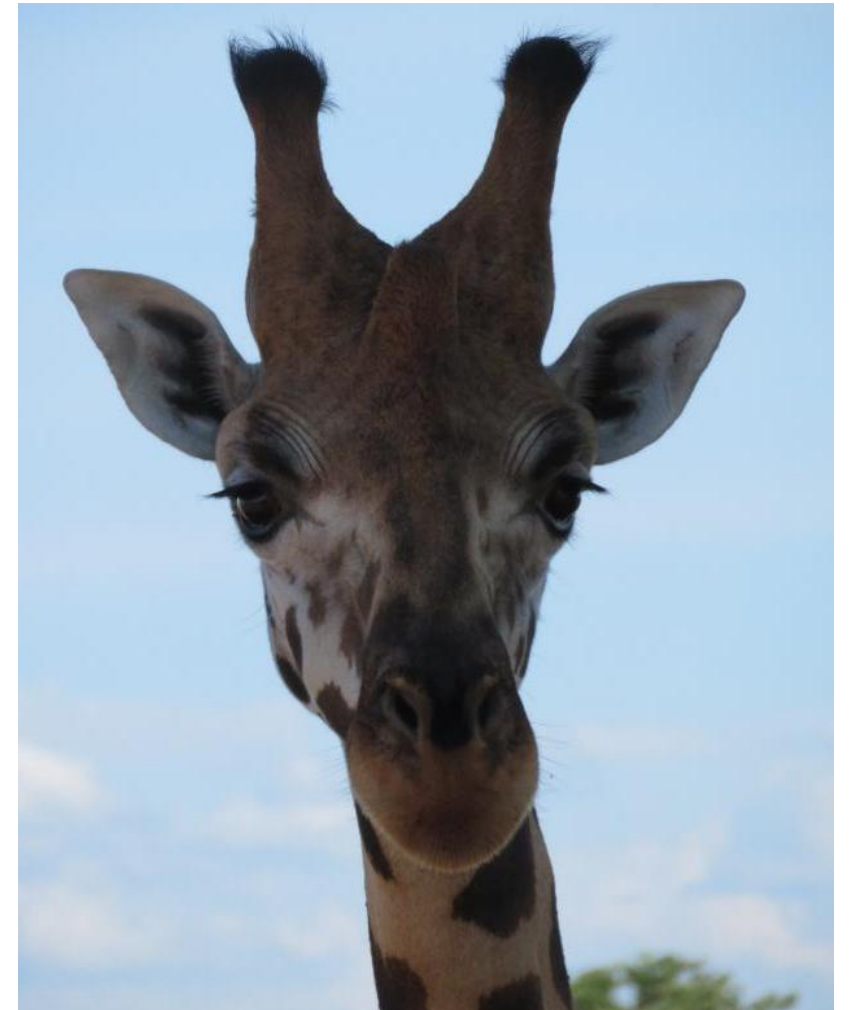




# **Giraffe SAFE 2017 Year in Review & 2018 Strategic Plans**

# Why is giraffe conservation a priority?

- **A “silent” extinction crisis**
- **Locally extinct in 7 African countries**
- **40% population decrease in 30 yrs**
- **2016 reclassified by IUCN as vulnerable to extinction**



# Many AZA zoos support giraffe conservation

## ARCS reports of AZA zoo giraffe conservation support

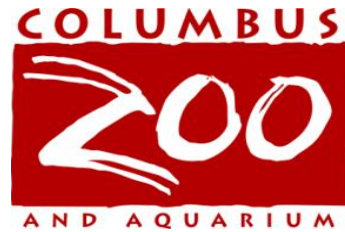
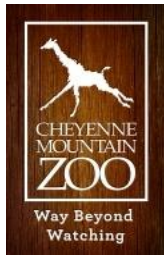
<b>Year</b>	<b># Reporting Institutions</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>\$222,173</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$268,585</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$312,085</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>?</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$802,843</b>

**In 2017, the Giraffe SAFE  
program was created**





# Currently 14 Giraffe SAFE Zoo Partners



**Goal: all 98 AZA zoos w giraffe will help support giraffe conservation w funding & awareness**

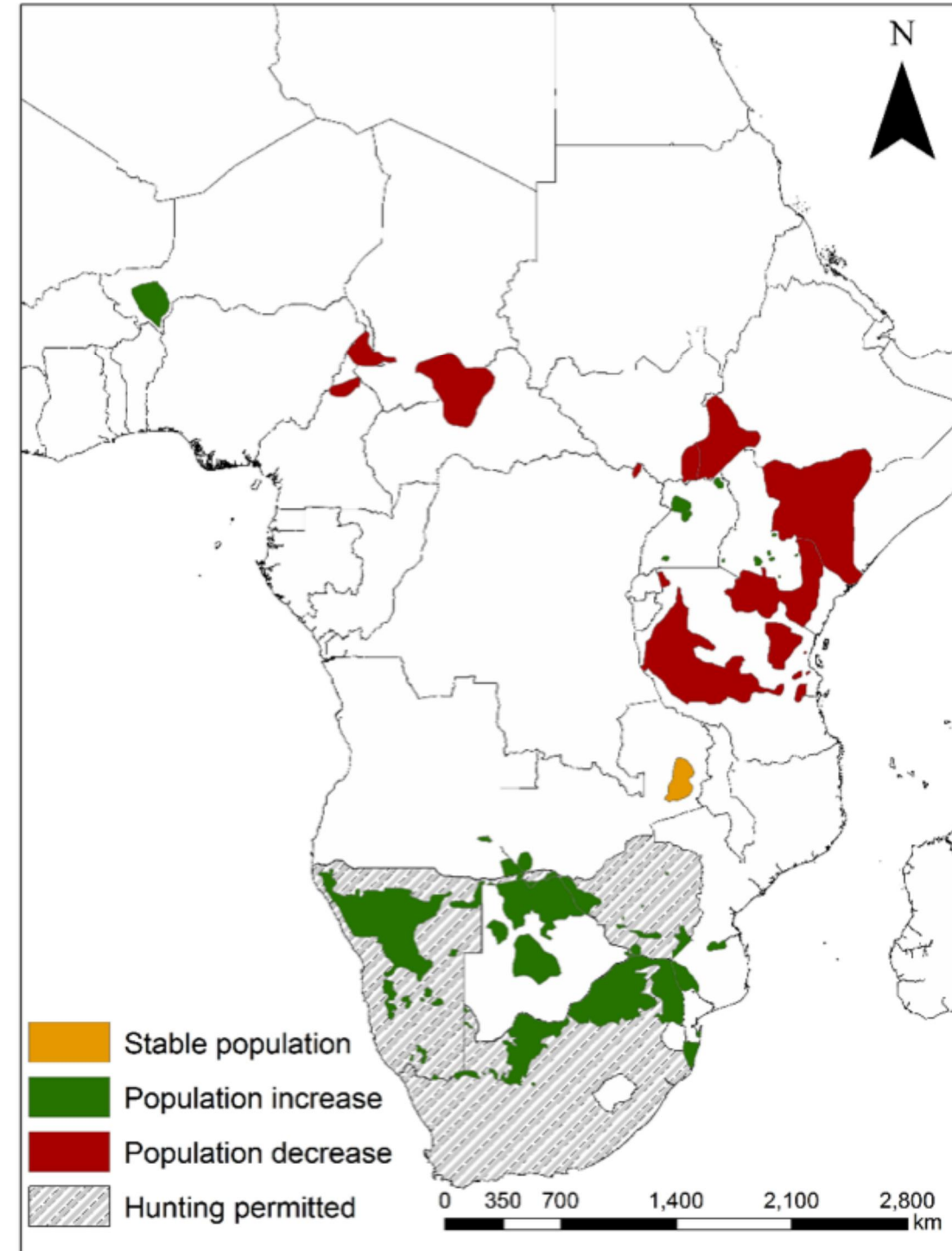
# Our 3 yr strategic plan (2017-2020) has been approved by the AZA



