

The logo for the Sahara Conservation Fund is positioned on the left side of the slide. It features a stylized sun with several rays of varying lengths and colors, ranging from light tan to dark brown. A thick, dark brown arc curves over the top of the sun. The background of the entire slide is a photograph of a vast, dry, open landscape with sparse, low-lying vegetation and a few scattered trees in the distance under a clear sky.

SAHARA CONSERVATION FUND

Presentation by John Watkin

to the Ungulate Taxon Advisory Group

2021 Association of Zoos and Aquariums Mid-Year Meeting

SCF's relationship with AZA

- AZA has been integral to the creation of SCF since 2005.
- The technical inputs and collaboration from over 60 AZA members has been invaluable.
- Funds received from AZA members have enabled SCF to successfully implement conservation field projects.
- Awareness of SCF's work has been a significant boost to raising the conservation imperative of the Sahelo-Sahara realm.



Sahelo-Saharan Realm

- The Sahelo-Sahara realm is the biggest desert on earth 11,230,000km² (4,335,927 miles²) = size of continental USA.
- Sahel is an Arabic word for “shore” a transition zone to the Sahara.
- Rainfall < 100mm / 4” a year.
- Uniquely adapted biodiversity.
- Many threatened species (IUCN Red List).
- Challenging environment from all aspects.





SCF's current ungulate projects

In Chad

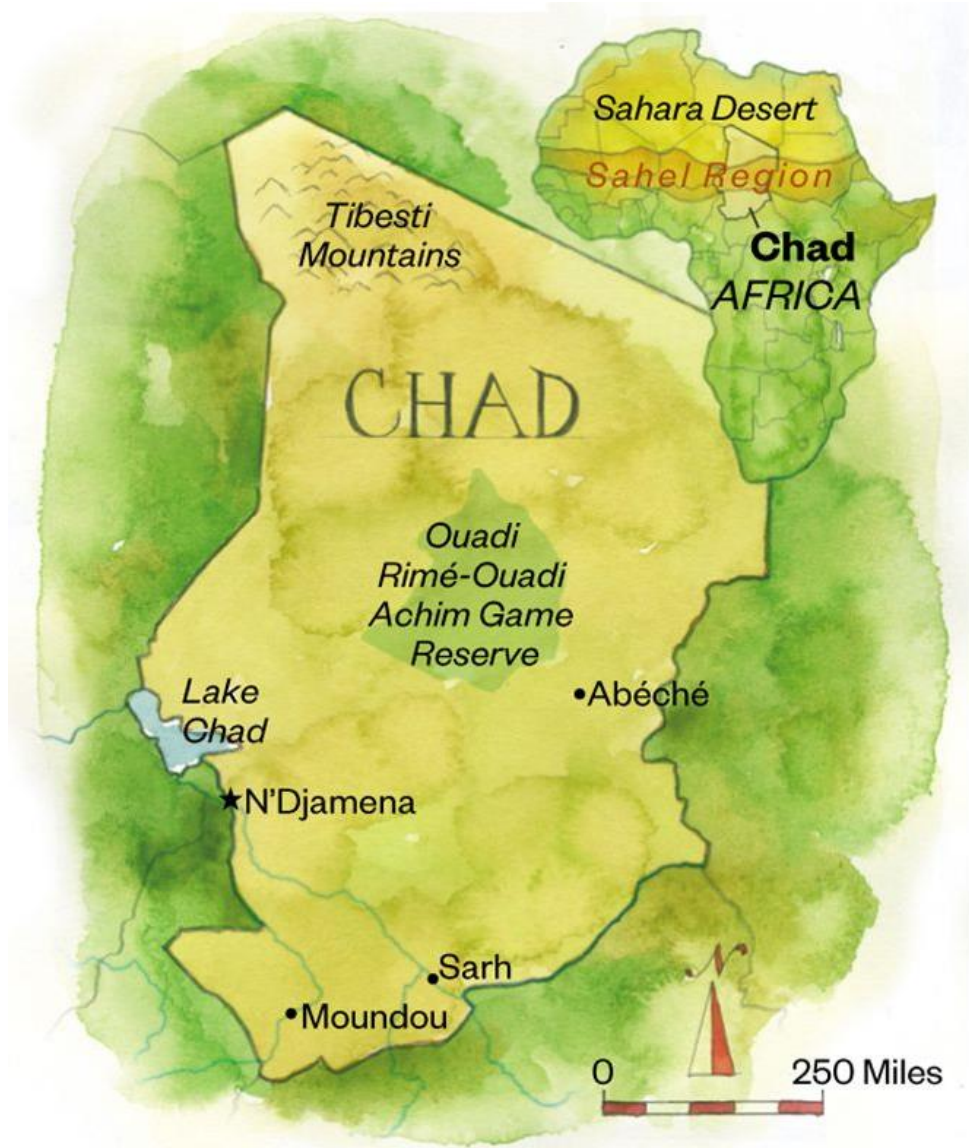
- Rewilding of scimitar-horned oryx.
- Reinforcement of wild addax population.
- In-situ captive breeding of dama gazelles.

