



**CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES**

UNEP/CMS/COP15/Doc.31.2.5

24 October 2025

Original: English

15th MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Campo Grande, Brazil, 23 to 29 March 2026
Agenda Item 31.2.5

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTION
FOR THE GIRAFFE (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)***

Summary:

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation has submitted the attached report on the implementation of the Concerted Action for the Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), UNEP/CMS/Concerted Action 13.3 (Rev.COP14).

*The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CMS Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCERTED ACTION FOR THE GIRAFFE (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)

UNEP/CMS/CONCERTED ACTION 13.3 (Rev.COP14)

CONCERTED ACTION

Title: Implementation update on the conservation and management of Masai giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi*), northern giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*) and southern giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa*).

Document number: UNEP/CMS/CONCERTED ACTION 13.3 (Rev.COP14) *Concerted Action for the Giraffe (Giraffa camelopardalis)*

REPORTING ORGANIZATION

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) is a conservation non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works exclusively on the conservation and management of all four species of giraffe in the wild in Africa. GCF currently works and supports giraffe conservation efforts in 21 African countries in over 110 million acres (approximately 445,000 km²) of giraffe habitat.

TARGET SPECIES

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Giraffidae

Genus, Species: *Giraffa camelopardalis* (Linnaeus 1758), *Giraffa giraffa* (Schreber 1784), *Giraffa reticulata* (de Winton 1899), *Giraffa tippelskirchi* (Matschie 1898)

Table 1: The updated giraffe taxonomy adopted in this report is based on the recent review of the IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group (2025). The taxonomy used in the IUCN Red List assessment for Giraffe (as a single species with nine subspecies) is outdated and is planned to be reviewed in 2026.

IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group (IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group Taxonomic Task Force 2025)	IUCN Red List Taxonomy 2018 (Muller et al. 2018)	IUCN Red List Category 2018 (as a single species)
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i> (Northern giraffe)	<i>G. c. rothschildi</i> (Rothschild's giraffe)*	Near Threatened (Fennessy et al. 2018)
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum</i> (Kordofan giraffe)	<i>G. c. antiquorum</i> (Kordofan giraffe)	Critically Endangered (Fennessy & Marais 2018)
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis</i> (Nubian giraffe)	<i>G. c. camelopardalis</i> (Nubian giraffe)	Critically Endangered (Wube et al. 2018)
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis peralta</i> (West African giraffe)	<i>G. c. peralta</i> (West African giraffe)	Vulnerable (Fennessy et al. 2018a)
<i>Giraffa giraffa</i> (Southern giraffe)	<i>G. c. giraffa</i> (Southern giraffe)	

IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group (IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group Taxonomic Task Force 2025)	IUCN Red List Taxonomy 2018 (Muller et al. 2018)	IUCN Red List Category 2018 (as a single species)
<i>Giraffa giraffa angolensis</i> (Angolan giraffe)	<i>Giraffa giraffa angolensis</i> (Angolan giraffe)	Least Concern (Marais et al. 2018)
<i>Giraffa giraffa giraffa</i> (South African giraffe)	<i>G. c. giraffa</i> (South African giraffe)	Not Assessed
<i>Giraffa reticulata</i> (Reticulated giraffe)	<i>G. c. reticulata</i> (Reticulated giraffe)	Endangered (Muneza et al. 2018)
<i>Giraffa tippelskirchi</i> (Masai giraffe)		
<i>Giraffa tippelskirchi thornicrofti</i> (Luangwa giraffe)	<i>G. c. thornicrofti</i> (Luangwa giraffe)	Vulnerable (Bercovitch et al. 2018)
<i>Giraffa tippelskirchi tippelskirchi</i> (Masai giraffe) <i>sensu strictu</i>	<i>G. c. tippelskirchi</i> (Masai giraffe)	Endangered (Bolger et al. 2019)

*Taxonomic review subsumed Rothschild's giraffe into Nubian giraffe (*G. c. camelopardalis*)

PROGRESS IN ACTIVITIES

Please refer to the blue-highlighted sections in Table 2 for activity updates through September 2025.

