



## Final Project Evaluation Report

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| Your Details               |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Full Name</b>           | Dominique Rhoades   |
| <b>Project Title</b>       | Conservation Status of Kordofan Giraffe in Zakouma National Park, Republic of Chad. |
| <b>Application ID</b>      | 25012-1   |
| <b>Grant Amount</b>        | £4,956  |
| <b>Email Address</b>       | 83drhoades@gmail.com  |
| <b>Date of this Report</b> | 11/09/2019  |

**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   |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Daily drives to photograph and GPS locate, note behaviour, groups, predatory scars. |              |                    |                | This was carried out during the first season and will continue in the second, third and fourth season to build an accurate image of the population and ecology.  |
| GPS collars, to track movements through wet and dry season.                         |              |                    |                | Eight units were attached to eight giraffe and tracking is showing results of giraffe movements inside and outside of the park.<br>One unit has had issues and has now failed, but seven are still fully operational and a second operation is planned for more units on up to 25 giraffe in March 2020. |
| 6 ten-day surveys to continue visual survey.  |              |                    |                | This was carried out during the first season and will continue in the second, third and fourth season to build an accurate image of the population and ecology.  |

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

The African Parks (AP) employee who was responsible for my passport en transit to renew my visa, lost the passport before the visa could be renewed.

Although this happened very soon after my arrival I was able to make arrangements to stay and continue my work until I was forced to cut short the first field season by 6 weeks due to the lack of British Embassy in Chad, I had to obtain help from the French Embassy, who insisted on my travelling home before the original Brexit date of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019. I will mitigate this next season by travelling with my passport to the capital to update my visa in person and will use the opportunity to restock needed supplies.

There was just one other difficulty, that the vehicle African Parks (AP) had agreed to hire to me was not ideally suited to the work.

This meant that for 2 weeks I was forced to hire an external vehicle at a premium rate while the AP vehicle was brought up to a workable condition. Even after this it meant the vehicle's noise levels were off-putting to the animals and made surveying more difficult than it needed to be. The vibration of the vehicle also caused wires to



be worn through each week and needing replacing, which meant we lost survey time to the garage. It also caused me to take the decision not to drive at night or when the garage workers were not working, as we frequently needed rescuing from survey routes.

I was able to work around the garage working hours to make the most of the time I did have a usable vehicle, and was able to arrange to borrow other vehicles when needed to see through the first season. I was able to maintain my plan of reconnoiter all the drivable routes of the park and forged good working relationships with the garage and other workers who could be called upon to help when needed.

For the next season I intend to purchase a vehicle for the project to use through the second, third and fourth seasons, and make arrangements with the AP garage to act as an emergency service and store spare tyres for the vehicle. It is my intention to seek a similar make and model to the newer commonly used vehicles in the park to aid this.

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

The camera trapping study has not only shown interesting giraffe, predator and scavenger behaviours interacting, but has undoubtedly been the biggest social media draw in raising awareness of giraffe conservation and the project and has been able to be used in identifying individuals from screen shots and photos. This will continue to add value to the projects data and awareness.

The GPS units fitted in January 2019 had already shown results which AP management were not expecting by April 2019, with giraffe using the west of the park, and exiting the west boundary, both areas the park management were previously adamant were not used by giraffe at all.

My understanding of the area, the park, the working practices and materials available in Chad in general has been a steep learning curve, and vital to understanding how to take the project forward over the next three years, which I am confident I can do to continue the longer population study.

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

The project hired an armed guard through African Parks, thereby providing salaried employment for one local throughout the survey season. General community engagement via local markets were used for the projects foods and equipment needed. Project engagement is planned for season two onwards, once the project has settled in.

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

There are three more seasons of the project. It is my hope, that nearing the end of the fourth season I will discuss the potential of there being longer term monitoring of

the giraffe in Zakouma and other AP managed parks in Chad, to follow up on the conservation strategy and action plan in process. It is my hope this could provide paid employment for a Chadian.

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

Throughput the project results are being shared on the project, and its partner's websites, as well as on all social media platforms open to them.

I plan to publish papers throughout the duration of the project, in peer reviewed journals and intend the project to form a PhD thesis for myself, as well as giving Chadian master's student's opportunities to use aspects for their theses.

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

The majority of the grant was used throughout the first field season, to pay for vehicle hire, which was as intended. The other part of the grant was used to purchase camera traps, which were used, and will continue to be used throughout the project's 4 years.

#### **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  |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------|---|
| Vehicle Hire.<br>Paid for in US \$ in Chad. Exchange rates have altered since then but the exchange given here is as of 11/09/2019. | £4572           | £4396         | £176       | AP vehicle used for 4.5 months, External hire vehicle used for 2 weeks. I spent time with the AP accountant and carefully noted all days the vehicle was not able to be used, and had them removed from the bill. £176.44 can be used towards next season's vehicle with Ruffords agreement, or returned if required. |
| Camera Traps and camera cards<br>Paid for in £ Sterling, via Amazon.co.uk   | £384            | £384          |            | The cameras were used throughout the first field season to great use, in monitoring giraffe behaviour, carcass sites and general wildlife monitoring.   |

|              |             |             |             |   |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
|              |             |             |             | They have proved a great help to gain social media interest also, and will continue to be used in this way. |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>4956</b> | <b>4780</b> | <b>-176</b> | <b>Returned to Rufford Foundation</b>   |

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

I have already begun putting the next important steps into place;

- 1) Hiring an unpaid assistant to assist in data collection and organisation to make the most of the survey season, and keep up to speed with the available data.
- 2) Arranging for a Chadian student through the University of Ndjamenya, to provide local opportunity, and help to better engage with locals.
- 3) Applying for grants to purchase a survey vehicle for the remainder of the project, to utilise time effectively and utilise the project's money wisely.
- 4) Forging collaborations with scientific institutes to build upon, share and work with the knowledge gained in Zakouma.
- 5) Producing educational materials in English, French and Arabic to begin an educational, community engagements aspect of the project in the second season.

#### **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?**

The Rufford Foundation has been mentioned in all thanks at the end of quarterly reports being published on the projects website, and through the social media links. The logo has been used in PowerPoints of talks given in the UK and in specific social media posts to thank donors.

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

**Dominique Rhoades** – myself, lead researcher and project coordinator.

**Ramadan** - Armed guard hired from African Parks to maintain safety throughout the park and outside its boundaries whilst in local communities.

**Leon Lamprecht** – Zakouma park manager. Facilitating all aspects of the projects presence within the park.

**Dr Julian Fennessy** – Project advisor, donor facilitator through Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) NGO.



## 12. Any other comments?

I feel strongly that this first season has been a success, despite some setbacks, or difficulties, and a lot of usable data was collected, with interesting results already being seen from GPS units and camera traps. Important lessons were learned, and the needs of the project are clear in going forward, and I can see no reason why they project shouldn't continue to be a success and fulfil its aims by the end of the four year project plan.