



## **Painted Dog Conservation Organisation** **End of Year Report** **2010**

### **Executive Summary: By Peter Blinston.**

#### **Historical Background:**

Painted Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) have been reduced to one percent of their former population. As few as 5,000 individuals survive, with Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa having the only known viable populations.

PDC was originally established as Painted Dog Research in 1992. At that time the human-induced carnage from snares, shooting and road kills accounted for 95% of all dog mortalities. Early public presentations showed prejudice and ignorance, it was clear that unless this situation was addressed, the species could become extinct. The initial emphasis was thus to identify the critical issues and develop a pragmatic strategy that would make a substantial, lasting contribution to Painted Dogs, nature conservation and, very importantly, to the lives of the local people.

I was quite exhausted by the end of 2010 following a remarkably busy year even by our standards. More schools than ever before attended the Bush Camp, vaccination clinics for domestic dogs taking place and getting a handle on the dogs in Mana Pools being just a few examples of what contributed to the busy year. My exhaustion was not a physical one as such, the usual trials and tribulations came our way, were met head on and, on the whole overcome, though at some emotional costs. Operating in Zimbabwe is still not a smooth process and perhaps it never will be. A culture of suspicion and trying to “pull someone down” if they are doing well exists and certain individuals who “don’t gain any benefit” from PDC tried their utmost to derail us. There is overwhelming support and appreciation for PDC amongst the rural communities, however our challenge is to turn this into significant attitudinal and behavioural change.

Operational costs soared in 2010, with our payroll increasing by 70% to meet the rising cost of living and utilities such as water, electricity and rentals increasing by as much as 50%, this despite an official inflation rate of around 5%. I think we can all relate, the world over, to the disparity of “official” inflation figures and prices in the stores.

And the dogs of course brought the usual mix of delight and despair.

The Kutanga pack started the year with seven adults and gave us some cause for optimism. Was the apparent decline in the Hwange National Park (HNP) population being reversed? Seven dogs is a good core pack size and we were

anticipating a good denning season however they were soon in trouble when alpha male Squirrel broke his leg. We tried our utmost to help him out with ultimately the leg being amputated, resulting in him spending time recovering in our Rehabilitation Facility. It was an easy decision to then release him back to his pack for him to live out the rest of his days in the wild. While he was in the rehab a certain amount of infighting seemed to be taking place or the pack were having regular confrontations with hyenas, either way, all of the males carried wounds and battle scares and required regular treatment. The alpha female, Ester did fall pregnant but after less than a week at the den she was out hunting with the pack and showed no sign of having suckled any pups. Our investigations revealed that the den site was abandoned with no sign of life. We can only speculate as to the fate of the pups. Were they still born or was she unable to suckle them due to poor body condition? We will never know but we do know that the packs territory increased to over 1,600 square kilometres, more than twice the accepted “norm” and almost four times what we saw in HNP in the 1990’s. A declining prey base and thus a need to search further and further afield for available prey seem to be the reasons for this massive increase in their territory.

While the Kutanga occupied much of our attention close to home, they were not alone and with sightings of a pack of 11 (Mbazu pack) south of us and a pack of 8 (Sisele pack) to the west of us, Jealous had his work cut out. We were particularly delighted with the Sisele pack as the alpha female was identified as Vusile, a female we had known briefly during the formation of the ill-fated Bambanani pack in 2009. Though we are obliged to be eternal optimists and grasp at any positive no matter how slight, the situation remains bleak in reality and will be outlined below in more detail by Dr Rasmussen.



### **Small pack sizes**

## **Goals, Objectives and Planned Activities for 2010. By Peter Blinston.**

Our Goals and Objectives for 2010 were presented in our Year Start Plan as follows:

1. To increase National and International awareness of the plight of painted dogs.
2. Ensure population stability by protecting and maintaining populations in the buffer zones as well as responding to any Painted dog individual, pack or population in need of assistance.
3. Maintain and facilitate diversity within the gene pool of the Zimbabwe National Population.
4. Maintain and develop our APU initiative.
5. Maintain and further develop our Community Education Programme.
6. Maintain and further develop our Community Development work by linking more community needs with appropriate International Aid Organisations.

