



July 2013

Written and edited by John
Lemon and Daniel Scarparolo
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Painted Dog Conservation Inc

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Chairman – John Lemon
Vice Chairman – Angela Lemon
Treasurer – Carol Shannon
Secretary – Alyson Handfield

Patrons: Tony Park
Bradley Trevor Greive



Happy 10th Birthday!



From the Chairman

To all our members, donors and supporters, I hope the winter blues and those long winter nights are overcome with our latest bumper edition newsletter!

Great updates from our supported projects in Zambia, and our much loved Patron, Bradley Trevor Greive, all the way from the USA.

Welcome to our new members and in particular Mark Tyler; our most recent Life Member!

It is our dedicated and passionate members that keep the dream alive. Yearly memberships are currently due and we urge you all to continue to support our cause.

As you are aware, Sir Richard Branson currently endorses the work of Painted Dog Conservation Inc.

We have been one of his featured projects on the Virgin Unite's "Gaia Rock" website for some months now; however, we are pleased to announce that I feature as the "Guest Blog" on the website.

Please visit www.gaiarocks.org to read the blog and to find out more about the great work that Virgin Unite supports!

We have already had two successful fundraising events this year: "An Evening with Tony Park" PDC Inc. patron for the launch of his latest novel "Dark Heart", and "Bowling for Painted Dogs" which you can read more about within the pages of the newsletter.

Our next big event is "An Evening with Kevin Richardson, The Lion Whisperer" on Saturday 2 November 2013 at 7:00pm in the Plaza Ballroom 1 and 2, Hyatt Hotel. Tickets are \$100 per person and selling fast. This is a night not to miss and the flyer also appears in the newsletter.

Big thanks also go to Daniel Scarparolo who assists me in editing and producing the newsletter.

Dan is currently in Canada for two years with his partner; so this edition is definitely an international collaboration. We wish them all the best in their time in Canada and thank him once again for his continued support.



It's hard to believe that we are already half way through the year and on 3 October PDC Inc. will turn 10!!

So much has been achieved in the past decade and it is with great enthusiasm and passion that we look forward to the next ten years and beyond.

Obviously without your support we wouldn't be able to undertake the work and taste the spoils of success.

Let us raise a glass to the organisation and to our hardworking field teams and off course the beloved Dogs.

Thank you all!

Regards

John
Chairman PDC Inc.

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African Wildlife Conservation Fund Update

The African Wildlife Conservation Fund (AWCF) has had a busy year. Working to conserve painted dogs throughout the 16,000km² of the Zimbabwean part of the Greater Limpopo TFCA does not allow for much time off!

Our school-based education program is going on well, thanks to support from PDC Inc. We have 123 schools engaged in the program, all of which have our conservation awareness materials and all of which we visit and support several times per year. We also support nine students through secondary school, support many environmental clubs and show wildlife-themed educational DVDs in schools. Bare walls are a constant reminder of the schools' needs however, and with a recent donation from PDC Inc we'll be able to provide some painted dog posters!

We have also established a literacy program in several of the schools we work in (ten so far) because we soon discovered that very few of the children can read. Even those about to graduate from primary school are unable to read more than a few simple words.

Realising that a good education relies on being literate and that working towards alleviating poverty relies on a good education, we decided to start from the beginning. The literacy project

greatly enhances the value of the conservation awareness materials as well

The painted dogs themselves are doing well. The denning season has been underway for a month or so and we are just starting to see the new litters of pups emerging from their dens for the first time. We currently have about 90 adult dogs in the Save Valley Conservancy (2,400km²), and litter sizes range between 5 and 12 pups per pack. Unfortunately a couple of the packs have lost their litters. For one we don't know why, and for the other, we suspect the alpha female and the pups were killed by a snake, possibly a mamba. We had another shock when we found a dead lion in the hole of an active wild dog den, but luckily it seems like no harm was done there.

We've started a new project in Nuanetsi Wildlife Section as well. This is a new wildlife area and a key part of the Greater Limpopo TFCA, and we are excited to have found at least two large denning packs there already. The population in Gonarezhou National Park is also doing okay, although the mortality along the Mozambique boundary is concerning. We are hoping to engage with the Mozambican authorities for some cross-boundary conservation.



Clockwise from top left: literacy testing in Chipinda Primary - note hand drawn wildlife poster on wall; Showing a DVD - note bare walls; Students using the WILD Card files; Teaching wild dog files to Matezwa Env club.



Clockwise from top: A beautiful African wild dog - member of the Mapura Pack; Batanaï Pack youngsters playing in water; Nyarushanga Pack pups; Nyarushanga Pack pups; Dead lion found in the hole of an active wild dog den!.

