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Painted Dog Conservation Inc

ABN: 30 268 127 580
REGISTERED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Welcome

Special points of interest:

- The Association is formed for the betterment of the species.
- 75% of membership subscription is put towards the Dog. 25% is used for fundraising and news.
- 100% of donations and fundraising is put towards the Dog.
- No member gains financially from the Association.
- The membership will be notified through the website, this newsletter or by email of merchandise offers.

Inside this issue:

Membership	2
Hunting and Diet	2
Arts and Craft Centre	2
Feature—Other Wildlife—Impala	3
Iganyana—Children's Bush Camp	4
Reproduction	5
Craft pictures	5
Objects of the Association and Contact Details	6
Glossary Late news	6

During October PDCinc celebrates its first full year of operation. Steadily our membership, 81 at time of writing, and finances continue to grow, thanks to our Marketing sub committee under the leadership of Jon Keates who have produced an array of saleable items from reusable calico bags, which have proved very popular and two styles of T shirts. Shortly we will have our own page on the website to showcase our work.

As well they manned a stall at the Ascot racecourse where the RSPCA held an "All Creatures Expo" which from all accounts had some 8,000 people through the gate. It was at this expo that our newest member was welcomed ably controlled by John Lemon. Some may have seen footage on the TV.

We held our first Members meeting in August where a vote was taken to change our objects and rules to enable us to apply for registration on the Register of Environmental Organisations. This would then

allow us to issue receipts for tax deductible donations within Australia.

The changes were passed and we submitted the new rules to DOCEP and within days of submission approval was given and we will soon make application to the Federal Department of Environment & Heritage. Dick Watson is finalising the required documentation.

Upcoming events are 19th November, a film and social evening featuring, "Hatari". A flyer has been mailed to all members. Our first annual general meeting will be held during March 2005. Details to be provided closer to the time.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the collaring of the Sethule alpha male. Since then the pack was successful in producing pups, however while Greg and Peter were bush camped in Hwange there was a bit of a ruckus and in the morning it was found that all of the pups were killed by a clan of Hyaenas. (more detail in the Current News page on the website) This sadly is the



Lycaon pictus "African Painted Hunting Dog"

nature of survival in the wild. However, couple this to the intrusiveness of mans activities and prejudices and this unique species survival is very finely balanced.

The Committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support, wishing them and their families for the festive season and remind you that membership renewals for 2005 are due in January. As voted at the Meeting dues for members who joined in 2004 will be held at \$20.00 AUD and \$25.00 USD for the next 2 years

For 2005 the membership fee has slightly increased for new members.

Morphometrics

Continued from Volume 1 Issue 2...

Field biologists typically collect a series of standard size measurements that are used in identification, in monitoring the effects of environmental or genetic changes on body size and shape, and as baseline information for studies of the relationship between body size parameters and other aspects of biology, such as diet, reproductive rate, metabolic rate,

home range size, and longevity.

With captive animals, the goals are much the same. Standard size measurements can be used to corroborate identifications, to monitor the effects of environmental or changes (in this case, particularly changes associated with captive management such as adjustments in diet, enclosure size, or breeding regime), and as baseline information for evolution-

ary and wildlife biologists. (Lundrigan, B et al 1996 Wild Mammals in Captivity p563).

Described in this issue is;

- **Hunting and Diet**
- **Reproduction**

The Membership



Our Logo

New members, Please welcome the following to our "pack" — Clare Campbell, Geoff & Kim Hoddy, Marie Adams, Narelle Marshall, Jody Mayes, Kelli Knowles, Cheryl Barnes, Jillian Poole, Leigh Shersby, Garnet Barndon, Andrew Tyzack (**UK**), Colin Wallbank, John & Carol Trevillian, Joy Rae. Susan Hunt, Wally Koch, Sarah McMullen, Natalie Gifford (**USA**).

Members of Note:

Andrew Tyzack is a UK based artist who has donated a work of art to the association, Colin Wallbank is the Curator at the Perth Zoo, Susan Hunt is the Director of Perth Zoo.



Our newest member

Lycaon pictus—Hunting and Diet

Hunting techniques

Few other animals prove to be such effective hunters as the Painted Hunting Dogs; with some packs achieving successful kills 9 out of 10 times (Rasmussen, G. 2001, pers comm., 1 August). Having targeted a particular individual, often because it is perceived to be the weakest or slowest, the pack will pursue it to the exclusion of all others. Painted Hunting Dogs can run at speeds up to 60 kph over distances up to 5 kilometres before achieving a kill (Rasmussen, G. 2001, pers comm., 1 August).

Once this animal is singled out, the pack works as team.

Certain animals will grasp the muzzle, others the rump and the rest will disembowel once the animal has been pulled to the ground. This manner of killing has given the Painted Hunting the reputation of being a vicious killer

Diet

Painted Hunting Dogs prey on common ungulate species, and do not impact on species such as sable, bushbuck, which are regarded of high commercial value (Rasmussen 1997).

Davies (1993) and Rasmussen (1997) indicates that a greater percentage of impala preyed upon (54%) inside the Hwange

National Park, versus 45% outside the park. The respective percentages for kudu are 23% inside the Hwange National Park versus 36% outside. Rasmussen (1997) also suggests that in Zimbabwe, the prey species consumed in percentages of their diet are Impala 46%, Kudu 36%, Duiker 14%, Sable 2% and Wildebeest 2%.

Due to cooperative hunting, a pack can bring down prey that is much larger than themselves-prey species average 50 kilograms; however, it may be as large as 200 kilograms (Woodroffe & Ginsberg, 1997). The diet mainly consists of medium sized ungulates; however, prey varies from region to

region (Sheldon 1992).

Impala seem to be the preferred prey species in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Tanzania and Zambia (Woodroffe & Ginsberg, 1997). They have been reported taking prey as large as an adult Zebra, but this is rare; although the young of larger mammals such as Wildebeest, Eland and Kudu are prime targets (Pole, unpublished, nd)

Individuals may flush out smaller animals like hares, ground squirrels, birds and rodents. However, these smaller prey species are not shared with the pack (Sheldon 1992).

The Arts and Craft Centre-(Wendy Blakely)

The Painted Dog Conservation Project in Zimbabwe is now sponsoring an Arts and Crafts program to fulfil a number of goals:

- **Assist** the local community to develop a line of marketable products,
- Ensure the **sustainable** use of natural resources
- Encourage the use of **recyclable** materials
- Utilise their talents and **skills** to economically benefit the individual artisans,

their community and the Dog Conservation.

The initial phase, begun in 2003, focused on informing the local town and rural community of the intended goals and to locate and identify adult and youth talent. Prime focus was given to starting work on items that were unique in the gift and tourist craft trade, that made use of local materials when possible, engaged the imagination of artisans to contribute ideas, **discouraged** illegal use of natural resources, promoted the ideas of conser-

vation of habitat for the benefit not only of the Dogs, but of the citizens as well.

When items produced by **school-aged** children were purchased for sale, efforts are made to assure that the funds directly benefited the individual child, being applied to school fees and supplies, clothing and food.

The country has fallen on hard times have brought devastating economic **hardship** on citizens, especially those in rural areas. Additionally there has been great damage to wildlife

and its habitat. It is the aim of this program to address these issue in the community immediately surrounding the Dog Project's Headquarters just outside Hwange National Park, and near their newly constructed Community Conservation Complex and Children's Bush Camp to open in 2004.

WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER PURCHASING OUR PRODUCTS.

In doing so you will be contributing to the economic development of the community and

(Continued on page 3)

The Arts and Craft Centre-(Wendy Blakely)

(Continued from page 2)

the continued conservation of the highly endangered African Painted Hunting Dog. For more information on the Arts and Crafts program or to purchase products:

Contact: Wendy Blakely, Arts and Crafts Coordinator via email:

More information, story and

pictures of products may be found on the Painted Dog Conservation website, details on last page.

TO MAKE DONATION OF ART SUPPLY OR FUNDS TO IGANYANA ARTS CENTRE OR TO PURCHASE CRAFTS please contact: pdcwendy@mweb.co.zw



SAVE at Bush camp buying crafts



Iganyana arts at WCN expo

Feature—Other Wildlife—IMPALA—(Aepyceros melampus)

Ndebele: Mpala, Shona: Mhara
The graceful Impala has to be one of the most beautiful antelope.

Shoulder height: 90cm
Mass: 50kg

Females are smaller and only the males have horns

The conspicuous black tufts of hair on the lower part of the hind legs conceal scent glands and there are also distinct black bands on either side of the rump.

Habitat: Impala generally avoid open grassland and floodplains and are absent from mountainous areas. They are almost always associated with woodland, preferring light open associations. The availability of drinking water is essential and they prefer short grass.

Habits: Impala are gregarious and are generally found in herds of between 15 and 50 animals, but larger congregations of over 100 animals are frequently encountered during the winter months. Their social organisation consists of males, which are territorial only during the breeding season, and bachelor and breeding herds. They are predominantly diurnal, but rest during the hottest parts of the day.

Distribution: They occur in the central and southern parts of Kenya, in South-western

Uganda and widely throughout Tanzania. They are restricted to the extreme southern parts of Zaire and Angola, and occur widely in Zambia. They are found in the northern, North-eastern and eastern sectors of Botswana, and are widely distributed in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. In Namibia, they are restricted to the extreme northwest. They are found in the northern and eastern sectors of South Africa, and in the Kruger National Park, the impala is by far the most abundant and widespread antelope species.

Breeding: The breeding season is restricted to the autumn months of April, May and June. Only one adult male accompanies each breeding herd during this time and he is constantly engaged in defending his harem from other males. Fighting between male impalas is not prolonged, but in some instances does lead to serious injury or even death. During the rut, territorial males are extremely vocal, uttering an array of noises from grunts to roars. They also create dung heaps which are scattered randomly within their territories. Females break away from the herd to give birth in isolation, but all the calves in a particular area are born within a restricted period of a few weeks after a gestation period

of approximately 200 days. This mass arrival is thought to provide safety in numbers. Following birth, the young are left hidden for a day or two, after which they are seldom in close association with their mothers, except when suckling. General Impala are exceptionally fleet-footed and are excellent jumpers. They have acute hearing and are very alert and wary. However, their large numbers and convenient size make them an important part of the diet of all the larger predators and of course the Painted Dogs.

Fast Facts:

- Class:** Mammalia
- Order** Artiodactyla
- Family** Bovidae
- Genus** Aepyceros
- Height** 84-99cm
- Weight** 40-75kg
- Colour** Chestnut Brown, belly white
- Dimorphism** Males have long, twisted, ringed, back-swept horns. Females have no horns.
- Diet** Herbivores. Including grasses, shrubs, herbs, young shoots and leaves.
- Herd Size** 15-50. Up to 100 in winter
- Breeding Season** Autumn, April/May/June.
- Gestation** 200days



Impala



Impala (male)

“Conservation through action and education”

Iganyana—Children’s Bush Camp-(Bruce Lombardo)

In the last newsletter, it was briefly mentioned that the Project had conducted a free three day pilot bush camp programme for local school children.

Below is a more detailed report from our education coordinator. Which was written in August.

A three-day camp is offered **free** to the fourteen primary schools closest to the CCEC (also closest to the Main Camp entrance to Hwange National Park).

We currently **estimate** that the program costs us about \$US25/child. We are aggressively engaged in raising funds to cover the costs of what we have already committed to. Beyond that, it is hoped that some day we will be able to expand the free program to more primary schools that border the park (and that border the Hwange painted dog population).

To date, we have conducted **7 free camps for 6 local schools**. Some schools have more than two grade six classes. Below are the schools that have attended so far, and those that are currently slated to attend in the remainder of this year:

SCHOOL/CLASS/DATE/NO. OF STUDENTS.

Sianyanga Primary	Grade 6	3-5/5/04	19
Chezhou Primary	Grade 6	2-4/6/04	37
St. Francis Xavier	Grade 6a	16-18/6/04	35

St. Francis Xavier	Grade 6b	23-25/6/04	35
Nabushome Primary	Grade 6	6-8/7/04	34
Mabale primary	Grade 6	14-16/7/04	36
Main Camp Primary	Grade 6	29-31/7/04	20
TOTAL SO FAR 216.			

Ten more free camps are slated for 8 local schools in the remainder of 2004:

Dete Primary	Grade 6	22-24/9/04	44
Songwa Primary	Grade 6a	6-9/10/04	32
Songwa Primary	Grade 6b	13-15/10/04	32
Dopota Primary	Grade 6	20-22/10/04	36
Dingani Primary	Grade 6	27-19/10/04	40
Ndangababi Primary	Grade 6a	3-5/11/04	44
Ndangababi Primary	Grade 6b	10-12/11/04	44
Lupote Primary	Grade 6	17-19/11/04	47
Mambanje Primary	Grade 6	24-26/11/04	19
Gwaai Primary	Grade 6	1-3/12/04	14

A private donor (**Ron Van Der A**) has **sponsored** one additional local school:

Ngamo Primary	Grade 6	28-30/9/04	34
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Therefore, Iganyana Bush Camp will host a total of **602** children and 54 adults in 18 free camps this year.

Also, a Zimbabwean school from outside the local area will be covering the costs of its own camp (as well as the costs of an additional school in the free program):

Harare Intl School	Grade 7	12-16/9/04	29
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Any Zimbabwean school may attend the bush camp programme, but must cover the costs of the camp. International schools are also welcome, but are asked to pay enough to sponsor a local school.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME

As you know, in addition to the children's bush camp programme, we offer the same fourteen schools an in-school conservation programme. **John Nylika**, our Community Development Officer visits schools two to three times a term (trimester) to teach about conservation of natural resources (including wildlife). He emphasizes sustainable use and permaculture, as well as teaching children about wildlife in general and the evils of poaching.

For the permaculture part, John helps each school **develop** efficient gardens and orchards on the school campuses that give children the opportunity to participate directly in methods that are most effective in the local climate and soil conditions. John typically works with all the upper grades of each primary school, within grades 4-7, depending on the sizes of the

classes and the wishes of the headmaster.

Therefore, he reaches far more children than the bush camp programme, approximately three times as many children, for a current estimate of about 1,800 students

Message from the Chairman.

If you would like to become directly involved in sponsor-



Viewing platform over the Rehabilitation compound

ship of this most worthwhile programme please consider a donation. Should you wish to sponsor a school, the education coordinator will provide a special report to you that includes some



Walkway over the Rehabilitation compound

of the school children's work.



The first class



The first class



The first class



The first class

Lycaon pictus—Reproduction

Many Painted Hunting Dog packs spend most of the year roaming in search of prey, but they cannot breed on the move as pups need the shelter of a secure den. This limits the hunting scope of the pack, as they need to ensure that there is an adequate food supply.

The animals are monoestrus, reaching sexual maturity at 24 months of age (Wood & Norris, 2000). Packs have one litter per year. Although the breeding can occur all year round, mating usually coincides with the abundance of food available. Usually only the dominant pair breeds, although on rare occasions subordinates have also been observed to breed (Frame et al. 1979).

Suppression of ovulation due to changes in hormone levels may be partially responsible for the reproductive suppression in subordinate females as described by Shields (1992). When the alpha female comes into season, she will frequently urinate to display her receptive status and is closely followed by the alpha male (Fox 1993).

The dominant male will usually urinate over the urine spats and rests his head on her rump (Estes 1992).

Wood and Norris (2000) states



Hlangabeza

a gestation of 69-72 days; Animal World (Issue 86) states a gestation of 70-75 days; this is the longest gestation known amongst dogs. For two-thirds of this period, the foetuses remain small, only growing rapidly during the final three or four weeks of the pregnancy. This enables the female to stay active for as long as possible before she dens.

A typical breeding den is often a burrow dug and abandoned by some other animal, such as an aardvark, hyaena or warthog (Figure 6). This den must

be deep enough to maintain a stable temperature. When the pups are born, they weigh around 400 grams and are black in colour with a few irregular white spots (Grzimek 1972).

Pups are nursed by the alpha female for two or three minutes at a time (Estes 1992). After the pups are born, the mother spends the first few days with them in the den, and even when she emerges, she stays nearby while the rest of the pack hunt. The adults bring her food, regurgitating it on demand, and when the pups start to take solid food at the age of three or four weeks, they also bring meat for them (Animal World Issue 86). The mother and pups rely on the other adults to keep them supplied with food.

At around seven weeks of age, subordinate adults may stay at the den to guard the pups while the mother hunts with the rest of the pack (Animal World Issue 86). When the pups reach approximately two months of age, they begin to

acquire their adult shape and colouration. Initially, an adult may lead them back to the



Hlangabeza litter

den, but in time they are allowed to feed directly from the kill. The adults will move aside to allow the pups to feed directly from the kill. At about ten weeks of age, the pack abandons the den and returns to the nomadic life, but it will be several months before the young recruits learn the art of hunting for themselves (Animal World Issue 86).



Wood dog pens



Wire Giraffe



Marula wood dogs



Items by youths



Wire flower



Coxial snakes



Painted Dog Conservation Incorporated

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Conservation Through Action and Education

The objects of the Association are

To advance conservation for the public benefit of the African Painted Hunting 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.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.PAINTEDDOGCONSERVATION.IINET.NET.AU
EMAIL
PDCINC@IINET.NET.AU

Glossary

DOCEP Dept of Consumer & Employment Protection

Late News

- Dr Luke Hunter and Bradley Trevor Grieve have agreed to a role with PDCInc. Full details in the February 2005 newsletter.
- If any member has a preference for the newsletter to be delivered by email as a PDF file please advise us by emailing pdinc@iinet.net.au
- John Lemon is currently in Zimbabwe helping the dog project with new arrivals.

Would you Like to Help

The project in Zimbabwe does **NOT** receive any Government assistance 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 dog.

Here's what to do

Forward: (within Australia) a cheque or money order **OR** International (Credit Card) made payable to:

"Painted Dog Conservation Inc."

C/- The Secretary
10 Blackboy Way
Morangup WA 6083

Credit cards: We can accept either Visa or MasterCard.

Please tear off or photocopy the slip below and forward to the Secretary, Richard Watson, whose address appears above.

Credit Card Transaction

Please tear off below this line and mail to the Secretary. Thank you for your donation

**Select card Visa / MasterCard Payment

Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____ (mm/yy)

Name on Card: _____ **Block Letters only

Amount: \$ _____:_____ \$USD / \$AUD **Select Currency
Signature _____
**Other Currency Please specify