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How To Draw a Wattled Crane (*Bugeranus carunculatus*)

Photo by Daniel Dolpire

Step 1:

- Draw four ovals: the head, body and two for the feet.
- Draw a curved line to join to the body (the neck).
- Measure the distance between head, body and feet so they are in the correct proportion.



Heron S-shaped neck

Hérons are different from cranes because they have an S-shaped neck which they use for catching fish.



Step 2:

- Draw a beak and outline the facial features.
- Draw the thigh and ensure that it is placed in the center to balance the body sphere.

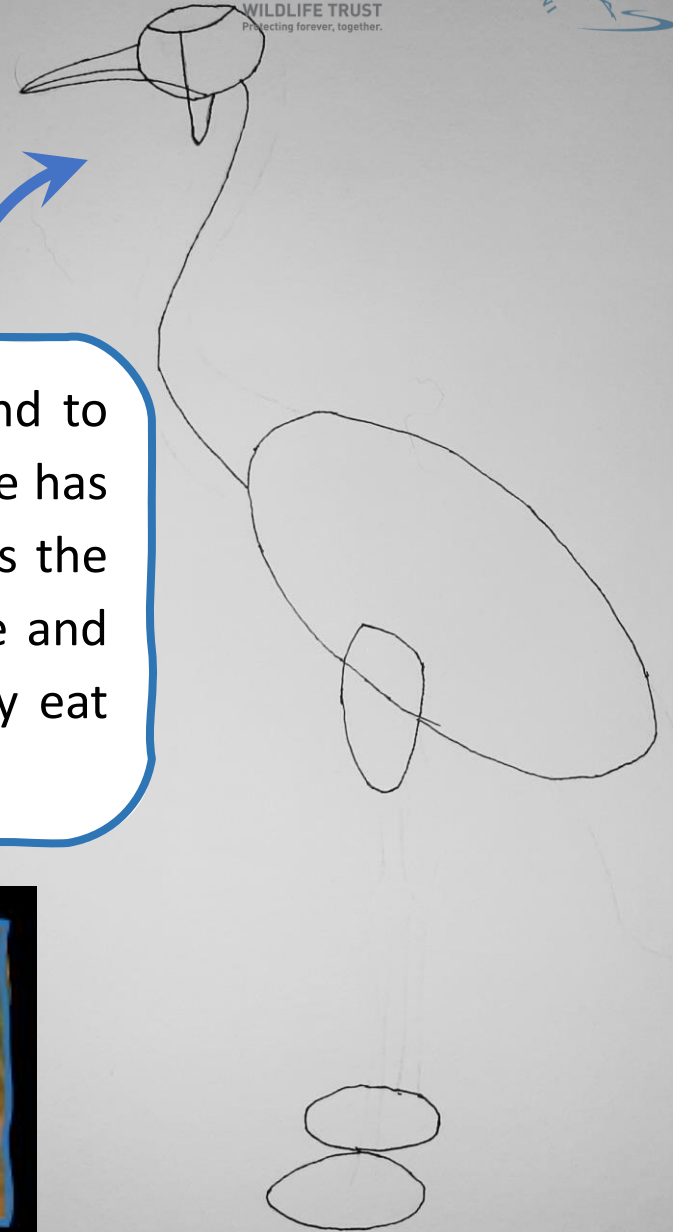
Cranes have long beaks for probing into the ground to find plant roots and seeds to eat. The Wattled Crane has the longest beak of the South African cranes and is the largest and heaviest of the three species. The Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes have shorter beaks and they eat more grains and seeds.



Photo: Rex Graham

Photo: Daniel Dolpire

Photo: Ciming Mei



Step 3:

- Draw the neck and tail lines.

There are three species of crane in South Africa: the Blue Crane (our national bird), Crowned Crane and Wattled Crane.