*Plan available on AZA SAFE Giraffe link*

# 3 Year Plan

- **Support in-country conservation work in Kenya, Tanzania, & Uganda**
- **Increase public engagement & funding from AZA members**
- **Increase communication & collaboration b/t zoos working to address similar threats or in similar regions**





# How do zoos become Giraffe SAFE partners?

- **Let us know you're interested & we'll email you the partner form & the 3 yr strategic plan**
- **Your Zoo's director signs the 3 yr partner form & you send us a copy**
  - **Host 1 public awareness project annually**
  - **Support giraffe field conservation annually (recommend \$3k min/yr)**
  - **Zoo makes its own decisions on which projects or field partners to support**



# How many giraffe species are there?

- IUCN currently recognizes 1 giraffe species w 9 subspecies
- New genetics research suggests reclassifying to 4 giraffe species
- 1 species or 4, wild giraffe are still having serious population declines



Nubian Giraffe



Kordofan Giraffe



Western Giraffe



Rothschild's Giraffe



Reticulated Giraffe



Thornicroft's Giraffe



Southern Giraffe



Angolan Giraffe



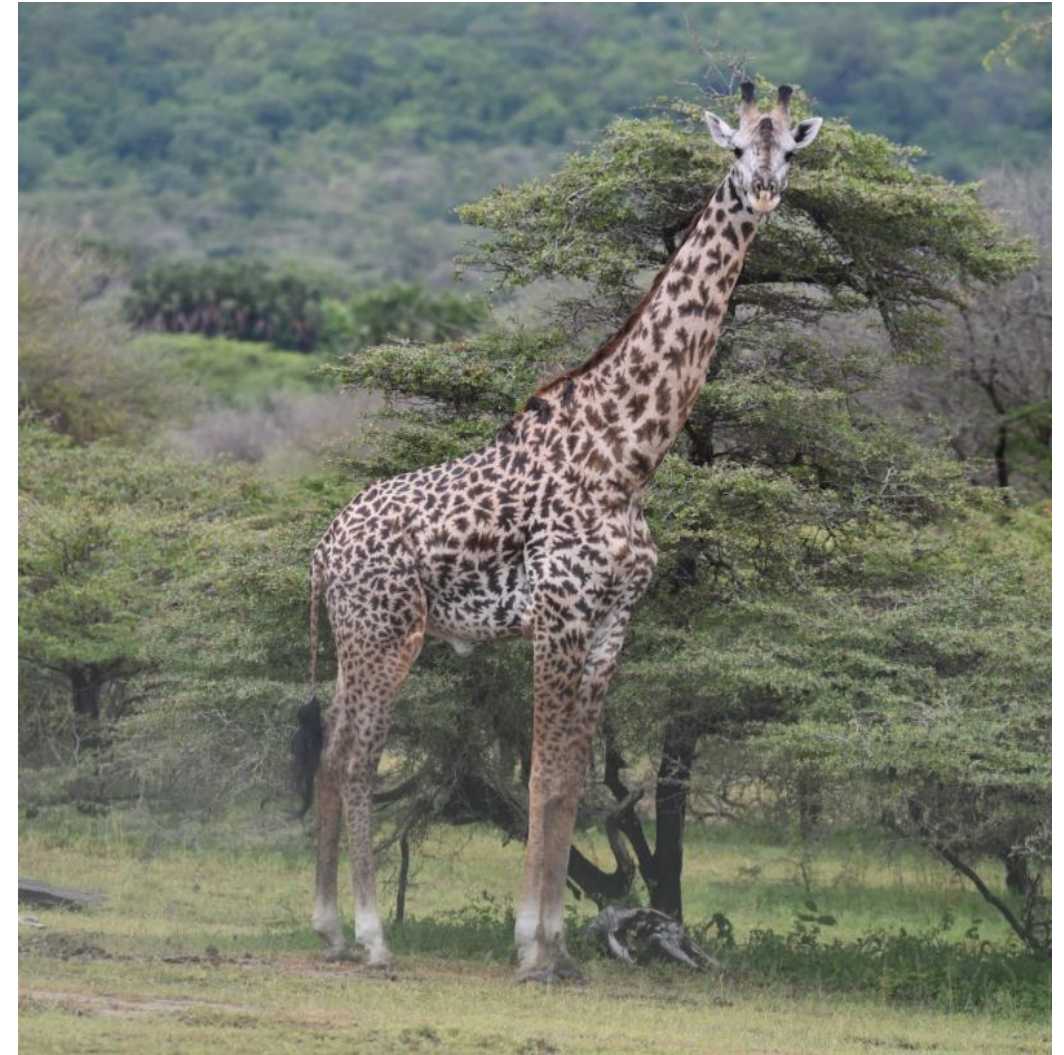
Masai Giraffe



**Speed round updates on  
in-country conservation work &  
how your zoo could help**

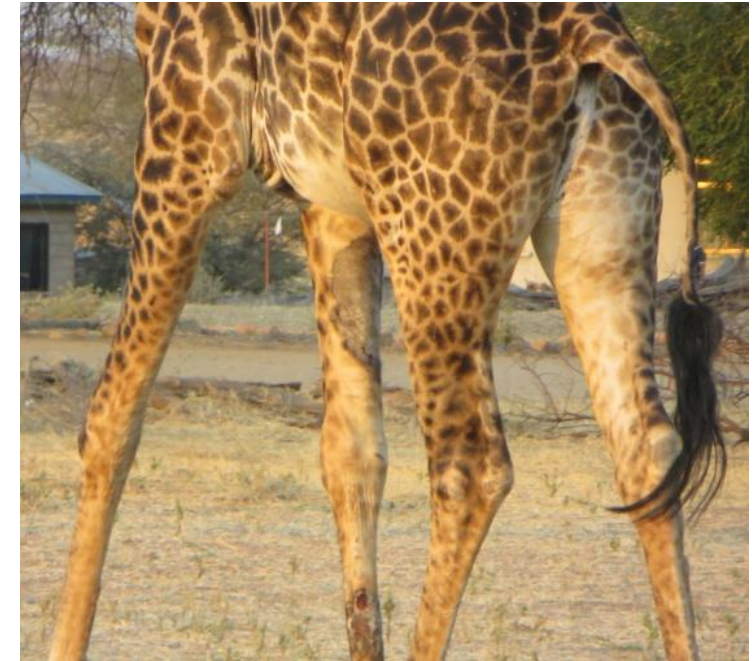
# Tanzania

## 20-23,000 Masai Giraffe



# Tanzania Strategic Objectives by August 2020

- **Gauge stakeholder interest (community & government) for future development of a National Giraffe Conservation Strategy & Action Plan**
- **Identify Giraffe Skin Disease (GSD) etiology in Ruaha National Park**
  - **Depending on results of studies and consults with field partners, other areas may also be considered**
- **Giraffe demographic study including assessment of GSD on survivorship in Ruaha National Park**
- **Provide community-based giraffe education programs, w initial focus on communities around the Tarangire Ecosystem**





