



PAINTED WOLF
FOUNDATION



Painted
Dog
Fund

IMPACT 2025

Building Momentum

“ I end 2025 full of hope for what all of us, together, have achieved. Thank you for being part of this journey ”

Nick Dyer
Chief Executive - Painted Wolf Foundation
Director - Painted Dog Fund

WELCOME TO OUR IMPACT REPORT

The following pages highlight some of this year's journey.

Short on time? Watch this one minute video for a flavour of what we are achieving together.



LET'S BE CLEAR

The Painted Wolf Foundation and the Painted Dog Fund work in tandem to implement a strategy to double painted wolf numbers across Africa in the next thirty years.



Painted Wolf Foundation (PWF)

- An organisation focused purely on securing the future of the painted wolf.
- Analyses, develops and identifies investment opportunities that make a transformational impact for the species.
- Monitors and supports PDF grantees, ensuring the highest investment impact and donor value.
- Builds African painted wolf conservation capacity across the continent.
- Develops and manages initiatives that benefit all painted wolves regardless of geography.
- Manages and administers the Painted Dog Fund.



Painted Dog Fund (PDF)

- A granting mechanism dedicated to funding painted wolf conservation.
- A partnership between the Painted Wolf Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN).
- Raises and deploys funding to projects and initiatives that protect painted wolves.
- Offers donors a way to collectively pool their funding to invest in the best projects and initiatives, thereby maximising donor impact.
- Guarantees that 100% of the money raised is invested in the projects and initiatives developed by PWF.



Wildlife Conservation Network

The Painted Dog Fund is a partnership between the Painted Wolf Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) and is based on WCN's successful "Wildlife Fund" model.



“The Painted Wolf Foundation is the engine; the Painted Dog Fund is the fuel”

PUTTING THE PACK TOGETHER

Our team unites conservationists, scientists, entrepreneurs, financiers and communication experts. We bring together diverse skills and new perspectives to find the best solutions to secure the painted wolf's future.



Alison Serfontein
PWF Communications
Manager



Angelika Mendes-Lowney
Development Director,
Women's World Bank
PWF Trustee



Carly Ford
PWF Accounts and Finance



Prof. Claudio Sillero
Head of IUCN Canid
Specialist Group
PWF Trustee
PDF Granting Committee



Cole du Plessis
Carnivore Range Expansion
Manager, Endangered
Wildlife Trust
PWF Advisory Board



Dr. Harriet Davies-Mostert
Impact Director, Conserve
Global
PWF Trustee
PWF Advisory Board
PDF Granting Committee



Dr. Irene Aмоke
Conservation Consultant
PWF Trustee
PWF Advisory Board
PDF Granting Committee



Markus Hofmeyr
Executive Director, Rhino
Recovery Fund
PWF Advisory Board
PDF Granting Committee



Dr. Matthew Becker
CEO, Zambian Carnivore
Programme
PWF Advisory Board



Michael Cuthbert
PWF Chairman
PWF Trustee



Nicholas Dyer
PWF Founder and CEO
PDF Executive Director
PDF Leadership Team
PDF Granting Committee



Paul Thompson
Chief Programs Officer,
Wildlife Conservation
Network
PDF Leadership Team



Peter Blinston
CEO, Painted Dog
Conservation
PWF Founder and Trustee
PWF Advisory Board
PDF Leadership Team
PDF Granting Committee



Dr. Peter Lindsey
Executive Director, Lion
Recovery Fund
PWF Advisory Board
PDF Leadership Team
PDF Granting Committee



