

Stand Tall for Giraffe

Giraffe Day - June 21

World Giraffe Day is an exciting annual event to celebrate the tallest animal on the longest day or night (depending on which hemisphere you live!) of the year – 21 June – every year! The goal is to raise awareness and support for giraffe in the wild.

Cheetah Conservation Fund is standing tall to celebrate all the giraffes, young and old, roaming free on our Namibian land. And we are looking to your participation to make a bigger noise on behalf of all the giraffes !!!

Learn more about giraffe and participate by sending your drawings and poems to CCF.



**LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER
GIRAFFE DAY - JUNE 21**

June 13 3PM EST
Virtual Encounter
with the Giraffe at the Bronx Zoo

June 14-June 20
Send your favorite giraffe drawing or poem to CCF

June 21st
Celebrating Giraffe Day with an online
gallery of all the artworks

More details >>>>



Cheetah
CONSERVATION FUND
WWW.CHEETAH.ORG

About Giraffe:

In the 1980s, the total number of all giraffe in Africa was estimated at more than 155,000 individuals.

Today, the current Africa-wide giraffe population at approximately 117000 individuals.

This is a drop by almost 30%, a slightly less bleak picture than previously portrayed in the 2016 IUCN Red List assessment that estimated giraffe at less than 100,000 individuals. However, this updated information is based more on improved data rather than on actual increases in numbers.

Unfortunately, in some areas traditionally regarded as prime giraffe habitat, numbers have dropped by 95% in the same period.

Limited conservation research has been undertaken on giraffe throughout Africa.

Cool facts about giraffe:

- There are four distinct species of giraffe: Northern giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis*, Southern giraffe *giraffa*, Reticulated giraffe *G. reticulata* and Masai giraffe *G. tippelskirchi*.
- Giraffe are already extinct in at least seven countries in Africa.
- Just like human fingerprints, no two giraffe have the same coat pattern.
- Giraffe feet are the size of a dinner plate with a diameter of 12" or 30 cm.
- Giraffe tongues are bluish-purple and between 18-20 inches or 45-50 cm long.
- Both male and female giraffe have *horns* already at birth. These *ossicones* lie flat and are not attached to the skull to avoid injury at birth. They only fuse with the skull later in life.
- The giraffe is the tallest mammal in the world. Even newborn giraffe are taller than most humans.
- Female giraffe give birth standing up. Their young fall about 2 m to the ground and can stand up within an hour of birth.
- In some populations, over 50% of all giraffe calves do not survive their first year.

- A giraffe's neck is too short to reach the ground. To drink, giraffe first have to splay their forelegs and/or bend their knees, and only then can they lower their necks to reach the surface of the water.
- Giraffe only drink once every few days. Even when water is readily available, evidence shows that many giraffe do not drink regularly – sometimes not at all.
- To protect the giraffe's brain from sudden changes in blood pressure when it drinks, the jugular veins have incredibly elastic walls and large one-way valves that allow the veins to expand significantly and prevent the blood from flowing back to the brain when the giraffe's head is lowered.
- Alternatively, to help fight gravity when blood returns to the heart from a giraffe's feet, their blood vessels are thickly walled and muscled, and the skin on the legs is so tight it acts like giant compression socks. These unique adaptations have been studied by scientists at NASA to get inspiration for human space suits.
- A giraffe heart weighs approximately almost 25 pounds (11 kilograms) with an average resting heart rate of 40-90 beats per minute. While people thought that the giraffe had a larger heart compared to other mammals to pump blood around its body, this is not true. Rather the giraffe's heart has a thicker muscle on the left side (ventricle) of the heart so it can generate enough force to fight gravity.
- In southern Africa, tracker have a nickname for the giraffe poop: they call it *hershey kiss* because when the poop hits the ground from such a height, it gets the shape of a Hershey Kiss.

Giraffe and Cheetah Conservation Fund:

On the conservation land in Namibia, CCF has quite a few giraffes from **Southern Giraffe** species. The Southern Giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa*) has two subspecies, the **Angolan giraffe**, and the South African giraffe according to the taxonomic classification of 2016.

Since 2003 Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) has started a giraffe monitoring projects. The goal of the project is to document all the necessary data on CCF giraffes to understand behavior, social structure and spatial distribution of giraffe population over seasons (wet and dry) and trends. Records include both old and new born giraffes, population structure (group size, age and sex) and images. Most individuals are

identified based on their unique coat patterns and many are yet to be identified. We take images of each side and front of every giraffe to be able to identify and follow them. The last known population size was 120 in total including all age groups (adults, sub-adults and calves), with females dominating the population.

Giraffes are a popular species and they have a high tourism value especially in private game farms. Acquiring more information on their life style is fundamental in order to keep the population healthy. Part of project will help determine the carrying capacity, as well as help researchers and farm managers understand giraffes distribution and social structure and aid in making future farm management decisions based on the project's results.

What can we do to stand stall for Giraffe?

Cheetah Conservation Fund invites you to be part of the 2022 celebration for Giraffe Day on June 21:

- June 15 3pm EST

We are going to the Bronx Zoo to virtually meet their giraffe, enjoying the feeding if they are in a good mood and exchange questions and curiosity with their dedicated handlers.

Register for the virtual meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsduGgrzooHNeEq2RVbZDOEI6XGHEVxISR>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

- June 15 - June 20

Draw your favorite giraffe or write a poem to celebrate the beauty of this animal.

After meeting with the Bronx Zoo giraffes, imaging how your favorite giraffe will look like. Draw and color it on paper - take a picture and send it to info@cheetah.org and specify Giraffe Day in the email subject.

You can use one of our samples if you prefer.

Make sure to surround the giraffe with what they like the most: trees, leaves, dune, savannah and more.

If you are a writer, dedicate your poem to your imaginary giraffe. Take a picture and send it to info@cheetah.org and specify Giraffe Day in the email subject.

- June 21

CCF will have an online gallery with the drawings received. This will be a way to celebrate and raise awareness for this beautiful and unique animal.

For more on Cheetah Conservation Fund, visit cheetah.org









