


# Using science to understand and conserve an endangered carnivore 

March 2013

Gregory Rasmussen
Research Director, Painted Dog Conservation
IUCN?SSC Canid Specialist Group
Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS, England

## The Painted Dog Is A Unique Canid With No Close Relatives

No two dogs have the same coat pattern

They only have four toes
They are not a true dog and stem from an ancient evolutionary line.



## Sociality



■


## Hunting Dogs


®



## Conflict With Other Predators



Only lions \& hyaenas can kleptoparasitise painted dogs. In open areas food losses can be high. Thick bush however affords good cover with food losses being minimal


## Competition with other predators



# 100 Years Ago There Were Probably 500 000 Dogs. Today 5000 May Remain 



Known Viable Populations In Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Botswana

South Africa Account For 2500
Threats By Rank:
Snares
Ranchers
Cars
Negative attitude Loss of quality habitat Declining prey base Kleptoparasites (Lions/hyaenas)

Distribution and density of the Painted Dog Lycaon pictus

Mortality data for the Painted Hunting Dog Lycaon pictus at the boundary interface of Hwange national park Zimbabwe 1989-93


## Human perception was wrong



Painted Dogs ever attacking man in the wild

## Sharing Science



## COMPARING TRACKS




Total pad area


Lycaon

## Pad angle??





## Linking Coat patterns with DNA results







## Training And Development Of Local People



## 16 Men Employed:

## $12,000+$ Snares Collected Since 2001

## Environmentally Friendly Crafts Centre



## Creating Art From Snares !





## Working With Children

- Improved Perception Of Target Animal
- Increased Awareness Of Conservation
- Co-Operation From Adults In Communities
- Valuable Feedback For The Conservation Effort


## (ㅇ) () It's Fun © © © (ㅇ) ()



## 30 Schools: 1200 Children Attend Per Annum.





## Fun experiential learning






2



## Heading For A Brighter Future ?



## Population Dynamics In Zimbabwe 1989-2007 <br> Effective safe areas inside national parks



New resident populations since 1993

Sporadic sightings in the years 1994-99
Unsafe areas for dogs inside National parks

## Pups feeding



## Thank You For Listening



