

## **Project Update: August 2014**

In April 2014, we received a Rufford Continuation Grant to establish an education programme for wild dog conservation around Gonarezhou National Park. We received only the £15,000 grant, and so I've been working on ways to spend this money most effectively for the program. Assuming Rufford has no problems with this, we intend (hope) to partner with the Frankfurt Zoological Society (who has a 10-year MOU with Parks for the Gonarezhou Conservation Project) to help us get a better vehicle than the one we could have otherwise afforded. We are currently intending to get a good condition, secondhand Toyota Land Cruiser to which we will add a canopy and equip with crates of books, a mobile projector screen, the DVD showing equipment (including generator and fuel etc.) and camping stuff for the education officer. The funds we had budgeted for the vehicle will all be spent on the vehicle as planned, just with some extra funds from FZS to get something better, which will then be longer lasting.

Exactly as per the proposal and budget, we will then employ an education officer and purchase the fuel for this vehicle to go round the communities. I've already put the word out about the job availability (it's tricky, because they need to speak Shangaan!), and have got a couple of promising people interested. In addition, we've done the literacy tests in three of the five schools we recently got the Happy Readers books into for baseline evaluation.

So we are definitely not sitting idle whilst getting all this organised. And of course the wild dog fieldwork is all going on – it's denning season at the moment which is a very busy (albeit rewarding) time. In addition, our schools programme around the Save Valley Conservancy is going extremely well and producing some great results. On Friday we will be holding a four day conservation and leadership training course for 22 students and 10 teachers, and the mobile library continues to function. It's becoming very popular! We've managed to find the den sites of eight different packs in Gonarezhou National Park so far, which is a record and definitely includes some never-before-seen wild dogs.



African wild dog puppies at play



African Wild dog



Batanai pack pups at their den



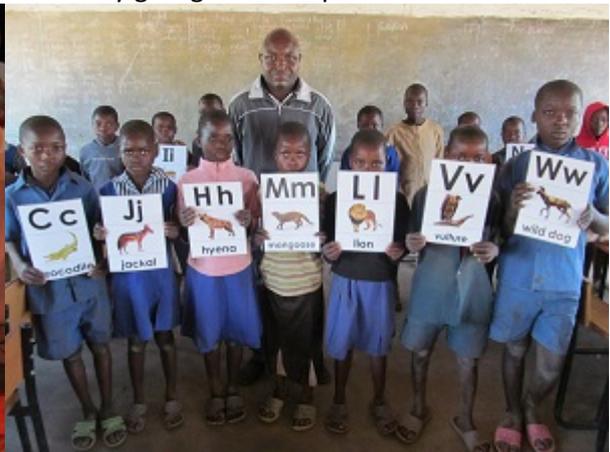
Rosemary and scout Cain collaring an adult



Rosemary giving a shot of penicillin to adult



Lowveld ABC material in use at Zindove Primary



Gokomere Primary School, using the AWC Lowveld ABC materials



Students doing evaluation quiz tests, Magumire Primary

Students enjoy the WILD Cards - Machoka Primary