# Tanzania 2017 Accomplishments

- **Tanzania education programming, site visit**
  - **Partners: The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens, Wild Nature Institute**
- **Country giraffe profile development workshop, including preliminary discussions regarding development of National Giraffe Conservation Strategy & Action Plan**
  - **Partners: Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Tanzanian Government, Columbus Zoo funding**

# Tanzania 2018 Goals

- **National Strategy Meeting**
- **Develop National Giraffe Strategy & Action Plan**
- **Giraffe Demographic study in Southern Tanzania**
- **Apply for research permit, NC Zoo lead**
- **Conservation Education**
- **Columbus Zoo awarded \$22,100 grant to WNI**

**Partners: Columbus Zoo, Giraffe Conservation Foundation, North Carolina Zoo, The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens, Wild Nature Institute, in-country stakeholders including TANAPA (national parks) & TAWIRI (research)**



# Kenya



- **8,700 Reticulated**
- **12,000 Masai**
- **808 Rothschild's  
(possibly to be  
reclassified Nubian)**

# San Diego Zoo Global has long-term established giraffe conservation programs in Kenya





Help us conserve,  
study and monitor  
the world's tallest  
mammals!

Report Encounter







dorsal neck base

ventral neck base

ventral neck top

dorsal neck top

left neck

right neck



# Solar Powered GPS Tracking





**June 2017: Tracking  
Titans pilot study w  
in-country partners  
to GPS collar 11  
reticulated giraffe in  
Loisaba & Leparua  
Conservancies**





**All recovered safely from anesthesia  
but 2 giraffe were poached within  
weeks of collaring**

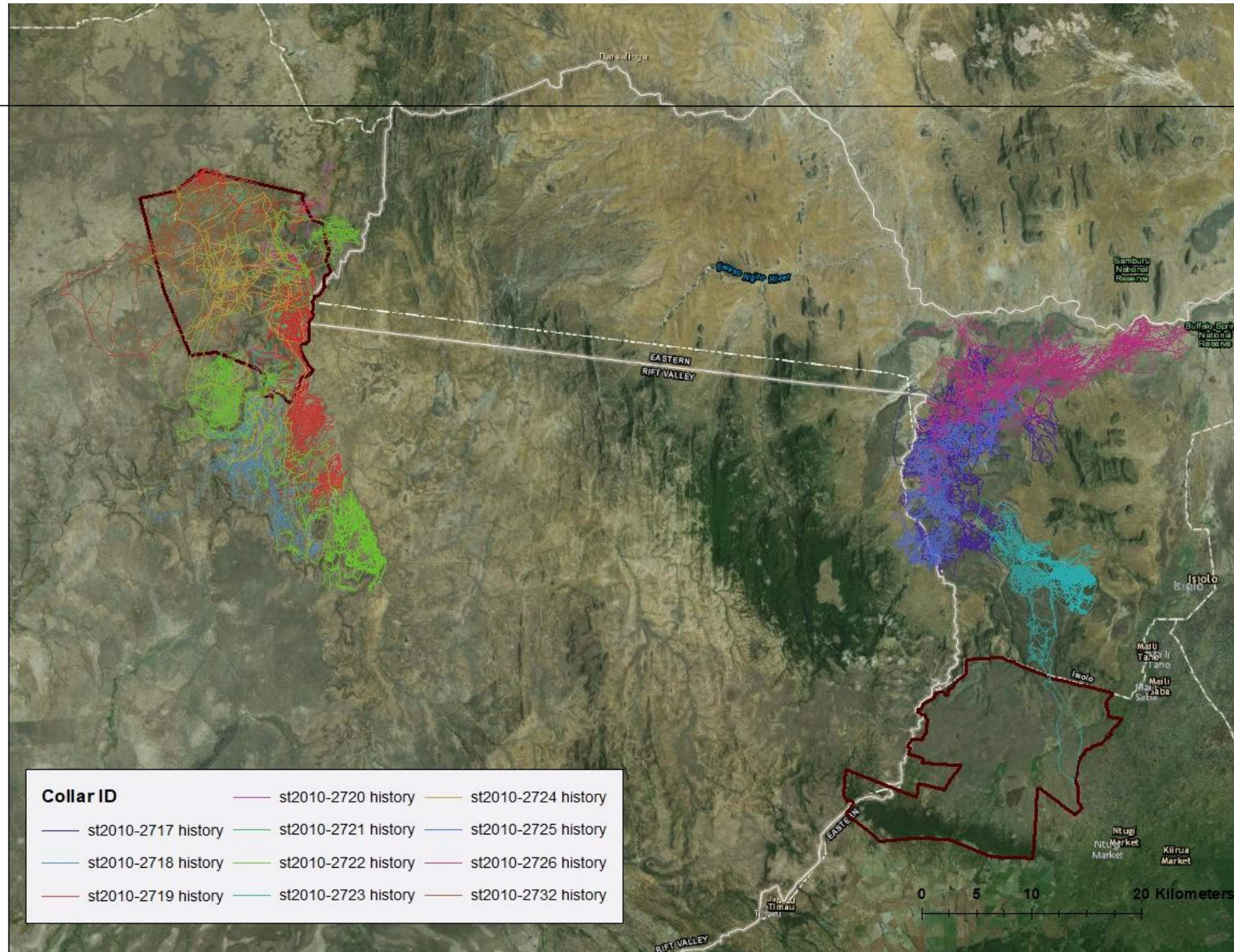
SAN DIEGO ZOO  
GLOBAL



Ken Bohn/SDZG



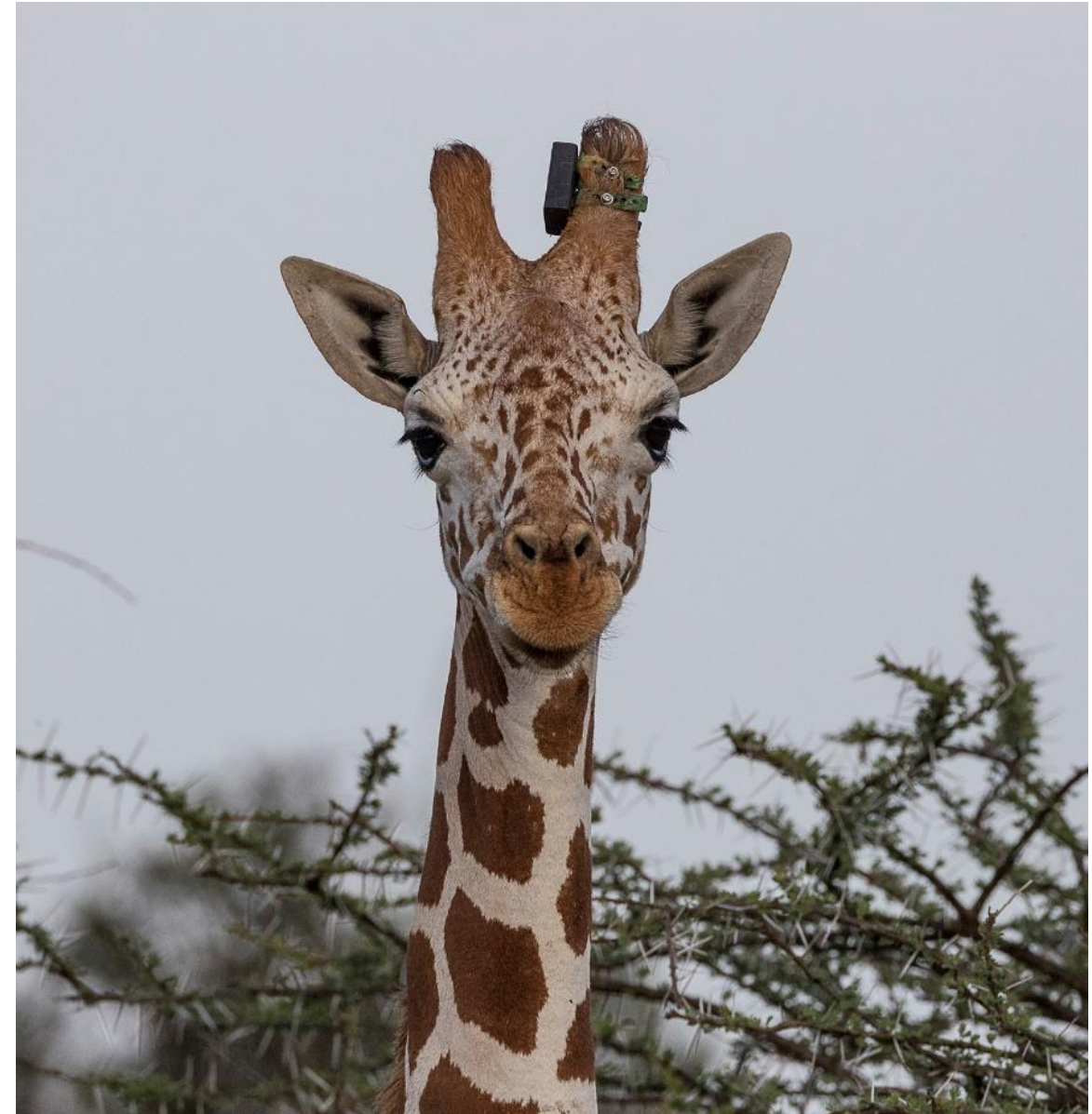
# Giraffe GPS Tracking Data





# Based on Tracking Titans pilot study, project awarded a SAFE program field conservation grant from Stonyfield Yogurt

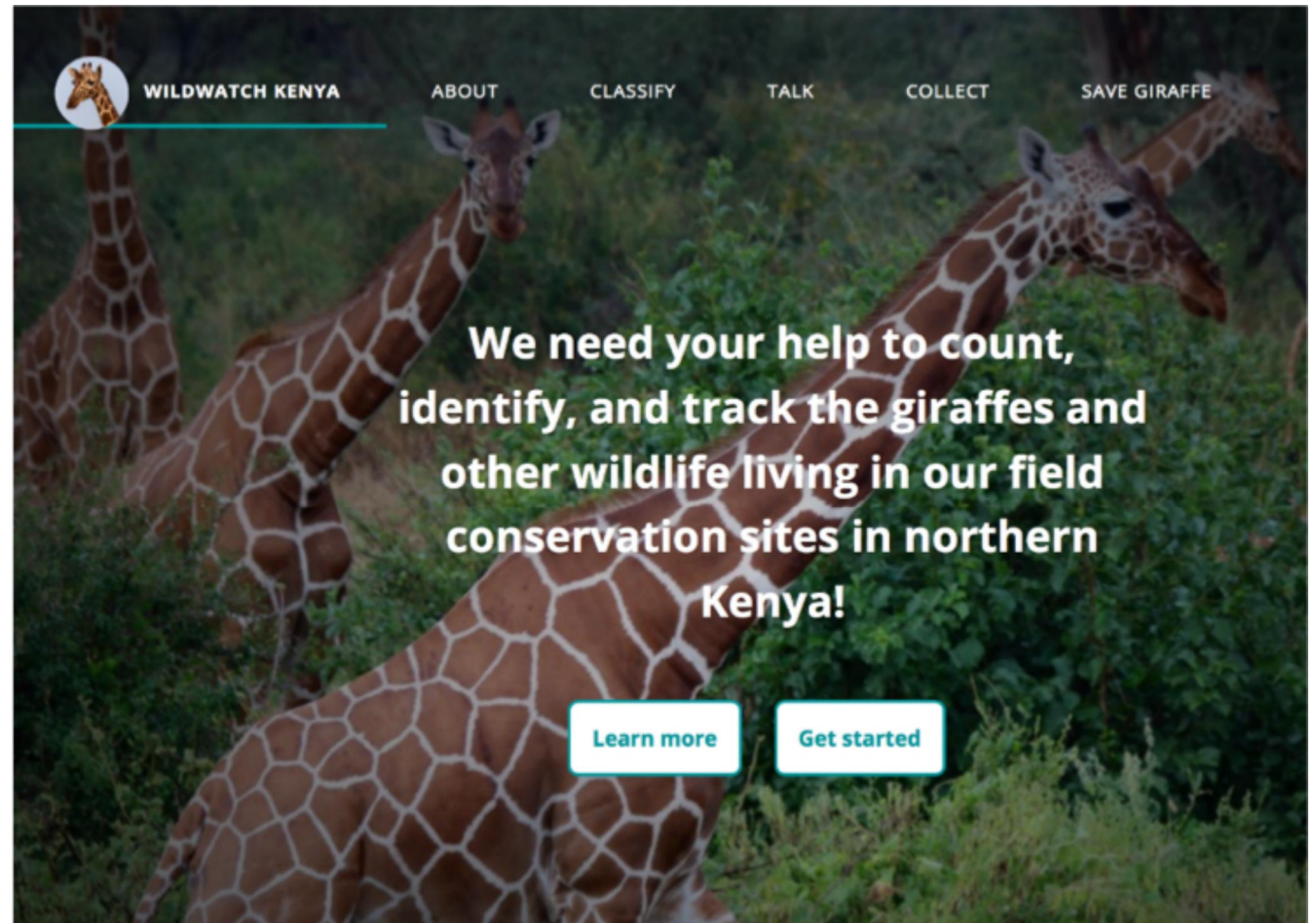
- Collaring of 25 reticulated giraffe was scheduled for March 2018, now postponed several months by Kenyan government



# Ongoing partnerships to understand & address human dimensions: partners needed!

## Reticulated Giraffe Conservation Program

- Camera traps
- Photo tracking:  
[WildWatchKenya.org](http://WildWatchKenya.org)
- GPS tracking
- Local community surveys





