



**February 2015**

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# Painted Dog Conservation Inc

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Chairman – John Lemon  
Vice Chairman/Secretary – Angela Lemon  
Treasurer – Carol Shannon

Patrons: Tony Park, Bradley Trevor Greive and Simon Reeve



## From the Chairman

To all our members, sponsors and friends I hope you all had a wonderful Xmas and a Happy New Year.



2015 is shaping up to be a great year with our first fundraiser to be held on 13 February with our special guest, conservationist and author, Dr Tammie Matson. Tammie will be launching the exclusive WA premiere of her latest documentary *Let Elephants be Elephants*, her investigation into the illegal ivory trade.



With great excitement we also announce the return of the 'Lion Whisperer', Kevin Richardson in May 2015. Details are currently being firmed up and we will confirm dates and venues in the coming weeks.



Kevin's last events with PDC Inc raised close to \$100,000 for our valuable conservation work. We hope to see you all there again!



We are also excited to announce that Air Mauritius has become our first corporate Sponsors and we look forward to a very productive mutual relationship.



This year will also see our first ever PDC Inc. safari in June to visit our projects in South Luangwa in Zambia including Zambian Carnivore Programme, South Luangwa Conservation Society and Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust.



Thanks to Wayne Hamilton and Swagman



Tours, and Anke and Ron Cowan of Kafunta Safaris for making this a reality.

I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce our Committee for 2015:

Chairman: John Lemon  
Vice-Chairman and Secretary: Angela Lemon  
Treasurer: Carol Shannon  
Committee members: Wayne Hamilton, Alyson Handfield and Richard Dunlop.

In addition, we welcome our first legal advisor, solicitor Wesley Hill.

The following pages will outline our efforts since our last update and look forward to seeing at one of our upcoming functions.

John Lemon  
Chairman PDC Inc.



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## Update on Rescued Lion Cubs, George and Yame



Since PDC Inc hosted world renowned Kevin Richardson, 'The Lion Whisperer', for three events Australia-wide in November 2013, we have continued a partnership with him and his work to stop the Canned Hunting Industry.

Hopefully you have all been following our story of two little lion cubs that were being used as part of the cub petting trade on the streets of Spain, and were found by representatives of the Campaign Against Canned Hunting (CACH). They were destined to end up in canned hunting; luckily CACH notified wildlife authorities and they were confiscated.

The two boys both weighed under 5kg, had metabolic bone disease, sores and were very weak due to being only fed watered down milk to aid in keeping the small-and therefore easier to handle.

No European facilities were interested in looking after them, so after discussions between CACH and Kevin Richardson, Kevin decided to take them on board. They received medical treatment and rehabilitation in Spain until they were stable enough to undertake the huge journey from Spain to South Africa-thank you to CJ and Luis Munoz, and their team at CACH Spain

Top to bottom: George and Yame on their first walk at Kevin's sanctuary.  
Angela Lemon, Kevin Richardson and John Lemon at a function in 2013.  
George and Yame when first rescued.



for all the love and care that they gave to the little ones.

A global campaign was launched by CACH to raise the required \$15,000 to make the rehabilitation and move to South Africa a possibility. PDC Inc promoted the cause, so by direct donations and an online auction, we were able to raised \$11,000 of the required funds! Thank you to the generosity of our members and friends for this amazing result-in particular Peter Lemon, 'Stephanie' and Gillian Shave.

As a result of our contribution, PDC Inc was given the honour of naming the two cubs – so little George was named after George Adamson, and 'Yame' is a shortened version of Zulu word for 'lion' (thank you to Peter Lemon for the latter name).

The boys are growing from strength to strength, and currently weigh over 40 kg!

Due to the poor diet they were on, little George suffered more health issues than Yame; the primary concern his poor vision and development of cataracts due to the abuse.

Again, thanks to the generosity of PDC Inc members,

*Top right: George and Yame before their trip to South Africa. From top to bottom: Arriving at the sanctuary. The two inseparable brothers. (Left) Little George all grown up! (Right) Handsome Yame.*



Above: George's retinal testing prior to surgery.  
Right: George back at Kevin's after his surgery-great recovery!



we have been able to fund George's initial check-up and operation, and also assisted with ensuring that this important milestone was able to be filmed for the documentary being made about their journey, and of course linking this to the evils of cub petting and canned hunting.

