**Basic Information: wild dogs (Lycaon pictus)**

**Names: wild dog, painted dog, African hunting dog**

**Identification pointers:** typical dog-like appearance; blotched black, white and tan coat; white tipped-tails; body slender with long legs; large, rounded ears.

**Can be confused with:** brown hyaena, spotted hyaena

**Activity period:** diurnal

**Length**: 110-150m **Height:** 60-80m **Weight:** 20-30kg

**Gestation period:** ±3.5 months

**Lifespan:** ±6-12 years

**Diet:** mainly medium sized antelope such as impala; but will take smaller prey such as hares, prey as large as zebra or young buffalo.

**Predators:** Lions, hyaenas, leopards

**Preferred habitat:** savannahs, grasslands and woodlands

**Red List status:** endangered

**Population:** decreasing

**Threats:** habitat fragmentation and isolation of populations in protected areas is one of the major threats. Dogs are regularly killed by snares set on the periphery of reserves. Although protected in most of their range, they are killed by farmers and herders trying to protect their herds. Diseases such as rabies and canine distemper passed by domestic dogs. Competition with other large predators keeps them at low population densities in within protected areas.