

Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve
Giraffe post-translocation monitoring
June 2020



Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou
Project Officer GCF-SCF/Niger

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the Nigerien Wildlife Authorities for their valuable support and for the permission to undertake the work. Particularly, we would like to thank the wildlife authorities' members and rangers. Importantly, we would like to thank IUCN-SOS and European Commission, Born Free Foundation, Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance, Rufford Small Grant, and Sahara Conservation Fund for their valuable financial support to the programme.

INTRODUCTION

Located in the Sahelo-Saharan transition zone, the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve (GBR) covers an area of 1,423,625 ha. In order to ensure the long-term conservation of the West African giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis peralta*), the first-ever translocation of West African giraffe was carried out in November - December 2018. During this operation, eight (8) subadult individuals (5 females and 3 males) were captured in Kouré, part of the 'Giraffe Zone' approximately 80 km east of Niamey and translocated approximately 800 km to the GBR in the North Maradi Region, Niger. This conservation translocation was undertaken in accordance with the National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan developed by the Ministry of Environment in October 2015, and the subsequent feasibility study undertaken specifically for this translocation of giraffe.

Following the translocation of the giraffe to GBR, two (2) local community ecoguards (Twiga Walinzi – 'giraffe guards' in Swahili) were recruited by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) to ensure close monitoring of the giraffe alongside four (4) ecoguards recruited by the Niger Fauna Corridors Project. Specifically, the monitoring seeks to:

- Regularly monitor the health and social dynamic status of the translocated giraffe.
- Understand their spatial ecology (movements, habitat use, etc.).
- Ongoing education and awareness in the greater GBR community.
- Inform and raise awareness among the local populations about the presence of giraffe in the area.

This report presents the key monthly giraffe monitoring data collected by the ecoguards in June 2020. Over the time, the monitoring data will help provide recommendations to improve the management of the reserve and to conserve this newly reintroduced species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The equipment used during the monitoring includes:

- Three (3) motorcycles.
- Two (2) GPS Garmin InReach+ (N.B. during monitoring surveys, GPS coordinates are recorded every 10 minutes and tracks are automatically stored).

- Two (2) Cybertracker installed on a rough smartphone (Crosscall Trekker M1).

During the data collection, the following methods were used by the ecoguards:

- Everyday ecoguards cross the GBR valleys where they expect to see the giraffe.
- Communicate regularly with the local communities around GBR about the presence of giraffe in their area.
- Inform and raise awareness about giraffe conservation with the local population around GBR.

RESULTS

In June 2020, the GBR ecoguards travelled approximately 804 km during the monitoring surveys with an average of 27 km per day. During this period, they were able to observe and record a large number of GPS positions, habitat use and different behaviours of the giraffe. Thanks to such monitoring, they managed to assess their forage behaviour (which plant species are browsed) and their physical body condition (health).

In June 2020 we observed that the giraffe predominantly resided within the GBR with only one movement out recorded. Diet and behaviour observations did not differ much from what was observed the previous month:

- Second successive month the giraffe had stayed within the reserve and its periphery with only one exit from the reserve recorded.
- Most of the time, the giraffe had remained in two groups as May, one at the central core of the reserve and the other in the southeast of the reserve near the village of Zigulta.
- Those in the reserve drink from the pond of Filio (artificial pond) and those close to Zigulta drink from waterpoints.
- Regarding the diet, no change observed in comparison to the previous month. Predominantly: *Vachellia* (formerly *Acacia*) *seyal*, *V. radiana* and *V. ehrenbergiana*, as well as *Sclerocarya birrea* which was flowering.

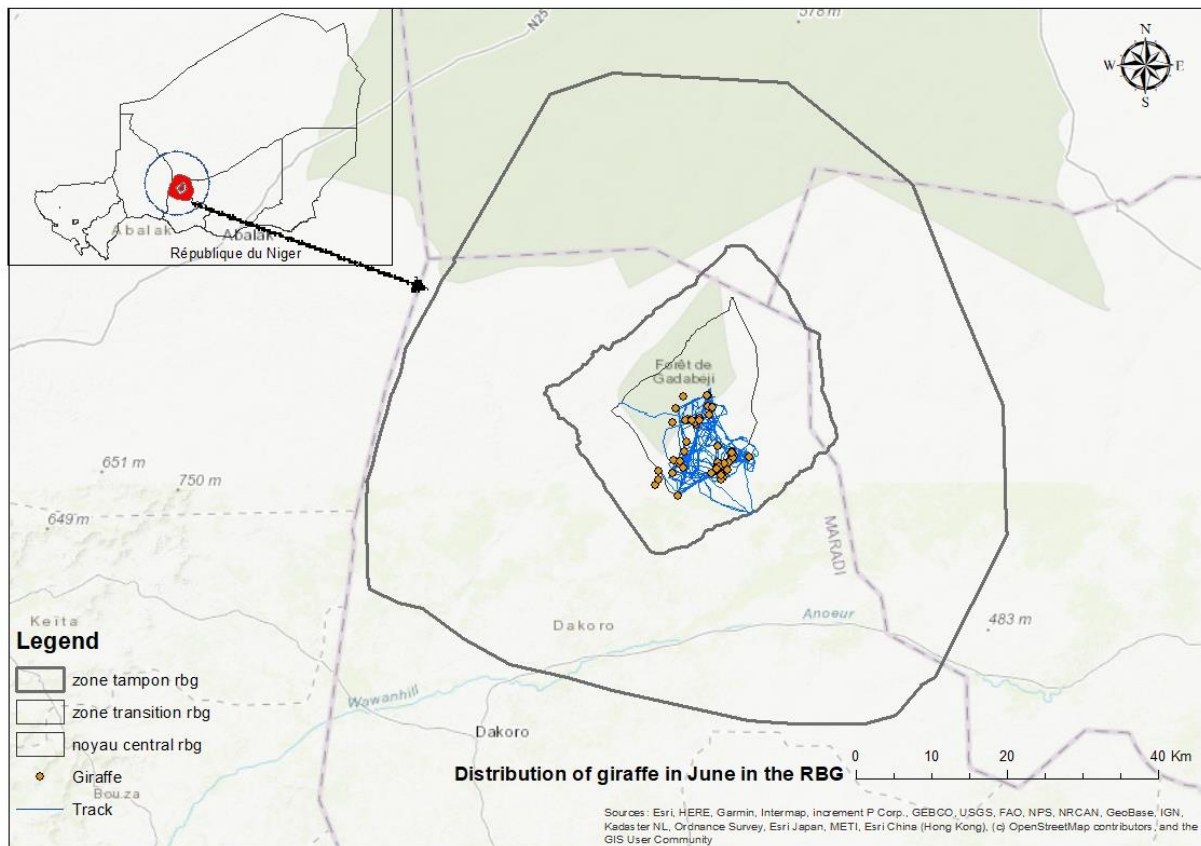


Figure 3: Giraffe locations and monitoring survey track during June 2020 in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve and surroundings.

This above map and below table show the distribution of the giraffe in June 2020. Importantly, we observed that:

- Giraffe mostly stayed in the central area of GBR. This can most probably be attributed to the availability of forage as it is the flowering period.
- The blue line shows the tracks followed by the ecogurads when searching or monitoring the giraffe.

