

Giraffes added to 'vulnerable' list 长颈鹿被列入“易危”物种名单

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作为非洲标志之一的长颈鹿在过去的三十年里数量锐减，从1985年的15.5万只减少到2015年的9.7万只。国际自然保护联盟IUCN首次将长颈鹿列为“易危”物种，希望此举能够帮助长颈鹿得到更多的关注和保护。请听 Matt McGrath 的报道。

The **graceful** giraffe is an **inescapable image** of Africa, but the animal has suffered a **disturbing decline** over the past three decades.

Populations have **plummeted** in many parts due to a combination of factors, but humans are largely responsible. Increasing amounts of the giraffes' range have been **fragmented** by farmers **eager** for land. Wars in northern Kenya and south Sudan have seen large numbers of the curious creatures killed for food. But the picture isn't all **gloom**, populations in southern Africa have **boomed**, because of protected ranges which boost tourism revenues.

And experts believe that declaring the giraffe to be vulnerable could give the species the attention it needs to ultimately **ensure** its survival.

词汇表

graceful	高雅的，优雅的
an inescapable image	标志性（到哪里都能看到的）图像
disturbing decline	令人担忧的下滑、大幅减少
plummeted	暴跌、直线下跌
fragmented	被四分五裂，被分割
eager	渴望的，急切的
gloom	悲观
boomed	迅速增长
ensure	确保

测验

请听报道并回答下列问题。

1. The giraffe population has been in decline for how many years?
2. Why are giraffes losing their homes?
3. Why have some giraffes been killed in wars in some parts of Africa?
4. Which word is used to mean 'to improve or increase something'?

答案

1. The population of giraffe has been in decline for how many years?

Giraffes have been in decline for the past three decades.

2. Why are giraffes losing their homes?

Because farmers want farm land.

3. Why have some giraffes been killed in wars in some parts of Africa?

They were killed for food.

4. Which word is used to mean 'to improve or increase something'?

Boost.