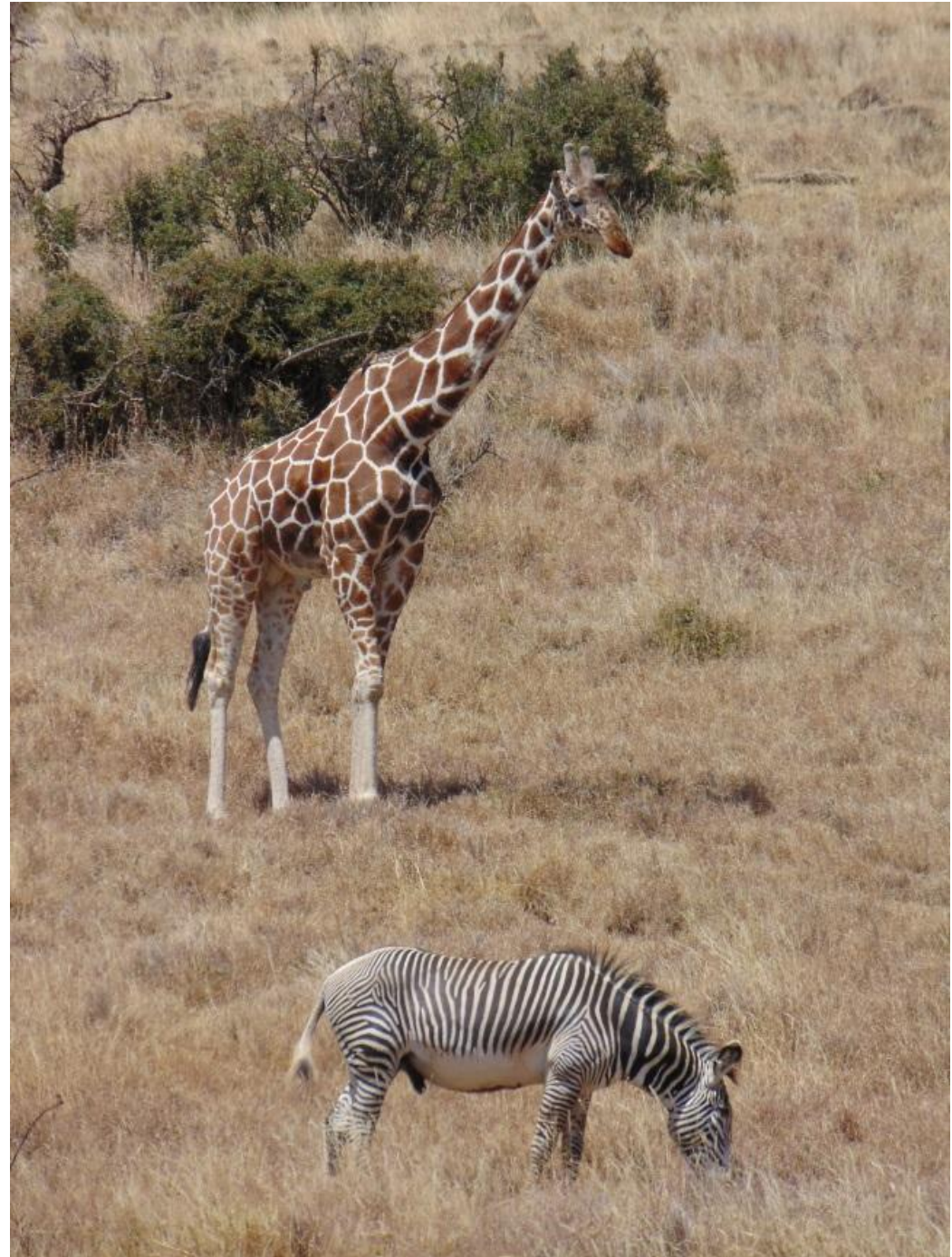


## In-country researchers & rangers



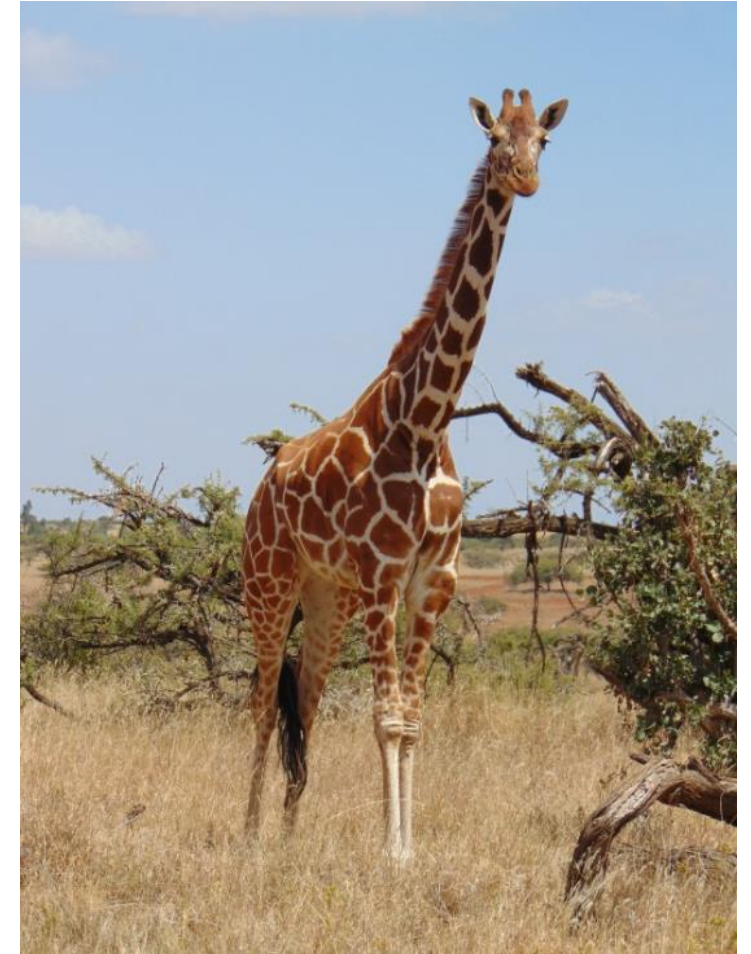


# Great Grevy's Zebra (& Giraffe) Rally 2018



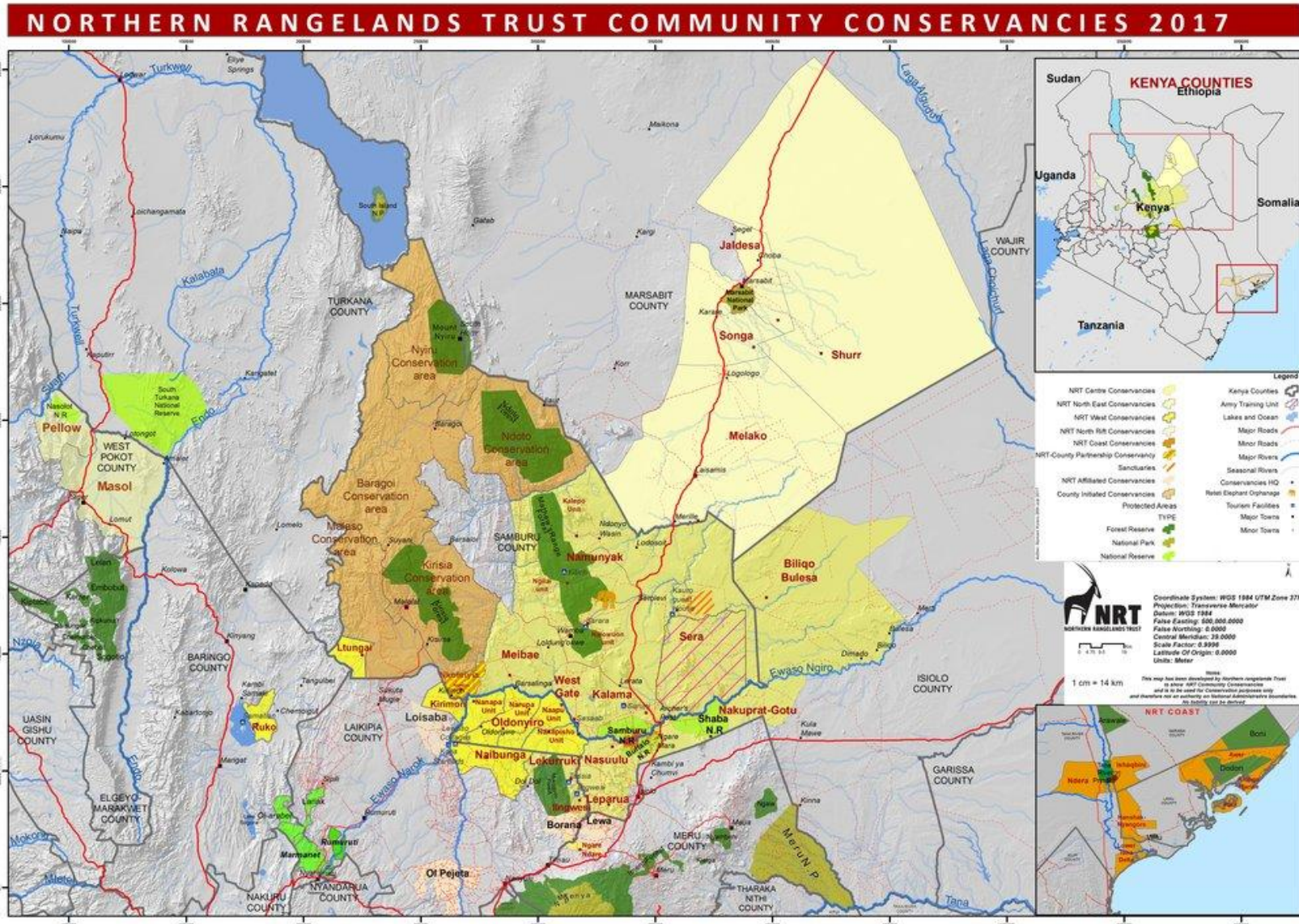
# Reticulated Giraffe

- In Kenya the reticulated giraffe population has decreased by 80% in the last 30 years
- In 2018, reticulated giraffe added to GGR census





# Survey Area





# Ideal Area

GOOD GROUP EXAMPLES

TARGET

TARGET

TARGET

TARGET

TARGET

TARGET

