Florida, USA), GCF-East Africa (Kenya and Uganda), and Freunde von GCF (Germany). All four organisations are legally and financially separate entities. This report represents the collaborative efforts of GCF and our partners in support of our common goal to save giraffe in the wild.

WHAT ARE GCF'S CORE VALUES?

- Creativity and courage
- Respectivity
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Collaboration

WHAT DOES GCF STAND FOR?

- GCF is an international science-based conservation organisation that provides innovative approaches to save giraffe in the wild.
- GCF is the go-to organisation for giraffe conservation that is proactive and reactive, with a strong collaborative and dynamic team that works within a network of partners on all levels.
- GCF is a leader in supporting a sustainable future for giraffe in/and their natural habitats.
- GCF will continue to organically grow and increase awareness to save giraffe in the wild.

WHAT DRIVES GCF?

- To be a bold, independent organisation
 - To be disciplined and 'always on'
 - To be an open book
 - To not over-promise
 - To be passionate
- To be courageous and ready to push boundaries
 - To be open-minded and flexible
 - To be adaptable and dynamic
 - To build trustworthy partnerships and relationships

WHAT ARE GCF'S OBJECTIVES?

GCF's primary objective is to raise awareness and support towards securing a future for giraffe and the conservation of their habitat in Africa, and more specifically to:

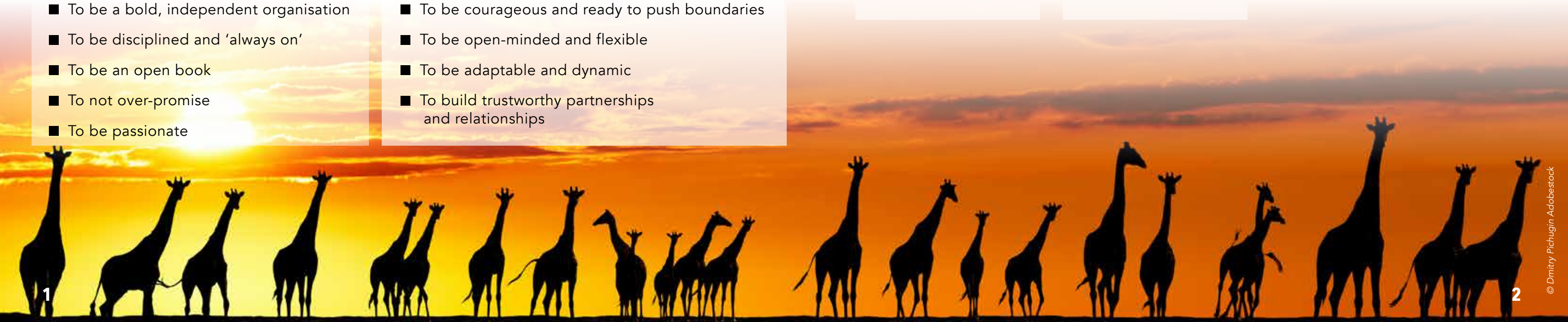
- support the conservation of viable and existing habitat for giraffe;
- identify key threats to giraffe in Africa and develop innovative ways to mitigate them;
- raise awareness and promote the value of giraffe conservation in African Range States as well as internationally;
- plan, develop, implement, and administer projects and programmes – including the appointment of project staff – in support of its primary objective, in co-operation with local communities and partner institutions, as appropriate;
- collaborate with local, national, and international partners on giraffe conservation efforts in the interests of giraffe conservation in African Range States; and
- raise funds for giraffe conservation and management throughout Africa.

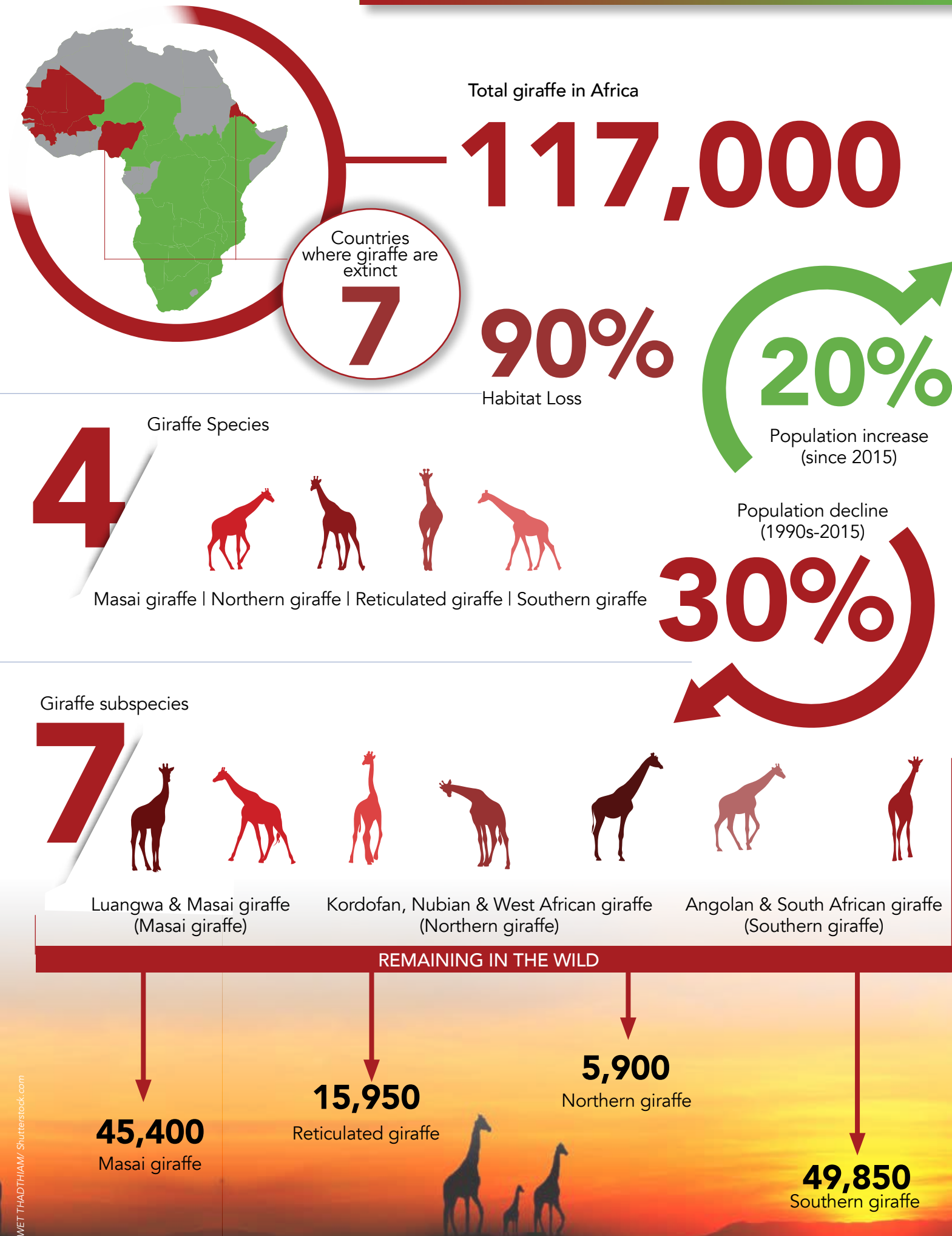
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As GCF continues to grow in impact and in size, we are making sure that all checks and balances are in place to be fully accountable on all levels. Adding valuable skill sets and knowledge to the GCF Board of Directors is a very important part of this process.

GCF's multi-national Board includes professionals who represent six countries, four continents, and diverse business profiles. The Board of Directors includes the following members:

<i>Julian Fennessy</i>	<i>Chris Kelsch</i>
<i>Stephanie Fennessy</i>	<i>Lars Markgren</i>
<i>ShariLeigh Gordon</i>	<i>Tim Tetzlaff</i>
<i>Till Hollmann</i>	<i>Lindy van den Bosch</i>





Countries in which GCF supports giraffe conservation efforts



GCF Staff



Nationalities of GCF team



Giraffe Translocated



Giraffe Survey Days



Countries in which giraffe were translocated



Giraffe Habitat that is Impacted by GCF's Support

>100 million acres



Followers on GCF Social Media Channels

>100,000

537 Social media posts published

>2.5 million

Organic social media reach

Countries with tagged giraffe



Trained in GiraffeSpotter



DNA Samples Collected



Teachers Trained



Snares Removed



Veterinarians Trained



DRC, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda

Other animals



Desnares



Nubian Giraffe



African savanna elephant, African lion, Cape buffalo, Jackson's hartebeest, Ugandan kob, Defassa's waterbuck, warthog, ground pangolin, leopard, and hippopotamus)

Environmental Education Outreach for School Children



Giraffe GPS satellite tagged



Rangers Trained



MSc & PhD Students Supported



Giraffe GPS Satellite Tagged in Total



Active GPS Satellite Tags



2

New National/Regional Giraffe Conservation Strategy & Action Plans (Ethiopia & Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area)