George had his cataract surgery on Monday 2 February 2015 and is recovering well. Both he and Yame will always be great ambassadors for the Campaign Against Canned Hunting. Again thanks to Chris Mercer and Bev Pervan of CACH. Please visit CACH website to read the full updates on the cubs, and how you can be involved to stop Canned Hunting [www.cannedlion.org/blog](http://www.cannedlion.org/blog) and also Chris

Mercer's Facebook page.

Also subscribe (for free!) to Kevin's 'Lion Whisperer TV' YouTube channel as he posts regular updates and videos on the boys progress at [www.youtube.com/LionWhispererTV](http://www.youtube.com/LionWhispererTV) and for those of you on Facebook, join Kevin's official page as well!

## Kensington Pride Mango Fundraiser

In November 2014, PDC Inc. was pleased to participate in our very first Mango Fundraiser, which raised approximately \$1300!

This fundraiser was quite simple: people ordered a 20kg box of Kensington Pride mangoes, a delivery date was organised, and then the orders were collected from a predetermined venue. The boxes sold for \$40 each, with \$15 per box donated to PDC Inc.

Thank you to everyone who ate through their orders to support us. And thank you to Katherine Madej for nominating us as one of the chosen charities.

Due to the success of this venture, PDC Inc. will again participate in this initiative in 2015.





## Kevin Richardson's Return to Australia

**Painted Dog Conservation Inc is pleased to announce the return of Kevin Richardson, 'The Lion Whisperer', to Australia in May 2015.**

PDC Inc will host exclusive events in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne in May 2015 with Kevin as our special guest.

Kevin will update guests on his recent activities, including his fight against the Canned Hunting Industry and of course the latest news on rescued lion cubs, George and Yame, who wouldn't be here today without the support of PDC Inc members and friends.

As always, there will be an African Auction to raise funds for PDC Inc's field work and to support Kevin's campaign against canned hunting.

A vast range of special items will be on offer including amazing clay sculptures by Nick Mackman, brilliant photography by Sam Clark, limited edition canvas prints by Fuz Caforio, Suzanne Elizabeth, Australian artist Steve Morvell, beaded sculptures and Snare Ware from our community development projects in Zimbabwe, beautiful jewellery from another community development project 'Mulberry Mongoose' in Zambia...and much, much more!

Booking forms will be circulated once dates and venues are set. We look forward to seeing you there. Any queries please email Angela Lemon on [lemonj@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lemonj@ozemail.com.au).



## SLCS Painted Dog Anti-snaring Efforts

2014 was especially challenging with regards to snaring and poaching in general. Snaring still remains the biggest challenge and threat to wild animals. With the help of the radio tracking collars on ZCP's study animals and also a good network of tour operators we have been able to rescue most animals that have been snared. Painted dogs and elephants were the hardest hit with snares this year.

Combined anti-poaching efforts with SLCS scouts and ZAWA scouts supported by Painted Dog Inc assured that our scouts reduced the number of snares in the field and overall arrests increased.

Snaring typically increases during the dry season as the setting of snares becomes easier and the success rates of trapping animals much higher. During the peak of the dry season from September to November snaring was at its highest with snared animals being reported multiple times a week. Many of these were rescued by SLCS and ZAWA but many were not found and would have perished.

From January to December 2014, the SLCS scouts have achieved great result:

- Long field patrol – 98
- Short patrols – 20
- Anti-snaring day patrols – 165
- Snares removed – 1393
- Suspects apprehended – 105
- Firearms confiscated – 32

In addition to law enforcement efforts SLCS and ZCP joint wildlife veterinarian Dr Sichande has excelled at

his job and has immobilized the following animals

- 5 Painted dogs immobilized for collaring/research
- 4 lions immobilized for collaring/research
- 4 Painted dogs have been immobilized for snare removal
- 5 lions have been immobilized for snare removal
- 10 elephants have been immobilized for snare removal
- 3 giraffe immobilized for snare removal
- 1 elephant immobilized with a gunshot wound
- 1 elephant immobilized with an abscess
- 1 lion immobilized for mange
- 1 lion immobilized for translocation
- 2 elephants euthanized for gunshot wounds.

In 2014, we have already lost two painted dogs to snaring. Unfortunately we were unable to rescue them due to poor road access in the wet season. However we have successfully darted and treated 4 snared dogs in one pack which would have otherwise resulted in the total demise of this pack.