To achieve these goals we will be undertaking the following objectives and planned activities.

1. Rehabilitate 6 painted dogs back into the wild from our rehabilitation facility. (Satisfies goals 1, 2 and 3)
2. Continue with the strategic deployment of the 3 PDC anti poaching units in the buffer zones surrounding Hwange NP and within Hwange NP itself. (Satisfies goals 1, 2, 3 and 4)
3. Increase the training plus development of other APU in the region by (Satisfies goals 1,2, 3, and 4).
4. Lobby for legislation that will require a landowner to demonstrate adequate and effective anti poaching measures. (Satisfies goals 1,2,3 and 4).
5. Re-establish "Painted Dog Crossing" signs on the Bulawayo to Vic falls highway. (Satisfies goals 1,2 and 3).
6. Lobby for a reduction in the maximum speed limit within the Gwai Conservancy from 120km to 60km. (Satisfies goals 1,2 and 3).
7. Fit 6 protective collars onto packs in the Hwange region (Satisfies goals 2 and 3)
8. Expand monitoring of the Zimbabwe National Pack to Mana Pools (Satisfies goals 1, 2 and 3).
9. Complete the construction of our Veterinary Clinic. (Satisfies goals 1, 2, 3 and 6).
10. Lobby for Painted Dogs to be given protection from illegal International trade. (Satisfies goals 1, 2 and 3)
11. Maintain the Children's Bush Camp programme with the targeted 19 schools. (Satisfies goals 1 and 5)
12. Increase the number of "donor" (paying) schools attending the Bush Camp by 2. (Satisfies goals 1 and 5).
13. Further develop and advise 14 Community Gardens in terms of nutritional food production and income generation. (Satisfies goals 1, 2, 3 and 6).
14. Increase the number of community based income-generating projects by 10. (Satisfies goals 1, 2, 3 and 5).

15. Teach conservation lessons in the 19 local schools in conjunction with the Environmental Science and the bush camp program syllabus. (Satisfies goals 1, 2, 3 and 5).
16. Maintain nature corners in the targeted 19 schools, which are in the program in a bid to foster appreciation of nature through a model setting. (Satisfies goals 1, 2, 3 and 5).
17. Maintain conservation clubs in the targeted schools as a way of creating more awareness and imparting the concept of nature conservation in the school youths. (Satisfies goals 1, 2, 3 and 5).
18. Continue the schedule of day visits to the CCEC from the surrounding communities. (Satisfies goals 1, 2 and 5).
19. Actively solicit for visitors and tourists alike to visit the CCEC with the aim of increasing PDC revenue via donations and or entrance fees. (Satisfies goals 1).

Given the current socio economic problems afflicting Zimbabwe, the above represents an enormous undertaking. Sourcing building / maintenance materials and food has become increasingly difficult, time consuming and ultimately costly, with most being imported directly from South Africa or Botswana.

Additional funding would allow for:

1. Increase the number of schools attending the Children's Bush Camp on the "free of charge" programme. (Satisfying goals 1 and 5)
2. Increase the number of adults attending the schedule of day visits to our CCEC facilities. (Satisfying goals 1 and 5)
3. Resume our Computer Training programme for adults.

### **20 new road signs erected.**



(Satisfying goals 1, 5 and 6)

**Objective one** was not achieved as we decided to wait and plan to release the 6 dogs into the wild in 2011.

**Objective two** was achieved. Restructuring the units continued in 2010 and we appointed a new APU Supervisor as well as locating all three units at one camp closer to the PDC offices. Partnership with Martin Stierner's ALL4AP, National Parks, Forestry Commission and the Police remained strong.

**Objective three** was achieved up to a point with some training exercises taking place plus selected members of our APU contributed to or participated in two training courses conducted with National Parks. Sadly there is still a degree of apathy by many stakeholders, who do not apply anywhere near enough resources to the protection of the wildlife on their estates.

**Objective four** was not achieved though progress of sorts was made during meetings when we met with the Deputy Chief Justice and a Judge at the PDC offices.