Ravida Clay
Entrepreneur
PWF Trustee



Ruth Kabwe
PWF Fund and Project
Manager



Dr. Wendy Furness
Vet and Entrepreneur
PWF Trustee

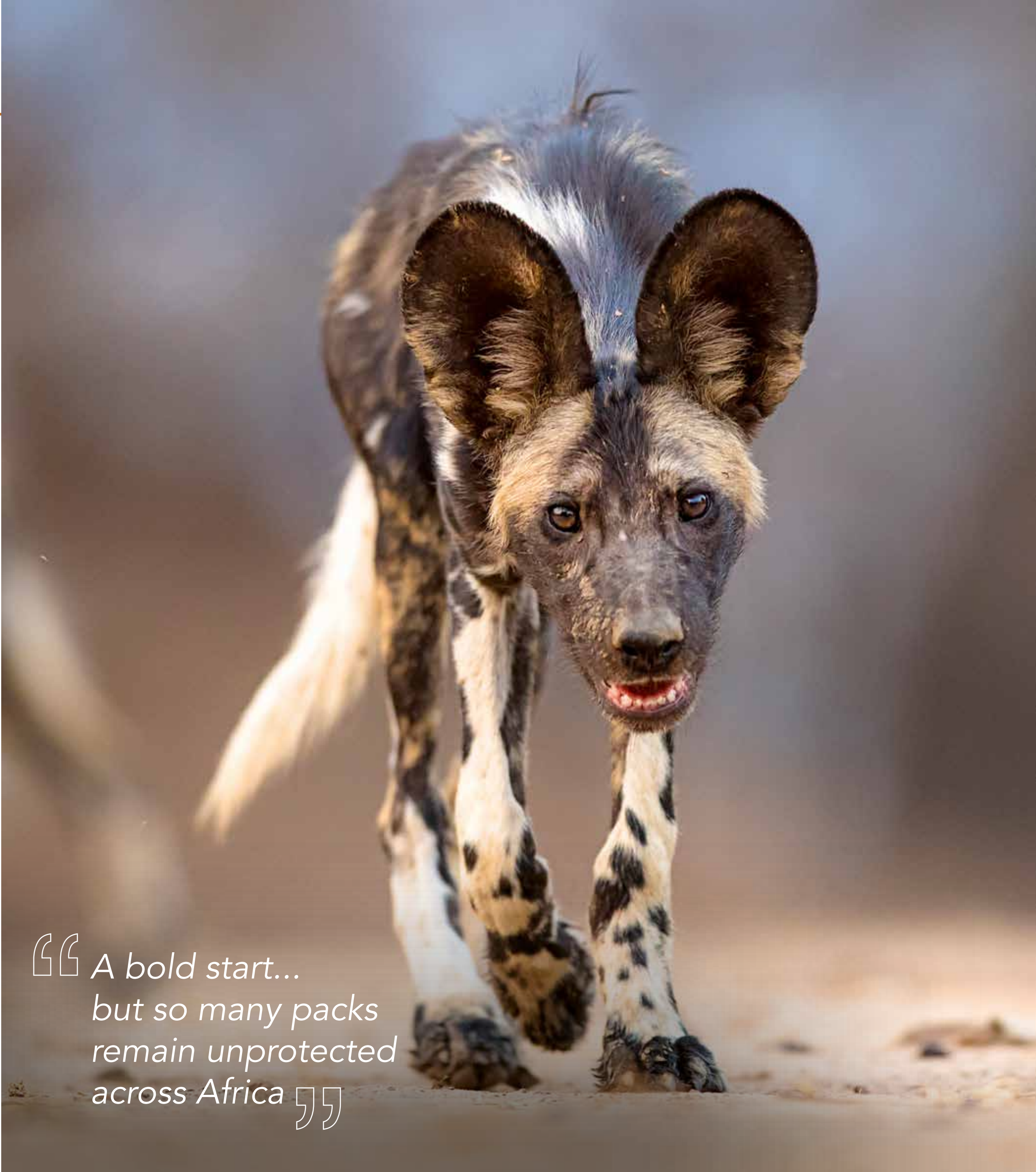
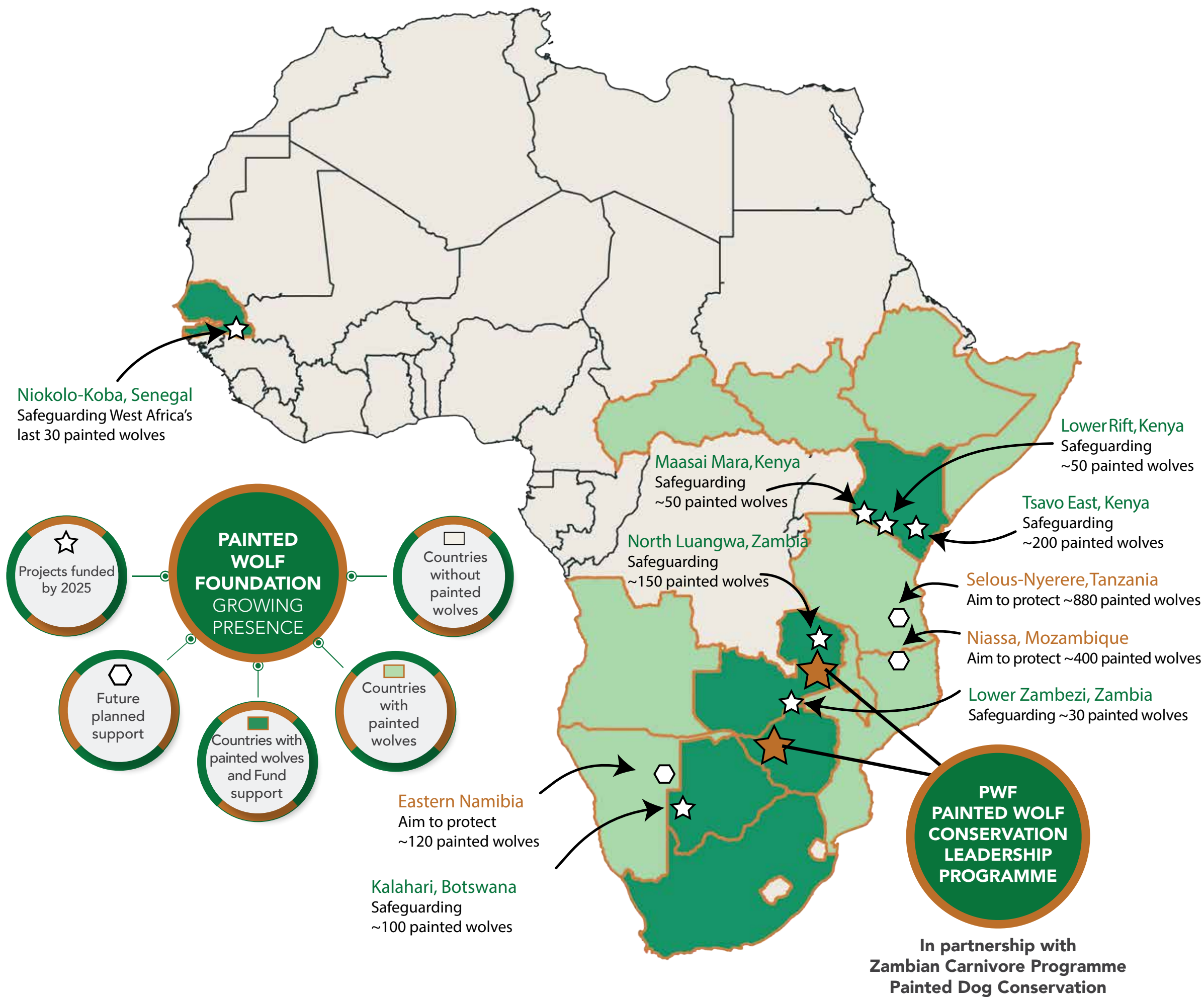