PDC Inc. has been staunch supporters of SLCS work now for many years and their support increases every year. In addition to this year's support to the painted dog anti-snaring team, they took it one step further and raised a sizeable amount of money to help keep our conservation and research plane in the air in 2015. The aircraft is such a valuable tool for SLCS and ZCP and most painted dog and other carnivore de-snaring's were successful because we are able to locate them using the plane.



## News from Anna Tolan at Chipembele

The beginning of 2015 started very well for Chipembele though with some changes in key staff. Our Conservation Education Manager, Ben Heermans, who had worked with us for three years, left for a new career in large scale conservation management in the Democratic Republic of Congo and is now responsible for the landscape management of Salonga, National Park, Africa's largest rainforest, twice the size of Belgium!

Ben's position has been internationally advertised but while we carefully go through the selection process our dear friend and partner of Chipembele, Emma Still, has come to fill the role and generally help smooth things over until the new permanent manager is in place. Emma is a Senior Educator at Adelaide Zoo and is the Founder and Art Director of 'Creating for Conservation' - combining her love for wildlife, conservation, art and education. Emma has been passionately raising funds for conservation education since 2007 and Chipembele is proud to be one of the recipients of some of the funds she has raised. Emma's infectious energy and years of experience in conservation education has meant our Conservation Education Outreach Programme has launched in 2015 like a rocket!

Our Assistant Environmental Educator, Kennedy Mulenga, (pictured above in hat) also left for a year's study leave at the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) in South Africa but will be back in 2016. His place is being filled for the year by two young men, Stanley Mwanza and George Banda, both of who completed a 6 month course in Nature Conservation and Environmental Education at the SAWC in 2014. This course was sponsored through a partnership

between the Zambia Carnivore Programme (ZCP) and Chipembele. This year we have selected two more students for Conservation Scholarships at the College. Both students, Kabwe Chanda and Daniel Banda, were once participants in our student conservation programme. It was under our wing that Daniel also volunteered for the whole of 2014 to set up and run conservation clubs at three outlying schools.

For the past few years our Conservation Education Programme, which reaches 6 local schools on a regular basis and 5 more on an ad hoc basis, is partly funded by Perth Zoo through Painted Dog Conservation Inc. Huge thanks to John Lemon for his personal input into the continuation of this invaluable financial support and belief in the effectiveness of our conservation education programmes.

In addition to all our education programmes we are being kept on our toes by rehabilitating 3 orphaned vervet monkeys and 2 orphaned yellow baboons, all victims of human wildlife conflict in South Luangwa. Only one of the baboons is weaned so it is a constant round of milk feeds, chopping of fruit and vegetables and cleaning out the cages. Our aim is, as always, to rehabilitate them back to the wild. And for those of you who may remember Douglas the young hippo, you may be pleased to read that he is still absolutely fine and swimming frequently in the Luangwa River but not yet integrated with the wild pod. It is likely to be a long, slow process over several years, just as it is in nature!

Wishing all the PDC Inc supporters a very Happy 2015!



Some Chipembele staff and students meet Emma at Mfuwe Airport on 1 January 2015



Anna Tolan (Director Chipembele) and Matt Becker (CEO ZCP) with Kabwe and Daniel immediately after telling them they had been selected for the course at SAWC.

## Zambian Carnivore Programme Update

by Matt Becker

Dear PDC Inc. Supporters,

Happy New Year! After several months of waiting it appears the 2014 dry season has finally come to a close. The end almost came in 2015, as the rains were very late this year, making it pretty tough for the herbivores but pretty good for carnivores aside from the prolonged snaring season. After Christmas however we finally got some proper rains across the three study areas. At our base the Luangwa river has rapidly risen and access to the study area is very limited and challenging, making office work much more appealing than usual! As always our update includes an array of news items with which PDC Inc. has played a key role in making happen. Thanks again to everyone who has continued to make this support possible and we'll keep you posted on the season!