Data Points Collected

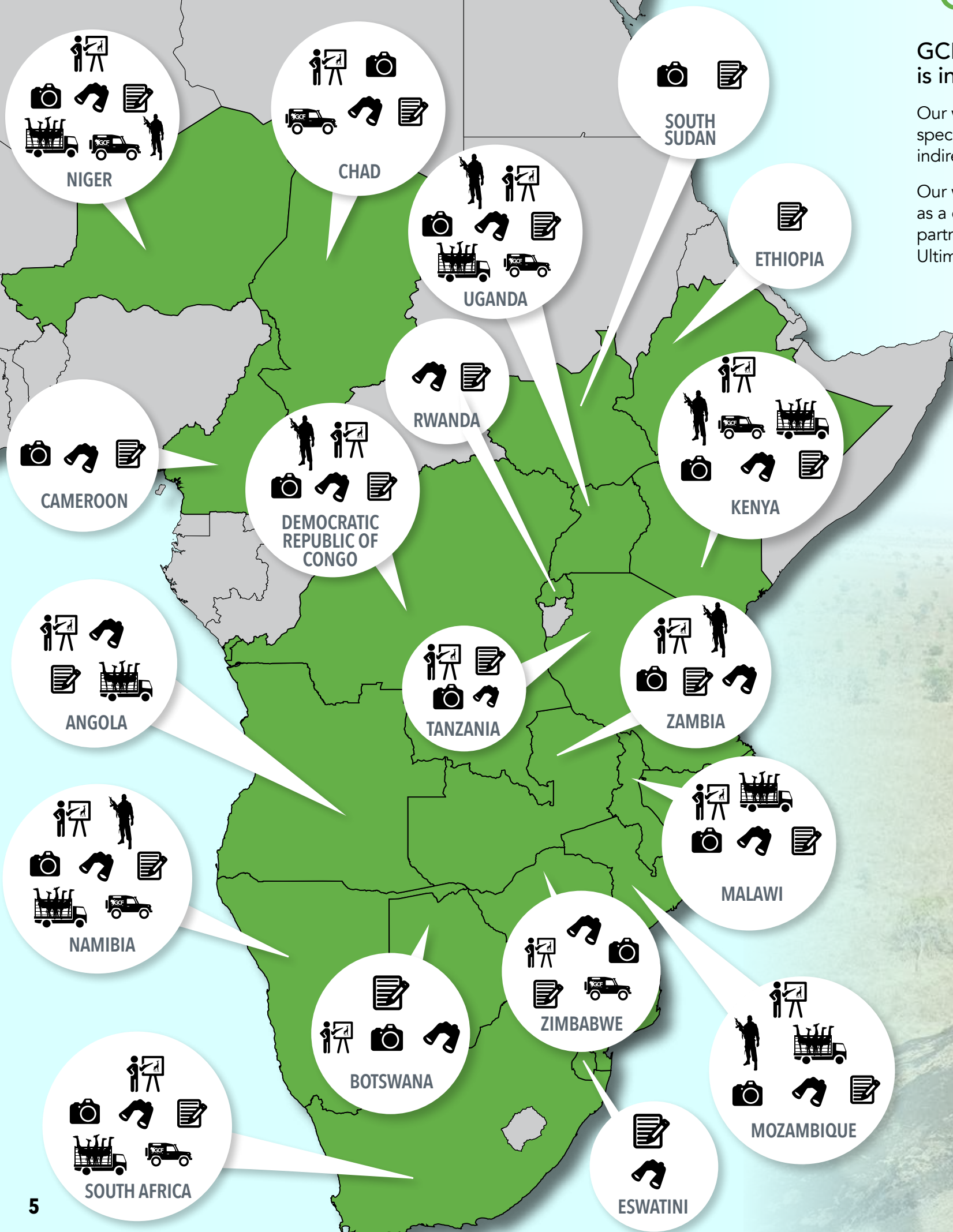


GIRAFFE CONSERVATION ACTIONS

GCF's impact on giraffe conservation in Africa continues to grow. Currently, GCF is involved in and supports giraffe conservation initiatives in 19 African countries.

Our work has an impact on over 400,000 km² (100 million acres) of giraffe habitat and concerns all four species of giraffe. Our range of involvement includes programme implementation, providing direct and indirect technical support to partners, conservation monitoring, and hands-on conservation action.

Our work spans the whole gamut of giraffe conservation efforts. As a network organisation, we see ourselves as a catalyst. We have no intention of doing all the work ourselves or on our own; instead, we aim to inspire partners to support giraffe conservation and work with the people who share their living space with giraffe. Ultimately, giraffe can only be saved in Africa by African people!




Anti-poaching


Capacity Building /
Education


Translocation


Equipment


Technical Support


Vehicle Support


Survey Support



Meet the team that is a voice for giraffe.

Saving giraffe is a team effort and working with local and international partners is key. GCF's multi-national team includes people from 12 countries and four continents with a wide range of skills and backgrounds. Our team supports giraffe conservation initiatives in 19 culturally diverse African countries.

This annual report shows their perspective. On the following pages you can read what the GCF team considers GCF's major accomplishments during the 2022/23 reporting period.



Stephanie Fennessy
Executive Director



Nicky McNamara
Finance & Compliance Manager



Fiona MacKay
Social Media Strategist



Kudakwashe Mbaiwa
Finance Assistant



Claire Gall
Administrator

NIGER TEAM



Ahmed Akaltou, Torodo Souley Kouato Larwanou, Cloé Pourchier & Razack Moussa Zabeirou



Martina Küsters
SLEEC Programme Officer



Dr Joshua Lubega
Wildlife Veterinarian
Uganda



Janet Kavutha Simon
Programme Officer
Kenya



Petrus 'Audi' Ekandjo
NW Namibia Programme Officer



Dr Arthur Muneza
East Africa Coordinator



Dr Julian Fennessy
Director of Conservation



Dr Michael Brown
Conservation Science
Coordinator



Dr Courtney Marneweck
Conservation Science Data
Coordinator



Dr Sara Ferguson
Conservation Health
Coordinator



Martha Haukongo
Environmental Educator



Rigardt Hoffman
Programme Officer
Southern Africa



Naemi Antonius
Senior Environmental
Educator

NAEMI ANTONIUS, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR



My role as Senior Environmental Educator involves coordinating the largest environmental education programme with regards to participation numbers in Namibia. The Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP) provides an outdoor learning experience for primary school students and their teachers in the Daan Viljoen Game Park outside Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia.

When KEEP started, it was often challenging to get firm commitment from school groups to participate in our valuable new programme. Most teachers did not fully understand the value of KEEP and the experience we provide for their students. Many groups cancelled their participation at the last minute or we had to literally beg them to join us in the field for a day – for free! (Thank you to all our supporters!) I am so excited that things have changed. Many schools now see the value and benefit of including their students and teachers in the programme and have now made KEEP a firm fixture on their annual calendars. Today schools contact us, instead of the other way around – we even have a waiting list! In 2022, we hosted an impressive 3,078 students, who were accompanied by 263 teachers

from 26 different schools and organisations (e.g. orphanages and after-school groups). Our small KEEP team is very proud of this achievement, and we are hoping to reach similar participation numbers in 2023, if not more.

Promoting our work beyond the Khomas Region was another highlight this year. As part of a countrywide teacher training workshop, 150 teachers from six Namibian regions joined the KEEP team for a shortened version of our programme in the field. This offered an opportunity for the teachers to experience our programme first hand and to put their own environmental knowledge to the test. All the teachers returned with lots of enthusiasm for their beautiful country and new skills to elevate environmental education in their own classrooms.

In August 2022, we participated in the 40th Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) Annual Conference, which took place in Windhoek under the theme 'Education for a post-COVID-19 recovery and attaining the SDGs: Reconsiderations, challenges and opportunities'. The conference offered an excellent opportunity to showcase how we successfully navigated the challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in our programme. Exchanging ideas and networking with other environmental education stakeholders in Southern Africa and building new partnerships in education for sustainable development was certainly a highlight for me.



MICHAEL BROWN, CONSERVATION SCIENCE COORDINATOR

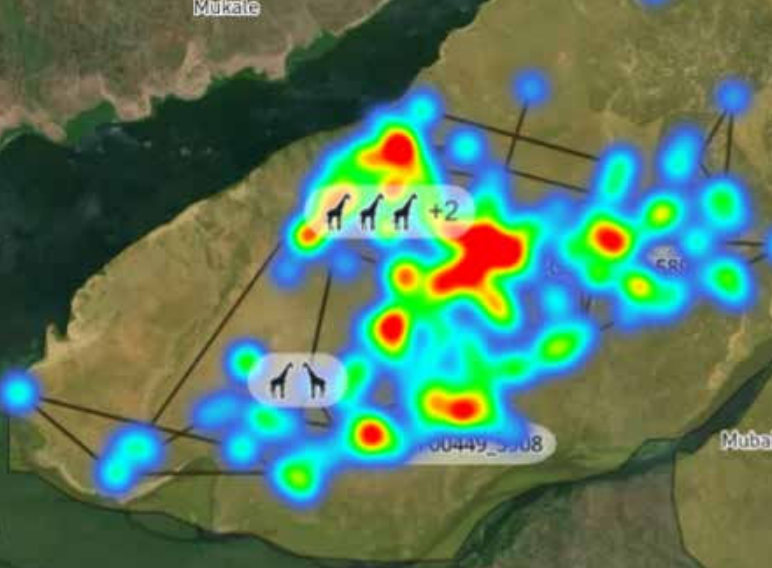
As the Conservation Science Coordinator, I make sure that all our giraffe conservation actions and initiatives are guided by the best available science. I design, plan, coordinate, execute, analyse, write, and translate scientific studies to better understand the ecology of giraffe and inform their conservation.

Effective conservation science is rooted in strong collaborations. One of the great strengths of GCF is our engagement with a global network of top-tier research institutions and conservation organisations to bring together the best scientific approaches for specific conservation issues. Over the years, we have developed connections with leading scientific institutions to connect technical expertise with local understandings. These approaches have been extraordinarily fruitful, not only leading to peer-reviewed scientific publications but also to subsequent meaningful conservation action. During the last few years, these partnerships were mostly virtual out of necessity. Acknowledging that the best partnerships often benefit from a personal touch, we were able to reconnect with many of our friends and colleagues in person over the last year. Meeting with colleagues at leading institutions like the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, the University of Glasgow, and the Czech University of Life Sciences, we were able to sit down and chat giraffe at a white board, or at the pub to brainstorm creative new ways of understanding and conserving giraffe. We also presented our work at the European Congress for Conservation Biology, connecting with past and future colleagues from across the globe to discuss cutting-edge techniques and philosophies in conservation sciences.



At its simplest, conservation is a numbers game. Understanding how many giraffe are in a given environment and why the populations are increasing or decreasing serves as the foundation for designing effective conservation strategies for these key ecosystems. GCF has been working to develop systematic surveys for giraffe throughout Africa to get a better understanding of abundance trends and to better inform global conservation assessments. Rwanda remained a critical blank spot on our maps, so this past year we worked with our partners at African Parks to conduct the first-ever individual-based surveys of giraffe in Rwanda. Although perhaps better known for its magnificent mountains and iconic gorillas, Rwanda also boasts beautiful savannah ecosystems in the Akagera National Park, which supports the country's sole population of Masai giraffe. This population began as a small translocation of six giraffe from Kenya in 1986. Since then, subsequent aerial surveys have suggested that the population is gradually growing. However, as giraffe are notoriously difficult to survey from the air, we (together with the local park's staff) set up a systematic individual-based photographic survey. Over the span of a week, we repeatedly drove the entire extent





of the park, mapping out the locations of all giraffe and identifying them as individuals by using their unique spot patterns. Using the individual-based encounter data and spatially explicit capture-recapture analyses, we documented 78 unique giraffe and estimated the current population to be over 100 individuals. This data is critical for developing effective strategies for the conservation of giraffe in the Akagera National Park and we look forward to continuing our partnership with African Parks to better understand and conserve Rwanda's giraffe.

Giraffe live in incredibly diverse ecosystems in 21 African countries. From the semi-arid Sahel of Niger to the mesic savannahs of Uganda and from the rugged scrub of northern Kenya to the sandy expanses of the northern Namib Desert, giraffe face unique conservation challenges in these remarkably different environments. One of the best ways to understand how giraffe navigate these challenges is to track them remotely using GPS telemetry devices.