In Niger

- Camera trap monitoring of dama gazelles.
- Monitoring of West African Giraffes.

In Morocco

- Translocation and reintroduction addax.



In-country logistics and infrastructure

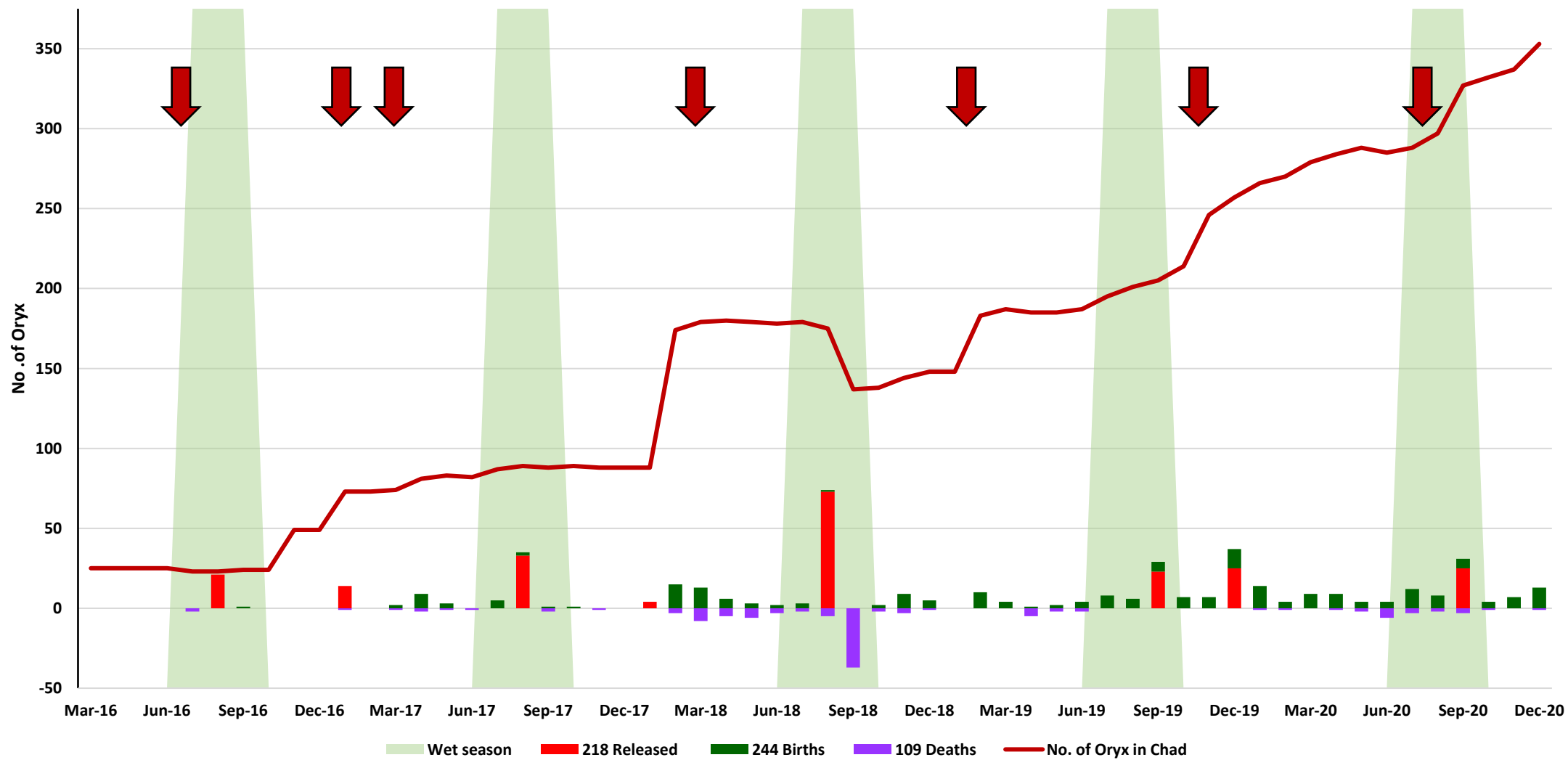


Rewilding of scimitar-horned oryx



هيئة البيئة - أبوظبي