All the best, Matt

### Geoff Hoddy's 60th birthday presents go to the Dogs

In 2012 we welcomed John and Geoff to the Luangwa and Liuwa to assist with work, particularly the start of our long-term collaborative wildebeest study in Liuwa Plain. Geoff was a pleasure to have on the team and a big help in all the capture work and has been a big supporter for ZCP, providing a range of support for our work across the study sites. Geoff continued to assist our efforts by donating money

collected for his 60th birthday to ZCP's Luangwa wild dog work, specifically with aircraft based operations! Snaring was particularly bad in 2014 in the Luangwa, and with the large number of dog packs present we had numerous animals snared and requiring assistance. Having our shared SLCS/ZCP Cessna 180 aircraft at the ready to find the packs and dispersing groups as they ranged over thousands of square kilometers was a key to successful de-snaring of dogs in the Luangwa. Thanks again Geoff and Happy Belated Birthday!

### Dr. Wigganson Matandiko finishes his PhD fieldwork in Kafue

In 2011 Dr. Wigganson Matandiko, formerly the Head Veterinarian for the Zambia Wildlife Authority, received a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Ph.D. in the United States. We were fortunate to have him decide to work with ZCP at Montana State University under the direction of Dr. Scott Creel, where he developed a dissertation evaluating



SLCS/ZCP Veterinarian Dr. Mwamba Sichande (Right) and ZCP Luangwa Project Manager Johnathan Merkle treat a snared dog found by aerial tracking of packs (M. Becker).



Dr.'s Scott Creel and Wigganson Matandiko radio-collaring a wild dog in Kafue National Park.





the factors affecting the distribution and abundance of herbivores in Kafue. Wigganson logged three intensive field seasons in Northern Kafue National Park to conduct his research and co-manage ZCP's Kafue project. In addition to his dissertation work, Wigganson lead all capture operations for the project, de-snaring numerous animals and conducting all collaring operations. The purchase of a rebuilt 300 tdi Land Rover by PDC Inc. in 2013 provided him with an excellent vehicle with which to conduct his final season's worth of graduate research, and the Landy will continue to support ZCP's work while Wigganson returns to Montana to write up his dissertation!

### **Zambia's wild dogs getting accustomed to the big screen**

After South Luangwa's Hot Springs pack starred in last year's 3-part BBC Series "Countdown to the Rains," this time Zambia's wild dogs were featured on the other side of the country in the BBC's "Life Story," narrated by the great Sir David Attenborough. The three-part series featured Liuwa's Sausage Tree pack in an incredible hunting sequence filmed from the air as they chased down a wildebeest. Stay tuned for "Life Story" showings outside the UK in 2015, as well as even more amazing dog footage as part of the multi-part BBC series "The Hunt," set to air in late 2015. We have been able to preview the sequences and can confirm they're well worth the wait! Collectively these beautiful pieces of film will bring more attention to the plight of the dogs and their overwhelming appeal, as well as badly-needed support to Zambia's tourism industry and wildlife-based tourism economies.

### **Annie Sikanwe finishes independent project and works with ZCP full-time in Kafue**

As a student in the wildlife program at Copperbelt University, Annie was funded by PDC Inc. in 2013 to conduct her independent project on human-wildlife conflict in the Game Management Areas surrounding Kafue National Park. Upon graduation Annie earned a spot on our Kafue field research team for the 2014 season, where she acquired an array of skills as a field biologist. With her research experience Annie hopes to eventually attend graduate school in the sciences.



Annie (left), with Wigganson and ZAWA ecologists sorting herbivore fecal samples.

### **PDC Inc. assists in publication of new lion demography study**

In late 2014 ZCP published the first detailed demographic data on Luangwa's lions in a study entitled "Detecting declines of apex carnivores and evaluating their causes: an example with Zambian lions." The study ([lion%20harvest%20assessment](#)).

pdf), led by ZCP Researcher Elias Rosenblatt evaluated the years 2008-2012, just prior to a 2013 trophy hunting ban and served as key science-based guidance for ZAWA's current management of lions.

The study demonstrated a number of concerning population trends before recommending continuation of the current hunting ban to allow for recovery of lion populations and implementation of best-practices should hunting resume.

Long-standing ZCP Researcher and graduate student at the University of Arizona, Thandiwe Mweetwa, will be evaluating lion demography post-ban (2013-present) as part of her thesis. Like all our intensive studies, the lion work entailed intensive monitoring of 210 individual lions using mark-resight methods, meaning all lions are identified every time they're observed to estimate survival and detectability for each animal. Unfortunately lions, unlike dogs are pretty tedious to identify given they usually are best identified by their whisker spot patterns! This effort

required over 1,000 person days in the field from May-Dec. each year, over nearly a 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> study area.