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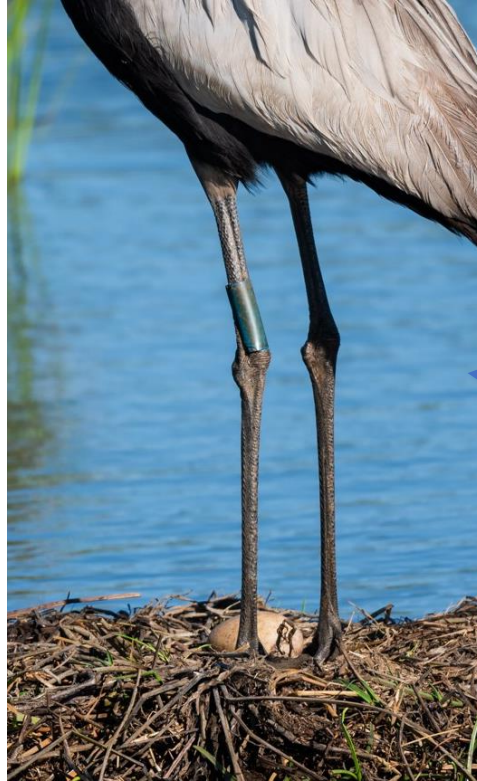
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Step 4:

- Draw the legs, make sure you draw the leg joint.
- Draw the details of the feet.

Grey Crowned and Wattled Cranes are reliant on wetlands for breeding, while the Blue Cranes breed in a small scrape nest on farmland.



Cranes have long legs so they can wade through water and or long grass.



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Step 5:

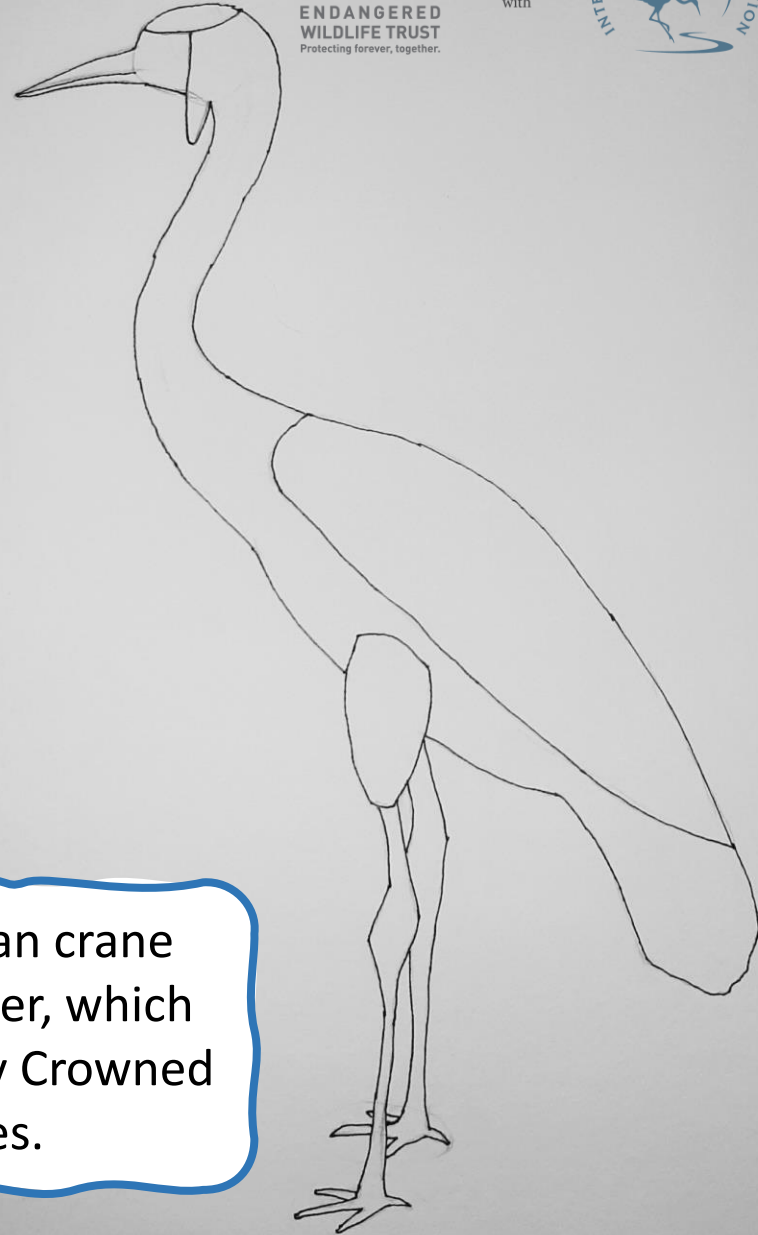
- Erase the guidelines used.
- Paint or colour in your crane sketch.



