

Twiga Tracker Initiative: Masai Giraffe Tagging Report

Masai Mara Ecosystem, Kenya

13-19 October 2025

Background

The Greater Masai Mara ecosystem in Kenya is renowned for its rich biodiversity, the Maasai pastoralist culture, and its role in supporting one of the world's largest terrestrial wildlife migrations. It is also home to the third largest population of Masai giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi tippelskirchi*) in Kenya. However, the ecosystem continues to face human-induced pressures, including linear infrastructure (e.g. fences and settlements) and agricultural expansion leading to a fragmented landscape. This fragmentation not only disrupts species movement, as they seek resources which are dynamic across time and space, but also confines wide-ranging animals to isolated habitat patches in the landscape. Therefore, understanding the impacts of fragmentation on Masai giraffe space use will inform better landscape level management on their conservation and contribute to the growing understanding of multi-species connectivity on the viability of wildlife populations in the Greater Masai Mara ecosystem.

Objective

Our main objective was to tag Masai giraffe across a gradient of human land-use in the Greater Masai Mara ecosystem using light-weight GPS satellite tail units from SpoorTrack. This exercise was a follow-up of the 2023 tagging effort, which was subverted by

mass failure of the Savannah Tracking tags, and aimed to build on data collection in areas with varying human activities. Hence, we aim to better understand how Masai giraffe respond to fencing and other anthropogenic developments, as well as how they navigate this increasingly fragmented landscape.

Specific research goals include:

- Assessing Masai giraffe behavioural responses to fencing and fragmentation.
- Examining Masai giraffe space use patterns and resource selection in the Greater Masai Mara ecosystem.
- Assessing connectivity in an increasingly fragmented landscape.

Data from this project will help to better inform conservation and management strategies for Masai giraffe.

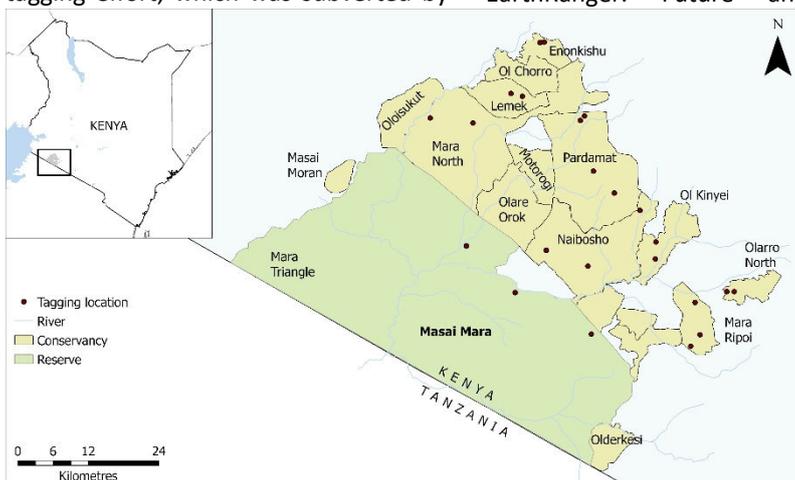
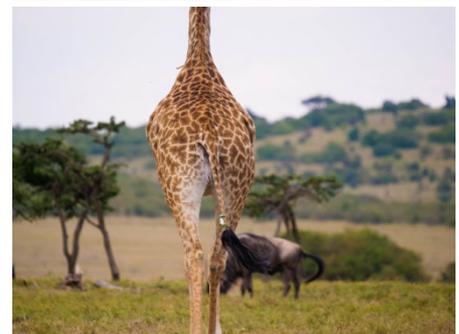
Results

The tagging exercise took place from 13 to 19 October 2025 and a total of 23 Masai giraffe (15 female and 8 male) were tagged.

During the exercise, the field team were called to an incident which resulted in a Masai giraffe being euthanized due to a broken leg resulting from a fence entanglement. This further underlined the importance of the tagging exercise.

All data and subsequent online tracking was shared with partners through EarthRanger. Future analysis and

reporting will be share bi-annually.



Area	Tags
Enoonkishu Conservancy	2
Lemek Conservancy	2
Mara Naboisho Conservancy	3
Mara North Conservancy	3
Mara Ripoi Conservancy	2
Masai Mara National Reserve	3
Ol Kinyei Conservancy	2
Olarro North Conservancy	2
Pardamat Conservation Area	4