Fundamental to this work were serious bush-bashing Land Rovers to find and follow the animals, and PDC Inc. support for the fieldwork, vehicles, vehicle parts and aerial support used in this study was as usual of key importance.



ZCP Researcher Elias Rosenblatt collecting data on lions with a vehicle supported by PDC Inc. (M.Becker)

## FurWAG 3000

by Angela Lemon, Vice-chairman PDC Inc.



John and I had the pleasure of representing PDC Inc at the 2014 FurWAG 3000 Convention from 4-5 October 2014 at Hotel Ibis in Northbridge. Every year the FurWAG community raises valuable funds for animal causes, and we were honoured to be chosen as their charity of choice.

FurWAG raised an amazing \$5000 for PDC Inc. What a great result and thank you for a hugely entertaining weekend. Thank you to Louise Cocks and all of the committee for making this happen. To learn more about FurWAG, please visit their website at [www.furwag.com.au](http://www.furwag.com.au).



Clockwise from top: MC Pete Smith auctioneering, Ange manning the PDC Inc stall, John with FurWAG committee members Tony and Louise.

## Patron Update by Tony Park

This year, 2015 will mark the 20th anniversary of the first time my wife, Nicola, and I visited Africa. Before 1995 I'd never really given Africa, nor her wildlife, a second thought, but Nicola's plan for us to visit the continent changed all that.

Our 'once in a lifetime' trip turned out to be anything but. Like many visitors before us we were hooked within days by Africa's amazing wildlife, incredible landscapes, and welcoming, fascinating peoples. While I always wanted to write a novel I never imagined I'd be writing books set in Africa (let alone be published), but here I am, with a 12th African novel to be published later this year.

Painted dogs loomed large in our first trip to Africa - after ticking off the Big 5 and even seeing a cheetah on a kill we were desperate to see the dogs. We actually thought we did see some in Kruger, but on showing our photos to a safari guide we befriended we found out that we'd actually been looking at a clan of spotted hyenas! Our wildlife recognition skills have improved since then and so, too, has our approach to wildlife and conservation.

I am extremely proud to be a patron of PDC Inc, and to help in some small way with the fantastic work the committee does in raising funds to support projects in Africa. I'm also extremely grateful to John and Ange and the team for the support they give me each year when a new book comes out. Once more, in November 2014, they put on a fantastic launch function for my latest, 'The Hunter' at Zebra's steakhouse, and Mike Dunn and Ursula Schmidt bid generous sums to have their names used as characters in future books. Ursula will feature in this year's book, (no title yet), due out in November 2015, and I'm keeping Mike's name up my sleeve for my 13th novel, which I'm about to start writing.

20 years on from my first sighting of a painted dog (I did eventually see an actual dog near the Safari Lodge outside Hwange National Park on that first trip in 1995) the future of these magnificent creatures and many other predators hangs in the balance. One thing is certain, though, without the support of PDC Inc and its generous members, these animals might not even be around in some of their current locations. I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous 2015.

## An Evening with Tony Park — The Hunter Launch

As always, PDC Inc was thrilled to host our annual event: the launch of Patron Tony Park's newest creation. For 2014 this was *The Hunter*.

Fifty guests attended the evening at Zebra's African Steakhouse in Bicton on 15 November. Thanks again to host Jerrald Swindells for providing a great African atmosphere as always. Guests were greeted by PDC Inc mascot Picasso, who proved to be a big hit! During the three-course meal, the PDC Inc chairman gave an overview of our latest achievements, and Tony answered fans' most frequently asked questions.

We held an auction with great items on offer. Two character names for Tony's next books were sought after, in addition to amazing photography by Sam Clark, paintings by South African Fuz Caforio, Suzanne Elizabeth, soapstone statues and intricate Snare Ware creations.

Thanks to the generosity of all those that attended, we raised \$10,000 on the night.



## African Wildlife Conservation Fund Update

### Wrapping up the year, and what a year it has been!

We have made some significant strides and changes this year, with an end goal of being the best we can be and doing the best we can for African wild dogs and large carnivore conservation in Zimbabwe. As we report on some of our more significant achievements this year, and look forward to all that 2015 has in store, we would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your support! We wish all of our friends, followers and supporters all the best for the festive season and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

As always, don't forget to visit our website, join us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and subscribe to our blog to receive more regular updates on our work!

