

## Final Evaluation Report

---

Your Details	
Full Name	Kateřina Gařparov
Project Title	Social and spatial behaviour of the West African giraffe ( <i>Giraffa camelopardalis peralta</i> )
Application ID	27641-1
Grant Amount	5000
Email Address	<a href="mailto:gasparovak@ftz.czu.cz">gasparovak@ftz.czu.cz</a>
Date of this Report	26.1.2021

**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
Continue the post-translocation monitoring of the satellite population in Gadabedji Biosphere reserve (GBR).				Through our collaborative programme in Gadabedji we have been able to continually monitor the translocated giraffe and importantly highlight the short-term success of this translocation to guide future moves.
Conduct the human dimension study in "Giraffe Zone" and in GBR.				Through use of our local team, we were able to undertake all surveys for the human dimension study in both areas.
To better understand the giraffe-human coexistence.				Field data was planned to be collected seasonally for several months each. Unfortunately, because of the insecurity and world COVID pandemic, the data collection took place only during the dry season in 2020. Further field work will be required, travel permitted.
Determine the spatial behaviour (seasonal movement, home range size, habitat use, etc.)				Collection and analysis of data from GPS satellite tagged giraffe have facilitated monthly, quarterly and annual reports. The data collection continues, and results will be published in my PhD thesis and peer-reviewed scientific publications.

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

The most challenging part of my project has been to plan fieldwork due to a number of reasons – however, I do feel that I have been successful in circumventing many of these difficulties. The World COVID-19 pandemic has played a major impact on the field-based component of the project, limiting travel locally and internationally. Additionally, and a result of increased regional pressure, the security situation in Niger (and the larger Sahelian zone) has become highly unpredictable and tense. A number of times throughout the project period we had to cancel the fieldwork and wait until advised by the government. The insecurity escalated in August 2020, when a targeted attack took place close to Kouré in the "Giraffe Zone" and the President of AVEN (guides association) was killed along with another local and six international tourists. As a result of these challenges, I changed tack and worked closely with our (GCF and AVEN) field teams to continue undertaking the fieldwork through local

students and eco-guards, and data shared with me for analysis and interpretation. This has proven valuable and continues to provide good data collection and results, and local facilitation of opportunities during these times.

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

- I. The human dimension study was developed with technical input from across the world and working closely with local communities and an MSc student was able to collect all data via specially designed and adapted questionnaires.
- II. The long-term post-translocation monitoring of giraffe in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve was established, local eco-guards trained and provided with equipment, resulting in ongoing monthly data collected and shared.
- III. The development of a detailed threat analysis on the West African giraffe in Niger which includes an analysis of past, present and future threats. The threat analysis was shared with all partners and provides a solid baseline to the planned future review of the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Giraffe Conservation Strategy and Action Plan in Niger.

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

Increased local community involvement in the project resulted because of the world COVID pandemic and local insecurity situation. During my fieldwork, I worked daily alongside the local AVEN guides who are trained in giraffe monitoring and individual recognition. Weekly, the AVEN guides normally take tourists out to find the giraffe and annually are a key part of the census team to count the population. They were a valuable part of the project. In all aspects of the research, they were involved which then facilitated ongoing monitoring of the eco-guards when I was unable to be in the field. Additionally, the participation of the local MSc student in the human dimension study. Although we predominantly collaborated remotely, he was critical in implementing the survey, and in turn benefited for his own thesis. Throughout the project we have coordinated several online meetings with local and international experts in human dimension studies where he participated, and as such his capacity was built aside from working alongside the GCF team in Niger.

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

Yes, the project is part of my PhD study which will continue for another 2 years. Following approval of this first grant I plan to submit a 2<sup>nd</sup> Rufford Small Grant proposal to continue with the work, in particular the field work in Niger with our team.

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

Over the past 14 months of the project, the preliminary results from the fieldwork as well as from the GPS satellite tagged giraffe have been published in monthly,

quarterly, and annual reports. All reports are shared with partners and donors, and some freely available on the GCF website. The outputs of this ongoing project will be published in the form of a PhD thesis which will include peer-reviewed scientific papers and international scientific conference contributions.

**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 received in October 2019 and spent over 14 months, finishing in January 2021. The grant to date supported field efforts in years 1 & 2 of my four-year PhD study.

**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
International flight	333		-333	Funded by University
Domestic flight	518		-518	Unused
Travel insurance	106		-108	Funded by University
Visa	228	65	-163	Short term visa
Medicine, vaccination	99	10	-89	
Accommodation and food	2762	555	-2207	Decreased stay in the field due to insecurity as such the funds were used to support our local team
Accommodation in Niamey	380	630	+250	Increased stay in Niamey due to insecurity
Camp equipment	266	188	-78	Minimal purchases due to insecurity
Education and awareness material	299		-299	
Internet	9	22	+13	
Fee from ATM		28	+28	
Field assistant		332	+332	Work conducted by our local team
Field assistant HDS		40	+40	Work conducted by our local team
Driver		520	+520	Work conducted by our local team

Print of questionnaire		153	+153	Human dimension study
Eco-guarda (GBR)		2000	+2000	Work conducted by our local team
Fuel for motorbike (GBR)		1000	+1000	Work conducted by our local team
<b>Total</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5543</b>	<b>+543</b>	

As mentioned above, the work undertaken by local eco-guarda was financially supported from the grant. This facilitates the project to continue, allows me the access to the data and finishing the project.

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

The key next steps include both continued fieldwork and monitoring in Niger as well as desktop-based data analysis and publishing of the results. The project has and will continue to have a positive impact on giraffe conservation in Niger and thus is crucial to continue. By providing preliminary results we can help to guide the Government of Niger and local NGOs in decision making for their long-term conservation in the country.

### 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 acknowledged in the following:

- Monthly, quarterly and annual reports.
- Threat analysis, in post-translocation monitoring from GBR.
- Human dimension study reports.

All reports were shared with partners (local and international), The Rufford Foundation and other donors – as well as available online.

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

**Ousseini Idrissa** - (AVEN guide and field assistant in the "Giraffe Zone"). He assisted during field monitoring, in particular individual identification of the giraffe.

**Abdoul Razakou Abdou Mahamadou** - (MSc student). He collected the field data for the human dimension study through surveys in the "Giraffe Zone" and Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve.

**Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou** - (GCF Programme Officer). He provided valuable logistics and technical support for fieldwork planning and work.

**Cloé Pourchier** - (GCF Technical Coordinator). She played a valuable advisory and supporting role, as well as translated all reports from English to French.

**Dr. Karolína Brandlová** - (Supervisor). She provides critical academic support, supported field work and involved in all stages of the project from inception to field, fundraising to analysis.

**Dr. Julian Fennessy** - (GCF Director). He provides technical expertise and advice on giraffe conservation. He contributes to writing and reviewing reports as well as to fieldwork planning and fundraising.

**Dr. Thomas Rabeil** - (Consultant). He contributed to fieldwork planning and technical support. He reviews all reports and brings a great deal of experience in spatial monitoring and local Niger context.