South Luangwa Conservation Society Update

With half the year already gone, the SLCS/ZCP/PDC Inc. Painted Dog anti-snaring team definitely has a great deal going on.

Firstly our work in deploying anti-snaring patrols in sensitive areas where dogs are present has been enhanced with the acquisition of a joint Cessna 180 for SLCS/ZCP.

One-and-a-half years since we received funding to purchase the SLCS/ZCP aircraft, we have identified and employed a suitable pilot, renovated the Old Kakumbi airstrip inside the national park, constructed a suitable hangar; and finally we recently moved the plane from Mfuwe International Airport to the national park where it will be based full time.

The process has been long and cumbersome but we are delighted and know it will improve operations and quick reactions through the use of the aircraft for anti-poaching and surveillance work.

In addition to this, all of the SLCS supported scouts have completed a refresher scout training course. Eighty scouts undertook a three week in-service course.

In order to maintain discipline, values and high standards amongst law enforcement officers conducting anti-poaching in a protected area, regular in-service refresher training courses are essential every four years.

We are confident our anti-snaring teams are still motivated and are way above average.

Snaring

We have only had one visual report of a snared dog this year so far and to date we have not managed to locate her. Luckily the snare was not tight and we hope she appears again soon so that we remove it.

In June, SLCS and ZCP employed a full time Zambian veterinarian to be shared by both organisations.

We are very happy to welcome Dr Mwamba Sichande to both of our teams and look forward to building an even more effective and rapid response team to snaring incidents and other research work.

We are also constructing a small clinic at SLCS where Dr Sichande will be able to work on domestic animals when not in the field attending to wildlife.

Working Dogs for Conservation

In June, SLCS will be working on a month long snare survey with Working Dogs for Conservation. Four dogs (two from the United States and two from South Africa) and their handlers will be working in Luangwa to address the snaring problem with an eye towards future use of dogs for further detection of illegal contraband.

Rachel McRobb
CEO



Top two left: New SLCS/ZCP plane
Bottom two left: Our new vet, Dr Mwamba Sichande.

Zambian Carnivore Program Update

Dear Painted Dog Conservation Inc. Supporters,

We are in the middle of another field season in Zambia and wanted to give you an update on our work and the ever-increasing and important role that Painted Dog Conservation Inc. plays in supporting conservation of dogs and other large carnivores, their prey, and habitat in Zambia and beyond.

The 2012 season was a huge success as we teamed with Dr Scott Creel, a leading authority on dogs and predator-prey dynamics from Montana State University, and his team to take the Zambian Carnivore Programme to new levels.

This not only included the additional expertise, experience and resources from his team and a four-year grant from the National Science Foundation to study 'risk effects' of top predators on ecosystems, but also provided three of our top Zambian co-workers the opportunity to pursue Master's and PhD degrees at Montana State and the University of Arizona, a key development in our comprehensive educational programmes spanning from the secondary school level upwards.

We continued work across the three focal study sites in the Luangwa, Liuwa and Kafue focusing on intensive studies of

dogs, lion, cheetah and hyena and adding leopard surveys in the Luangwa and Kafue and a long-term wildebeest study in Liuwa.

We contributed to ten scientific papers in the past year, addressing topics ranging from snaring trends and impacts, carnivore disease, and trophy hunting to population estimates and the dangers of large-scale fencing. This in turn provided the Zambia Wildlife Authority with some of the only scientific data available on large carnivores in Zambia at a critical point in the country's wildlife management.

PDC Inc.'s signature is all over this work ranging from supporting Zambian students in Kafue, providing a motorbike for Liuwa, vehicle repair in Luangwa, smart new workshirts for the whole team, or supporting an array of research activities. The list goes on and the work would not have been possible without this support; we are extremely grateful and look forward to continued collaborations with you all in this year and beyond!

Sincerely,

Matt

Programme Manager/CEO ZCP

New snaring paper indicates increasing trends and impacts on Luangwa's carnivores and elephants

Snaring has long been recognised as a serious problem for wildlife, particularly carnivores, in the Luangwa valley and PDC Inc. has been instrumental in providing support for anti-snaring activities through South Luangwa Conservation Society and ZCP.

This year the two organisations produced a scientific paper analysing trends in snaring and the impacts of 'by-catch' or unintentional snaring of non-target species such as wild dogs, elephants, and lions. The data (collection of which was supported in part by PDC Inc.) indicate a worsening trend in snaring across the past six years and significant impacts on all three threatened species.

For wild dogs ZCP continues to identify snaring as the primary threat to population viability, and rapidly increasing human encroachment (the best predictor of snaring patterns) will only increase the magnitude of this threat.

