

## Final Evaluation Report

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| Your Details               |   |
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| <b>Full Name</b>           | Stephen Ofori   |
| <b>Project Title</b>       | Scaling Up Pangolin Conservation in Ghana; Local Conservation Actions for Global Impacts. |
| <b>Application ID</b>      | 36645-2   |
| <b>Date of this Report</b> | 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2023   |

**1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

| Objective  | Not achieved | Partially achieved | Fully achieved | Comments  |
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| <p><b>Objective 1:</b> To conduct pangolin research surveys, including occupancy surveys, habitat association, and threat assessment</p> |              | 82 %               |                | <p>The objective of conducting pangolin research surveys was partially achieved during the project implementation. While significant progress was made, there were challenges that affected the full realisation of this objective. Here are the key points:</p> <p><b>Occupancy Surveys:</b> The occupancy surveys using remote camera traps were successfully carried out for a substantial duration of the project. These surveys provided valuable data on the presence of pangolins in the Atewa forest landscape. However, the ideal survey duration could not be met due to budget constraints, limiting the sampling effort.</p> <p><b>Habitat Association:</b> The investigation of habitat predictor variables related to pangolin presence was conducted effectively. Key habitat variables, including tree density, canopy cover, tree species, tree height, DBH, water availability, distance to nearest trails, and GPS coordinates, were recorded where pangolin signs were observed. This data will contribute to a better understanding of pangolin habitat preferences.</p> <p><b>Threat Assessment:</b> The project also investigated the type, distribution, and intensity of anthropogenic activities affecting pangolin habitat and human-related variables affecting their habitat use. This information is crucial for developing effective conservation strategies.</p> <p><b>Factors Affecting Achievement:</b></p> <p><b>Budget Limitations:</b> The project faced budget constraints, which affected the extent of the occupancy surveys and data gathering activities.</p> |

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|   |  |                 | <p><b>Time Constraints:</b> Some aspects of the research, especially field data collection during the raining season, required more time than initially anticipated.</p> <p><b>Logistical Challenges:</b> Accessing remote forest areas and coordinating with communities posed logistical challenges that impacted the pace of data collection.</p> <p>Despite these challenges, the project has made significant progress in collecting valuable data on pangolins, their habitat, and the threats they face in the Atewa forest landscape. This data will be instrumental in informing future conservation efforts in Ghana.</p>   |
| <p><b>Objective 2:</b> To gather pangolin hunting and trade dynamics data through questionnaires and interviews with target forest users and communities.</p> |  | <p>85<br/>%</p> | <p>The objective of gathering pangolin hunting and trade dynamics data through questionnaires and interviews with target forest users, hunters, bushmeat traders and communities was partially achieved during the project's implementation. While progress was made, several factors influenced the partial achievement of this objective. Here are the key points:</p> <p><b>Data Collection Initiatives:</b> The project-initiated data collection efforts through questionnaires and interviews with target forest users, hunters, bushmeat traders and communities. These efforts aimed to gather critical information on pangolin hunting and trade dynamics, including the involvement of local communities and individuals in the pangolin trade.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement:</b> Engaging with communities and obtaining their cooperation for data collection was a critical aspect of this objective. The project team successfully initiated discussions with local communities and built trust with many community leaders and members. This was a positive step towards achieving the objective.</p> <p><b>Budget Constraints:</b> Similar to the challenges faced in Objective 1, budget limitations had an impact on the extent of data collection activities related to pangolin hunting and trade dynamics.</p> |

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|   |  |  | <p>These activities require resources for travel, communication, and sometimes incentives for respondents, which were limited.</p> <p><b>Time Constraints:</b> Data collection through questionnaires and interviews can be a time consuming process, particularly when dealing with remote forest communities. The project's timeframe limited the scope of data gathering efforts.</p> <p><b>Factors Affecting Achievement:</b></p> <p><b>Budget Constraints:</b> Limited financial resources affected the project's ability to carry out extensive data collection activities and incentivize respondents.</p> <p><b>Time Constraints:</b> The project's timeline did not allow for the full exploration of hunting and trade dynamics, given the intricate nature of these activities.</p> <p>Despite these challenges, the project successfully initiated data collection efforts and established a foundation for understanding pangolin hunting and trade dynamics in the Atewa forest landscape. The studies provided valuable insights that can inform future conservation strategies and actions. Efforts to continue data collection and community engagement beyond the project's duration will be essential to build on the progress made and gain a more comprehensive understanding of these dynamics.</p> |
| <p><b>Objective 3:</b> Schools and youth outreach and conservation education: Extend schools and youth tailored education and behaviour change programs around the project area, through activities such as house-to-house and night education, radio programs, and community gatherings to create awareness on</p> |  |  | <p>The objective of conducting schools and youth outreach and conservation education was fully achieved during the project's implementation. The project successfully extended its educational and awareness programmes to schools and youth in the project area. Here are the key points:</p> <p><b>Education Programmes:</b> The project team conducted a comprehensive education and behaviour change programme targeting schools and youth in the project area. This programme involved various activities, including house-to-house visits, night education sessions,</p>  |