Environment Agency - ABU DHABI

ORYX POPULATION -OROAGR
 (Accurate to March 2019 - approximate thereafter)

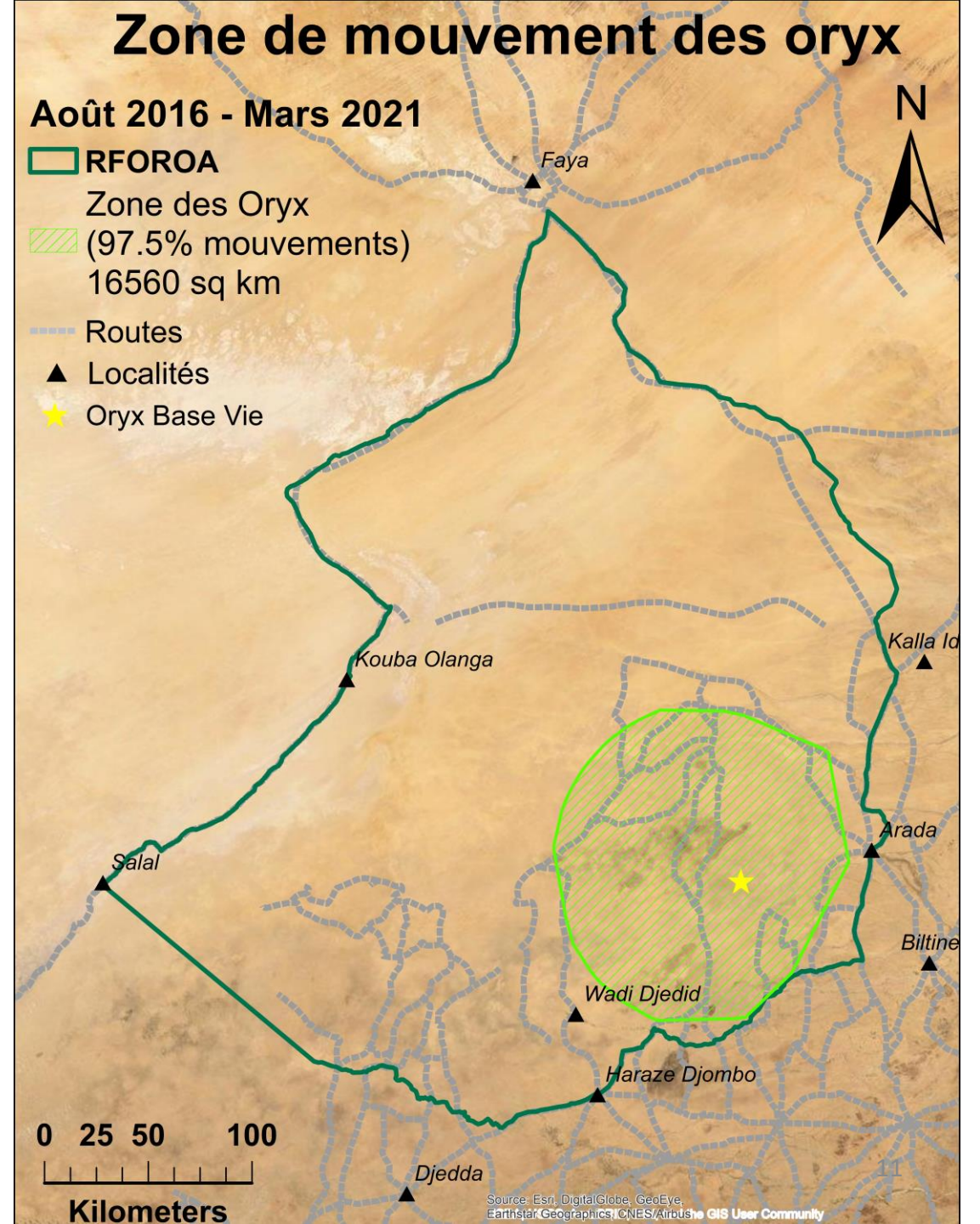


Post-release monitoring

Monitoring is undertaken in partnership with Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and Zoological Society of London.