**Objective five** was achieved with 20 new signs being erected along the Bulawayo to Victoria Falls road and through to Dete plus the Hwange National Park boundary.

**Objective six** was achieved and new signs will be erected early in 2011.

**Objective seven** was not quite achieved with 5 out of 6 collars being fitted.

**Objective eight** was achieved with the fitting of a GPS on the biggest known pack in Mana Pools.

**Objective nine** was not achieved and progress is frustratingly slow. The situation not helped by the delay in the arrival of a container from the UK, which contains much needed components.

**Objective ten** was achieved and the lobbying process continues with an eye on the next CITES Convention, which is scheduled for 2013.

**Objective eleven** was achieved with all 19 targeted schools attending the Bush Camp.

**Objective twelve** was achieved with an additional 5 schools attending the camp from Harare, Hwange, Victoria Falls and Livingstone (Zambia) respectively.

**Objective thirteen** was achieved though very slow progress is being made and little income generated.

**Objective fourteen** was not achieved due largely to the poor performance and ultimate resignation of the Community Development Officer.

**Objective fifteen** was achieved and the lessons have been praised for the rise in the overall level of Environmental Science in the Schools.

**Objective sixteen** was achieved with another Nature Corner competition helping to maintain enthusiasm and standards.

**Objective seventeen** was achieved and the Conservation Clubs became the focal point of activity with the children and the communities at large, with a performing arts competition being introduced to raise awareness and enthusiasm.

**Objective eighteen** was achieved and remains as popular as ever with the parents.

**Objective nineteen** was achieved with a significant increase in visitors resulting in an increase of donations, though overall the level remains low.

**Additional objectives 1, 2 and 3 were not attempted.**

## Anti Poaching Operations: By Enoch Zulu (APU Supervisor) and Peter Blinston.

### 1. Overview of APU Operations.

The first half of the year was dominated by further restructuring of the 3 Anti Poaching Unit teams. First of all we brought the teams in from their remote bases at Chimwara, Kumuna, and Lugo farms to one central location at Khatshana base, which is within the peripherals of the Painted Dog Conservation office complex. The move was positive in terms of easing the logistical strain.

After this we appointed Enoch Zulu as the new APU Manager and moved Boniface Manda to a newly created position as Community Liaison Officer. These changes proved positive in the end with increased deployment productivity.

The last quarter saw a massive recovery of snares from a single farm and the arrest of a number of poachers, who were subsequently tried and convicted and sent to prison, something that reactivated some sense of purpose from the APU.

There was a lot of support from the Zimbabwe Republic Police Dete, Hwange National Parks, Forestry Commission, the Gwayi-Hwange Conservancy Association and other stakeholders, and all played a very significant role in our heightened performance.



Snare removal

## **2. Performance Review.**

### **2.1. Snares recovered.**

A Total of 1,747 snares were recovered during the period under review as compared to 1,644 recovered during 2009. We do not have the figures from our sister organisation ALL4AP at this stage but believe they are in the region of 1,700 – 1,900. Thus the combined figure is around 3,500 snares collected in the region, which is an increase from 2009.

The number of snares collected does not by itself indicate the level of poaching; after all if you extensively patrol the same small area over and over again you will not find any snares. Nor is it an indicator of activity. It's easy to go into a region that has not been patrolled by anyone for 6 months and collect 500 snares. That said the number of snares collected in 2010 does mirror our feelings that the level of poaching activity had at the very least remained at a high constant level if not increased when compared to 2009.



**Daily Patrols**

### **Poachers Arrested**

A total number of 19 poachers were arrested during the period under review.

### **2.2. Animals released / killed.**

Two animals were released at Gundwane farm (wildebeest and common duiker) and one at Airport grounds (common duiker), during the period under review.

A total number of 57 animals were found killed by snares including one lion and one buffalo. No painted dogs were found killed by snares during the same period.

### **2.3. Patrols.**

A total number of 600 patrols were carried out during the year, 2010.

Of these, 27 joint patrols were undertaken with ZRP, National Parks and Forestry Commission

There was a Rhino de-horning operation headed by National Parks, which resulted in four rhinos being de-horned and our teams played significant roles in tracking and other logistical support throughout the 5-day operation.

