



Giraffe Translocation Report

Mount Verde Estate, South Africa to Karingani Game Reserve, Mozambique

27-29 August 2023

Background

Historically, giraffe (*Giraffa* spp.) in Mozambique were widely distributed south of the Save and Limpopo Rivers. However, definitive their historical abundance and range throughout Mozambique are not well documented.

Karingani Game Reserve, Mozambique plays a pivotal role in the conservation and success of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area and aims to facilitate cross-border movement of wildlife as a natural corridor between Mozambique and South Africa. The 150,000-hectare property was established in 2008, when the land was secured to re-establish wildlife which was decimated during the civil war.

The Karingani Game Reserve has contributed significantly to the endeavour of bringing a variety of wildlife species back to the country and securing their habitat, including the South African giraffe (*G. giraffa giraffa*), who play a pivotal role in the ecological processes on the reserve.

Due to disease transmission concerns such as the foot and mouth epidemic in the Limpopo and northern Kwa-Zulu Natal regions in South Africa, coupled with challenges of obtaining CITES permits in a timely manner, plans to re-establish the South African giraffe in Mozambique have taken several years to come to fruition.

Objective

The primary objective of this specific operation was to initiate the first of many such translocations of South African giraffe to Mozambique to establish a larger source population in the country for their long-term conservation.

GCF seeks to be a catalyst to bolstering a future robust and healthy South African giraffe in Mozambique in support of government, NGO, community, and private sector conservation efforts.

Results

The individual capture of 12 South African giraffe (8 female and 4 male) took place on 27 August 2023 in Mount Verde Estate, South Africa.

As part of the operation 11 giraffe were fitted with Ceres Trace GPS ear tags and one giraffe with a Ceres Wild GPS ear tag for post-translocation monitoring and to gain a better understanding of how these giraffe will settle into their new environment.

Tissue samples were collected from each giraffe for future DNA analysis in order to assess their taxonomic and conservation health status.

Following the capture, all 12 giraffe were safely translocated by road directly to Karingani Game Reserve, Mozambique via the Ressano Garcia border crossing.

The road transfer took 34 hours in total and on arrival, the giraffe were safely released into the southern section on Karingani Game Reserve just north of the Mbilu boma on 29 August 2023. We look forward to monitoring how they settle into their new home.

Acknowledgements