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| <p>pangolin conservation and habitat protection.</p> |  |  | <p>radio programmes, and community gatherings.</p> <p><b>Awareness Creation:</b> Through these activities, the project effectively created awareness among school children, youth groups, and the general community about the importance of pangolin conservation and habitat protection. The education programmes focused on conveying the threats faced by pangolins, the need for conservation, and the role of local communities in protecting these species and their habitats.</p> <p><b>Engagement and Participation:</b> The project successfully engaged and educated over 3000 locals, including school children, youth groups, hunters, farmers, traditional healers, and other community members. This widespread engagement indicates the success of the outreach efforts.</p> <p><b>Behaviour Change:</b> The behaviour changes component of the education programme aimed at reducing the growing pangolin hunting pressure and increasing support for pangolin conservation within the local community. Positive changes in attitudes and behaviours were observed among the target audience, indicating the effectiveness of the programme.</p> <p><b>Factors Contributing to Achievement:</b></p> <p><b>Community Engagement:</b> The project team established strong relationships with community members, leaders, and stakeholders, which facilitated the successful implementation of education programmes.</p> <p><b>Tailored Approaches:</b> Tailoring the education programmes to the specific needs and preferences of schools and youth in the area contributed to their effectiveness.</p> <p><b>Multiple Channels:</b> Using various channels, including radio programmes, night education sessions, and community gatherings, ensured that the message reached a wide audience.</p> |
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## 2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

1. **a. Increase in Conservation Awareness:** One of the most significant outcomes of our project was the substantial increase in conservation awareness among local communities and stakeholders. Through our tailored education and outreach efforts, we engaged with over 3,000 individuals, including school children, youth groups, hunters, farmers, traditional healers, and the general public. These awareness campaigns effectively communicated the urgency of pangolin conservation, the threats faced by these species, and the importance of protecting their habitat. As a result, more people in the project area now understand the critical role they play in pangolin conservation, which is vital for the long-term survival of these endangered species.  
**b. Local Pangolin Conservation Action Plan:** Our project has directly contributed to the development of a Local Pangolin Conservation Action Plan for the Atewa forest landscape, ensuring that the knowledge and awareness gained are channelled into concrete conservation strategies.
2. **Valuable Data Collection:** Another crucial outcome of our project was the collection of valuable data related to pangolin occupancy, habitat preferences, and trade dynamics in the Atewa forest landscape. We conducted occupancy surveys using remote camera traps, investigated habitat predictor variables, and assessed threats to pangolin habitats. Additionally, our efforts to gather data through questionnaires and interviews provided insights into local pangolin hunting and trade practices. This data will serve as a foundation for future conservation actions, helping us develop targeted strategies to protect pangolins and their ecosystems effectively.
3. **Community Engagement and Support:** The project successfully fostered community engagement and garnered support from local stakeholders, including community leaders and members. We worked closely with the Community Game Hunters Association, a respected organisation comprising over 60 members from forest communities. These individuals, many of whom are respected chiefs and traditional leaders, played a crucial role in monitoring and reducing illegal hunting activities. Moreover, our team built strong relationships with community leaders and local stakeholders, facilitating their active involvement in the project. This community support is instrumental in building a foundation for ongoing pangolin conservation efforts and multi-stakeholder dialogues for the development of a targeted local conservation and management plan.

These three outcomes represent significant achievements that not only advance pangolin conservation in the Atewa forest landscape but also lay the groundwork for future initiatives. Increasing awareness, collecting valuable data, and securing community engagement and support are essential components of our ongoing commitment to protect pangolins and their natural habitat in Ghana.

