



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

December 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Words from the Chairman | PAGE 3 |
| Message from the Project Coordinator | PAGE 4 |
| About the WWDI | PAGE 5 |
| Governance | PAGE 8 |
| Waterberg Wild Dog Report | PAGE 9 |
| <i>TOOG Area Pack</i> | |
| <i>Melkrivier Area Pack</i> | |
| <i>Mabula Pack</i> | |
| Awareness & Education | PAGE 17 |
| Challenges & Needs | PAGE 19 |
| Finances | PAGE 20 |
| Donors | PAGE 21 |
| Focusing on 2023 | PAGE 22 |
| Contact | PAGE 23 |

The Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative (WWDI) was founded in August 2020 as a community-based initiative to assist and promote the conservation of the unique, free-roaming African Wild Dog population in the Waterberg, Limpopo. This report was compiled in December 2022 as the second, annual report for the WWDI. It details words from the Chairman and Project Coordinator, its operational structure, successes and challenges during 2022, finances and donation sources, needs going forward, and aims for 2023.



Words from the **CHAIRMAN**

Michael Embleton has been the passionate leader of the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative since its founding in August 2020. As a landowner and farm manager in the Waterberg, Mike understands the difficulty and necessity of balancing livelihoods and conservation in the Waterberg.

If you asked me if I knew what impact the WWDI would make in the conservation of African wild dogs in the two years since I was asked to get on board, I would answer No – no one could have anticipated this. I am truly blessed to be part of this organisation, blessed beyond words. To be able to witness so many great achievements and reaching goals that started off as dreams is humbling. The dreams I had for the WWDI have been reached and surpassed, one hundred-fold.

For me, the greatest achievement is in fulfilling the dream I had for this amazing species to thrive in the Waterberg, raise pups and maintain their natural place in this unique biosphere called the Waterberg. When one can get to a point where a pack is having a 100% pup survival rate, where packs are healthy, and where communities are coming on board with their conservation, we can say that the Waterberg Wild Dogs' future, and that of the entire species, is looking promising.

Being the chairman of any organisation comes with its challenges. I can proudly say that the WWDI is well on track and is an organisation that is now a fully compliant NPC in its own right. Having a project coordinator like Reilly Mooney makes what I need to do an absolute pleasure. Thank you, Reilly, for your incredible drive, passion, work ethic and love for what you do for these unique Waterberg Wild Dogs and the communities in which we work. Thank you to my wife, Cecilia, for your support and understanding.

Thank you to everyone within the communities we work with, for your support and also the robust discussions. Thank you to every landowner or manager for hosting the dogs on your farms, even if it was for just one precious day, where they had a safe space.

Last but not least, thank you to our sponsors and generous donors, local and international. Without your support and belief in us, none of the incredible successes achieved this year would have been possible. I am truly grateful to each and every one.

The various other organisations and entities, private and state, that we interact and work with – thank you for believing in us and being part of conserving the Waterberg Wild Dogs as a team.

Let us continue to strive for a better tomorrow and for a future where we all have our place in the sun.

**GEN 1:31: AND GOD SAW EVERYTHING HE HAD
MADE, AND BEHOLD, IT WAS VERY GOOD.**



Michael Embleton
WWDI Chairman
December 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

Reilly Mooney has been the Project Coordinator for the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative since its conception in August 2020. Reilly has been working in the Waterberg bushveld since 2019, shortly after graduating with Bachelors degrees in Zoology and Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



When you operate an organization on passion, you line yourself up for the best possible opportunity for success. The Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative (WWDI) was born out of and continues to be fueled by passion.

I believe the successes seen in 2022 reflect that passion. Great achievements have been made towards mitigating human-wild dog conflict, including refining our ecotourism project model to be more efficient and impactful. We also partnered with LEDET to conduct a game translocation to further offset losses from heightened denning season predation impact on private farms. Both of these projects have helped capacitate the community to conserve the TOOG Area Pack during their denning season, allowing them to rear 100% of their new pups in a safe and successful manner.

2022 watched us expand into new communities and continue to improve general knowledge about the Waterberg Wild Dog population. We managed to maintain reliable monitoring and tracking on the TOOG Area Pack, even after unfortunate collar failures, and worked with partners to begin tracking the highly-elusive Melkriver Area Pack. A new pack was established on the Mabula Private Game Reserve and has become an excellent example of the achievements that can be made through strategic planning and collaboration.

As an organization, the WWDI has grown in two and a half years from an idea, to a project, and, finally, to an independent organization. Resting at the intersection between community, collaboration, passion, and science, I am confident in believing that the WWDI will continue to grow and succeed in the years to come.

Just like a wild dog, the WWDI could not flourish without its pack. Our pack is large and ever-expanding as we reach into new communities, build new professional relations, and forge new partnerships.

To the Waterberg community, thank you for another incredible year for Waterberg Wild Dog conservation. To the TOOG Area Community, thank you for continuing to engage, support, and strengthen both the TOOG Area Pack, the WWDI as an organization, and myself. To the Melkriver Area Community, I look forward to continuing to meet you all and to working more closely together going forward. We may come from very different backgrounds and we may not always agree on the way forward, but the important thing is that we remember that we can achieve so much more by working together than we ever could apart.