Syd and Sue Chipchase Visit Zambia

Syd and Sue have been huge supporters of PDC Inc. and ZCP, with their initial contribution being our trusty Series III Land Rover in the Luangwa, used for the most variety of work ranging from secondary school field trips, to town runs, deploying anti-poaching patrols, and conducting regular field operations.

At a fund-raiser for PDC Inc in 2011, Sid and Sue successfully



Above: Our trusty Series III Land Rover in the Luangwa. Right top: Sue and Libby at the school. Right bottom: Syd with a hippo.

bid for a luxurious week-long stay in the Mfuwe Lodge and Bushcamp Company's stunning bush camps situated in the remote southern portion of South Luangwa National Park.

While it took nearly two years to make the trip, it was worth the wait, as they arrived with their friends Jeff and Libby in May and were off to the bushcamps for a spectacular array of carnivore sightings and luxurious safaris provided by the Bushcamp. After this they joined ZCP and Chipembele to visit the CWET educational center and assist the Mfuwe Secondary Conservation Club's with the upcoming presentation of their research work supported by ZCP and CWET.

It was great to see them and thanks again for your continued support in Zambia!

New Carnivore Disease Paper Published

Given ever-diminishing habitat and increasing human impacts in and around protected areas, disease transmission in wild carnivores is a serious conservation concern. ZCP and collaborators recently published the first results of disease work in the Luangwa and Liuwa ecosystems, looking at wild dogs, lions, spotted hyena and domestic dogs for the prevalence of various diseases including canine distemper, parvo virus and rabies.

While there was little evidence of significant exposure to distemper or parvo across all species, we documented antibodies to rabies in approximately 40% of the sampled lions, indicating prior exposure to the virus but no development of symptoms.

To our knowledge this is the first documentation of rabies virus exposure in wild lions that did not lead to rabies and possibly indicates resistance. It also underscores the importance of rabies vaccination programs for domestic dogs, such as what PDC Inc. has funded in the Luangwa and from which domestic dog samples were obtained for this paper.

Given that wild dogs have denned in Liuwa less than 500m from villages and regularly come within 1 km of villages in the Luangwa, and that lions, leopards and hyenas come into contact (and even eat) domestic dogs in some areas, the importance of domestic dog vaccination programs is high to prevent catastrophic rabies outbreaks.

Vehicle Support

As John and patrons can attest to, ZCP cannot be accused of being a bloated NGO spending all their money on fancy new vehicles; in fact some of the land rovers are older than many of our staff! In addition Zambia's rugged topography and extreme wet and dry seasons make operating field vehicles year round a big challenge and expense.

Given John's extensive experience in field research vehicles he recognised the need for increased funds to assist us with vehicle repair and maintenance. Thanks to donations from Painted Dog Conservation Inc. for vehicle maintenance, we were able to purchase a large order of genuine parts from the UK for our fleet. We also contracted a local mechanic in the Luangwa on a weekly basis for preventative maintenance and to mentor ZCP's trainee mechanic, Francis Phiri, on the more complicated facets of Land Rover mechanics and the wide array of repairs created by all our field research activities!

New ZCP Work Shirts Arrive Thanks to PDC Inc.

As the programme has expanded and added staff there are a lot of details and expenses that get overlooked while just trying to get the major objectives of running multiple field projects accomplished.

A nice shirt or two with a ZCP logo to wear while giving a talk or in a meeting was easy to have made but one day we realised no one had a uniform. Thanks to PDC Inc. we received nearly 20 beautifully stitched high quality work shirts, one for every staff member; this year and have distributed them throughout the projects, ensuring the team is not only working hard but looking sharp doing it! In addition PDC Inc. donated dozens of patches and t-shirts for distribution and sale.

Conservation Takes Flight in South Luangwa

Last year, ZCP and the South Luangwa Conservation Society were donated a Cessna 180 plane through Mfuwe Lodge/ Bushcamp Company for anti-poaching patrols and aerial tracking, which has completely transformed the face of conservation and research in the Luangwa Valley.

Both organisations are now able to operate more effectively with almost daily flights to determine the locations of collared carnivores and to designate the course of scout patrols.

The Cessna 180 finally moved to its hanger inside the South Luangwa National Park and has been stationed there since mid-May 2013. For many years the importance of air support has been emphasised by ZCP and PDC Inc. was instrumental in providing funds for aerial tracking flights through local operators prior to the acquisition of the plane.

Advanced Educational Funding

With the help of collaborators, ZCP has implemented comprehensive educational programs for Zambians beginning at the secondary school level all the way to the international Ph.D. level (see below).

While we have a university-level internship programme we are seeking to expand university-level opportunities for aspiring students and current wildlife professionals seeking higher education.

