

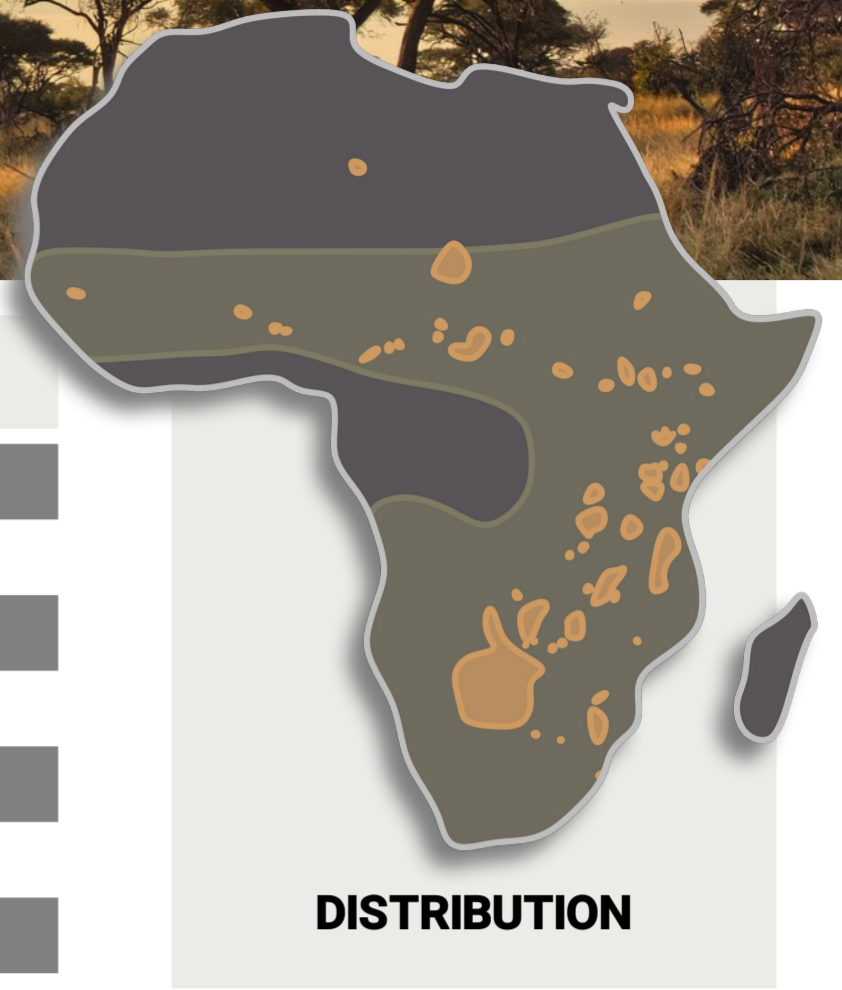


AFRICAN WILD DOG

Lycaon pictus

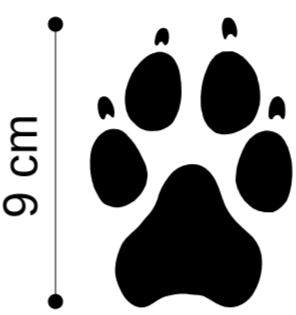


TAXONOMY
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Canidae
Genus: Lycaon
Species: Pictus



AT A GLANCE	
Body Length:	1-1.5 m
Height:	70 cm
Weight:	18-36 kg
Lifespan:	3-12 years
Gestation:	70 days
Litter-size:	2-20 pups

