



SAVING CRITICALLY ENDANGERED AFRICAN WILD DOGS ONE KILOMETRE AT A TIME

Pedals 4 Paws is a cycle adventure initiative set up by Jeremy Borg. Jeremy is the winemaker and CEO of Painted Wolf Wines. Since its inception six years ago, Painted Wolf Wines has supported conservation projects in a number of countries. Pedals 4 Paws extends this passion for conservation, providing another vehicle with which to raise funds and promote the conservation of Southern Africa's most critically endangered carnivore, the African Wild Dog, also known as the African Painted Dog or African Painted Wolf.

Wild Dogs (*Lycaon Pictus*) are declining in number throughout their range, with roughly 5000 to 6000 remaining in isolated pockets in Sub-Saharan Africa. The species is critically endangered in South Africa where less than 400 individuals remain in the wild.

In early 2012 we embarked on a series of self-funded rides to raise sponsorship. The plan is to traverse 6000 kms over two to three years, riding the "Wild Dog range". We hope to raise \$50,000 or more for Wild dog conservation through sponsorship of these rides.

We are also planning two annual multi stage events. The first will take place mid 2014 in south eastern Zimbabwe. We will take relatively small exclusive groups, offering fun and reasonably challenging riding in pristine wilderness areas. Riders will have an opportunity to engage with conservationists and researchers, and to hopefully see these elusive and rare Wild Dogs. Accommodation and catering will be of a high standard, and the event will incorporate wine tasting.

With their peloton (pack) persistence and never give up attitude, Wild Dogs are nature's perfect metaphor for Mountain Biking. Pedals 4 Paws embraces the popularity of off road riding to make a real difference in the conservation of this species and their wilderness.



AFRICAN WILD DOGS

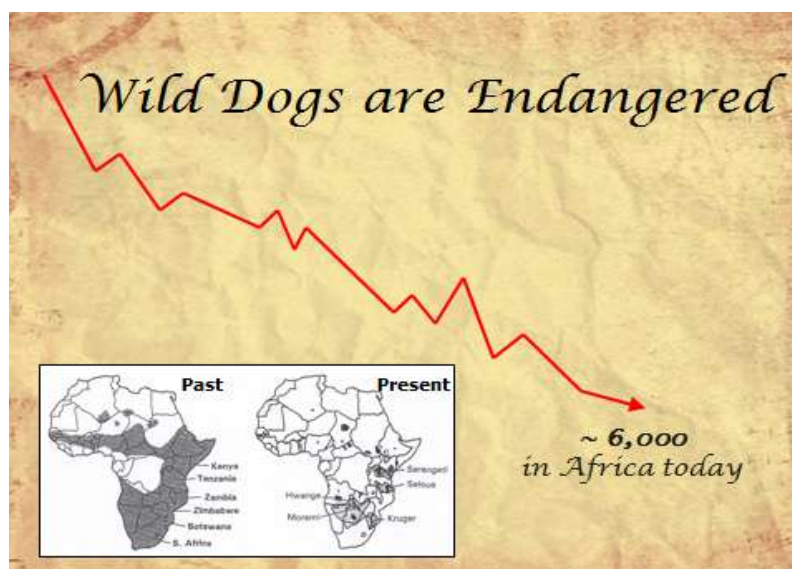
This highly social and charismatic animal is amongst the most endangered of all Africa's mammals. They are distantly related to domestic dogs or wolves, being the last remnant of a group of canids which pre-date domestic dogs and wolves on the evolutionary ladder. It is estimated that 100 years ago there were over half a million wild dogs in Sub-Saharan Africa. This figure has dropped to an estimated 6000 animals scattered in small and often isolated populations, with wilderness areas of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania holding the most viable populations. In South Africa, Wild Dogs are critically endangered. The Wild Dog population here has dropped to below 400 animals, and continues to decline. Rhinos are rightly high on the conservation agenda in South Africa. However, Wild Dogs are in greater systemic danger. If we lost as many Wild Dogs in South Africa in the last year as the number of rhino tragically poached, the species would be extinct here.