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

To all that have donated to the initiative, thank you for believing in our team and our mission. Our successes are a direct correlation with the support you have provided and I cannot wait to see where 2023 takes us and the Waterberg Wild Dogs because of it.

To the incredible team at Toyota SA Motors, thank you for your support and I look forward to continuing to work with you to conserve these beautiful wild dogs together. The successes we have achieved together is paving a legacy for your team to be proud of.

To the Kendziorski Family, your altruism and generosity is humbling and I look forward to many more memories shared together.

To our Chairman, Mike, thank you for the endless and unwavering passion and support you have for the Waterberg Wild Dogs and the Waterberg community. Thank you for supporting me in my role and for never questioning if something is possible, only how we are going to achieve it. Your passion is infectious and it is the reason we are able to think big and achieve bigger.

2023 will be a year of growth, innovation, adaptation, and expansion. It will be a year of focused and targeted efforts to further reduce the threat risk to the Waterberg Wild Dogs, to continue implementing strategies that alleviate human-wild dog conflict, and to continue building and strengthening relations in the community. I look forward to tackling this new and exciting year together.



Reilly Mooney
WWDI Project Coordinator
December 2022





ABOUT THE WWDI

CONSERVING THE WATERBERG WILD DOG POPULATION

The Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative (WWDI) is a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the Endangered African wild dog population living in the Waterberg, South Africa. The WWDI functions as a community resource, helping provide information, answer questions, raise awareness, address concerns, promote the ecotourism potential of the Waterberg Wild Dogs, and work towards understanding and mitigating the human-wild dog conflict that occurs.

As a free-roaming population, the Waterberg Wild Dogs are not confined by the borders of any reserve. This free-roaming nature makes them important, however, it presents unique challenges to their conservation in a human-dominated landscape.

MISSION

We are dedicated to working alongside the community to enhance understanding and promote the conservation of African Wild Dogs within the Waterberg.

VISION

Conserving the Waterberg Wild Dogs.

OBJECTIVES

- 🐾 **Collecting accurate data** on the Waterberg Wild Dog population.
- 🐾 **Raising awareness** and **providing education** about the Waterberg Wild Dogs.
- 🐾 Promoting the **ecotourism potential** of the Waterberg Wild Dogs.
- 🐾 **Understanding** the extent of and **mitigating human-wild dog conflict**, where possible.



ABOUT AFRICAN WILD DOGS

African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) are also commonly known as Painted Wolves, Painted Dogs, or Cape Hunting Dogs. They used to range freely throughout Sub-Saharan Africa but are now locally extinct in over half of their historic range. The IUCN classifies them as a globally Endangered species due to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, disease, and conflict with humans. There are fewer than 6600 in Africa and fewer than 800 remaining in South Africa.

WHERE IS THE WATERBERG?

The Waterberg, Limpopo lies north of Johannesburg, spanning the mountainous area between Bela-Bela, Thabazimbi, Modimolle, Melkrivier, Marken, Lephalale, and Steenbokpan. Vaalwater, Limpopo marks the centre of the Waterberg region. The Waterberg is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, marking it an area of significant conservation importance due to its high levels of biodiversity and relatively intact natural environment. This designation promotes the sustainable development of the area by placing restrictions on land uses in the area to conserve biological diversity, protect cultural heritage, and maintain a healthy ecosystem. Main land uses in the Waterberg include conservation, ecotourism, hunting, livestock farming, and small-scale agriculture.



POPULATION IMPORTANCE

The African wild dog population living in the Waterberg represents some of South Africa's last-remaining, free-roaming African wild dogs. The free-roaming Waterberg Wild Dogs are not confined to the borders of a reserve and are able to maintain relatively natural movement and behaviors, including dispersing naturally to and from the Waterberg with parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, and northern Limpopo. The Waterberg forms a connection point for these dispersing dogs and is important for to the conservation of the broader Southern Africa wild dog population.

