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### RESCUED FROM IRAQ, CHIMP FINDS NEW HOME IN KENYA

Manno, a 4-year-old chimpanzee from Africa has been liberated from a life of exploitation in Iraq and relocated to the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Kenya, a home for chimpanzees in need. Manno was born in a zoo in the Syrian capital, Damascus, and torn from his mother at a young age. Until 29 November 2016, he sat in a cage in northern Iraq. The OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya and its advocacy project PEGAS fought for Manno's release for over a year.

Manno's history starts in 2013, when he was smuggled out of war-torn Syria into northern Iraq. He was bought for \$15,000 by a small private zoo close to Erbil, and quickly became the main attraction.



PHOTO BY:JONATHAN SCHULAR

### ONE OF KENYA'S OLDEST BLACK RHINOS DIES

One of Kenya's oldest black rhinos has died in the country's Lewa Wildlife Conservancy at the ripe old of age of 42. Solio, also known as the "grand old lady," died in early December, the conservancy said in a press release. The average lifespan of black rhinos is between 30 and 35. Solio's carcass was found by rangers on patrol in the conservancy that straddles Meru, Laikipia and Isiolo counties.

The critically endangered black rhino was one of Lewa's first rhinos, part of the 14 that formed Lewa's pioneering population. A fierce mother, she gave birth to 10 calves during her lifetime. Solio was translocated from Laikipia's Solio Ranch in 1984 to the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary, which was later re-established as Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. At the time, poaching had decimated Kenya's once thriving rhino population of 20,000 to about 300.

### GIRAFFE PUT ON 'VULNERABLE' CATEGORY OF IUCN'S RED LIST

The iconic giraffe, one of the world's most recognisable animals and the tallest land mammal, has been moved from 'least concern' to 'vulnerable' in the newly released International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. Widespread across southern and eastern Africa, with smaller isolated populations in west and central Africa, new population surveys estimate an overall 36-40 per cent decline in the giraffe population from approximately 151,702-163,452 in 1985 to 97,562 in 2015, according to IUCN.

Human population growth poses the largest threat to giraffes in Africa. Habitat loss and fragmentation, habitat changes through expanding agriculture and mining, illegal hunting, increasing human-wildlife conflict, as well as civil unrest, are all factors that are pushing some giraffe closer to extinction.



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