## **2.4. Transport / Equipment / Uniforms.**

The vehicle in use is a land rover 110, which proved to be very dependable at all times and did not have any major breakdowns, except for a dirty fuel tank, which was cleaned and a broken bracket which was replaced. The only defects were worn out tyres, which needed replacement but managed to go the distance.

Equipment such as tents and stretcher beds are still in serviceable condition and electronic gadgets such as cameras and GPS are in good condition. The vhf radios do not work properly when we are out bush camping, most probably due to the radius capability of the equipment, however this should be rectified in 2011 with the proposed re positioning of the radio repeater. Uniforms were in good condition except for boots, which were in constant need of repair, mostly soles, which separate from the core boot and we did not have a cobbler to take care of the repairs so did it ourselves.

## **3. Police – Prosecutions.**



We have received tremendous cooperation from the Zimbabwe Republic Police in Dete, and their attitude has been positive in that we have witnessed some changes in the prosecution and sentencing of trapping offenders. Of late we have witnessed some suspects being convicted and sentenced to jail terms in prison, which I believe could serve as a deterrent to other like-minded offenders.

## **4. Conclusion.**

In as much as we would like to eradicate poaching, the reality is that poaching will always be there as long as humans and wildlife exist. Hunting with dogs may be traditional and appears to be diminishing, it is still being practised within the conservancy, though suspects are hard to apprehend because of their elusive modus operandi. Our main focus as presented in our 2011 year plan is to recover more snares make more arrests and endeavour to prevent more snares being set.

## Research summary By Dr. Gregory Rasmussen

Painted Dog Conservation's main activities have been to monitor home ranges and threats to known packs as well as continue to search for new packs in Hwange National Park and surrounds.

Results have shown that the **Hwange Painted Dog population is at an all time critical low of an estimated 50 – 70 dogs** (including pups) from a potential capacity for the range of 350 dogs. Known territories have expanded to as much as 1,650 square kilometres, which reduces the park carrying capacity 10 or 12 packs if this is replicated across the park. Average adult and yearling pack size is 3.6, which is well below minimum pack size of six and it is therefore not surprising that of the known five packs resident inside the park, only two have reproduced and successfully reared any pups to the age of six months.

With 1,747 snares collected by the three PDC teams and a further 1,100 collected by ALL4AP, snaring in the Gwayi Conservancy has to our knowledge, eradicated all viable packs, with one known pack of three dogs surviving. Thus the Gwayi Conservancy represents a continual threat to the few remaining resident packs inside the park, where there is already a potential collapse situation. These latter results however are data deficient due to the fact that PDC does not have access to key areas of the Gwayi because of landowner opposition to research and antipoaching.

Research has identified that the probable reason for the collapse inside the park is the combination of significant prey decline, and habitat quality over the last 30 years, leading to low foraging returns and high hunting costs. Previous data has shown that it is the extreme elephant numbers that are the dominant factor contributing to the habitat decline in quality, abundance and richness (Cumming 1981, Conybeare 1991, Holdo 2003, Valeix et al. 2007) Furthermore it has also been demonstrated that due to competition by elephants for the availability of forage, other herbivores have dramatically declined, in the last 30 years, with the main prey species for dogs (kudu and impala) down by 75%. (Valeix et al 2007, Rasmussen 2009). Most importantly it is deemed that the high elephant numbers are a direct product of the artificial waterholes (Chamaillé-Jammes et al 2007).

To understand in detail the impact of the elephants on the plant community and concurrently the prey decline, the focal research has centred on increasing ecotoxicity in the plant communities as well as their ability to recover reproductively. Significant results relevant to plant defence have shown the following relationships between plant communities and pumped water holes. Trees are significantly increasing their tannin levels up to 18 kilometres from the waterhole. *Acacia ataxacantha*. and *Dichrostachus cineria* showed significantly increased abundance starting at 2.5 kilometres from the waterholes with *Acacia ataxacantha* investing significantly more in defence by way of increased thorn length, diameter and reduced internode distances.