Through our ambitious Twiga Tracker Initiative, GCF has led global efforts in giraffe movement ecology studies. Combining innovative technology with advanced data analysis, we are gaining precious insights into how giraffe interact with their environments. To make this possible, we have worked with tracking unit manufacturers the world over to design and test new technology to provide quality data with minimally invasive giraffe-borne trackers. Most recently, we have been pioneering the use of specially designed tail-mounted units and ear tags that can be harmlessly attached to giraffe in seconds and will collect movement data for years.

To date, we have tracked over 370 giraffe of all four species in 17 different countries. This data is instrumental in local-level to continent-wide studies. It allows conservation managers to learn about local-level

challenges, for instance, in Chad, where we are learning how giraffe respond to seasonal flooding environments; in Niger, where we find out how giraffe interact with human development; and in Namibia, how giraffe deal with the extreme heat in the northwest part of the country. Based on what we learn, we can design conservation actions to better save giraffe and this data also directly supports practical conservation management. Using programs like EarthRanger, we are able to share real-time giraffe location data with conservation managers to allow them to monitor animals in the landscapes they manage and better deploy resources to protect them. Additionally, this data is also critical for larger continental-scale studies, combining all of the data and making use of all of the environmental variations to test hypotheses on how giraffe respond to environmental and anthropogenic gradients.

GCF is committed to training the future leaders of conservation. Through our African Bursary for Conservation Grant Programme (ABC Grants), we support and train students to address conservation threats that giraffe face in Africa. Not only do these projects serve as thesis or capstone projects but they also amplify our scientific and conservation impact, as the results from this work are channelled directly back into conservation efforts on the ground. It is important to harness the enthusiasm of young and talented students, who at times challenge us with fresh perspectives and interesting new ways of analysing our data to unravel the patterns of giraffe ecology.



AUDI EKANDJO, NORTH WEST NAMIBIA PROGRAMME OFFICER

After working with GCF's KEEP team for five years, I have recently taken on the new challenge of coordinating GCF's long-term conservation monitoring programme of the Angolan giraffe in northwest Namibia.

When I am at the office, I tend to be, as an addition to my official role, GCF's Jack-of-all-trades – I love jumping in on any task when and where I am needed. At GCF teamwork is really important, so from running errands in town to catching giraffe in the field, it all goes towards saving giraffe. My main role, though, is to carefully monitor the giraffe population in Namibia's northwest. Our long-term study area spans over 30,000 km², which includes three key ephemeral river systems (Hoanib, Hoarusib and Khumib) and extends north all the way to the Angolan border.

While I loved working with children and sharing my passion for conservation with young Namibians, I am as excited about my new role and the opportunity to have an impact on giraffe conservation in Africa. By leading GCF's northwest Namibia programme, I am being a real voice for giraffe!

I look forward to further exploring the area known as 'the last wilderness' and getting to know the local giraffe (and people) population. Working in such a harsh and remote environment is not for sissies and I am under no illusion that this will be an easy task. Conservation is about hard work and dedication – and also about passion! In my new role, I have to learn new systems fast, execute my role effectively, and make sure my communication skills are up to scratch. I have no doubt that I will grow to master my new challenges – this new role is big and important to me! So, while I am very excited I am also somewhat nervous, because I know I will get challenged professionally and mentally. Although I work more independently, I know that I have a great team for assistance and back-up if needed. However, it is an amazing opportunity and I will embrace it. Stay tuned to GCF to hear more from me in the future.

GCF has provided me with a great working environment for many years, and there has always been room for growth, for everyone. I am also fortunate to have learned a lot from Lachie and Jordy (our former coordinators) before they returned to Australia. Thank you!



The opportunity I have received to grow within the organisation means that I will gain new skills and new perspectives, and the opportunity to work with a diversity of people. It has been a steep and mostly fun learning curve, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for me!

2022 was a great year for northwest Namibia and the programme itself. Importantly, most of the survey area received good rains, which was much needed by the wildlife, livestock and people living in the area. It was amazing to see some of the dry and arid landscapes come to life with greenery, running rivers and plenty of babies! The Hoanib River flooded several times – what an impressive sight to see the usually dry riverbed pumping with water.

As for the giraffe, we recorded 22 new calves in 2022 – a great boost for the ever-thriving desert-dwelling giraffe population. Sadly, not all of them make it through the first year as following the wildlife baby boom and increased rainfall, lion have returned to the area with a vengeance. Although sad, such is nature, and these impressive predators also have to eat. Luckily, many calves have survived and continue to thrive.

As part of our Twiga Tracker Initiative, working alongside members of the GCF team, we tagged an additional four giraffe in the study area using the new CERES satellite ear tags. Combined with my regular surveys, our efforts to collect valuable data on how desert-adapted giraffe use their habitat has expanded to include 41 individuals, who we track remotely. The new tags are proving to be a game changer in terms of deployment, cost, and giraffe welfare. The tags are easy to attach, which speeds up the whole process to within a couple of minutes. All in all, this is better for the giraffe, and that's the end result.



JULIAN FENNESSY, DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION



This last year was an exciting time at GCF as our team grew strategically through the introduction and development of various specialist skills to help build on our conservation work of the past decade. This targeted growth has allowed me personally to concentrate on furthering GCF's conservation programme and – lucky for some – to reduce my administrative responsibilities. In the conservation world our small but dynamic team is considered a leader in the application of conservation technology, and with new plans in place this will only continue.

To kick off the new year, we brought together our conservation team from different parts of the continent for an intense conservation planning week in Namibia. We discussed our priorities with regards to species, countries, partnerships, resource needs and how best to track and share our work. As we grow, accountability becomes ever more important, for each of us independently and also as a team. We all realised the value of bringing the team together in one room and further building the team's spirit and camaraderie. As an added bonus, we were joined by two of our US board members, which made the experience even more valuable. We feel that GCF is a special place to work and working as a team is as

important as the work itself. Together we are a voice for giraffe.

As a network organisation, we believe in collaboration and GCF continues to show leadership in developing, implementing and supporting activities through strong partnerships. Working together is key and no partnership is too small or too big, whether it be a community education programme in northern Kenya or a multi-disciplinary Africa-wide initiative. Any programme or action can benefit from collaboration. Making the most of opportunities when they arise is a distinct strength of GCF.

During this last year we forged stronger partnerships with the Ethiopian and Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) governments (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) to develop the respective first-ever National and Regional Strategy. We have built on existing partnerships with organisations such as, to name but a few, the African Parks Network, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland WildGenes Lab, Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, and Zambian Carnivore Programme. Importantly, we forged new partnerships in different African countries and internationally to benefit all facets of giraffe conservation, ranging from field surveys and climate change assessments to children's education programmes. As new (and some renewed) partners, I would like to highlight the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, Wildlife Conservation Society, and many more. Together, we strive to save giraffe and their habitat before it is too late.

SARA FERGUSON, WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN & CONSERVATION HEALTH COORDINATOR

GCF's Conservation Health Initiative, which I coordinate, intertwines with many other GCF programmes and initiatives and covers a wide range of activities: from assessing the best field immobilisation practices to the role of disease, from reviewing the best way/place to fit a GPS tracker on a giraffe to enhancing the capacity of Africa's amazing wildlife veterinarians, and from desnaring giraffe to supporting conservation translocations throughout the continent. We kept ourselves busy in the past year and can only see our work going from strength to strength in the years to come.

In 2022, we hosted our first-ever wildlife immobilisation course in Namibia. Eight young and dynamic African wildlife veterinarians from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Uganda were invited to join us for a hands-on wildlife training course, which was run in partnership with the University of Namibia, Namibia University of Science and Technology, African Wildlife Conservation Trust, and the Namibian Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. We started the course with a lecture series in Windhoek that included a review of pharmacology, physiology of different wildlife species, and updates in the latest protocols and regulations in

wildlife medicine. This part of the course was also open to Namibian veterinarians for continuing professional development and for networking. In total more than 30 participants joined. After the theory course, our eight invited and fully GCF-funded participants travelled to the Etosha Heights Private Reserve in central Namibia, where they were directly involved in a variety of activities such as wildlife capture, collaring, tagging, and moving animals, all as part of the ongoing conservation management of one of Namibia's largest private reserves. Each participant brought along their own real-life experiences from their respective workplaces and contributed to building an invaluable network of peers to exchange knowledge and ideas in the future. We created this course with a long-term impact in mind, and through supporting the next generation of African wildlife veterinarians we hope to set them and the wildlife they conserve up for success. We had no idea that in its first year we would witness this envisaged long-term impact directly. Soon after his return to the DRC, Dr Dominic Tshimbalanga received a promotion to head wildlife veterinarian at the Garamba National Park after completing the course! This has shown us that we are on the right track and enhancing the capacity of young African talent is key!



Being a voice for giraffe is not always easy and at times it feels like we are fighting an uphill battle in getting our important conservation message out to a wider public. However, in December 2022 GCF was featured in an episode of CNN International's Inside Africa series. The small film crew joined us in the field in Namibia and captured our team capturing giraffe (pardon the pun), undertaking surveys, and spending time in the field with our KEEP team as they build the capacity of Africa's future leaders. If you have a chance, watch it – we are passionate about sharing our work with the world!

My biggest adventure in 2022 was without a doubt moving giraffe in Niger. There are only less than 700 West African giraffe remaining in the wild and until recently all of them lived in one area close to Niger's capital Niamey. In 2018, together with the Nigerien government and other partners, we established a second population in the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve by moving

eight West African giraffe there. In order to bolster this small population, we moved another four giraffe in collaboration with the Government of Niger, local Nigerien people, and international NGOs. What sounds so easy summarised in a single sentence was not in reality. These giraffe needed to travel a distance of 800 km by truck, which took 48 hours with heavy military protection due to the delicate security situation in the country. However, the giraffe were rock stars throughout the capture, initial boma stage and the journey. They were also arguably some of the most calm and hungry giraffe we have ever moved! Whenever we stopped to give them, and our team, a break during the arduous drive, they immediately began to snack on the overhanging branches. Travelling in a military convoy added to the usual stresses of a translocation, but it was all worth the risk when within minutes after their release into their new home, the four new females were seen calmly joining up with the 'old' resident giraffe herd established in 2018.