The Grey Crowned Crane is the only South African crane that roosts in trees. Their back toe is slightly longer, which enables them to grip the branch for roosting. Grey Crowned Cranes also roost on powerlines sometimes.



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Questions



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1. How can you tell the difference between a Crane and a Heron?
2. Why do cranes have such long beaks?
3. Which crane has the longest beak of the South African cranes?
4. Which is the largest and heaviest of the three species of crane?
5. How many species of crane are found in South Africa?
6. Why do cranes have such long legs?
7. Which of the South African cranes breed in wetlands?
8. Which South African crane roosts in trees?
9. What physical characteristic of this species enables them to do this?
10. Which one of the crane species is our national bird?



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How to draw an African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*)



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STEP 1

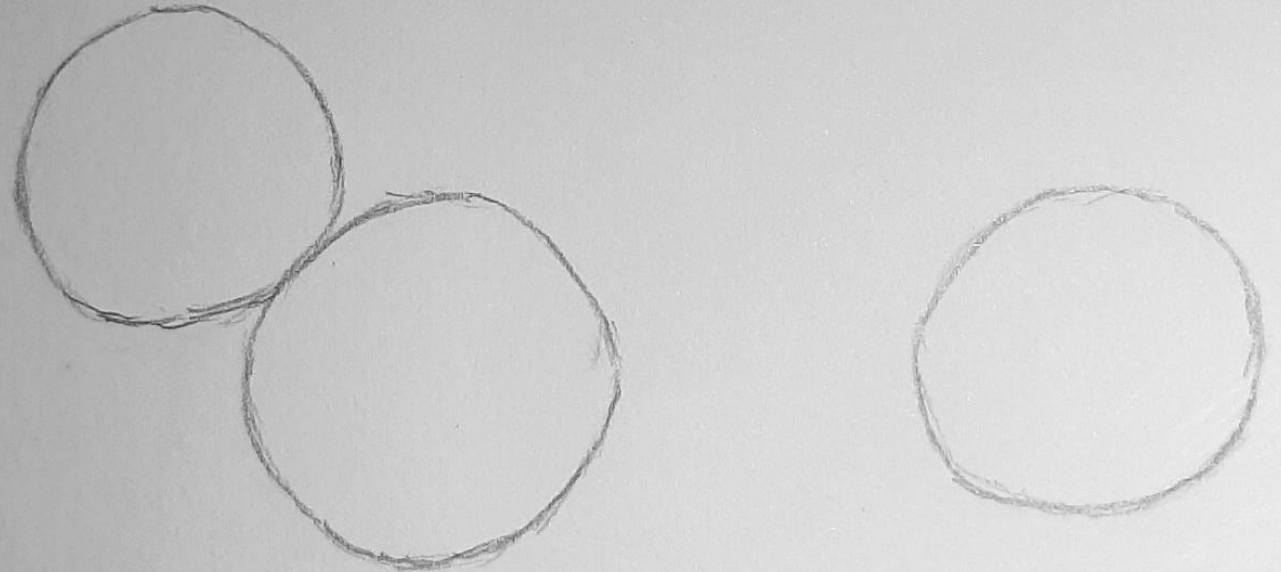
- Draw three circles of different sizes as guides for the shoulders (large) hips (medium), and head (small).



African Wild Dogs live in Grassland and Savanna habitats.



