

## Final Project Evaluation Report

---

Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Mathias D'haen
<b>Project Title</b>	Long-term conservation and monitoring actions of the last Kordofan giraffe in Garamba National Park, DRC
<b>Application ID</b>	24447-2
<b>Grant Amount</b>	£5000
<b>Email Address</b>	mathias@dhaen.be
<b>Date of this Report</b>	2019.03.01

**1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Continued monitoring of population dynamics of Kordofan Giraffe				None
Identify and train a Congolese national				None
Implement the actions as outlined in the National Giraffe Strategy and Action plan (NGSAP)				While most actions and their deadlines included in the NGSAP have been approved and put into practice, others haven't. Most importantly is the postponement of the deployment of ossicone GPS collars to end 2019, early 2020. Despite this, I believe the objective is still mostly achieved with the NGSAP approved and implemented in the conservation of giraffe in Garamba National Park (GNP).

**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

Because of my employment as Garamba's Geographer and Technology coordinator time to go out into the field was restricted. Previous experience demonstrated that monitoring of giraffe by foot patrols is highly inefficient and we were therefore still able to conduct qualitative monitoring through aerial surveillance and monitoring from vehicles. These challenges were tackled by working with a Congolese national, the project's Congolese assistant, Achille Diodio, who could lead on giraffe-related patrols. Achille actively assisted in foot patrols and vehicle patrols of the giraffe regions and was familiarized with the giraffe's habitat.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

1. With biennial aerial counts of wildlife in GNP giraffe population numbers, pre-2016, were based on total counts and sometimes on extrapolations, depending on the methodology used. From 2016 onwards, and with the support of a Rufford Small Grant the giraffe population was monitored using individual identification resulting in a sound population estimation and providing insights in

their distribution and migration patterns. These efforts were continued with the support of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Rufford Small Grant. A population estimation indicated that the population is growing, with 48 individuals in April 2018 compared to 45 individuals in August 2017. While it is known from other research throughout Africa that up to 50% of juvenile giraffe are predated in their first year, it was found that only one 1 out of 10 juveniles have been reported missing. Seven new juvenile giraffe have been reported during this project.

2. To ensure the longevity of the giraffe project in GNP a Congolese national was identified, employed and is being trained. In September Mr. Achille Diodio Sorue started working in Garamba NP. Originally from the region around Garamba, Diodio obtained a Bachelors in Science at the University of Kisangani, DRC, after which he undertook a Master's at North West Forestry University in China. Diodio's work has mostly focussed on conducting fieldwork and identification of the giraffe, however, it is planned that he will be looking more into possible threats as well as demography work in the coming months, as he is now fully employed by the Park.
3. With the support of a first Rufford Small Grant a National Giraffe Strategy and Action plan was drafted. During the timeframe of this 2<sup>nd</sup> Rufford Small Grant the NGSAP was reviewed and approved by ICCN and African Parks, who have shared management over the Garamba Complex. The document outlines the strategy and action until 2020.

#### **4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.**

Local people were involved in the project in different ways. Most directly, a Congolese national, Achille Diodio, was identified and has been trained on a day to day basis. This was a holistic training, not only in ecology, but also enabling him to take over the project and continue it in the long-term. Achille Diodio is originally from the province in which the Garamba Complex is located, Haut Uele, but attended an international study programme. After a period as a volunteer, Achille was fully employed as a Research and Monitoring assistant in Garamba National Park.

Three other research and monitoring staff were also trained and participated in data collection and analysis.

Furthermore, park rangers were exposed to the giraffe project as they were assisting on specific giraffe monitoring field trips. Other community members were exposed to the Park and giraffe conservation through targeted wildlife tours such as on 'World Environment Day'. Long-term, the preservation of giraffe in Garamba NP is critical for the future of its ecotourism which is directly linked to employment opportunities locally.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

With both Achille Diodio as well as Mathias D'haen employed and full time in GNP they will continue with the collection and identification of photos to continue to

monitor the giraffe population. A new population estimation is planned for April 2019. Other actions as outlined in the NGSAP will be carried out depending on available funding.

**6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

Firstly, three-monthly reports are being send out to the Rufford foundation, to GCF as well as shared internally in GNP. Secondly, data on population size and newly found juveniles are shared with African Parks Head Office who use the data for “good news stories” and decision making. Finally, a paper based on the findings of the research has been drafted and is submitted for publication in *Ecology and Evolution*.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

The grant was used over the period of 1 year. Although the collaring of giraffe has been delayed due to veterinary recommendations, some expenses have been made but will still be used for the collaring at a later stage.

**8. Budget: Provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used. It is important that you retain the management accounts and all paid invoices relating to the project for at least 2 years as these may be required for inspection at our discretion.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Vaccination & medicines	250			
Insurance	100			
Giraffe trainee travel and living expenses (Accommodation & food)	3000	1500	-1500	
Vehicle use & maintenance	1000	1000		
Local expenses Kisangani	150			Giraffe trainee found by different means
Travel expenses Kisangani University	500		-500	Giraffe trainee found by different means
GPS trackers additional material (drill, bolts, screws, vet material)		500	+500	Unanticipated purchase of material to assist with the collaring operation
Aerial Survey		2000	+1570	
Visit of local schoolchildren				Funded by the Community Development department

GPS Trackers				Donated by GCF
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>		

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

- To continue monitoring the population numbers, including the maintenance of an individual ID sheet booklet.
- To continue training of giraffe trainee on data analysis and report writing.
- To look into predation levels through scar presence on hind legs.
- To look into the possibility of a management intervention, potentially even translocation, of three isolated female giraffe.
- Establish a permanent security outpost in one of the two key giraffe areas.
- Analyse aerial imagery of one of the two key giraffe areas for the possibility of detection of giraffe via this work flow.
- Other actions as outlined in the NGSAP.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, we used the Rufford Foundation logo in the quarterly reports that were send out internally to the GNP management as well as to partners (GCF and Rufford).

**11. Please provide a full list of all the members of your team and briefly what was their role in the project.**

The project management committee selected as follows:

**Mathias D'haen:** (Project Coordinator) - managed the project

**Achille Diodio:** (Giraffe project assistant/trainee) - data collection, ID sheet booklet keeper, identification of photos collected

**Kate Wilson:** (Research and monitoring manager) - advised on and organised field missions

**Didier Kimpungi:** (Research and monitoring assistant) - assisted with field data collection

**GNP Rangers** - Security for field missions and assisted with data collection