

Project Update: April 2021

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to delay the start of our project activities until February 2021. Our project activities commenced with the celebration of World Pangolin Day (20th February 2021). On the day, the project team was hosted at the studios of Greena FM (95.9 MHz) and two community information centers where we interacted and enlightened listeners on the current global threats and need to save the remaining populations of pangolins in Ghana.

So far, the team has also deployed 15 camera traps across three different locations (forest blocks) in the Asukese Forest Reserve. The team is led by the Principal Researcher (Agro Prince Pascal), includes one Field Assistant, and one student (as part of our capacity-building initiative), a driver, and four local community members providing labour support. We have revisited previous locations to monitor non or reduced hunting compliance following the first RSG project in the area. Additionally, Wildlife Conservation Clubs have been formed in four schools with a total of 88 members including 80 school kids and eight teachers as club patrons. The inauguration will be done when schools reopen later this month.



Figure 1 - Principal Researcher (Agro Prince Pascal) and 15 years old Godwin Amankwah (teen pangolin hunter identified during the first phase now changed conservationist) setting up a camera trap during the fieldwork.

Through our social media platform activities, we have had the rare opportunity to be invited by the Australian Ambassador to Ghana and West Africa. He has been following us on our Facebook and Twitter platforms. During the meeting, we shared thoughts on

the ways to push the agenda to conserve endangered wildlife species like pangolins in Ghana and he has offered to be our Pangolin Conservation Ambassador.



Figure 2a and 2b - Principal Researcher (Agro Prince Pascal) setting up a camera trap



Figure 3 - Research Assistant (Augustine in blue shirt) setting up a camera trap AFR



Figure 4a and 4b – Group picture with the Australian Ambassador Mr. Gregory (Left) and presentation at the studio of Greena FM (right) during the World Pangolin Day Celebration (20th February 2021)