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STEP 2



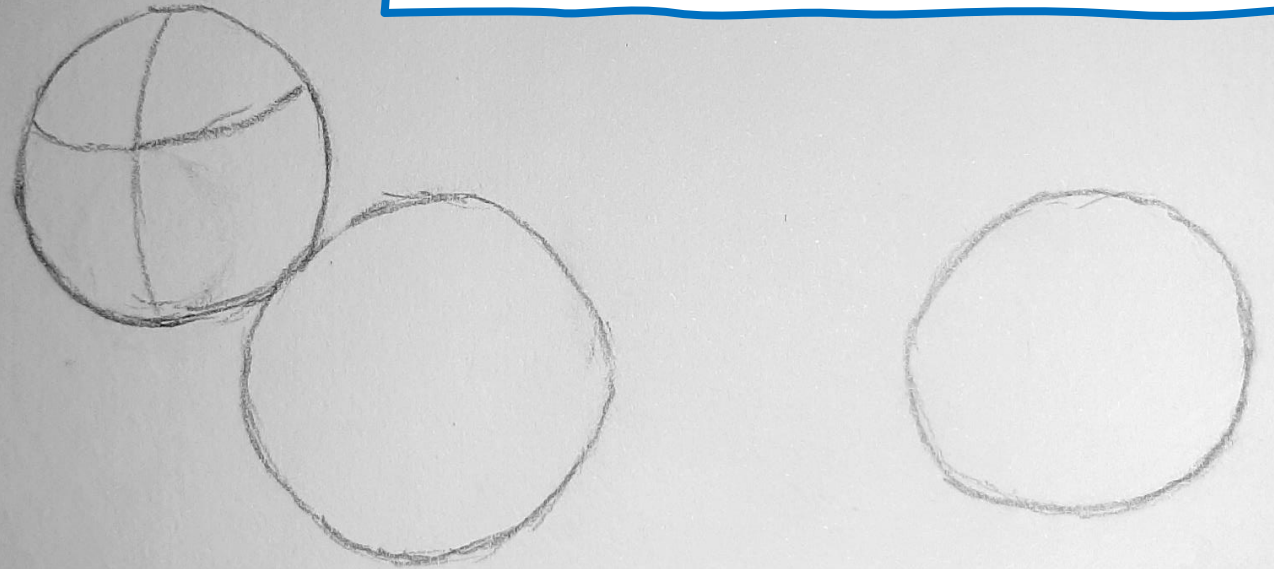
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- Draw two lines through the smallest circle to help you to align the face correctly.

The Latin name for African Wild Dogs is *Lycaon pictus*, which means Painted Wolf