In 2013, thanks to PDC Inc. funding, we were able to take significant steps toward this goal with the sponsorship of Victor Salamo, a ZAWA scout attached to the Kafue Project, who has demonstrated an exceptional interest and motivation to begin pursuing advanced training in wildlife research and conservation. Victor will begin taking web-based certificate program in wildlife management during his off-time in the 2013 season and is extremely excited about this opportunity.

In addition PDC Inc. has contributed funding to the university thesis project of Annie Namuuya Sikanwe of Copperbelt University in Zambia. Annie will be conducting a project entitled "Human-carnivore interactions in the communal lands around Kafue National Park: A case study of Chief Kahare's Kingdom," evaluating the degree and extend of human-wildlife conflict in the Greater Kafue as her research project.

She will also be spending a portion of the season working with ZCP to get first-hand experience in wildlife research techniques



Left: Students in field with Thandi. Right: Thandi practicing Mfuwe Day presentation.

as well as helping develop additional educational initiatives in the Greater Kafue.

The past six months have also been exceptionally productive in our education programme, with intensive work with the Mfuwe Day Secondary School Conservation Club on their camera trap analysis.

In mid-2012, the students began a camera trap survey in the park and finished collecting data towards the end of last year.

Now, through working weekly with ZCP Field Ecologist Thandiwe Mweetwa and Peacecorps volunteer Johnathan Merkle, the students have been able to analyze their data, graphically represent their conclusions, and prepare a Powerpoint presentation about their study.

The presentation took place on Sunday 16 June at Mfuwe Lodge to an audience of lodge employees and guests and was a resounding success. The students recited their project and conclusions articulately and confidently addressed tough questions from the audience!

This holistic approach to the education programme ensures that students are not only equipped to collect data in the field, but also have the skills to analyse their data and present their research publicly.

ZCP Intern Henry Mwape, after several abrupt closings and

delays at the university, is expected to graduate from the University of Zambia in September 2013 and he will then join the ZCP team as a fulltime field assistant.

Dr. Wigganson Matandiko commenced his second year of PhD studies at Montana State University and arrived back to Zambia in May 2013 to conduct his second year of fieldwork in the Kafue National Park evaluating the biological, environmental and human drivers of ungulate abundance and distribution and its relation to predation and disease.

Jassiel M'soka, the founder of the ZCP Liuwa project and Project Leader, had a successful first semester in his MSc programme in the Ecology Department at Montana State University and he is now back in Liuwa for the field season to collect data on carnivore dynamics in a lion-depleted system for his thesis.

Thandiwe Mweetwa is working fulltime with ZCP this year but has formally been accepted to the University of Arizona to begin her MSc in January 2014 on lion demography in the Luangwa valley.

Long in the Tooth: Ungulate Aging Techniques for Predator-Prey Studies

Given the importance of prey to predators, a large part of our work is increasingly devoted to predator-prey dynamics.

Given that large mammals are long-lived with variable rates of survival and reproduction depending on their age class, a key but very difficult piece of information on large carnivore diets is the estimated age of the prey they kill.

While most species can be classified into age classes (calf, subadult, adult, etc.) once an animal reaches adulthood it can become very difficult to determine age, yet there is substantial evidence that many carnivores select older senescent adults versus strong prime age animals.

To assist with this determination on our projects, PDC Inc. supported an aging analysis of teeth obtained from ungulate carcasses.

The method employs cementum annuli analysis (similar to counting tree rings for age) and has provided very promising results which will significantly advance our understanding of the impacts of predators and predator removal in Zambian ecosystems.

Clothing to Mfuwe South Luangwa

With the generous assistance of Ron and Anke Cowan, Directors of Kafunta Safaris (www.luangwa.com), PDC Inc. was recently able to send clothes and stationery donated by Perth Zoo, The Fabric Printer (www.fabricprinter.com.au) and Life Members Mike and Lorraine Dunn to two projects in the valley, notably Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust (www.chipembele.org) and Project Luangwa (www.projectluangwa.org).

The donations were greatly appreciated and we hope to continue sending items with assistance of Ron and Anke into the future.

Thanks to all involved!!



An Evening with Kevin Richardson,

Painted Dog Conservation Inc is excited to announce “An Evening with Kevin Richardson”, the world famous “Lion Whisperer” from South Africa.

Please join us for an entertaining evening listening to Kevin’s adventures and his conservation work, with an exclusive opportunity to purchase a signed copy of “Part of the Pride”, his biography which he wrote with our very own Tony Park!

Tony will also be in attendance to launch his new book, “The Prey”.