Data from satellite collars provides rapid feedback to the team on the ground of remote movements and alerts of possible death.

Ratio of collared to uncollared means that monitoring is shifting from individual to population scale.



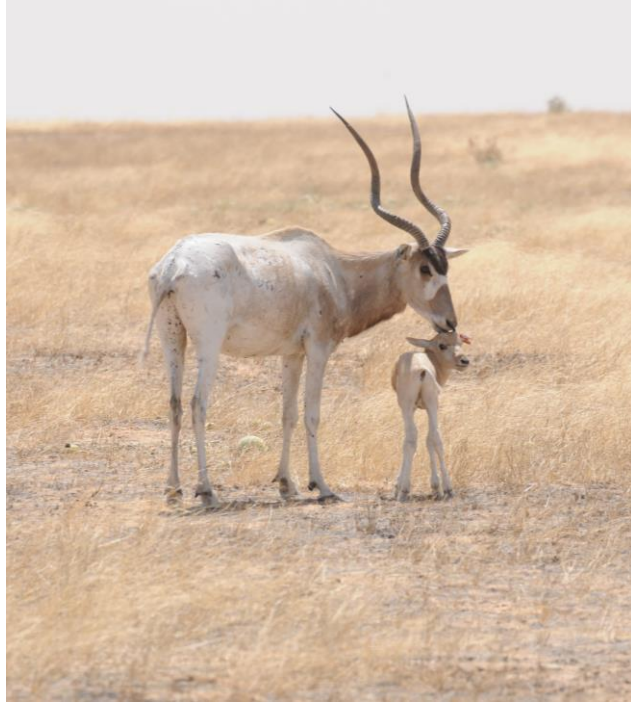


Vaccination protocols

- Anthrax (Chadian vaccine)
- Barvac10 (multi vaccine against Pasteurella and Clostridium)
- Bayticol (antiparasitic)
- Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP)
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Ivermectin (antiparasitic)
- Pasteurella (Chadian vaccine)
- Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)
- Pox
- Rift Valley Fever

Lessons learned... the hard way

- Animal handling, appropriate transport crates and efficient ground transport critical.
- Vaccination protocols needed adapting to emerging threats.
- Testing approaches on captive individuals has been invaluable (collars, body index chart etc.)
- Parasite loads can cause significant problems.
- Releasing too many at once can result in unforeseen problems.