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No.	Male	Femelle
1	01/06/2020	18:46:53	7.24772719	15.0413637	427	Ahmed	3	1	2
2	02/06/2020	07:01:36	7.28874917	15.05092167	449	Ahmed	3	1	2
3	04/06/2020	07:23:04	7.20674327	15.16875561	486	Torodi	5	2	3
4	04/06/2020	08:31:14	7.20960752	15.16826544	479	Torodi	5	2	3
5	04/06/2020	12:42:49	7.25589156	15.06146152	455	Torodi	3	1	2
6	04/06/2020	16:43:46	7.25427708	15.05786268	477	Torodi	3	1	2
7	04/06/2020	16:45:01	7.25392826	15.05782864	451	Torodi	3	1	2
8	04/06/2020	17:11:50	7.20979839	15.14880601	476	Torodi	6	2	4
9	05/06/2020	10:45:23	7.23871715	15.01185744	469	Torodi	3	1	2
10	06/06/2020	07:25:00	7.14434587	15.0445842	453	Torodi	3	1	2
11	06/06/2020	09:06:20	7.21120526	15.13105358	470	Torodi	3	1	2
12	06/06/2020	13:55:39	7.14864277	15.144346	465	Torodi	4	2	2
13	06/06/2020	18:17:00	7.1536637	15.0385001	440	Barka	3	1	2
14	07/06/2020	19:11:01	7.15404519	15.0380641	438	Barka	3	2	1
15	07/06/2020	19:23:23	7.16386295	15.0615427	459	Barka	3	1	2
16	08/06/2020	08:31:27	7.19403975	15.12480539	490	Barka	4	1	3
17	08/06/2020	10:44:05	7.22635858	15.03362647	443	Barka	3	1	2
18	08/06/2020	20:12:27	7.2069737	15.16883671	474	Barka		2	1
19	09/06/2020	07:54:07	7.1625391	15.03037705	465	Barka	4	2	2
20	09/06/2020	18:17:46	7.15678496	15.04284445	437	Barka	4	2	2
21	09/06/2020	18:18:07	7.15688673	15.04280274	441	Barka	4	2	2
22	10/06/2020	11:23:27	7.23362182	15.01982318	436	Barka	7	3	4
23	13/06/2020	10:40:30	7.10960693	14.99753214	465	Barka	3	1	2
24	13/06/2020	10:42:04	7.10959265	14.99754976	454	Ahmed	3	1	2
25	13/06/2020	18:08:26	7.14099299	15.02096725	429	Ahmed	3	1	2
26	14/06/2020	08:34:22	0	0	0	Ahmed	3	1	2
27	14/06/2020	18:11:29	7.16170295	15.16679429	471	Torodi	5	2	3
28	15/06/2020	08:18:07	7.11562759	15.0247301	462	Torodi	5	2	3
29	15/06/2020	17:51:06	7.23192111	15.03162034	423	Torodi	3	1	2
30	16/06/2020	08:44:41	7.11409048	15.00695682	459	Torodi	5	2	3
31	16/06/2020	15:18:47	7.23174407	15.0310661	445	Torodi	3	1	2
32	17/06/2020	08:33:56	7.20692722	15.16884741	483	Torodi	5	2	3
33	17/06/2020	19:20:38	7.2544112	15.04894854	434	Torodi	3	1	2
34	18/06/2020	12:05:21	7.25956434	15.05416585	443	Torodi	3	1	2
35	19/06/2020	08:34:18	7.18733083	15.11261276	478	Barka	5	2	3
36	19/06/2020	09:15:39	7.25754952	15.04823351	426	Barka	3	1	2
37	19/06/2020	16:35:50	7.25599903	15.05983717	447	Barka	3	1	2
38	19/06/2020	17:05:34	7.18427957	15.11644399	469	Barka	5	2	3
39	20/06/2020	08:25:44	7.22935764	15.0726274	466	Barka	3	1	2
40	20/06/2020	08:28:55	7.22932044	15.07268169	473	Barka	3	1	2
41	20/06/2020	09:19:55	7.14162984	15.11642298	465	Barka	5	2	3
42	20/06/2020	18:02:51	7.24937124	15.03999013	420	Barka	3	1	2
43	21/06/2020	08:29:13	7.24081363	15.03919459	403	Barka	3	1	2
44	21/06/2020	17:30:53	7.19338239	15.12212198	474	Barka	5	2	3
45	22/06/2020	07:25:21	7.16674858	15.12220406	522	Barka	5	2	3
46	22/06/2020	07:25:40	7.1663909	15.1222463	472	Barka	5	2	3

47	22/06/2020	08:23:32	7.22927398	15.04038646	441	Barka	3	1	2
48	23/06/2020	20:07:34	7.23383019	15.00807843	456	Barka	3	1	2
49	24/06/2020	09:03:47	7.23518096	15.01631218	447	Barka	3	1	2
50	24/06/2020	09:07:14	7.23511441	15.01635561	444	Ahmed	3	1	2
51	24/06/2020	10:04:01	7.16867013	15.12086077	474	Ahmed	5	2	3
52	24/06/2020	18:25:02	7.22376243	15.02449365	430	Ahmed	3	1	2
53	25/06/2020	08:59:34	7.24755111	15.02708087	441	Ahmed	3	1	2
54	25/06/2020	10:17:52	7.16977493	15.1242451	471	Ahmed	5	2	3
55	25/06/2020	18:52:03	7.23131033	15.03196645	431	Ahmed	3	1	2
56	26/06/2020	07:08:43	7.22547786	15.02771348	423	Ahmed	3	1	2
57	26/06/2020	07:56:46	7.21764516	15.14642376	477	Ahmed	5	2	3
58	26/06/2020	19:02:54	7.22612925	15.02709367	426	Torodi	3	1	2
59	27/06/2020	08:06:51	7.19272736	15.12064912	488	Torodi	5	2	3
60	27/06/2020	18:11:13	7.15184271	14.97666397	475	Torodi	5	2	3
61	27/06/2020	18:30:18	7.22729796	15.02809718	424	Torodi	3	1	2
62	29/06/2020	10:54:43	7.21631231	15.0194903	427	Torodi	3	1	2
63	29/06/2020	18:01:02	7.16747475	15.12086183	476	Torodi	5	2	3
64	30/06/2020	09:04:51	7.17904397	15.12156594	480	Torodi	5	2	3
65	30/06/2020	18:22:25	7.16764735	15.08111201	469	Torodi	3	1	2
66	30/06/2020	18:23:25	7.16755939	15.08102724	467	Torodi	3	1	2

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- Inform and raise awareness about giraffe conservation with the local population around GBR.

RESULTS

In July 2020, the GBR ecoguards travelled approximately 834 km during the monitoring surveys with an average of 27 km per day. During this period, they were able to observe and record a large number of GPS positions, habitat use and different behaviours of the giraffe. Thanks to such monitoring, they managed to assess their forage behaviour (which plant species are browsed) and their physical body condition (health).

In July 2020 we observed that the giraffe predominantly resided within the GBR with no movement outside. Diet and behaviour observations did not differ much from what was observed the previous month:

- Third successive month the giraffe stayed within the reserve and its periphery with no movement outside of the reserve recorded.
- Due to the heavy rainy season, numerous seasonal waterpoints were formed within the reserve.
- Regarding the diet, no change observed in comparison to the previous month. Predominantly: *Vachellia* (formerly *Acacia*) *seyal*, *V. radiana* and *V. ehrenbergiana*, as well as *Sclerocarya birrea* which was flowering.

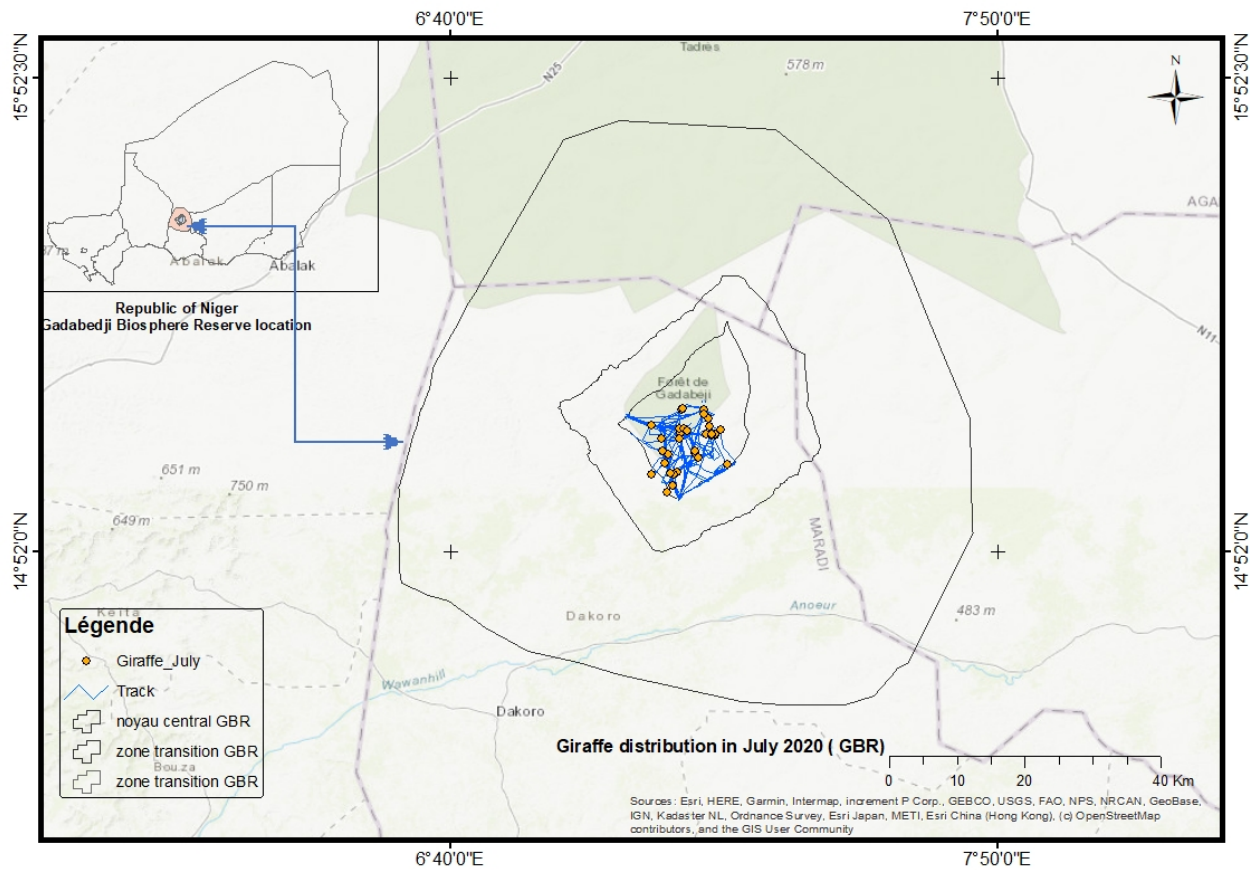


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This above map and below table show the distribution of the giraffe in July 2020. Importantly, we observed that:

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1	01/07/2020	16:44:24	7,156709	15,11785	470	Barka	5	2	3
2	01/07/2020	19:47:29	7,206565	15,1687	485	Barka	3	1	2
3	02/07/2020	08:23:59	7,212576	15,11547	475	Barka	3	1	2
4	02/07/2020	09:36:32	7,153852	15,12911	461	Barka	5	2	3
5	03/07/2020	08:12:46	7,149676	15,03655	442	Barka	3	1	2
6	03/07/2020	09:42:28	7,187744	15,07713	464	Barka	5	2	3
7	04/07/2020	14:14:28	7,195471	15,06602	435	Barka	5	2	3
8	09/07/2020	15:42:54	7,154788	15,10576	461	Torodi	5	2	3
9	10/07/2020	12:08:45	7,12972	14,99223	454	Torodi	3	1	2
10	10/07/2020	12:09:09	7,129692	14,99235	443	Torodi	3	1	2
11	10/07/2020	13:08:43	7,123132	15,0548	471	Torodi	5	2	3
12	10/07/2020	13:20:07	7,139645	15,00813	430	Torodi	3	1	2
13	11/07/2020	11:03:27	7,143024	15,03134	444	Torodi	3	1	2
14	11/07/2020	14:10:27	7,136734	15,03271	447	Torodi	3	1	2
15	11/07/2020	14:23:40	7,131735	15,07289	479	Torodi	5	2	3
16	13/07/2020	08:22:54	7,116041	15,10742	450	Torodi	3	1	2
17	13/07/2020	13:41:32	7,206479	15,16872	484	Barka	3	1	2
18	13/07/2020	13:42:02	7,206458	15,16872	488	Barka	3	1	2
19	13/07/2020	17:47:12	7,094275	15,03079	465	Barka	4	2	3
20	13/07/2020	18:54:55	7,161469	15,17058	475	Barka	3	1	2
21	14/07/2020	07:37:03	7,160568	15,16969	460	Barka	3	1	2
22	14/07/2020	12:19:50	7,118723	15,07954	477	Barka	5	2	3
23	14/07/2020	17:53:09	7,161886	15,17065	491	Barka	3	1	2
24	14/07/2020	17:53:39	7,161964	15,17069	474	Barka	3	1	2
25	15/07/2020	07:47:46	7,206536	15,16875	479	Barka	3	1	2
26	15/07/2020	19:09:13	7,164471	15,12897	466	Barka	5	2	3
27	16/07/2020	07:27:12	7,217888	15,15088	478	Barka	3	1	2
28	16/07/2020	07:51:31	7,172739	15,12267	473	Barka	5	2	3
29	22/07/2020	10:41:29	7,230453	15,11478	461	Torodi	8	3	5
30	22/07/2020	18:51:57	7,218417	15,13267	464	Torodi	8	3	5
31	23/07/2020	09:13:03	7,230905	15,11566	464	Torodi	8	3	5
32	23/07/2020	16:37:44	7,257352	15,05192	448	Torodi	8	3	5
33	23/07/2020	16:38:05	7,257347	15,0519	450	Torodi	8	3	5
34	24/07/2020	07:46:55	7,241903	15,12499	470	Torodi	8	3	5
35	24/07/2020	07:47:16	7,241942	15,12498	464	Torodi	8	3	5
36	24/07/2020	18:14:40	7,224315	15,11442	468	Barka	8	3	5
37	25/07/2020	10:37:51	7,224348	15,11689	449	Barka	8	3	5
38	26/07/2020	07:16:50	7,217504	15,14857	464	Barka	8	3	5
39	27/07/2020	15:02:24	7,095051	15,13447	456	Barka	8	3	5
40	27/07/2020	17:52:45	7,188711	15,07966	480	Barka	8	3	5
41	28/07/2020	10:44:19	7,2064	15,15825	474	Barka	8	3	5

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During the data collection, the following methods were used by the ecoguards:

- Everyday ecoguards cross the GBR valleys where they expect to see the giraffe.
- Communicate regularly with the local communities around GBR about the presence of giraffe in their area.
- Inform and raise awareness about giraffe conservation with the local population around GBR.

RESULTS

In August 2020, the GBR ecoguards travelled approximately 1,726 km during the monitoring surveys with an average of 55 km per day. During this period, they were able to observe and record a large number of GPS positions, habitat use and different behaviours of the giraffe. Thanks to such monitoring, they managed to assess their forage behaviour (which plant species are browsed) and their physical body condition (health).

In August 2020 we observed that the giraffe spent lot of time out of the reserve with interesting movements recorded. Diet and behaviour observations did not differ much from what was observed the previous month:

- The eight giraffe left the reserve and travelled ~70 km away to the north-east towards a village called Rafi.
- Two giraffe went to the north-east of the reserve in the region of Agadez, and the ecoguards spent three days to bring them back to the reserve.
- During the rain the giraffe appear to have difficulties to get to the valleys to feed because of the soaked soil.
- The giraffe drink water from the seasonal waterpoints which are almost everywhere in the reserve in August.
- Regarding the diet, no change observed in comparison to the previous month. Predominantly: *Vachellia* (formerly *Acacia*) *seyal*, *V. radiana* and *V. ehrenbergiana*, as well as *Sclerocarya birrea* which was flowering.

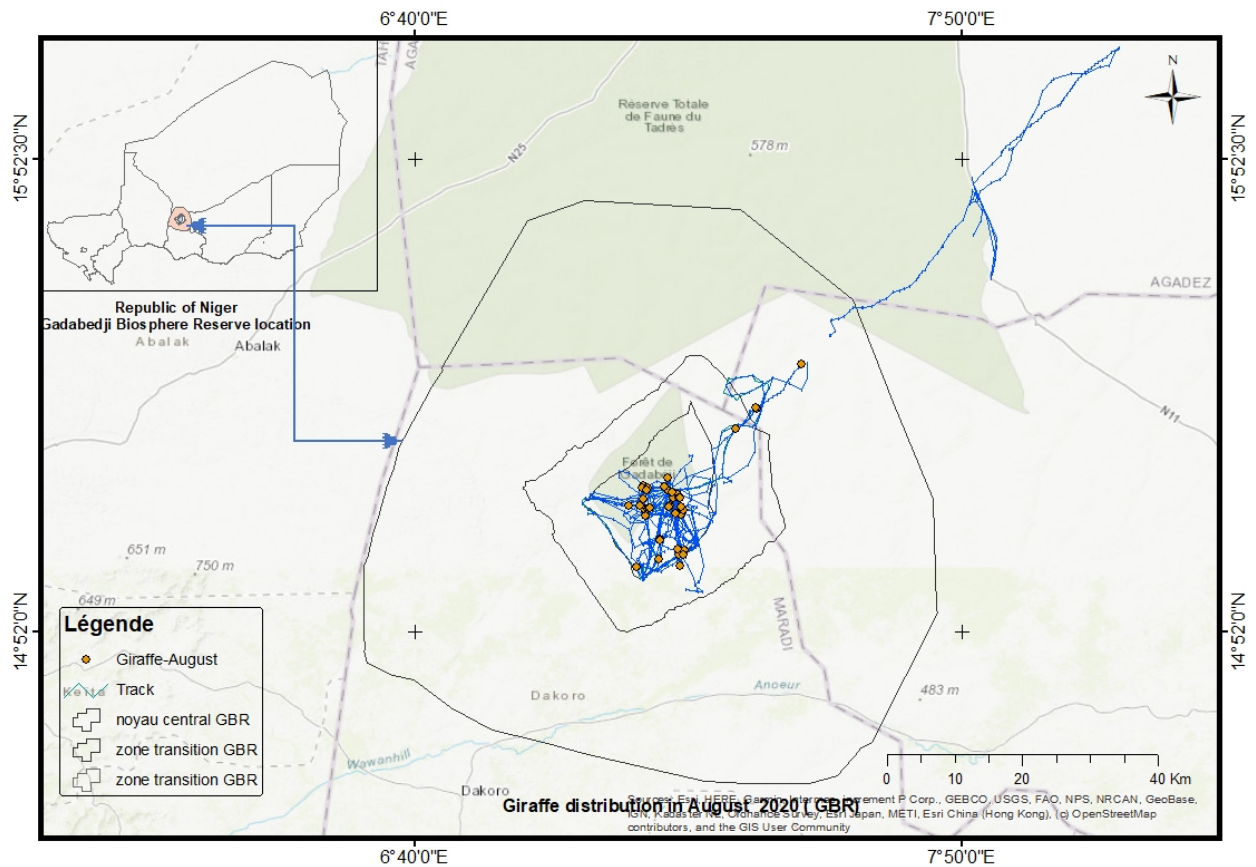


Figure 3: Giraffe locations and monitoring survey track during August 2020 in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve and surroundings.