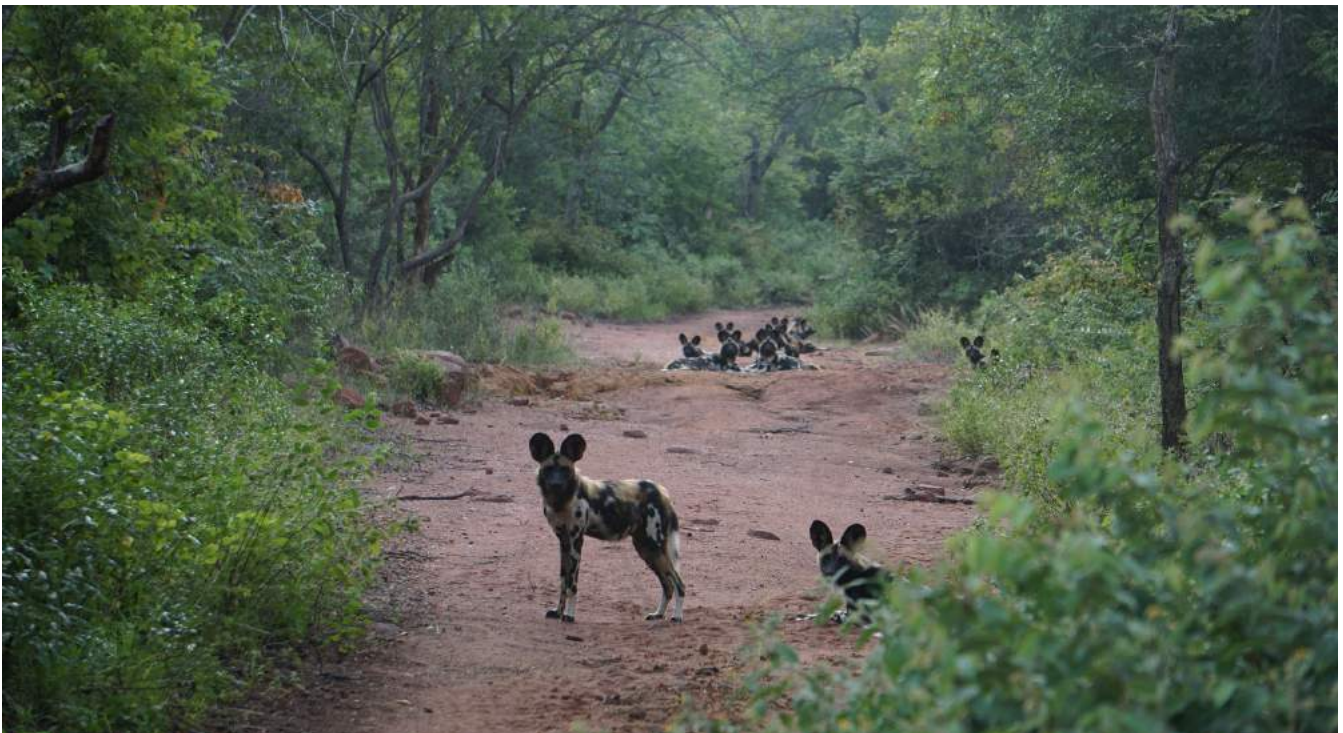
Additionally, genetic analysis has shown that the Waterberg genes are unrelated to those found within wild dogs living on South Africa's protected and managed reserves. Conserving the Waterberg Wild Dog population helps preserve and maintain genetic integrity in the broader Southern Africa wild dog population.

WHAT MAKES IT CHALLENGING?

The Waterberg Wild Dogs range freely over the Waterberg's patchwork of livestock farms, game farms, agricultural lands, private and public nature reserves. Each property has its own management strategy and tolerances for living with natural predators. The rise of the game ranching industry in the area has given a high financial value to game species like impala and blue wildebeest, natural prey for the wild dogs. As a result, the wild dogs come into conflict with farmers when they are suspected to predate on financially valuable game species, in addition to potential conflict experienced for potential depredation events on livestock.

The dogs' wide-ranging movements and elusive behavior has given them the local nickname "Ghost Dogs", as they are rarely seen. This has resulted in a lack of information about the packs and historic misconceptions and negative associations with the population.

The WWDI works carefully alongside community members to address this complex conflict and works towards implementing strategies that promote coexistence between community members and the Waterberg Wild Dogs.





GOVERNANCE

The WWDI is managed by a full-time Project Coordinator and guided by a Steering Committee consisting of community members and stakeholders with varying interests in Waterberg Wild Dog conservation. Committee members volunteer their time, skills, and expertise and are not remunerated for assisting the WWDI's efforts.

The WWDI Steering Committee communicates regularly and meets on an ad-hoc basis throughout the year.

2022 Steering Committee

Chairman - Michael Embleton

Vice Chairman - Andre Burger

Peet Hennig

Derek van der Merwe

Hermann Muller (resigned July 2022)

Project Coordinator

Reilly Mooney

Transition to the WATERBERG WILD DOG INITIATIVE NPC

The WWDI was founded in August 2020 as a conservation project underneath the Waterberg Development Initiative NPC (formerly Waterberg Tourism). The Waterberg Development Initiative is a registered non-profit company (Reg No. 2018 / 539160 / 08) and public benefit organisation (PBO# 930064611) seeking to promote and connect Waterberg conservation, community, and the local economy.

In September 2022, the WWDI registered as its own non-profit company (Reg No 2022 / 711926 / 08) and began its separation away from the Waterberg Development Initiative. This separation is due to the WWDI's success and growth over the last two years and its ability to function independently. The WWDI will continue to work closely with the Waterberg Development Initiative to ensure efforts are streamlined, efficient, and impactful.

Chairman Michael Embleton, Vice-Chairman Andre Burger, and Project Coordinator Reilly Mooney all signed on as Directors of the newly registered Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative NPC.

