



Since 2019, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) has partnered with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) to conserve the southern giraffe populations in the country. As population numbers have decreased in the country over the past few decades, there is an urgent need to improve giraffe conservation strategies to better manage these iconic animals. Over the past two years, GCF has conducted giraffe conservation research and monitoring in Zimbabwe to gain a better understand of giraffe ecology in various areas and habitat types. Working closely with ZimParks and other landowners in Zimbabwe we continue to support important giraffe conservation efforts in the country.

## GIRAFFE NUMBERS IN ZIMBABWE

26,270



1990

(Estimate)

8,670



2022

(Estimate)

## MAJOR GIRAFFE POPULATIONS

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Nuanetsi Conservancy       | ~2,000 |
| Bubye Valley Conservancy   | ~1,800 |
| Savé Valley Conservancy    | ~1,540 |
| Hwange National Park       | ~1,160 |
| Gonarezhou National Park   | ~440   |
| Malilangwe Private Reserve | ~425   |
| Matetsi Complex            | ~350   |

Giraffe numbers appear to have **stabilised** in most parts of the country, however, they continue to **decline** in some National Parks (Hwange) and private reserves (Bubye Valley). At the same time, giraffe numbers are **increasing** in many private conservancies such as Savé Valley and Nuanetsi Conservancy, where they are provided with adequate support, management, and protection.



# GIRAFFE SURVEYS & FIELD WORK

Field days

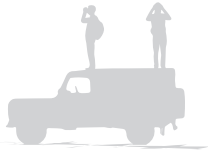


230

Distance Driven by field team

28,000km

Total area surveyed  
26,670km<sup>2</sup>



## GIRAFFE GENETIC SAMPLING

Total samples collected: **171**

Individual tissue (DNA) samples were collected from across all major giraffe populations and numerous smaller ranches, wildlife estates, museums, and taxidermists. The genetic analysis is ongoing and by mid-2023 we hope to reveal a better understanding of giraffe taxonomic status in the country.



## TWIGA TRACKER

A total of **27 GPS units** have been deployed on giraffe in Zimbabwe, including the first time GPS satellite units were fitted to giraffe in Hwange NP.

14

Hwange National Park

13

Savé Valley Conservancy



GPS DATA POINTS  
**>65,000**



## CAPACITY BUILDING

Total ZimParks staff trained on best practice giraffe capture techniques: **8**

These included:

- 1** Veterinarian
- 1** Veterinary Technician
- 1** Ecologist
- 5** Rangers