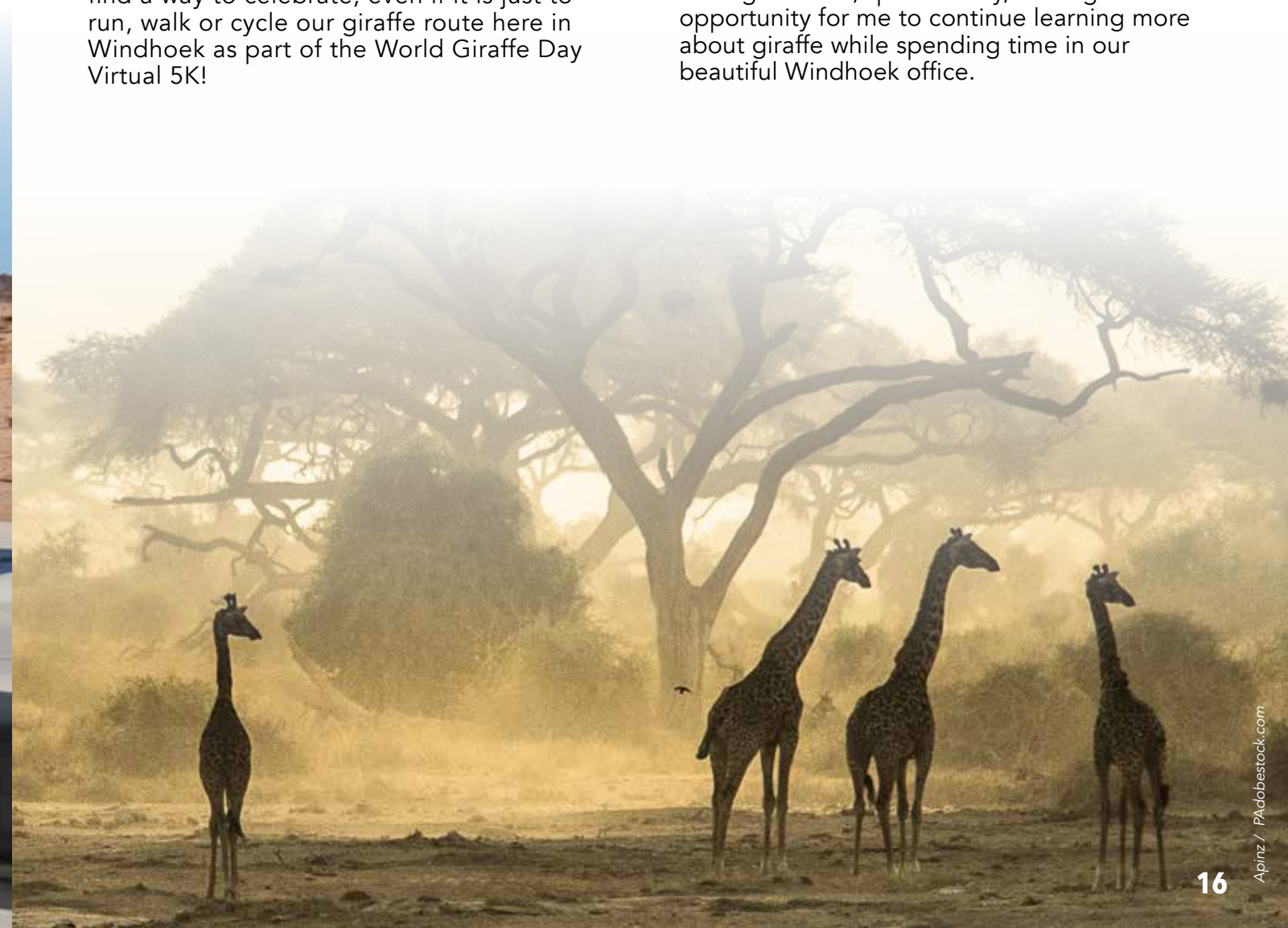
CLAIRE GALL, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

As the administrator, or Jack-of-all-trades, at GCF's Namibia office, I most enjoy the evolution of my role within a small but diverse team. While my position started out with providing general administrative support to the Directors, Steph and Julian, it has now evolved to supporting the entire team across Africa, maintaining our giraffe adoption portal, updating the GCF giraffe resource library, providing social media support, and affording logistical assistance on major programmes such as the hands-on veterinary training course in Namibia.

One of my annual highlights is being part of the World Giraffe Day celebrations! Every year, thousands of people all over the world take part in these celebrations, physically and virtually, to raise awareness and much-needed funding for giraffe conservation in Africa. It is incredible to see the diversity of supporters, the creativity for fund- and awareness raising, and the passion that so many people have for giraffe and their commitment to #StandTallForGiraffe with us. And while our team is often out in the field putting our giraffe conservation programmes into action on World Giraffe Day, we always find a way to celebrate, even if it is just to run, walk or cycle our giraffe route here in Windhoek as part of the World Giraffe Day Virtual 5K!



My job also involves sharing updates with our very passionate community of giraffe adopters. GCF offers a virtual giraffe adoption programme which allows supporters to follow the antics of several desert-dwelling Namibia giraffe online. While our northwest Namibia and SLEEC research team provide updates on all the giraffe adoptees they encounter in the wild, I am the one who uploads the information to our online adoption portal. I love reading the messages from our large community of doting adoptive parents and answering their questions. Their curiosity is endless and often contagious and, quite frankly, it is a great opportunity for me to continue learning more about giraffe while spending time in our beautiful Windhoek office.





My role as Environmental Educator entails bringing young Namibians closer to nature by teaching and sharing the interactive workbook content designed and compiled by GCF for the Khomas Environmental Education Programme (KEEP). The programme covers a wide range of environmental topics closely linked to the Namibian curriculum for primary schools.

My absolute highlight for this year was that we managed to host over 3,000 students and their teachers. This is the highest number of participants KEEP has hosted in a single year since its inception in 2016, bringing the total number of participants to over 16,500! How amazing is that? I cannot believe we have had such an influence.

Big changes often start small. At the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) Annual Conference, I had a casual conversation during a lunch break with some of the other participants. Months later, this encounter inspired a team at the Ambrosius Primary School in

Oranjemund, a school in the far southwestern corner of Namibia on the border with South Africa, to initiate a collection of coins and small-change for giraffe. This small delegation, led by the school principal, travelled to Windhoek to personally hand over this amazing contribution and to tell us about their wonderful environmental club. This passionate handful of individuals has initiated a change in attitudes at their school, which has succeeded in instilling a better environmental awareness in their entire community. It was such a privilege to receive these enthusiastic and committed visitors at our office and their small donation was an enormous added bonus. For me, this was a small but profound achievement for the day-to-day programme we work with towards building Namibia's future leaders, and it makes me very proud of what we continue to achieve together.

On a more personal note, GCF supports capacity building and the growth of students outside as well as within the organisation through its African Bursary in Conservation Grant Programme (ABC Grants). As a young Namibian conservationist with a wish to develop my English writing and speaking skills, I am honoured to have been a beneficiary of this programme. With GCF's financial assistance, I managed to complete a three-year bachelor's degree in English and Linguistics and graduated from the Namibia University of Science and Technology in April 2022. GCF is not just my job, through which I love sharing my conservation knowledge with Namibia's children, it is also a family that has helped me to grow personally.



In my role as Southern African Programme Officer, it is my job to grow awareness for and commitment to giraffe conservation in Southern Africa. Each country and their governments are unique in their perception of giraffe and their conservation approach. My work largely involves working collaboratively with these governments, and other conservation partners, whether it be building partnerships, developing strategies, or sharing awareness about the plight of giraffe. Below are some of my work highlights for this last year, and I am excited about what the next year may bring.

To better understand the distribution and genetic profile of giraffe in South Africa, we have been undertaking a large-scale country-wide DNA biopsy collection and combining this with an effort to compile a detailed database of giraffe numbers and distribution in the country. Interacting directly with private game farm owners offers a great opportunity to spread the word on the plight of giraffe and to forge new partnerships, which can hopefully be mutually beneficial. It is amazing how little people know about giraffe, and a good conversation starter is always the question: Did you know that there are four African elephant for every one giraffe?

This year we partnered with Big Game Parks in Eswatini to help them better understand what is going on with their giraffe through the development of a simple database of how many and where, translocations that have occurred over the years, and more. We worked together to collect DNA biopsy samples from a number of the properties and attached the first-ever GPS satellite tags to giraffe in the country. We provided technical support to repopulate and bolster the giraffe populations on smaller wildlife properties in the country. Over time, we will monitor how these individuals settle into their new homes.

GCF and the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance (MWA) drafted the first-ever National Giraffe Conservation Strategy for Mozambique on behalf of the government. The strategy is



currently under review and will hopefully be endorsed soon to enable increased implementation. Additionally, together with the MWA, Peace Parks Foundation and Karingani Game Reserve we have managed to truly place giraffe conservation in Mozambique on the local agenda. Through attaching GPS satellite tags to some of the few remaining giraffe in the country and undertaking detailed individual surveys and pre-translocation assessments, we have paved the way towards rebuilding Mozambique's giraffe numbers and establishing long-term source populations on key properties in the country. What a year!





As the GCF Programme Officer for Kenya, I work closely with local Kenyan stakeholders to implement conservation actions that are outlined in the National Recovery Action Plan for Giraffe in Kenya.

I love working with people and as part of GCF's Twiga Wetu (Swahili for 'Our Giraffe') Initiative, this year I trained and worked alongside 48 rangers from 20 community conservancies in the Athi-Kapiti ecosystem on the use of mobile Apps in wildlife data collection. As a result of our work, the conservancies have now set up structures in their respective areas for monitoring the Masai giraffe by the local people who live side by side with this threatened

species. In the long term, this data will help all of us to better understand the numbers and distribution of Masai giraffe in southern Kenya, and it will inform us about the kind of threats we need to look at mitigating. This is a great example of citizen science and community involvement in conservation – together we can make a difference.

Additionally, we developed and implemented a training workshop for 40 teachers in Laikipia on how to better integrate wildlife conservation content into the national primary school curriculum with emphasis on using the GCF Nature Workbook. As part of the GCF team, I am a voice for giraffe, and through such training sessions our voices are amplified. Hopefully each teacher will now also stand tall for giraffe and share our giraffe conservation message with his/her students.

On a personal note, I was fortunate this year to be selected as part of the Women in Conservation Technology programme, coordinated by Fauna and Flora International and Wild Labs. Spending time with other highly motivated female conservationists was even more inspiring than I thought, and the opportunity gave me the ability to learn more about the use of technology in wildlife conservation. Conservation and technology, the two things that GCF has been leading with for many years now.



The Savannah Landscape Ecology and Education Centre (SLEEC) is based in the beautiful Etosha Heights Private Reserve (EHPR) adjacent to Namibia's Etosha National Park. With a background in general field research and nature conservation, focusing on a single species felt a little strange initially. However, there is a lot of value in using giraffe as an umbrella species to protect larger landscapes; after all, there are actually four species of giraffe!

