



Twiga Tracker Initiative: Giraffe Tagging Report

Sabi Game Park, Mozambique

23-25 April 2025

Background

Historically, South African giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa giraffa*) were widely distributed south of the Save and Limpopo River in Mozambique. Newly found historical hunting reports and naturalist records confirm their presence throughout areas north of the country.

The Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) is a multi-country conservation landscape that connects protected areas across Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe to promote ecological connectivity and biodiversity conservation. Sabi Game Park (GP), a 30,000 ha reserve in the southern section of the GLTFCA, shares an unfenced border with Kruger National Park allowing for potential cross-border movement of wildlife, including giraffe.

As part of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation's (GCF) Twiga Tracker Initiative, the largest GPS tracking program for giraffe in Africa, expanding our tagging our efforts in the Sabi GP will enhance our understanding of the spatial ecology and transboundary connectivity of South African giraffe in the GLTFCA.



Objectives

The primary objective of this operation was to tag six South African giraffe with Ceres Trace GPS ear tags in the Sabi GP to collect spatial data. Additionally, tissue samples were to be collected from each giraffe for the ongoing Mozambique DNA analysis project. Specific research goals were:

- To track movements and habitat use by examining giraffe space use patterns and resource selection in Sabi GP;
- To gain insight into cross-border movement of giraffe between Mozambique and South Africa;
- To collect GPS data that can support the development of effective conservation strategies, including insight into giraffe movement onto surrounding reserves within the GLTFCA.

Results

Six South African giraffe (four females and two males) were captured and fitted with Ceres Trace GPS satellite ear tags from 23-25 April 2025 in SGP by the collaborative team of Mozambique Wildlife Alliance, SGP and GCF. The operation was overseen by wildlife veterinarian, Dr. Joao Almeida from the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance. In addition, tissue samples for DNA analysis were collected from five of the six giraffe and stored in nunc tubes containing ethanol.

Acknowledgements

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