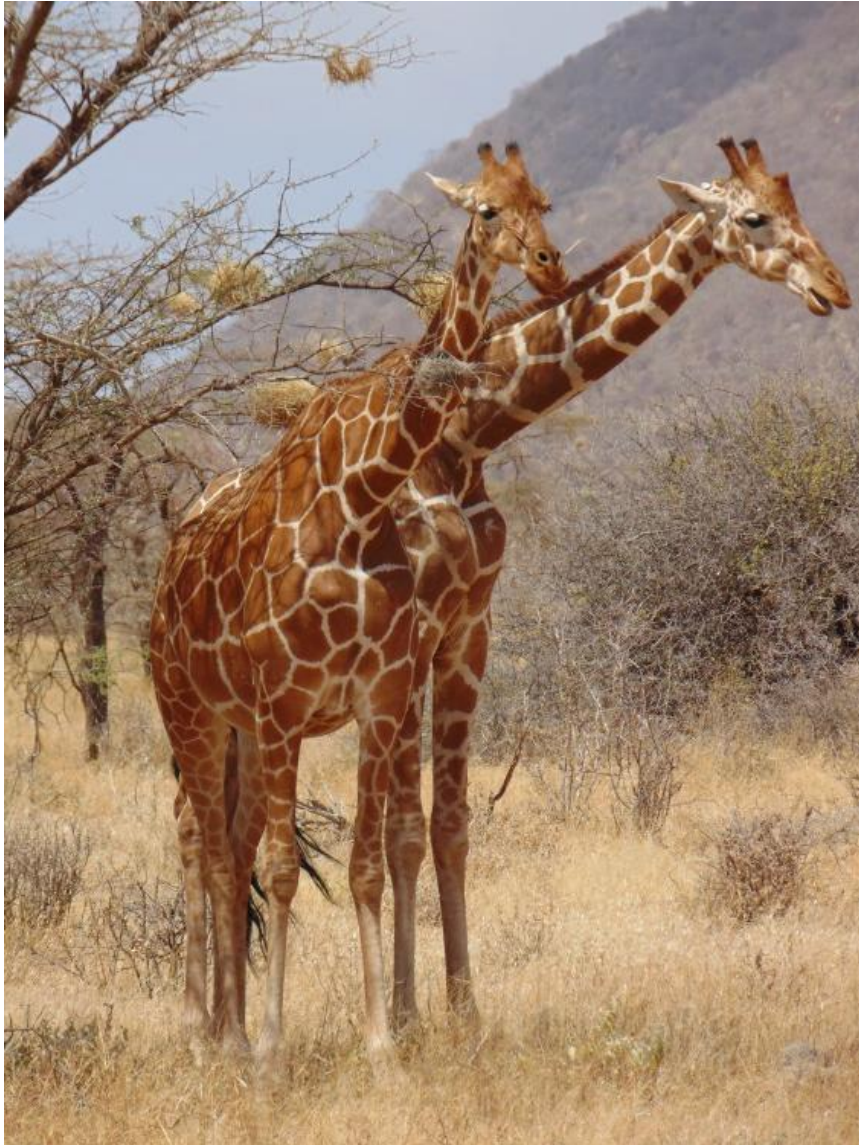
GOOD INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

# Reality





# Next Steps



- **170 teams took over 100,000 photos**
- **Final results will be released in June**

# Many hooves, one herd

- **Saint Louis Zoo organized**
- **16 GGR participants from 7 different AZA Zoos**
  - **Saint Louis Zoo**
  - **Sacramento Zoo**
  - **Disney's Animal Kingdom**
  - **San Diego Zoo**
  - **Lion Country Safari**
  - **Oklahoma City Zoo**
  - **Zoo Miami**