### 3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

During the project implementation, we encountered several unforeseen difficulties that posed challenges to our work. However, through adaptive management and collaborative efforts, we addressed these difficulties effectively. Here are some of the key unforeseen challenges and the strategies employed to tackle them:

- ◆ **Budget Limitations:** The project faced budget constraints that impacted the extent of our field activities, including the duration of occupancy surveys and data collection efforts. To overcome this challenge, we actively sought in-kind support from other conservation organisations, such as Agrointroductions Ghana, A Rocha Ghana, local authorities. Their contribution of additional camera traps allowed us to expand our survey efforts, complementing the resources available in our grant budget.
- ◆ **Time Constraints:** Some aspects of the project, such as community engagement and data collection through interviews and questionnaires, required more time than initially anticipated. To address this issue, we prioritised efficient planning and coordination, optimising our available time and resources to conduct these activities effectively. Additionally, we extended the project's timeline where possible to ensure thorough community engagement.
- ◆ **Community Cooperation:** While we established positive relationships with many community members and leaders, we encountered varying levels of cooperation in sharing information about pangolin hunting and trade practices. To mitigate this challenge, we continued to engage with communities through meetings, discussions, and awareness campaigns. We emphasised the importance of pangolin conservation for the community's benefit, fostering trust and encouraging participation.
- ◆ **Logistical Challenges:** Accessing remote forest areas and coordinating with communities presented logistical challenges. To overcome these hurdles, we established strong links with local community leaders and members through prior project engagements. This trust-building allowed for smoother logistics, and local stakeholders played a crucial role in facilitating access to remote areas and engaging communities effectively.
- ◆ **Resource Limitations:** Expanding education and outreach programmes to a wider audience can be resource intensive. To address resource limitations, we leveraged local partnerships and engaged community volunteers who were well versed in wildlife conservation. This not only reduced costs but also enhanced the credibility and effectiveness of our education and outreach initiatives.

Overall, unforeseen difficulties during the project were addressed through a combination of adaptive management, collaboration with other organisations, extended project timelines, and continued community engagement. These

challenges served as valuable learning experiences, emphasising the importance of flexibility and adaptability in conservation projects. Despite the hurdles, we made significant progress in achieving our project objectives and building a foundation for ongoing pangolin conservation efforts in the Atewa forest landscape.

#### **4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.**

The involvement of local communities has been a central and integral component of our pangolin conservation project in the Atewa forest landscape. Through collaborative efforts, community engagement, and tailored conservation activities, we have aimed to ensure that local communities not only understand the importance of pangolin conservation but also derive tangible benefits from the project. Here are some key aspects of their involvement and the benefits they have received:

- ◆ **Community Engagement and Participation:** We actively engaged with local communities in the Atewa forest landscape from the inception of the project. This engagement involved meetings, consultations, and dialogue with community leaders, traditional authorities, and members. We sought their input, shared project objectives, and listened to their concerns and suggestions. This collaborative approach helped build trust and fostered a sense of ownership of the project within the communities.
- ◆ **Conservation Education and Awareness:** Local communities have benefited significantly from our conservation education and awareness campaigns. We conducted tailored education programmes targeting school children, youth groups, farmers, hunters, traders, loggers, and traditional healers. These programmes raised awareness about the importance of pangolin conservation, the threats faced by these species, and the need to protect their natural habitats. Through radio programmes, community gatherings, and house-to-house campaigns, we reached over 3,000 community members, ensuring that they are well-informed about pangolin conservation.
- ◆ **Capacity Building:** We provided capacity-building opportunities to local community members. Notably, we worked closely with the Community Game Hunters Association, a respected organisation comprising over 60 members from forest communities. These individuals received training and education on wildlife conservation, data collection techniques, and the importance of pangolin protection. This capacity building not only empowered them with knowledge but also allowed them to actively contribute to the project's success.
- ◆ **Economic and Livelihood Benefits:** By actively involving local communities in project activities, we aimed to ensure that they benefit both economically and in terms of livelihood improvements. As the project progressed, we initiated discussions about alternative livelihood options and sustainable income generation activities such as ecotourism, sustainable agriculture that do not harm pangolins or their habitats. These discussions have laid the

groundwork for future initiatives aimed at improving the economic prospects of local communities while reducing pressure on pangolin populations.

