



# PANGOLIN CRISIS FUND

February 2024  
**World Pangolin Day**



# AFRICA'S MOST ENDANGERED PANGOLINS

There are eight pangolin species found across Africa and Asia. Africa's three most endangered pangolins are the giant pangolin, the largest of all pangolin species, and the black-bellied and white-bellied pangolins, the two smallest of all pangolin species.

## Giant Pangolins

Giant pangolins (as pictured on the cover page) can weigh up to 70 pounds and grow nearly six feet long from nose tip to tail tip. Their massive size—roughly that of a medium-sized dog—confines them to the ground, where they dig burrows into the earth with powerful claws. Their range extends from Senegal to Kenya.

WHITE-BELLIED  
PANGOLIN

BLACK-BELLIED  
PANGOLIN

## Black and White-Bellied Pangolins

In Central and West Africa, black-bellied and white-bellied pangolins are usually found up in the trees. They are Africa's only arboreal pangolin species, using their long prehensile tails to help them climb to high forest boughs. White-bellied pangolins split their time between the trees and the ground, while black-bellied pangolins spend the majority of their whole lives off the ground. Black-bellied pangolins are also slightly smaller than their white-bellied cousins.

## Comparing the size of pangolins

GIANT

WHITE-BELLIED

BLACK-BELLIED





# ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

While pangolins are relatively small in stature, the dangers that they face are far bigger than you think. Chief among these threats is poaching for their scales and meat, highly demanded commodities that drive the global illegal wildlife trade. The Pangolin Crisis Fund is matching these large threats with a large response, supporting projects that address the illegal wildlife trade from every angle. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are the biggest funder exclusively focused on pangolins.

This map provides a broad overview of some of the major trade routes that wildlife traffickers use to transport pangolin scales, along with elephant ivory, rhino horn, and other illegal wildlife products. Arrows go from pangolin poaching hotspots to major transport hubs like Lagos in Nigeria, and then eventually end up in major consumer countries like Vietnam and China.

To date, the Pangolin Crisis Fund has granted **\$5.4 million**, investing in



**76**  
PROJECTS

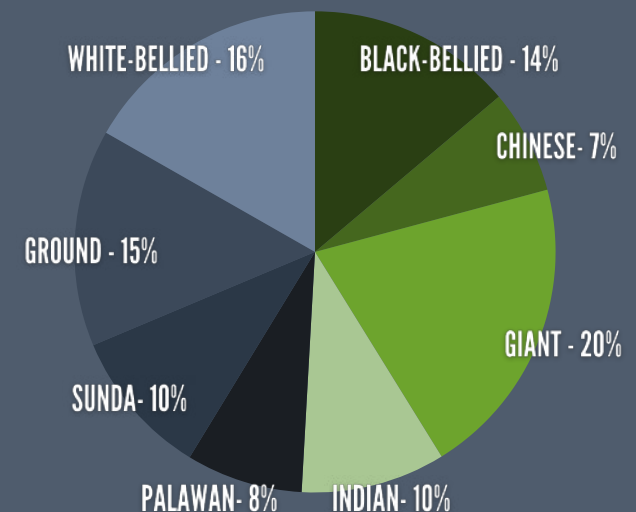


**28**  
COUNTRIES

Over 160,000 lbs of pangolin scales have been seized by authorities in the past five years. This amount equates to an estimated 800,000 pangolins poached across Africa and Asia. And seizures are only a fraction of the total amount illegally traded.



## Breakdown of PCF Grants by Species





# ON THE GROUND

*The Forest Collective trains members of local communities in Dzanga Sangha how to set camera traps. (c) The Forest Collective*

## Community-led Pangolin Conservation The Forest Collective Central African Republic

The Central African Republic's Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas Complex is home to giant pangolins, black-bellied pangolins, and white-bellied pangolins. The PCF is supporting The Forest Collective's (TFC) community engagement project, which works closely with local and Indigenous people to monitor pangolins with camera traps, create baseline population estimates, reduce poaching pressure, and eliminate the local trade of pangolin scales. The camera trapping program awards points to community members for all wildlife recorded, and villages receive economic benefits based on the number of points accrued. So far, 10 communities are working with TFC on this project. They have already

deployed 30 camera traps and recorded footage of pangolins, which is now being analyzed.