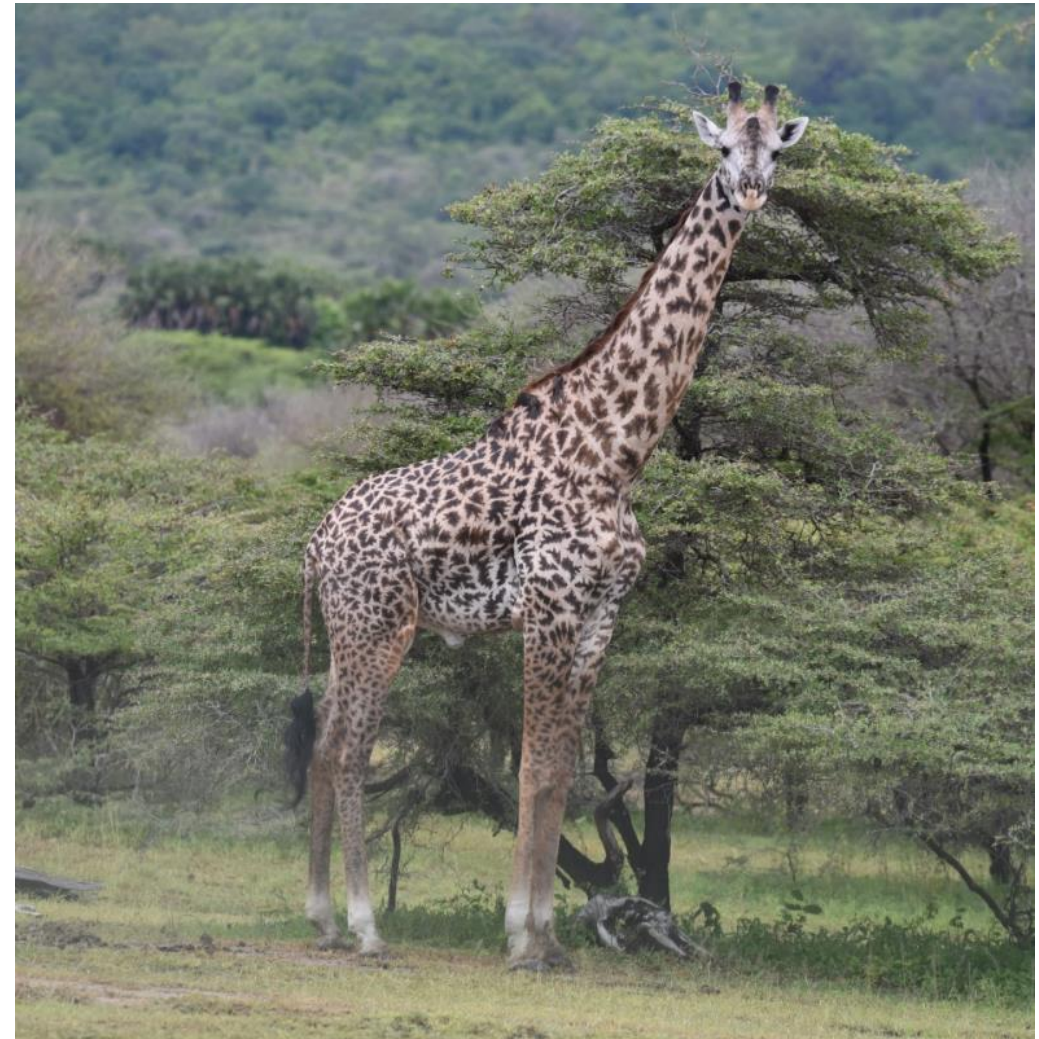


# Thank you GGR Sponsors!





# Uganda – 1,333 Rothschild's giraffe (possibly to be reclassified Nubian)



# Uganda 2017 Accomplishments

- **Uganda National Strategy for Giraffe Conservation**
- **Operation Twiga 2: giraffe translocation to create new founder population**
- **Education camp in Kidepo Valley National Park**





# Operation Twiga 2017

- 19 giraffe moved across Nile to supplement founder population

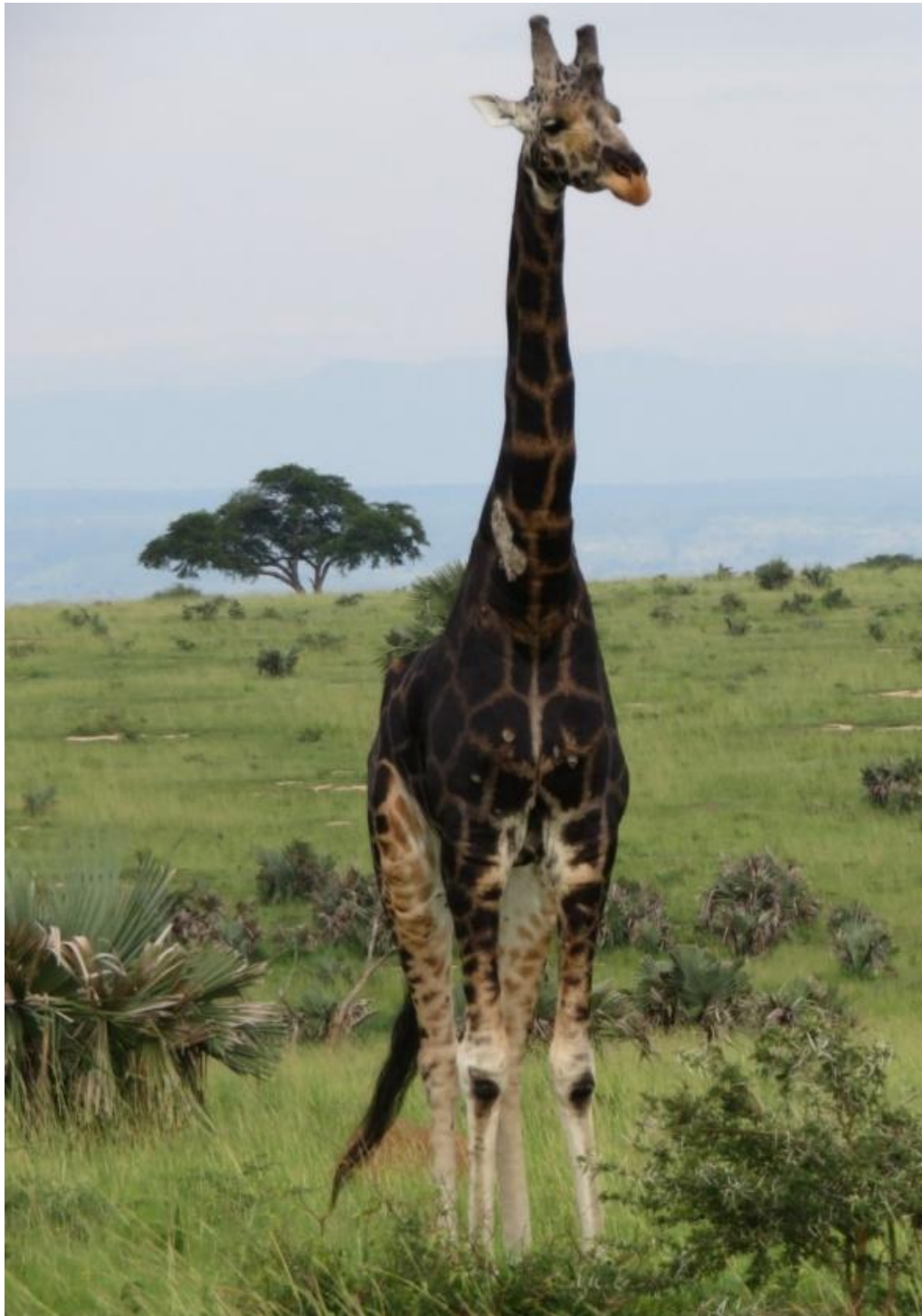




# Giraffe SAFE team helped w anesthesia monitoring, including study to identify predictors for capture myopathy







# **Giraffe SAFE vet team helped w skin disease testing**





# Opportunistic Wild Giraffe Foot Study

To better  
understand &  
manage giraffe  
foot health in zoos







# **Opportunistic Wild Giraffe Health Study**

**Evaluating health  
from bloodwork &  
fecal biome. How  
does this compare w  
zoo giraffe?**







# #1 Help fund Operation Twiga 3, Aug 2018



- **Translocate 15 giraffe to Kidepo Valley NP**
  - New genetics needed
- **If sufficient funding, national giraffe conservation education campaign planned**

## **#2 Giraffe Skin Disease Study Needs Support**

- **Eprinomectin treatment trial planned in Uganda April 2018**
  - **Preliminary research by Smithsonian suggests parasitic cause**
- **US zoo giraffe with blood-draw training needed to study of how long eprinomectin lasts**