- ◆ **Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues:** Our project facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogues involving community leaders, Ghana Wildlife Division, local government, and other relevant stakeholders. These dialogues served as platforms for discussing pangolin conservation strategies, community concerns, and the development and implementation of targeted local conservation initiatives. Involving communities in these discussions ensures that their perspectives are considered in conservation planning.

In fact, the involvement of local communities in our project has been multifaceted, emphasising education, capacity building, economic benefits, and participation in conservation decision-making. By actively engaging with and benefiting local communities, we aim to foster a sense of shared responsibility for pangolin conservation and the long-term protection of their natural habitat in the Atewa forest landscape.

## 5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes, there are indeed plans to continue and build upon the work initiated in this project. The successful implementation of our pangolin conservation efforts in the Atewa forest landscape has laid a solid foundation for ongoing and future initiatives. Here are some key aspects of our plans for the continuation of this work:

**Multi-Phase Project:** Our current project represents a specific phase in our long-term conservation strategy. We envision the continuation of this work in subsequent phases to achieve comprehensive and sustained pangolin conservation. Each phase will build on the successes and lessons learned from the previous one including the implementation of the Local Pangolin Conservation Action Plan developed by the project for Atewa Forest Landscape. We are committed to working with local communities and stakeholders to implement this plan effectively. Key highlights of the Local Pangolin Conservation Action Plan developed by the project for Atewa Forest Landscape for the next phase include:

- ◆ **Expanded Conservation Education:** We intend to expand our conservation education and awareness efforts to reach more schools, youth groups, and communities in the project area. This will involve the development of tailored educational materials and the training of local educators and ambassadors to continue spreading the message of pangolin conservation.
- ◆ **Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives:** Building on discussions initiated during this project, we plan to implement sustainable livelihood initiatives in collaboration with local communities. These initiatives will provide alternative income sources that do not harm pangolins or their habitats, thus reducing the economic pressure on these species.
- ◆ **Enhanced Data Collection:** We recognise the importance of continuous data collection to monitor pangolin populations and trade dynamics in the Atewa

forest landscape. We will seek additional funding and partnerships to expand and strengthen our research efforts, including the use of advanced technology for more robust monitoring.

- ◆ **Continued Community Engagement:** Our commitment to involving local communities in pangolin conservation remains steadfast. We will continue to engage with community leaders, traditional authorities, and local stakeholders to ensure that their perspectives are considered in conservation planning and that they actively participate in conservation efforts.
- ◆ **Collaboration and Advocacy:** We will continue to collaborate with local and international conservation organisations, governmental agencies, and academic institutions to advance pangolin conservation.
- ◆ **Monitoring and Research:** Long-term monitoring and research efforts will be essential to track changes in pangolin populations, habitat health, and the impact of conservation interventions. These efforts will guide adaptive management strategies.
- ◆ **Advocacy and Policy Support:** We plan to advocate for stronger policies and regulations related to pangolin conservation at the local, national, and international levels. This includes sharing research findings and insights with relevant government agencies and conservation bodies.

## 6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Sharing the results of our work is a crucial aspect of our project, as it contributes to broader conservation efforts, informs policy decisions, and raises awareness about pangolin conservation. We have developed a comprehensive plan for disseminating our project results to various stakeholders. Here are the key strategies we will employ:

- ◆ **Scientific Publications:** We plan to publish our research findings in reputable scientific journals specialising in wildlife conservation, ecology, and biodiversity. These publications will ensure that our data and research are accessible to the scientific community and can inform future research and conservation efforts.
- ◆ **Project Reports:** We will compile comprehensive project reports that document our methodologies, data collected, and key outcomes. These reports will be made available to our project partners and relevant government agencies. They will serve as valuable references for pangolin conservation in Ghana.
- ◆ **Workshops and Seminars:** We intend to present our work at workshops and seminars at the local, national, and international levels to share our project results. These events will provide a platform for stakeholders, including researchers, conservationists, policymakers, and local communities, to discuss the findings and their implications for pangolin conservation.