**THANK YOU TO THE WATERBERG
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR BELIEVING
IN THE WWDI'S MISSION AND HELPING
INITIATE IT IN THE COMMUNITY!**

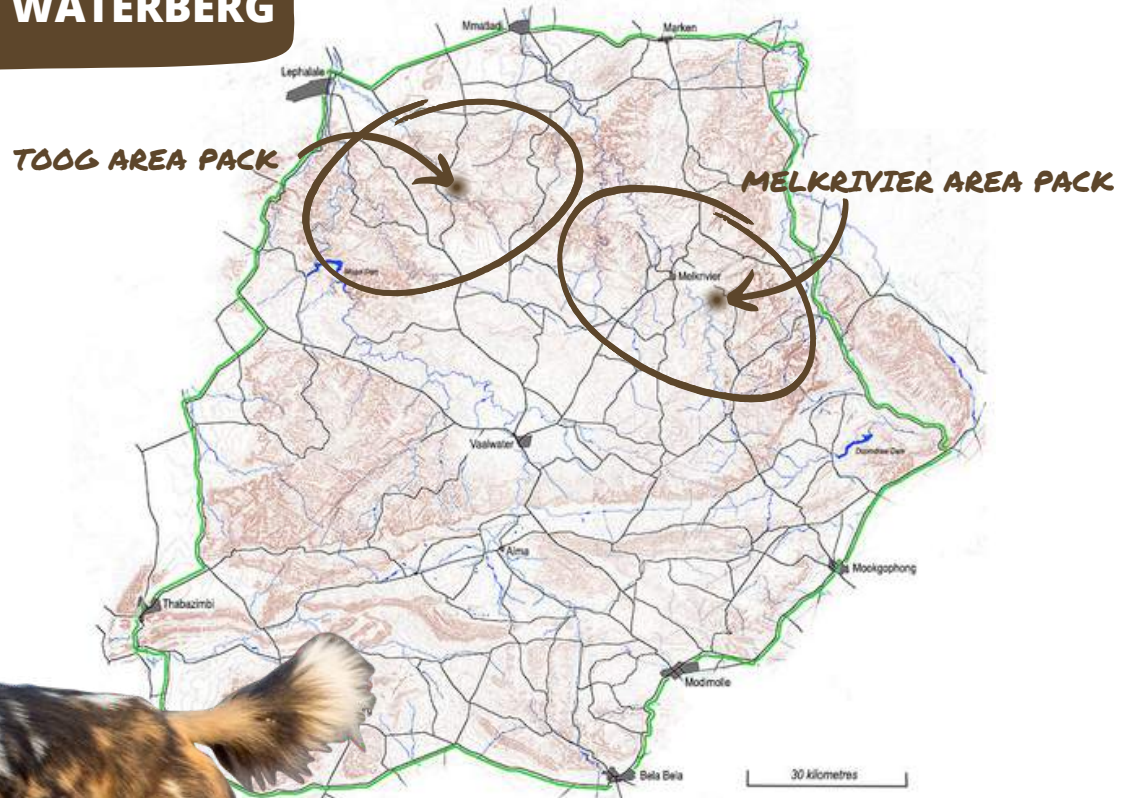




WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT

The WWDI monitors the African wild dogs living in the Waterberg and maintains a database of accurate knowledge of the population. The WWDI is aware of 30 confirmed, free-roaming African wild dogs divided between the two, resident free-roaming packs. The two, free-roaming packs are known as the TOOG Area Pack and the Melkriver Area Pack.

THE WATERBERG



LATEST TOTAL FIGURES

30
TOTAL DOGS

2
PACKS

POPULATION BREAKDOWN

5 ADULT FEMALES

5 ADULT MALES

2 SUBADULT FEMALES

5 SUBADULT MALES

13 NEW PUPS



WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT

TOOG AREA PACK

TOOG AREA PACK

The largest pack in the Waterberg ranges south of Lephalale, near the R33. The WWDI, in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust, fitted the TOOG Area Pack with the first GPS collar in August 2020. Since then, the pack has been regularly monitored and the community hosting them has been engaged in their conservation.



The pack contains 19 dogs, including 3 adult females, 2 adult males, 2 subadult females, 5 subadult males, and 7 pups born in May 2022. Incredibly, the pack saw a 100% survival rate in their 2021 litter of pups. As of December 2022, all 7 pups born in 2022 are also all still alive and with the pack. The pack's home range size expanded to 78,000Ha in 2022, compared to 50,500Ha utilised in 2021, likely due to the growth in pack numbers.

Two subadult females were translocated from the pack in March 2022 to be bonded with two adult males on the Mabula Private Game Reserve near Bela-Bela. More details on this conservation success story are included further on in the report.

The early-warning system being facilitated on WhatsApp continued to provide important information to private landowners supporting the pack on their farms and provided an opportunity to proactively mitigate conflict in the community.



TOOG AREA PACK

- 19 DOGS
- 100% SURVIVAL RATE IN THE 2021 LITTER OF PUPS
- 78,000HA HOME RANGE SIZE  56%
- 58 DIFFERENT PRIVATE PROPERTIES USED  29%
- 103 PARTICIPANTS ON THE EARLY-WARNING WHATSAPP GROUP



WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT TOOG AREA PACK

TOOG AREA PACK CONFLICT MITIGATION WORK

The WWDI has been working with the TOOG Area Pack and the community hosting them since August 2020. The TOOG Area Pack comes into conflict with private farms when they are suspected to predate on financially valuable game. The WWDI works one-on-one with landowners to mitigate this conflict.

