

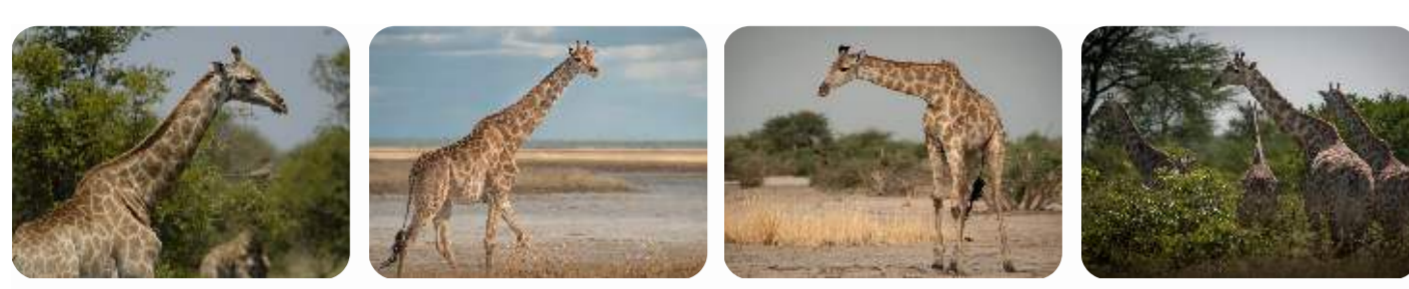
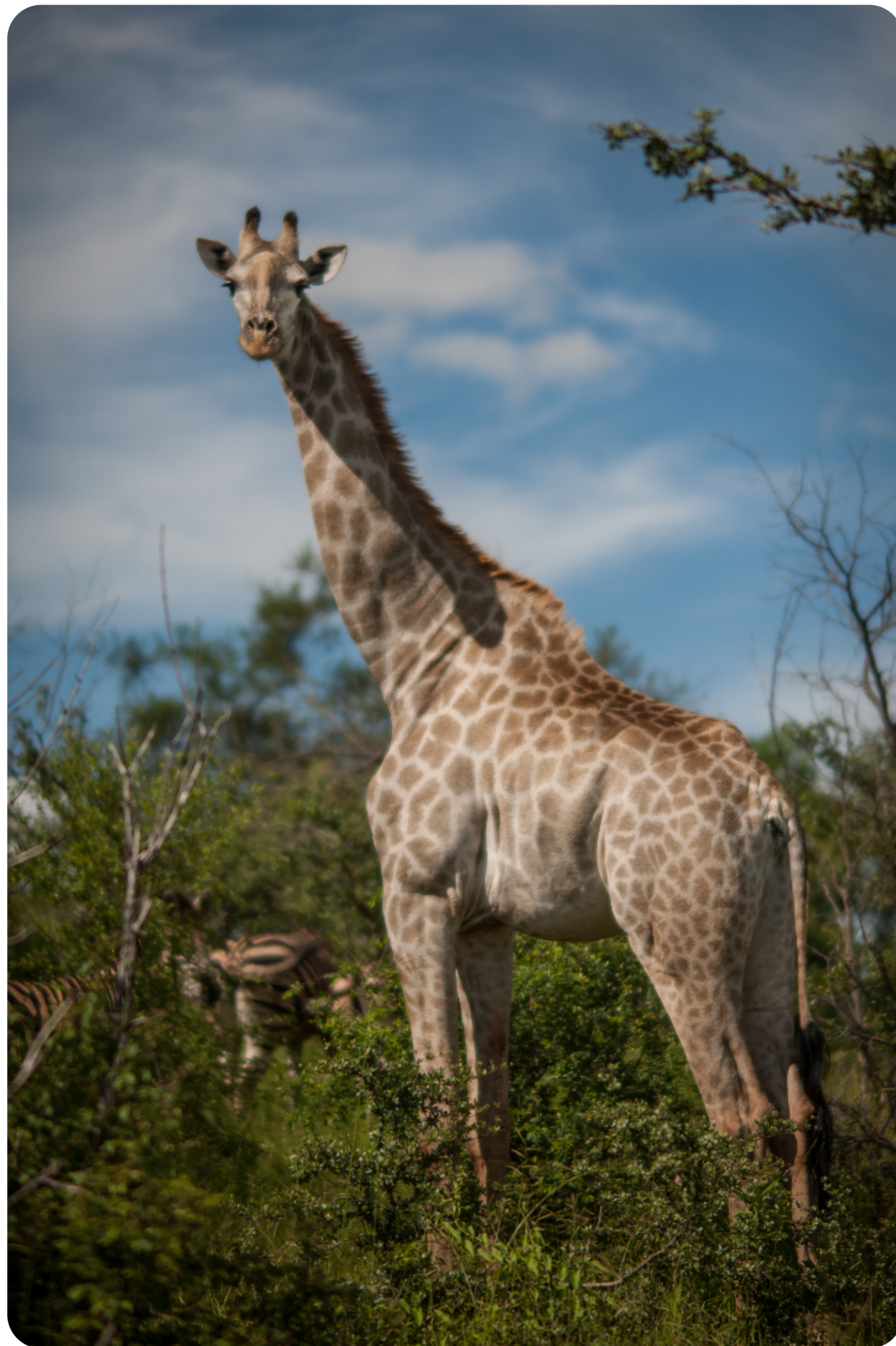


# Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis

Common name: **Nubian Giraffe**

Latin name: **Giraffa camelopardalis camelopardalis**

Local name: الزرافة



## ECOLOGY

### Type:

**Wild**

### Role in Ecosystem:

Giraffes have a great effect on the trees that they feed on, delaying the growth of young trees for some years and giving “waistlines” to too tall trees. In addition, when spotting a predator, they can serve as a warning system for other nearby animals.