As per the activities presented in Table 2, 13 giraffe conservation Park, National or Regional Strategies and Plans have been developed with Range States across the continent, two been reviewed and renewed, and three are now outdated with no further action.

A taxonomic review by the IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group Taxonomy Taskforce was recently published (August 2025) and highlights the change to four species and seven subspecies. This is significant progress and supports the detailed research undertaken in the past decade. The next step will be for the IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group to undertake Red List assessments for each giraffe species, which is planned for 2026. The change in taxonomy and updated Red List assessments will further help protect all giraffe in the wild.

The [State of Giraffe 2025](#) was released by the GCF on 21 June 2025, World Giraffe Day. The findings highlight that the combined number of the four species of giraffe and their distribution has increased to a current estimated approximately 140,000 giraffes. More specifically, Southern giraffe numbers continue to increase markedly, whilst the other three species are stable or slowly increasing.

In 2022, [A Journey of Giraffe – A practical guide to wild giraffe translocations](#) was updated and is available freely online.

Additionally, and not reported in detail, numerous giraffe conservation translocations into areas where they have gone locally extinct or only remain in small numbers, studies on giraffe movements, detailed population surveys and environmental education programmes have been implemented in Range States and collectively with improved conservation efforts continue to further giraffe conservation in Africa.

Table 2: Updated Concerted Action Activities, Responsibility and Time in blue up until September 2025.

Target/Result	Activity ¹	Measurable Indicators	Actions (by September 2025)	Responsibility		Time
				Implementor	Who Funded	
1. Develop an Africa wide giraffe conservation strategy in consultation with Range States on the basis of the <i>Africa-wide Giraffe Conservation Strategic Framework: Road Map 2016</i> (Appendix 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and consensus on taxonomy to guide giraffe conservation and feed into Africa-wide strategy - Host a consultative workshop including all Range State representatives and relevant stakeholders (refer to Appendix 2 the Africa-wide giraffe conservation framework, which was reviewed and approved by the proponents of this Concerted Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consensus on taxonomy - Produce draft strategy - Share draft of strategy with stakeholder participants - Collate feedback and finalise strategy 	<p>IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group Taxonomic Taskforce reviewed the taxonomy and published its findings in August 2025</p> <p>Four species and seven subspecies identified</p> <p>No action on Africa-wide Strategy</p>	IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group	In kind	August 2025
2. Develop regional/taxon strategies in consultation with Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host consultative workshops including all Range State representatives and relevant stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce draft strategies - Share draft with stakeholder participants - Collate feedback and finalise strategies 	<p>Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) Giraffe Conservation Strategy 2022-26</p>	<p>GCF</p> <p>Range States (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe)</p> <p>KAZA Secretariat</p>	GCF	2022

¹ In light of the difficulty to raise funds for meetings, the various Range State Meetings, although listed independently, are being merged wherever possible.

Target/Result	Activity ¹	Measurable Indicators	Actions (by September 2025)	Responsibility		Time
				Implementor	Who Funded	
3. Develop new national strategies in consultation with Range States	- Host consultative workshops including national representatives and stakeholders	- Produce draft strategies - Share drafts with stakeholder participants - Collate feedback and finalise strategies	<p>Akagera National Park Giraffe Conservation Action Plan (2024-2029)</p> <p>Ethiopian Giraffe Conservation Action Plan 2023-2027</p> <p>Malawi Giraffe Conservation Action Plan 2024-2028</p> <p>National Conservation Strategy for giraffe (<i>Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum</i>) in Cameroon 2025-2035 (Final Draft)</p> <p>National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2020, Democratic Republic of the Congo</p> <p>National Giraffe Conservation Action Plan (2020-2024) for Tanzania</p> <p>National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Uganda (2020-2030)</p>	<p>African Parks (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda)</p> <p>GCF (All)</p> <p>Range States (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe)</p>	<p>African Parks (Rwanda)</p> <p>GCF</p> <p>EU/CMS (Zimbabwe)</p> <p>EU (Chad/ Zimbabwe)</p> <p>Range States</p> <p>United States Agency for International Development (USAID)</p>	See each document

