

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

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Written and edited by John Lemon, Angela Lemon and Daniel Scarparolo

From the Chairman

Happy New Year to all our supporters and with 2016 behind us we look toward another bright and positive year ahead for all the work that we support and undertake in Africa.

I would firstly like to thank our dedicated committee of Carol Shannon, Angela Lemon, Ric Dunlop, Wayne Hamilton and Frances Hoskings for their efforts throughout 2016. Please welcome our new committee for 2017: Carol, Angela, Ric, Wayne, Frances and new additions, Rachel Capurso and Emma DeMamiel.

For PDC Inc. we head into our 14th year of operation and what better way to take check of what you have achieved than to celebrate reaching a fund raising milestone of \$1.25 million dollars!

We have an exciting year ahead with planned functions and events as well as working on collaborations with like-minded personalities to continue our struggle to save the Painted Dog from extinction.

I hope to see you at one of our functions throughout the year and stay tuned for further exciting news.

I will leave you with my favourite quote from Senegalese conservationist Baba Dioum:

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught.”

John Lemon
Chairman PDC Inc.

Painted Dogs Arrive in *Prideland*

Prideland is an online cartoon which features a family of lions – Rodger, Akilah, Jordyn and Keely – in Africa’s newest nature preserve.

Prideland is the creation of Ryan Stoker and Brian Ponshock. Ryan (writer) grew up in Seattle, Washington, and currently lives in Orlando, Florida.

He has been a freelance cartoonist for over 20 years and has published work in many national publications such as *Woman’s World*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. He is also the cartoonist/author of five books.

Brian (artist) grew up in Antigo, Wisconsin, and still resides there today. He has been a mechanical designer for the past 20 years. Brian is also the creator of the cartoon panel, *Mindframe*, which won the Twain Award for Best Single Panel Cartoon of 2014-2015.

On 25 December 2016, Thomas the Painted Dog arrived in *Prideland*, heartbroken as his fiancée, Fifi, was lost in transit in Fiji!

Prideland regularly features our friend, Kevin Richardson, and we are thrilled to announce that on 26 December 2016, our Chairman, John Lemon, made his debut in *Prideland* too!

We hope to see much more of both Thomas and John as Thomas settles into his new home.

PRIDELAND by Ryan Stoker and Brian Ponshock



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Chipembele Update

2016 was a year of expansion and we increased from teaching conservation in six to 17 schools each week.

We also recruited and trained four new Community Conservation Educators who work in four different geographic zones. These zones are all close enough to South Luangwa National Park to support varying amounts of wildlife. As a result most of the community experience some degree of human-wildlife conflict, particularly with elephants, monkeys and baboons. The population everywhere is rapidly expanding and as a result there are ever-increasing pressures on the natural environment through encroachment of settlements, deforestation, poaching, bush fires, waste disposal and over-fishing. Never was there more need for conservation education!

2016 was a great year for the schools programme. We carried out a highly successful anti-catapult campaign in the local community and 428 catapults were voluntarily surrendered. They are otherwise used for killing or maiming birds, reptiles and small mammals for food or fun.

Our new Skill-up programme was initiated which involves skilled volunteers running workshops to teach our conservation students life skills. A professional photography couple from the UK, Julie and Adam Bates, ran three workshops (two for students and one for staff) on photography for conservation. To follow on from this our Senior Conservation Educator has established a Photography Club and with their support now runs a monthly camera club for the students.

And finally we were kept on our toes by orphaned animals and birds brought to



Chipembele for rehabilitation. Animals we helped in 2016 included 10 vervet monkeys, nine pygmy hedgehogs, three yellow baboons, two baby warthogs, two bushbucks, a squirrel, a puku, a bulbul and a hippo.

As always we are enormously grateful for the support rendered by PDC Inc for our projects. May 2017 be a happy and successful year for you all.

Anna Tolan, Director



Upcoming Events

Painted Dog Conservation Inc.'s Escorted Tour to Zimbabwe and Zambia 2017

2015 saw the first guided tour hosted by PDC Inc. Chairman John Lemon. John and 10 guests spent two weeks travelling from Perth to Zambia and back again!

This trip was a tour with a difference.

Not only did the guests get to stay in luxurious accommodation at Kafunta Lodge in Mfuwe, but they also had the privilege of visiting the projects we support first-hand, namely Zambian Carnivore Programme, Conservation South Luangwa and Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre.

We are thrilled to announce this year's trip is sold out with 15 guests going on tour with John.

As well as visiting the Zambian projects, they will also spend time in Hwange, Zimbabwe, visiting Peter Blinston and the team at Painted Dog Conservation. They will also see first-hand the Rehabilitation Centre that John built.

Thanks to Wayne Hamilton and the team at Swagman Tours for making this trip possible, and booking all flights and accommodation for the group!

Watch this space for an update on the tour!

Dinner with Nathan Ferlazzo

Please join us on 27 April 2017 at Willow Pond Reception Centre to meet our newest partner, Nathan Ferlazzo of Marini Ferlazzo.

We partnered with Nathan last year to produce the stunning Painted Dog commission so come see his drawing skills in the flesh!

There will be a three-course meal, giveaways, an update from John and Nathan, and of course a small auction to finish the night. All guests can also join in a drawing exercise with Nathan.

Tickets limited and available online from www.sticktickets.com.au/48687.

Tickets are limited to this exclusive event, where guests can also partake in a drawing exercise with Nathan.



Absolutely 80s Concert

9 June 2017, Newport Hotel, Fremantle

To celebrate our fundraising milestone of \$1.25 million dollars over the past 8 years, we thought there is no better way than to have a PARTY!

We are partnering with Absolutely 80s, who are hosting a concert with proceeds going to PDC Inc.

Absolutely 80s are the original musicians from legendary 80s Australian bands and feature some of Australia's favourite pop icons.