## Engaging Communities to Protect White-bellied Pangolins Rise for Nature Cameroon

Across southwestern Cameroon, Rise for Nature is enlisting community participation in white-bellied pangolin conservation. This includes the involvement of former pangolin poachers and traders, who are being provided alternative, environmentally-friendly livelihoods by Rise for Nature to turn them into community pangolin conservators. The PCF is supporting Rise for Nature's long-term goal to work with 41 communities in the region to establish local conservation groups and eco guards that raise awareness among their peers about

pangolin conservation and help remove snares set to catch pangolins. To date, over 1,360 of these snares have been removed by participating communities. By enlisting local and Indigenous people in this work, Rise for Nature is changing behaviors that once put pressure on pangolins by turning pangolin conservation into a communal responsibility.

## Saving Kenya's Last Giant Pangolins The Pangolin Project Kenya

Kenya's Nyekweri Ecosystem, known for its thick forests and grasslands, is subdivided under many individual landowners. It is also home to the country's last population of giant pangolins, which are threatened by poaching, habitat loss for agricultural and pastoral use, accidental fatalities



*Rise for Nature trains former poachers as beekeepers in Cameroon, so that they no longer have to rely on poaching for an income. (c) Rise for Nature*



caused by electric fences that delineate property lines. The PCF issued its largest grant of 2023 to The Pangolin Project (TPP) to monitor the estimated 30-80 giant pangolins that remain, stem deforestation, reduce poaching, raise support among communities, and work with local Maasai landowners to modify their electric fences so that they pose no danger to the pangolins. With the PCF's help, TPP is expanding their operational area to cover 57,000 acres; they have already identified 16 giant pangolins and 25 burrows, and rescued seven pangolins caught on electric fences. Nearly 40 miles of electric fencing have also been removed by landowners collaborating with TPP over the last few months.

**Working with Authorities  
to Rescue Pangolins from  
Poachers**  
**Tikki Hywood Foundation  
Cameroon**

The Tikki Hywood Foundation (THF) collaborates with law enforcement to rescue pangolins from bushmeat markets, then cares for these pangolins in their rehabilitation facility in Cameroon. Pangolins are very difficult to keep alive in captivity without specialist care, and THF have pioneered rehabilitation techniques that provide emergency veterinary attention and daily monitoring to increase the likelihood that these pangolins can be successfully returned to the wild. They have become world leaders in pangolin rescue and rehabilitation, and the PCF has issued several grants to support THF's work. This support includes funding for a vehicle to transport rescued pangolins, training for authorities and government officials in how to handle pangolins, and enabling them to share their knowledge and expertise with



*A baby white-bellied pangolin rescued from a bushmeat market in Cameroon, now being fed through a syringe by Tikki Hywood Foundation staff. (c) The Tikki Hywood Foundation*

other organizations in African and Asian pangolin range states.

**Protecting Giant and  
White-bellied Pangolins**  
**Africa Nature Investors  
Nigeria**

Covering nearly 2,600 sq. miles along the Cameroon border, Gashaka Gumti is Nigeria's largest and most diverse national park. Pangolins in this park are threatened by poachers, and the park itself is underfunded and plagued by destructive logging and cattle grazing. Africa Nature Investors (ANI) co-manages this park with the Nigerian government, and the PCF provided ANI with funding for equipment, patrol rations, and training to support the anti-poaching efforts of 60 additional rangers, as well as



construction of a VHF radio mast. ANI's PCF grant also covers camera traps to monitor pangolin presence within Gashaka Gumti, the establishment of alternative livelihood cooperatives for local women, and engaging with local pastoralists to encourage sustainable livestock management that doesn't negatively impact pangolin habitat.

*(left) PCF funding supports alternative livelihoods for local women around Gashaka Gumti National Park. Africa Nature Investors trains these women to process shea nuts into butter, which is sold for beauty products. This incentivizes local people to protect the shea nut trees that grow around the park, which in turn helps to protect an important pangolin habitat. (c) Africa Nature Investors*





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

It's not too late to save pangolins from vanishing. With continued support from our generous donors, the Pangolin Crisis Fund will continue to support the most impactful projects that eliminate the demand, poaching, and trafficking that puts these three African pangolins, and all other pangolin species, at risk of extinction.



[PANGOLINCRISISFUND.ORG](https://PANGOLINCRISISFUND.ORG)