There are numbers of reasons why the species is declining, mostly related to human activities

- 1) Bush meat snares set by commercial or recreational poachers - a scourge throughout the African bush
- 2) Conflict with land owners, commercial hunters and livestock farmers leading to Wild Dogs being shot or poisoned
- 3) Rabies and other canine diseases from contact with village and feral domestic dogs
- 4) Collisions with motor vehicles, both accidental and on purpose
- 5) The illegal capture and trade of wild caught animals by international wildlife traffickers
- 6) Conservation and wild life ownership politics
- 7) Fencing and sectioning off of suitable wilderness areas

Wild Dog populations are affected by changes in the density of the bush and access to prey, often a result of the management policies followed by conservation authorities and private game farm owners. They are also attacked and killed by other predators, particularly lions.



WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT AFRICAN WILD DOGS

Aside from their great charm and beauty, African Wild Dogs have a highly developed social structure and ritualised communications. They are most successful in well organised packs, run by an alpha pair of dogs. They have incredible team work, and lend support to one another, exhibiting a number of traits that humans can easily admire and identify with. Tactics, tireless energy and relentless focus make them the most effective hunters in the African bush, with a success rate of at least 70%. Wild Dogs require vast areas in which to live and hunt - a pack of just 30 dogs requires an equivalent amount of space required by 150 leopards or 300 lions! Strategies for the long term preservation of the species involve the conservation of large tracts of wilderness



The areas where Wild Dogs are most prolific in Southern Africa are all areas where there are still large tracts of bush, such as Moremi and Chobe National Parks in Botswana, Selous National Park in Tanzania and Kafue National Park in Zambia. In South Africa, there are plans to link Madikwe and Pilansberg Game Reserves and to secure a corridor for Wild Dogs in Northern KZN. Both initiatives are driven by the need to create space and safe passage for our remaining Wild Dog population. These strategies have a very positive spin off for conservation in general. As one of the rarest and most charismatic carnivores, African Wild Dogs are a significant attraction to the areas in which they exist. They are a valuable ecological and tourism resource to Southern Africa. It would be a tragedy if their spots were to fade away.

CONSERVATION AIMS.

Wild dogs need a lot of space, free from harassment by people and the scourge of the wire snare of the poacher's snare. Strategies are required to manage the relationships between land owners, herders and hunters and wild dogs. The long term sustainability of the species requires an environment where conflict with local people is kept to a minimum, and these same people are encouraged to have empathy for the species. Pedals 4 Paws and Painted Wolf Wines support these endeavours by raising money for conservation, and evangelising on behalf of Wild Dogs and other important conservation issues. Last year Pedals 4 Paws has raised about R50, 000 and Painted Wolf Wines have helped raise a further R300, 000.

The Pedals 4 Paws rides visit reserves and wilderness areas where viable populations of Wild Dogs exist. The rides are planned to lend financial support to conservation and research programs in these areas, and to publicise the areas and the conservation efforts taking place. The financial costs of sustainable Wild Dog conservation are considerable. All of the organisations we have partnered with are short of funds. The war on Rhino poaching has captured a significant amount of the pool of funds for conservation. Other projects are suffering as a consequence.

Each ride is different. We welcome a limited number of riders, and expect them to raise funds. Time and financial resource is supplied by Painted Wolf Wines to help organise Pedals 4 Paws. A focus of our efforts is the devastating impacts wire snares is having on Wild Dogs and many other species in wilderness areas. We are very aware that conservation is only successful if it engages with local communities in wilderness areas, and brings a tangible

benefit to these people. To this affect Pedals 4 Paws is developing a program to help with the education of primary school children and a number of rural areas in Southern Africa. Pedals 4 Paws plan to assist in the provision of basic reading materials, stationary and sports equipment to a number of rural primary schools in the South East of Zimbabwe and in Kwazulu Natal in South Africa.



WHO BENEFITS FROM PEDALS 4 PAWS AND PAINTED WOLF WINES?

Painted Wolf Wines and Pedals 4 Paws are involved with various conservation organisations in Southern Africa and have provided resources and funds to The Endangered Wildlife trust, The Tusk Trust, the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust, Painted Dog Conservation and the African Wildlife Conservation Funds Lowveld Wild Dogs project. These organisations all support conservation, education and social projects.



www.africanwildlifeconservationfund.org

www.bpctrust.org

www.ewt.org.za

www.painteddog.org

www.tusk.org

PEDALS 4 PAWS

The rides take us through and between major conservation and wilderness areas. Each ride is different, traversing varied terrain and with differing levels of technical difficulty. This is cycle touring, not racing, and groups are small. If you are interested in participating please contact jeremy@paintedwolfwines.com Participating riders will be required to raise money for the projects supported by our rides. We completed three rides in 2012.