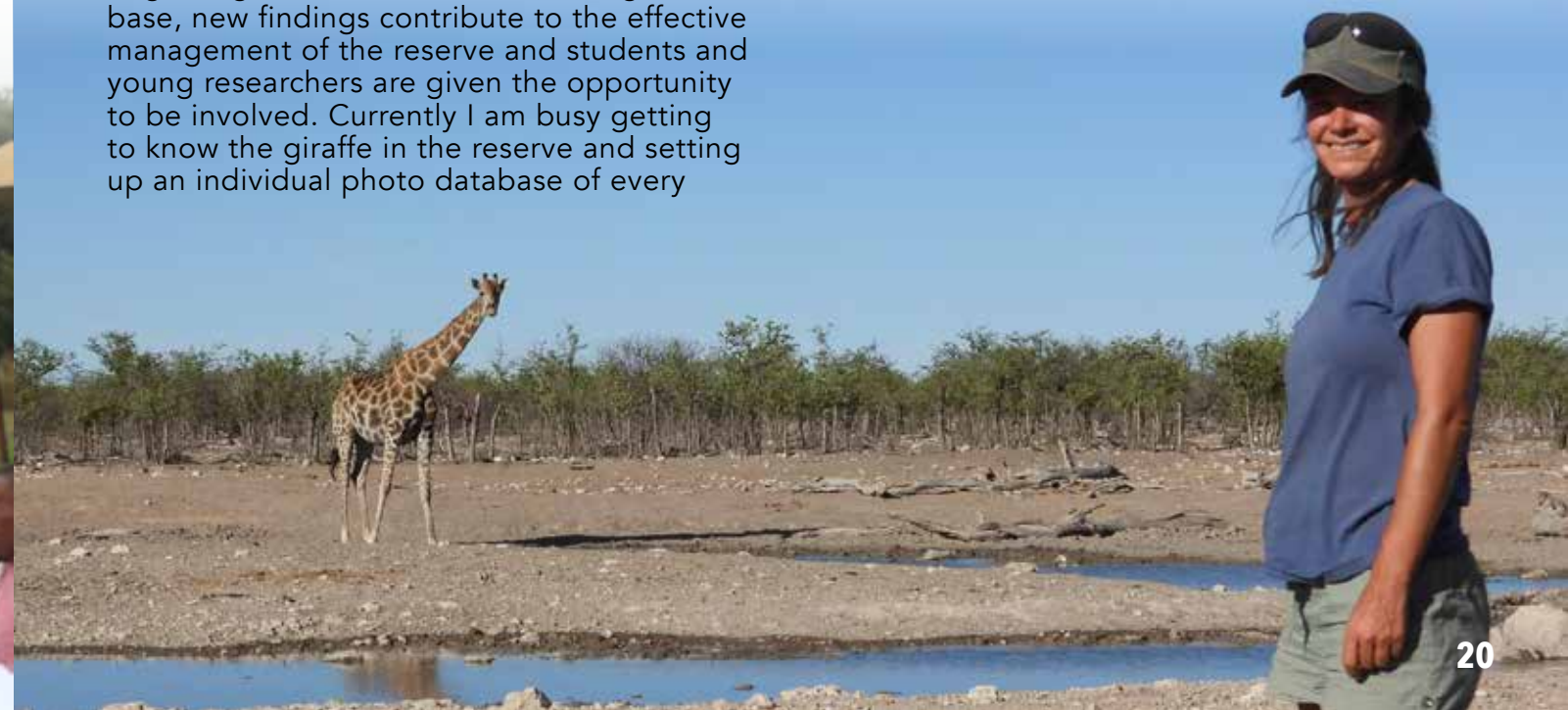
My role goes far beyond giraffe. As the Programme Coordinator I oversee a host of conservation science activities that contribute to a better understanding of how a large-scale system here in Namibia works. Training and building the capacity of local and international students is an important part of my work as well as strengthening stakeholder involvement and collaboration in the reserve and in the Greater Etosha South-western Landscape.

I have lived and worked in the Etosha National Park for many years and I love the landscape, so working for GCF and being based in the Etosha Heights Private Reserve is just a dream come true for me. I work in a dynamic environment where I can focus on landscape and wildlife ecology and I am afforded the opportunity of mentoring young Namibian students at the same time – what is there not to love? Although I only joined the GCF team this year, I am already excited about what the future holds.

SLEEC is a new initiative in collaboration with Namibia's University of Science and Technology Biodiversity Research Centre, and I am excited to be involved from the very beginning. With research and training as the base, new findings contribute to the effective management of the reserve and students and young researchers are given the opportunity to be involved. Currently I am busy getting to know the giraffe in the reserve and setting up an individual photo database of every

giraffe, which also contributes to GCF's online Adopt-a-Giraffe programme. Identifying giraffe is really fun and requires an eye for detail. Did you know that you can identify every single giraffe by their unique coat pattern? It is so satisfying when you recognise a particular giraffe and can match her/him to an individual already in our database. Slowly I am getting to know a few of the giraffe, despite the vast landscape of 60,000 ha. In time I hope to learn so much more about their behaviour.

GCF believes in strong partnerships at all levels. I literally sit at the core of strong partnerships in Namibia's wildlife heartland, working collaboratively and building partnerships with and between stakeholders who operate in the reserve and across the larger landscape, integrating researchers, tourism operators, reserve management and wildlife protection units. While dealing with neighbours and conflict situations can be a challenge, I believe I am up for the challenge.





to rescue and desnare over 200 animals of a wide range of species, including many critically endangered Nubian giraffe. In addition to working in the Murchison Falls NP, I have also treated southern white rhinos at Uganda's Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, one of the only two centres with rhino in the country. All my work is done in close collaboration with the UWA and their team. By strengthening the GCF-UWA collaboration, we are making a real difference for wildlife conservation in the country, and beyond.

Snare sweeps are another important aspect of my role. These sweeps are particularly essential with regards to preventing giraffe and other animals from becoming entangled in the first place. Together with S2W and the UWA, this year we removed over 2,000 illegal wire snares from the Murchison Falls NP. It was a big effort, which has directly helped to protect wildlife before the snares could cause any damage. The combination of snare sweeps and early detection desnaring is having a big impact on wildlife numbers in Uganda.

My personal highlight was my participation in the GCF inaugural wildlife immobilisation and continuing professional development course in Namibia. The course was organised and fully funded for all invited participants by GCF. In addition to expanding on my existing knowledge and gaining experience in new practical skills, learning to dart wildlife from a helicopter was amazing! I was immensely proud that it was 'my' organisation that developed this course for young African wildlife veterinarians. While the course was led by several experienced African wildlife veterinarian mentors, it was also my first opportunity to connect with and learn from colleagues of my age from other African countries. It was a fantastic experience all round and many months on we all continue to support each other in our work across the continent. Bravo GCF!

As a wildlife veterinarian, based in Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park (NP), I work collaboratively with and in support of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). My main job is to desnare wildlife entangled in illegal wire snares that have been set by poachers in the park. I also help to coordinate snare sweeps and outreach activities with local GCF partners such as the Snares to Wares Initiative (S2W).

Almost two years ago I first joined GCF in the capacity of an intern, which has since then developed into the wildlife veterinarian position I have today. To date, I have helped



I first joined the GCF team on a field trip in 2016, where I documented their work in Uganda and Chad, after which I wanted to get more involved. Since 2019 I help with their social media as a strategist, advising them on ways to optimise their social media presence. I bring together information and stories from GCF's entire team, highlighting their work across 18 African countries to keep our supporters up-to-date on GCF's activities and how our team tackles the threats that giraffe face in the wild to create a brighter future for them in Africa.

I probably have the best job at GCF as I have a front row seat in showcasing the work of our small but highly effective team, which I then share with giraffe lovers from all around the world. In a world often dominated by bad news and doom and gloom, I get the opportunity to bring people good news and to highlight conservation success stories. I am a voice for giraffe and my main aim is to inspire others to get involved.

World Giraffe Day (WGD), on 21 June, is a definite highlight on my calendar. Initiated by GCF, it is fantastic to see the increasing online support for this. Each year we aim to get as many people involved as possible to #StandTallForGiraffe and raise awareness of their silent extinction. 2022 has been the biggest year so far and it was incredible to see the outpouring of support from around the world – our inboxes were overwhelmed by the mentions, tags, and messages of support. WGD is a celebration of giraffe like no other and I love to see the creativity of our partners, supporters, school groups, zoos, and online media/news outlets. Everyone loves to get involved. With GCF supporters located around the globe, we get close to 48 hours of giraffe domination on social media.

A real highlight this year was to share news and images of the unprecedented giraffe baby boom with our supporters. We know that after any translocation we have to be patient, but it felt like things got off to a bang after a few years of setting up new populations: new calves were born in the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve in Niger, in Pian Upe in Uganda, Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi, and of course in northwestern Namibia. GCF and its partners' hard work to reclaim millions of acres of lost habitat for giraffe is certainly paying off and this baby boom is a great initial indicator of conservation success.

Over the past decade social media has become a constant yet permanently evolving part of our lives. While there is the good, the bad and the ugly of social media, at GCF we work hard to create a safe and engaging space in the online landscape for our followers and supporters. We curate content with the intention to educate and inform but also to inspire and offer hope in an often negative and depressing narrative on the state of the environment.

GCF is a science-based organisation and I enjoy that my job provides the latest information on giraffe and their conservation accessibly to people and showcases our successful conservation actions. This is not always an easy task, particularly as there is often so much to talk about. Our highly effective team does such an amazing job, and I am proud to be the one who talks about it. #StandTallForGiraffe.



COURTNEY MARNEWECK, CONSERVATION SCIENCE DATA COORDINATOR



In my newly established role as Conservation Science Data Coordinator, I am busy setting up new systems and platforms to improve GCF's data accessibility and shareability. While GCF is a rather small organisation, our data and technology footprint is large. We utilise modern technology, both on the ground and online, to save giraffe throughout Africa. My first goal was to improve on existing and set up new data management systems, which would ultimately make data easily accessible to both the team and our partners. I get very excited by data and making it accessible is key. My highlights so far include streamlining all our data into our main data hubs, EarthRanger and ArcGIS Online, creating dashboards for easy access, and expanding on existing and facilitating new partnerships.

