



Painted Dog Conservation Organisation

End of Year Report 2012

Executive Summary: By Peter Blinston

Painted Dog Conservation (PDC) is a relatively well established, Conservation Organisation, which is recognized nationally and internationally. A complex variety of programmes have already been implemented by PDC, many as a reaction to already identified threats. We recognized that the complexity of the situation and level of the programmes required a more structured approach, which would enable better monitoring and evaluation.

Furthermore we recognized that in order to achieve our goals, we must determine the extent to which our actions are working and we must be able to diagnose why some actions succeed while others do not.

With this in mind we chose to develop our Strategic Plan following the steps of the “Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation” (CMP 2007), which is a collective approach of professional conservation organizations to practice adaptive management via an iterative project cycle, which is fundamental to achieving effective conservation.



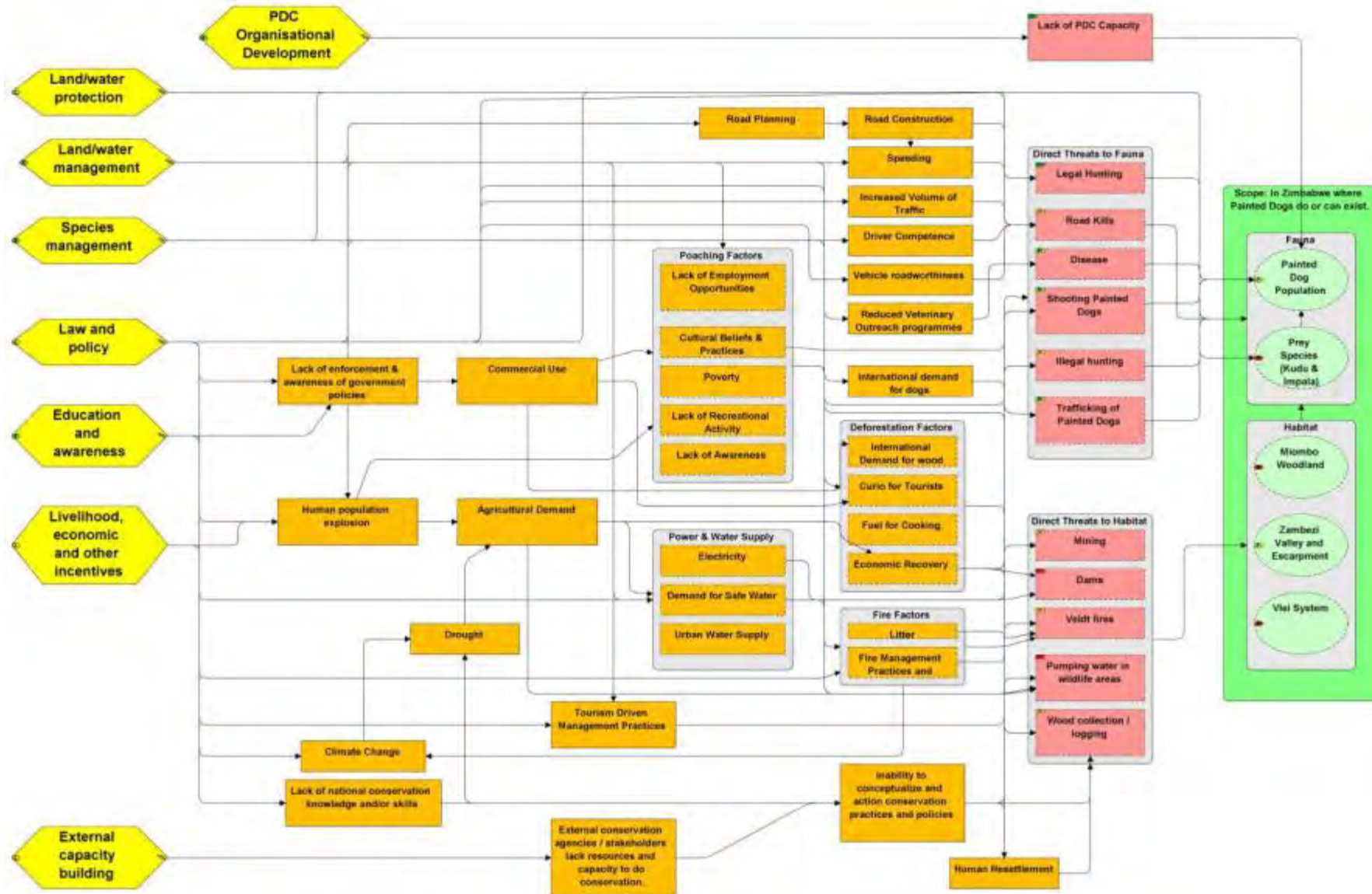
The PDC conceptual model (below) was developed to identify first the **PDC conservation targets** (green ovals), then the **direct threats** (pink boxes) that impact our targets, and the **indirect threats** that drive them (orange boxes). The diagram illustrates very clearly that the PDC targets are impacted by **multiple factors** and thus their status is affected by the interaction and summation of “**cumulative impacts**.”

The left most portion of the model highlights **indirect factors** such as the general lack of enforcement and a lack of awareness of government policies and how this affects, for example, poaching or vehicle speed. As you move closer to the targets, the relationship between the factors and how they affect the conservation targets becomes more direct.

Strategies and activities were developed and brought forward by the group to affect conservation of the targets. For each strategy the team developed detailed **theories of change**, which included how the information and understanding produced by PDC activities will ultimately influence management decisions and conservation of our targets.

This report will primarily focus on the activities for each strategy below except for the two strategies of Livelihood, Economic and other Incentives, and External Capacity Building, which PDC has not focussed upon, narrating on the events and challenges of the year.

Conceptual Model with Strategies



Executive Summary: By Peter Blinston...cont.:

Another year we will never forget? This seems to be the opening line of many of my reports and perhaps indicates the magnitude of the work we are undertaking with your generous support. I would like to begin with thank you again and again for that support. In 2012 we faced a crisis, which was averted by the immediacy of your response. PDC was certainly not alone in facing a looming financial crisis in 2012. So many organisations and individuals a like faced a similar situation and it is humbling to receive your unstinting support during such time.



There were many highpoints to the year. While the dogs are of course the focus of our life, people play an equally important role. Jealous has been with us for what seems like a life time and it was fitting that he was again granted an award for his commitment to conservation. It was a proud day for all of us when he was presented (left) with the van Tienhoven Conservation Award. Another highlight was PDC Receptionist and Interpretive Guide, Maria Njamba, visiting the UK on an educational / promotional trip. This was courtesy to our PDC UK partners and again a well-deserved reward for many years of dedicated conservation work.

