

**MOVEMENT PATTERNS AND IMPACT OF GIRAFFE**

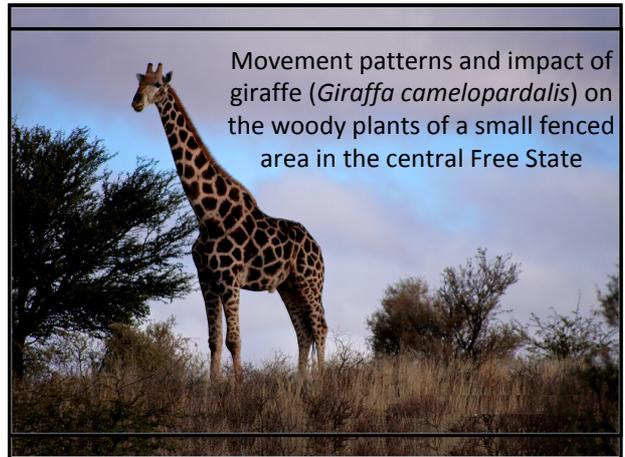
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Introduction  
Study area  
Research objectives  
Results  
Conclusion

**INTRODUCTION**

- Various game farmers struggle to find the balance between stocking rate and stocking with suitable species.
- In common with many game ranches in the region some game species were not historically present and it was thus essential to study their adaptation and impact on their introduced habitat.
- The species composition, density, height distribution, productivity and condition of woody plants influence the browsing capacity of such areas, and needs to be assessed for application in management programs.
- The objectives of the study were to evaluate the impact of giraffe on the woody plants and to assess the seasonal and annual ranges.

**STUDY AREA**

The study area is located on the Woodland Hills Wildlife Estate 15km north of Bloemfontein in the central Free State.

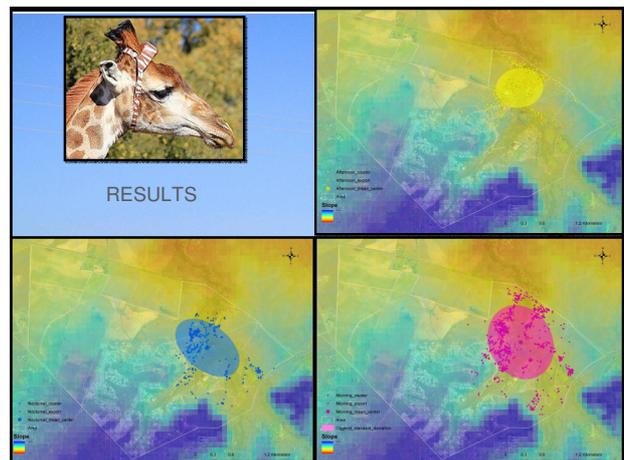
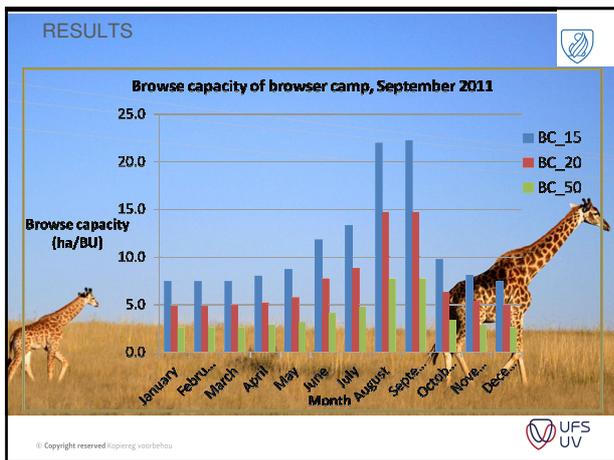
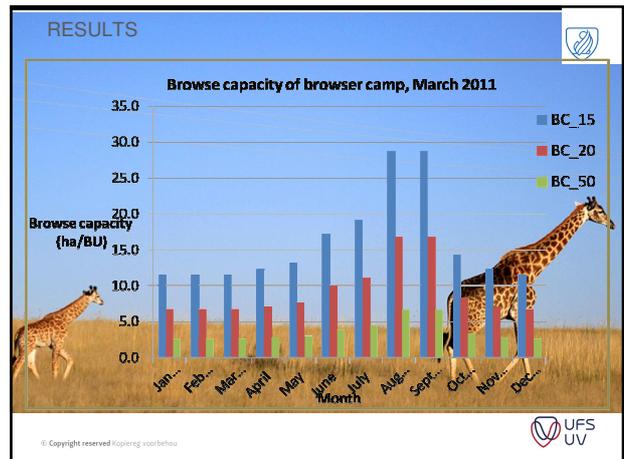
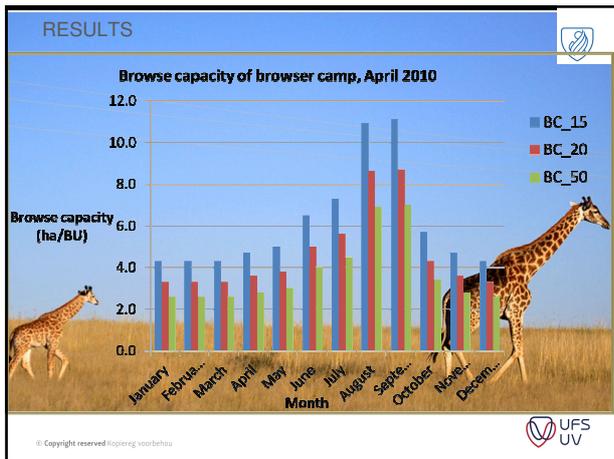
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**RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- To provide appropriate data to the estate management and other interested parties to aid in future decision making.
- To assess the adaptation and distribution of the population and
- To evaluate the impact on vegetation.

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### DISCUSSION

- The browsing capacity of the estate was estimated at 7.7 ha BU<sup>-1</sup> for September
- Based on this estimate, the estate can only support 26 BU during September without the need for supplementary feeding.
- At the time it was estimated that all the browsers on the estate represented 70 BU, thus exceeding the browsing capacity by 44 BU.
- The giraffe comprised 42 BU of the 70 BU and the effect of this overstocking was clearly visible,

These results emphasize the importance of balancing the stocking rate with the browsing capacity to ensure proper management that will optimize the production of the animals as well as ensure the sustainable utilization of the browse resource.

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# Thank You