

Wildwatch Kenya

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Independent Research

12th November 2025

Introduction

This Zooniverse project is done with the intention to help researchers track giraffes and other animals to understand what species share the habitat, including humans and livestock. All giraffe populations across Africa are experiencing overwhelming decline, getting officially listed as “vulnerable” to extinction in IUCN Red List in December, 2016. The research team states, “Our project focuses on the reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*), and current estimates show that the population of these giraffes has declined by over 50% in the past 30 years—from 36,000 to just around 15,000 today.” Zooniverse. (2025). *Wildwatch Kenya*. Zooniverse. <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>)

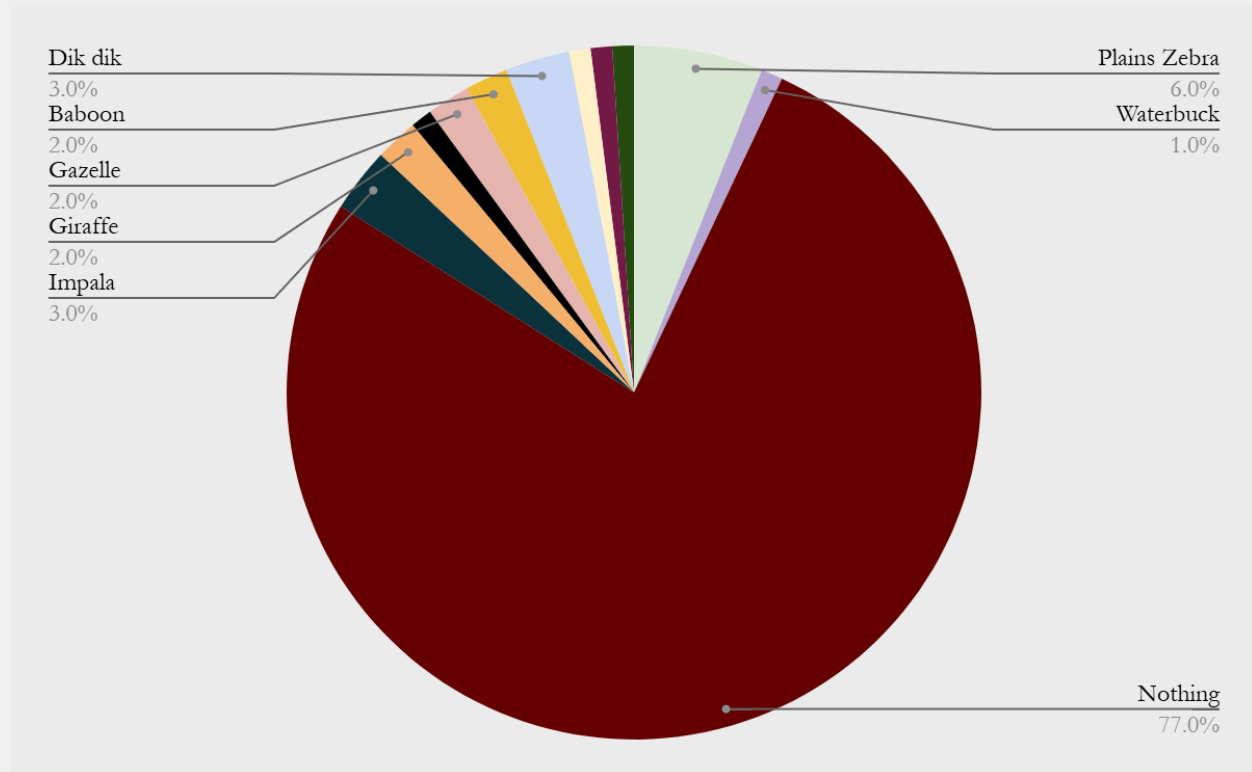
In this study, I classified 100 images from the Zooniverse project Wildwatch Kenya to identify animals present in the image.

Methods

Volunteers has to answer a few questions concerning the images like : What creature is present in the image? How many and on which side of the image? (In case of a giraffe)

In this project, observations on 100 images were recorded on Google sheet, and then organized properly in this file

Results:



Animals were absent in most images due to reasons like: moving leaves or branches in the wind, shifting shadows or sunlight, raindrops close to the lens, insects flying nearby, or even temperature changes (like warm air moving past a cooler background), etc. accidentally triggering the motion cameras.

Besides that, plain zebras were most observed among animals.

Discussion:

Plain zebras were the most observed animals although most images were empty and the main focus was on giraffes, but this information could also help researchers in providing information to land owners and managers to assist in decision-making.





References

Zooniverse. (2025). *Wildwatch Kenya project*. <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>