7:00pm, Saturday 2 November 2013

Plaza Ballroom 1 and 2, Hyatt Hotel

Cnr Adelaide Tce and Plain Street, East Perth

(Parking is available under the hotel or along the terrace)

\$100 per head

(includes drinks and canapes for the duration)

RSVP: 25 October 2013 to lemonj@ozemail.com.au.

The Lion Whisperer



Ticket Order and Payment Form: **An Evening with Kevin Richardson**

Please note PDC Inc does not recommend provision of credit card details via email, and will not request them.

Name:

Address:

Number of tickets required: x \$100 = \$

Payment Method: Cheque Visa Mastercard

Card Number.....Expiry Date.....

Name on Card.....

Signature:.....

This transaction will show as "Painted Dog Conservation Incorporated" on your statement. Please send completed order forms to 49 Waratah Boulevard, Canning Vale WA 6155.

A Letter From Patron, Bradley Trevor Greive

Greetings fellow PDC Inc members and supporters – As you may have noticed it's been a while since I last had a chance to contribute to this illustrious newsletter however, alas, your good fortune has finally come to an end.

One of the more unusual things I've been up to in 'Tinseltown' of late has been to assume the role of resident wildlife expert on the late-night comedy talk-show, *Chelsea Lately*. I know this sounds like a moderately respectable wildlife education endeavour but in reality it translates into varying degrees of public humiliation and puddles of pungent urine pooling before a live studio audience – here's a link to my most recent television appearance so you get a sense of what I'm talking about:

https://www.facebook.com/video/embed?video_id=10151994056317782

More cynical folk may assume that I agree to deliver these invariably disastrous presentations merely in order to rub shoulders with bona fide celebrities – and perhaps, in part, they are right. Though it certainly hasn't worked out that way. Believe me, I'm as deeply disappointed as you are when, after two years in Hollywood, I must reluctantly confess that I'm still the most famous person I know, which is really rather pitiful Clearly my schmoozing needs a great deal of work.

The real reason I enjoy my populist role as a low-brow wildlife advocate is two-fold: Not only do I feel privileged to showcase wildlife to any audience that may otherwise never consider the lives of the extraordinary creatures with whom share our planet, but I also get a chance to learn more about these species myself. To that end, after meeting 'Dakota', a juvenile Bald Eagle found bloodied and battered beside a remote Alaskan highway – almost certainly struck by a car while feeding on road-kill – that was rescued by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and then rehabilitated by the Wildlife Learning Centre in Los Angeles, I became deeply interested in the characteristics, abilities and history of this regal and iconic species. And that is why I want to share a condensed version of their remarkable story with you in this issue.

Bald Eagles, as you probably know, are the only eagle species unique to North America and, to give you a better sense of physical scale, they are roughly the same impressive size as our own Wedge-Tailed Eagle though, being a true fishing eagle, they have a slightly more compact and muscular frame. In a nutshell: Wedge-Tailed Eagles are slightly taller and have a wingspan up to 45cm longer than Bald Eagles, but the largest Bald Eagle will outweigh the largest Wedge-Tailed Eagle by about two or three kilograms which, in bird terms, is a significant amount. Suffice to say, like Jaguars and Lions, both Bald Eagles and Wedge-Tailed Eagles are very gifted predators that are ideally suited to their respective environments.

Bald Eagles are obviously not bald per se, their heads are densely covered in feathers - their common name is simply derived from the corruption of the somewhat archaic term "Piebald", which was used to describe the dramatic dark and light colouration of the mature Bald Eagle's body, wings, head and tail. The scientific



name of this species is a lot clearer: *Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*, which in English basically translates as "white-headed sea eagle".

Since being designated the national bird of the USA in 1782, Bald Eagles have become synonymous with symbols of American power – however many Americans are not even aware that these impressive raptors are sea eagles, preferring a diet of fish to all other prey. Fewer still know that Bald Eagles can actually swim – No, they don't have webbed feet like a duck, they employ a curious looking but wholly effective breast stroke action that Eric "The Eel" Moussambani would be proud of.

Bald Eagles have truly incredible vision – unlike we feeble humans Bald Eagles have two fovea (focal points) in each eye, enabling them to look straight ahead and to the side at the same time. We have three different colour receptor cells in our eyes, Bald Eagles have four; meaning they see at least 25% more colours than we do, including ultraviolet, and as such they can even see changes in air temperature. Eagles can also pick up far more rapid movement than we can: While our eyes cannot distinguish movement beyond 50 hertz (hertz = cycles per second), Bald Eagles can see 100 hertz – In other words, while a normal light-bulb in your home (operating at 60 hertz) would seem like a constant light source to you, for an eagle it would appear to be flashing like a disco ball or a lighthouse dosed up on amphetamines. Likewise the seamless drama projected onto a movie screen before your eyes would look like a clunky slide-show to a Bald Eagle. Just to add insult to injury, human eyes have 200,000 photoreceptors per millimetre, which sounds incredibly impressive until you learn that Bald Eagles have 1,000,000 photoreceptors per millimetre. No matter which way one looks at it a Bald Eagle's eyesight is many times better than ours – In essence, their entire life is in glorious HD.

Soaring at altitudes above 3,000m, Bald Eagles can swoop down on their prey at over 160kph without ruffling their 7,000 sculpted feathers. Despite their formidable, razor-sharp beak,

it's the deadly dancing shoes you have to watch out for: The crushing power of a Bald Eagle's talons is astonishing, and has been measured at 400psi (or 2,757,902 N/m²) – keeping in mind that an average lion's bite is 600psi, it shows just how powerful these natural weapons are. A Bald Eagle is easily capable of breaking the bones in a man's arm or tearing the marble nipples off Michelangelo's David.

Speaking of titillating roughness, Bald Eagles have several extraordinary courtship rituals and displays that are as dangerous as they are mesmerising. The most spectacular mating ritual is called "cartwheeling", wherein the male and female lock their feet together at extremely high altitude and then plummet to earth in an extremely critical manoeuvre that, in elite skydiving circles, is known as a "down-plane formation". As the plummet from the clouds they tumble over and over and over and over; a beautiful and terrifying blur of talons and feathers – like two drag queens falling offstage while fighting over a microphone – maintaining their vice-like grip on each other until the very last nanosecond when, perilously close to the unforgiving earth, they suddenly release and blast clear of certain death with their mighty wings fully extended.

Despite their evident taste for psycho-sexual brinksmanship Bald Eagles enjoy long and rewarding romantic relationships, generally mating for life. As is so common with successful, status-conscious young couples these days Bald Eagles channel their desires and frustrations into their homes, building monumental nests that can be measure some almost four metres in diameter and weigh as much as three tonnes. In late winter or early spring the female (who is always considerably larger than the male) will lay up to three eggs from which, five weeks later, screaming eaglets will emerge. If all goes well (only 50% of Bald Eagles survive their first year of life) these raucous white fluff-balls will take to sky as chocolate coloured missiles in just three months, not developing their characteristic white head and tail for another three to five years. And then from that point on they will rule North American airspace for 20 years or more. Bald Eagles are the apex predator of the skies, capable of lethal air to air combat and devastating dive bombing, in effect they are the F/A-18's of the animal kingdom.

I wanted to share this brief zoological introduction with you today for two simple reasons: First, I hope you enjoyed learning a little more about an extraordinary bird of prey and, second, Bald Eagles are living proof that wildlife conservation really works, indeed the Bald Eagle comeback is, without doubt, one of the greatest success stories in history.

To many of you, the story of the Bald Eagle's decline sounds eerily familiar: Early European settlers occupied and destroyed large areas of Bald Eagle habitat and, at the same time, started hunting the predatory birds they blamed for killing livestock – fishermen were particularly worried about competing with these enormous eagles and shot countless birds every year, all along America's major waterways. Though this magnificent bird of prey was formally protected from hunting in 1940, it was almost too late. With numbers already at an untenable low, the devastating effects of the pesticide DDT took this species to the dark edge of oblivion. Rain washed the DDT off the crops it was sprayed on and the toxic chemicals soaked into the earth,

only to be leached from the soil and end up in the streams and rivers where it was absorbed by the fish that Bald Eagles ate – The result was predictably horrific: America's proud avian symbol was almost completely wiped out by the 1970s – down from 500,000 birds to just 400 breeding pairs.

But, thanks to the incredible work of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, their state conservation partners, and individuals like you, this story has a happy ending. It didn't happen overnight, but a comprehensive defence and recovery plan was put in place that addressed each of the critical areas: Bald Eagles and Bald Eagle habitat were more stringently protected, coordinated captive breeding, rehabilitation and release programs were put in place, the catastrophic impact of DDT was exposed and, most importantly, the public were made aware of exactly what was at stake.

It took three decades to steady the ship, but the recovery of America's proud symbol is now on course. I'm very pleased to tell you that Bald Eagles were formerly removed from the list of threatened and endangered American species in 2007. Bald Eagle populations in the USA's lower 48 states have recovered to over 10,000, with another 60,000 sweeping across the skies above Alaska and Canada, and growing steadily every year. I have been to see the great sea eagles gathering in large numbers in the Juan De Fuca Strait, in the Salish Sea, between the USA and Canada – and it was a truly wondrous experience that I shall never forget.

When looking at the decline of Painted Dogs, and indeed many other unique and precious African species, it's easy to feel disheartened when faced with tragedy, setbacks and public indifference. However the positive example of long-term conservation success stories such as the Bald Eagle recovery in North America offer us hope and encouragement. From the outset PDC Inc established a sound approach to Painted Dog conservation that addressed the key issues of science, law enforcement, Government policy, cultural impact, public awareness and education. This is a program that will work if we stay the course.

I remain very proud of what we, as PDC Inc members, supporters, field officers and volunteers, have already achieved and, as always, I conclude my PDC Inc Patron's letter by asking you to do whatever you can to keep the good work going. Saving a species from extinction is not a short-term project, PDC Inc are in this for the long-haul, and we can't achieve anything without your continued support. Please renew your membership and invite one or two like-minded friends to sign up as well. Your time, energy, creativity, word of mouth and yes, tax deductible donations, are the life-blood of PDC Inc.

Unlike Bald Eagles, we don't have the combined might of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, countless privately funded conservation groups or the deep pockets of 300,000,000 Americans. We have you.

For Painted Dogs you are what stands between extinction and salvation. As overwhelming as this challenge seems I know that, if we stand together and keep the good work going, we are up to the task. History is on our side.

Yours gratefully,

Bradley Trevor Greive, Founding Patron PDC Inc

Orphaned Baby Hippo Needs Adoption in Zambia

In early February 2013 a tiny baby hippo was found abandoned on the banks of the Zambezi River. She was estimated to be just two weeks old and was later rescued by Conservation Lower Zambezi.

On 15 May she was flown to Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre in South Luangwa for the start of her long term rehabilitation back to the wild. The location there is ideal as it is situated in a wilderness area next to the Luangwa River where wild hippos abound. The nearest human settlement is 16km away, plus there is a secure large mammal boma, a keepers' hut, and a large pond for her nursery days.

See a video here: <http://youtu.be/ReX9EQk0HEU>

Follow her story here:

<http://www.facebook.com/ChipembeleWildlife>

And read the general funding appeal at:

<http://www.chipembele.org/appeal>

Dougline needs your help

The baby hippo was at first thought to be a boy and was named Douglas but when later discovered to be a girl the name was changed to Dougline!

Although her story has been widely publicised, the initial surge of donations is already starting to wane and we urgently need to secure long term funds for her care and rehabilitation.

She is settling in well to her new home but needs 24 hour a day care, which is shared by 3 local keepers, and she drinks milk for Zambia!

Currently the costs of her care include 16 litres of milk and 16 eggs a day, pro-biotics, mineral/vitamin supplements, skincare cream, Milton sterilising fluid and wages/food rations for the three keepers.

As a charitable trust we rely almost totally on international donor support for all of our projects and we are therefore looking for an organisation or company who would want to adopt her and commit to her major needs for at least the next two years until she is fully weaned.

The total monthly upkeep is \$1740 or £1100. (See cost-breakdown on next page.)

How adopting Dougline can benefit you

Very few baby hippos have been successfully reared and rehabilitated back to the wild so although her story is not unique it is certainly unusual and is likely to attract a lot of public and media attention.

Your pledged adoption would entitle you to major branding by Chipembele, including on our newsletters, website, Facebook page and other international networks and circulations. You will also receive regular updates on her progress. The promotional and educational opportunities for you would be enormous.

If you have other ideas about how the partnership might work, please contact us!

Thank you!

Anna Tolan, Director;

info@chipembele.org, www.chipembele.org





Care costs for orphaned hippo, 4 months old

Item	Total amount per day	Total amount per month	Total cost in ZK per month	Total cost in USD per month	Total cost in GBP per month
Long life full cream cow's milk, 1.5 litres every 3 hrs	16 litres	496 litres	4960	1000	620
Eggs, 2 per milk feed	16	480	Donated	Donated	Donated
Pro-biotic supplement			52	10	7
Vitamin/mineral supps			120	24	15
Aqueous cream for skin			250	48	32
Milton sterilising liquid			360	70	45
3 keepers wages for round the clock care			2460	473	307
Food rations for keepers			600	115	75
Total			8802	1740	1101

Please note: All feeding equipment, keeper accommodation and equipment such as overalls, torches, solar lamps, cooking pots etc, was already in situ or has been provided by donated funds. Only ongoing hippo care costs need now to be funded. It is anticipated the feed will increase as she grows to a maximum of 20 litres/day by November 2013 then start to decrease as the hippo feeds on fresh grass with the onset of the rains. Douglina is likely to be weaned by two years old when the rehabilitation back to the wild process will begin. The Zambia Wildlife Authority have given full authorisation.