### Investing in future leaders

This year we decided to add a new dimension to our Secondary Schools Scholarship Program by organising and facilitating a conservation and leadership training field trip for our 14 scholarship students. The field trip was a tremendous success and without a doubt a life-changing experience for the students! This is what a few of the students and teachers had to say:

*"The course gave us an opportunity to see wild animals for the first time and it was a great experience. We truly appreciate support we are getting from AWCF. Our students have improved positively in class after the course and we wish if this course could be an annual event."*

Masekai Secondary School

*"We had nice time at Chishakwe and we learnt a lot. We*

*are trying to start environmental club at our school so that we can teach other students what we learnt."*

Chibuwe Secondary School

Our students were selected because they are academically bright and show immense potential to be conservation ambassadors and leaders in their communities. We want to recognise and award this potential and invest in the future of these individuals. We have committed to taking on another 5 students for next year around Savé Valley Conservancy, and hopefully another 5 around Gonarezhou National Park! Thank you to all of you who donate towards this program, without you these promising children would have no option for secondary school education!

### Welcome Golden Mukaro!

Welcome to our new attachment student, Golden Mukaro. Golden earned a Diploma in Education at Masvingo Teachers College, and he has worked for the Ministry of Education Sport and Culture, Zimbabwe for five years. He is now a third year student studying a B.Sc. in Forest Resources and Wildlife Management at National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe.

Golden will live on-site with us for a year, and is interested in addressing major conservation threats to African wild dogs through community education.

### A good year for our education and outreach program

For any of you who have met Victor, our Community Liaison Officer, or had the chance to go out with him whilst he goes about his work in the schools, you will



Wildlife Play - Chedutu Cluster Competition Day



Dancing and singing about abolishing poaching

know just how committed he is to his work and how focused he is at delivering our conservation messages to the Zimbabwean youth. This year was no different!

A significant contribution to the schools program this year was the distribution of our Lowveld ABC resources to every school. These are laminated flash cards of the letters of the alphabet associated with wildlife. The children absolutely love the cards; and the teachers too! They are used in the younger grades to help teach literacy and in the higher grades to aid in the environmental classes. Next year we will be providing each school with a set of three African wild dog and carnivore fact posters! In collaboration with the Zambezi Schoolbook Project ([www.facebook.com/zambezischoolbookproject](http://www.facebook.com/zambezischoolbookproject)), we have started setting up libraries in some of the primary schools we support. This is an extension of our Literacy Program and we hope to be able to provide every school we support with the materials they need to set up libraries in their schools. It is our dream, and that of the Zambezi Schoolbook Project, that the children, now learning to read, will have leisure books to enjoy, get lost in and learn more about the world!

We are so proud to announce that, after plenty of groundwork, we are finally ready to fully implement our Schools and Education Program around Gonarezhou National Park! This will include, the Conservation Awareness Program, Literacy Program, DVD Program and Secondary Schools Scholarship Program.

**The 2015 OMTOM Wild Dog Pack!**

We are very proud to once again be one of the few official charities of the Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon ([www.twooceansmarathon.org.za/information/run-charity](http://www.twooceansmarathon.org.za/information/run-charity)). Last year we had an



*Fun quiz at the education day*

extremely successful event and raised USD 12 500 for AWCF and African wild dog conservation. This year we want to top that! We once again have fantastic sponsors for the event and a unique OMTOM approved wild dog kit for the day.

We have 50 spots up for grabs so if you would like to be part of the 2015 OMTOM Wild Dog Pack, or support the event in anyway, please email [jess@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org](mailto:jess@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org). Entries are in extremely high demand so don't wait too long!

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of the world's most beautiful marathon, and to raise some much needed funds for African wild dog conservation and the conservation efforts of the African Wildlife Conservation Fund.

**Gonarezhou Predator Project**

The Gonarezhou Predator Project team worked extensively in the park from May to October 2014. We have documented evidence of at least 10 different packs of wild dogs in the park, and it is likely that there



*Young happy readers!*



*Students make wild dog models like this for judging.*

are several more! Thanks to the expert tracking skills of AWCF head scout, Rueben Bote, we managed to locate the den sites for nine of the ten packs and get camera traps up at their den sites for monitoring.

This gave us extremely valuable information including, date of first emergence of pups, litter sizes, pack sizes, adult and pup mortality at dens and any disturbances at the dens (e.g. by lions or hyenas) as well as lovely insight into life at the dens!

