



PANGOLIN CRISIS FUND

February 2025

World Pangolin Day



A close-up photograph of a pangolin clinging to a person's arm. The pangolin's body is covered in overlapping, scaly plates that range in color from dark brown to light tan. Its head is turned towards the left, showing its small, dark eye and a long, pointed snout. One of its sharp, curved claws is visible, gripping the person's arm. The person's arm is wearing a dark blue, textured fabric sleeve. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the person's arm and some indistinct outdoor elements.

PANGOLIN REHABILITATION

In the dappled shade of the rehabilitation center's outdoor enclosure, a pangolin caretaker stifles a laugh as tiny claws prick through their uniform—another morning of serving as an impromptu climbing frame. A young pangolin, orphaned from trafficking, clammers up the caretaker playfully, its astonishingly long tongue unfurling like a pink ribbon.

While these moments inspire hope, they also reflect a grim reality. Every pangolin in care is a survivor of trauma—rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, orphaned by poaching, or displaced by habitat destruction. These moments of connection between caretaker and pangolin, though beautiful, are born from crisis. The true battle lies in confronting the forces that bring these sensitive mammals to rehabilitation centers and the brink of extinction: rampant poaching, habitat loss, and a relentless illegal wildlife trade.

This latest report highlights the complex interplay between immediate rescue operations and initiatives focused on long-term pangolin survival. It testifies to the impact possible through the Pangolin Crisis Fund while also recognizing the need for continued support as we strike at the heart of the crisis. Together with our donors, we're building a future where rehabilitation centers become less necessary and wild pangolins thrive in their natural habitats.

PANGOLIN CARETAKERS

Shy by nature, pangolins require gentle and patient caretakers. We're excited to highlight a few of the kindhearted souls working at PCF grantee organizations that give pangolins the skills to survive after trauma.

A Very Literal Name
"Pangolin" stems from the Malay word for roller —the action a pangolin takes in self-defense.



Phaliot Nkata

**Tikki Hywood Foundation (THF)
Zimbabwe**

Phaliot has helped rehabilitate over 370 pangolins in the past decade. Calm and gentle, his disposition helps put these shy mammals at ease—an incredible feat that helps researchers uncover new pangolin behaviors. Progressing from a junior minder to a highly skilled rehabilitator, he now spearheads THF's pioneering post-release monitoring program. Daily, he finds resolve in the generosity of people around the world and his desire to see future generations better understand and appreciate pangolins.



Hellen Mukuka

**Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP)
Zambia**

One of the first female caretakers at WCP, Hellen is driven by her compassion for pangolins' vulnerability to people. She maintains a demanding schedule, beginning before dawn to lead foraging expeditions and meticulously monitoring the pangolins' health and weight. Having helped rehabilitate 58 pangolins, Hellen finds her greatest joy in seeing them released back into the wild. Knowing pangolins are vital to their ecosystems, Hellen sees every ounce of support as an investment in our planet's future.



Immaculate Banda

**Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT)
Malawi**

Mesmerized by their overlapping scales and defensive curl, Immaculate found her calling in pangolin rehabilitation. Having cared for over 45 of these endangered mammals, Immaculate spends her days guiding pangolins on foraging expeditions in game reserves, bottle-feeding infants, and monitoring their health. What drives her most is the profound bond formed with these remarkable creatures, along with deep gratitude to the donors whose support makes this vital conservation work possible.

DESIGNED TO REACH ALL 8 SPECIES



Granting by Region

 Countries with support from the Pangolin Crisis Fund

23.2%
REDUCING DEMAND
FOR PANGOLIN PARTS
AND PRODUCTS

44.4%
PROTECTING
PANGOLIN
LANDSCAPES

31.2%
STOPPING THE ILLEGAL
WILDLIFE TRADE

1.2%
CAMPAIGNS TO
PROMOTE
PANGOLINS



To date, the Pangolin Crisis Fund has granted **\$7 million**, investing in



95
PROJECTS*



28
COUNTRIES

**projects represent the number of grants issued*

SAVING PANGOLINS REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

The PCF supports work that protects pangolins through multiple strategies.

After recording its measurements for monitoring efforts, The Pangolin Project releases a giant pangolin at night. (c) Will Burrard-Lucas

Saving Kenya's Last Giant Pangolins The Pangolin Project Kenya

The Pangolin Project (TPP) is fighting to save Kenya's last remaining giant pangolins—a population of ~30 individuals. Among various threats, electric fencing emerged as the deadliest, claiming 2-3 pangolins every month and pushing the species toward local extinction. After receiving PCF support, TPP made remarkable progress, engaging with 1,800 local households to deactivate the bottom fence strands and remove 45 miles of lethal fencing. They also protected over 3,300 acres of habitat from destructive practices. The results speak volumes: compared to the previous toll of 2-3 pangolin deaths monthly, just two deaths were recorded this past year, marking a turning point for the species' survival in Kenya.



