

Project Update: May 2010

The wild dog project here in Zimbabwe is going well. I recently came back from completing a spoor survey in Gonarezhou National Park where we picked up signs of several packs of wild dogs, which is very exciting. We will be attempting to find their dens over the next couple of months; no small challenge in a 5000km² area of total wilderness! Logistics are a little easier in our other focal study area, the Save Valley Conservancy, where we have already located two den sites – excitingly the pups have recently emerged at one of the dens. Unfortunately, snaring continues to be an issue, killing and injuring more wild dogs than anything else, but we continue to do what we can to mitigate this problem.

We are making good progress with our environmental education plans, including design of resources and the identification of priority schools, and should have our education officer employed within the next few months. Likewise, our plans for domestic dog vaccination campaigns are coming on well, and we will be holding the first campaign in September.



Left: African wild dog with snare around neck. Right: The first wild dog pup to emerge in 2010!