Our line-up is going to be a special one- featuring Scott Carne (Kids in the Kitchen), Tottie Goldsmith (Chantoozies), David Sterry (Real Life) and Brian Mannix (Uncanny X-Men).

Proceeds will be donated to PDC Inc. so simply coming along for a "boogie" will directly support our frontline activities. And the more tickets we sell, the more money we raise. In addition The Newport will also make a donation once we sell 300 tickets so help us spread the word.

Tickets are on sale now through Oztix and The Newport Hotel through the following links:

tickets.oztix.com.au/?Event=69974

thenewport.oztix.com.au/Default.aspx?Event=69974

Absolutely 80s with proceeds going towards Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

BRIAN MANNIX UNCANNY X-MEN
SCOTT CARNE KIDS IN THE KITCHEN
DAVID STERRY REAL LIFE
TOTTIE GOLDSMITH CHANTOOZIES

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thenewport.com **NEWPORT**

Dog Trip: South Africa and Zimbabwe

In July 2016 PDC Inc Chairman and Vice Chairman John and Angela Lemon, returned to Zimbabwe to visit Painted Dog Conservation near Hwange National Park, where their passion first started 17 years ago.

There were two purposes for the trip. Firstly, for John to undertake some timely and necessary repairs and upgrades to the Rehabilitation Centre he built back in 2002, and also to undertake some field work.

Upon arrival we were greeted by old friends Jealous Mpofo and Last Mhorze.

Jealous is PDC's head tracker and Last is their mechanic.

Over the years a strong friendship has been built and so it was great to catch up on old stories and have a laugh!

We also took over some much needed medical supplies, knives and other supplies for the Rehabilitation Centre and veterinary staff.

It was great to see one of the original inhabitants of the Rehabilitation Centre from 2002, aptly named "John" still alive and well!

The Rehabilitation Centre that John built back in 2002-2003 still stands today and is

in constant use, not just for compromised Painted Dogs but other species as well.

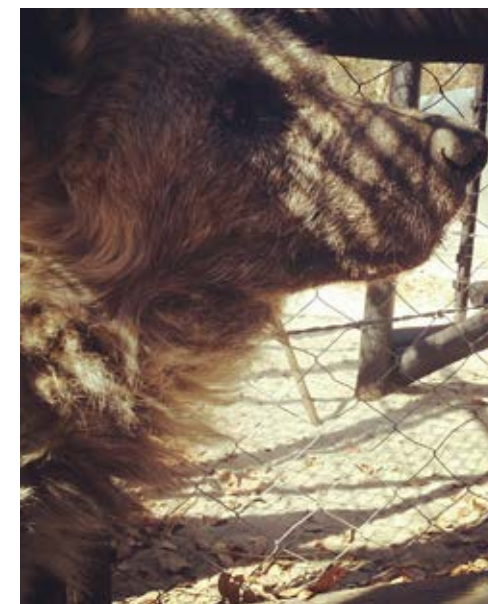
Therefore to improve the flexibility of use and possible scenarios, John worked tirelessly on the Centre for our first week there, and also provided training to the new maintenance team and rehabilitation staff.

Prior to embarking on field work to Sinamatella, we had the privilege of attending the first multi-stakeholder meeting regarding addressing the issue of poaching in the Hwange area.

This was attended by lodge owners, landowners, conservation organisations,

the local chief and other parties, held at the Painted Dog Conservation Centre.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop an agreement under which all parties (not just the Anti-poaching Teams that Painted Dog Conservation deploy) would be responsible to reduce the impact on local



Top to bottom: John and Jealous. John, Last and his family.

Top to bottom: Ange with Maria from the Education Centre. John and Peter.

Top to bottom: John and Peter supporting Painted Wolf Wines. Medical supplies.

Top to bottom: Old John. John working on Rehab Centre with the maintenance crew.

wildlife and reduce the number of animals killed by illegal poaching.

It was also a fantastic opportunity for John and I to contribute our experience from Zambia, and also as “foreign tourists” in what would appeal to us when choosing a Lodge to stay at.

We spoke about the increase in “green tourism” and that many visitors like to spend money where they are also contributing to the local environment, e.g. contributing X dollars per night which goes into a fund to support anti-poaching teams.

All in all it was a positive experience and hopefully results on the ground will soon follow.

We then spent a few days out at beautiful Sinamatella-part of Hwange National Park

tracking the elusive pack, and were rewarded by sighting the on our last day!

It was a fortunate sighting as the alpha male was noted to be limping-and as such the PDC Vet team was deployed following our visit.

We had a fantastic time returning to Zimbabwe, and John will be returning in May this year on his guided tour.

Thank you as always to Peter Blinston for his friendship, hospitality and support and for doing an incredible job at the frontline of conservation.



Top to bottom: John at front of Rehab Centre. John and Ange at Rehab Centre.



Top to bottom: Stakeholders meeting. Ange and Jealous.



Top to bottom: Elephants. The elusive Painted Dogs! John “verifying” the faecal samples.



Top to bottom: John examining left over Painted Dog kill. John, Ange, Jealous and volunteer Sasha.

Patron Update: Tony Park

The start of 2017 found me back in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, one of my favourite places in Africa, and I had a perfect excuse to visit the Painted Dog Centre near Main Camp, which John Lemon helped build – I was there to write a guidebook.

It's a sad and somewhat surprising fact that there is currently no guidebook for Hwange National Park in print, but a friend of mine with a passion for Zimbabwe and the country's wildlife has commissioned me to write one.

My wife, Nicola, and I normally visit Hwange every year at the end of the dry season to take part in the annual Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe game census, but this year found us there in the middle of the rainy season, in January, so I could research the guidebook.

Naturally, I wanted to mention the excellent painted dog centre so we paid another visit. Peter Blinston was away on business, but we were well looked after, just as any visitor is to this excellent facility.

