**Basic Information: Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)**

**Names: Giraffe**

**Identification pointers:** Unmistakeable; extremely tall; neck and legs very long; patchwork brown and yellow pattern on coat.

**Can be confused with:** Unmistakeable

**Activity period:** Active day and night

**Length:** 3.5-5m (including neck and head) **Shoulder height:** 2-3.5m **Weight:**  700-1400kg

**Gestation period:** ±15 months

**Lifespan:** ±25 years

**Diet:** very selective feeders, eat mainly young and nutritious leaves.

**Predators:** Young can be taken by lions, hyaenas and leopards, adults only killed by lions.

**Preferred habitat:**  From dry to moist savannah woodland, sometimes on forest margins. Avoid mountains and thick forests.

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** Northern populations are decreasing, southern populations are increasing.

**Threats:** No major threats, sometimes killed by poultry farmers. Occasionally eaten as bush meat, and used for traditional medicine. Their fur is used for decorative purposes. Habitat degradation and poaching are the main threats. Desertification from overgrazing also a problem. Increased aridity from climate change may also become a major threat.