GCF collects data through multiple sources, but now, everything feeds into two data hubs: EarthRanger and ArcGIS Online. Data from GPS satellite tags from various tag manufacturers now feeds directly into EarthRanger, where we can create profiles for partners to check in on the real-time location of tagged giraffe. EarthRanger also ensures that our GPS data is perfectly formatted for export and use in analysis. For most of our field data collection we have moved from paper to digital collection through a phone App, which then feeds directly into ArcGIS Online. This process means that there is less room for errors and we spend less time recording data. Our data is now stored in a central repository. Our EarthRanger and ArcGIS Online platforms are connected so

data is shared across both, and because both platforms are widely used in the conservation sector, we can easily share data with our partners.

After setting up these systems, I started to build summary dashboards that allow any member of the GCF team to check on the status of their projects in real-time. For example, how many children have participated in our KEEP programme; how many snares has our team removed from giraffe; and how are the tracking units performing before we attach them to giraffe? Because data is now collected digitally, it is synched immediately, and dashboards always show the most up-to-date information. I believe that good data visualisations facilitate understanding and will ultimately save giraffe. So, having these statistics displayed visually and at the click of a mouse, it will make GCF even more effective and impactful.

GCF continues to collect an incredible amount of data. In the Conservation Science Team we are building new partnerships to share this data, utilising external expertise, and using the knowledge generated to save giraffe in Africa. One such partnership is with the University of East Anglia, where a PhD student uses GCF data to understand how future climate will impact the suitable space available for giraffe. Combining our long-term data sets with climate change modelling, we can target areas that will be havens for giraffe, even under the worst future climate scenarios, securing giraffe populations for generations to come. Now that our data management systems are singing, I am excited to work towards supporting the scientific output of the team. It is amazing that such a relatively small organisation is at the forefront of using science in conservation and I am excited to be part of this.

KUDAKWASHE MBAIWA, FINANCE ASSISTANT



As part of GCF's finance team, I am at the coalface of GCF's dollars and cents, assisting with financial processing, bookkeeping and reconciliations. This has allowed me to learn a lot about GCF's programmes and initiatives throughout Africa, as well as build on my Namibian education and training. I am fortunate in that I work with everyone at GCF, following up on all expenditure invoices. This is my favourite part of the job, as I am allowed to scold everyone when they do not comply or are late in providing required information – even Julian and Steph! However, for a donor-funded organisation, it is essential that we are transparent and accountable, and everyone in our team works together to help with this.

GCF supports the development of young Africans. In addition to providing me with work opportunities and gaining experience in a dynamic and supportive office environment, GCF has supported my studies by awarding me an African Bursary in Conservation (ABC) grant. I have recently completed a post-

graduate Diploma in Business Administration, in addition to my daily work. Education is key, and I am excited to see what comes next.

I strongly believe that I have become an increasingly important member of the GCF team by taking on new roles in the organisation and keeping everyone accountable, not only in our Namibia office but also throughout Africa. GCF is a team, and we are fortunate that all of us are pulling in the same direction for giraffe, whether it be in the field or in the office.



When I joined GCF as the Finance and Compliance Manager I had no idea or understanding of the complexities of the organisation and the amazing (and diverse) role GCF plays in being a voice for giraffe. I am excited about working for an organisation that encompasses such a dynamic range of individuals, whose knowledge and passion inspires me every day. Every single team member is driven by a love for giraffe and/or our planet and strives to make a difference.

After understanding the existing systems and gaining a good understanding of what works well and where improvements could make a big difference, we reviewed our financial reporting procedures and over time

re-evaluated most of our operation systems and compliance. Subsequently, we recently underwent what felt like a complete overhaul of our accounting setup. Our aim was to ensure timely, easy and accurate reporting. At the same time, we audited our contractual compliance across the globe to ensure that we comply with all legal responsibilities and to ensure full accountability to our generous donors. I am now confident that we have all systems in place that help us manage our complex organisation efficiently.

The process has given me a unique perspective on the amazing support, help and advice individuals, board members and companies were willing to give us – all with the outlook of making a meaningful contribution to conservation in general and giraffe specifically.

I am very excited and happy to be part of the GCF team and hope to stand tall for giraffe for many more years to come.



My job as GCF's East Africa Coordinator involves working with various government and non-government partners to implement the various giraffe conservation strategies that we have helped to develop throughout the East African region, the most genetically diverse giraffe range area in Africa with three species, the Masai, Nubian and reticulated.

The past year was another success for GCF in terms of raising the profile of giraffe throughout East Africa. As a voice for giraffe, I worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to hold Range Committee meetings for all three species of giraffe that occur in the country. These meetings brought together giraffe conservation stakeholders to assess the progress made towards implementing the National Recovery and Action Plan for Giraffe in Kenya and to respond to any emerging threats they face. The Range Committee meetings also culminated in the review and drafting of the second edition of the National Recovery and Action Plan for Giraffe in Kenya, with GCF providing essential financial support and technical guidance. This is a major milestone for giraffe conservation in East Africa, and I am looking forward to its launch next year.

In collaboration with KWS and other partners, we successfully tagged 10 Masai giraffe in the peri-urban area of Athi-Kapiti near Nairobi, where giraffe face major threats relating to infrastructure. Specifically, the remaining natural environment is severely fragmented by fences and the busy Mombasa Road, which was recently upgraded to a major highway connecting Kenya's two largest cities. From this data, we hope to assess the remaining connectivity between the various farms and conservancies in the area and determine areas that giraffe use more frequently to inform management of this critical landscape. This conservation science-based approach is critical not only to save giraffe but also to hopefully reduce the wildlife collision risks to drivers on this busy highway.

In Ethiopia, we collaborated with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) to develop the country's first-ever National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. More than 30 partners participated in the highly interactive workshop and showed commitment to reversing the declining trend of the two species of giraffe found in Ethiopia, the Nubian and reticulated. With the range of

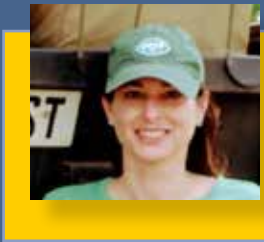


threats that giraffe face in Ethiopia, it is expected that the strategy will provide a framework and clear agency for supporting giraffe conservation. I am looking forward to GCF helping the Ethiopians to implement their strategy over the coming years.

As part of showcasing the work we at GCF do throughout the region, I sat on a panel discussion at the international EarthRanger User Conference in Kenya to discuss the use of satellite technology to understand giraffe movement and ecology. With more than 300 participants from all over the world in attendance, it was an amazing opportunity to engage with other conservation researchers who work with an array of species and to exchange ideas on studying movements and conserving habitats in challenging and ever-changing landscapes.

In Tanzania, we supported the local Masai NGO Traditional Ecosystems Survival Tanzania (TEST) to document traditional knowledge and cultural norms related to giraffe among the Masai community in northern parts of the country. The giraffe is the national animal of Tanzania and it is possible that the country still has the most abundant giraffe population in Africa. Learning about poems and songs relating to giraffe within the Masai community and gaining insights into the local reverence for giraffe has provided the momentum for me to be an even louder voice for giraffe.

GCF-USA BOARD



Shari Leigh Gordon, GCF-USA Board Member and Treasurer

I have just completed my first year on the GCF board, getting to know both the board and the organisation as a whole. Using my background in law and finance, I have been working with the executive team to enhance our policies and procedures to strengthen our governance and streamline compliance. As a newcomer to GCF, I have been very impressed with the team. They hail from all over the globe, and each one of them brings unique and often highly technical skills; yet they are all united by a passion for conservation in general, and giraffe in particular. Meeting most of them in person for the first time recently in Namibia let me see first-hand how well they complement each other, setting GCF up for continued success.

The first animal I saw on my first safari years ago was a giraffe. It was galloping across a plain to catch up with other giraffe, and I was in awe. While on game drives with the GCF team in Namibia earlier this year, I couldn't help noticing that even these seasoned professionals are still excited when they spot a giraffe. It reiterated for me how essential GCF's work is in ensuring the survival of these magnificent creatures, whether it be research, community outreach or working with governments in Africa to create conservation strategies and action plans. I am proud to be standing tall for giraffe with this extraordinary team.



Lars Markgren, GCF-USA Board Member

I am a serial entrepreneur, but these days I spend the majority of my time in local forestry management in the Nordics and investing early-stage venture capital in the tech sector. As a GCF board member, I bring knowledge of the Internet, the corporate world and how to build corporate culture that supports efficiency as well as individual development.

I am very excited about being part of and contributing to such an effective team with a large reach throughout Africa. The way GCF works together with local authorities, conservation partners and communities in each country is key. I am super impressed by the many things that GCF has achieved in 2022, but if I am hard pressed to highlight one, I would single out the successful translocation of four West African giraffe in Niger, given the difficult and adverse working conditions in the country.



Tim Tetzlaff, GCF-USA Board Member

I am the Director of Conservation at the Naples Zoo, Florida. Observing my parents initiate and serve in professional associations, collaboration is a long-held value and a key reason why I respect GCF's all-in attitude to help giraffe. However, GCF is best by either leading efforts or working alongside others. As President of the Florida Association of Zoos and Aquariums and a member of AZA's Giraffe SAFE programme, I'm motivated to continue furthering how the zoo community can do likewise by leveraging our millions of visitors and funding critical projects, as well as investigating how the many giraffe in our care can benefit giraffe in Africa.

Naples Zoo currently funds 27 field staff salaries in seven countries, including GCF's wildlife veterinarian and Conservation Health Coordinator Dr Sara Ferguson. Having personally witnessed her work in Uganda, I was impressed by her dedication and skills, and even more so now in her new role where her talents benefit government and NGO partners across the giraffe range in Africa. And in true conservation teamwork, the wildlife veterinarians who were invited to participate in the unique hands-on African wildlife veterinarian course Sara coordinates have gained skills that will benefit many animals beyond giraffe, including one of Naples Zoo's partners in rhino conservation in Tanzania. This ethic magnifies their impact far beyond what one imagines.