During 2022, the WWDI continued to use community WhatsApp groups to provide an early-warning system for community members as the TOOG Area pack moved through private lands. The GPS collars fitted to the pack enable this system. This early warning allows farmers to take steps to proactively mitigate conflict when they are informed that the pack is close. The WWDI also works one-on-one with landowners to address concerns about the Waterberg Wild Dogs and recommend deterrents.

Where the actual impact is being shown to be high, such as during the pack's denning season, or when additional efforts are needed to safeguard the dogs and maintain landowner relations, the WWDI intervenes to assist with implementing additional conflict mitigation strategies.





WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT TOOG AREA PACK

TOOG AREA PACK - CONFLICT MITIGATION WORK

2022 ECOTOURISM PROJECT

The 2022 Waterberg Wild Dog Ecotourism Project successfully leveraged the opportunity to view the pack while they remained relatively stationary in the area during their denning season and used the funds raised from guests to mitigate the impact of the pack on the private properties that hosted them. This form of co-existence aimed to ensure that the landowners hosting the dogs were not substantially impacted by providing protection to the pack during this critical time. It also provided an opportunity to gain new information and increase awareness and appreciation for the pack.

During this time, 260 guests participated in the ecotourism project, generating R113,500.00 in income and a total of R51,354.39 in profit for distribution back to the landowners that supported the pack during this time. The pack's diet was also supplemented with fresh carcasses during the denning season to reduce their hunting frequency and lessen the impact on the private farms hosting them. Based on their hunting patterns, the WWDI estimates the pack's predation impact to the private farms was reduced by 40%.

PROJECT AIMS

1. Raise funds for the impacted landowners.
2. Show the community the wild dogs.
3. Raise awareness about African wild dogs.



**OVER 8 WEEKS, 260 GUESTS
HELPED GENERATE R51,354.39 IN
FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE PRIVATE
FARMS HOSTING THE PACK DURING
THEIR DENNING SEASON.**



WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT TOOG AREA PACK

TOOG AREA PACK - CONFLICT MITIGATION WORK

IMPALA DONATION

In September, the WWDI worked in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (LEDET) to facilitate a donation of 75 impalas to three private properties that were impacted by hosting the TOOG Area Pack during their 2021 denning season. The impala were generously donated by LEDET from the Schuinsdraai Provincial Nature Reserve near Marblehall. The WWDI sourced the funds needed to cover the capture and transport costs for the impala.

The 75 impala were divided proportionately between the three private properties based on the pack's utilisation of each property during the 2021 denning season. GPS tracking collars fitted to the pack allowed the WWDI to assess how many of potential hunts the pack attempted on each property during the denning season and divided the impala donation accordingly.

Thank you to the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the management team at Schuinsdraai Nature Reserve for supporting the landowners that provide safe haven to the pack.



Thank you to the Africa's Wild Dog Survival Fund, The Puma Garage in Vaalwater, and Elite Mica for sponsoring the capture and transport. Thank you to the donors that contributed funds for the project via the WWDI's GivenGain crowdsourcing page.



The impala were safely captured and transported by Nylsvlei Game Traders.





WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT MELKRIVIER PACK

MELKRIVIER AREA PACK

In 2022, the WWDI worked with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) to begin tracking and monitoring the second-known, resident free-roaming pack in the Waterberg. The pack was located during the winter while they were denning on a private farm near Melkrivier.

On August 13th, the WWDI and the EWT, supported by Painted Wolf Wines, the African Wild Dog Survival Fund, and the team at Lindani Lodges managed to place a GPS collar on a healthy, adult male in the pack. The pack is historically well-known and was monitored by the EWT until 2019 when, unfortunately, the alpha female went missing and the pack split up. One of the dispersal groups from this pack went on to form part of the well-known TOOG Area Pack. This collar represents the first reliable tracking on the pack since 2019.

The collaring operation was made possible through support from Painted Wolf Wines, the African Wild Dog Survival Fund, the Waterberg Research Support Centre, the team at Lindani Lodges, West Dunes Aviation, and the expertise of veterinarian, Dr. Zoe Glyphis.

The pack consists of 11 dogs, including 2 adult females, 3 adult males, and 6 pups born in the 2022 denning season. Some individuals in the pack are remnants of a larger pack in the area in 2019 and have been linked with more recent sightings in 2021 and early 2022 on Welgevonden and Entabeni, respectively.

Placing a collar on this Melkrivier Pack provides valuable data about the movements of the pack and helps safeguard them as they range across private farms. An early-warning system, replicating the system that is being facilitated in the TOOG Area, has been established and will provide landowners with important information about the pack's movements in the area. A similar system was run by the EWT with the pack in 2018 and the existing WhatsApp group has been re-vitalised.

The WWDI looks forward to continuing to work with the Melkrivier Pack and the community hosting them to build knowledge about the pack.