## HABITAT

The giraffe lives in savannahs and woodlands. The Nubian giraffe currently lives in eastern South Sudan and southwestern Ethiopia, and isolated pockets in Uganda and Kenya. It was estimated in 2010 that fewer than 250 live in the wild, although this number was uncertain.



### Food

**Herbivore**

Nubian giraffes eat leaves, stems, twigs of trees, flowers, and fruits. Giraffes are browsers, feeding almost exclusively on the new shoots of shrubs and trees. Acacia trees are by far their favorite food source, the leaves being stripped from their thorny branches with the assistance of the giraffe's long prehensile tongue and lips.

Giraffes browse during the first and last hours of the daytime. Between these hours, giraffes mostly stand and ruminate. Rumination is the dominant activity during the night when it is mostly done lying down.

Like camels, they are able to go long periods of time without a drink and usually drink every 2-3 days, as they get most of their water intake from their diet. To drink they have to splay their forelegs to reach the water.



### Movement and Communication

#### Movement:

The Nubian giraffe can move at speeds of up to 30 to 36 miles per hour. Unlike most mammals giraffes walk using both legs from the same side of the body simultaneously.

#### Communication:

Giraffes are usually quiet, but not voiceless as the common myth. They can produce snorting or moaning noises, particularly when there is danger. They have a good sense of smell, hearing and excellent vision.



### Social Habits

**Social**

Giraffes are usually found in herds that vary in size and composition, and are usually all-male or all-female. Males are more solitary but may also associate in pairs or with female groups. Giraffes are not territorial, but they have home ranges that vary according to rainfall and proximity to human settlements.



### Reproduction

**Viviparous**

Giraffes males mate with multiple females. Males engage in combats, after which the winner gets right to mate with receptive females whenever and wherever it finds them.

Giraffes are non-seasonal breeders. The gestation period lasts 13-15 months. Giraffes give birth to a single calf, twins are rare. The female gives birth in a calving area, which she further uses throughout her life. A newborn calf can walk in just an hour after birth and can run within 24 hours after birth. Giraffe calves can eat leaves at the age of four months, but continue to nurse until they are six to nine months old.

Male calves leave their mothers at around 15 months, while females usually stay in the same herd. Giraffes reach sexual maturity between 3 and 5 years old.



### Attributes



#### Appearance:

The most extraordinary characteristic of the Nubian giraffe is that the extreme length of the neck and forelegs. Nubian giraffes have sharply defined chestnut-colored spots surrounded by mostly white lines, while undersides lack spotting. They are also born with horns. Female's horns are thin and tufted; male's are thick and bald on top, their horns can be up to 5 inches long.

The color varies from brown to a rich chestnut (old males are darker, even black).

Giraffes have very long tongues, which can be as long as 20 inches.

#### Height:

5 -6 m (16 - 19 ft)

#### Weight:

1270 kg (2800 lb)

#### Lifespan:

25 years

## INTRODUCTION

Giraffes are large browsing mammals, characterized by their long necks and forelimbs, and are one of the animals that are strongly associated with the sub-Saharan African wild. They have been hunted for centuries as trophies. They are depicted in prehistoric rock art in many parts in Africa.

The Nubian giraffe is the nominate subspecies of giraffe. It used to be widespread everywhere on Northeast Africa. It is currently extinct in the wild of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt and Eritrea. It is critically endangered today.

They can be found in eastern Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

## LIVELIHOODS AND CULTURE

### Human interaction

Giraffes have been hunted since ancient times for their meat, skin, and for social status.

### Cultural value

The unique proportions and appearance of the giraffe, considered bizarre in many human cultures, have been the object of wonder and admiration. They appear in many ancient murals and pottery.

Giraffes have often hunted or sent live to many countries as political offerings, most notably during the 700 year-long *Pact* treaty between the Nubian Christian kingdom of Makuria and the Muslim Caliphate, as one of its articles required the Nubians to send a number of giraffes and elephants to Egypt each year.

In the 19th century, Mohamed Ali Pasha arranged an envoy to King Charles X of France during the Turco-Egyptian rule in Sudan.

### Cultural expression

يا الطبعك فريد وصعب في الأوصاف  
وجهك بالغلط مافي زول ليو شاف  
بالعنقك شبه الريل وشبه الزراف  
من عيون الناس يدسك وبخااa

Verses by Omer Salah Wadharran praising a woman whose beauty and character are described as rare and impossible to fully capture in words. comparing her neck to a giraffe's as a sign of beauty and elegance

## THREATS

The Nubian giraffe is classified as Critically Endangered, as the total wild population is 455 mature individuals, and its number is decreasing.

The main threats to giraffes include illegal hunting and loss of their natural habitat.

▶ [Image\(s\) source :](#)

▶ [Link\(s\)](#)

▶ [Compiled By:](#)