This above map and below table show the distribution of the giraffe in August 2020. Importantly, we observed that:

- The blue line shows the tracks followed by the ecoguards when searching or monitoring the giraffe.
- Those tracks are very different from the ones of the previous months (May-July) as giraffe were mainly staying within the reserve. Those movements north-east of the reserve are interesting as there is limited resources in this area.

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No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
1	02/08/2020	14:02	7,1589939	15,11333	474	Torodi	8	3	5
2	03/08/2020	07:40	7,1564668	15,1267	452	Torodi	8	3	5
3	03/08/2020	07:41	7,1564609	15,12669	455	Torodi	8	3	5
4	03/08/2020	14:01	7,1224138	15,13539	476	Torodi	8	3	5
5	04/08/2020	11:43	7,1616275	15,1673	481	Torodi	8	3	5
6	04/08/2020	16:21	7,153208	15,14954	472	Torodi	8	3	5
7	05/08/2020	08:16	7,2380199	15,12445	481	Torodi	8	3	5
8	05/08/2020	08:17	7,2377032	15,12441	469	Torodi	8	3	5
9	06/08/2020	15:27	7,2326167	15,12017	462	Barka	8	3	5
10	07/08/2020	10:32	7,1890317	15,06321	453	Barka	8	3	5
11	07/08/2020	13:18	7,189638	15,06183	458	Barka	8	3	5
12	08/08/2020	18:25	7,2117574	15,13477	477	Barka	8	3	5
13	08/08/2020	18:26	7,2117508	15,13479	481	Barka	8	3	5
14	09/08/2020	07:55	7,23532	15,11579	461	Barka	8	3	5
15	09/08/2020	07:56	7,2353025	15,11578	464	Barka	8	3	5
16	10/08/2020	16:03	7,4915492	15,43626	497	Ahmed	8	3	5
17	10/08/2020	18:23	7,3962017	15,34118	486	Ahmed	8	3	5
18	12/08/2020	17:32	0	0	0	Ahmed	8	3	5
19	12/08/2020	17:33	0	0	0	Ahmed	8	3	5
20	12/08/2020	17:36	8	8	0	Ahmed	8	3	5
21	17/08/2020	15:19	0	0	0	Barka	2	1	1
22	17/08/2020	17:48	7,3937444	15,34485	482	Barka	2	1	1
23	17/08/2020	18:49	7,35159	15,29867	482	Barka	2	1	1
24	18/08/2020	13:40	7,2093384	15,13166	470	Barka	2	1	1
25	18/08/2020	14:39	7,1476357	15,1347	460	Barka	6	2	4
26	19/08/2020	11:18	7,2409283	15,03837	422	Barka	2	1	1
27	19/08/2020	18:00	7,2333195	15,00565	466	Barka	2	1	1
28	20/08/2020	11:34	7,153511	15,17632	485	Barka	6	2	4
29	20/08/2020	18:48	7,1397808	15,00414	433	Barka	2	1	1
30	21/08/2020	10:30	7,1872654	15,0198	436	Barka	2	1	1
31	21/08/2020	12:14	7,206564	15,16871	479	Barka	6	2	4
32	22/08/2020	10:10	7,2200371	15,15259	464	Ahmed	6	2	4
33	22/08/2020	10:41	7,2290267	15,03042	426	Ahmed	2	1	1
34	22/08/2020	16:42	7,2280272	15,04237	434	Ahmed	2	1	1
35	22/08/2020	18:15	7,2222266	15,11856	463	Ahmed	6	2	4
36	22/08/2020	18:45	7,2382301	15,03035	433	Ahmed	2	1	1
37	23/08/2020	16:41	7,2383259	15,12479	473	Ahmed	6	2	4
38	23/08/2020	16:42	7,2383547	15,12475	479	Ahmed	6	2	4
39	24/08/2020	14:14	7,235729	15,1325	475	Ahmed	6	2	4
40	24/08/2020	17:51	7,1627964	15,1286	471	Ahmed	2	1	1
41	25/08/2020	07:57	7,1649619	15,12907	481	Ahmed	2	1	1
42	25/08/2020	09:06	7,1675167	15,13057	470	Ahmed	8	3	5
43	27/08/2020	08:01	7,1639282	15,17266	483	Torodi	8	3	5
44	27/08/2020	16:11	7,1524621	15,17183	432	Torodi	8	3	5
45	28/08/2020	17:36	7,2193269	15,16117	466	Torodi	8	3	5

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
46	29/08/2020	07:20	7,21782	15,15179	472	Torodi	8	3	5
47	29/08/2020	07:20	7,2178167	15,15183	474	Torodi	8	3	5
48	29/08/2020	12:32	7,2283968	15,15858	477	Barka	8	3	5
49	29/08/2020	17:34	7,229295	15,15053	451	Barka	8	3	5
50	29/08/2020	18:15	7,2319827	15,15113	486	Barka	8	3	5
51	30/08/2020	07:35	7,2149344	15,16417	480	Barka	8	3	5
52	30/08/2020	12:18	7,2052908	15,19515	484	Barka	8	3	5
53	30/08/2020	16:04	7,19938	15,175	506	Barka	8	3	5
54	30/08/2020	16:04	7,1990571	15,17499	489	Barka	8	3	5
55	31/08/2020	07:27	7,215324	15,16203	477	Barka	8	3	5
56	31/08/2020	13:08	7,159938	15,16853	480	Barka	8	3	5

Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve
Giraffe post-translocation monitoring
September 2020



Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou
Project Officer GCF-SCF/Niger

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Located in the Sahelo-Saharan transition zone, the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve (GBR) covers an area of 1,423,625 ha. In order to ensure the long-term conservation of the West African giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis peralta*), the first-ever translocation of West African giraffe was carried out in November - December 2018. During this operation, eight (8) subadult individuals (5 females and 3 males) were captured in Kouré, part of the 'Giraffe Zone' approximately 80 km east of Niamey and translocated approximately 800 km to the GBR in the North Maradi Region, Niger. This conservation translocation was undertaken in accordance with the National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan developed by the Ministry of Environment in October 2015, and the subsequent feasibility study undertaken specifically for this translocation of giraffe.

Following the translocation of the giraffe to GBR, two (2) local community ecoguards (Twiga Wetu – 'Our giraffe' in Swahili) were recruited by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) to ensure close monitoring of the giraffe alongside four (4) ecoguards recruited by the Niger Fauna Corridors Project. Specifically, the monitoring seeks to:

- Regularly monitor the health and social dynamic status of the translocated giraffe.
- Understand their spatial ecology (movements, habitat use, etc.).
- Ongoing education and awareness in the greater GBR community.
- Inform and raise awareness among the local populations about the presence of giraffe in the area.

This report presents the key monthly giraffe monitoring data collected by the ecoguards in September 2020. Over the time, the monitoring data will help provide recommendations to improve the management of the reserve and to conserve this newly reintroduced species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The equipment used during the monitoring includes:

- Three (3) motorcycles.
- Two (2) GPS Garmin InReach+ (N.B. during monitoring surveys, GPS coordinates are recorded every 10 minutes and tracks are automatically stored).

- Two (2) Cybertracker installed on a rough smartphone (Crosscall Trekker M1).

During the data collection, the following methods were used by the ecoguards:

- Everyday ecoguards cross the GBR valleys where they expect to see the giraffe.
- Communicate regularly with the local communities around GBR about the presence of giraffe in their area.
- Inform and raise awareness about giraffe conservation with the local population around GBR.

RESULTS

In September 2020, the GBR ecoguards travelled approximately 951 km during the monitoring surveys with an average of 32 km per day. During this period, they were able to observe and record a large number of GPS positions, habitat use and different behaviours of the giraffe. Thanks to such monitoring, they managed to assess their forage behaviour (which plant species are browsed) and their physical body condition (health).

In September 2020 we observed that the giraffe predominantly resided within the GBR with no movement outside recorded. Diet and behaviour observations did not differ much from what was observed the previous month:

- The giraffe stayed for the whole month in the reserve around the large valley called “Makka Rakuma”.
- Mating between a female (Mounido) and a male (Barka) was regularly observed.
- The giraffe drank water from the seasonal waterpoints which are throughout the reserve at this time of the year.
- Regarding the diet, no change observed in comparison to the previous month. Predominantly: *Vachellia* (formerly *Acacia*) *seyal*, *V. radiana* and *V. ehrenbergiana*, as well as *Sclerocarya birrea* which was flowering.



