



## Twiga Tracker Initiative: Giraffe Tagging Report

Zakouma, Siniaka-Minia, and Zah Soo National Parks, Chad

29 January – 16 February 2025

### Background

Chad has emerged as a conservation stronghold for the Critically Endangered Kordofan giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*), a subspecies of the Northern giraffe (*G. camelopardalis*). Newly discovered or better understood populations – including the Binder-Léré Faunal Reserve Complex of Protected Areas (CAPBL), Koundjourou area, Sena Ouara National Park (NP), and Siniaka Minia NP – highlight the importance of expanding coordinated Kordofan giraffe conservation efforts in Chad.

The total Kordofan giraffe population of Chad is estimated at 1,636 with over 90% (1,546) in Zakouma NP.

Understanding how this population utilises the area between Zakouma and Siniaka Minia NPs is crucial for their long-term conservation. Since 2018, GCF has partnered with African Parks to study giraffe movements in and around Zakouma NP and support science-driven management.

A recent partnership between Noé and the Republic of Chad for the management of the CAPBL (comprising the Binder-Léré Faunal Reserve and Zah Soo NP) has led to an increase in conservation efforts for Kordofan giraffe. While the population size is unknown, three giraffe were recently recorded during an aerial. A better understanding of how they utilise the

greater landscape will to Kordofan giraffe conservation in Chad.

These tagging efforts are undertaken as part of GCF’s Africa-wide Twiga Tracker initiative and in support of the recently developed (and GCF supported) National Giraffe Conservation Strategy for Chad (2024-2034).

### Objectives

This operation had three geographical objectives to deploy GPS tags: (1) on the southern edge of Zakouma NP, (2) in Siniaka-Minia NP, (3) in Zah Soo NP, as well as (4) critically review the newly developed SpoorTrack Iridium GPS tail unit.

Objectives (1-3) aim to broaden our understanding of Kordofan giraffe space use and connectivity in the respective regions, while objective (4) supports continent-wide programmes and marks this first full field deployment of the new GPS unit capable of recording data at higher frequencies.

### Results

Between 29 January and 16 February 2025, the GCF team and staff from African Parks and Noé, respectively, GPS-tagged 16 Kordofan giraffe (8 male, 8 female) with both a SpoorTrack Iridium tail unit and a GSat Globalstar ear tag for redundancy. They were distributed across Zakouma NP (10; 3 male, 7 female), Siniaka-Minia NP (5; 4 male, 1 female), and Zah Soo NP (1 male).

### Acknowledgements

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Photos courtesy of John Bassi and Dr Richard Harvey