Will Donald
PWF Conservation
Development Manager

“Like all successful packs, PWF and PDF draw on experienced experts; serving as Trustees, Advisory Board Members, Granting Committee Members and dedicated employees”

BUILDING IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA

7 Painted wolf conservation projects initiated in previously unprotected populations



“A bold start...
but so many packs
remain unprotected
across Africa”

STRATEGIC FOCUS

ONE GOAL - THREE STRATEGIES



INVESTING IN WHAT WORKS



“We are driven by a clear strategy and robust processes designed to achieve our goal”



“Putting Tsavo’s painted wolves
on the conservation map”

KENYA

TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK

Our vision is to raise the conservation status of Tsavo’s painted wolves to rank alongside its famous ‘Big Tusker’ elephants, its iconic lions and protected rhino.

Investment Challenge

- Over 40,000 km² of rugged inaccessible terrain.
- Lack of specific painted wolf conservation knowledge.
- Unknown population, pack composition, behaviours or dynamics.
- No understanding of threats or community tolerance.

Investment Impact

Our investment supported Tsavo Trust to:

- Hire a dedicated local painted wolf conservationist.
- Use air support to discover, identify, monitor and protect painted wolves in remote areas with on the ground back-up.
- Run a community attitudinal survey to baseline community tolerance and coexistence issues.
- Run a domestic dog vaccination programme.
- Support Kenya’s Wildlife Research and Training Institute to build a Tsavo Carnivore Hub to collate and monitor key predator data.

NIOKOLO-KOBA NATIONAL PARK

Our vision is to ensure West Africa's last painted wolves do not vanish, but rebound; transforming this fragile remnant into a thriving stronghold for the species once again.

Investment Challenge

- 9,000 km² of inhospitable terrain making monitoring challenging.
- Small population size - high risk of extinction.
- Limited knowledge of specific threats in this ecosystem.
- Main road artery bisecting the park.

Investment Impact

Our investment supported Zoological Society of London to:

- Build a dedicated team to focus on painted wolf conservation.
- Identify key threats - snaring, disease and road kills.
- Initiate an "emergency action plan for Lycaon" demanded by UNESCO.
- Create a *National Conservation Action Plan* for the species, approved by the Senegalese Government.
- Initiate rabies vaccination campaigns around the park.

“Securing the future of West Africa's last remaining painted wolves”





“Bringing conservation to Lower Zambezi’s unstable painted wolf population”

ZAMBIA

LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK

Our vision is a focused conservation programme for painted wolves, implementing proven interventions that stabilise the population, and keep it resilient against manageable threats.

Investment Challenge

- Unstable painted wolf population that occasionally disappears.
- Little painted wolf-specific ecological and behavioural data.
- Growing snaring problem, with no focused response mechanism.
- Inaccessible terrain in the main dispersal corridors.

Investment Impact

Our investment supported Conservation Lower Zambezi to:

- Recruit a dedicated local painted wolf conservationist/ecologist.
- Forge a collaboration with the Zambian Carnivore Programme to rapidly boost the impact of their work.
- Launch intensive monitoring to map pack territories and identify key threats, aided by GPS and VHF collars.
- Develop and implement an anti-snaring action plan, including snare removal.
- Provide air support for tracking in inhospitable areas and during rains.



DISEASE

Rabies and canine distemper are an ever-present threat, capable of wiping out entire painted wolf packs and even local populations.

Vaccinating domestic dogs is a recognised conservation intervention. It reduces disease transmission to painted wolves and provides a valued service to local communities, strengthening goodwill and tolerance towards their sometimes destructive neighbours.



GREATER MARA

KENYA

GRANTEE
Kenya Wildlife Trust

NO. VACCINATIONS:



2,364



GONAREZHOU

ZIMBABWE

GRANTEE
African Wildlife Conservation Fund

NO. VACCINATIONS:



3,000



TSAVO

KENYA

GRANTEE
Tsavo Trust

NO. VACCINATIONS:



594



“Vaccinations provide a double whammy - protecting painted wolves and benefitting the communities they live alongside”

“When community members volunteer to help protect painted wolves, you know your community outreach programme is a success”



Photo credit: Painted Dog Conservation

STORY

COMMUNITY

Outside the boundaries of Hwange National Park lives the Umkhonto Pack in an area known for its intense snaring. The pack had grown from six individuals two years ago, to 22 adults in early 2025.

This success can be attributed to Painted Dog Conservation's (PDC's) holistic work, providing intensive pack monitoring, widespread anti-poaching measures and impactful community outreach.

In 2025, the Umkhonto Pack denned in a snaring hotspot and not far from the busy Victoria Falls-Bulawayo Highway - a road notorious for its speeding trucks. Left on their own, the pack would almost certainly not have survived.

UNPRECEDENTED PROTECTION

Drawing on 30-years' experience, PDC immediately sprang into action launching an unprecedented 24-hour protection programme as the pack settled down in this high risk area.