We arrived at an exciting time. As well as John the dog (named after John Lemon, who doesn't look nearly as old as his painted dog namesake) and John's companion, Roman, a female relocated from the Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage at Bulawayo, there was a third dog in residence, Friend, who had been caught in a snare. Friend's presence highlights the vital work being done by this Centre – she had been rescued, treated and brought to the Centre to recuperate.

Friend's pack had been visiting the area and it's hoped that she can eventually be reunited with them. While Nicola and I were there, the valiant and tireless trackers from the Centre

had not only been clearing snares in the nearby Gwayi conservancy area, but they had also come across another injured dog – this one had been attacked by a lion or hyena.

The dog, which was on its own, was picked up and taken to a veterinary surgeon in Bulawayo. When Nicola and I left Hwange, the word was that the treatment had gone well and the new dog was on its way to join John, Friend and Roman at the Painted Dog Centre.

We had a chance to have a look around this facility which is a credit to the people who built it and to everyone who cares for these amazing creatures and all of Africa's wildlife. Having met Peter Blinston at last year's fundraiser and learned more about the work being done in Hwange, I can assure you, from my recent experience, it is vital, worthwhile and it's getting results.

My 2017 is going to be busy. I'm writing the Hwange guidebook, my 14th African novel is being edited and will be out around October, and I'm already well underway on my 15th novel. I hope your year is safe, prosperous and positive.



New Partner: Swagman Tours

In a milestone year for PDC Inc, we are thrilled to announce our newest Corporate Relationship with Swagman Tours.

This is a great opportunity for PDC Inc. members and friends!

Apart from the tours that John now hosts to our projects in Zimbabwe and Zambia, and also some very special items that will be available for an auction items at one of our special events, there are also other benefits to you!

If you book ANY travel services with Swagman Tours (domestic or international), they will donate 10% directly back to PDC Inc.

Also, where possible, they will also offer a donation of \$50 back to PDC Inc with any International Airline Ticket booked, and if

you book any Africa or India land content with them, they will donate a minimum of 10% back to PDC Inc

So how do you get on board?

Start planning your travel today and ensure you use the code word "conservation" when you book directly with Swagman Tours. They will ensure you get the best prices possible and special service.

Thanks to Wayne Hamilton, Director of Swagman Tours for making this possible- whom many of you have met as our brilliant auctioneer at our events over the last few years.

Please visit swagmantours.com.au or call 1800 808 491 for more information.



SWAGMAN TOURS



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Swagman Tours Director Wayne Hamilton in action as auctioneer at our function in February 2016.

Conservation South Luangwa Update

Snaring continues to plague Zambia's wildlife and African Painted Dogs regularly take the brunt of it. In 2016, we know of four dogs that died from snares as we were unable to reach them. Two dogs were immobilised for snare removal, and there have been multiple reports of other snared dogs seen fleetingly by tourists and guides without collars. We can assume that they too, eventually died.

Conservation South Luangwa (CSL) continues to deploy regular anti-snaring patrols and we rely on Zambian Carnivore Programme GPS collar data to direct our patrols to sensitive areas where dogs are denning and travelling.

Our PDC Inc supported four-man anti-snaring dog team continues to help other CSL anti-poaching teams combat poaching in the form of snaring and hunting with guns.

In 2016 our teams conducted 131 10-day patrols, 172 one-day patrols, and 18 short patrols with results including 380 snares, apprehend 127 suspects and confiscate 28 illegal firearms. The number of animals saved because of these efforts is hundreds.

PDC Inc continues to help the CSL/ZCP aircraft stay in the air. Aerial patrols have become invaluable to our anti-poaching operations and year after year the flying strategy becomes more effective and efficient. Aerial patrols regularly turn up evidence of poaching including drying racks, carcasses, camp fires and at times poachers themselves.

Tracking of collared animals is extremely important to both our organisations to monitor the levels of snaring in carnivores, and allow us to locate remote animals that would otherwise be impossible to locate. It



also allows us to deploy critical anti-snaring patrols in key areas where wild dogs and lions frequent, thereby reducing the rate of snaring in these animals. Over 200 hours were flown for anti-poaching and monitoring in 2016.

All of us at CSL thank PDC Inc for all their support, not just in 2016 but the ongoing support over many years. Ongoing support is so critical to the success of any conservation organisation.

Rachel McRobb



Don's New Collar: PDC Zimbabwe Update

Collaring a member of a wild dog pack is an essential part of PDC's work. Not only does the collar help them monitor the pack and respond quickly to emergency situations, but their unique design warns motorists of a dogs' presence in the road and helps a dog free itself should it get caught in a snare.

This is about a wild dog called Don, a male in the elusive Nyamandhlovu Pack and tells the story of what was involved in putting a collar on him last Friday morning.

Of all the Hwange packs that we follow at Painted Dog Conservation (PDC), perhaps the one with the widest range is the seven strong Nyamandhlovu Pack. Named after the pan where they were first seen, they regularly circle from there, down to Ngweshla Pan in the south and up to our centre in the north/west. An area of at least 800 square kilometres, both in and out of the park.

We had been trying to put a collar on one of these dogs for the last six months, but they are very much a now-you-see-them-now-you-don't pack. Countless times we have been hot on their fluffy tails, only for them to disappear for weeks, and then reappear again many kilometres away in a totally different area of the park. Many early morning searches and endless frustrating hours have been devoted to this task, none of them successful.

So it was not without excitement to hear that Fanuel and Washington had found the pack last Friday morning and had successfully tracked the dogs to where they came to rest... conveniently by the side of the tarmac road on the way to Hwange Main Camp.

On receiving the report, Peter hastily abandoned his cornflakes and set off for another hopeful attempt to put a collar on one of the dogs. Having just arrived back at PDC, I hastily unpacked my camera gear and rushed to follow in my vehicle, still in flip-flops and desperately hoping that my camera batteries were still reasonably charged.

