



**ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST**
Protecting forever, together.

Conserving South Africa's most Endangered carnivore: The African Wild Dog

Carnivores are among the most charismatic yet threatened groups of species and require innovative conservation strategies to ensure their survival. The EWT's Carnivore Conservation Programme boldly implements large-scale, collaborative, field-based projects to increase the range, numbers, and status of Africa's threatened carnivores. We achieve this by re-establishing, maintaining, and expanding safe space for carnivores, actively reducing threats to carnivore survival and persistence, ensuring positive changes in human attitudes towards carnivores, and supporting legislation to protect them.



The EWT has been studying and conserving African Wild Dogs since the early 1990s. Initially, EWT researchers focused on the Greater Kruger landscape. However, in 1997, we saw the opportunity to expand safe space for Wild Dogs by working with a growing number of fenced reserves across South Africa. In the early days, there were only a few transient individuals and small packs in parks like Hluhluwe-iMfolozi and Madikwe. Since we began the Wild Dog Range Expansion Project, the number of Wild Dogs has increased from around 300 dogs confined to the Kruger National Park and a small population of free-roaming individuals in the Waterberg to approximately 550 across South Africa. Our success in South Africa has made the EWT the go-to organisation for Wild Dog reintroductions. In 2017, the Carr Foundation and Gorongosa scientists worked with EWT's Wild Dog experts to conduct the first international reintroduction. The success of this operation led to the introduction of a second pack in 2019. In the past three years alone, safe space for Wild Dogs has almost doubled, surpassing one million hectares, and there has been a simultaneous boost in population numbers and genetic diversity. Thanks to careful management, Wild Dogs' genetic diversity within fenced reserves is higher than that of Wild Dogs in the Kruger National Park.

Probably more than habitat loss, Wild Dogs are threatened by human persecution. We have worked closely with livestock farmers through the Livestock Guardian Dog Project. We source and place guardian dogs with livestock owners in the Waterberg to reduce livestock losses to predators and thereby reduce retaliatory killings of carnivores, including the free-roaming Waterberg Wild Dogs. Over the past ten years, 224 Livestock Guardian Dogs have been placed with farmers, and we aim to expand this project to other areas of South Africa and other countries in which Wild Dogs are persecuted.

Snares are another severe threat to the species. In and around protected areas, snares laid by poachers to catch antelope don't discriminate and catch Wild Dogs and other Endangered species. We partner with experienced Wild Dog veterinarians to find snared Wild Dogs, remove the damaging and often lethal device, and treat the wounds as best we can. We have removed around a hundred snares from Wild Dogs in recent years with an excellent survival rate.

Our repeated success speaks to the high quality of conservation experts that choose to work for the EWT and has encouraged international organisations to choose the EWT as a central partner for Wild Dog reintroductions and conservation. Partner organisations include well-known management organisations like the African Parks Network and the Peace Parks Foundation. We have expanded beyond South Africa's borders to reintroduce Wild Dogs to Gorongosa National Park, and, in partnership with African Parks, our range expansion efforts will extend across southern Africa over the next several years. We are currently exploring reintroductions to Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Namibia, and Angola, potentially expanding safe space for Wild Dogs by approximately two million hectares and host up to 1,000 Wild Dogs.



Media and Publications

Painteddog.tv highlighted the [EWT's work with Wild Dogs in November](#) on [Animal World Live](#).

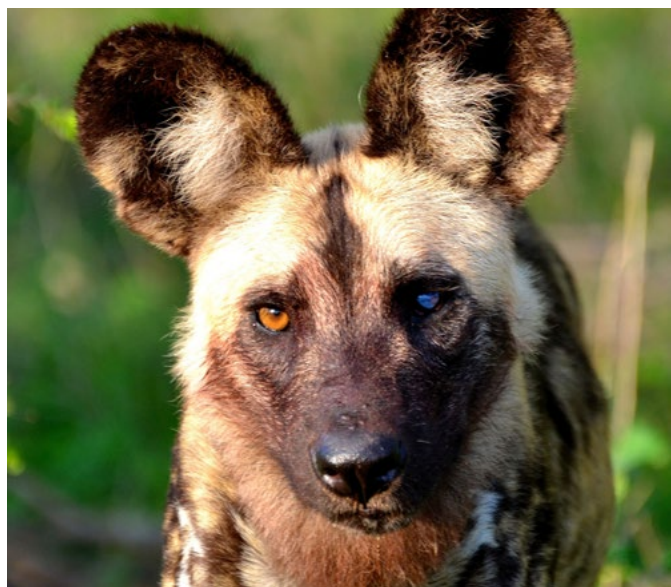
Painteddog.tv filmed the release of Wild Dogs from [Makalali](#) and [Lapalala](#) bomas.

Painteddog.tv created a [teaser](#) and [short film](#) about the Wild Dog net capture.

Painteddog.tv filmed the first ever [live collaring of a Wild Dog](#).

Gorongosa created an excellent [promo video](#) to illustrate our work with them.

Articles were published in the [South African Times](#) and [UK Times](#) about Wild Dog bonding.



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