MELKRIVIER AREA PACK

- 11 DOGS
- ~90,000HA HISTORIC HOME RANGE SIZE (CURRENT TO-BE-DETERMINED)
- 177 PARTICIPANTS ON THE EARLY-WARNING WHATSAPP GROUP
- 15 DIFFERENT PRIVATE PROPERTIES USED FROM AUG - DEC 2022



WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT

MABULA PACK

THE MABULA PACK

A CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

In 2021, two free-roaming males naturally dispersed from their resident pack in northern Limpopo in search of females. They travelled 330 km before arriving on the Mabula Private Game Reserve near Bela-Bela in July 2021. Unfortunately, there were no known dispersal packs of females in Limpopo for the males to join.

The males naturally remained on Mabula without any females until Spring 2021, when teams from the Mabula Reserve Management, the EWT's Wild Dog Range Expansion Project, and the WWDI began working together to source females that could be translocated and bonded to form a new pack with the lonely males. Unfortunately, there were no excess females available in South Africa's managed metapopulation of African wild dogs on private reserves.

The WWDI team motivated for the translocation of two adult females from the free-roaming TOOG Area Pack as a conflict mitigation tool with the community hosting them. Formerly a pack of 14 dogs, the community was becoming less tolerant to having the pack around due to the growth in pack size and corresponding predation impact on the private game farms within their range. By strategically translocating two of the females, the WWDI team reduced the size of the pack without impacting the stability of the pack's structure. The two females selected were likely to disperse from the pack and search for males in the coming months. By capturing and translocating them before they dispersed, their impact on private game farms was limited and the dogs' safety was ensured. This strategic move and formation of a new pack helped ensure that the Waterberg Wild Dog population is contributing towards the conservation of the species in the best way possible.

The females were moved to Mabula's predator boma to be bonded with the males just before they were due to naturally disperse from the TOOG Area Pack in March 2022.

The four dogs spent several weeks in adjacent holding bomas to encourage them to bond and allow time for the new pack to adjust to each other and the area before their release onto the reserve. The bonding was extremely successful and the dogs were released in May.

The formation of this pack was a collaboration between the Mabula Private Game Reserve, the Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, and Rooiberg Veterinary Services. Thank you to Toyota SA for supporting the WWDI's work in this project and thank you to all of the project sponsors that made this exciting translocation possible!





WATERBERG WILD DOG REPORT

MABULA PACK

THE MABULA PACK

A CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

The newly-formed pack successfully reared 6 pups during their first denning season as a cohesive pack. The success of the pack has been a good indication of the positive conservation work that can be achieved through strategy and collaboration.

In about one year, the Mabula Private Game Reserve's wild dog population has grown from 2 lonely males to a healthy pack size of 10 wild dogs! Feedback from guests on Mabula indicates that the dogs are greatly contributing to the reserve's ecotourism potential.

Thank you to the Mabula Private Game Reserve for granting safe haven to these incredible wild dogs and for playing an active role in contributing towards the conservation efforts of African wild dogs!



MABULA PACK

- 10 DOGS
- 8500HA HOME RANGE SIZE
- PUPS BORN DURING THE NEW PACK'S FIRST DENNING SEASON!
- SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY!



AWARENESS & EDUCATION WORK

Raising awareness and providing education on a local, national, and international scale is a critical component of the WWDI's work. Throughout 2022, emphasis was placed on expanding the WWDI's educational reach into new communities through community market events. Markets provide an excellent way for the WWDI to reach new audiences.

The WWDI launched its first-ever website in January 2022. The website provides information about the WWDI, the Waterberg Wild Dogs, and valuable resources for the community.

The WWDI attended four community meetings hosted by the Waterberg Nature Conservancy (WNC) in Vaalwater and one community meeting for the Witwater Bewaria Area near Sterkrivier. These meetings are a great platform to discuss the Waterberg Wild Dogs with community members in an informal setting and build relations.

During the May 2022 WNC meeting, Reilly presented on the recent success of bonding the two TOOG Area Pack females with the two free-roaming males on the Mabula Private Game Reserve. Her talk provided an overview of the thought process and steps undertaken by the team to form the new pack and was well received by those in attendance.

In February, Reilly presented at the virtual African Wild Dogs United Conference. The title of her talk was *Adaptive, community-based conservation of the free-roaming Waterberg Wild Dog population in a human-dominated landscape in South Africa*. It provided an overview of the WWDI's efforts to date and raised awareness about the importance and difficulty of conserving the Waterberg Wild Dog population.

The WWDI also continued to grow on social media in 2022. Social media has proved to be an excellent way for the public to follow the progression of Waterberg Wild Dog conservation efforts and keep engaged with the WWDI's work.



Adaptive, community-based conservation of the free-roaming Waterberg Wild Dog population in a human-dominated landscape in South Africa.



SOCIAL MEDIA



1948 LIKES

35%



1086 FOLLOWERS

40%



25 SUBSCRIBERS

39%



AWARENESS & EDUCATION WORK

The 2022 Ecotourism Project provided an excellent opportunity for the WWDI to provide education about the Waterberg Wild Dogs to both local, national, and international tourists. All participants in the project were provided with an overview of Waterberg Wild Dog conservation, including its current state, challenges, and importance. Local community members and school groups coordinated through the Waterberg Academy and the Welgevonden Environmental Awareness Programme were able to attend the project and have an opportunity to learn about the dogs and the conservation efforts going on in their community.

