

The Wild Dogs of Laikipia

Africa has just 700 packs of wild dogs (that's about 5,700 animals) remaining and Laikipia is the proud home of about 20 of these packs. The packs reappeared in the 2000s after the wild dogs vanished from Laikipia in the 1980s. The Laikipia population is the sixth biggest in Africa.

Why the interest from the Laikipia Unity Programme?

The social and hunting behaviour of Wild Dogs is just like that of a football team. They work out clever ways to work together as a team when hunting, with each dog having a particular role to play in 'the game' and collectively working together to make sure they 'win'. They also look after each other when they are not hunting and work together to ensure their 'teams' thrive. Very similar behaviour to the teams playing in the Laikipia Unity Programme - collective, unified and peaceful and demonstrating great skills both on and off the football field. No wonder then that the football teams are keen to ensure the survival of the wild dog!



Be part of the solution!

- **Don't disturb wild dogs dens** and try to discourage others from doing so.
- **Leave your dogs at home!** Don't herd your livestock with your domestic dog if wild dogs have been spotted in your area. Domestic dogs attract wild dogs which may then attack your herds. If wild dogs are not around, a domestic dog will help protect your herd from other predators.
- **Avoid thick bush!** Wild dogs rest in thick bush in the middle of the day. Avoiding thick bush will help avoid wild dogs and other predators.
- **Wild dogs are afraid of people** and can be frightened away by herders – but wild dogs are more afraid of grown men than of children, so ensure there is always at least one adult with your herds.
- **Vaccinate your dogs!** If you have domestic dogs have them vaccinated against rabies. This will protect you and your family from a terrifying disease as well as protecting wild dogs.
- **Work with your community** to plan land use in ways which leave space for wildlife.

Report wild dog sightings to the Laikipia Unity Programme team by sending an SMS to 0704180077.

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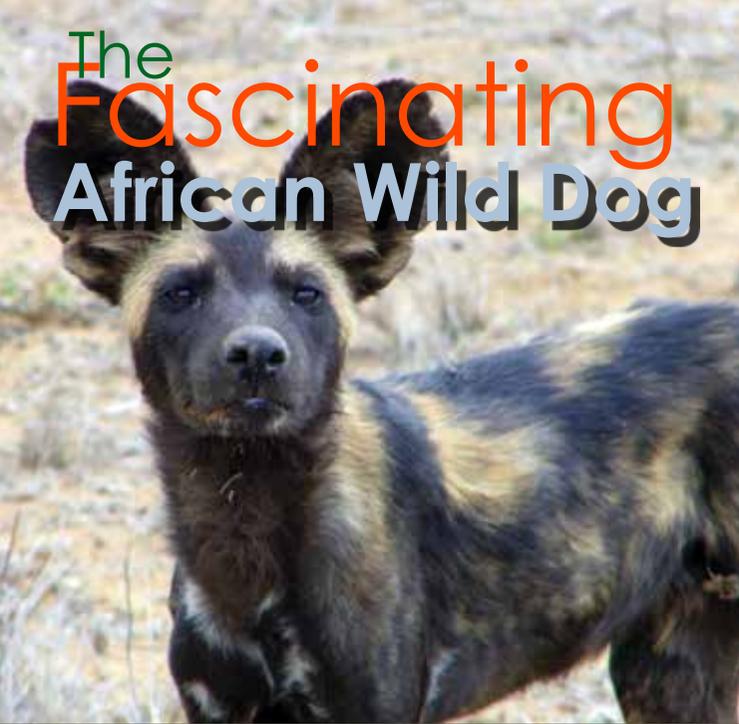


African Wild Dogs

animals to be proud of!



The Fascinating African Wild Dog



African wild dogs are extremely rare and endangered mammals that exist only in Africa. We can be proud that in Laikipia, we have some of the last remaining packs and we are contributing to their conservation but they still remain under great threat due to human activities.



Did you know...



- **Wild dogs are not dangerous to people:** *There have been no recorded attacks on humans.*
- **Wild dogs need the wilderness to survive and thrive:** *Sadly, only 7% of their initial habitat range still exists.*
- **Wild dogs are one of the most efficient hunters in the world:** *They run after prey in packs sometimes for more than 4 hours. Little wonder that they are christened suyian – meaning “swift” in the local Maa language.*
- **Wild dogs are social animals:** *They use a long-distance call (which sounds like a dove or owl) to call the rest of the pack to share a kill and collectively contribute to the taking care of their young.*
- **Wild dogs hunt only early in the morning and late afternoon:** *Wild dogs do not attack livestock bomas at night*
- **Wild dogs prefer wild prey and will seldom hunt domestic animals** *if dik diks or impala are available. Protecting these wild animals can help protect livestock.*

- **Wild dogs fare well on community and commercial ranch lands,** *mainly because of traditional methods of cattle grazing and herding practices that allow for co-existence with wildlife.*
- **Wild dogs are usually curious about and attracted by domestic dogs** *but seldom attack domestic animals.*
- **Wild dogs’ greatest threat to their survival is from livestock owners** *who kill them because they fear wild dogs will kill livestock.*
- **Wild dogs like to use roads to rest and hunt and are often killed in traffic accidents.** *They are also accidentally killed by snares set for other wildlife and by diseases carried by domestic dogs, especially rabies.*



The value of the Wild dogs of Laikipia

Wild dogs are iconic African animals that attract tourists who want to see these unique animals. This creates jobs and income for us in Laikipia and particularly in areas which have packs.

Hunting by wild dogs changes the feeding behaviour of their prey, helping to maintain savanna biodiversity.

They play an important role in research and education.