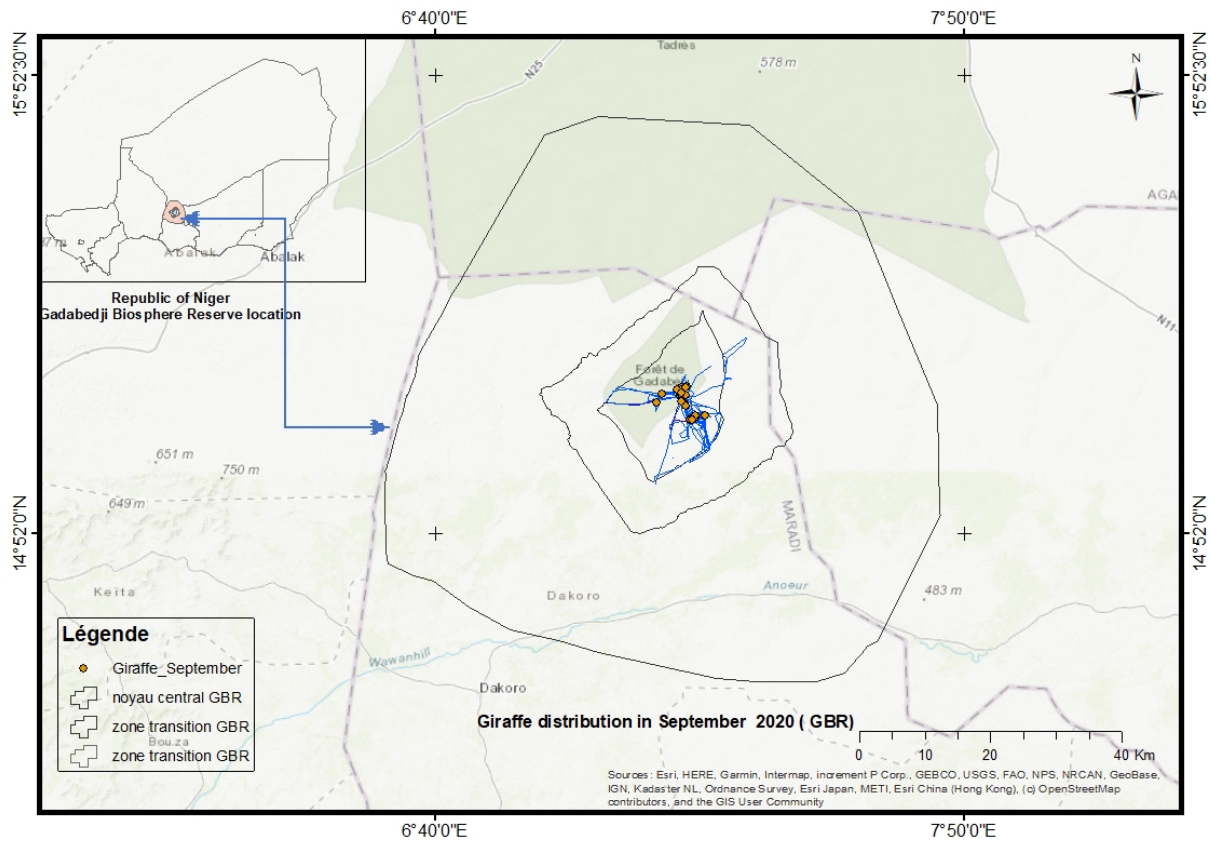


Figure 3: Giraffe locations and monitoring survey track during September 2020 in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve and surroundings.

This above map and below table show the distribution of the giraffe in September 2020. Importantly, we observed that:

- Giraffe mostly stayed in the central area of GBR. This can most probably be attributed to the availability of forage as it is the flowering period.
- The blue line shows the tracks followed by the ecoguards when searching or monitoring the giraffe.

Table: Recorded distribution of giraffe observed in the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve in September 2020.

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
1	01/09/2020	08:18	7,15417536	15,15499624	472	Barka	8	3	5
2	01/09/2020	16:20	7,16714136	15,17408592	480	Barka	8	3	5
3	02/09/2020	09:14	7,20837447	15,17236835	475	Barka	8	3	5
4	11/09/2020	13:29	7,20650939	15,16869502	479	Barka	8	3	5
5	11/09/2020	19:01	7,20945778	15,18737706	496	Barka	8	3	5
6	11/09/2020	19:08	7,20936473	15,18739445	489	Barka	8	3	5
7	11/09/2020	19:33	7,20985834	15,18695515	489	Barka	8	3	5
8	12/09/2020	10:06	7,22103866	15,19038411	460	Barka	8	3	5
9	12/09/2020	10:53	7,21011682	15,18309349	479	Barka	8	3	5
10	13/09/2020	07:05	7,21960301	15,18773363	478	Barka	8	3	5
11	13/09/2020	09:46	7,20650382	15,16869309	478	Barka	8	3	5
12	13/09/2020	12:12	7,20648883	15,1687037	478	Barka	8	3	5
13	13/09/2020	12:19	7,20648583	15,16868032	482	Barka	8	3	5
14	13/09/2020	15:41	7,20027388	15,18319123	484	Barka	8	3	5
15	14/09/2020	06:42	7,21683864	15,15200501	483	Barka	8	3	5
16	20/09/2020	12:40	7,26219569	15,12603561	476	Torodi	8	3	5
17	21/09/2020	07:55	7,2412177	15,12058578	467	Torodi	8	3	5
18	21/09/2020	07:55	7,24122404	15,12059255	448	Torodi	8	3	5
19	21/09/2020	07:57	7,2411438	15,12083548	461	Torodi	8	3	5
20	21/09/2020	07:58	7,24100967	15,12107067	464	Torodi	8	3	5
21	21/09/2020	07:59	7,24082626	15,12095542	468	Torodi	8	3	5
22	23/09/2020	06:36	7,20894385	15,17205074	474	Barka	8	3	5
23	23/09/2020	09:56	7,21838289	15,17007684	487	Barka	8	3	5
24	23/09/2020	16:28	7,20989994	15,17506369	507	Barka	8	3	5
25	24/09/2020	09:18	7,2396644	15,12623146	461	Barka	8	3	5
26	25/09/2020	09:56	7,21886747	15,14721245	483	Barka	8	3	5
27	25/09/2020	14:51	7,2096189	15,15716095	473	Barka	8	3	5
28	27/09/2020	10:01	7,2310886	15,11814347	469	Ahmed	8	3	5
29	27/09/2020	16:37	7,22786363	15,11622225	465	Ahmed	8	3	5
30	27/09/2020	17:41	7,23251661	15,11673913	471	Ahmed	8	3	5

From 25-29 September 2020, we carried out an additional training mission in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve to increase skills and capacity in the collection of data using Cybertracker – as well as have a meeting with the ecoguards to discuss their work. We hope the additional training and modifications made will enable the team to integrate the species browsed and their frequency by the giraffe directly into the Cybertracker handheld devices.





Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve
Giraffe post-translocation monitoring
October 2020



Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou

Project Officer GCF-SCF/Niger

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This report presents the key monthly giraffe monitoring data collected by the ecoguards in October 2020. Over the time, the monitoring data will help provide recommendations to improve the management of the reserve and to conserve this newly reintroduced species.

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- Communicate regularly with the local communities around GBR about the presence of giraffe in their area.
- Inform and raise awareness about giraffe conservation with the local population around GBR.

RESULTS

In October 2020, the ecoguards were able to observe and record a large number of GPS positions, habitat use and different behaviours of the giraffe. Thanks to such monitoring, they managed to assess their forage behaviour (which plant species are browsed) and their physical body condition (health).

In October 2020 the giraffe stayed within the reserve, whilst diet and behaviour observations did not differ much from what was observed the previous month:

- The giraffe stayed for the whole month in the core area of the reserve.
- Mating between a female (Mounido) and a male (Kader) was observed.
- The giraffe drank water from the pond of Filio (artificial pond).
- No dietary change were observed in comparison to the previous month. Predominantly: *Vachellia seyal*, *V. radiana* and *V. ehrenbergiana*, as well as *Sclerocarya birrea* which was flowering.