It was yet another “mixed bag” of a year with the dogs and Dr Rasmussen covers much of this below in his report on the research activities. For me the highest point was the successful translocation of the Ukusutha pack from Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve to Gonarezhou. Captures and translocations of this sort are never simple or smooth processes and often it’s a case of thinking on your feet as a situation unfolds no matter how prepared you think you are. The “simple” task of capturing the six dogs was anything but that and took five days rather than the one-day that was anticipated. The drive to GNP went smoothly and the dogs were released into a holding boma, which they promptly escaped from! There was no point trying to recapture them, so they were monitored from the ground and via the satellite collars, while they made GNP their new home. They denned in June but as I write we are aware that they are denned again, leading us to conclude that the first litter did not survive and a second litter has been produced. This is quite unusual but not unheard of, so we will continue to monitor the situation. I would like to take the opportunity here to thank Dr Madzikanda, the Chief Ecologist for Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, and his team for their support and also Dr Rosemary Groom of the Lowveld Wild Dog Project for the follow up work.



Maria arrives at Heathrow

The situation in Hwange continues to concern us. The painted dog population seems to have increased slightly but remains low and more importantly the pack sizes are small. There is one good size pack of 27 dogs in the west of the park at Sinamatella, the remainder of the packs being in single figures. Vusile was the only alpha female to have pups in our immediate area and none of them seem to have survived.

Work in Mana Pools continued throughout the year and Greg was able to confirm the presence of six packs with a seventh pack just outside the park itself. The seven packs totalling more than 130 individuals. Collecting of DNA material for analysis is on-going as there is concern over the level of genetic diversity in this population. The dispersal of Cochise, from the Vundu Pack, into Mozambique

serves to further highlight just how important this population is for not only the national pack but also the species. One sad note from Mana is the continued disturbance of the dogs while they are denning. So called professional guides showing their complete ignorance of the situation, with their “we know it all” attitude. Their actions disgusted many tourists and truly professional guides. The unfortunate Long Pool pack were the victims of this for the second year in a row, the disturbance causing them to move their den prematurely at the cost of the lives of five pups.

The work undertaken with the communities in our Core Operating Area continues to develop in a truly positive way. The level of excellence of our Children’s Bush Camp, Conservation Clubs and the HIV/ AIDS programmes is widely recognised as indicated by the awards received and the number of organisations wishing to emulate our work. The detail of this is covered below. A survey was conducted by Wild 4 Life, our partners on the HIV / Aids programme, as part of the process to determine the effectiveness of our programmes. Representative selections of the community were questioned on all aspects of PDC and the results were extremely positive. The survey concluding that:

- PDC’s interventions were positively associated with community and individual benefits especially in the areas of conservation, education and HIV and AIDS.
- There were positive associations among people exposed to aspects of the PDC HIV / AIDS programme like counselling, testing and treatment.
- There was positive impact among respondents exposed to PDC programmes who reported that the existence of the painted dog has developed their community

The challenge for PDC is to build on this moving forward. Ensuring that we achieve the behavioural changes required to under pin a sustainable conservation effort. We know it’s a tough road to travel and need your continued support and friendship more than ever to ensure that this will be possible. Thank you.



Activities, Objectives and Indicators.

Strategy 1: Land and Water Management

Description of Strategy: Actions directed at conserving or restoring sites, habitats and the wider environment. The aim of this strategy is to protect and improve suitable habitats for Painted Dogs and their prey species in the Core Operating Area.

Factor(s) the Strategy Will Address: This strategy will address the Direct Threats of illegal hunting, wood collection / logging and pumping water in wildlife areas within the Core Operating Area.

Anti-Poaching Units / Patrols. By Enoch Zulu and Peter Blinston.

1. Overview:

The year presented many challenges again for the APU, with internal discipline impacting moral and performance at the start of the year. Once this was dealt with, the teams' performance picked up to a satisfactory standard for the remaining months. The focus of patrols was the Core Operating Area, with the majority of patrols being carried out on land bordering Hwange National Park as opposed to inside Hwange National Park. Effort was made to increase the number of joint patrols with other stakeholders such as Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) and Forestry Commission Protection Unit (FPU). PDC generally provides for the logistical requirements such as transport and the bulk of the manpower. While such joint patrols obviously increase the manpower available on the ground they also increase the authority of the patrols resulting in a significant number of arrests being made. Patrols with FPU in Sikumi Forest areas of Jwape, Ganda, Ivory Lodge, Mtaranaka, Mtandasoka and Mabale resulted in 8 poachers being arrested. Joint patrols with the ZPWMA and ZRP resulted in 13 poachers being arrested within the Gwayi Conservancy area. A tip off from reliable informers resulted in 6 poachers being arrested and also signalled the start of a new strategy for us in the war to combat poaching. The cultivation of an informant's network began and is still a process being developed, which we believe will deliver significant results in the months and years ahead.



2. Performance Review:

Four buffalo were found killed in snares, one sable, one warthog, one baboon, four kudus, one bushbuck and ten impala were killed in snares.



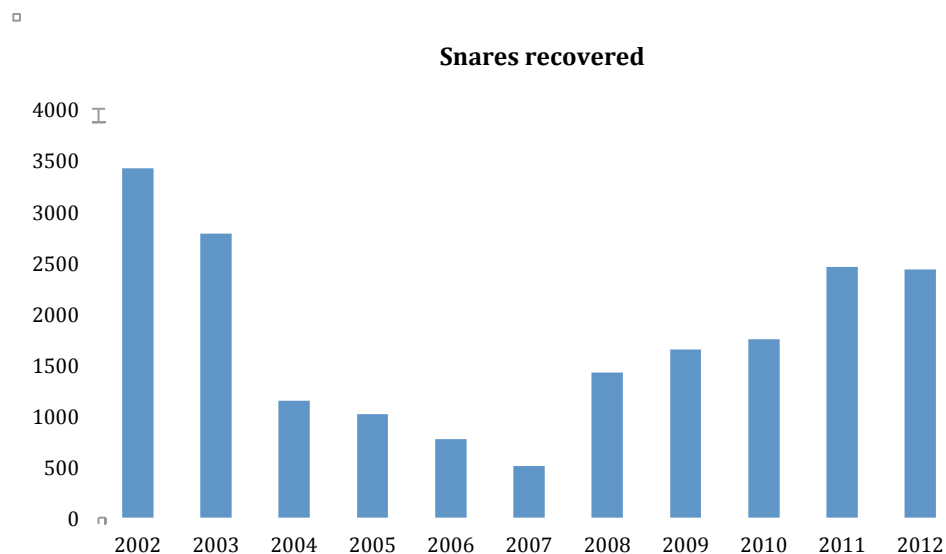
The parks and Wildlife Act contains The Trapping of Animals legislation, which stipulates the value of individual animals. The total value in this case is \$75,000 for these 22 animals. That is money lost to the landowner, but does not really reflect the actual tragedy of the loss. We estimate from our years of undertaking anti-poaching patrols that we may recover ten per cent of snares set. So our estimate would be that more than 24,000 snares would have been set in those locations and taking that further, the financial loss of wildlife could be more than \$750,000.

