

At our home base in Namibia, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) runs a comprehensive giraffe conservation programme. One important aspect focuses on monitoring and supporting the long-term conservation of Namibia's desert-dwelling giraffe. These giraffe roam throughout the northern Namib Desert in the country's northwest and our programme area covers a total of > 30,000km<sup>2</sup>. The area is comprised of communal conservancy land in the east and extends into the Skeleton Coast National Park bordering the Atlantic Ocean to the west, in the north it stretches to the Kunene River and the Angolan boarder and south to the Hoanib River. In this stark landscape of dunes, gravel plains and dry riverbeds many wildlife species thrive including the desert-dwelling Angolan giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa angolensis*), a subspecies of the Southern giraffe (*G. giraffa*). For more information on our study area, have a look at previous reports on Northwest Namibia.

GCF's long-term giraffe conservation monitoring and research programme – in fact the longest-running programme on giraffe in Africa – in this remote part of Namibia offers a unique and valuable opportunity to better understand them and, through what we learn, provide invaluable conservation and management lessons for other giraffe populations throughout Africa. Analysis of our data has shown that bi-monthly monitoring trips are sufficient for critical long-term population data collection.

The giraffe population in northwest Namibia has increased steadily with 450 in our individually



identified database despite the local desert lion population resuming their legacy of hunting giraffe in the Hoanib River in recent years.

Furthermore, Namibia is an important part of our Africa-wide Twiga Tracker initiative and in

the past 12 months, we have embarked on two tagging trips, where our objective was to remove older Savannah Tracking ossi-units, which were nearing the end of their battery life, and replace them with solar-charged CERES Trace and GSAT Solar ear tags. In some cases, we fitted both unit types to the same giraffe for a comparative study determine which technologies are most appropriate for our Africa-wide conservation science programmes.

When tagging giraffe, we always prioritize the welfare and well-being of the giraffe involved during tagging, hence we have developed smaller, lighter ear tag units which are quicker to deploy, making the process even safer for giraffe.

With the help of these units, we continue to see some of the largest movements and home ranges of any giraffe in Africa, especially further north in the area. All of which makes perfect sense as compared to other areas food is less in the dry northwest, and giraffe must walk further distances to survive and find mates.



# TWIGA TRACKER IN NUMBERS

Operational GPS  
Tracking Devices

17



**Jackson** used the  
largest home range

2,775.57km<sup>2</sup>



and walked the  
most

3,565.35km

Recorded  
data points

29,909

**Longspot** walked  
the least

1,367.05km



**Present** used the  
smallest home range

95.61km<sup>2</sup>



Average distance walked  
over 6 months

538.53km



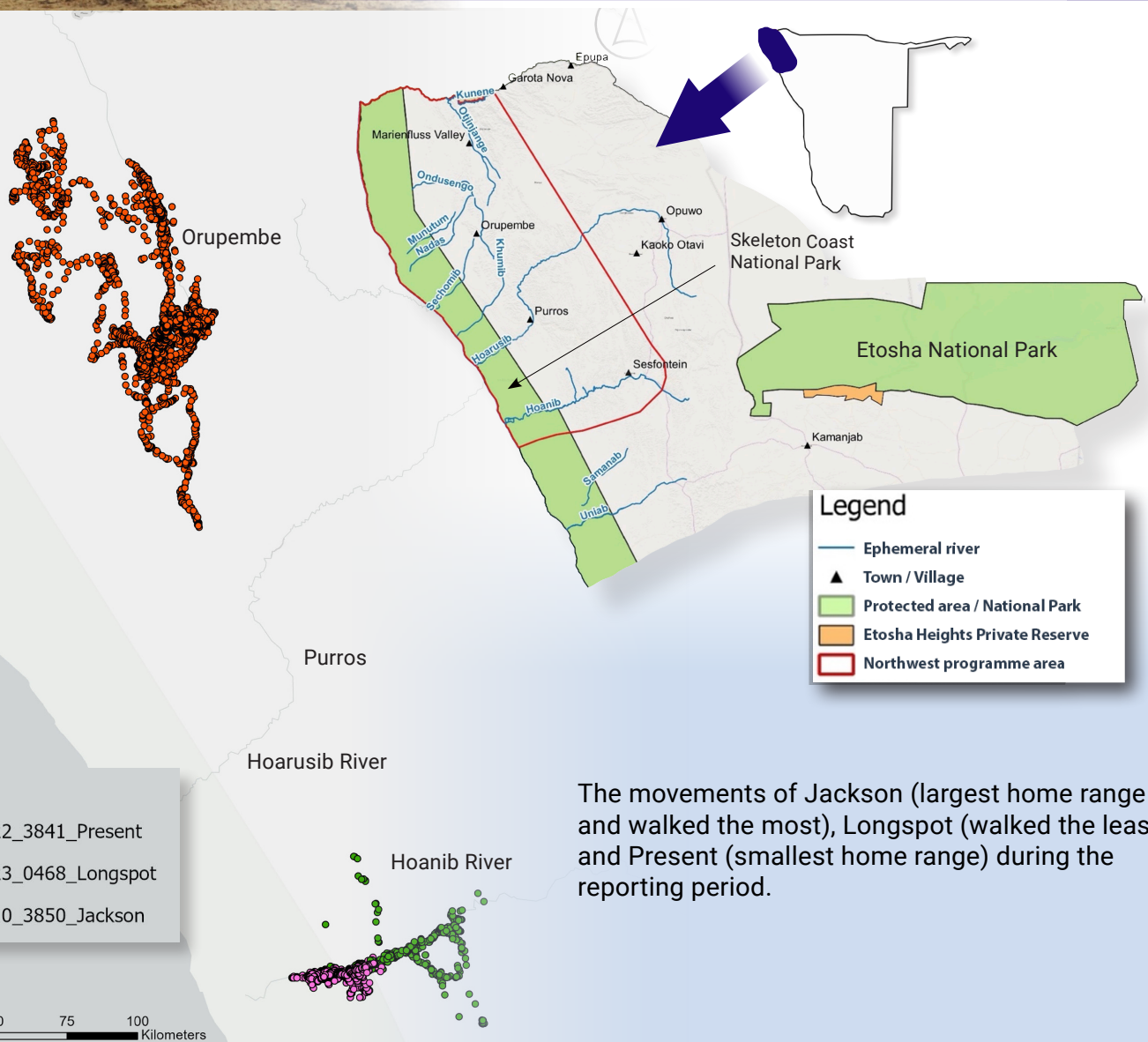
Average distance walked  
per day

2.9km



## GIRAFFE PER RIVER SYSTEM

	Females	Males	Juveniles	Total
Hoanib River	77	66	7	150
Hoarusib River	77	88	4	169
Far North	54	75	2	131
<b>Total:</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>450</b>







## NORTHWEST NAMIBIA PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

Total known giraffe population  
in Northwest Namibia



**445**

DNA  
samples  
collected

**15**



Total giraffe population  
sampled for DNA

**48%**



Total giraffe  
sightings

**1,111**



New adult giraffe  
identified

**8**



Percentage of giraffe  
population spotted

**53%**



Distance  
travelled by  
field team

**22,200km**



Total giraffe population  
sampled for DNA

**48%**



Individual  
giraffe  
spotted

**276**



Field  
days

**79**



Students & community  
members trained

**16**



New calves  
observed

**17**



**3.93**

Average  
herd size