They mobilised their full anti-poaching team and stationed them in three remote areas surrounding the den. Working alongside them were the Mabale Community Volunteers, a group from the local community that decided to band together to protect their own wildlife.

For three months, 70 men and women dedicated 10,000 man-hours to give the pack round-the-clock protection. Their snare sweeps collected 3,234 snares that would otherwise have wiped out the pack. They also set up roadblocks to protect the pack from being run over by the hurtling trucks.

INCREDIBLE RESULT

Of the 22 painted wolves at the start of the denning period, 21 survived, together with a litter of eight new pups. Sadly, a two-year-old male called Nelson was caught in a snare at the very beginning of the operation, before the protection programme was fully up to speed.

The Painted Dog Fund is proud to have supported the Mabale Community Volunteers this year. Without their incredible commitment, the story of the Umkhonto Pack would have had a tragic ending.



BUILDING CAPACITY

Conserving painted wolves requires specific skills which are in short supply. Our response is to create a programme to teach impactful techniques across Africa.

Painted Wolf Conservation Leadership Programme

- The first dedicated initiative to train African conservationists in the highly specific field skills needed to protect painted wolves.
- Created in partnership with the *Zambian Carnivore Programme* (ZCP) and *Painted Dog Conservation* (PDC) in Zimbabwe.
- Managed by the *Painted Wolf Foundation* and funded by the *Painted Dog Fund*.
- At its core is the *Painted Wolf Conservation Leadership Centre* built alongside the painted wolf haven of South Luangwa.
- Candidates will get to work alongside ZCP and PDC.
- The Centre has the capacity to empower 20 candidates a year, to take essential species-specific conservation skills back to their packs across Africa.

The month-long intensive modular curriculum offers African conservationists the opportunity to learn the essential practical skills needed to protect the painted wolf in species-rich environments.



“Creating Africa’s painted wolf conservation leaders of tomorrow”



Photo credit: Will Donald



Blood sticking to the solar panels after the hunt is a key challenge we are overcoming. It reduces light available to charge the battery, impairing the collar's efficiency.

Photo credit: Eddie Mpofu

INNOVATION

TECHNOLOGY

Solar collars developed in partnership with Intricode Solutions are proving to be a game changer for painted wolf conservation.

They provide more data, are cheaper and critically much lighter than the alternatives, unlocking better protection for the packs.

We have funded and sent collars to painted wolf conservation programmes in Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi and South Africa. We are now collating performance data before developing a third-generation model for wider deployment in 2026.

As you can see from this rather gruesome picture, we continue to work hard to find solutions to the challenges the painted wolves give us.



“Our goal is to raise awareness of the species and put the painted wolf on the top table of global conservation”



COMMUNICATIONS

RAISING AWARENESS

Saving this species needs more than just conservation work. Building awareness through strong communication channels is critical to our mission, as so few know painted wolves exist.

PWF Awareness Initiatives

- Comprehensive **website** stacked with information about the species, its conservation and what we are doing to save it - [take a look](#)
- Regularly updated **social media** with stunning images, facts and updates - [follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn](#)
- The “**Part of the Pack**” Programme that keeps you updated with newsletters and offers - [sign up for free](#)
- **Talks and events** held in the US, Europe and Africa - [sign up to “Part of the Pack” to be invited](#)
- **Donor trips** to see the painted wolves for our major supporters - [contact us for more information](#)
- A growing array of **merchandise** featuring our logo - [show your support for the painted wolves and our Foundation](#)

Please help us spread the word!

www.paintedwolf.org





“Whatever way you look at it,
painted wolves need our help”

GRATITUDE

YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

Following a century of intense persecution, painted wolves remain in decline and the risk of extinction is real.

To those who have joined our journey, our gratitude is immense. Every achievement in this report exists because of you and your continued support is vital to our mission.

Yet the task is far from finished. We firmly believe we have the strategy needed to save the painted wolf; what we lack are the resources to deliver it at the scale and speed required.

If you would like to support this endangered and neglected creature, we invite you to do so now.

Please join us, become part of our pack, and together we can secure the future of the painted wolf.

Thank you!

DONATE

www.paintedwolf.org

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THANK YOU



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