We arrived to find the dogs lounging nonchalantly in the middle of the road. Fanuel and Washington were monitoring them from a distance. It was a relief to see that the dogs' bellies were not full, since, if they had just eaten, it would simply be too dangerous to attempt to dart one.

Peter quickly loaded his dart gun and drove in towards them slowly. As is typical of the Nyamandhlovu, just as he drew close, they started to move towards the dense trees. It was starting to look like yet another of those frustrating 'close, but no cigar' experiences.

Suddenly, one of the males called Don turned around inquisitively to look at Peter, who was by now leaning out the window, dart gun at the ready. There was the briefest of opportunities and Peter took the shot, backed by the experience and confidence of countless darting encounters.

The dart hit Don's hindquarters perfectly square. He yelped and disappeared into the trees with the rest of the pack. We lost sight of them almost immediately, but had to wait patiently in our vehicles for the drug to take effect before we could follow. The last thing we wanted was to chase a tranquillised dog that would be woozily looking for a quiet place to lie down and pass out.

After about five minutes, the four of us moved into the forest on foot and fanned





out to search for Don, the darted dog. The cover was dense and it was not going to be an easy task to find him.

An occasional deep growl came out of the bush which signalled that one of us had come close to the rest of the pack and they were letting us know that getting any closer was unwelcome.

Eventually, I found Don huddled in some thick grass not far from the cars. I signalled to the guys and quietly indicated that I had located him and stood by the snoozing pooch while they collected their equipment from the vehicles.

As I waited, I crouched and stroked his soft fur and it struck me what excellent condition he was in; something that everyone else commented on during the collaring exercise.

It was heart-warming to see such a healthy-looking creature in his prime. In the

distance, I could hear another dog hoo-calling, wondering what had become of his seemingly lost mate.

The others returned with all the necessary kit for the operation. Fanuel and Washington lifted Don gently onto a blanket and carried him to a more open area in which to work.

Peter inserted some earplugs into Don's large Mickey Mouse ears, as they remain sensitive to sound, despite the tranquilliser. As do his eyes, which we covered with my purloined PDC cap.

Peter, Washington and Fanuel set to work in a well-practised routine. Critical was monitoring and controlling Don's temperature, as the drugs inhibit his natural ability to maintain the correct level. A thermometer was inserted into his bum and water was periodically poured over him to keep him cool.



Peter fit the collar around Don's neck, ensuring that it was not so tight that it irritates or too loose that it falls off in the rough and tumble of everyday dog life. Before doing so, he made sure he could pick up the collar's VHF signal on his receiver. Little is more irritating than to fit a collar, only to find out later that it was faulty.

Peter took blood and tissue samples which will be sent to the US for analysis. This is very much routine, and forms an essential part of the continuing research that PDC carries out on painted dogs. He also gave Don a syringe full of healthy vitamins to strengthen his immune system and help him recover from the effects of the anaesthetic.

From time to time, Don was gently turned over in order to further reduce the risk of him overheating and to relieve any build up of pressure on any one side.

It was also a pleasure to have nine-year-old Sam Blinston along with us, who has witnessed his father darting dogs throughout his life. He has now reached an age where he too can lend a useful hand and seemed to know exactly what to do.

This included taking control of one of my cameras and capturing this cracking shot of his father hard at work.

The operation thus far was a success and had taken about 45 minutes. It was time to put everything away and clear an area for the dog to wake quietly up in.

Don was left lying alone on his blue blanket and Peter administered the reversal drug that counters the effect of the tranquilliser. We moved back some distance to allow Don to wake up slowly and in peace. I returned to the car to fetch my longer lens.

After about five minutes, a dog's head lifted out of the tall grass looking bemused and

uncertain. He looked around and saw me in the distance, despite half hiding behind a tree. He lay there staring at me for over minute, trying to gather his wits, wide eyed and not quite with it.

Eventually, he dragged himself to his feet uncertainly, stumbling around and struggling to keep his balance. It is never nice to watch this part of the operation as they clumsily stagger about. Fortunately the recovery process does not last too long and their movements helps to push the drug out of their system.

Don was a healthy strong dog and before long he had gained is composure.

As we crouched down in the tall grass watching him, Don turned to face us. I doubt very much that it was with any sense of gratitude, as I suspect he had a thumping headache and still felt quite disorientated.

But he now had a collar which meant we could more easily find the Nyamandhlovu Pack if any member got injured or snared. Being able to locate an elusive pack like this one can potentially save one of the dogs from a life-threatening situation.

He now had a collar with a florescent orange reflector. The colour has little impact on the dogs, but as they love to lie in the middle of main roads, these reflectors have saved the lives of countless dogs from unaware motorists. Road kills are a major threat to the painted dogs and now the Nyamandhlovu had some form of protection.

And he now had a collar with an anti-snare guard to protect his throat.

These specially designed collars give a dog a fighting chance if they get caught in a wire snare and help them to break free.

So no, maybe he was not that happy with



being darted, but we were relieved that we had at last been able to offer Don and his Nyamandhlovu Pack some protection from the threats that they continually face.

Don continued to stare at us for a little while longer. Steadier on his feet by now, he slowly turned and walked away into the thick forest, gradually disappearing from sight. He was heading in the direction that we last saw the rest of his pack and from

where the hoocalling had earlier echoed hauntingly through the trees.

Our job done, we stood up to return to our vehicles and head back to base. Peter still had his soggy cornflakes to look forward to.

*Nicholas Dyer
Painted Dog Conservation, Zimbabwe*



Patron Update: Simon Reeve

Looking back over the past year it's hard to know where to begin.

Certainly for Ange and John it has been a very tough period with personal loss, which always makes us stop and think.

They have endured through it all as they do.

At a global level the election of Mr Trump has thrown a wildcard onto the deck that we will be processing for a long while.

So I can't speak for you but I feel like the world is maybe spinning a degree or two off-centre right now.

That means for me it's good to retreat to the people you love and the things that are important.

Family of course...nature and the environment as well. It might be a function of age but increasingly I find myself stopping these days and staring, contemplating.

The first frangipani of the season, a summer storm...even feeding the horses is a simple and undeniable pleasure.

I too lost a dear friend late last year, a remarkable South African who embraced Australia with his family 20 years ago.

He was just a couple of weeks younger than me and equally passionate about conservation in his native land and right throughout Africa.

We shared some very special times in the bush in Zimbabwe and saw life through the same eyes.

For Shaun, rhinos had been a long time focus, but he loved the African bush and all its creatures equally.

If you're reading this, then you probably feel the same way as Shaun and I about Africa.

It's the one thing that's been a constant in my life for nearly 30 years now.

I have gone around the houses here but I think I've arrived at my point.

Working in with Painted Dogs Conservation Inc, continues to be a source of genuine enjoyment.

That big picture right now seems overwhelming and confusing, so for me being engaged with the things that make me happy is good medicine.

We should never walk away from things because they are hard.

With the African art you buy at a PDC Inc auction, with the safari you book or the spontaneous donation, you're making a difference to the projects they support in Zambia and Zimbabwe and elsewhere.

The needs in the field are endless to keep the system going.

The people on the ground don't waste a single dollar of that money.

There is integrity right the way down the line. It's a frequently repeated mantra by me I know, but small is good in Africa, especially when it comes to charities.

Despite our personal challenges, despite the madness of a 4am tweeting President, look at the good you can do in your own world.

Think of the people and the animals you are helping. As I slide off to sleep tonight that's what I'll be doing, still dreaming of Africa.

Simon "on set" in the Kimberley with Nick Cummins, 'The Honey Badger'.



African Wildlife Conservation Fund Update

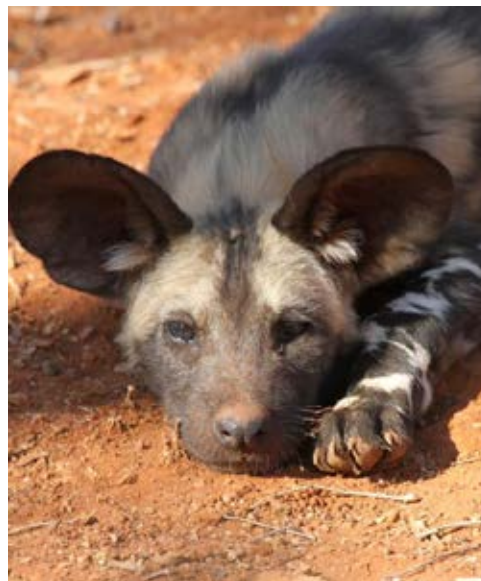
The African Wildlife Conservation Fund is a Zimbabwean-based organisation passionate about, and dedicated to, wildlife conservation in Africa. We focus on the conservation of large carnivores in the south east Zimbabwean lowveld, with a particular goal of safe-guarding endangered African Painted dogs. We monitor and safeguard resident wild dog packs in two key study sites (Savé Valley Conservancy and Gonarezhou National Park) in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area; a globally significant conservation region.

We would like to sincerely thank PDC Inc. for their support. We are a small organisation with no yearly guaranteed funding, and PDC Inc.'s continued and generous support has been instrumental in keeping critical core structures in place, and helped us to achieve the successes highlighted below, and so much more!

Painted Dog Monitoring, Research and Conservation

Safeguarding our local Painted dog packs, both in Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) and Gonarezhou National Park (GNP) is the back bone of all of our efforts in the Zimbabwean Lowveld. Our field team continue to be active on the ground in both SVC and GNP monitoring African Painted dogs and other predators, and we are proud to report continuously strong numbers of African Painted dogs in both SVC and GNP. There are currently an estimated 123 known adult Painted dogs across 16 packs in SVC and an estimated 120 adults across 14 packs in GNP.

In 2016 we saw the completion of the 9th and 8th annual carnivore spoor surveys were carried out in the SVC and GNP respectively, and a lion call up survey was conducted in



AWCF scouts assist with snare sweeps.

the GNP in August 2016 (the last survey was completed in 2010). This data contributes to long term trend data for both the SVC and GNP, and the data suggests positive results for the large carnivore populations in both wildlife areas.

Assisting Anti-poaching Units and Removing Snares from Wildlife

Both de-snaring and removing wire from the field when we find it are incredibly important hands-on activities of ours; given the endangered status of Painted dogs and cheetahs we cannot afford to be losing these animals to snare wires.

The AWCF scouts recently teamed up with the scouts and anti-poaching units of the neighbouring ranches within the SVC to conduct snare sweeps across the northern ranches of the conservancy. A total distance of 788km was covered during the sweeps and 185 snares cleared from the field. Two poachers were also caught during the combined efforts.

In 2016 we removed snares from seven Painted dogs, but sadly had six Painted dogs died from snares before we could help them.

Conservation Awareness in Rural Schools and Outreach

Education and outreach is a fundamental aspect of everything we do. We have three full-time and dedicated education officers who work tirelessly to visit all the 123 schools we support and implement our schools conservation awareness program. Our education program is multifaceted and comprehensive, and aims to achieve truly sustainable conservation benefit.

We know that our time and efforts in the schools and communities is producing

significant and positive benefits for conservation, but tangible evidence is often hard to come by. However, in a recent incident we saw behavioural changes in the youth that re-confirm that our education efforts are working. Three children from Pore Pore Primary School recently rescued two African Painted dog puppies that were drowning in a canal near their school (along the southern border of the Savé Valley Conservancy). This was an incredibly proud moment for us as an organisation, firstly because the children correctly identified the animals as Painted dogs, secondly because they knew they were an important species to save, and thirdly because they took action to do so and inspired adults (their teachers) to get involved too.

Field Trips and Day Drives for Children and Community Members in GNP

We recently purchased a truck which was converted into a game drive vehicle to facilitate field trips and day excursions into Gonarezhou National Park. This has been a vision of ours for some time now and we are so excited to see it become a reality.

This has been a fundamental addition to our education and outreach work, and we need not reiterate the numerous and significant benefits with providing rural children and community members with the opportunity to visit a wildlife conservation area and see wild animals in situ.

Most of these children live with 10-15km of a wildlife area yet have never seen an impala, or elephant.

The reactions of the children whilst out on these day trips is truly inspiring, and we have no doubt that these field trips will help to instil an appreciation for wildlife and conservation in the children.



Above and right: Children enjoying their daytrip into Gonarezhou National Park.

These field trips are of course the perfect opportunity to show the children African Painted dogs, should we be lucky enough to see them!

We have carried out eight field trips so far, with plenty more planned for 2017. We cannot wait to see the truck filled with many more smiling faces in the coming year!

77 School Libraries Established

For the last two years, and in partnership with the Zambezi Schoolbook Project, we have started establishing libraries in the 123 schools we support. To date, we have managed to establish libraries in 77 of the schools we support. This has been achieved through the donation of c. 70 000 books, and we are expecting another full container load



(c. 30 000 books) to be delivered in the next month or so. This will allow us to establish libraries in another 30 schools, helping us reach even closer to our goal of having libraries in all 123 schools we support!

There are numerous educational and human welfare benefits associated with having access to a local library, especially for rural children and communities who have little,

and in most cases, no access to any other reading materials, media or sources of knowledge. The communities and children we support have a substantial thirst for education and knowledge, and we are so pleased to be able to address this need.

Running to Save Africa's Painted Dogs

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). Come the 15 April 2017, we will have 50 runners pounding 21.1km of tar for us and African Painted dogs. If you are looking for an entry, or would like to support the event in any way, please email jess@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org.

This is a wonderful opportunity to raise some much needed funds for African Painted dog conservation and the conservation efforts of the African Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Projects Director, Rosemary Groom, and Assistant Project Manager, Jess Watermeyer, will both be running.



Zambian Carnivore Programme Update

Dear PDC Inc. Supporters,

The 2016 season has drawn to a close and the rains have arrived in full, allowing us time to slow down and get caught up on a number of fronts, including updates!

As usual we have an array of topics that showcase the continued incredible contributions and commitments of PDC Inc to conservation in Zambia.

While there is no shortage of challenges on all fronts for 2017, we are extremely grateful for your support and collaboration as we face them together.

Thanks again for your support and all the best for the New Year!

Dog Update for Zambia

The 2016 season continued to be fantastic for Luangwa dogs, with a third straight year of record-breaking numbers in our study area and 12 packs.

Sightings were fantastic for visitors as well, with three packs denning in the main game area, including the largest pack in the study at the moment, the Manzi pack, which provided near daily sightings for visitors as they hunted in the antelope-rich floodplains.

In addition the pack had a subordinate female successfully raise her litter as well and several are still alive at the time of writing. Political issues slowed our ability to continue our dog work in the Luangwa in the second half of the season but 2017 promises to be back on track.

In Kafue we had an excellent year for dogs, collaring three new packs, including the 24 strong Tateyoyo pack. Given the massive and inaccessible areas over which we

work in Kafue and the dangers of snares and highway fatalities, we have begun to utilize much improved satellite-gps technology again on collars, and PDC Inc. has funded collars for two of the largest packs in the most high-risk areas of Kafue and Luangwa.

In Liuwa unfortunately dogs remained absent from our study area in 2016 but efforts are underway to deal with the multiple outbreaks of rabies from the domestic dog populations that have occurred recently, and have potentially contributed to the struggles for Liuwa's dog population.

Conservation Biologist Training Programme

Our ongoing Conservation Biologist Training Programme was supported by PDC Inc. in 2016 and continued to allow us to provide training, education and employment to aspiring Zambian conservation biologists, with trainees attached and employed on all projects in 2016.

The success of this programme, particularly with secondary school graduates, has been tightly linked to our collaborative programmes with Chipembele Wildlife Educational Trust, specifically the Conservation Club programmes that have identified and developed outstanding

Top right: The 24 dog Manzi pack crosses the Luangwa river on an evening hunt. The 2016 season was again a record year for wild dog numbers in the study area.

Bottom right: Dr. Kambwiri Banda (L) training APN and ZCP team members on cheetah immobilization and collaring as part of the Conservation Biologist Training Programme. Trainees include (right to left) Stanley Mwanza, who is now attending school to become a wildlife vet, Kings Chimungu, who is now enrolled to become a wildlife vet nurse, and APN scout Mboo Masilowkwa, who is receiving training in wildlife research and monitoring..



students. We continue to develop this exciting programme in 2017.

Collaborative work supporting wildlife vets, aerial support and field operations

Critical to our work is the ability to have field-based wildlife vets on the project that are able to immediately respond to snared animals and conduct routine and opportunistic collaring of study animals.

Through our collaborative efforts with the DNPW and CSL it is becoming increasingly clear for wide-ranging low density carnivores like Painted dogs that the monitoring of collared packs and dispersal groups, facilitated by radio-tracking from fixed wing aircraft and vehicles, has significantly increased populations by mitigating snaring by-catch for these species.

Collectively PDC Inc. has supported our Zambian vet team, aerial operations and fieldwork that has substantially decreased the impacts of bushmeat poaching and snares on these species.

Science-Based Guidance for Policy and Management

In keeping with our emphasis on science-based conservation, we collaborated on six scientific papers published in 2016, with data from fieldwork that was supported by PDC Inc.

The findings and recommendations from these studies have provided immediate policy guidance for carnivore conservation and the papers covered an array of topics, including:

1. The first estimates of leopard density and survival in South Luangwa
2. Estimates of hyena survival and density in Liuwa Plain
3. Evaluations of spatial and temporal

avoidance by large carnivores in Liuwa Plain

4. Evaluations of sustainability on lion hunting and recommendations for policy
5. Evaluations of global cheetah population declines and recommendations for uplisting
6. Development of improved methods for aging lions and recommendations for policy

The Perentie and the Importance of Field Vehicles

By far the biggest contribution for 2016 from PDC Inc was the Land Rover Perentie for our Luangwa fieldwork.

It arrived in March in the Luangwa, got kitted out with all the fieldwork accessories, and immediately became an indispensable vehicle for our fleet.

Given these vehicles log hundreds of field days a year under severe conditions of heat, terrain and water, this donation is very much appreciated, and we never know when these vehicles will be called upon to undertake some incredible driving work for conservation. Perhaps the best example was the poisoning of the Luangwa's Big Pride of lions in Aug 2016, after 16 of them fed on a poisoned carcass.

Together with CSL and DNPW, ZCP vehicles undertook a 20 hour operation to save the pride that involved darting and treating lions in

Top right: Dr. Banda treats a badly-snared lion in Kafue National Park's Busanga Plains.

Bottom right: Hyenas on a wildebeest kill in Liuwa Plain. Carnivore recovery efforts continue to be successful in Liuwa with the hyena population likely responding to abundant prey populations and low competition from lions, as reflected in very high survival at present. How the system changes with increases in competing carnivores is of key interest.



dense bush as well as keeping hungry lions off the carcass.

In the end it paid off (though our vehicles limped back to camp after hours of bush-bashing for some attention and repair) and collectively we were able to save all but two lions (which had died prior to our arrival), one of whom was pregnant when poisoned but somehow managed to carry the cubs to term.

Support “Behind the Scenes”

Given their extensive experience in African conservation work, PDC Inc. recognizes and supports the myriad ‘behind-the-scenes’ aspects to fieldwork that are critical in keeping the work afloat, but do not garner the support and attention. As always, an array of items were supported by PDC Inc. in 2016 that made our work a success.

Vehicle Parts and Accessories

Vehicles are absolutely critical to our work and given the terrain, species and nature of the work they definitely put in hard labour year round. Thus PDC Inc. support has been critical in purchasing the spare parts, tools and accessories needed to keep vehicles functioning effectively, and 2016 was no exception. Of particular note was the donation of ‘Engine Watchdogs’ for all our field vehicles. With sensors and alarms alerting the driver to potential overheating and or loss of oil pressure, they have been invaluable in keeping our vehicles in working condition by detecting potential engine problems before they cause undue damage.

Stickers and hats

Branding is important for conservation efforts yet rarely is money available to allot to such items and therefore PDC Inc. continued to support our branding efforts by funding several hundred caps and stickers for team members, partners and stakeholders.



The Isuzu keeps running...

In 2011 PDC Inc. funded the acquisition and transport of an Isuzu-Holden truck to Zambia that has been indispensable as a support vehicle, particularly between sites and in the capital. With six years of service to date and tens of thousands of kilometres logged across the country and within the three sites we are continually appreciative of this donation that keeps our work afloat.

Motorbikes too...

Most fieldwork in Liuwa is conducted by motorbike and PDC Inc. has been instrumental in providing bikes and bike



Left: ZCP researcher and graduate student Teddy Mukula heading out to conduct his work during the Liuwa rains.
Right: Thandiwe Mweetwa monitors a collared lioness in the Luangwa as part of her lion conservation work. Photo by Ed Selfe.

parts for the Liuwa work since the inception of our work. This has paid great dividends for Liuwa and in 2017 we have bikes over the 30,000 km mark, impressive given the terrain and conditions and a testament to our emphasis on field-based conservation.

Media and Awards

The 2016 season in the Luangwa provided a lot of recognition to women in wildlife conservation, with one of ZCP's senior researchers and graduate students, Thandiwe Mweetwa, receiving National Geographic's 2016 Emerging Explorer award, and our partner organization Conservation

South Luangwa's Rachel McRobb being a finalist for the Tusk Conservation Awards. Check out the videos on their work here:

video.nationalgeographic.com/video/ng-live/160801-sciex-nglive-mweetwa-lion-conservation-lecture

tuskawards.com/rachel-mcrobbs/

Both women's work has been strongly supported by PDC Inc. and we are proud to be working with them! In addition ZCP worked with Plimsoll films and National Geographic to produce several films featuring carnivore conservation work that are slated to air in 2017.

Past Events

Gala Event with Peter Blinston, Painted Dog Conservation Inc. Zimbabwe

On 24 November 2016, PDC Inc hosted, for the first time in Australia, Peter Blinston, of Painted Dog Conservation in Zimbabwe, where our passion first began 17 years ago.

Ninety people attended the event, which also featured our patron Simon Reeve as MC for the night, in addition to our other patron, author Tony Park, who launched his newest book, *Red Earth*.

PDC Inc Chairman John Lemon gave an update on the most recent achievements and activities including the milestone of \$1.25 million dollars raised for our frontline projects over the past eight years.

Peter Blinston gave the crowd a valuable insight into life in Zimbabwe, and factors affecting frontline conservation activities, as well as some stories from our past!

The crowd was captivated, and we launched into our African Auction, with Committee Member and Swagman Tours Director Wayne Hamilton our auctioneer.

A range of items were on offer, from original artworks from Anna Rita Centura (Italy), Catherine Scartaccini (Perth), Amy Hemingway (UK), Amanda Mulder (Sydney) and Amanda Weatherlake (Melbourne), in addition to beautiful photographs by Sam Clark, Bobby-Jo Clow, Snare Wire sculptures and much more.

