



# Painted Dog Conservation Inc

ABN:30 268 127 580  
REGISTERED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CHAIRMAN—GREGORY GIBBARD  
24 EARNLEY WAY, BALGA WA 6061  
SECRETARY/TREASURER—RICHARD WATSON  
10 BLACKBOY WAY, MORANGUP WA 6083

## 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 by email of merchandise offers.
- It is intended in the near future to arrange a slide and talk presentation evening. An email is to be circulated.

## Welcome

It is with undisguised pleasure that I welcome all members and particularly those members and personal friends that accepted the responsibility of being on the first Committee.

Registration of Painted Dog Conservation Incorporated was completed in October 2003 and in the three months that followed, we have:

- Completed the ABN and ATO registration
- Received the proceeds of a raffle conducted by the Royal Australian Engineers Association of Western Australia of an Hamuka soft toy
- Received a donation from the Humane Society International, NSW
- Received a donation from Save Foundation

of Australia Inc.

- Received monies raised by schoolchildren at the Dubbo, NSW, School of distance education by the conduct of a walkathon
- Monies received by "Wildprints" (Chris & Margie McClelland's business) banked
- Have a current membership of 18 (we need to get above 50 to commence registration on the Register of Environmental Organisations to be eligible for Deductible Gift Recipient Status)
- Received an invitation to talk at the RAEAWA meeting on the 8th February at Karrakatta



*Lycaon pictus "African Painted Hunting Dog"*

- Had an enquiry for an interview by a local community radio station

Future issues of this newsletter will discuss the dog in more detail, feature a different animal/s that inhabit the study areas and provide an opportunity to shop for Doggie or other African artefacts/products that will be available from time to time.

## Inside this issue:

Membership	2
Project	2
The Dog	2
Conservation and Community Education centre	3
Rehabilitation Facility	3
Feature—Other Wildlife—Hyaena	3
Poaching & Snaring Report	4
Objects of the Association and Contact Details	5

## The Committee

The Committee was formed on the 22nd November 2003 at the first meeting held after Incorporation on the 20th October 2003.

Office bearers for 2004 are:

Chairman—Gregory Gibbard

Vice Chairman—John Lemon

Secretary/Treasurer—Richard Watson

Members—May Core & Lyn Clune

The Chairman extends his appreciation to these members for their support.

As well the Chairman would like to especially mention the following members who without their commitment PDCinc would not exist.

Angela Lemon, Chris & Margie McClelland, Wilf Core, Gregory Rasmussen, Peter Blinston.

These people form the core of the association and are its Founding Members.



*Greg Gibbard*



*John Lemon*



*Dick Watson*



Our Logo

*“Conservation  
through action  
and  
education”*

## The Membership

To all members a big thank you for your support and assisting the realisation in the foundation of Painted Dog Conservation Incorporated, registered in Western Australia as a non-profit organisation.

You would all have received the flyer and a car sticker that forms a part of the membership kit. We are still developing the certificate. There has been a discussion that due to the cost of postage it would be better to issue a membership card similar to that issued to some other organisations.

**New members.** Since Incorporation the following members have been accepted—Heather

Orr, NSW, Samantha Elder, WA and Kate Ryan, WA, Chris Jones, WA, Kerry Crosbie, WA, Karen Rotherham, WA.

Members of Note:

Gregory Rasmussen is a qualified Zoologist who heads up the Painted Dog Research Project in Zimbabwe.

Peter Blinston was once an Ecovolunteer who has given up his day job to assist Greg R as the Projects Manager.

John Lemon (our Vice Chairman) is an experienced Zoo Keeper of 14 years and currently working at the Perth Zoo (See also Rehabilitation Centre on page 3).

He has worked in Zoos around the world, holds a Masters degree in captive vertebrate management and has worked on the project in Zimbabwe for 4 years.

Chris and Margie McClelland are long time supporters of the project and Chris is a world renown wildlife artist. As well he is an accomplished poet who penned some verse which can be found on the website.

Margie on the other hand continues to provide a much needed service for PDCInc's banking and has fundraised to purchase many collars for use in Zimbabwe

## The Project

Painted Hunting Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) once lived in 39 Sub Saharan African countries. Through active persecution by use of bounties and habitat loss, civil wars and internal politics the Dog has been **extirpated** from 25 of those countries. Dramatically the decline in numbers has occurred within the last 30 years.

In 1997 numbers were estimated to be around 5,500 Today the population is estimated <2,500. Zimbabwe is one of only 4 countries that

have what are considered to be viable populations.

Zoologist Gregory Rasmussen established the Painted Dog Research Project ten years ago. The Project is dedicated to the **conservation** of Painted Hunting Dogs, Africa's most **endangered** carnivore. A policy of **conservation through action and education** has seen a dramatic increase in the dog's fortunes, though there is still along way to go.

Winner of the Wildinvest Award

for Conservation in 2000, the Painted Dog Research Project has a proven track record of success in tackling the issues that threaten to drive the



Conservation through action and Education

painted dog to **extinction**.

## The Dog

### TAXONOMY

#### **Nomenclature**

<b>Kingdom:</b>	Animalia
<b>Phylum:</b>	Chordata
<b>Class:</b>	Mammalia
<b>Order:</b>	Carnivora
<b>Family:</b>	Canidae
<b>(Subfamily)</b>	Simocyoninae)
<b>Genus:</b>	<i>Lycaon</i>
<b>Species:</b>	<i>pictus</i>

#### **Common Names**

Cape Hunting Dog, Painted Wolves, African Wild Dog, African Painted Wolves, African Hunting Dog, Iganyana, Mhumbi, Wild Dog.

There are too many aspects of the Dog to cover in just one small segment.

More detail on the Dog will be covered in successive issues of this newsletter.

We will delve into all aspects as a regular feature.

In the next issue we will discuss **Morphometrics**



Circus &amp; company by a log

## The Conservation and Education Centre

Our **Community Outreach** work represents a quantum leap in conservation as it aims to promote an active caring for the environment and healthy conservation values in local communities. It is an unequivocal fact that today's **children** are tomorrow's wildlife custodians. Consequently education about the problems facing endangered species is vital.

With this in mind our **education** and **awareness** programme is being expanded by the construction of a **Community Conservation Education**

**Centre**. The Centres principal objective is to bring direct and real **benefit** to the local peoples in terms of increased employment and unparalleled education opportunities. The Centres goal is not merely to **teach** new concepts about the environment, but to promote an emotional attachment to it that will lead to a lifelong attitude of **caring** for it. Children are the focus and so a **Children's Bush Camp** will be one of the principal aspects of the Centre. Here an extended experiential education pro-

gramme will be developed with a philosophy aimed at affecting healthy developments in the perspectives, attitudes and feelings of the students toward the environment.

We will discuss in more detail the elements making up this wonderful facility.



Construction of the Community Conservation and Education Centre

*“Unwitting participants in an unnecessary slaughter”*

## The Rehabilitation Facility

A rehabilitation facility for injured dogs has been incorporated; Comprising of a seventy-acre long term holding enclosure, plus a one-acre intermediate enclosure and a smaller intensive management area for seriously injured dogs.

These three management areas are linked via raceways to

facilitate movement of any dogs and allow for pack formation prior to release of any unrelated individual dogs.

Thus the centre will become the focal point of painted dog conservation on a national and international level. The facility was designed and built by our Vice Chairman, John Lemon

and a team of 12 local workers under his direction. It took 2 years to complete and is constructed to allow for any scenario to be dealt with in regards to Painted Dog Rehabilitation.



Entrance to the completed Facility

## Feature - Other Wildlife - Hyaena

### Conflict with other predators

Only Lions and Hyaenas can **kleptoparasitise** painted hunting dogs. In open areas food losses can be high. However, thick bush affords good cover with food losses being minimised.

### We are not Hyaenas

One of the most common statements heard when a Painted Dog is sighted in the wild or even in a captive environment is “look at the Hyaena”. When corrected it usually leads into “well, they look very much alike”.

The Hyaena and the Painted Dog are not closely related and are represented in two completely different species and genera.

Spotted Hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*) is the largest of the Hyaena species that frequents our area of operations in Zimbabwe.

The female is some 10% larger than the male and her external genitalia are enlarged and difficult to distinguish from the males.

The social system is female dominated and based on the clan which varies from 5 or fewer adults and young in a desert environment to over 50 in prey rich savannah.

The clan occupies a communal den, uses communal latrines and jointly defends its territory ranging from 40 – 1000 km<sup>2</sup> delineated by calls, scent marking and boundary patrols.

Though renown as a scavenger, Hyaena are powerful hunters.

The mother is solely responsible for cub rearing with the dominant cub controlling access to the mother when suckling and in times of milk shortage may kill its sibling to improve its own chance of survival.

### Fast Facts:

<u>Body Length</u>	1.3 m
<u>Tail</u>	25 cm
<u>Weight</u>	62 70 kg
<u>Social Unit</u>	Group
<u>Avg Litter</u>	2 (Range 1-3)
<u>Gestation</u>	100 days
<u>Weaning</u>	14 – 18
<u>Months</u>	
<u>Prey</u>	Zebra, Wildebeest, Hares, Ground birds and small plains game
<u>Vocalisations</u>	Whoops – to rally its group or to locate cubs
	Laughs – to signify submission to a senior clan member



Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*



## Poaching & Snaring Report

The Painted Dog Research Project employs 17 men to carry out anti poaching patrols in the Gwayi Conservancy. The first unit was established in 2001, while a new unit was set up in January 2003 to provide better coverage, These men are split into two 8 men units supervised by Sikhosana Sibanda and are based at two separate camps, one situated adjacent to the fire tower on the Ganda Estate in Sikumi Forest, while the other is based along the Gwayi river, some 5 km west of the Gwayi River Hotel

Since the new unit was deployed in January 2003 they have collected 1091 snares, a frightening figure, however taken in isolation this number is misleading.

We have seen a steady drop in the total number of snares being found since the unit was deployed, more than 50% of the snares being collected in the first two months. Since then a number of arrests have been made, particularly in May when the unit arrested 14 people in the space of two weeks. Apart from the immediate affect of catching poachers in the act, the word soon gets around that the area is being patrolled on a regular basis and therefore the risk of being caught is high. The number of animals being caught is another good measure combined with the percentage of new snares this indicates that the unit are removing the snares before they do any damage.

The number of painted dogs KNOWN to have been killed in snares in the last eighteen months is 31 and thus resulted in a negative population growth for the species in the Conservancy for the period June 2000 to June 2003. During this period the Conservancy ought to have provided for 6 or 7 packs, representing 60+ individuals, with another 20+ individuals having dispersed to new areas to form new packs. Instead we are left with these 9 individuals, 4 of which have dispersed from Hwange National Park this year.

Our own anti poaching unit fear they will shortly be unemployed as there will be no wildlife to protect.. The sad truth is that if this situation continues they will be right. The combination of legal sport hunting and poaching can easily operate

together to devastate the wildlife.

Among some there seems to be a belief that wildlife is a plentiful resource that will go on and on. This same mistake was made in the colonial era where wildlife was slaughtered and as a consequence of this oversight many areas were devoid of wildlife and remain so today. The cost of restocking is totally prohibitive and should this wildlife disappear, all income generation in this region will be lost.

While food shortages and high unem-



Heritage—Removal of 2 snares.  
Treatment and transport by John Lemon

ployment caused by the drought and socio economic factors can be held partly responsible for this escalation in poaching there seems to be little doubt that the resettlement into what are primarily wildlife areas is also a significant factor.

The fine for poaching is only Z\$5,000 (equivalent to just under two (2) Australian dollars) or community service. It is very demoralising for those concerned individuals to risk physical harm in "arresting" a poacher only to see him back at "work" the next day. It is hard to put a dollar value on a species as endangered as a painted dog.

The tourist dollars generated from those travelling to Hwange to see painted dogs has yet to be quantified. However trophy hunting provides for easy comparison between the fines for poaching and the value of an individual species. The gulf is huge. Serious consideration ought to be given to the fine and sentence imposed for poaching.

Added to this is an apparent trend to-

wards absentee land lordship on farms designated under the A2 scheme. Farms that were previously owner occupied and thus managed in a more hands on way are currently not occupied by beneficiaries. Instead they are left under the guardianship of inexperienced employees. Thus a certain lack of control and necessary management prevails, leaving a sense of lawlessness.

The recent shooting by trophy hunters of three collared lions (one female & two males) being studied by the Hwange Lion Research Project merely adds to this sense of a lack of control. While it is accepted that there is no law against shooting lions on a quota, be they collared or uncollared it is perhaps an indication of a worrying trend. The Gwayi Conservancy forms a very important function as a buffer to Hwange National Park, which is Zimbabwe's most visited, and prestigious National Park and consequently a large source of foreign income to Zimbabwe. Should the Gwayi become devoid of wildlife as could easily happen under the current climate, the region will serve as a sink, a so-called vacuum effect draining the animals from inside Hwange National Park.

If you would like to provide support details on how you can make a personal contribution towards these animals is on the next page.



Painted Dog Conservation Incorporated  
ABN:30 268 127 580  
Registered in Western Australia

24 Earnley Way  
Balga WA 6061  
Australia

Phone: +61 (8) 9349 0140  
Other: Phone: +61 (8) 6304 2290  
Mobile: 041 425 0 426

### 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](http://WWW.PAINTEDDOGCONSERVATION.IINET.NET.AU)  
EMAIL  
[PDCINC@IINET.NET.AU](mailto:PDCINC@IINET.NET.AU)

## Would you Like to Help

The article on page 4 dealing with poaching is very real.

We have excellent local people who have been trained by Martin Steimer from the Netherlands, also an Ecovolunteer, with a background in crowd control.

The key factor in retaining these people who are classed as staff is to have sufficient funding available to pay them

a reasonable wage.

The project in Zimbabwe does **NOT** receive any Government assistance and is wholly reliant on donations to continue its operations.

Please consider a donation for the work to continue.



Some of the snares removed by the anti poaching teams.  
Can you imagine a worse fate for an animal caught in these?

## Here's what to do

Forward a cheque or money order made payable to:

“Painted Dog Conservation Inc.”  
C/- The Secretary  
10 Blackboy Way  
Morangup WA 6083

## Glossary

<b>Extirpate</b>	To destroy completely “Abolish”
<b>Kleptoparasitise</b>	Type of parasitism in which an animal searches out the prey or stored food of another.
<b>Morphometrics</b>	The study of the form and structure of plants & animals
<b>Nomenclature</b>	The system of names used in a branch of learning