In September 2022, the WWDI worked with the South African National Roads Agency Ltd (SANRAL) to develop and install warning and informational signage along the R33 near Lephalale. Warning signage was placed at three areas that the TOOG Area Pack was routinely using to cross the busy, mountainous road, as determined from the pack's GPS collar data. Additional information boards were placed throughout the 12km stretch to inform motorists about the presence of African wild dogs in the area and encourage sightings of the pack crossing the road to be reported. The goal of this exciting project is to make the roadway safer for both the endangered pack and motorists, while also raising awareness about the pack's presence in the area.





CHALLENGES & NEEDS

CHALLENGES

2022 saw the WWDI and the Waterberg Wild Dog population achieve incredible successes. The growth in pack size for the TOOG Area Pack is a great achievement for their conservation, however, it also raises the likelihood of increased conflict with community members as a larger pack is more conspicuous and consumes more prey. Although the WWDI assisted in facilitating the translocation of two females from the pack to reduce the pack's size, the birth of 7 new pups in May raised the pack size to 19 dogs. It is likely that some of the subadult members of the pack will naturally disperse in the coming months, however, there is a current and increasing challenge of maintaining landowner relations and mitigating resulting conflict with a larger pack.

Fundraising for the live game project was a major challenge for 2022. The WWDI implemented multiple methods to generate funding for the project, including crowd-sourcing and seeking project sponsors. Thankfully, a number of key donors came forward to help action the incredibly important project. The difficulty in raising funds has given the WWDI a better understanding of the potential challenge for securing funding for a complex project such as the live game project going forward. The WWDI is extremely grateful to the project donors for helping action the important project.

NEEDS

The WWDI has highlighted a few needs going into 2023. The WWDI has grown rapidly in its capabilities and continues to be an ambitious and results-driven organization. The WWDI will be looking to employ a field officer in 2023 to assist with current and future conflict mitigation plans and field work. Bringing on additional personnel will also require additional equipment and expenses. Funding for the increased operational demands will be needed for 2023.

Additional tracking collars are needed to maintain consistent, reliable tracking on the TOOG Area Pack and the Melkriver Area Pack. Collars also need to be fitted to potential dispersals in each pack to allow the WWDI to continue monitoring them once they leave their natal packs. The WWDI estimates at least 6 GPS collars will be needed for the Waterberg Wild Dog packs in 2023.

The WWDI has also identified a growing need for African wild dog educational materials targeting a wide range of audiences.

Additional funding will also be needed to action exciting projects aimed at alleviating the human-wild dog conflict occurring. More information about these projects and calls for funding will be communicated throughout 2023.