There were also "Doggy Bags" provided to guests, and also lucky door prizes too!

A great result with approximately \$20,000 raised on the night-so thank you to everyone that attended and made a real difference to our frontline projects.



The auction in full swing!

Association of Pet Dog Trainers Australia Conference

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) Australia is a forum for trainers and anyone involved with dogs to communicate and exchange ideas regarding pet dog training and behaviour.

APDT Australia provides educational and networking opportunities including an annual conference and workshops that features speakers who are experts in their fields.

The 2016 conference was held at the Bankstown Sports Club in Sydney from 20-23 October.

Each year APDT strives to bring a conference packed full of new information, interesting and informative topics and world class speakers. 2016 was no different.

At the dinner John Lemon was guest speaker on his work with Painted Dogs in Africa.

So inspired was the crowd that a quick pass around of the hat raised over \$800 for the cause.



L-R: Presentations by Simon Reeve, John Lemon, Tony Park and Peter Blinston.

A Night for Kings: a Creating for Conservation Event

Creating for Conservation, in partnership with Painted Dog Conservation Inc, hosted an African sundowner on 11 February at Carclew Arts Centre in Adelaide for 'A Night for Kings'.

Kings Chimungu, from Mfuwe in Zambia, is the future of wildlife conservation in Zambia. He was a star Conservation Club student at Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust, has volunteered at our supported Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) and also participated in a student exchange to Australia last year.

His dream is to become a Wildlife Veterinary Assistant and work full-time with our supported Zambian Carnivore Programme, and has been accepted to study his Diploma of Animal Science at the Natural Resources College in Zambia.



L-R: Lucky door prize recipients Gillian Radford, and Sara Skjold.

Twenty dollars from every ticket sold for the event went to pay for one day of Kings' education and training. To invest in a passionate conservationist and provide him with the education to fulfil his dream and be an exceptional role model for the community directly contributes to the future conservation of Africa's wildlife.

Emma Still and the team from Creating for Conservation did an excellent job with the event and raised a massive \$30,000.

The night included a Market 'Direct from Africa', fine art exhibition, plus outdoor sculptures, great food, live auction items, and tunes from Fresh FM 'Beats 'n' Pieces' Sunday session duo Dave Collins and Jason Lee.

What a fantastic night and one that will help Kings fulfil his dream and help conservation of African carnivores in their native habitat.

Past Events

Partnership Launch and Event with Marini Ferlazzo

In August 2016, John and Angela Lemon travelled to Beach Lane in Melbourne to launch a new partnership with Melbourne Artist Nathan Ferlazzo of Marini Ferlazzo.

PDC Inc commissioned Nathan to create a stunning original Painted Dog piece-which we sure you agree is simply stunning! The drawing is comprised of other African fauna and flora species – and the more you look at it, the more you find!

This event was an opportunity to introduce Nathan to some of our supporters and here about his passion and his story. The intimate event of 30 people heard from Nathan and John, and finished the night with a drawing exercise! A lucky door prize winner received a Framed Limited Edition Painted Dog Print.

Nathan's talent is incredible and inspiring. We are thrilled to partner with him.

For every Painted Dog Limited Edition Print and other painted dog merchandise that is sold, Marini Ferlazzo will donate a percentage to us at Painted Dog Conservation Inc, which is fantastic news!

To see his full range visit his website at www.mariniferlazzo.com.au.

And in BREAKING NEWS, we are excited to announce we will be hosting an event with Nathan Ferlazzo in Perth on 27 April 2017 – venue TBA!

From top: John with a Limited Edition "Painted Dog Print". Guests trying their hand at drawing. Ange and Nathan with his creation.



PDC Fundraiser for Dr Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Program

In February 2016, PDC Inc. held an online auction of artwork to raise money for the 25th anniversary of Roots & Shoots. PDC Inc was thrilled to be part of the celebrations, due to us being one of the endorsed members of the International One Fight. Unite. RAGES campaign of which Dr Jane Goodall is a Patron. The auction was a success and \$2810AUD was raised. It was agreed that the funds should be used to fund the revitalisation of the Roots & Shoots program in Burundi, starting with programs around clean water, trees and women. Since initiating the program in March 2016, more than 5000 R&S members have been involved. In addition, citizens of the surrounding areas have and will continue to benefit from the program.

To date, there has been significant progress on all three aspects of the program:

1. Distribution of clean drinking water in Mukungu. It is expected that more than 4045 people will benefit from this service.
2. Establishment of a nursery. The goal of this program is to both use the trees to help them protect the environment as well as raise local awareness about the importance of protecting the remaining existing trees (~360ha of cane forest).
3. Creation of a "women and environment" program and provision of local skills and jobs. More than 400 women who are in this program will learn how to plant trees and understand the importance of protecting their local environment.

In terms of resources, to date they have spent \$1555 on nursery activities (e.g. purchase of equipment such as tools and seeds as well as transportation and communication) and \$610 on water management (e.g. salaries, materials

(pipes, gravel, etc) and transportation)"

Since the online Auction, we are pleased to announce we have raised an additional \$800AU towards this project at our recent Perth event with Peter Blinston in November, through further sales of artwork at our Auction.

We would like to thank the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) and JGI (Australia) for the opportunity to be involved in this exciting celebration-keep up the great work!

For more information on JGIA and for tickets to see Dr Goodall in Australia in June 2017, please visit janegoodall.org.au.





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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.

Conservation through action and education

Find us on the web: www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au | pdmembers@iinet.net.au | www.facebook.com/PaintedDogConservationInc

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.

Here's What to Do

Forward a cheque or money order (within Australia) made payable to:

Painted Dog Conservation Inc

C/- The Treasurer

Post Office Box 637

South Perth WA 6951

Credit cards (Overseas and Australia): We can accept either Visa or Mastercard.

Major Sponsors