With respect to age classes *Acacia eriolobas*, which can be deemed a flagship species for the park, are clearly in senescent decline with mostly only juvenile trees and few trees of pod producing age. With respect to *Bafia masaaiensis* from a sample of 3,600 trees measured, none were large enough to reproduce.

Overall, with painted dogs being a keystone indicator species, the fact that they are in threat of local extinction does not bode well for the park. Overall the painted dog, ungulate and vegetation results indicate that current waterhole management policies may need to be reconsidered. There is a danger that the **ecosystem function** of Hwange National Park will cease and thus its role as a tourist venue.



## Decline in prey base

### Research summary By Esther van der Meer.

Over the past years I have been working on and collecting data for my PhD addressing the following questions:

- Do African wild dogs prefer to establish territories outside Hwange National Park
- If so, does this result in an increased exposure to human activity resulting in mortality
- If so, why do they prefer to establish territories outside the protected area
- Does the buffer zone act as an ecological trap

With the collected data, so far I've been able to answer most of these questions:

Over the years African wild dog packs either moved closer to or into the buffer zone surrounding Hwange National Park. African wild dogs in the buffer zone get increasingly exposed to human activity resulting in mortality with two of the main causes of mortality being snares and road traffic.

Within the Hwange system African wild dogs seem to base their habitat selection on the right fitness enhancing ecological cues. They experience a higher hunting efficiency in the buffer zone outside Hwange National Park, less competition with lions and hyena (see draft paper attached) and a better access to suitable den sites. As a result African wild dogs outside the National Park have bigger litter sizes. However, human induced mortality in the buffer zone exceeds natality resulting in a decline of the population. African wild dogs nevertheless make a maladaptive habitat choice and show an active preference to move into this mortality sink, as they are unable to determine habitat quality accurately and account for this human induced mortality risk. In other words, African wild dogs in the Hwange system are caught in an ecological trap.

**Education & Community Development Programs. By Education & Community Development Programs Manager, Wilton Nsimango.**

The Childrens Bush Camp Programme had less problems compared to the previous year in terms of the pre and post camp visits with most of them having been conducted smoothly without interruptions. The newly engaged Environmental Education Officer, Mr Ganizani Phiri did quite well to learn the best practices in as far as the purpose and aims behind the pre and post camp visits that are conducted with each school that attends the Bush Camp.

20 camps were conducted during the year, not the forecasted 21 under the local free of charge program, this was due to an unexpected reduction in the class size at one school, which allowed us to bring all of the children in for one camp rather than having to split it. Most of the camps were quite a success with the newly introduced quiz (appendix 1) becoming a popular and vibrant feature of the camps. We now intend to engage our local children in the national wildlife quiz show held annually through Wildlife Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ).

The bush camp program has had positive impacts to the learning of environmental science in the schools; this has been seen in the level of competition and general performance of the local pupils in the national exams. The songs, poems and drama activities displayed in the schools showed that a lot of improvement in the understanding of dogs has been realised.

Appreciation of our work came with the award of a certificate of Special Recognition from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Matabeleland North Region. The Minister of Environment also spoke highly of our work at local and national events throughout the year.

A generally excellent year has gone by with a lot of local and outside schools coming, the staff worked extra hard this year as evidenced by the total number of camps conducted going up to 26. This was a year when we had a real international school coming to the bush camp, Acacia Primary School from Zambia; who really enjoyed their stay and the lessons. Also a new school, Victoria Falls Primary school visited the bush camp and have already booked for the 2011 program.

The only set big back was the loss of Nothando Sibanda the head cook at the bush camp who died on Saturday 16 October 2010 and was laid to rest at the chief's home, may her soul rest in peace.

