

Project Update: August 2009

Wild dog denning season is a very busy time for our project. To date we have located the den sites of seven different packs of dogs and have been intensively monitoring them. Litter sizes have ranged from four to 12, with one pack about to have a second litter. Unfortunately, we are noticing the impact of lions a lot more this denning season: we've lost at least seven pups and two adults to lions so far and suspect more. Snaring remains a huge problem too: in the past week I have removed snares from two wild dogs and rescued a buffalo calf from a snare. Our Zimbabwean master's student Moreangels is enjoying her field season with the project: she's using scat analysis to look at competition for prey between the wild dogs and other large carnivores. Two more school field trips are planned for September.



Left: Large and small pups playing at the den. Right: Wild dog mother and pups.