



African Wild Dog Dispersal Study

WANTED

Have you seen any African wild dog?

Please send us information on number of adults, pups, collared individuals, date and location (coordinates or a rough description). Pictures are of particular value as they allow identifying single dogs based on their unique coat pattern.

Email: wilddogdispersal@gmail.com



The project in a nutshell

The African wild dog is Africa's most endangered large carnivore. One major threat to the survival of the species is the loss and fragmentation of suitable habitats. As a result, wild dogs are forced to live in isolated and small subpopulations, which are particularly vulnerable to extinction. Through emigration and immigration, dispersing individuals lead to the formation of new groups, can rescue small subpopulations, and recolonize unoccupied areas. Understanding how and where wild dogs disperse, and assessing connectivity between subpopulations is thus fundamental for the management and conservation of the species across large wildlife landscapes such as the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA/TFCA).

We deploy GPS/Satellite radio collars on sub-adult African wild dogs that disperse from their natal pack, to collect information on dispersal movement patterns, habitat use during dispersal, survival, settlement success in a new territory, and reproductive success of newly formed packs. Finally, we will merge this novel information on dispersing individuals with existing data on resident packs to create a demographic model and assess population extinction risks under changing environmental and anthropogenic scenarios. Results from this project will be used to inform management plans to conserve this highly endangered species.

This project is a collaboration between the University of Zurich and the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust. Please do not hesitate to visit our webpages (www.popecol.org and www.bpctrust.org) or to contact us by e-mail for more info.

Despite the newest technology implemented in the collars facilitates our work, following dispersing wild dogs over several hundred kilometers still represents a major challenge. Your help is therefore essential and much appreciated!

Your dispersal team