**#3 Reduce  
personal  
use of fossil  
fuels**

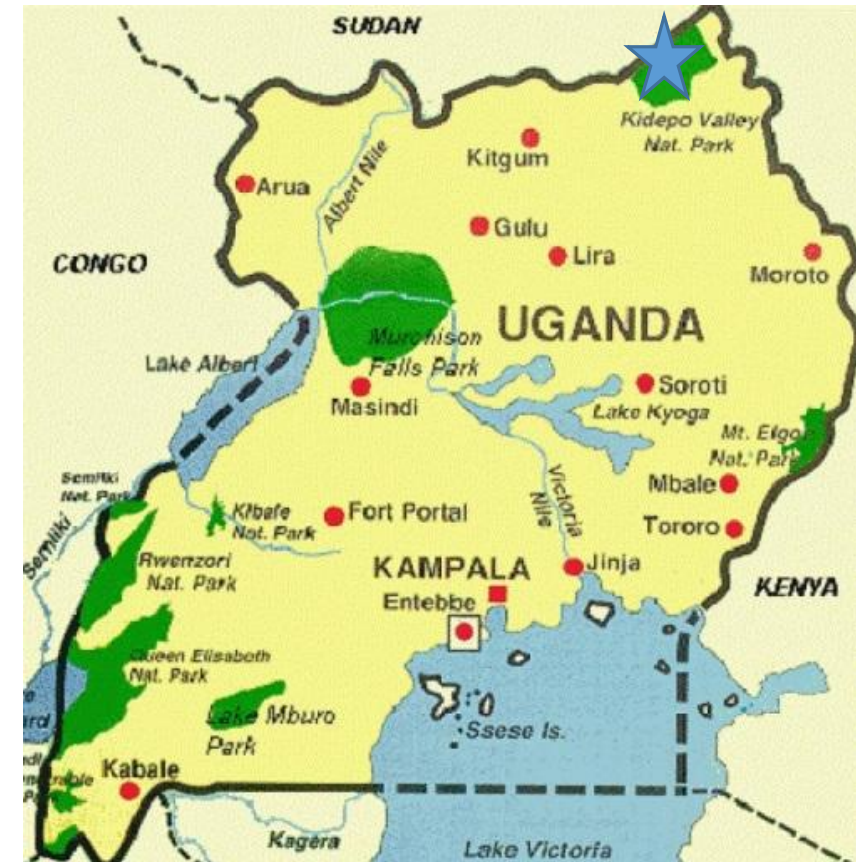
# #4 Community support for ranger & schools





# Uganda Community Conservation Education

- **Objective:** Increase community participation in wildlife resource management in Karamoja region of Uganda
- **Strategy:** Focus on children & national parks as our best hope to improve the future for wildlife
- **Tactics:** Bring children & teachers from nearby schools into Kidepo Valley National Park (KVNP), & share with them the treasures in their own “backyard”
- **Facilitators:** Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
- **Funders:** Care for Karamoja & Giraffe Alliance



# Uganda Workshop for Teachers

## Attended by

- 91 teachers from 12 schools
- 12 community leaders
- All from areas surrounding KVNP

## Topics discussed

- Project objectives
- Criteria for selecting students
- Key messages
  - Advantages of wildlife
  - Dangers of wildlife destruction
  - Importance of stopping: bush burning, encroachment on parks, deforestation, poaching





# Uganda Camps for Students

## Attended by

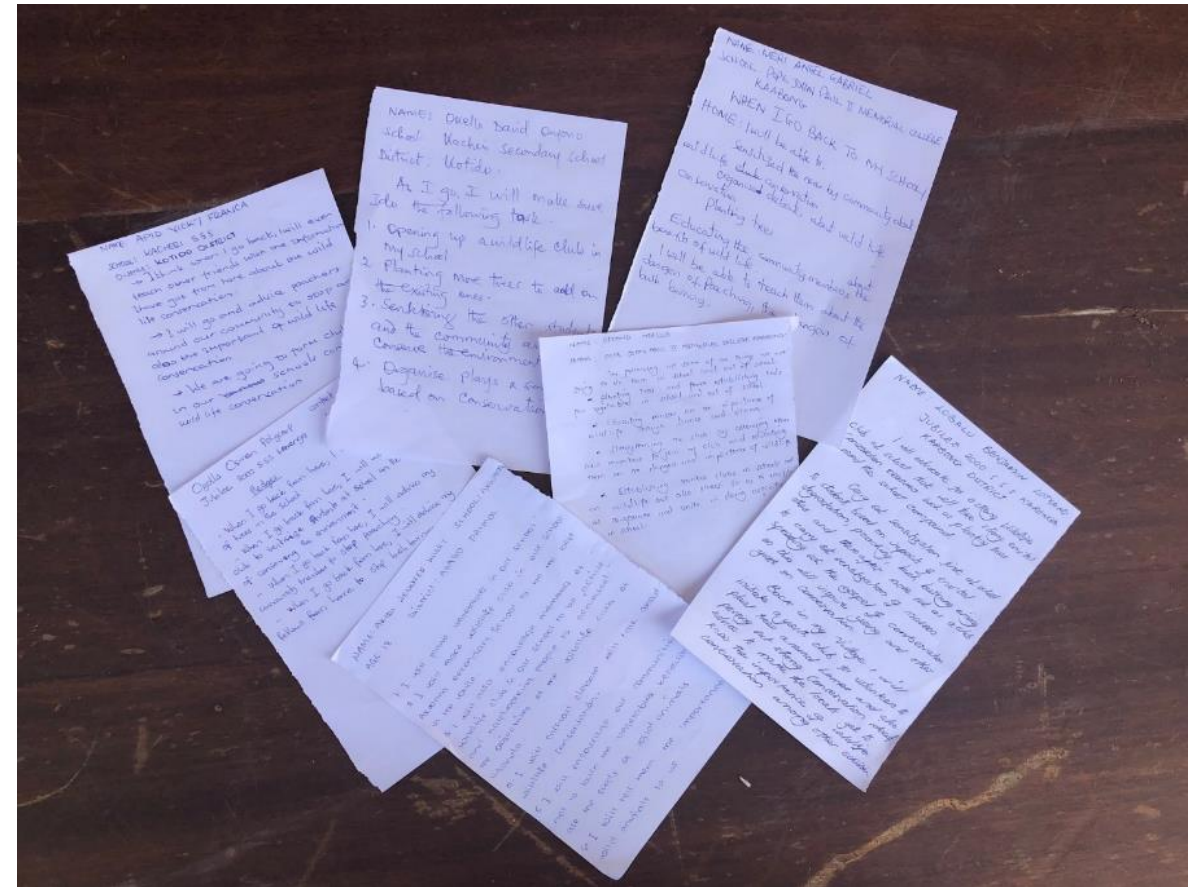
- 161 students from 12 schools
- Age range: 9 - 20
- 1.5 days in KVNP
  - Guided tour of park
  - Discuss giraffe/ostrich conservation
  - Environmental sustainability lessons
  - Camp fire/activities
  - Writing of pledges
- Vast majority had never visited the park before; & saw giraffes, lions & elephants for the first time



# Student Pledges Were Phenomenal!

**When I go back home I will...**

- **Teach other friends about wildlife conservation**
- **Advise poachers around our community to stop**
- **Plant trees**
- **Start a wildlife club in my school**
- **Advise community to stop bush burning**
- **Organize plays based on conservation**









**Together we can ensure wild giraffe have a future**







**Results of the 2017 World  
Giraffe Day survey  
& the Giraffe SAFE Toolkit**