



Twiga Tracker Initiative: Giraffe Tagging Report

Luangwa Valley, Zambia

27 September – 7 October 2025

Background

In September/October 2025, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) in collaboration with the Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW) and the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) conducted the first ever deployment of GPS tracking units on Luangwa giraffe (*Giraffa tippelskirchi thornicrofti*) in Zambia’s Luangwa Valley. As part of GCF’s Africa-wide Twiga Tracker initiative, this tagging operation fits into our broader commitment to understanding giraffe movement ecology throughout Africa and contributes to local and regional conservation planning.

This tagging operation focused on key sites along the Luangwa River.

Objectives

The objective of this tagging and the subsequent study is to investigate the movement ecology of Luangwa giraffe

using solar-powered GPS tracking tail units. Specifically, it aims to quantify space use patterns and movement behaviors across different land-use types within the Luangwa Valley. The study also seeks to evaluate range expansion dynamics of this recovering population, to identify potential corridors across to northern extent of their ranges, and to characterize seasonal movement patterns during the rainy period. Ultimately, the findings aim to inform site-specific management and contribute to regional giraffe conservation planning efforts in Zambia.

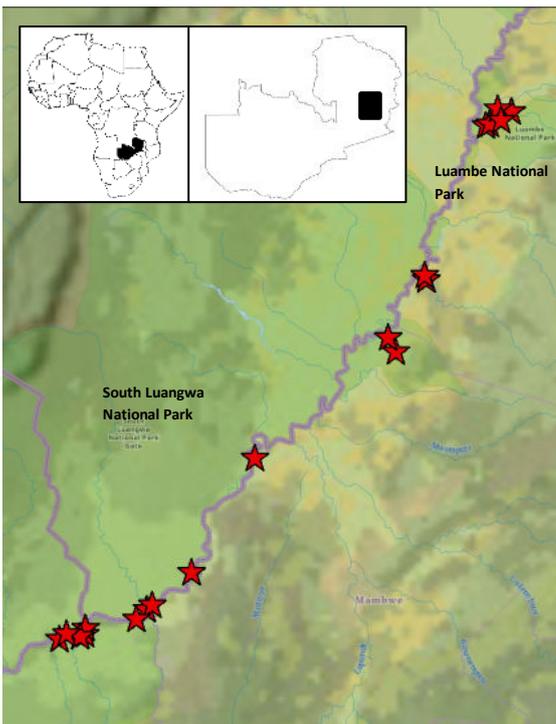
Results

The collaborative team deployed GPS tags on 19 Luangwa giraffe (nine female, ten male) across the South Luangwa National Park, Luambe National Park, and surrounding Game Management Areas. The Luangwa giraffe were fitted with SpoorTrack Iridium tail units

programmed to record hourly GPS fixes, 24/day providing high resolution location data. Live feeds of all data are available to relevant stakeholders through EarthRanger and Movebank.

Acknowledgements

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Map of tagging locations of Luangwa giraffe in the Luangwa Valley

In partnership with:

