



## WildDog Update - Feb08

### **THE NORTHERN TULI WILD DOG PROJECT**

Craig Jackson

During the first week of February Rex and I went to the Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, to spend a few days with Zama and Brendan at the Park's wild dogs project. Brendan is involved with monitoring the dogs while Zama is very involved in a community outreach program. Consequently, both Rex and I had much to learn from these guys. The trip was definitely worthwhile and we both learnt a lot that would be very applicable to our new project in the NTGR.



As an additional attempt to contain the wild dogs within the NTGR, the concept of a "biofence" will be tested. Since wild dogs are territorial, we will attempt to imitate wild dog territories towards the peripheral parts of the reserve by laying out wild dog scats. These scats will be collected from three different packs. During February, Rex and myself surveyed roads that would provide suitable tracks on which to place the scats. The distance to the reserve boundary and the vegetation density affects this suitability of this route. We have identified where the biofence will be located and can now distribute the scats when they arrive closer to the release time.

A meeting will be held at Tuli Lodge on 8 March for selected community leaders. These people have been invited so that we can officially introduce the project to them, and request their cooperation with the community work. A PowerPoint presentation will be used at this meeting and Rex will have to present this, as I will be away. Towards the end of the month Rex practiced this presentation and had a trial run with some of the management staff. He did very well, especially considering that it was his first proper presentation.