Help us raise funds for **Painted Dog Conservation Inc.**

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Plus, the good news is that \$13 from your Book purchase goes towards our fund-raising.

The more Books we sell the more we raise so please forward this email to your family and friends!

Thank you for your continued support.

Painted Dog Conservation Inc

To order your book, visit
www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/912f60

Bowling for Painted Dogs

On 10 April 2013, PDC Inc. hosted a bowling night at the South Perth Bowling Club as part of the Australasian Society Zoo Keeping (ASZK) eighth national fundraiser.

This year PDC Inc. was the nominated charity with the proceeds of all the national events being granted to us to allocate to our field projects.

Many of you have participated in this annual fundraiser which has, over the past eight years, raised over \$40,000.

This money has been used to support threatened species

projects including Greater Bilby, Asian Rhino, Southern Cassowary, Philippine Crocodile, New Zealand Kea, Tenkile, Numbat and Southern Corroboree Frog.

The night was a great success and was the culmination of the efforts of many keen and enthusiastic supporters.

Our thanks go out to Tony Percival the manager of the South Perth Bowling Club for allowing us to host the event free of charge and drinks at member's prices!

IGA South Perth for donating bread rolls, onions, margarine, sauces, chips, dips, lollies and raffle items; and Cherry Blossom Flowers for their auction item.

Our thanks must also go to Geoff Pape for his amazing vegan sausages. His culinary delights were enjoyed by all.

The night owes its thanks to many people for their hard work and donations. Perth Zoo staff including Belinda Turner (ASZK representative at Perth Zoo), Kaelene McKay, Sophie Dentrinos, Jody Polson, Bec Wood and Kay Bradfield, assisted by PDC Inc. committee members made it a memorable night for all in attendance.

PDC Inc. would like to formally thank the entire Zoo community across the nation that held an event during the month of April along with Carla Srb and Jocelyn Hockley from ASZK for their commitment to the cause.



Top two left: New SLCS/ZCP plane
Bottom two left: Our new vet, Dr Mwamba Sichande.

Tony Park's "Dark Heart" Fundraiser

Thursday 28 February marked the return of our Patron Tony Park to Perth for the launch of his latest Novel, *Dark Heart* at the Plaza Ballroom 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Over 70 guests enjoyed canapés and drinks whilst listening to Tony's overview of his latest novel and a blow-by-blow account of his latest travels in the Dark Continent.

PDC Inc. first Life Member Richard Dunlop plays a starring role in "*Dark Heart*" after his generous bidding for the naming rights as a character in the book at our last Tony Park evening.

A quick insight of "*Dark Heart*":

Lawyer Mike Ioannou is dead after a hit and run in Thailand. A home invasion threatens the life of medico Richard Dunlop. In Johannesburg, a car jacker nearly kills photo journalist Liesl Nel. Unrelated incidents in a dangerous world, or something else entirely?

In a quest that takes them from South Africa's Kruger National Park to Zambia, Australia, and back to Rwanda, where it all began, they find that amidst the indestructible majesty and beauty of Africa, yesterday's merchants of death are dealing in a new currency – illegal traditional medicine and the barbaric live trade in endangered African wildlife; businesses they're prepared to kill for to protect.

The night had many highlights, including the auctioning of Painted Dogs and Polar Bear sculptures by renowned UK artist of the year;

Nick Mackman; in addition to one-off Painted Dog oil paintings by Zimbabwean artist Craig Hilton-Barber.

During our auction evenings, PDC Inc acknowledges both our Life Members and continued supporters and as a thank you, Bev Poor, a major supporter and donor to PDC Inc. was presented with an honorary Life Membership plaque for her commitment to the cause.

Tony will be returning to Perth on 2 November 2013 for our "Evening with Kevin Richardson, The Lion Whisperer," and will be celebrating the release of his next publication "*The Prey*".



Clockwise from top right: Tony Park; Luke, Frances and Alyson on the door; An enthrallled crowd; Bev Poor receiving her honorary Life Membership plaque; Gorgeous Painted Dog Clay sculptures by renowned UK artist of the year Nick Mackman, one of the many Auction items up for grabs on the night. Day presentation.



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Conservation through action and education

Find us on the Web

www.painteddogconservation.iinet.net.au
pdmembers@iinet.net.au

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.



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. Please tear off the slip below and forward to the Treasurer, whose address appears above.

Credit Card Transaction

Please note that PDC Inc does not recommend provision of credit card details via email, and will not request them.

Name:

Address:

Credit Card Type: Visa / Mastercard

Card Number.....Expiry Date.....

Name on Card.....

Amount:.....\$AUD / \$USD Signature:.....

Australian Residents: Donations or gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.