Target/Result	Activity ¹	Measurable Indicators	Actions (by September 2025)	Responsibility		Time
				Implementor	Who Funded	
			<p>National Recovery and Action Plan for Giraffe (2023-2027) in Kenya</p> <p>National Strategy and Action Plan for Giraffe Conservation in Angola 2025-2030</p> <p>Niger National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2016</p> <p>Stratégie nationale de conservation de la giraffe (<i>Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum</i>) au Tchad 2024 – 2034</p> <p>Zimbabwe Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2035</p>			

Target/Result	Activity ¹	Measurable Indicators	Actions (by September 2025)	Responsibility		Time
				Implementor	Who Funded	
4. Implement current/existing national strategies in consultation with Range States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host annual national working group meetings to review and evaluate strategies - Review National Strategy and update every 5 years - Develop online international giraffe database (G.I.D.) - Designate giraffe specific representative for each country - Perform range wide surveys to prioritize areas where knowledge gaps are identified, standardize methodologies, address data gaps and establish consistency - Greater understanding of movements/corridors and habitat use to guide land use/corridor protection/infrastructure development - Inclusion of community livelihoods and education/ awareness for coexistence/ conflict management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated reports on annual action plans - National strategy updated every 5 years - G.I.D developed - Survey data input into G.I.D. - Giraffe representative for each country nominated - Assess and harmonize protocols where feasible; complementary data analysis; surveys performed consistently - Corridors identified/mapped - Materials developed for education and awareness, aligned to country curriculum where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic Republic of the Congo – outdated Kenya – updated, bi-annual meetings Niger – outdated Rwanda – updated Tanzania – outdated Uganda – no updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Parks GCF Range States NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Parks GCF Range States NGOs 	Ongoing

Target/Result	Activity ¹	Measurable Indicators	Actions (by September 2025)	Responsibility		Time
				Implementor	Who Funded	
5. Development of Africa-wide giraffe translocation guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collate and harmonize existing giraffe translocation protocols - Share and review by Range States and partners for input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce draft translocation guidelines - Share draft with stakeholder participants - Collate feedback and finalise translocation guidelines 	<p>A Journey of Giraffe – A practical guide to wild giraffe translocations.</p> <p>Fennessy, J., Bower, V., Castles, M., Fennessy, S., Brown, M., Hoffman, R., Muneza, A., Alves, J., Morkel, P. & Ferguson, S. 2022. A Journey of Giraffe – A practical guide to wild giraffe translocations. Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Windhoek, Namibia.</p>	GCF	GCF	2022
6. Africa-wide bi-annual update of giraffe conservation science and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collate annual reports on giraffe conservation science and management - Synthesising reports for policy decisions - Host invitation only giraffe conservation science and management forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce annual summary report on giraffe conservation science and management and sent to country coordinators - Adapt annual reports for policy decisions - Country members share population and distribution reports to be incorporated into Red List assessments 	<p>State of Giraffe 2025</p> <p>Marneweck CJ, Brown MB, Ekandjo P, Fennessy S, Hoffman R, Kipchumba A, Muneza A, Otten F & Fennessy J (Eds). 2025. State of Giraffe 2025: An update from the Giraffe Africa Database (GAD). Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Windhoek, Namibia.</p>	GCF	GCF	June 2025
7. Engage with IUCN SSC GOSG and contribute to Global Red List reassessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement with IUCN SSC GOSG established, and scientific information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data input into Red List assessments 	<p>State of Giraffe 2025</p> <p>Marneweck CJ, Brown MB, Ekandjo P,</p>	GCF	GCF	June 2025