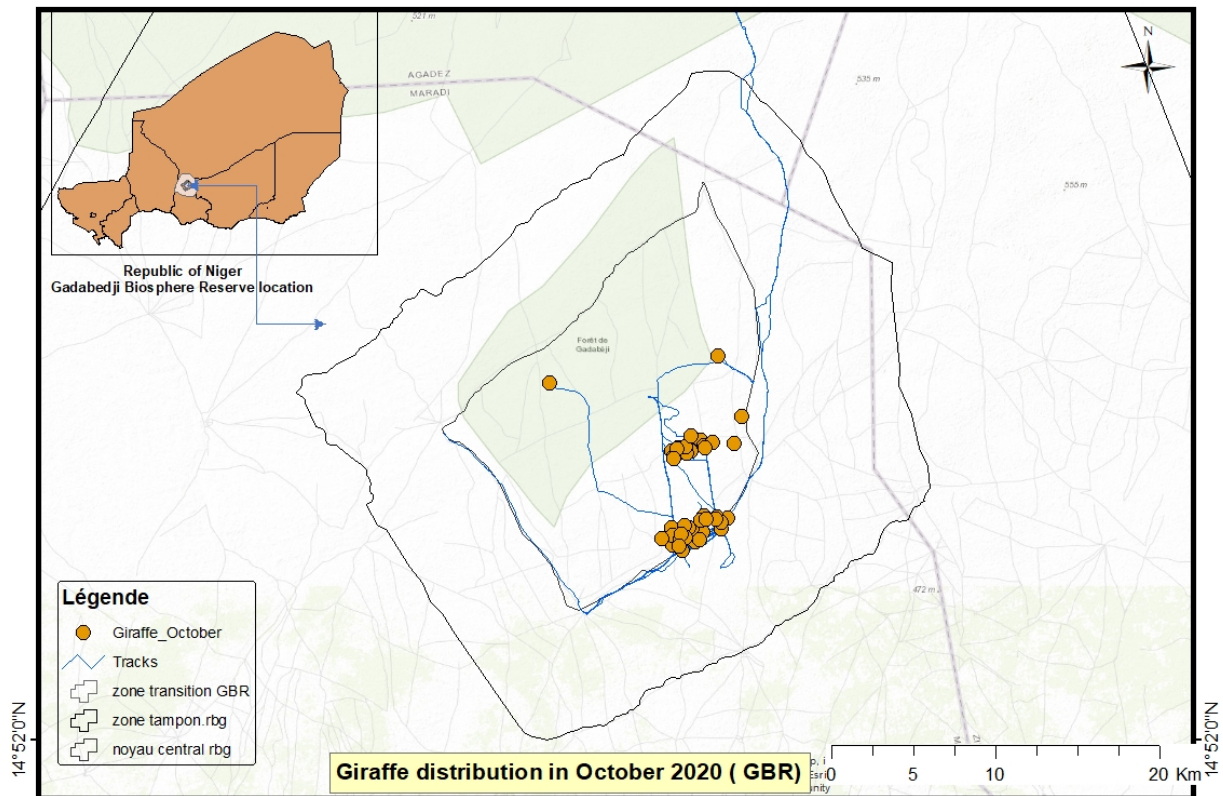


Figure 3: Giraffe locations and monitoring survey track during October 2020 in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve and surroundings.

The above map and below table show the distribution of the giraffe in October 2020. Due to technical issues following the update of the GPS InReach, the tracks from the device could not be uploaded for this month. Therefore, the blue line on the map only partially shows the tracks recorded by the Cybertracker and followed by the ecoguards when searching or monitoring the giraffe.

Table: Recorded distribution of giraffe observed in the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve in October 2020.

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
1	02/10/2020	10:48:02	7,119474	15,18057	455	Ahmed	8	3	5
2	04/10/2020	17:11:34	7,231727	15,11793	489	Barka	8	3	5
3	05/10/2020	11:12:49	7,253246	15,13005	466	Barka	8	3	5
4	05/10/2020	17:05:38	7,282461	15,12744	491	Barka	8	3	5
5	06/10/2020	08:29:08	7,244156	15,12069	469	Barka	8	3	5
6	06/10/2020	16:34:41	7,241014	15,11908	470	Barka	8	3	5
7	07/10/2020	08:14:28	7,255678	15,12491	478	Barka	8	3	5
8	07/10/2020	15:58:01	7,23287	15,12384	467	Barka	8	3	5
9	07/10/2020	17:56:29	7,22691	15,12031	461	Barka	8	3	5
10	08/10/2020	06:29:31	7,239731	15,12442	464	Barka	8	3	5
11	08/10/2020	18:07:57	7,229501	15,11603	459	Ahmed	8	3	5
12	10/10/2020	09:43:24	7,263942	15,12787	474	Ahmed	8	3	5
13	10/10/2020	15:26:33	7,244203	15,13355	480	Ahmed	8	3	5
14	10/10/2020	17:49:32	7,232601	15,12289	468	Ahmed	8	3	5
15	12/10/2020	07:58:45	7,268546	15,20411	466	Ahmed	8	3	5
16	13/10/2020	06:54:33	7,257345	15,12347	476	Torodi	8	3	5
17	14/10/2020	07:10:06	7,288988	15,15122	447	Torodi	8	3	5
18	14/10/2020	07:10:23	7,288987	15,15122	446	Torodi	8	3	5
19	14/10/2020	15:34:56	7,229369	15,11382	456	Torodi	8	3	5
20	14/10/2020	15:35:20	7,229382	15,11381	460	Torodi	8	3	5
21	15/10/2020	15:42:43	7,249213	15,04199	430	Torodi	8	3	5
22	15/10/2020	15:43:05	7,249151	15,04202	430	Torodi	8	3	5
23	15/10/2020	15:47:51	7,248125	15,04311	430	Torodi	8	3	5
24	16/10/2020	06:54:36	7,247453	15,04338	431	Torodi	8	3	5
25	16/10/2020	06:54:55	7,247448	15,04342	431	Torodi	8	3	5
26	16/10/2020	16:23:09	7,248176	15,04085	425	Barka	8	3	5
27	17/10/2020	08:10:29	7,256217	15,06351	442	Barka	8	3	5
28	17/10/2020	16:54:37	7,27711	15,06178	460	Barka	8	3	5
29	18/10/2020	07:31:19	7,267349	15,06293	443	Barka	8	3	0
30	18/10/2020	17:14:23	7,271113	15,05182	431	Barka	8	3	5
31	19/10/2020	08:08:36	7,227041	15,05325	464	Barka	8	3	5
32	22/10/2020	06:55:14	7,240136	15,05222	414	Barka	8	3	5
33	22/10/2020	06:56:10	7,239985	15,05222	448	Ahmed	8	3	5
34	22/10/2020	15:51:17	7,241938	15,05175	453	Ahmed	8	3	5
35	22/10/2020	17:42:16	7,254867	15,04894	436	Ahmed	8	3	5

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
36	23/10/2020	07:08:00	7,245771	15,05208	454	Ahmed	1	0	1
37	23/10/2020	07:10:02	7,242605	15,05324	452	Ahmed	7	3	4
38	23/10/2020	16:39:55	7,23197	15,03854	442	Ahmed	8	3	5
39	23/10/2020	17:39:56	7,237191	15,03288	429	Ahmed	8	3	5
40	24/10/2020	08:00:46	7,238767	15,0552	459	Ahmed	8	3	5
41	24/10/2020	17:39:03	7,270758	15,05732	427	Ahmed	5	2	3
42	24/10/2020	17:40:50	7,266277	15,06055	439	Ahmed	3	1	2
43	25/10/2020	07:42:42	7,228041	15,03745	446	Ahmed	8	3	5
44	26/10/2020	06:29:07	7,228489	15,04678	452	Ahmed	8	3	5
45	26/10/2020	06:29:30	7,228455	15,04678	458	Ahmed	8	3	5
46	26/10/2020	09:13:36	7,218972	15,04351	458	Ahmed	8	3	5
47	28/10/2020	10:24:17	7,234828	15,04281	444	Ahmed	8	3	5
48	29/10/2020	09:10:52	7,253378	15,05965	461	Barka	8	3	5
49	29/10/2020	15:20:11	7,258197	15,06073	457	Barka	8	3	5
50	30/10/2020	09:52:51	7,239622	15,04418	436	Barka	8	3	5
51	30/10/2020	09:53:43	7,239622	15,04418	436	Barka	8	5	5
52	30/10/2020	15:57:18	7,251902	15,04236	449	Barka	8	3	5
53	30/10/2020	15:57:37	7,252006	15,04239	476	Barka	8	3	5
54	31/10/2020	06:43:06	7,236072	15,04749	460	Barka	8	3	5
55	31/10/2020	15:51:42	7,23447	15,03714	431	Barka	8	3	5



Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve
Giraffe post-translocation monitoring
November 2020



Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou

Project Officer GCF-SCF/Niger

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- Inform and raise awareness about giraffe conservation with the local population around GBR.

RESULTS

In November 2020, the ecoguards were able to observe and record a large number of GPS positions, habitat use and different behaviours of the giraffe. Thanks to such monitoring, they managed to assess their forage behaviour (which plant species are browsed) and their physical body condition (health).

In November 2020, some movements outside the reserve were recorded whilst their diet and behaviour did not differ much from what was observed the previous month:

- The eight (8) giraffe were mostly observed together.
- Two movements of all eight (8) were recorded during this month outside the core area, one to the West and one to the South.
- The giraffe drank water from the pond of Filio (artificial pond).
- No dietary changes were observed in comparison to the previous month. Predominantly: *Vachellia seyal*, *V. radiana* and *V. ehrenbergiana*, as well as *Sclerocarya birrea* which was flowering.