Reinforcing the addax population in Chad

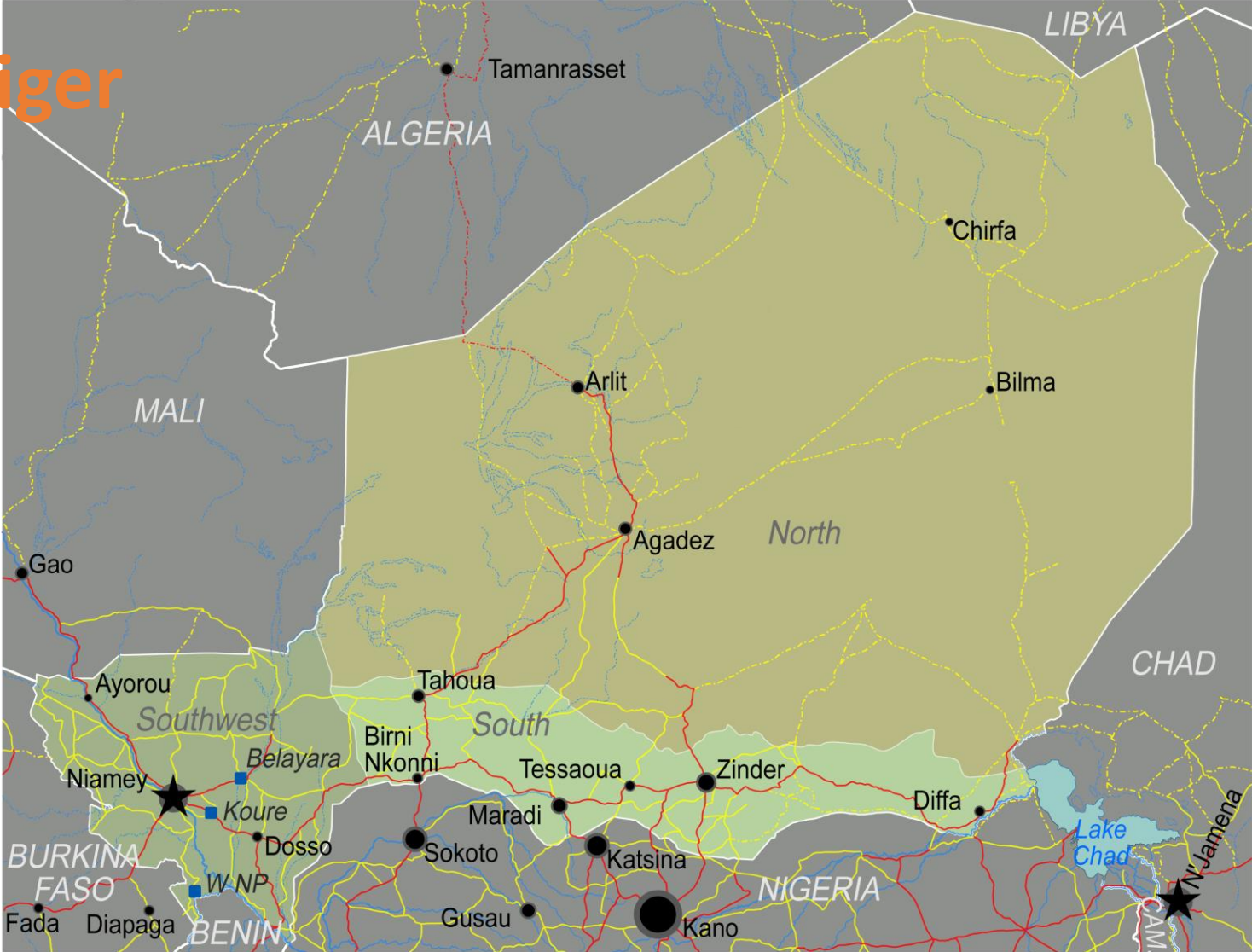
- 40 individuals released thus far.
- 53 wild-living addax.



In-situ captive breeding of dama gazelles

- Activities align with the Dama Gazelle (*Nanger dama*) Conservation Strategy 2019 - 2028
- Operation to capture some individuals from genetically-key Manga population of dama gazelles in January 2020
- Three females darted and transferred to base camp
- One male added from Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve
- Unfortunately, two females died in March 2020
- Female born in August 2020
- Passive capture of another female dama from OROAGR in March 2020
- Another fawn born in March 2021
- **Need to develop a conservation plan for this captive breeding population.**

