

Protecting Earth's Tallest Animal

Giraffe conservation has received little attention until recently. Dramatic declines in giraffe over the last 30 years have led to concern about this charismatic animal. North Carolina Zoo joined the Giraffe SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) program in 2017 and will be initiating conservation efforts to protect giraffe in Tanzania in 2018.

About giraffes:

- Giraffes have declined by over 40% in the last thirty years with less than 100,000 remaining across all of Africa.
- In Tanzania, the main threats to giraffe are poaching, habitat loss, and possibly disease.

About NC Zoo's Conservation Efforts:

- Assess population status of giraffe in southern Tanzania.
- Study a new skin disease that occurs in over 80% of animals in some populations to determine its effects on giraffe survival.
- If merited, test possible treatments for skin disease.
- Implement creative solutions to reduce giraffe poaching.