**Free of Charge Bush Camp Programme: 2010**

Total Number of Free of Charge Bush Camps.	20
Total Number of Free of Charge Bush Camps since programme began:	140
Total Number of students attending Bush Camp so far this year:	621
Total Number of students attending Bush Camp since programme began:	4,492

**Pre and Post Camp School Visits:**

Total Number of School Visits so far this year:	55
Total Number of School Visits since program began:	467
Total number of child/visits conducted so far this year:	1,099
Total number of child/visits conducted since program began:	12,610

A successful year in the marketing drive as a total of five out of ten contacted donor schools visited the bush camp this year. Transport costs and difficulties were sighted by other schools as reasons for non attendance. This was through vigorous emailing undertaken leading to schools getting interested and in some instances visitors did the advertising for bush camp after touring PDC. More schools are expected to come next year with a lot of enquiries coming through already. There is still need to market the bush camp even harder in a bid to turn the Bush camp into a self-sustainable entity.



**Eager to learn**

Restructuring of staff was necessary during the year and Dominic Nyathi joined the team in August to carry on the work with the Conservation Clubs, while the responsibility for the Community Development work became my full responsibility.

Successful competitions were held with the Conservation Clubs, with the introduction of a new Performing Arts competition alongside the existing Nature Corners Competition adding extra interest and provided more practical examples of conservation to back up the conservation lessons. The presentations made by the children demonstrated a high level of understanding of conservation concepts and thus progress is being made towards the attitudinal change we are aiming for in the up and coming generation. The children have generally developed a positive attitude to most of the activities involved in the conservation clubs thus developing a young conservation conscious society. A recent Clean Up Campaign is a good example of the tremendous enthusiasm being generated.



**Conservation Lessons:**

Total number of school visits this year:	81
Total number of child/visits this year:	2,158
Total number of school visits since the program began:	519
Total number of child/visits since the program began:	15,174
Total number of community visits this year:	132
Total number of person-visits this year:	1,598
Total number of community visits since programme began:	426
Total number of person visits since programme began:	10,294

We held a number of Teacher Training Workshops during the year, which aimed to improve conservation education and awareness in the schools. The Hwange District Education Office sanctioned all of the workshops and one of their officers attended the third workshop and commended on the work done by PDC in her speech, she stated that PDC was doing exactly what Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture should be doing in the schools.

The guides trained the previous year (2009) in theory lessons were given practical teaching sessions and all the 5 freelance guides and Mr Ganizani Phiri the new EEO are now competent enough to handle lessons with minimum supervision.

More workshops will be lined up for the coming year, as this has proved quite helpful to the teachers and goal achievement for the project.

PDC is actively involved in 14 community gardens, a bee-keeping project, a chilli growing project and a chicken breeding project, where we are providing technical assistance through workshops and field visits with Agritex officers.

To date PDC has sourced 4 boreholes for school or community garden projects, the most recent being at Mambanji, and these are doing well to provide food to both locals and the schools. Fencing has been provided by donor agencies through PDC to 3 gardens so far.

With more funding the gardens intend to construct their own market stalls, which will reduce poverty as they can raise enough money for other things needed in the household.

The community projects got a boost, in that 4 of our projects got support in the form of materials from SNV Netherlands organisation in May 2010.

The materials have been greatly appreciated and the communities involved are busy working hard to meet the required standards of performance.

It is sad to note that some of them are dragging behind in progress due to lack of knowledge in commercial productiveness, the situation will be dealt with in the coming year.

Tools for preparing the gardens pose a challenge as they cost a lot. Most of the gardens need proper fencing though we try to encourage the gardeners to grow live fences, which lasts forever.

The staff manning the Interpretive Hall has shown great improvement in their presentation of the Eyespot story, this has been due to the training sessions availed to the those staff.

The number of visitors kept going up during the year and reached a total of 1,714, which is the highest so far. We do not charge an entry fee but request a donation and received USD 2,679, which is lower than we would hope for on a per person basis.

Comments from the visitors verbally and in the visitor's book show that the project and the presentations were extremely well received.

**Future projections:**

2011 looks to be a year where an evaluation of the deeds and needs have to be matched, the community is expected to indicate the change in their deeds as far as poaching/other adverse activities is concerned. In this regard a more evaluative stances will be undertaken and with funds permitting a scientific evaluation process commenced.

Generally a year once again with great challenges, which will need to be dealt with collectively as a team by all, top management, active players and support staff.

