



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 > 30,000km². 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

2,775.57km²



and walked the
most

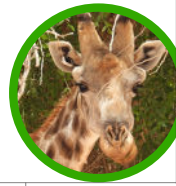
3,565.35km

Recorded
data points

29,909

Longspot walked
the least

1,367.05km



Present used the
smallest home range

95.61km²



Average distance walked
over 6 months

538.53km



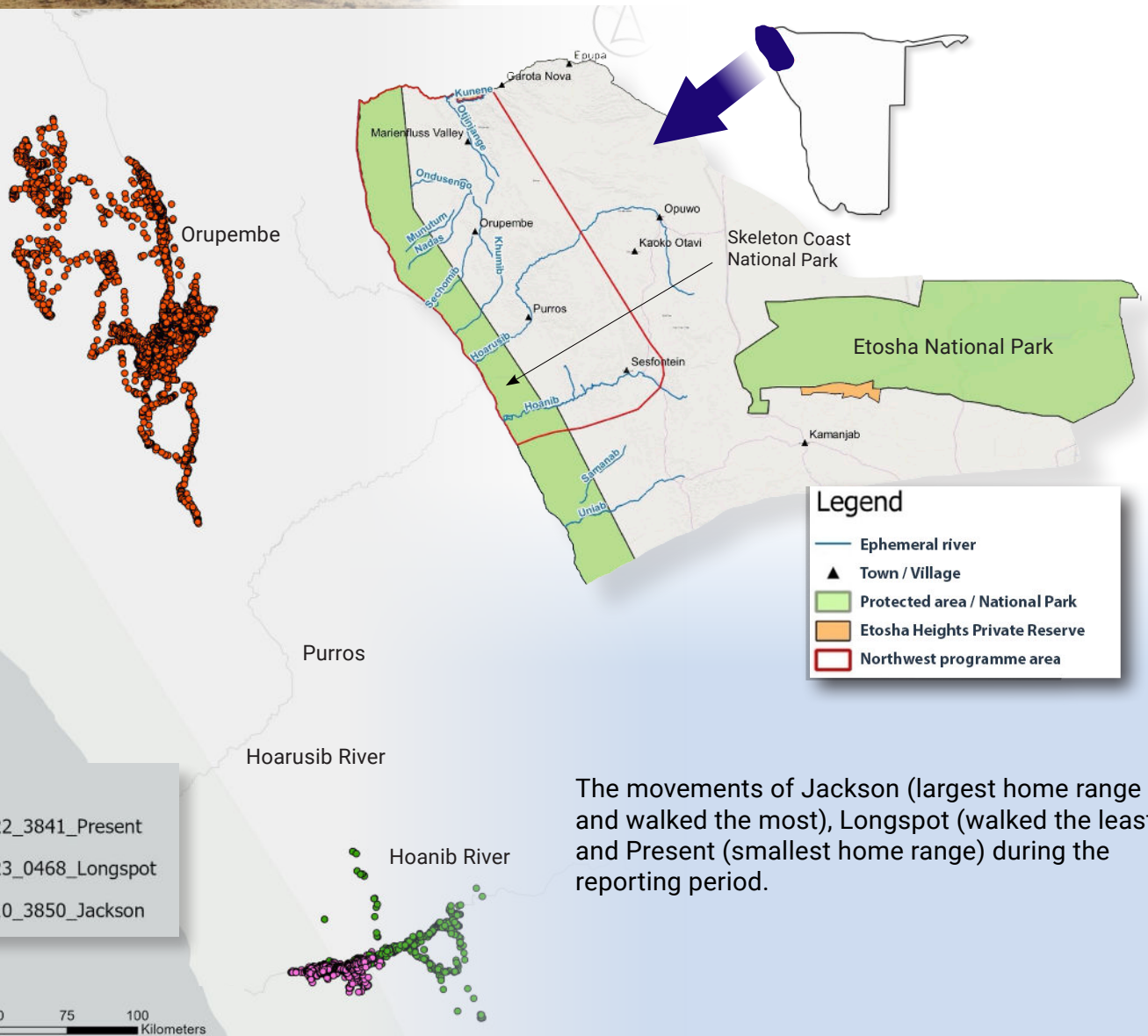
Average distance walked
per day

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
Total:	208	229	13	450





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