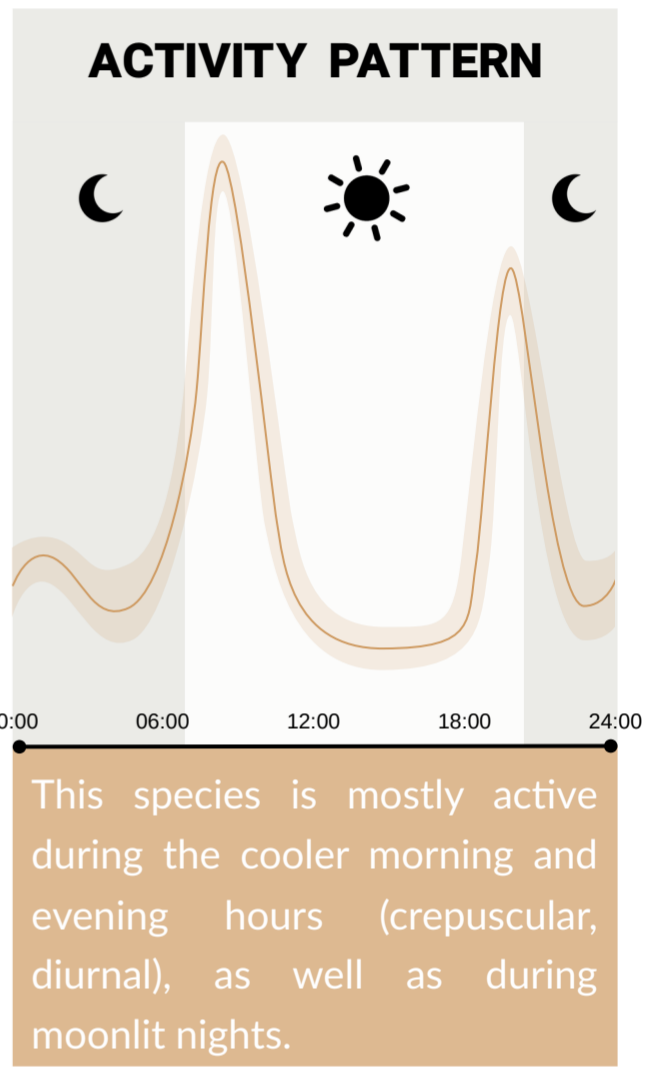
PAINTED WOLF, CAPE HUNTING DOG, LEKANYANE



The African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) is a wild canid native to sub-Saharan Africa. Also known as the African hunting dog, painted dog, or Cape hunting dog, it is easily recognized by its big, round ears and distinctive, tri-colored coat. Each individual's fur markings are so unique that they allow easy identification.

Wild dogs live in cohesive packs that are led by a dominant pair that monopolizes reproduction. After a gestation period of 90 days, the dominant female will give birth to up to 22 pups in a below-ground den. Pups get raised and fed by the entire pack. Upon reaching sexual maturity at about 1.5 to 3 years of age, males and females born into a pack will disperse in same-sex sibling groups in an attempt to find mates and a suitable territory to establish their own pack.

With their incredibly lean but muscular build, wild dogs are outstanding endurance hunters. They chase prey with up to 50 km/h until and quickly disembowel their quarry. As an apex predator, the African wild dog competes with other large carnivores, particularly with lions and hyenas, who frequently steal kills or take pups.