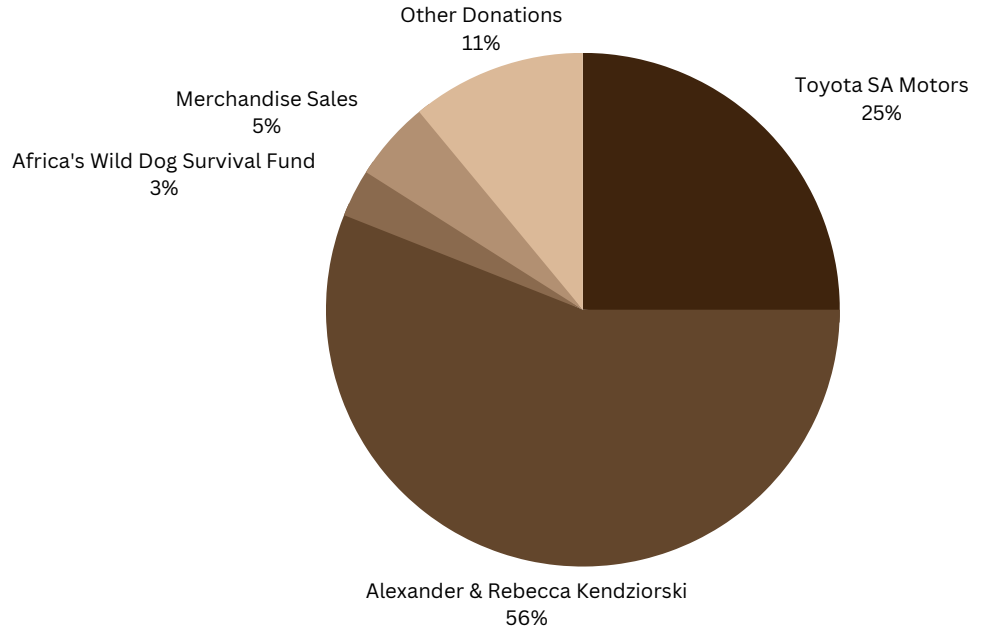


FINANCES

R773,103.79

TOTAL INCOME

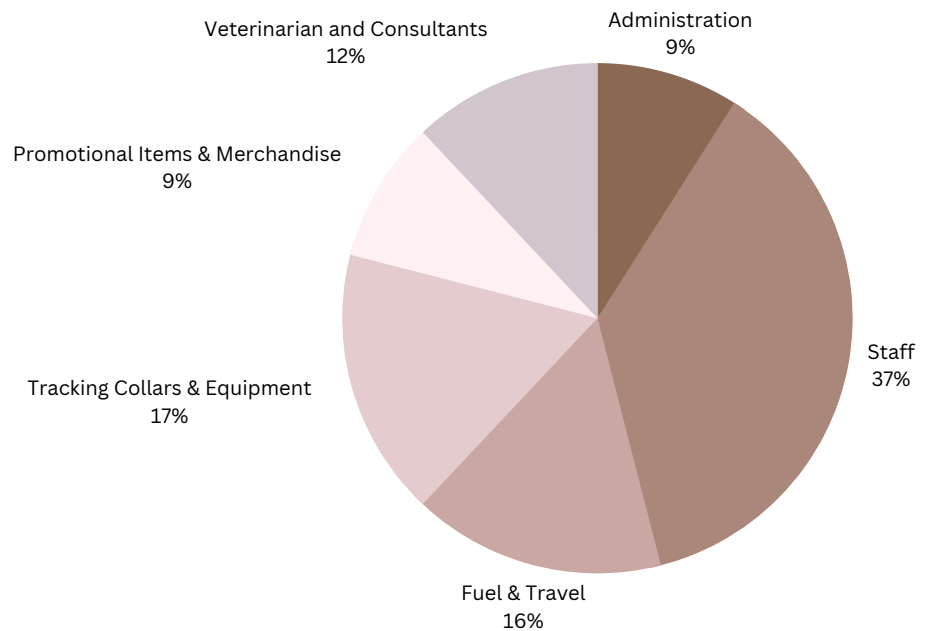
Income for the WWDI in 2022 was largely received from sponsorships, donations from foundations, and donations received from private individuals. The WWDI's largest donors that enabled its continued operations in 2022 were Alexander and Rebecca Kendziorski & Family and Toyota South Africa Motors. Toyota SA provided both operational funding and a leased 2021 Toyota Hilux D/C 4x4 to support the WWDI's field work efforts. Private individuals were able to donate to the WWDI and its projects via EFT, PayFast, GivenGain, Yoco, or via cash. The WWDI also sold merchandise at market events that helped provide funding for small projects and expenses.



R449,332.80

TOTAL EXPENSES

With the WWDI's growth in 2022 and rapid inflation on key expenses such as fuel, the WWDI's expenses were higher than in 2021. 2022 expenses consisted primarily of administration costs, staff costs, fuel and travel, tracking collars and equipment, promotional items and merchandise costs, and veterinarian and consultant costs for the live game capture and transport. The WWDI operates remotely from the Waterberg and does not pay additional overhead costs to maintain an office space. The WWDI expects all of these expenses to increase in 2023, particularly the expenses associated with recruiting an additional field officer and increased field work in both the TOOG Area and Melkrivier Area communities.





DONORS

The WWDI would like to thank its generous donors and supporters for helping make 2022 an outstanding year for Waterberg Wild Dog conservation efforts. As a small, community-based initiative, the WWDI relies heavily on the support of those that value Waterberg Wild Dog conservation in order to achieve its goals. Every donation, no matter how big or how small, is appreciated by the WWDI team and helps enable the WWDI to work towards a positive future for Waterberg Wild Dog conservation. THANK YOU for believing in the WWDI and for supporting its work.

Alexander and Rebecca Kendzierski & Family

Toyota South Africa Motors

Africa's Wild Dog Survival Fund

Wild Dogs MTB Club

The Puma Garage in Vaalwater

Wild Dog 4x4

Elite Mica in Lephalale

Vermont Sales



TO THE WATERBERG COMMUNITY...

The WWDI would like to thank the Waterberg community for engaging with, supporting, and participating with the initiative. The WWDI is a small team, but a lot can be achieved through the support of the community. To everyone that has helped track the wild dogs, allowed them safe passage on their farm, reached out with questions or concerns, offered suggestions, participated in the ecotourism project, shared social media posts, and been a part of the initiative in any way - THANK YOU.



FOCUSING ON 2023

The WWDI remains to be a forward-facing and results-driven organization and 2023 is aiming to be another year of success and accomplishments. With the growth in wild dog numbers seen in both the TOOG Area and Melkriver Area Packs, a greater emphasis will be placed on developing targeted solutions to mitigate the unique human-wild dog conflict occurring in the communities hosting each pack. Community meetings aimed at strategizing and problem-solving will be hosted during the first quarter of 2023 and will guide responses in each community going forward.

The WWDI will also be looking to expand its field work and monitoring protocols to better understand the year-round diet, behaviors, movements, and pack dynamics of both the TOOG Area and Melkriver Area Packs. This will require the maintenance of reliable tracking on the TOOG Area Pack and securing more reliable tracking and monitoring of the Melkriver Area Pack.

A lot of preliminary work has been done to begin assessing the impact of the packs to private properties. Going forward, strategies will rely on combining community tolerances with the data collected to better inform conflict mitigation and threat-reduction strategies that will continue to allow the endangered, free-roaming African wild dogs in the Waterberg to co-exist with the private properties enabling their conservation.



#ToyotaWildDogs



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