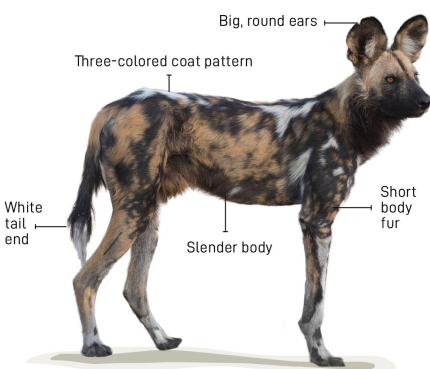




AFRICAN WILD DOG

Lycaon pictus

ENDANGERED



AFRICAN WILD DOG AT A GLANCE	
Total length:	1-1.5 m
Height:	70 cm
Weight:	18-36 kg
Life-span:	3-12 years
Gestation:	70 days
Litter- size:	2-22 cubs

PHOTOGRAPHY - DAVID HOFMANN

There are less than 6,000 individuals remaining in the wild.

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 70 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 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 exhaustion 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.



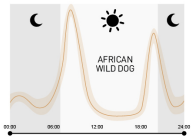
AFRICAN WILD DOG PREY



COMPETITORS



ACTIVITY PATTERN



This species is mostly active during the cooler morning and evening hours (crepuscular, diurnal), as well as during moonlit nights

TAXONOMY

AFRICAN WILD DOG	
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Canidae
Genus:	Lycaon
Species:	pictus

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.



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.



The Wild Entrust research program.

Botswana Predator Conservation Program was initiated 35 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.

wildentrust.org/about-bpc

AFRICAN WILD DOG PICTURES WANTED TO HELP US PROTECT THEM



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