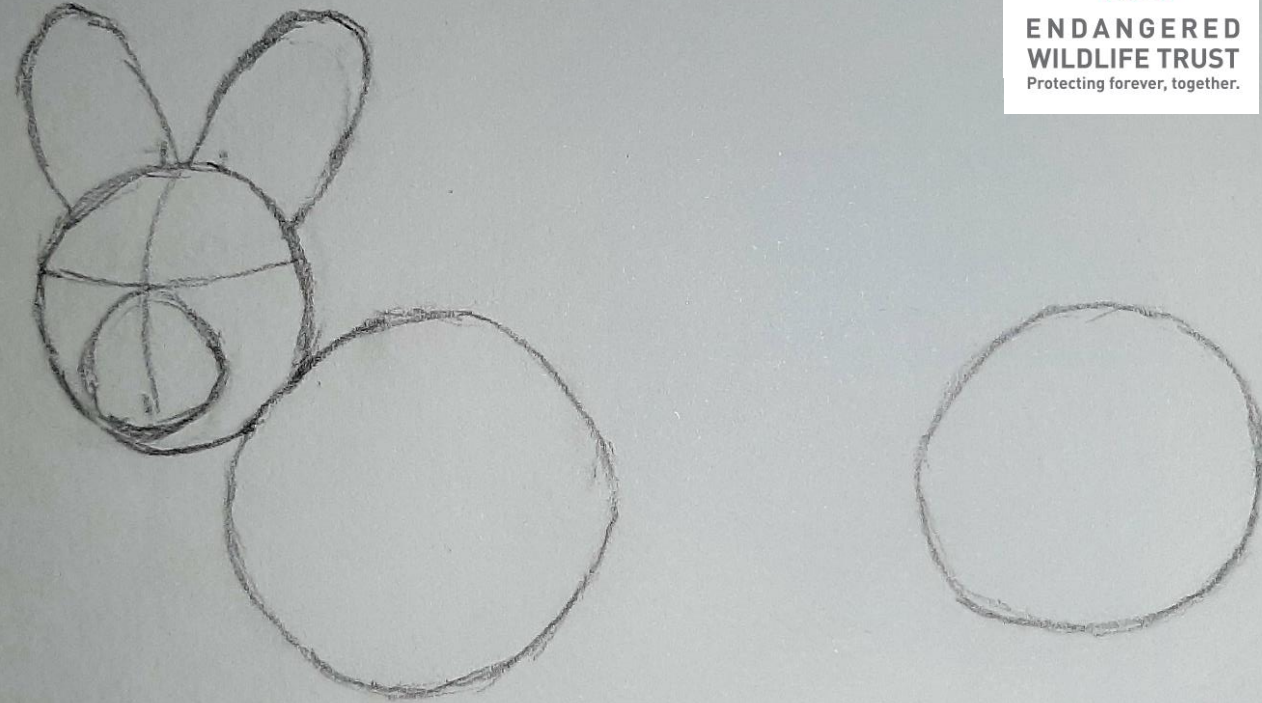
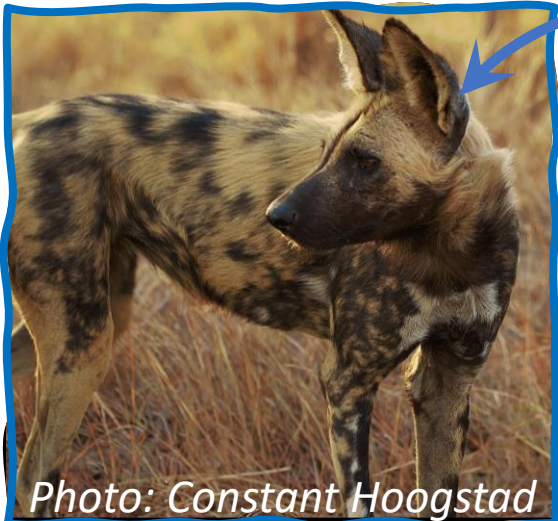


Photo: Constant Hoogstad



STEP 3

- Draw two arches for the ears. These should be big because Wild Dogs have very big ears.
- Draw a smaller circle to guide the alignment of the muzzle.
- Don't worry if it looks a bit like a rabbit, it comes together later.



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The dogs have such big ears because they need to hear and communicate with each other while hunting. The big ears also contain many blood vessels, and when a dog is hot, these blood vessels allow for the blood to cool as it passes through the ears.

STEP 4

- Draw four stick legs to guide the position of the legs.
- Note where the legs start on the circle to ensure that the final look is balanced.



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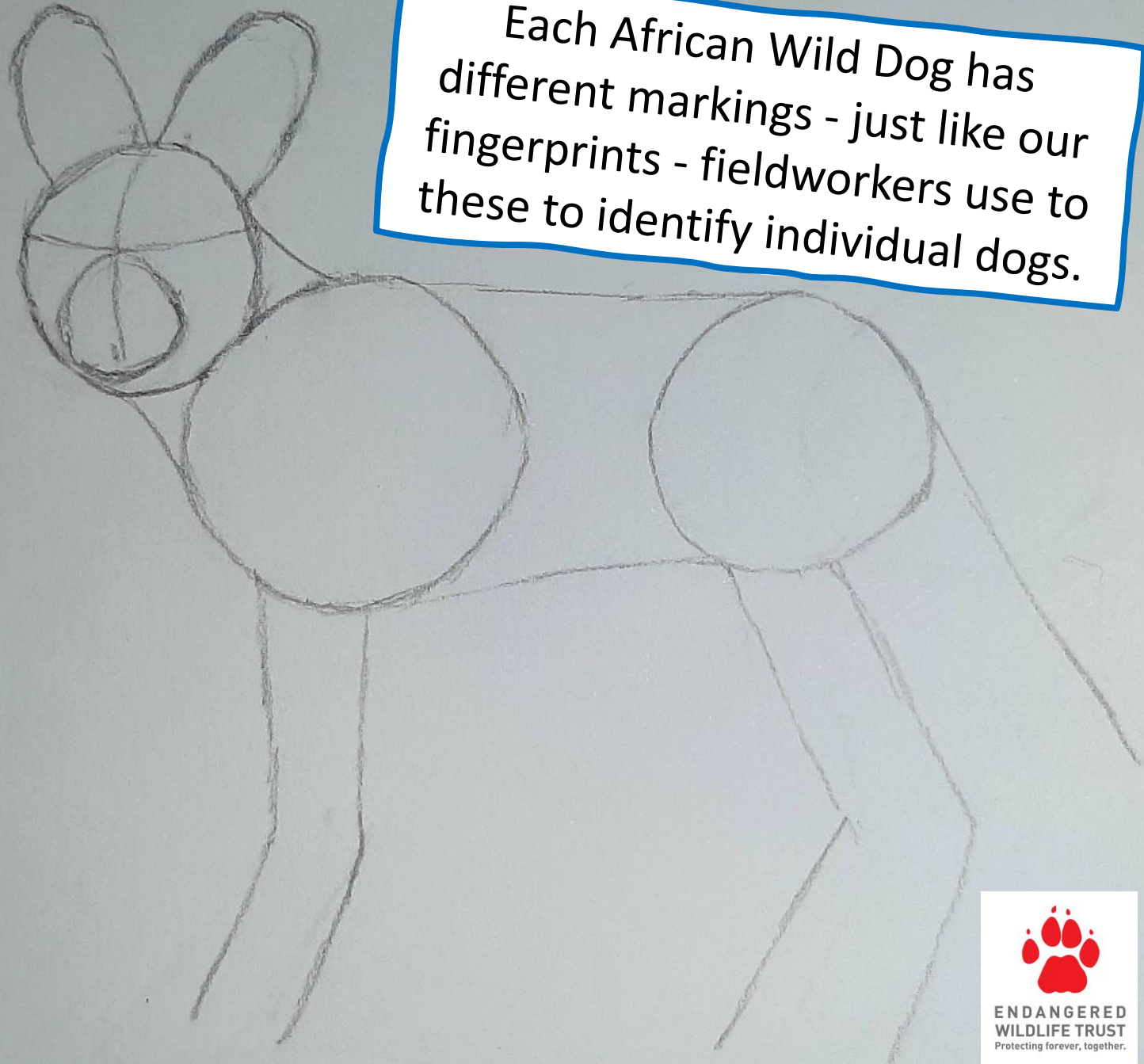
Wild Dogs' long legs are important for successful hunting.

STEP 5

- Draw a line to link the head to the shoulders.
- Then draw a line to link the shoulders to the hips.
- Add a guiding line for the tail.



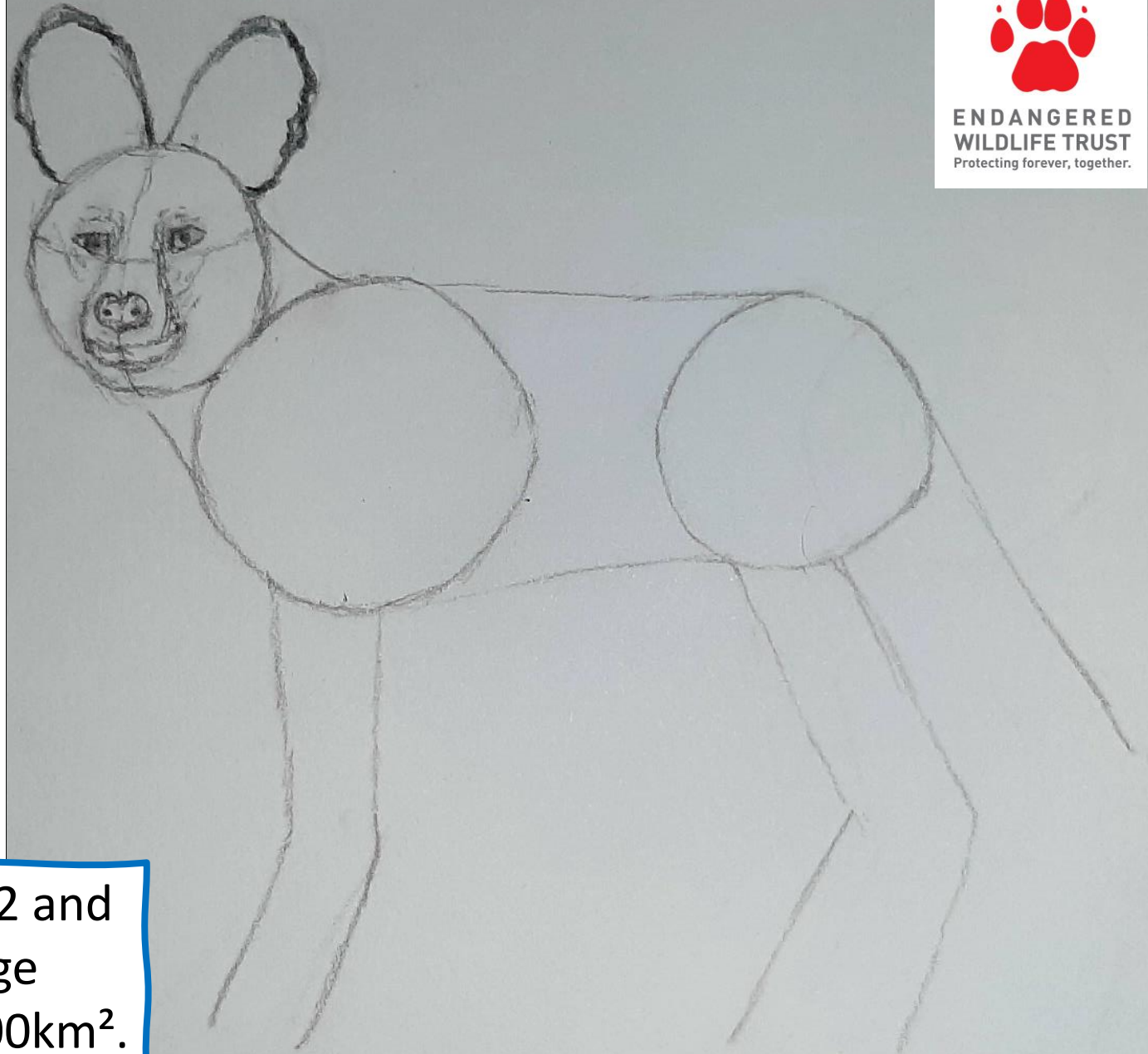
Each African Wild Dog has different markings - just like our fingerprints - fieldworkers use these to identify individual dogs.



STEP 6

- Draw in the facial features using the lines you placed before.
- Eyes should be placed above the horizontal line.
- The nostrils about a third below the horizontal line.
- Shape the form around the muzzle and eyes.