Currently, there is a confirmed minimum of 80 adults and 66 pups in 10 different packs in the park. Gonarezhou National Park is a key wildlife area in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area and monitoring of the resident dogs is of global conservation significance.

### **AWCF gets new wheels**

For too long we have only had one field vehicle dedicated to our field conservation projects, URI. Whilst URI's heart is in the right place, he is unfortunately coming to the end of his days and is barely roadworthy. Thus, whilst we can still use him to 'bomb around' and do the heavy field work, we had no option for getting to town for project supplies etc.

Thanks to Painted Dog Inc., Australia (<http://painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au/>) and Columbus Zoo (<https://columbuszoo.org/>) this situation has changed. With the funds they donated, we were able to buy a second hand Toyota Raider in excellent condition. The new car will be used for town trips and travelling between field project sites, and serve as a backup for URI when he runs into a little trouble. This will undoubtedly make a huge difference (already has!) to our operations and research.

### **Wild Dogs in the Savé Valley Conservancy**

Monitoring data from this year shows a strong and stable population of African wild dogs. We currently know of 81 adult wild dogs in the conservancy and 56 pups (137 in total), with a potential additional 10 adults in three breakaway packs. At the moment, we have 60% pup survival with 56 of our 93 pups on first emergence (across 10 breeding packs and including two beta litters) still alive. This is a promising pup survival rate as few pups normally survive to 6 months, and even fewer to 1 year. For example, last year only 25% (17 out of 68 pups on first emergence) survived to one year.



*Scouts on motorbikes.*

We have also seen some interesting dispersals and pack formations in the last few months, with three of our long-standing packs breaking up and individuals or same-sex groups looking for new pack mates. By far the most interesting is that of the Batanai Bachelors, five males who left our second biggest pack in the conservancy in search of 'greener pastures'. They spent almost two weeks moving about 30km north of the conservancy through community and settled land, but eventually returned home. It will be interesting to see where they decide to settle!

### **Our sincere thanks for your support**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to the organisations and individuals who have so generously donated towards our work. Your support allows us to go into the New Year with the security we need to put our conservation plans into action!

Thanks to Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund; Columbus Zoo; National Geographic Conservation Trust; Painted Dog Conservation Inc, Australia; The Rufford Foundation; Frank Zindel and The Turtle Foundation (and the anonymous donor); Frankfurt Zoological Society; Fresno Chaffee Zoo; Taronga Conservation Society; SAVE Foundation Australia; Wilderness Wildlife Trust. As well as Nicole Willimann, Anita Mishra, Pirjo Itkonen, Dennis Gaitsgory, Luke Lamb, John Groom, Patricia du Bois, Alison Woods, Liz Stephenson and numerous other private donors.

The wild dogs thank you too!

Please do not hesitate to contact us ([rosemary@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org](mailto:rosemary@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org)) if you would like to support any aspect of our work!



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**Conservation through action and education**

**Would You Like To Help?**

Our supported projects do NOT receive any government funding and is wholly reliant on donations to continue its operations.

The key factor in retaining the workers from the local communities – both skilled and unskilled who are classed as staff – is to have sufficient funding available to pay them a reasonable wage.

Please consider a donation for the work to continue.

All donations received are put without deduction to the benefit of the African Painted Dog.

**The Object of the Association is:**

To advance conservation for the public benefit of the African Painted Dog, (also referred to as a Wild Dog) *Lycaon pictus*, through education promoting and disseminating research into such conservation and seeking to achieve their sustainable management.

**Here's What to Do**

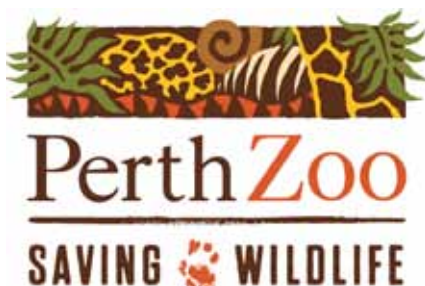
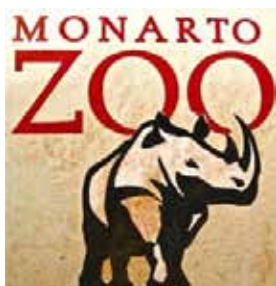
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