



TFCA FINANCING FACILITY



Twiga Tracker Initiative: Giraffe Tagging Report

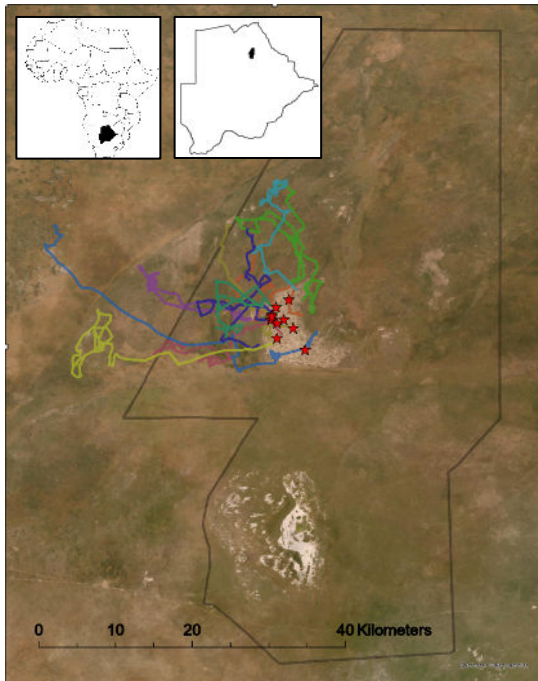
Nxai Pan National Park, Botswana

9 – 10 April 2026

Background

On 9-10 April 2025, the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF), in collaboration with the University of Botswana Okavango Research Institute (ORI), conducted the first ever deployment of GPS tracking units on southern giraffe (*Giraffa giraffa*) in Botswana's Nxai Pan National Park (NP). As part of GCF's Africa-wide Twiga Tracker initiative and with support from the SADC TFCA Financing Facility, this tagging operation fits into GCF's efforts to better understand southern giraffe movement ecology and connectivity across the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) with the intention of contributing to local and regional conservation planning.

This tagging operation focused on understanding habitat use of southern giraffe in Nxai Pan NP as well as assessing connectivity and identifying corridors across the KAZA TFCA.



Map of southern giraffe tagging locations and first week of movements in Nxai Pan National Park, Botswana

Objectives

The objective of this tagging and the ongoing study is to investigate the movement ecology of southern 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 KAZA TFCA landscape. The study also seeks to assess current and identify potential new corridors across the southern extent of the southern giraffe's ranges within KAZA, and to characterize seasonal movement patterns. Ultimately, the findings will inform site-specific management and contribute to regional southern giraffe conservation planning efforts in Botswana.

Results

The collaborative team deployed GPS satellite tags on ten southern giraffe (seven female, three male) across Nxai Pan NP. These southern 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 stakeholders through EarthRanger and Movebank.

Additional taggings are planned in Botswana to compliment this initial effort, and they are timed at best seasonal conditions.

Acknowledgements

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In partnership with:



Implemented by:



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