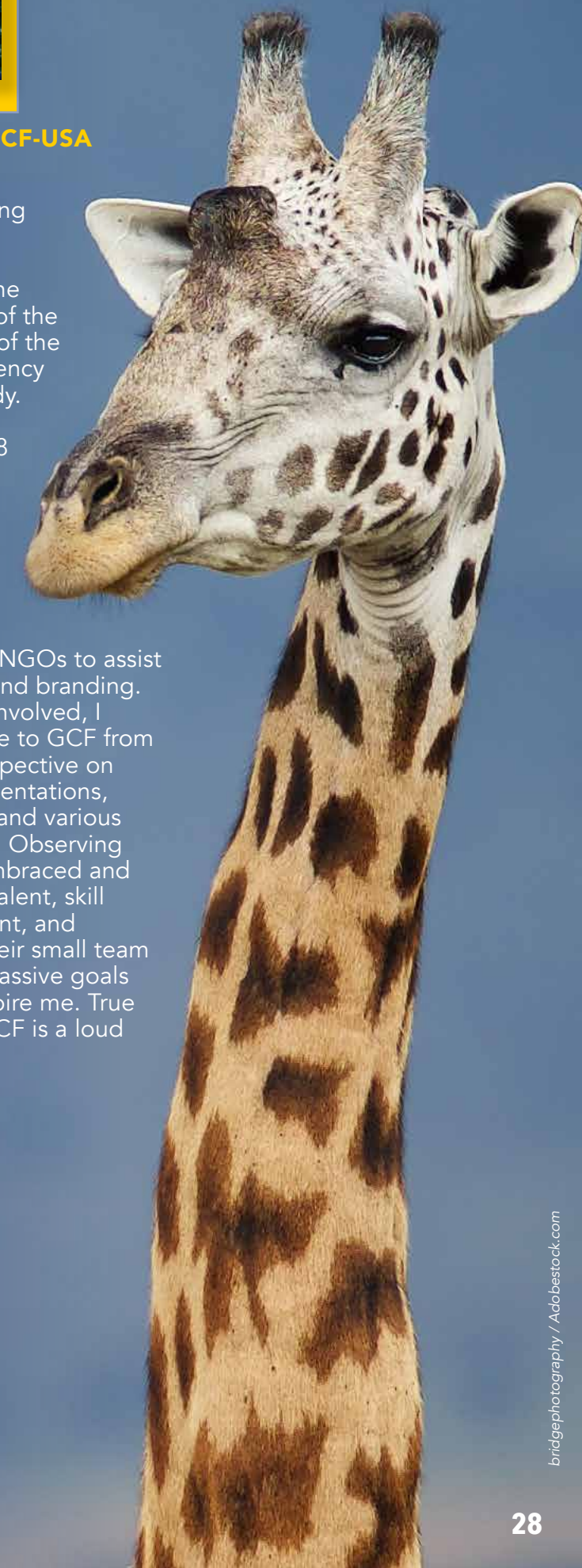
Lindy van den Bosch, GCF-USA Board Member

In my day job I oversee the smooth operation of the lodges and guesthouses that our company manages in Namibia. We are a small business, so I am directly involved in all aspects of the business, from operational to administrative. I am honoured to be a member of the GCF Board of Directors and I find myself surrounded by a team that brings specialised knowledge and expertise to the table. While my initial involvement focused on the area of finance, I also bring expertise in conservation and in operating in an African setting, which is not always an easy playing field. The GCF team believes in transparency and full disclosure of their activities. It gives me great comfort to know and understand the integrity of their management and the execution of their work. I have followed GCF's conservation efforts for several years now and I continue to be impressed by the team's growing impact on giraffe conservation throughout Africa. If there is something happening with giraffe in Africa, you can pretty much be assured that GCF is involved. While GCF has, once again, reached many achievements this past year, what really stands out for me is the hands-on training course for African Veterinarians in Namibia, which was both initiated and fully funded by GCF.



Chris Kelsch, GCF-USA Board Member

I am an advertising professional and designer who currently leads the Creative Studio of the New York office of the independent agency Wieden+Kennedy. I first connected with GCF in 2018 through an international exchange programme that pairs aspiring leaders in advertising with NGOs to assist with marketing and branding. Since I first got involved, I provide guidance to GCF from a corporate perspective on storytelling, presentations, internal culture, and various graphic projects. Observing how GCF has embraced and challenged the talent, skill sets, development, and knowledge of their small team to accomplish massive goals continues to inspire me. True to its mission, GCF is a loud voice for giraffe.



Publications

As a conservation organisation, our focus is on acting decisively in addressing giraffe conservation needs throughout Africa. We base these actions on the latest available science and often we look to finding the answers to our questions ourselves. As such, applied conservation research remains an important part of our mission. The following peer-reviewed papers were published by our team or co-authored by GCF-staff members during the reporting period of this Annual Report:

- Berstein-Kurtycz LM, Dunham NT, Evenhuis J, Brown MB, Muneza A, Fennessy J, Dennis P & Lukas KE (2023) Evaluating the effects of Giraffe Skin Disease and wire snare wounds on the gaits of free-ranging Nubian giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis*). *Journal of Experimental Biology* 13: 1959
- Broekman MJE. et al. (Brown M, Fennessy, J.). 2022. Evaluating expert-based habitat suitability information of terrestrial mammals with GPS-tracking data. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. 31(6):
- Hamutenya J, Hauptfleisch M, De Cauwer V, Fennessy J, Fennessy S & Nzuma T (2022) Understanding community attitudes toward the Angolan giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa angolensis*) and its potential reintroduction into Iona National Park, Angola. *Namibian Journal of Environment* 6(A): 47-56
- Hart E, Ciuti S, Herrmann L, Fennessy J, Wells E & Salter-Townshend M (2022) Static and dynamic methods in social network analysis reveal the association patterns of desert-dwelling giraffe. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 76(5)
- Muneza A, Amakobe B, Kasaine S, Kramer DB, Githiru M, Roloff GJ, Hayward MW & Montgomery RA (2022) Complex Ways in Which Landscape Conditions and Risks Affect Human Attitudes Towards Wildlife. *Conservation and Society* 283-292
- Muneza A, Amakobe B, Kasaine S, Kramer DB, Githiru M, Roloff GJ, Hayward MW & Montgomery RA (2023) Socio-economic factors correlating with illegal use of giraffe body parts. *Oryx* 1-10
- Muneza A, Linden DW, Kimaro MH, Dickman AJ, Macdonald DW, Roloff GJ, Hayward MW & Montgomery RA (2022) Exploring the connections between giraffe skin disease and lion predation. *Journal of Zoology* 316: 49-60
- Winter S, Fennessy J, Janke A & Nilsson MA (2023) Northern olingo (*Bassaricyon gabbi*), zorilla (*Ictonyx striatus*), and honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*) mitochondrial genomes and a phylogeny of Musteloidea. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 10:1089641

African Bursary in Conservation (ABC) Grant Programme

Giraffe can only be saved in Africa, by African people. Working collaboratively and enhancing the capacity of Africans and Africa's future conservation leaders is at the core of GCF's conservation model and it is a key component of our Twiga Wetu ('Our Giraffe') Initiative. As such, this year GCF supported the following students and young professionals in their career:

- Rachael Clark (Chad), MSc – University of Glasgow, Scotland
- Freya Cubas (Namibia), MSc – Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany
- Kateřina Gašparova (Niger), PhD – Czech University of Life Sciences, Czech Republic
- Jackson Hamutenya (Namibia), MSc – Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia
- Zazapamue Hange (Namibia), MSc – Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia
- Ellie Harris (Africa-wide), PhD – University of East Anglia, England
- Martha Haukongo (Namibia), BSc – University of Science and Technology, Namibia
- Clíodhna Hynes (Namibia), MSc – University College Dublin, Ireland
- Nikos Kargopoulos (Africa-wide), Postdoctoral – University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Kudawashe Mbaiwa (Namibia), Certificate of Accounting – University of Namibia, Namibia
- Vincent Naude (South Africa), Postdoctoral – Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Jaco Olivier (Zimbabwe), PhD – Stellenbosch University, South Africa

To increase our impact, GCF has established the African Bursary in Conservation (ABC) Grant Programme, which targets African women and men at the early stages of their career in conservation. We aim to support highly motivated individuals in their professional development and in their endeavour to work in the wildlife conservation sector. We envisage these young people as future conservation leaders in their respective home countries. In particular, the GCF ABC Grant aims to support giraffe-focused conservation science studies in natural giraffe range States in Africa.



KEY CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Working with partners is at the core of GCF's values and conservation approach. Over the past years we have forged numerous key conservation partnerships around the world, particularly throughout Africa. We are proud to work closely with our partners towards saving giraffe in the wild.

Navigating the hierarchical systems of African governments is not always easy; however, when they are successful, these partnerships garner the most amazing results. Working with government partners is key to conservation in most countries. Local communities are the custodians of their wildlife, and their involvement is imperative for the success of any long-term conservation initiative. Local and international conservation organisations and NGOs often provide inroads, insights and collaborative approaches on many levels towards long-term conservation initiatives.

In this respect, GCF partners with many of the cleverest minds in conservation science to achieve high-level signs, outputs and publications. As a science-based organisation, GCF uses the latest and best available science to inform our conservation actions.

This is not an exhaustive list, however, we would like to highlight a few key conservation partners who stood out this year. We are fortunate that there are many more organisations and individuals who continue to provide invaluable support. This support cover a wide range of aspects, which at times comes from unexpected sources. All your assistance is important and together we stand tall for giraffe.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

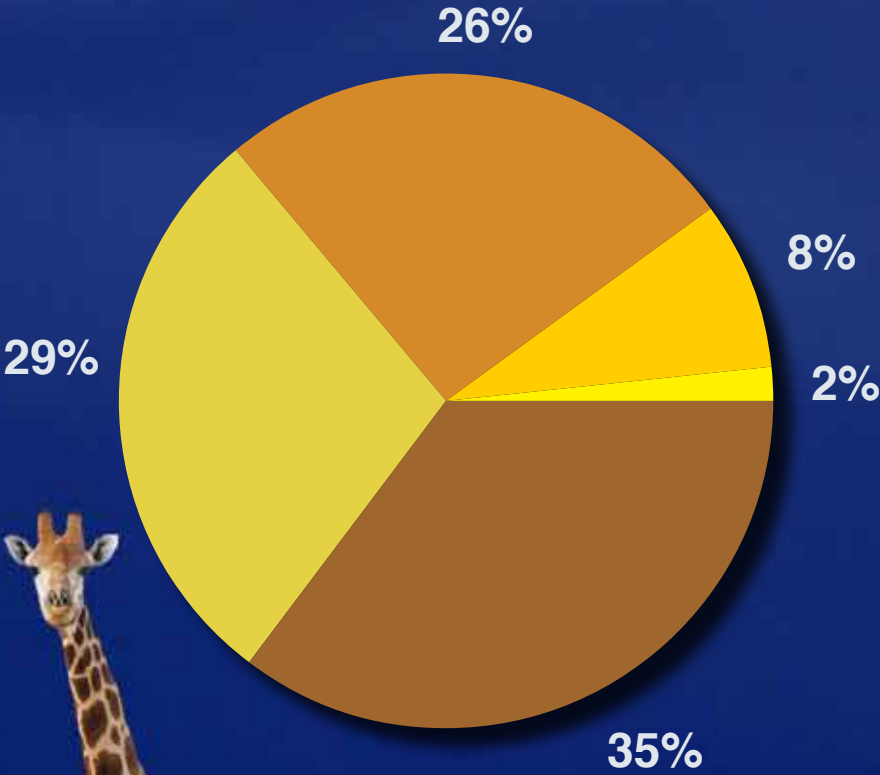
This year has continued to place financial challenges in front of most people. A heightened level of insecurity and unpredictability has become part of our lives and this new reality seems to be here to stay. Despite these difficulties and a generally more negative global outlook, we have continued to receive valuable support for giraffe conservation. Even though we have seen a slowing influx of smaller donations recently, we continue to look at new and innovative ways of engaging our donors. And we believe that our conservation successes and actions speak for themselves. With healthy financial reserves, GCF is in a solid financial position to become a forever louder voice for giraffe.