P 4 P 1 - MADIKWE TO MASHATU - During the 2012 Easter school holidays, a small group of friends and our children rode bicycles between Madikwe in North West Province, South Africa and the North Tuli game reserves in Botswana. Our first Pedals 4 Paws was a ride of approximately 500 kms for adults and 100 kms for children. It was generously and enthusiastically supported by a number of individuals and the students at Courtrai Primary School in Paarl. The first Pedals 4 Paws was a great success and raised R20 000 for the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Wild Dog projects in South Africa.



P4P 2 - MAUN TO HWANGE - Our second ride of roughly 800km kicked off in Maun Botswana at *The Coaching 4 Conservation Wake Carnival* www.bpctrust.coaching-for-conservation/asp on 28th June 2012 in Maun finishing in Hwange on 4th July, enabling us to engage with both the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust www.bpctrust.org in Maun and Painted Dog Conservation www.painteddog.org in Hwange, thus embracing two of the most important Wild Dog projects in Africa. We ended the ride at Falcon College in Esigodini Zimbabwe, where the Pedals 4 paws team competed in the Tour de Falcon cycling event, which also contributed some funds. We were joined by two university students and accompanied for part the ride by our children Oliver and Savannah and niece Nicola Irving. A short film can be seen on www.pedals4paws.com Backup was provided by our families. The funds raised from Pedals 4 Paws 2 were sent to the Tusk trust in UK www.tusk.org, who funds wild dog conservation in Zimbabwe and Botswana.



P4P 3 – HLUHLUWE TO HLANE - The third ride in November 2012 was from Hluhluwe in northern KZN to Hlane in Swaziland. This ride, in support of the Endangered Wildlife Trust www.ewt.org.za took us through a number of reserves with dogs in Northern KZN. We started at Hluhluwe and took us to Mkuze and to Tembe where 14 Wild dogs had recently been introduced. We then road over the ridge of the Ubombo Mountains and into Swaziland. We were joined by Wild Dog researchers Brendan Whittington Jones, Kelly Marnewick, and 3 other riders.



P4P 4 - MANA POOLS TO GONAREZHOU - 850kms late June to early July 2013 - this is our fourth ride, and by far the most ambitious. We have special permission to ride through national parks and conservation areas in the Zambezi Valley. This is really rough terrain and teems with wild animals- it is very rare to ride this route. We then climb up the Zambezi escarpment on the gravel. We are also privileged to ride across the Save conservancy, the world's largest privately owned game reserve. We ride through some of the most beautiful African bush. We meet researchers Dr Rosemary Groom and Dr Greg Rasmussen along the way, and visit a number of rural primary schools. We are self- supported and self- funded, investing our own money, sweat and time and family holidays to raise money for cash strapped projects in Zimbabwe, Painted Dog Conservation www.painteddog.org , and The Lowveld Wild Dog project (<http://zimbabwewilddogs.wildlifedirect.org>) or (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/African-Wildlife-Conservation-Fund/311031642244260>)



Pedals 4 Paws, 4 starts on 24th June 2013 from Mana Pools National Park to Gonarezhou National Park. First leg - Mana Pools, Chewore, Mkanga, Angwa, Guruve to Harare, where we participate in the “A celebration of Painted Wolves” at Mukuvisi Woodland on 29th June <http://www.facebook.com/pages/A-Celebration-of-Painted-Wolves> . Second leg - Mutare, Birchenough Bridge, Chishakwe and Senuko in Save Conservancy finishing at Chilo Gorge at Gonarezhou on 5th or 6th July.

**Please help us save critically endangered African
Wild Dogs, one kilometre at a time
Wild Dogs need all of the help they can get.**

Pedals 4 Paws donations made to Tusk go to projects in Zimbabwe and Botswana (over the next 6 months all monies collected by Tusk will go to Painted Dog Conservation and The Lowveld Wild Dog projects in Zimbabwe)

Our goal is to raise £5000 – please help me by donating to

www.virginmoneygiving.com/PEDALS4PAWS

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