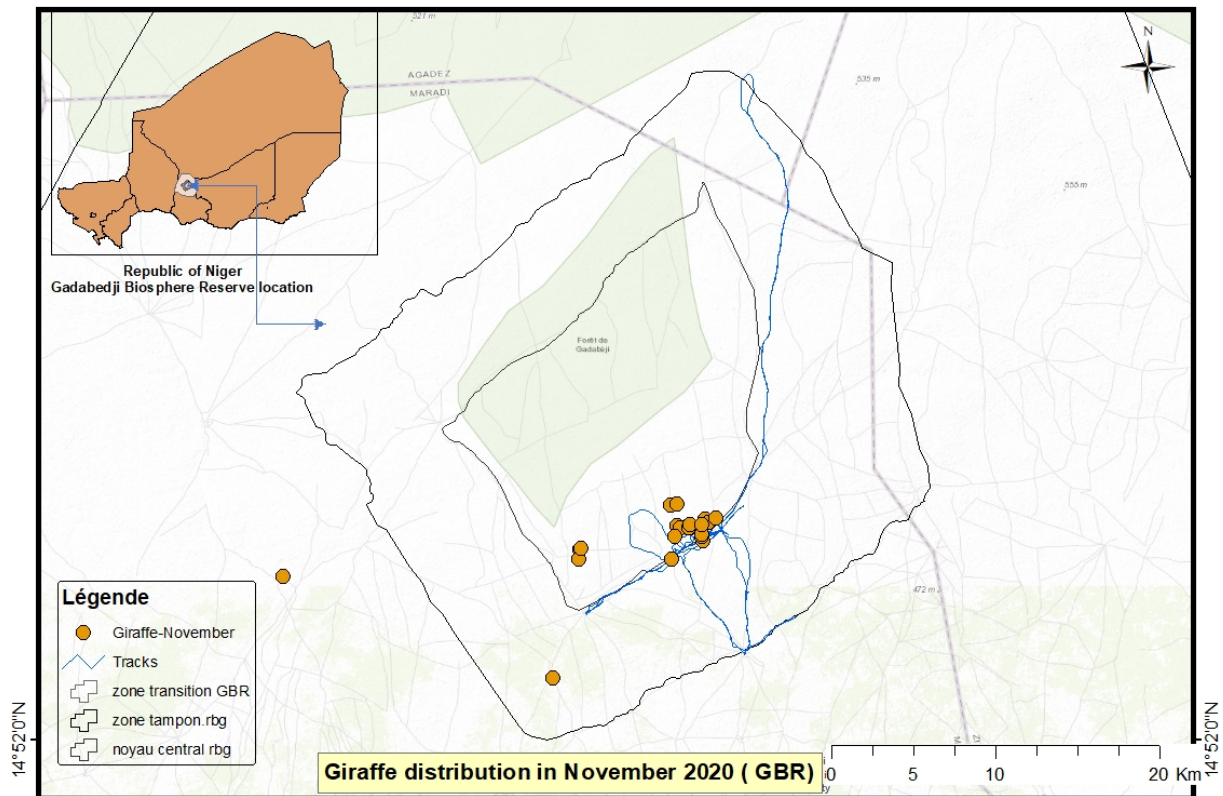


Figure 3: Giraffe locations and monitoring survey track during November 2020 in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve and surroundings.

The above map and below table show the distribution of the giraffe in November 2020. Due to a technical issue following the update of the GPS InReach+, the tracks from the device could not be uploaded for this month. Therefore, the blue line on the map partially shows the tracks recorded by the Cybertracker and followed by the ecoguards when searching or monitoring the giraffe.

Table: Recorded distribution of giraffe observed in the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve in November 2020.

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
1	01/11/2020	07:36:30	7,232036	15,05451	463	Barka	8	3	5
2	01/11/2020	16:49:41	7,254626	15,04192	431	Ahmed	8	3	5
3	02/11/2020	07:06:15	7,234986	15,05271	458	Ahmed	8	3	5
4	02/11/2020	16:34:49	7,227038	15,0255	413	Ahmed	8	3	5
5	03/11/2020	06:22:25	7,230142	15,04544	447	Ahmed	8	3	5
6	03/11/2020	15:44:13	7,253615	15,04496	430	Ahmed	8	3	5
7	04/11/2020	06:34:23	7,243479	15,05333	467	Ahmed	8	3	5
8	12/11/2020	15:14:18	7,14637	15,03392	439	Barka	4	1	3
9	13/11/2020	11:12:44	6,885089	15,01033	418	Barka	4	1	3
10	15/11/2020	06:51:02	7,243048	15,05317	464	Ahmed	8	3	5
11	16/11/2020	07:21:00	7,256784	15,06104	468	Ahmed	8	3	5
12	17/11/2020	07:25:07	7,254168	15,04733	428	Ahmed	8	3	5
13	25/11/2020	16:03:40	7,260111	15,05746	441	Ahmed	8	3	5
14	25/11/2020	17:04:27	7,265951	15,06163	441	Ahmed	8	3	5
15	26/11/2020	06:02:55	7,243163	15,05555	460	Ahmed	8	3	5
16	27/11/2020	11:40:58	7,123766	14,78464	439	Ahmed	8	3	5
17	27/11/2020	14:50:55	7,118262	14,7984	444	Ahmed	8	3	5
18	27/11/2020	20:10:53	7,122407	14,92023	383	Ahmed	8	3	5
19	28/11/2020	09:46:13	7,145976	15,02503	432	Ahmed	8	3	5
20	28/11/2020	15:56:51	7,147053	15,03489	455	Ahmed	8	3	5
21	29/11/2020	10:27:19	7,22676	15,07291	474	Ahmed	8	3	5
22	29/11/2020	14:26:59	7,231734	15,07349	469	Torodi	8	3	5
23	30/11/2020	14:40:53	7,253803	15,05581	440	Torodi	8	3	5

In the table above, the data gap between the 4-12 November was due to a problem with the recording device. The ecoguards could not use it until the Project Manager solved the problem. However, the monitoring continued during this lapse of time and no abnormal observations were to be reported.



Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve
Giraffe post-translocation monitoring
December 2020



Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou
Project Officer GCF-SCF/Niger

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INTRODUCTION

Located in the Sahelo-Saharan transition zone, the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve (GBR) covers an area of 1,423,625 ha. In order to ensure the long-term conservation of the West African giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis peralta*), the first-ever translocation of West African giraffe was carried out in November - December 2018. During this operation, eight (8) subadult individuals (5 females and 3 males) were captured in Kouré, part of the 'Giraffe Zone' approximately 80 km east of Niamey and translocated approximately 800 km to the GBR in the North Maradi Region, Niger. This conservation translocation was undertaken in accordance with the National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan developed by the Ministry of Environment in October 2015, and the subsequent feasibility study undertaken specifically for this translocation of giraffe.

Following the translocation of the giraffe to GBR, two (2) local community ecoguards (Twiga Wetu – 'Our giraffe' in Swahili) were recruited by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) to ensure close monitoring of the giraffe alongside four (4) ecoguards recruited by the Niger Fauna Corridors Project. Specifically, the monitoring seeks to:

- Regularly monitor the health and social dynamic status of the translocated giraffe.
- Understand their spatial ecology (movements, habitat use, etc.).
- Ongoing education and awareness in the greater GBR community.
- Inform and raise awareness among the local populations about the presence of giraffe in the area.

This report presents the key monthly giraffe monitoring data collected by the ecoguards in December 2020. Over the time, the monitoring data will help provide recommendations to improve the management of the reserve and to conserve this newly reintroduced species.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The equipment used during the monitoring includes:

- Three (3) motorcycles.
- Two (2) GPS Garmin InReach+ (N.B. during monitoring surveys, GPS coordinates are recorded every 10 minutes and tracks are automatically stored).

- Two (2) Cybertracker installed on a rough smartphone (Crosscall Trekker M1).

During the data collection, the following methods were used by the ecoguards:

- Everyday ecoguards cross the GBR valleys where they expect to see the giraffe.
- Communicate regularly with the local communities around GBR about the presence of giraffe in their area.
- Inform and raise awareness about giraffe conservation with the local population around GBR.

RESULTS

In December 2020, the ecoguards were able to observe and record a large number of GPS positions, habitat use and different behaviours of the giraffe. Thanks to such monitoring, they managed to assess their forage behaviour (which plant species are browsed) and their physical body condition (health).

In December 2020, movements of the giraffe were limited, whilst their diet and behaviour did not appear to differ much from what was observed the previous month:

- The giraffe mostly stayed within the core area of the reserve.
- Only one movement for all giraffe around 60 km of the reserve was observed towards the west across to the border of the Maradi and Tahoua Regions. The ecoguards monitored them and herded them back into the reserve.
- The giraffe stayed together and formed one herd during the month.
- The giraffe drank water from the pond of Filio (artificial pond).
- No dietary changes were observed in comparison to the previous month. Predominantly: *Vachellia*, *seyal*, *V. radiana* and *V. ehrenbergiana*, as well as *Sclerocarya birrea* which was flowering.