PREY

COMPETITORS

STATUS & CONSERVATION

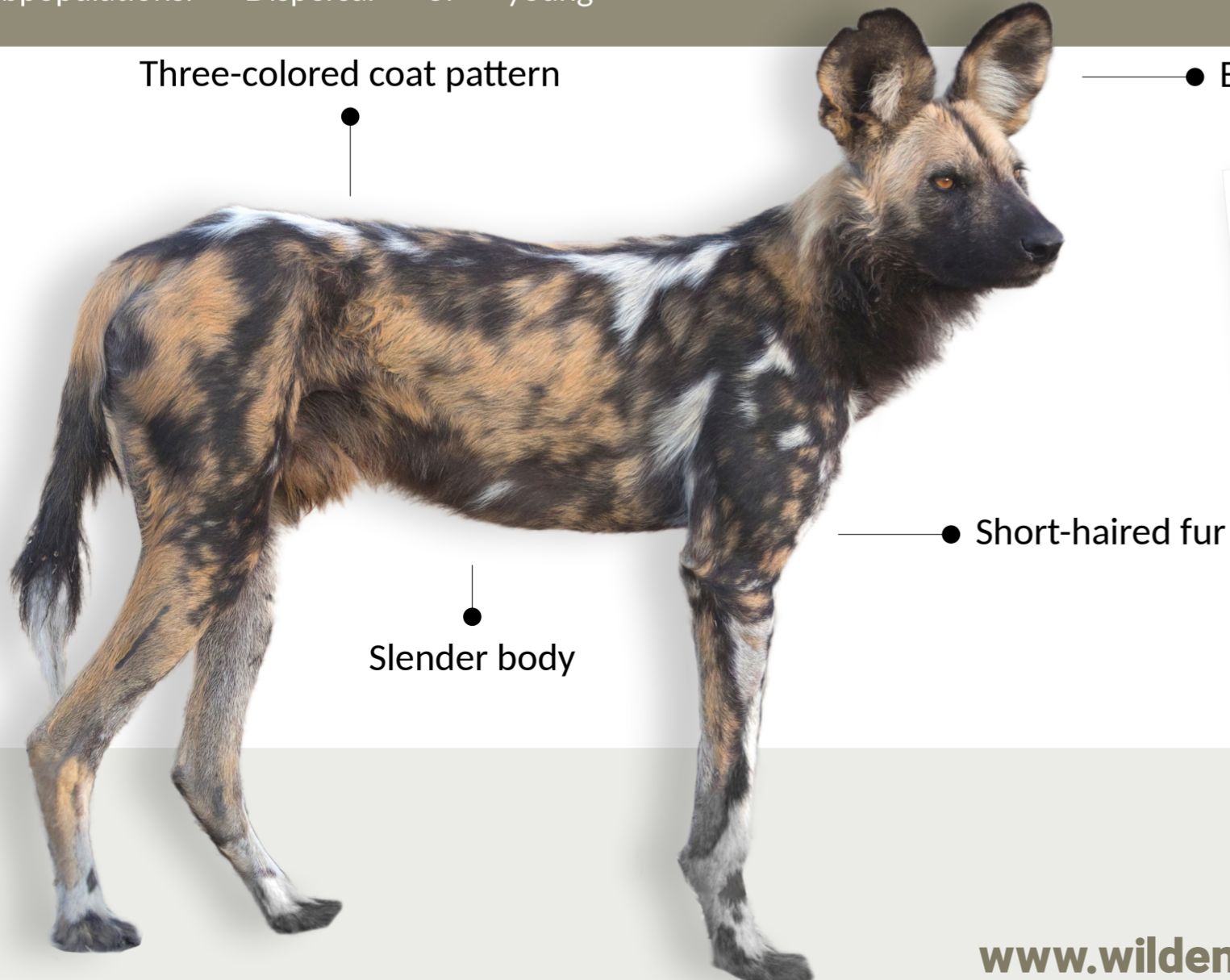
While once widespread across entire Sub-Saharan Africa, the species has sharply declined in response to infectious diseases (rabies and distemper), human persecution, and habitat loss. With **less than 6'000 individuals remaining** in the wild, the African wild dog is the most endangered large carnivore in Africa. This has resulted in significant isolation of remaining subpopulations. Dispersal of young

individuals from one area to another is therefore of vital importance in securing genetic exchange. However, dispersers often venture outside protected areas into human-dominated landscapes, where they are exposed to anthropogenic risks. Northern Botswana represents one of the few remaining strongholds for African wild dogs and may serve as source population for the re-colonization of surrounding areas.



OUR RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Botswana Predator Conservation Program was initiated over 30 years ago in 1989, when John «Tico» McNutt conducted his PhD in Botswana. The project has continued ever since and represents the longest running conservation project on African wild dogs. The collected data yields insights into population viability and connectivity under amplified climate change and anthropogenic pressures.



AFRICAN WILD DOG PICTURES WANTED TO HELP US PROTECT THEM

For each wild dog sighting, please send us pictures, date, location (pin coordinates on your phone or send a rough description) and information on number of adults, pups, and collared individuals. Side pictures, like the one above, are of particular value as they allow identifying individual dogs based on their unique coat patterns.

Email: wilddogdispersal@gmail.com | WhatsApp: +41 77 435 27 83

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Living in cohesive packs with 5 to 15 individuals, the African wild dog is the most social of all carnivores. A dominant pair monopolizes reproduction, yet all pack members participate at hunts and help rearing the pups.