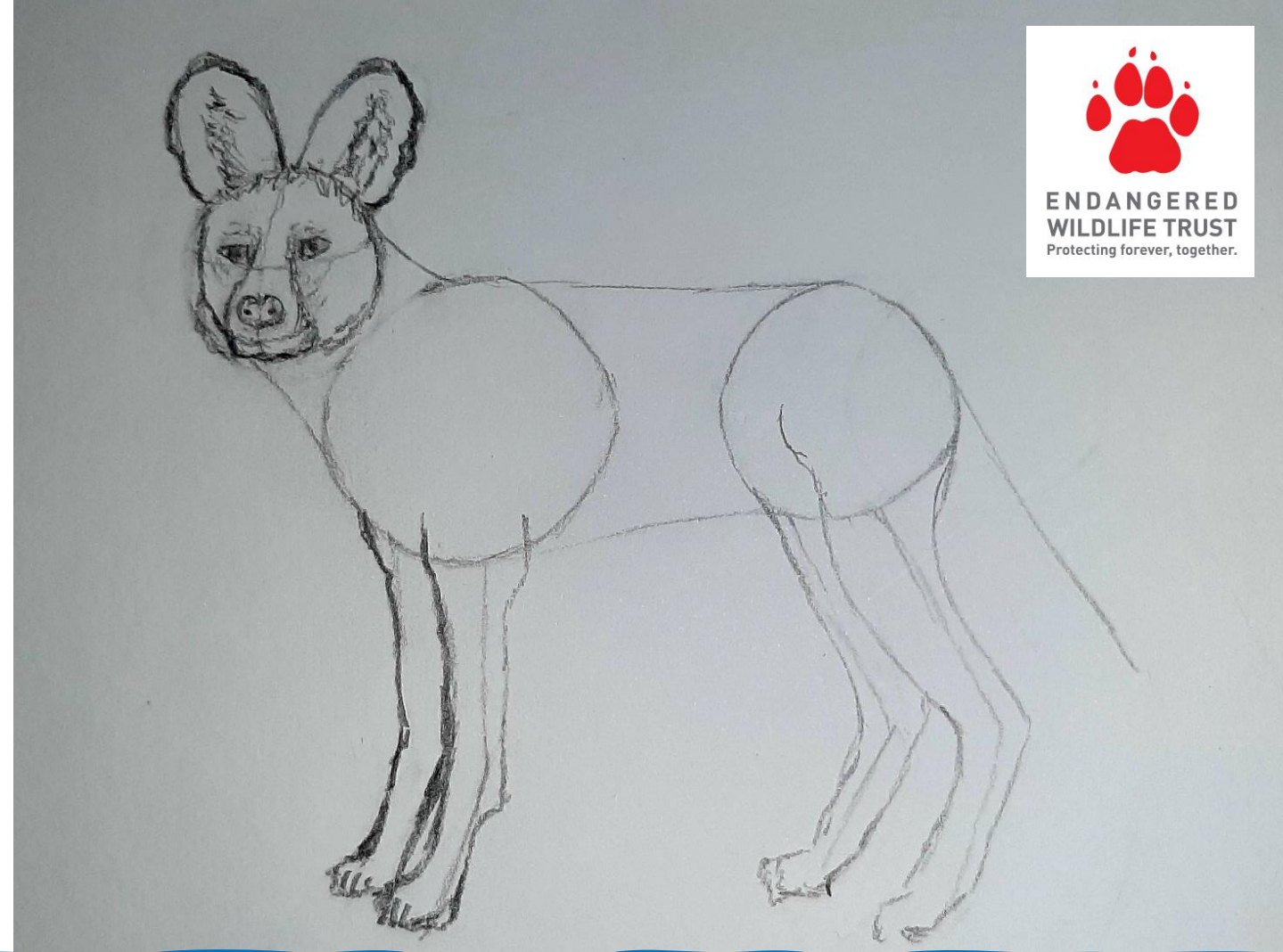
The average pack size is between 12 and 20 adult members and have large territories, averaging at around 1,500km².



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STEP 7

- Draw the shape of the legs using the guiding lines.
- Shape the form of the paws.



African Wild Dogs are Endangered because of persecution from farmers who believe African Wild Dogs kill their livestock. African Wild Dog numbers are also declining because of habitat destruction and disease.

STEP 8

- Erase all the guiding lines.
- Shade or paint in the markings of the African Wild Dog.



The African Wild Dog usually hunts in the early morning or evening.



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STEP 9

- Pencil was used in this drawing to sketch the details.
- Use pencil strokes to show fur direction.
- Use shading to bring form to the whole body.



Photo: Emily Taylor



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On average Wild Dogs live until the age of 11 years old

Questions



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1. What habitats do African Wild Dogs live in?
2. Why do African Wild Dogs have such long legs?
3. How many African Wild Dogs are there in an average pack?
4. Why do Wild Dogs have such big ears?
5. Why do African Wild Dogs need such big ears?
6. When do African Wild Dogs hunt?
7. Why are African Wild Dogs Endangered?
8. What is special about the markings on a Wild Dog?
9. What is the Latin name for the African Wild Dog?
10. How long, on average, does a Wild Dog live?



Photo: Constant Hoogstad



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