- ◆ **Community Engagement:** We will actively engage with local communities to share project results in an accessible and culturally sensitive manner. This may include community meetings, storytelling sessions, and interactive presentations that convey the importance of pangolin conservation and the role of communities in protecting these species.
- ◆ **Online Platforms:** We will leverage online platforms and social media to disseminate project findings, and educational materials. This will include sharing research summaries, infographics, and success stories to reach a broader audience, including the global conservation community and the general public.
- ◆ **Collaboration with Conservation Organisations:** We will collaborate with local and international conservation organisations, such as the Ghana Wildlife Division and the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group, to share our findings and contribute to broader conservation initiatives. These partnerships will ensure that our data are integrated into larger conservation efforts.
- ◆ **Policy Advocacy:** To influence policy decisions, we will engage with relevant government agencies and policymakers, presenting our research findings and recommendations for pangolin conservation. We aim to contribute to the development of stronger policies and regulations to protect pangolins and their habitats.
- ◆ **Educational Materials:** We will develop educational materials, such as brochures, posters, and educational videos, that distil key project findings and conservation messages. These materials will be distributed in schools, communities, and public spaces to raise awareness about pangolins.

By employing a multifaceted approach to sharing our results, we aim to maximise the impact of our project and ensure that the knowledge gained contributes to tangible improvements in pangolin conservation efforts in Ghana and beyond.

## **7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

Looking ahead, there are several important next steps that we believe are crucial for the continued success of pangolin conservation in the Atewa forest landscape and beyond. These steps are designed to build upon the achievements of our current project and address ongoing challenges that aligns with the Local Pangolin Conservation Action Plan developed by the project for Atewa Forest Landscape.

These next steps represent a holistic and forward-thinking approach to pangolin conservation, emphasising the importance of community engagement, long-term monitoring, policy advocacy, and collaboration with local and international stakeholders. By implementing these steps, we aim to secure a brighter future for pangolins in the Atewa forest landscape and contribute to global efforts to protect these remarkable species.

**8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, we used the Rufford Foundation logo in materials produced in relation to this project. The foundation provided valuable support for our pangolin conservation project, and we acknowledged their contribution by including their logo on project reports, educational materials, and outreach materials.

During the course of our work, we also provided publicity to The Rufford Foundation to recognise their support. This included mentioning the foundation in project reports, presentations, and public outreach efforts to highlight their role in funding and supporting our conservation activities.

We are grateful for The Rufford Foundation's support, which has been instrumental in the success of our project and our efforts to protect pangolins and their habitats in the Atewa forest landscape.

**9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.**

**Project Leader: Stephen Ofori** As the project leader, I provided overall project management, coordination, and strategic direction. My responsibilities included grant management, liaising with funding organizations, and ensuring the successful implementation of project objectives. With the help of the team, he was responsible for leading pangolin research efforts, including camera trapping and habitat surveys.

**Community Engagement and Conservation Education Officer - Victoria Adjei:** The community engagement officer focused on building and maintaining positive relationships with local communities. Responsibilities included organizing community meetings, educational outreach, and facilitating collaboration between the project and community members. She was also responsible for conservation education, designing and implementing conservation education and awareness programs. This team member worked closely with schools, youth groups, and community members to convey the importance of pangolin conservation.

**Project Field Coordinator: Kofi Dawuni:** The project coordinator played a key role in day-to-day project operations. Responsibilities included logistics planning, field coordination, and overseeing the execution of project activities. The coordinator ensured that project timelines were met and that resources were effectively utilized.

**Volunteer Coordinator: Kingsley Adom:** The volunteer coordinator managed the recruitment and training of community volunteers, particularly from the Community Game Hunters Association. This role ensured that volunteers were effectively engaged in project activities.

**Local Guide:**

- **Nti Kofi Asare**
- **Godfred Appiah**

- **Owusu Ansah Seth**

Local guides were instrumental in facilitating access to remote areas, building trust with community members, and assisting with data collection efforts. They played a vital role in bridging the gap between the project team and local communities.

## **10. Any other comments?**

We would like to express our profound gratitude to The Rufford Foundation for their generous support and unwavering commitment to pangolin conservation in the Atewa forest landscape of Ghana. Their funding has been instrumental in enabling us to conduct this vital project, gather critical data, engage local communities, and work toward the protection of pangolins, which are among the world's most endangered species.

Throughout the course of this project, we have witnessed the power of collaborative conservation efforts. Our partnership with The Rufford Foundation, local communities, community leaders, and other stakeholders has demonstrated that when individuals and organisations come together with a shared goal, remarkable progress can be made in safeguarding our natural world.