Target/Result	Activity ¹	Measurable Indicators	Actions (by September 2025)	Responsibility		Time
				Implementor	Who Funded	
	provided to support reassessment of giraffe		Fennessy S, Hoffman R, Kipchumba A, Muneza A, Otten F & Fennessy J (Eds). 2025. State of Giraffe 2025: An update from the Giraffe Africa Database (GAD). Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Windhoek, Namibia.			
8. Assess feasibility of establishing a giraffe fund for sustainable financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct feasibility study and identify possible partners - Contact with African Elephant Fund for guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feasibility report generated 	No action			
9. Increase profile and awareness of giraffe conservation across different levels of management and within the public sphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate incorporation of giraffe conservation into education curriculum at all levels - Assess policy/legislation in each Range State for giraffe; promote listing of giraffe in relevant Range States - Promote giraffe on relevant international days e.g. World Giraffe Day/World Wildlife Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giraffe materials incorporated into national education curriculum - Policies/legislation adapted to changing giraffe populations where appropriate - Activities celebrated across Range States and internationally 	<p>World Giraffe Day (21 June) activities held throughout range states and internationally</p> <p>Various country environmental education programmes</p> <p>No known policy/legislation assessment for giraffe</p>	<p>GCF</p> <p>Range States</p> <p>NGOs</p>	<p>GCF</p> <p>Range States</p> <p>NGOs</p> <p>International Donors</p>	Ongoing

CHANGES TO THE CONCERTED ACTION

As priority, it is recommended to update the Concerted Action with the new *Giraffa* spp. taxonomy recently published by the IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Specialist Group Taxonomy Taskforce (2025). Alternatively, it may be more appropriate to close this Concerted Action and develop a new Concerted Action focusing on the latest taxonomy review, as this would highlight actions for each individual species.

A review of the Concerted Action document is overdue and should be undertaken in collaboration with interested Range States and partners, to assess the relevance of each action. This should be done in a facilitated forum with giraffe conservation and management experts from each Range State.

REFERENCES

- Fennessy, J., Bower, V., Castles, M., Fennessy, S., Brown, M., Hoffman, R., Muneza, A., Alves, J., Morkel, P. & Ferguson, S. 2022. A Journey of Giraffe – A practical guide to wild giraffe translocations. Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Windhoek, Namibia.
- IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group Taxonomic Task Force. (2025). An evaluation of the taxonomic status of giraffe (*Giraffa* spp.). IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group. Windhoek, Namibia.
- Marneweck CJ, Brown MB, Ekandjo P, Fennessy S, Hoffman R, Kipchumba A, Muneza A, Otten F & Fennessy J (Eds). 2025. State of Giraffe 2025: An update from the Giraffe Africa Database (GAD). Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Windhoek, Namibia.

Strategies and Action Plans

- Akagera National Park Giraffe Conservation Action Plan (2024-2029)
- Ethiopian Giraffe Conservation Action Plan 2023-2027
- Malawi Giraffe Conservation Action Plan 2024-2028
- National Conservation Strategy for giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*) in Cameroon 2025-2035 (Final Draft)
- National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2020, Democratic Republic of Congo
- National Giraffe Conservation Action Plan (2020-2024) for Tanzania
- National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for Uganda (2020-2030)
- National Recovery and Action Plan for Giraffe (2023-2027) in Kenya
- National Strategy and Action Plan for Giraffe Conservation in Angola 2025-2030
- Niger National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2016
- Stratégie nationale de conservation de la giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*) au Tchad 2024 – 2034
- Zimbabwe Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2035

ACTION

We propose that the Concerted Action be closed off and/or amended, as highlighted above, in line with the new four species taxonomy for giraffe as recently published by the IUCN SSC Giraffe & Okapi Taxonomy Taskforce (2025).