

News Release

## Rare African Wild Dogs sighted on the Ol Pejeta Conservancy



A year after confirming a steady increase in its wildlife numbers and species, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy has reported the sighting of rare African Wild Dogs. Also known as the African Hunting Dog, this endangered species was spotted on the North Western side of the Conservancy last week.

The Wild Dog's endangered status is owed mostly to habitat loss and hunting in other areas where they used to be found. Its recent sighting can be attributed to the fact that there is, now, a more conducive environment and wider habitat for wildlife brought about by the expansion in early 2007 of the former Sweetwaters Game Reserve into the current Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

Every year, the Ol Pejeta Wildlife and Ecological Monitoring Department conducts an aerial census to assess wildlife population trends and last year's census indicated an average annual increase of 15% in overall wildlife populations over the last three years. The elephant population for example, rose from 159 to 296, while the giraffe population increased from 132 to 172. Overall wildlife numbers increased from 6,759 in 2005 to 10,167 in 2008.

With the recent sighting of the African Wild Dog, the 90,000 acre Conservancy continues to distinguish itself as a haven for an astounding variety of wildlife, including the Big Five. It is the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa, and home to 43 chimpanzees at the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary. The conservancy offers accommodation options at the Serena managed Sweetwaters Tented Camp and The Ol Pejeta House, and has long been the preferred retreat of wilderness and safari lovers alike.