SCF in Niger

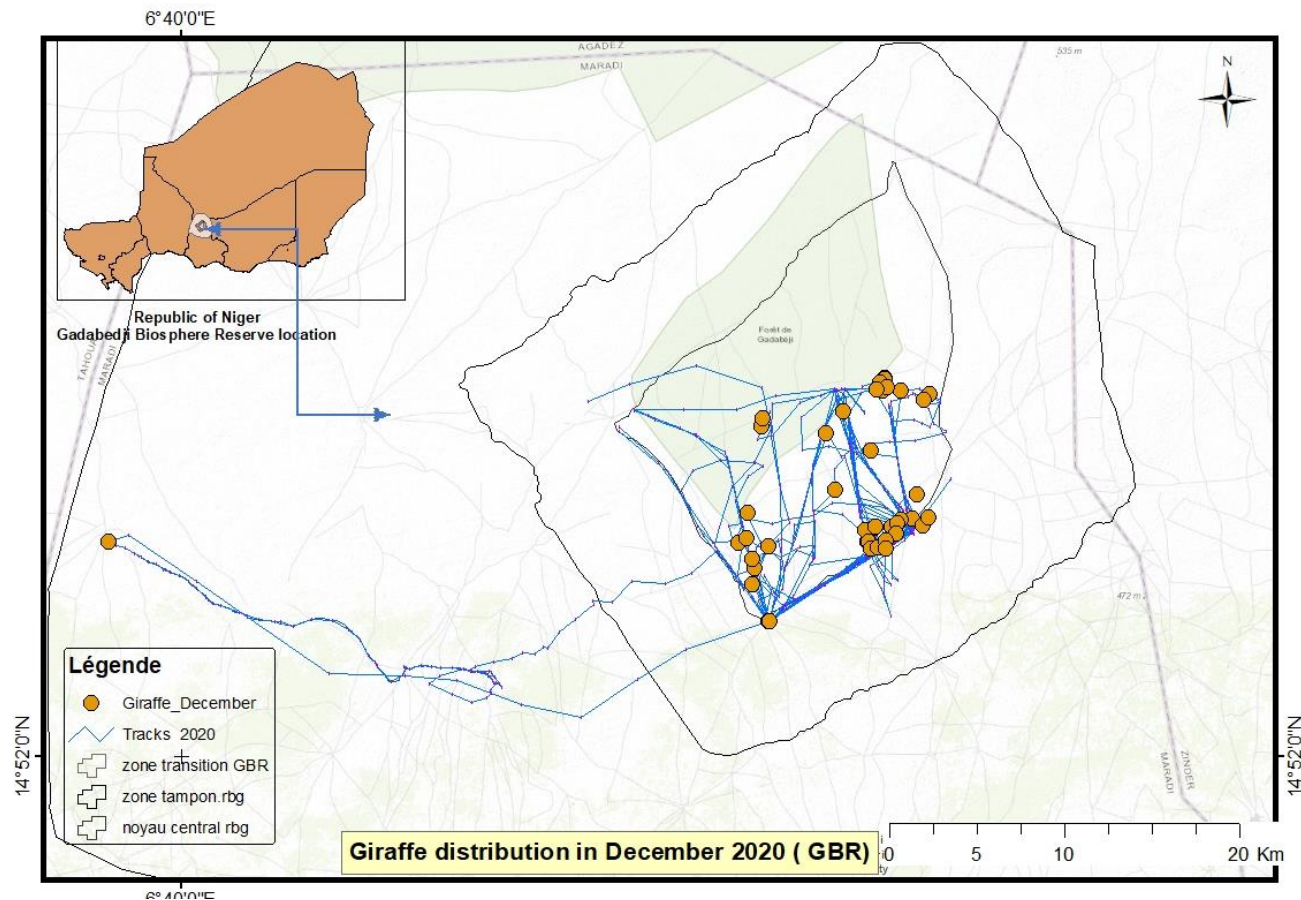


Camera trapping dama gazelles: Niger

- Camera Trap Monitoring of dama gazelles in the Air & Ténéré National Nature Reserve (ATNNR) undertaken since 2017. Focus on Mount Takoloukouzet within the reserve.
- In 2020, the SCF Niger team carried out two ecological monitoring missions in close collaboration with the Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts and the Direction de la Faune, de la Chasse, des Parcs et Réserves and the DRE of Agadez.



Translocation of West African giraffe



The first translocation of eight (8) subadult individuals (5 ♀ and 3 ♂) West African giraffe in November - December 2018 from Kouré, 80 km east of Niamey to the 14,136km² (5,458 square mile sq) Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve 800km North in Maradi Region, Niger



Morocco

- In 2019, 32 addax were translocated from Souss Massa National Park and reintroduced into the 500 km² M'hamid El-Ghizlane Reserve.



SCF: A champion for the Sahara.

- SCF has proven it can deliver on project activities despite issues relating security and the global health crisis.
- Seeking funds from World Bank to implement the Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve (OROAGR) Management Plan.
- Negotiate with the EU a second phase of Projet Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim (POROA).
- Provide technical assistance to further reintroduction and rewilding projects.
- Reinforce existing develop new partnerships for conservation action.

Challenges

- Security issues continue to impact day to day activities.
- Securing long-term funding for the program in Niger is greatest priority.
- All projects need to contribute realistically to core funds.
- Recruiting for these projects is extremely difficult.



THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST AND
SUPPORT