Electric fences, such as the one pictured here, are the number one threat to giant pangolins in Kenya. (c) Will Burrard-Lucas

One-of-a-Kind
The pangolin is the only mammal wholly covered in scales.

Disrupting Pangolin Trafficking Wildlife Trust of India India

In 2024, the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) achieved a landmark victory for pangolin conservation. Northeast India, home to both Critically Endangered Chinese pangolins and Endangered Indian pangolins, has long been a hotspot for wildlife trafficking tied to the Golden Triangle—a notorious hub for illegal activity. While the dangers present in Northeast India deterred many organizations, the WTI worked tirelessly to create a foothold for wildlife conservation. With the PCF's support, the group forged partnerships with Indigenous groups to reach areas inaccessible even to law enforcement. Persistence paid off: 252 villages in Northeast India committed to stop hunting and trading pangolins, creating a critical barrier against trafficking. With renewed support from the PCF, the WTI is now expanding this successful model.



Kashung Tennyson (pictured left), President of Tangkhul Naga Awunga Long, receives recognition from the Wildlife Trust of India for establishing a landmark ban on pangolin hunting. (c) Wildlife Trust of India

Community Camera Trap Program The Forest Collective Dzanga Sangha, CAR

The Forest Collective is forging groundbreaking partnerships with local and Indigenous communities in the Central African Republic's Dzanga Sangha National Park that transform wildlife conservation into sustainable livelihoods. Through a network of camera traps managed by ten partnering villages, each documented sighting of a pangolin or other wildlife translates into community development funds backed by the PCF. In the crossroads village of Monasao, where illegal wildlife trafficking promises quick profits, the initiative offers a compelling alternative and is already transforming lives. Monasao's commitment to conservation garnered funds to help expand their maternity ward, a shining example of how conservation creates thriving communities and ecosystems.

Through the Forest Collective, camera trap footage of wildlife—like that of the black-bellied pangolin to the right—turns into funding that benefits the community. (c) The Forest Collective



*A Healthy Appetite
A single pangolin can
eat up to 70 million
insects in a year.*

Advancing Pangolin Conservation Bhutan Foundation Bhutan

In partnership with the Bhutan Foundation, Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) launched Bhutan's first-ever pangolin research training program. Supported by the PCF, this innovative program combined camera trap monitoring with structured community outreach to create a comprehensive training resource for pangolin conservation. Focusing on Bhutan's two native species—the Chinese pangolin and Indian pangolin—the initiative addresses critical knowledge gaps about pangolins while equipping participants with the skills to assess community awareness and perceptions about pangolins. This pioneering effort to train RMNP field staff establishes a potential framework for nationwide conservation efforts in Bhutan that successfully fosters collaboration between conservationists and local groups.

Rescue and Rehabilitation Tikki Hywood Foundation Cameroon

In a critical wildlife rescue operation, Tikki Hywood Foundation (THF) received five confiscated pangolins, including a pregnant female who gave birth prematurely shortly after arrival. Despite the dire circumstances, her pup—weighing less than a cup of water—defied the odds. THF made the strategic decision to hand-rear this tiny survivor, naming her Azamba ("Divine" in a local Cameroonian dialect). While she will remain under THF's care for a few more months, THF is confident that she will develop the skills needed for her eventual return to the wild.



Meet Azamba, a baby pangolin hand-reared by Tikki Hywood Foundation. (c) Tikki Hywood Foundation



Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) held a training session to equip field staff with essential skills for studying pangolins. (c) Bhutan Foundation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your support is driving pangolin conservation, and we take pride in showcasing your invaluable impact. Thanks to your generosity, significant strides have been made in rescue and rehabilitation efforts, with hundreds of trafficked pangolins returned to the wild. Despite these achievements, pangolins continue to face grave threats, including the illegal wildlife trade, which decimates populations as pangolin scales and meat command high black-market prices. Habitat loss from deforestation and agricultural expansion further exacerbates their vulnerability.

Since the Pangolin Crisis Fund (PCF) began six years ago, we've established a strong presence across their range, investing in 28 countries across Africa and Asia. Your ongoing financial support is essential to sustaining this momentum. Moving forward, we will focus on strengthening anti-poaching and anti-trafficking efforts, reducing demand for pangolin scales, supporting frontline rehabilitation centers, and promoting community-led conservation initiatives that protect pangolins and their habitats.

We are deeply grateful for your trust and commitment as we work together to save pangolins from extinction and ensure they thrive in the wild.



Pangolin
Crisis
Fund

[PANGOLINCRISISFUND.ORG](https://www.pangolincrisisfund.org)



*Did You Know?
A pangolin's tongue
can reach up to
16 inches long!*