We are also grateful for the support and guidance received from the Ghana Wildlife Division, the local government council, and other conservation organisations. Their expertise and collaboration have enriched our project and contributed to its success.

As we move forward with our pangolin conservation efforts, we remain committed to the vision of a world where pangolins thrive in their natural habitats, and local communities are empowered to be stewards of these unique and irreplaceable species.

This project has been a journey of discovery, learning, and conservation action, and we are excited about the continued impact we can make in the years to come. Together, we can ensure a brighter future for pangolins and the rich biodiversity of the Atewa forest landscape.

Once again, thank you to The Rufford Foundation and all our partners for their invaluable support and collaboration.



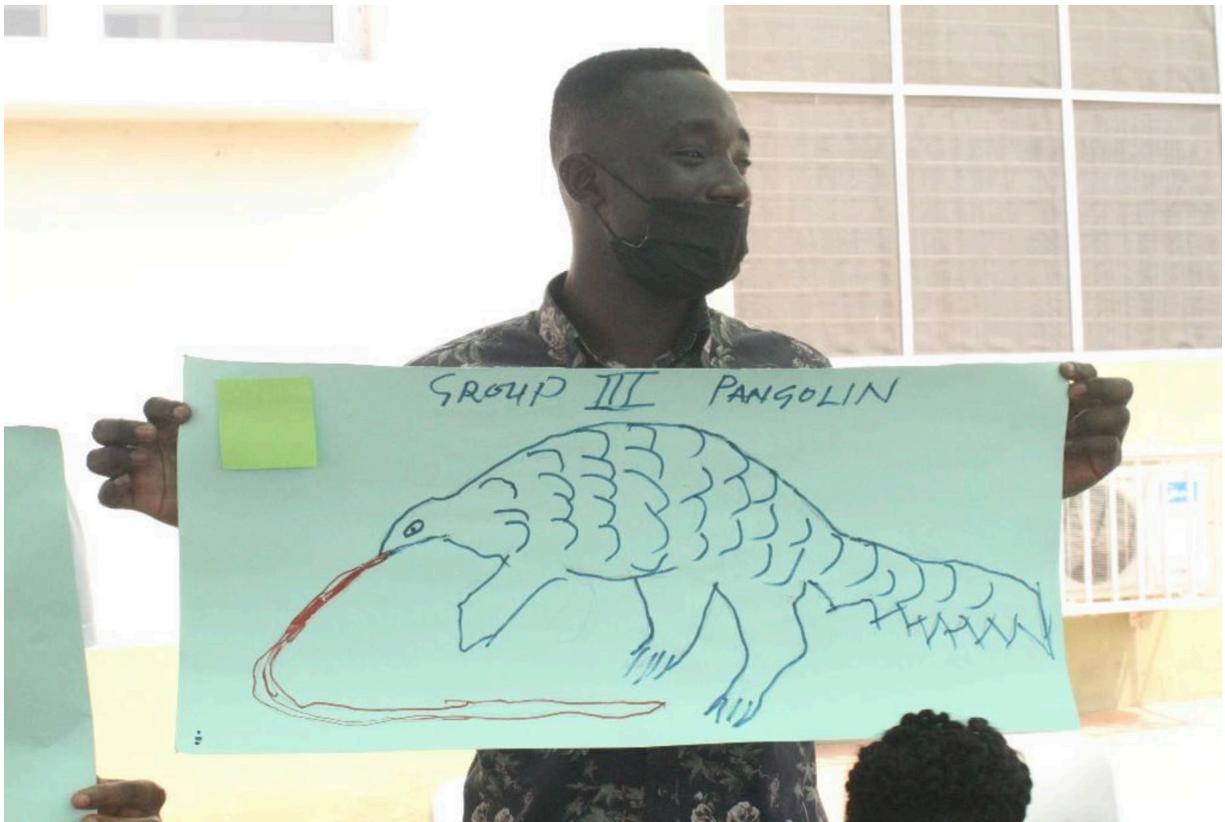
Pangolin Capture on Camera Trap.



Rescued Pangolin from Farmer.



Pangolin Education.



Community Education on Pangolin Conservation.



Community and Schools Education Volunteers.



Community Meeting.



Data Collecting Meeting.