GCF has again earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid (formerly GuideStar). For the fourth consecutive year, we have received this award for meeting their rigorous criteria for the highest levels of transparency within our operations and results. You can continue to support our work to save giraffe in Africa with renewed trust and confidence.

FUNDS RECEIVED (BY SOURCE)

Foundations / Funds	\$683,281
Individual / Private	\$556,718
Zoos	\$503,908
Corporate	\$162,291
Donor-Advised Funds	\$33,788
TOTAL \$1,939,988	



EXPENDITURE

Programme & Grant Expenses <i>(Conservation, Education & Awareness)</i>	\$1,259,092
Operational & Administrative Expenses	\$131,845
TOTAL \$1,390,937	



*All amounts are in USD.

DONORS

GCF continues to receive financial support from organisations, foundations and private donors from around the world. Without this support, we would not be able to do our work and save giraffe in Africa. We would like to thank all our donors for their support and the trust they have put into GCF and our team. In this report, we only list the donations of US\$300 and above, however, every donation helps! We appreciate that you all stand tall with us for giraffe – Thank YOU!

A special thank you goes to Shores, Tagman, Butler & Company, P.A. in Orlando, Florida, who allow us to use their postal address, provide us with amazing pro bono administrative support, collate our financial annual statements, and support us in many other ways with regards to financial compliance in the USA. We would also like to thank the Metzger Group at Morgan Stanley who carefully look after our investment portfolio, Mica Allan who provided free coaching to some of our team, and the amazing team at Duarte who has helped us to overhaul our presentations and given us free access to their virtual courses.

\$50,000 and above

Chantecaille Beaute
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Great Plains Conservation Foundation
Lars Markgren
Moondance Foundation
Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens
ProNamib Trust
In memory of Linda Vidosh Zempel
Wallace Research Foundation
Wildlife Conservation Alliance
Wildlife Conservation Network
The Woodtiger Fund

\$20,000-\$49,999

Chessington World of Adventures
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Glenmorangie
Carvel Glenn & Randall Lamb
Highpoint Haven (Dan Houck & Lauren Kimbro) + Eric Flossic & family
Sandra Moss
Natural Selection
Oklahoma City Zoo
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
The Safari Collection
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
Vulli – Sophie La Girafe
The Waterloo Foundation

\$10,000-\$19,999

ACTIF (Animal Conservation Targeted Interventions Foundation)
Auckland Zoo
Beauval Nature
Blank Park Zoo
CFLI – Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

Columbus Zoo
Dallas Zoo
Detroit Zoo
In memory of Carvel Glenn
Global Wildlife Foundation
Kolmarden Zoo
Lehigh Valley Zoo
Lion Country Safari
Linda McIngvale
Mey Share Foundation
Sara Morales
WildArk
Woodland Park Zoo

\$5,000-\$9,999

Sherry Andelin
Antwerp Zoo
Bellewaerde Park
The Cranaleith Foundation
Sallyann Garner
Gulf Breeze Zoo
Jacksonville Zoo
Lake Tobias Wildlife Park
Laura Landau
Jonathan & Heather Lindbloom
Lion Habitat Ranch
Maci Matherne
The Perfect World Foundation
Play for Nature
Reid Park Zoo
Riverbanks Zoo
Sondra Smith
Stichting Wildlife Beekse Bergen
Taronga Zoo
Pamela Tate
Wilhelma Zoo
Friends of Zoo Boise

\$2,500-\$4,999

Abilene Zoo
Elizabeth Brann
Dickerson Park Zoo
Dublin Zoo
Charlotte Farber
FirstRand Foundation
Robert Fulton
Victoria Gordon & Robert Bradley
Michael & JoAnn Hamm
Murray Haseler
Sue Heim
Elizabeth Herman
Richard & JoAnn Hirth
Anne Hoffman
Till Hollmann
Joyce Kaneshiro & James Poley
Ann Marie Kohlligian
Milwaukee County Zoo
National Zoo Australia
Odense Zoo
Seneca Park Zoo
Dusty Sippola
Wags & Menace Make A Difference Foundation
Kathi White
World Giraffe Day Celebration
Facebook Group
Friends of the Zoo Chattanooga

\$1,000 - \$2,499

African Safari Wildlife Park
Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo
Justin Andelin
ABWAK (Association of British and Irish Wild Animal Keepers)
Dana Bae

Joseph Boenitz
Boissière Mervent Conservation / Parc Zoologique de La Boissière du Doré
Boulder Family Donor Fund
Sharron Brill
Buffalo Zoo
Margaret Croucher
Colleen Crowley
Pamala Davis
Donna De Weil
Dixit Family Gift Fund in honor of Jaya & Chintana
Gail Fuhrer & Hank Herman
Sarah Gong
Christine Goossen
Shayna Gross & Alfonso Castro
Vaughn Hasslein
Michael Hawksford
Joy Helbing
I Herman
Oliver Jacobson
Donald & Diane Kendall
David Knutson
Deborah Kozura
Klara Kurowski
Hannah & Joerg Landefeld
Tzu-Chi Lin
Little Turtle AAZK Chapter
Donald Livingstone
Barry Loncke & Lilly Spitz
Ray Lucero
Sheryl & Gary Lum
Magallan GmbH
Margaret Marrowstone
Maryland Zoo
Kristin Moala
Drew Monaghan & David Dibley
Monde Sauvage Safari
Linda & Bill Murray
Scott Newland
Jennifer Nguyen
Orin & Vicky Oberlander
Samuel Obstfeld
Parco Natura Viva / ARCA Foundation
Rochelle Penney
David Penswick
John & Nuri Pierce
Stacia Pieroni
David Posner
Mieka Ritsema
Susa Roth
Cheryl Rothman
NinaAnne Russo
San Antonio Zoo
Six Flags Theme Parks
Sidney Statter
Diane Stone

John Sturtevant
Jess Thompson
Robert & Margaret Van Andel
Jorge Vazquez
Laurel Walsh
Brandon Weal
The Wilds
The Wilson Sexton Foundation
Zoo Aquarium de Madrid
Zoo Dresden
Zoological Association of America

\$500 - \$999

Bruce Abbott
Bare Kind
John Basinger
Madeleine Bauer
Sarah Beauregard
Rachel Bhattacharyya
Cheryl Chenoweth in appreciation of RJ Whittington
Sally Clair
Elizabeth Clapero
Dudley Zoo
Mark & Indra Frank
Linda Frantz
Nicole Gallo
Nicole Gatz
Kathy Gerry
Edward Gilpin
Global Resources LLC
Birgit Goldfarb
ShariLeigh Gordon
Patricia Goudvis
Damon & Teri Ground
Dianne & Jeffrey Hall
Phillip Hamilton
Harrington-Spink Charitable Fund
Cathy Hayes Godwin
Amy Hays
Highpoint Haven/Team Gerald
Kathleen Hirooka
Michael Hughes
Graeme Hunter
Alan Kirby
Kiwanis Club of Gainesville
Nancy Latner
Louisville Zoo AAZK Chapter
John Mackenzie
Barbara McIntyre
Bruce & Eleanor McLearn
Katya Melliush
Robert Menzies
Dinah Miller
John Murphy
Julie Newcome

Josiah Nie
Melinda Novak
Oaken Palace Records
Dale Peterson
Preysman Giving Fund
Terry Reinbold
Kathleen Richter
Virginia Rogers
Prabha Sarangi
Sandra Schmidt (Envoy Solutions)
In Memory of Julia J Schneider
Tracy Settles
Catherine Smolinski
Sonja Sorbo
Ellen Sullivan
Kristen Tauber
Thomas/Alson-Milkman Charitable Fund
CK Torrence III
Twiga Coffee
Tracy & Juliette Valade Charitable Fund
Bettina Weber
James Weckerle
Jeff White
ZOOM Erlebniswelt Gelsenkirchen

\$300 - \$499

James Adams
Elena Adrianza-Tangrea & Joseph Tangrea
Jackie Alschuler
Dana Benson
Pamela Bradby
Katherine Brennan
Kristen Brown
Raven Carter
Frank Cermak
Barbara Clark
Mike Costello
Sandra Cregan
Molly Doogan
Bertram Edelstein
Andreas Farber
Ingi Finnsson
Erin Fortune
Vicki Fragasso
Gloria Freeman
Gabriel Frizzera
Joyce Fuller
Denise Gaines
Robert Gary
Clay Goldberg
Good Giraffes
Dirk Heimermann
Sylvia Hepler
Andrew Hollo

Nicole Imfeld
Nicolette Julson
Gail Kasovac
Rebecca Kiely
Elizabeth Kolbe
Karen & Mark Koten
Andrea Krause
Maysie Lane
Michelle Lee
Jeanne Lehmann
Christianne Leidecker
Wayne Little
Mark Patrick Lobene
Anna MacFarlane
James Manley-Buser
Jean McCarty
Susanna McDonald
Mikki McGuire
Martin Meehan
Pamela Metz
Adrian Moody
Dianna Moon
Lynette Morgan
Charisse Moy

Beth Murray
Musiara
Istvan Zoltan Nagy
Elizabeth O'Connor
Dallas Passmore
Joan Phillips
Jenna Pratt
Marijo Racciatti
Alan Rafferty
Mary Reilly
Susan Riley
Monika Rodas
Kelsey Rogers
Jonathan Sagal
Christopher Seabock
Brenda Serniak
David Shiben
Lisa Shields
Sandi Shoemaker
Katie Souvannavong
Daniel Stonge
Heather Stalter
Lindsey Steelman

Line Stroemland
Peter Sufka
Jo Teale
Lena Townsend
Diane Van Wyck
Aimee Weiss
Phoebe Weseley
West Midland Safari &
Leisure Park
Darrick Wong
Samantha Zitola



CONTACT / SUPPORT

Giraffe Conservation Foundation



[giraffeconservationfoundation](#)



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[Save_Giraffe](#)

info@giraffeconservation.org

giraffeconservation.org

Reporting Period:

1 March 2022 - 28 February 2023