Total Patrols	Total snares recovered	Animals found dead in snares	Animals released	Poachers arrested
313	2,438	22	3	32

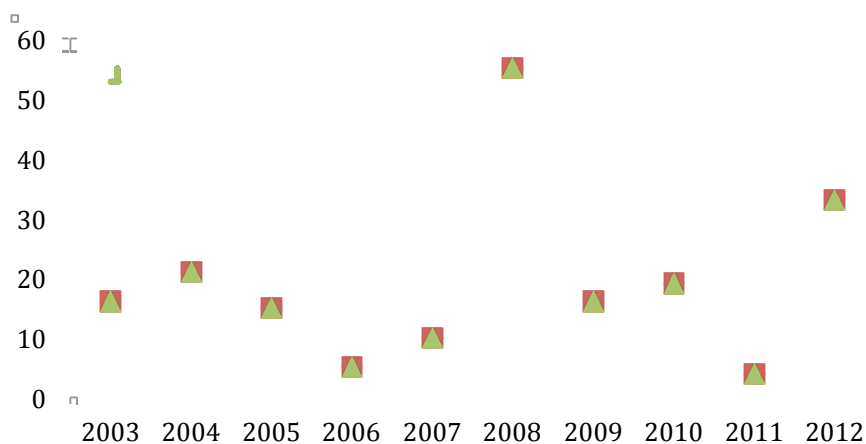
Location	Number of Snares
Hwange National Park	51
Forestry Areas	69
Gwayi Conservancy	2318

On a happier note we managed to release two buffaloes and one wildebeest

NUMBER OF SNARES COLLECTED EACH YEAR:



NUMBER OF POACHERS ARRESTED EACH YEAR:



3. Arrests and Prosecution:

Number of Poachers Arrested	Offence	Penalty	Actual Penalty Served	Value of Animal
6	Fishing without permit/Trespass	\$10 spot fine each	As convicted	N/A
6	Unlawful cutting trees	\$5 spot fine for each log (11 logs)	As convicted	N/A
2	Possession of snares	Cautioned and discharged	As convicted	N/A

Number of Poachers Arrested	Offence	Penalty	Actual Penalty Served	Value of Animal
3	Possession of dangerous drugs	\$20 each	As convicted	N/A
4	Possession of snares	12 Months in prison	200 hours community service at ZRP Lubimbi	N/A
2	Killing a buffalo	36 Months in prison	450 hours community service at ZRP Lubimbi	\$10 000
1	Killing a buffalo	24 Months in prison	410 hours community service at Mabale Clinic	\$10 000
4	Killing a bush-buck	16 Months in prison	420 hours community service at ZRP Lubimbi	\$1 000
2	Killing a sable	3 Months in prison	3 Months in prison	\$15 000
2	Killing a blue wildebeest	3 Months in prison	3 Months in prison	\$1 000

Research Activities: Overall Synopsis. By Dr Gregory Rasmussen.

Painted Dog Research focal activities are to nationally monitor distribution, densities and demography



in order to understand direct and indirect threats to packs and this is undertaken under the framework of the MOU with the ZPWMA to monitor the National Pack. Results continue to highlight that the painted dog population in Hwange National Park (HNP) is in a precarious state with the damage to habitat created by the elephants seemingly accelerating. Due to more extensive coverage in Hwange and in particular Sinamatella and Robins regions, the number of known individuals to include pups is 88 from a 8732 km² sample area, which represents 60 % of the park. As the remaining unstudied area is

all in degraded Kalahari sand habitat it is estimated that the park total is 117 ± 12 individuals, which is significantly down on the 1997 census where the mean estimate was 146 ± 22 individuals.

Failure of the Hwange packs is still deemed causal to the combination of a dystrophic habitat and



reduced prey, with the latter issues believed to be caused by high elephant numbers that are linked to provision of pumped water. Tragically due to conditions inside the park being unfavourable for painted dogs, when territories are vacant (caused by road traffic accidents and snaring) resident HNP packs leave the park and so create a destructive sink effect. Of concern is a significant increase in the number of dogs killed on the Victoria Falls roads with three packs being extirpated in 2012 because of cars alone.

In the Gwayi, which in recent history, had a population of at least three packs numbering a total of ± 36 dogs it is estimated that there are no more than 5-6 dogs, which have not increased over the last

five years. Concern here, is that due to the combined effect of hunting and poaching in many areas of the Gwayi, the game has been completely depleted.

Continued research in the Zambezi valley has highlighted a more optimistic picture with three packs now being collared. Individual identities based on photographs has confirmed 138 dogs in seven packs in Mana and the adjacent hunting area, with reports of dogs further to the west in Kariba and Gache Gache and east towards Dande. As the area studied has so far represents only 50% of the Zambezi Valley utilised for wildlife, it is looking probable that the Zambezi Valley population is Zimbabwe's stronghold and a very important population to understand. Of concern however are indications from similarity in coat patterns, cranial morphology and flopped ears that there could be significant inbreeding depression, and consequently a detailed DNA study is underway.

Research activities as indicated in the Strategic Plan relating to pumping of water and vegetation are on-going. A draft paper on the results from the Time Lapse Cameras (TLCs) positioned at selected water holes in HNP concentrates on comparing the use of TLCs with more traditional methods of assessing diversity and abundance of mammal species, such as transect surveys and concludes that both methods compare favourably, each with its own set of considerations.

As actual results have yet to be reached regarding the impact of pumping water there was no seminar with ZPWMA or stakeholders.



Strategy 2. Species Management. By Dr Gregory Rasmussen and Peter Blinston.

Description of Strategy: Actions directed at managing or restoring species, focused on the species of concern itself

Factor(s) the Strategy Will Address: Aimed at reducing the Direct Threats of road kills, shooting Painted Dogs, illegal hunting, frequency and intensity of veldt fires, and trafficking of Painted Dogs.

Funding restrictions impacted on the Trans Boundary study and the National census though progress has been made with work being undertaken in HNP and Mana Pools, with dogs collared and genetic materials taken and submitted to Harvard University for analysis.

Sightings by Quarter Degree Square maps (QDS) are being collected with data for HNP, Gwayi, Victoria Falls, Matetsi, Mana Pools, SAVE / GNP being collated so far. The new sighting sheet below was developed by Monica DuClaud and Sherry Paul. A donor was secured for the printing of these at the end of the year, so we anticipate being able to distribute them in 2013.

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About Painted Dogs

Scientific name: *Lycatan pictus* **Red list:** Endangered
Range: Painted dogs once occupied 39 range states throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Today they are found in only 25 range states, with known populations estimated at only 5,500 across the entire African continent.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Painted dogs are not wild domestic dogs but a distinct species that evolved separately. Their scientific name translates as "Painted wolf-like animal."
- Painted dogs allow their pups to feed first and will bring food back to any pack member that is injured or undertaking "baby-sitting duties."
- Painted dogs mourn the loss of dead pack members.
- The loss of just one adult pack member, whether to a capture or being hit by a car, can spell doom for the entire pack, as each dog plays a key role in hunting and protecting the pups.
- Due to their teamwork and speed, 75% of painted dog hunts end in success.

Help us protect Zimbabwe's endangered painted dogs. Your support is their survival. Thank you!

www.painteddog.org
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Have you seen a Painted Dog?



We're counting on your help!

It's Painted Dog census time and we need your help.

Painted Dog Conservation is conducting a national census of painted dogs in Zimbabwe. The census helps us to know how many painted dogs there are, where they're located and what's happening to the national population. With this information we can make informed conservation plans.

Source: Two young pups playing for awhile on a savanna field in HNP.
Right: Painted dogs killed by cars is a problem under veldt fires.



Here's how you can help

Any time you see a painted dog, please **fill out and mail the attached card or email the information to research@painteddog.org**. Collect as much information as you can but leave blank spaces when you're not sure of the answer.

As every dog has a unique coat pattern, **ALL photographs and video footage are invaluable**. Also, please record any painted dogs that you see dead, in particular those killed by cars. If you can record the exact road and km peg, we can erect road signs to alert motorists to the problem, and hopefully reduce more unnecessary carnage.

TO SEND PHOTOS OR VIDEO
Compress your photos or videos in a folder and email it as follows: **your email address/date/AM or PM**
For example: **johesmith@yahoo.com10July2013AM**
Upload the folder to us to: **<https://www.transferbigfiles.com/dropbox/gregor17896>**
OR, bring your photos and videos to be copied at the Painted Dog Conservation Office opposite the Hwange National Park airport.

Every picture helps!

PAINTED DOG SIGHTING SHEET

DATE _____ TIME OF SIGHTING _____
LOCATION _____
GPS READING (UTM OR LAT/LONG) _____
NUMBER OF PAINTED DOGS SEEN: _____
ADULT MALES _____
ADULT FEMALES _____
ADULTS - UNKNOWN SEX _____
PUPS _____
TOTAL NUMBER OF DOGS _____

In the last 12 months three packs have been destroyed by cars. Please inform us of any dogs you find dead, especially if hit by a car.

DID YOU TAKE PHOTOS AND/OR VIDEO? ☐ YES ☐ NO
Please email them or bring them to us! Read how on the left.

WERE THE DOGS ON A KILL? ☐ YES ☐ NO

FREY OFFICE AND SEX _____

COMMENTS _____

NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

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Results for Hwange region. (Our Core Operating Area).

As at December 2012, the status of known Hwange packs both inside and outside the park comprised 13 known packs totalling 88 as per Table below.

Pack	Total No.	Ad. M	Ad. F	Ad. Unknown Sex	YYM	YYF	YYU	Pups Born
Robins	6			6				
Sisele	3	1	1		1			
North Tamafupa	3			3				
Tamafupa	9			9				
Kutanga	5	2	3					0
Shamisu	3	1	1	1				0
Bumboozie	3			3				
Wilderness	5	1	3	1				
Bomani	2	1	1					0
Lukosi	27	4	4		5	4	2	8
Shumba	3	2	1					
Nyamandlovu	7	2	3	2				
Guarangwe	12			7				5
Totals	88	14	17	32	6	4	2	13

Of concern is the number of known reproductive failures in Hwange. Here out of five packs where the outcome of reproductive success was known 60% of the packs failed reproductively. Reproductive failure was either characterised by an observed pregnancy or lactation but no forthcoming pups or simply no pups seen in September/ October when the denning season is deemed over. All of these failures were in the Kalahari sand ecosystem, which has been more damaged by elephants than the basaltic Sinamatella region.

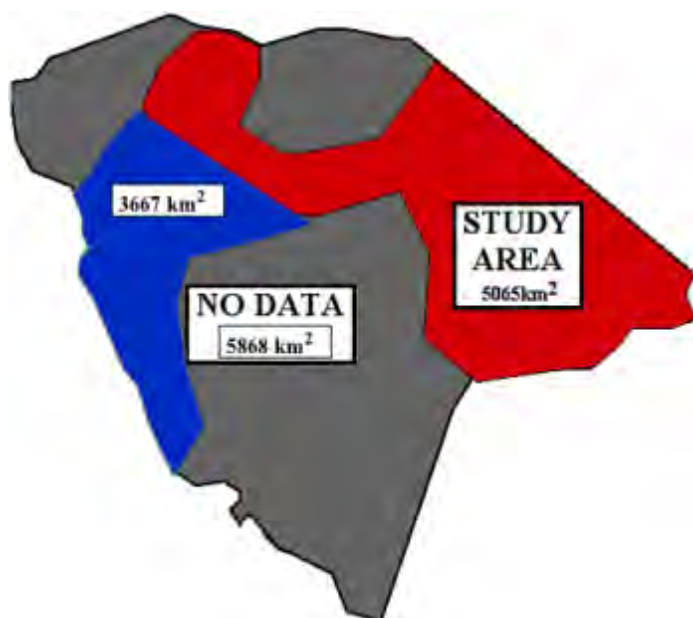


Fig 1. Sample area from which data were available to determine the number of Painted dogs in Hwange National Park

Results for Zambezi valley.

Currently identified in the region are seven packs, three of which are now collared.

1/ Nyakasanka pack: Range Wilderness safari concession. Number seven adults eight pups. A satellite GPS collar has been fitted and this will be monitored. Concern here is that 13 dogs are missing from this pack and none of these individuals have appeared elsewhere.

2/ Kanga Pack: Range Kanga / Wilderness concession area. Number 15 adults and 15 pups. Collared with a VHF collar on a two year old male. His leg was broken and a splint was fitted as well as supportive drugs were given.

3/ Vundu pack: Range Vundu to Nyamepi. In October this pack numbered 18 adults nine pups. Collars: Alpha male with VHF, Yearling male with Satellite collar. Currently this pack numbers 22 as five dogs have dispersed, with the collared yearling being a part of this group. As at the end of 2012 this group was recorded as having dispersed to the Tete province in Mozambique.

4/ Longpool pack: Currently the range of this pack is only known to be in the Longpool area. Number seven adults and two pups. Five pups are known to have died with four deaths being attributed to the disturbance caused at the den site in June / July this year. So far un-collared, and in the hope of averting high losses due to den disturbance in 2013 collaring of this pack is seen as a priority.

5/ Chitake Pack: Range Chitake area. Number believed to be 13 adults plus nine pups.

6/ Chikwenya pack: Range Chikwenya. Number 14 adults and 12 pups.

7/ Chewore pack: Range Chewore. Number five adults four pups.

In spite of the demographically good populations, there is concern that the population could be inbred as it is believed that it has been in a “sink situation.” for many years. There are continued indications from similarity in coat patterns via “signatures” as well as flopped ears that there could be caused by inbreeding depression, and consequently the collection of data for a detailed DNA study has begun. Signatures, appear at exactly the same locus on the individual, and are genetically determined. They are normal and appear every few generations, however in Mana they appear to be of higher frequency than in the Hwange system, which is not inbred. Here dogs have been recorded swimming the Zambezi River and tragically rather than establishing a healthy population on the Zambian side, the dogs are killed and none have been documented as returning.



Fig 3. Data from Satellite collar showing transboundary dispersal into Mozambique.

Results for Gonarezhou.

In January 2012 a pack of five dogs (three males two females) was released into Gonarezhou from Hwange. All dogs were collared to be able to reliably determine the outcome of the release. Of the five one female was found missing four months after the release with the four dogs breeding to produce two pups which did not survive. In November 2012 they were noted to have bred again however the number of pups born is currently unknown.

Results for Matetsi/Vic falls.

A pack of three dogs with pups was collared in the hunting area near the main road. The number of pups is unknown however one dog from this pack has already been killed by a car on the main road. From a standpoint of connectivity this population is important and understanding the threats through more collaring is paramount. Also positive is the confirmed presence of a small pack of four inside the Zambezi National Park and another pack of five further up on the Kazungula road.

Rehabilitation Facility:

Intervention and rehabilitation guidelines have been drafted but require review and editing before formal presentation to ZPWMA. The main activity involving the Rehabilitation Facility in 2012 was its invaluable role in the translocation of the five painted dogs to Gonarezhou National Park (GNP). The five dogs had spent most of 2011 on the Victoria Falls Private Game Reserve. After capture on the reserve, they were held at the facility for a short period of time to settle down and then moved to GNP.



A highlight was also the completion of the Rehabilitation Facility Research Lab / Clinic with a solar power installation. This has been a long process but well worth the wait. The lab will provide the focus for all research activity, data collection, analysis and storage.



Lobbying of Zoos is on-going regarding captive breeding and a meeting is scheduled for 2013/14.

Progress is being made on the National Monitoring Database and the development of the footprint identity profile for painted dogs.

Strategy 3: Education and Awareness. By Wilton Nsimango, Forgie Wilson, Dominic Nyathi and Peter Blinston.

Description of Strategy: Actions directed at people to improve understanding and skills, and influence behaviour.

Factor(s) the Strategy Will Address: Aimed at reducing the Direct Threats of road kills, shooting Painted Dogs, wood collection and logging, the impact of mines and dams, illegal hunting, and the frequency and intensity of veldt fires.

HIV / AIDS Programme.

The PDC / Wild4Life programme is the primary vehicle used to deliver the PDC messages concerning the dogs and wider conservation issues that threaten them plus their prey base and habitat. It is through this programme that we reach the broadest spread of the general population in our Core operating Area. Thus we consider that the future of the painted dogs is very connected with the health of the local population.

The distinct intervention of PDC in assisting in the provision of “universal access” could not be challenged in 2012.

Universal access, according to the World Health Organization WHO, means establishing an environment in which HIV prevention, treatment, care and support interventions are available, accessible and affordable to all who need them.

PDC covers a wide range of interventions in our Core Operating Area, covering individuals, households and communities in the following Anti Retro Viral (ART) services, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), provider-initiated testing and counselling (PITC), prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), sexually transmitted infections (STI), family planning (FP), and community-home-based care (CHBC). Structural adjustments, renovations and constructions together with staff trainings in the clinics were greatly commended by the local leadership, Hwange Rural District Council, Hwange District Health Executive and the Ministry of Health & Child Welfare’s Provincial office based in Bulawayo.

PDC came first in the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) 2011 Provincial Awards, held at Elephant Hills hotel in Victoria Falls in the “Best HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme at the Work Place.” That led to the automatic qualification into the ZNCC Regional competition held on the 23rd March 2012 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe’s second largest city, at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair grounds. It was a memorable event, the meeting of the giants in their provinces, PDC won first place again and were well represented by its coordinators Forgie Wilson (Frogs) and Dominic Nyathi.

PDC Awareness Campaign.

In 2011 PDC Trustee Chief Nelukoba and PDC Community Liaison Officer Boniface Manda (BM) went from ward to ward in the core operating area, informing people of PDC programmes and why we are conducting them and importantly what our expectations are in terms of reciprocal behaviour/activity towards PDC and thus the dogs. In 2012 this was followed up with a survey using the platform presented by the HIV / AIDS programme as a way to reach a broad section of the community. The majority of the participants are aware that if



Asst. HIV Coordinator Dominic Nyathi poses with the 2 ZNCC shields for Best HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme at Work Place at provincial and regional levels



the dogs go extinct then the whole community will be affected because all the support that they are getting will be gone and they will go back to being a poor community. They highlighted that support that they are getting like ART, maintenance of boreholes, education of their children, supporting of soccer leagues will all be come to an end. The participants also understood that if the dogs go into extinction then there won't be any reason for PDC to continue existing hence the community will have lost. The effects of that happening will mean that people will die of HIV and AIDS related illnesses since most people won't afford to travel to Hwange and doctors won't be able to come down to the clinics. If PDC closes the participants also noted that many job opportunities will be lost, hence the need to support PDC in the conservation of the painted dog so that they also benefit from their continued existence.

Participants who initially were said to be unable to understand this level of the framework like waiting mothers, village health workers and soccer beneficiaries understood that for PDC's interventions to succeed then people must change their behaviours regarding poaching and snaring, speeding along the roads in the painted dog area so that the dog remains in existence and the community continue to benefit from its continued existence.

Children's Bush Camps.

The Iganyana Children's Bush Camp is arguably the flagship programme for PDC. Another tremendously successful year was topped off with what we referred to as the Kids for Science Camp, which featured the brightest children from the 19 camps conducted during the year. With almost 7000 children having attended the camp since its inception in 2003, we can only hope that the "seeds" planted will germinate in time and grow to become giants of conservation.

We are challenged to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme and have



put such objectives in place, with measurable indicators, based upon the retention of knowledge, using specially designed pre and post camp questionnaires. Results so far show an impressive 71.4% average score in the post camp questionnaires. We have taken this further using an ecology and conservation concepts test, with the children that attended the Bush Camp and who are now at secondary school, comparing their scores with children who did not attend the Bush Camp. Here again the results indicate the effectiveness of the programme. An observation also

made by the Minister of Environment during one of his visits. The table below illustrates that the children attending the camp are performing better than children who did not.

Secondary School	Non Bush camp Graduates score	Bush camp Graduates score	% Difference
NECHILIBI HIGH	41%	67%	63%
DETEMA	43%	83%	93%
DAMPA	44%	50%	13%

Finally we are also looking at the number of children who go onto take science “O” Levels, inspired by their time at the camp.

The anecdotal stories also provide ample evidence of the power of the Bush Camp. Tendai’s story of not only releasing a kudu caught in a snare but also recovering the snares and having the poacher arrested. The story of Nomagugu, who went to great lengths to not only report the presence of an injured painted dog near her village but also persuaded her teacher and parents to capture the dog, which was then driven to the PDC Rehabilitation Facility for treatment. In September the children from Dingani School reported a poacher from the Magori community who intended to use cyanide to kill elephants and take away ivory.



The “interconnectivity game” was introduced into the Bush Camp programme in 2012. Here the children stand in a circle and talk of nature, conservation, the dogs and what they as an individual can do. After making such a statement the child throws a ball of string to another in the circle, while holding onto the end of the string. The end result, once all of the children have spoken, is a spiders web type structure, which serves to illustrate how the actions of one individual are connected or impact on the actions of many. The children love the game and many statements concerning poaching are made, with one child stating that he would never allow his parents to buy meat from a poacher again no matter how hungry he was. He hoped that this would discourage the poacher from his activities. They are all small steps or even giant strides in the right direction and certainly illustrate that the children grasp the concepts being presented to them during their stay at the Bush Camp.



We are always happy to have visitors observe the camp. In 2012 we had Ministry of Education officials, representatives from other conservation organisations and donors visit us, and all were suitably impressed with what they saw. The Headmaster from Hartley School, which is situated outside Harare, came to the camp with the children, as it was the first time for his school to attend. He was so impressed that he immediately booked a slot for his school for 2013. Indeed all of the donor schools return year after year and we increased the number to 11 such schools in 2012. These donor schools are all situated outside of our Core Operating Area and they pay for the cost of their camp, plus a little extra as they can afford, which subsidizes the cost of the “Free of Charge” programme that targets the schools in our Core Operating Area.



As if to underline the excellence of the programme, Wilton Nsimango has been approached to provide input into improving the National Curriculum and syllabus for wildlife Conservation Education in Zimbabwe.

Unfortunately funding limitations prevented us from implementing the Happy Readers programme, which aims to improve English literacy in grade one and two children.

Bush Camp Attendance in 2012:

Free Of Charge Bush Camp Programme	
Total Number of Free of Charge Bush Camps so far this year:	20
Total Number of Free of Charge Bush Camps since programme began:	179
Total Number of students attending Bush Camp so far this year:	680
Total Number of students attending Bush Camp since programme began:	5825

ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS	
Total Number of Camps so far this year:	11
Total Number of Camps since programme began:	32
Total Number of Students so far this year:	314
Total Number of students attending Bush Camp since programme began:	1143

Conservation Clubs. Very much on track and another successful year with 19 Clubs (15 Primary School, four Secondary School) now established. There are 12 nature corners set up and in 2012 these clubs undertook or participated in activities such as tree planting and clean up campaigns. This programme has evolved in such a wonderful way and compliments the Bush Camp superbly as the vehicle for the children to participate in and undertake conservation orientated activities on a daily basis.



Number of Conservation Clubs in the Primary schools	15
Number of Conservation Clubs in the Secondary schools	4
Number of Quiz Competitions conducted this year	5
Number of Clean-up campaigns	4
Number of Nature corners in the schools	15
Number of Tree Planting activities in the clubs	4
Number of Performing Arts Competitions conducted	4
Number of World Parks Day commemoration	1
Number of Gulley reclamation activities by Clubs	2
Number of Nutrition/Herbs gardens run by the clubs	5

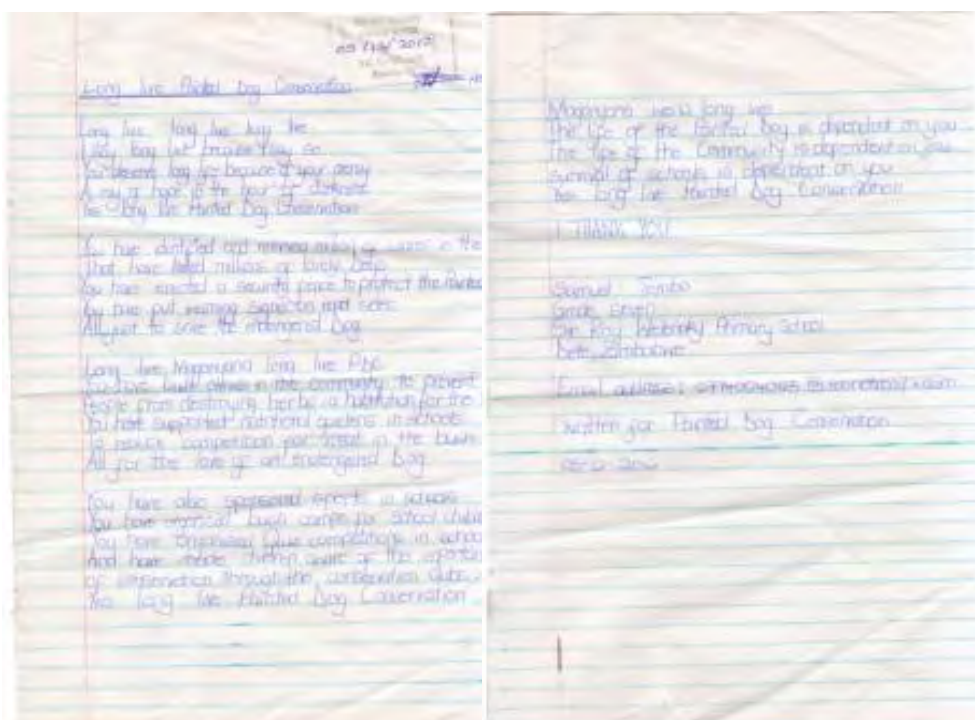
Children from these clubs have performed against relatively bigger and better equipped schools across the country and come out on top in a variety of competitions. Sir Roy Welensky Primary School in Dete, came 4th out of 20 schools in the provincial wildlife quiz held in Bulawayo, Professor Mundy of the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), commented that it was encouraging to find organisations like PDC supporting the exercise. There was improved performance in the nature corner competitions as tiny Hankano Primary School had a magnificent display with very powerful information on Zimbabwe's heritage sites and National Parks. Most of our international visitors who saw the displays were amazed at the level of knowledge from the children who gave presentations.

The Performing Arts Competition, which aims to incorporate arts and drama as a way to learn about conservation, was again a great success in 2012 with the theme ***"Conserve the endangered painted dog for a better living," the Dos and Don'ts***. There was stiff competition amongst the schools and the presentations have shown a high level of understanding of conservation concepts, with the theme aimed at increasing awareness as to why PDC is involved in community orientated programmes.



The children have generally developed enthusiasm and a positive attitude to most of the activities involved in the conservation clubs, such as tree planting, gully reclamation, and garden projects. The clean-up campaigns were a success as they all involved the local stakeholders, businesses and the soccer clubs. The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) were impressed enough to donate 24 litter bins for distributed to the local business centres.

Samuel Tembo is a rising star. The winner of the 2012 Performing Arts Competition, with his poem "Long Live Painted Dog Conservation". Samuel also won the competition in 2011, at only 11 years of age and went on to represent the region at a World Climate Change rally in Victoria Falls. The poem is copied here, though you need to witness his passion and enthusiasm when presenting it in public to gauge its full impact. Equally encouraging is the passion and support of his parents, who are always so appreciative of PDC and encourage Samuel to make the most of the opportunities PDC have presented him with. Heart-warming stuff and all the encouragement we need.



Arts and Crafts Programme.



The programme continues to be a success with over 30 artisans engaged in the production of environmentally friendly crafts for the local and

international market. Managerial challenges exist but are being tackled and progress is being made.



Outreach Community Development.

We have not yet engaged with Foundation for Farmers though 15 farmers are engaged in sustainable farming techniques. We expect this to increase once Foundation for Farmers are engaged. The established gardens had good produce over the year and they managed to provide their own required inputs such as seed and tools.



Four pump minders were trained in the month of May in a bid to have skilled people locally available who can repair the boreholes we have been installed. The tool kit purchased thereafter has been of great value as Mabale, Lupote and Lokitshi boreholes have been repaired.

The bee-keeping project continues to frustrate and the plan is to visit a nearby group of beekeepers to learn from their activities, the visit is aimed at collecting samples of the type of trees around their area to compare the vegetation availability and density.

There was a new partnership with KAITE project from Harare who came in to assist the Lupote group on growing and marketing chillies. Workshops have been lined up for the coming year to equip the group with more information and skill in this field/business.



Technical advice on environmental impact assessments.

Input given by PDC into the Liberation Coal Mining project in 2011 was also included in the EIA for the China Sunlight Africa Mine. We have abandoned objectives linked to this as PDC will not be able to engage in monitoring the impact of the mining though there is real concern over the enormity of the proposed mines and the inevitable wide spread environmental destruction that will follow.

Strategy 4: Law and Policy. By Peter Blinston

Description of Strategy: Actions to develop, change, influence, and help implement formal legislation, regulations, and voluntary standards.

Factor(s) the Strategy Will Address: Aimed at reducing the Direct Threats of trafficking, road kills, disease, shooting Painted Dogs, illegal hunting, and the numbers of Kudu & Impala hunted on quota in safari areas and within Parks Estates.

Activity: Lobby for Painted Dogs CITES Appendix 1 listing. We have major issues here. ZPWMA took an official stance on the desire to have Painted Dogs listed on Appendix 1. Other SADC countries have stated unofficially that they don't have any issue with dogs being taken from the wild and South Africa stated they would not support such a proposal as it would impact on their captive breeders. The report produced by Dutch partner SOS Wild Dogs and co-authored by Dr Rasmussen, was considered to be insufficient by IUCN / SSC Canid Specialist Group Chairman Professor Claudio Sillero,

ZPWMA CITES representative, Olivia Mufute, felt that time had run out for any proposal to be submitted for COP 16 to be held in Thailand in 2013. Her view was that SADC will politically vote as a block and to make South Africa change its mind would indeed require much stronger evidence. If another range state, such as Kenya, submitted the proposal then we would face the awkward situation of the SADC countries voting against it due largely to the political situation within CITES and the controversial elephant situation in particular. Ironical as Zimbabwe is the only country to have documented cases of painted dogs being taken from the wild illegally.

A way forward needs to be discussed with COP 18 presenting the next opportunity.

Revise road Regulations.

This is on track with the application submitted to Roads Department in Bulawayo and they have forwarded it onto Harare. It seems likely that they will agree to the reduction on speed limits but not on the Bulawayo to Victoria Falls section.



Implement Vaccination and Veterinarian Policies.

Very much on track with a second vaccination programme of domestic dogs undertaken in June. Locations were Dete, Chezou, Cross Dete, Lupote, Kamalala, Songwa, Gwayi, Mabale, Chimwara, Sianyinga and Makwandara. A total of 800 domestic dogs were vaccinated for rabies and distemper and ten cats were vaccinated for rabies. In addition approximately 100 castrations on domestic dogs were carried out as well.



Revise quota system on impala and kudu.

No progress was made on this issue as data was only secured from ZPWMA towards the end of the year. Quotas have already been set for 2013 so work will have to continue through 2013 with the aim of influencing the 2014 quotas.

Strategy 8: PDC Organisational Development. By Peter Blinston

Description of Strategy: Actions directed at PDC Core operational structure, facility maintenance and specifically development of infrastructure such as accommodation and essential facilities. This includes appointment of GM, Financial Controller / Accountant plus second in charge in key positions such as Bush Camp, tracking (Jealous) and building capacity in terms of field research capabilities.

Factor(s) the Strategy Will Address: Aimed at reducing the Direct Threat of a lack of capacity within PDC.

Construction of PDC Base Camp.



Good progress was made on phase one (three senior and five junior staff houses plus vehicle workshop and stores) though the work is behind the anticipated schedule due largely to issues with contractors. Completion date was supposed to be end of August 2012 but it is likely to be end of March 2013 now. Despite this we are on track for overall completion by the end of 2014.



Immediate financial savings in the region of \$1,000 per month will be realised once phase one is complete. The long term stability for PDC is hard to measure, yet critical to our future in a location that has limited accommodation, which is only available at the moment because of the down turn in tourism. Any increase in tourism, while positive for the area, will inevitably bring pressure from landlords, who will want their properties back for their own use. PDC will be well positioned to handle this once the Base Camp is fully completed by the end of 2013.

No action, other than discussion, has taken place regarding actual recruitment of new staff due largely to financial restrictions even if suitable candidates were sourced. This applies particularly to the Research Department, which is short staffed, a factor that has impacted on activity and associated objectives / indicators.

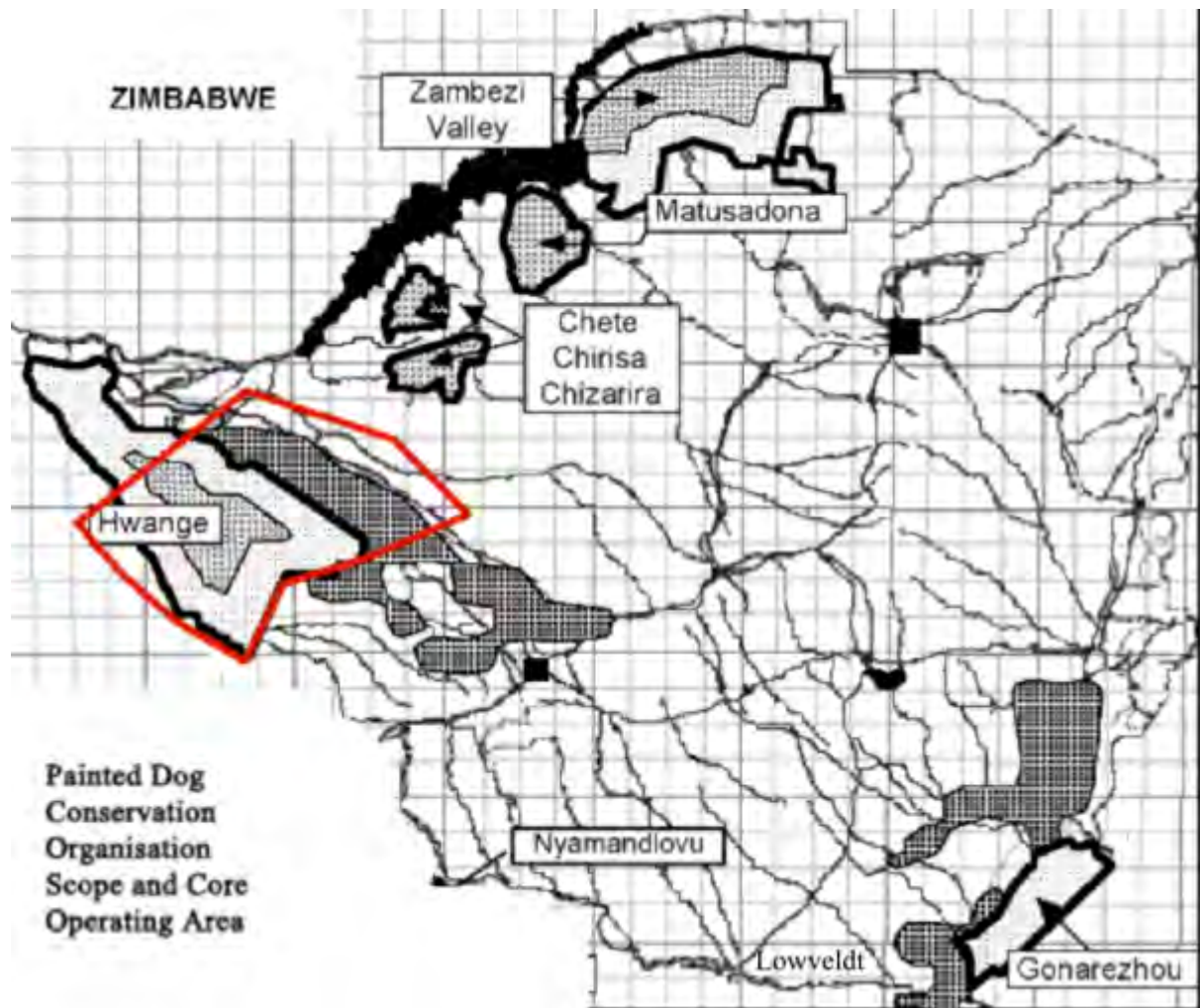
Training is on-going with Greg Gibbard undertaking in house training with staff on word and excel. Lorna Gumbo, the PDC Administrator is undertaking a Business Management training programme at SPECISS College in Bulawayo.

Appendix One: Project Scope.

Scope

The scope of the project is geographic and includes areas in Zimbabwe where Painted Dogs do or can exist (Figure 1) and within that a CORE OPERATING AREA which is defined as Campfire, Private Farms, Forestry and Communal lands adjacent to Hwange National Park (outlined in red in Figure 1).

Figure 1. Map of Project Area



Appendix Two: Direct Threats

The Strategic Plan identified a series of direct threats to our conservation targets. These direct threats are human actions that directly affect one or more of our conservation targets. The following table describes each of the primary direct threats.

Table 1. Description of Direct Threats

Direct Threat	Description
Direct Threats to Fauna	
Legal Hunting	Quota setting related to the legal off take of Kudu and Impala, which are the major prey species of Painted Dogs
Road Kills	Vehicle collisions with Painted Dogs and their prey
Disease	Includes rabies, distemper, anthrax, foot & mouth that can infect Painted Dogs
Shooting Painted Dogs	Direct shooting of Painted Dogs resulting from a general human beliefs and dislikes of Painted Dogs
Illegal Hunting	Includes subsistence and some commercial poaching of Painted Dogs and their prey with wire snares and domestic dogs.
Trafficking of Painted Dogs	Instances of pups dug out of dens for breeding centres.
Direct Threats to Habitat	
Mining	Mining for coal, gold & diamonds that destroys habitats and indirectly leads to increased anthropogenic impacts on Painted Dogs and their prey
Dams	Impacts of the Kariba Dam & proposed Gwayi/Shangani hydropower dams
Veldt Fires	Unplanned burns of bush vegetation resulting from human carelessness
Pumping Water in Wildlife Areas	Artificial waterholes in wildlife areas in and around Hwange National Park that result in increased elephant populations which in turn affects the condition of the Hwange Miombo woodland and vleis ecosystems. This in turn has a negative impact on smaller ungulates and ultimately Painted Dogs in HNP and surrounding areas.
Wood collection and Logging	Wood collection for firewood and for construction of curios
Other	
Lack of PDC Capacity	Lack of capacity of PDC staff limits their ability to implement action and monitoring plans