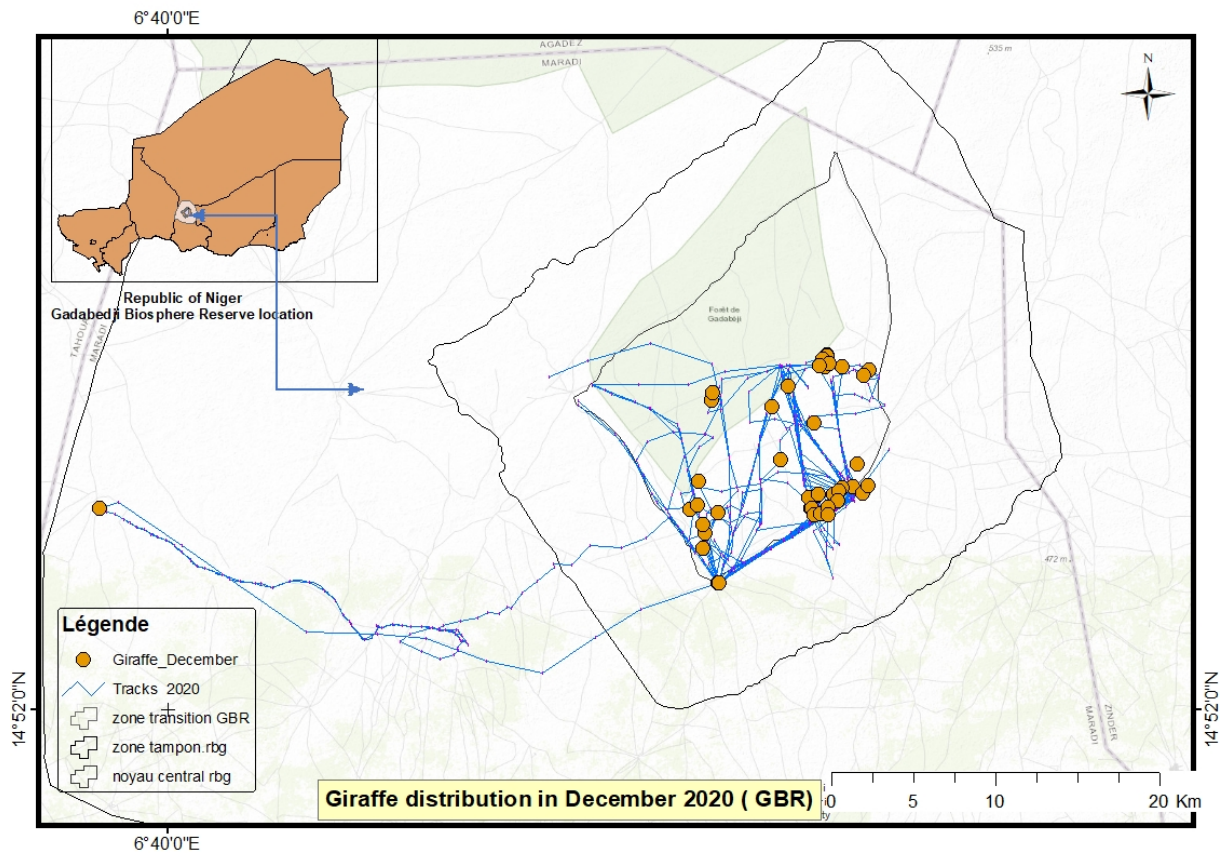


Figure 3: Giraffe locations and monitoring survey track during December 2020 in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve and surroundings.

The above map and below table show the distribution of the giraffe in December 2020. The blue line shows the tracks followed by the ecoguards when searching or monitoring the giraffe.

Table: Recorded distribution of giraffe observed in the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve in December 2020.

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
1	01/12/2020	07:58:50	7,254289	15,0555	454	Torodi	8	3	5
2	01/12/2020	16:20:09	7,2706837	15,06199	438	Torodi	8	3	5
3	01/12/2020	16:20:41	7,270659	15,06197	438	Torodi	8	3	5
4	02/12/2020	08:49:32	7,2335873	15,04336	428	Torodi	8	3	5
5	02/12/2020	08:49:53	7,233574	15,04336	451	Torodi	8	3	5
6	03/12/2020	07:36:12	7,134836	15,06665	470	Torodi	8	3	5
7	03/12/2020	07:36:41	7,1348359	15,06667	459	Torodi	8	3	5
8	04/12/2020	10:51:51	6,6066993	15,04308	475	Barka	8	3	5
9	05/12/2020	16:27:33	7,1271683	15,04223	486	Barka	8	3	5
10	06/12/2020	06:16:50	7,1337599	15,04575	465	Barka	8	3	5
11	06/12/2020	06:17:14	7,1337276	15,04576	464	Barka	8	3	5
12	06/12/2020	10:38:24	7,1519552	15,039	413	Barka	8	3	5
13	06/12/2020	16:16:31	7,1386739	15,00772	428	Barka	8	3	5
14	07/12/2020	06:22:44	7,1406901	15,02124	426	Barka	8	3	5
15	07/12/2020	08:25:52	7,1384166	15,02916	451	Ahmed	8	3	5
16	07/12/2020	15:19:07	7,1385733	15,02879	430	Ahmed	8	3	5
17	08/12/2020	16:05:00	7,2070473	15,08627	462	Ahmed	8	3	5
18	09/12/2020	09:11:32	7,2849135	15,16477	452	Ahmed	8	3	5
19	09/12/2020	16:54:24	7,2801745	15,16044	489	Ahmed	8	3	5
20	10/12/2020	08:10:37	7,2610711	15,16763	481	Ahmed	8	3	5
21	10/12/2020	15:33:21	7,2463698	15,16775	486	Ahmed	8	3	5
22	11/12/2020	06:59:27	7,21381	15,15096	475	Ahmed	8	3	5
23	11/12/2020	09:31:45	7,2000812	15,1328	483	Torodi	8	3	5
24	12/12/2020	11:27:45	7,146014	15,13881	443	Torodi	8	3	5
25	12/12/2020	11:28:01	7,1461381	15,13879	449	Torodi	8	3	5
26	12/12/2020	15:35:58	7,1469096	15,14486	457	Torodi	8	3	5
27	12/12/2020	15:36:21	7,1468962	15,14485	456	Torodi	8	3	5
29	17/12/2020	15:02:48	7,1525012	14,97771	438	Barka	8	3	5
30	18/12/2020	08:52:02	7,261039	15,06163	449	Barka	8	3	5
31	18/12/2020	15:23:03	7,2798306	15,05621	437	Barka	8	3	5
32	18/12/2020	16:15:00	7,2843148	15,06303	445	Barka	8	3	5
33	19/12/2020	06:24:08	7,2750898	15,08277	459	Barka	8	3	5
34	19/12/2020	15:14:46	7,2585068	15,05877	448	Ahmed	8	3	5
35	19/12/2020	16:45:10	7,258145	15,05036	433	Ahmed	8	3	5
36	20/12/2020	07:11:22	7,2397075	15,05457	461	Ahmed	8	3	5
37	21/12/2020	08:26:19	7,2321856	15,05235	464	Ahmed	8	3	5
38	21/12/2020	15:03:52	7,234781	15,04323	458	Ahmed	8	3	5
39	21/12/2020	16:59:01	7,2363713	15,03763	434	Ahmed	8	3	5
40	22/12/2020	07:01:04	7,2424414	15,03899	427	Ahmed	8	3	5
41	22/12/2020	15:15:04	7,2487057	15,04447	431	Ahmed	8	3	5
42	22/12/2020	17:10:32	7,2488391	15,03729	442	Ahmed	8	3	5
43	23/12/2020	06:30:40	7,2402845	15,05555	464	Ahmed	8	3	5
44	23/12/2020	10:38:56	7,236343	15,11855	465	Torodi	8	3	5

No	Date	Time	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude	Name	Herd No	Male	Female
45	24/12/2020	11:16:43	7,2480709	15,17814	491	Torodi	8	3	5
46	24/12/2020	11:17:32	7,2480184	15,17815	494	Torodi	8	3	5
47	24/12/2020	11:18:55	7,2477432	15,17764	493	Torodi	8	3	5
48	24/12/2020	11:29:37	7,2441225	15,17478	490	Torodi	8	3	5
49	24/12/2020	13:26:10	7,2499117	15,1709	510	Torodi	8	3	5
50	24/12/2020	15:03:12	7,2418838	15,16855	491	Torodi	8	3	5
51	24/12/2020	15:03:33	7,2418823	15,16857	489	Torodi	8	3	5

To facilitate and optimise the local monitoring activities, the rangers of the Gadabedji Reserve Management Unit as well as the ecoguards were provided with additional field equipment including different type of shoes for different weather conditions and activities.



Figure 4: Rangers and ecoguards of the Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve presented with field equipment provided by the project.