## **HIV / AIDS. By Forgie Wilson.**



### **Dr Clive Evian**

PDC was delighted to be visited by Dr Clive Evian again in August. Dr Clive gave a motivating presentation to PDC staff, which encouraged a lively Q&A session followed by testing and counselling. He spent time discussing the on going programme and the difficulties faced.

A Doctor and staff from St Patrick's visited PDC and the area 14 times in 2010. These visits are referred to below as Outreach Days. The number of patients on ARV currently being attended to is 319 and the number of patients on Cotrimoxazole awaiting ARV's is 359. Thus a total number of patients being attended too is 678

In December 2010 we conducted one Outreach Day for CD4 blood test with the wider community. Unfortunately, we only managed to cater for 50 Patients in Dete and 50 Patients in Lupote out of the targeted 296 people currently on ARV's.

The challenge with doing blood tests for the local community in most cases is that St Patrick's only has two laboratory staff and they have to be dealing with the hospital needs and the outreach needs. The volumes of people are too great for them to be coping. The other issue is that when they come to the area, they do not include laboratory staff and therefore the collection of blood samples is problematical.

It is my belief that all or at least 99% of us at PDC now understand HIV and are able to live with it.



## **Capacity-building. By Peter Blinston.**

**On going training plus development of staff is considered key to the long-term sustainability of PDC.**

- PDC accepted one student on attachment from the National University of Science and Technology, studying Forestry Resources and Wildlife Management and one student from the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority.
- Assistant Manager Forgie Wilson is enrolled on a Human Resource Management course.
- Martin Stierner (who set up our APU) continued with ongoing training and development of the APU.
- Hans Dullemont continued with training our resident mechanic, Last Marozhe.
- Greg Gibbard joined us to develop the role of Administrator with an aim to appoint a permanent staff member, to further his training of our office staff in administrative procedures plus the use of MYOB software and Microsoft office programmes.
- The guides that attended our Guides Training Workshop in 2009 were brought in for hands on training and to gain experience with the Bush camp Programme.

## **Fundraising, Marketing and Growth. By Peter Blinston.**

2010 was a successful year for us in terms of fundraising, though our operational costs soared again. The level of operational costs is cause for concern and is being addressed with the appointment of a new Administrator.

New quarterly newspapers have come into circulation within the tourist industry in Zimbabwe and PDC is well featured in these in an effort to increase National awareness.

Our key areas of support still remain as Holland, UK and the USA. In addition we are enjoying continued support from Sweden and Australia and have attracted significant support from Canada, France and UAE. So, certainly the PDC "family" of support is growing, which is obviously of great significance and tremendously encouraging.

Tourism levels seem to be on the increase in Zimbabwe and we have certainly seen an increase in the number of visitors to our facilities in Hwange long with a noticeable increase in enquiries for 2011 from tour operators wishing to bring their



clients. Thus there is room for optimism.



**We would like to express our thanks and sincere appreciation to the individuals and organisations listed below for their generous support during 2010.**

African Sun Hotels	Gaia Park	PDC Uk
Africom	Greg Gibbard	Rebecca Patton and Thomas Goodrich
Parc Zoologique d'Amneville)	Handsel Foundation	Ron van der A & Family
CGMK Foundation	Hans Dullemont	Sea World and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
Compass Interim Management	Harber Charitable Foundation	Sherry Paul
David MacDonald & Wildcru	Houston Zoo	Stichting PDC Netherlands
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation	Humane Society International	Stichting Zoos Help: Netherlands
De Vries Family	IUCN / EPG	Tapeats Fund
Disney Coins for Change, Canada	John and Renee Bumpus	The Hide Safari camp
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund	Jon Vannini & India Sanjuan	Tusk Trust
Evelyne Gevaert	Judy and Chuck Wheatley	Victor Adams
Florence and Steven Goldby	Kathleen Sullivan	VIS Landrover Supplies
Forestry Commission Zimbabwe	Kolmarden Zoo	Walli Finch
Forestry Commission Zimbabwe	Landela Safaris	Wildlife Conservation Network
Fred van Olphen	MBZ Species Conservation Fund	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority