

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Zanvo Stanislas
Project Title	Assessing post-release ecology of white-bellied pangolins rescued from illegal trade in the Dahomey Gap using both radio telemetry and camera trapping
Application ID	42943-B
Date of this Report	01 April 2025

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
Estimate current offtake rate			✓	We rescued two individuals from the community forest of Gnanhouizounmè.
Assess the temporal trend of home range size and the activity patterns of rescued individuals			✓	We extended the fieldwork (camera trap and telemetry surveys) for an additional three months in order to train a master student from Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrée des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT) . The master student has been recommended by the Pangolin Specialist Group.
understand intra-species and inter-species social interactions (potential trophic link) of rescued individuals that are released back into wild.			✓	We extended the fieldwork (camera trap and telemetry surveys) for an additional three months in order to train a master student from Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrée des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT) . The master student has been recommended by the Pangolin Specialist Group.
Behaviour change campaign			✓	None

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

a). A total of 19 individuals (7 males and 12 females) of white-bellied pangolin were rescued in the villages surrounding the Lama forest reserve with a pic (15 individuals) during the dry season that corresponds to the hunting season. In addition, two individuals were rescued in the Gnanhouizounmè forest at ~25km

b). Data revealed a nocturnal activity pattern overlapping with those of *Dendrohyrax interfluvialis* and with whom they share the same habitat. The white-bellied pangolin in the lama forest is confined to undegraded facies, in particular semi-deciduous forests including liana trees. We delineated a relatively large home range dominated by lianas for male individuals. The dormitory trees are characterized by the presence of cavities and ant mounds.

c). Investigations revealed an almost total absence of ground sightings, which can be explained by a change in the species' behaviour, which has become strictly arboreal in the Lama forest due to hunting pressure.

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

In two cases, antecedents between the hunter and the leaders made the rescue process long. This has led to the failure of the process and consequently to the death of the pangolin before consensus is reached.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.

We actively included local community in the implementation of the project. Our guides for camera trap and radiotracking surveys, interviews, forest inventory were selected among local people that we paid according to the modalities of the project. The rescue activity involved both local authorities and traditional gate keepers. Their participation improved substantially the rate success of the rescue. We conduct behaviour change campaigns with local communities including men and women, farmers and hunters, and local authorities.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

MSc. Maurice Agbimakou under my supervision will continue the fieldwork (camera trap and radiotracking surveys) for an additional three months.

We will maintain contact with local people and local authority engaged in the rescue operation in order to continue this activity.

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

I am supervising M. Maurice Agbimakou, Master student, recommended by the Pangolin Specialist Group for his Master research at *Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrée des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT)*. He will use all the data we have already collected and those he will collect during the next three months together for his thesis dissertation. The Rufford Foundation will be acknowledged in the document but also during his oral presentation. Together with Maurice, we will publish the results in the journal *Animal*

Conservation or Global Ecology and Conservation. The results of the project at the national tree day in June 2025.

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

For the next steps:

- Extend rescue interventions to all the last refuges of the white-bellied pangolin at national scale (Local communities, bushmeat and traditional medicine markets) in order to achieve behaviour change and effective conservation in Benin
- Establish in each hotspot a local club of engaged people in pangolin conservation
- Assess the alternatives to pangolins for bushmeat and traditional medicine practices in Benin
- Promotes the alternatives to pangolins among local people, in particular traditional practitioners and bushmeat vendors in Benin
- Conduct a national behaviour change campaigns using Radio podcasts

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?

- I acknowledge in my recent publication in the IUFRO News (IUFRO News Vol. 54, Issue 2) for the World Wildlife Day <https://www.iufro.org/publications/towards-effective-pangolin-conservation-in-benin>
- I also acknowledged the Rufford Foundation in my recent article published in the Journal Frontiers of Conservation Science on the wildlife trade in Traditional African Medicine. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcosc.2024.1481791>
- I acknowledged the Rufford Foundation using its logo during my oral presentation at the 26th IUFRO world congress, held from 23 to 26th 2024, Stockholm (Sweden).

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

Local people engaged in the rescue activity prefer anonymity.

Stanislas ZANVO: Project leader and PI, designed the study, operated and lead camera surveys, Radiotracking surveys, data analysis and publication in the IUFRO News (IUFRO News Vol. 54, Issue 2). Dr Zanvo, has been recommended by the Pangolin Specialist Group to supervise a Master thesis at (**Ecole Régionale Post-**

Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrée des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT) So, Dr Zanvo is supervising M. Maurice Foundie Agbimakou from the **Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrée des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT)**, for his master research on the white-bellied pangolin in the Lama. He conducted camera trap and radiotracking surveys with me in the Lama forest reserve.

Akpovi E. A. Françoise: Field Assistant, she was involved in the rescue activity and behaviour change campaign, data transcription.

Msc Guy Benjamin GUEGUE: He was a volunteer who worked with me (PI) for two months in order to learn the biomonitoring with radiotracking.

Owolabi Alfred ABIODOUN (local guide): He was the field guide for the camera trap surveys.

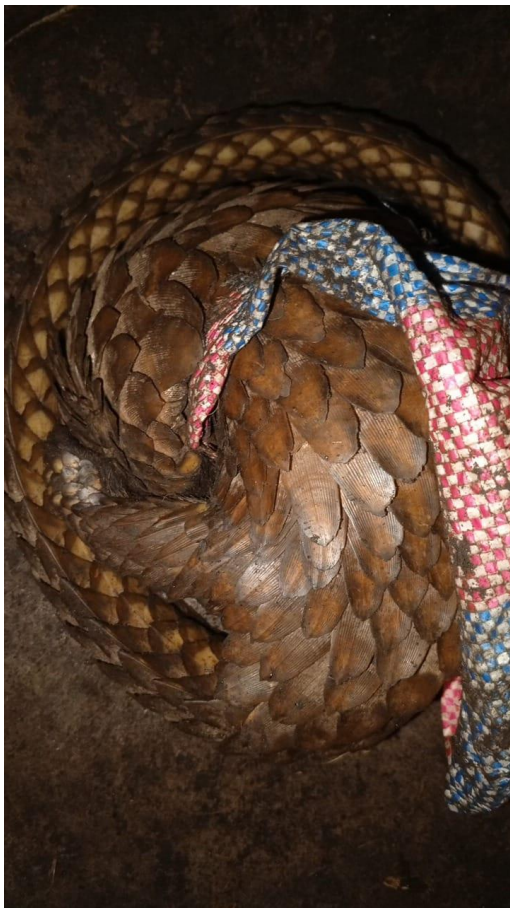
Kolawole Kola ABIODOUN (local guide): He was the field guide for the radiotracking surveys.

10. Any other comments?

No

Annexe 1: Field photos

Rescue operation



Radiotracking survey



Camera trap survey

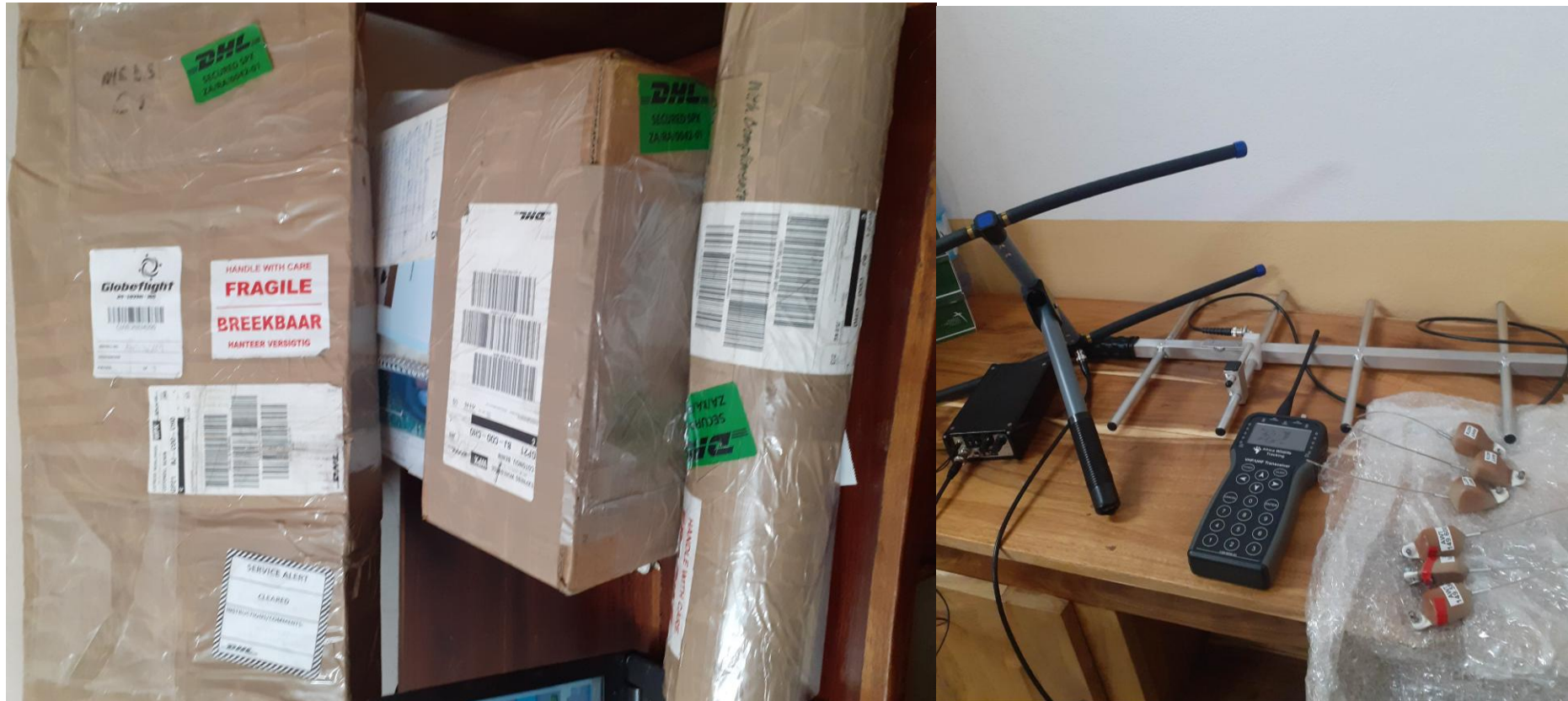




Behaviour change campaign




Annexe 2: Purchased materials



Annexe 3: Notification Letter from the regional school (*Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrée des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT) RD Congo*) for my supervision of the Master thesis research of M. Maurice Foundie Agbimakou



ÉCOLE RÉGIONALE POST-UNIVERSITAIRE D'AMÉNAGEMENT ET DE GESTION INTÉGRÉE DES FORÊTS ET TERRITOIRES TROPICAUX - ERAIFT -
Centre de Catégorie II sous les auspices de l'UNESCO



Kinshasa, le 28 février 2025

N/Ref. : ER/BM/JPM/120/Not.TFE/25

Objet : Votre Notification en qualité de promoteur et co-promoteur de ce travail de fin d'études (TFE)

Messieurs les Professeurs :

- Stephan NTE, ERAIFT, Promoteur
Email : ntiestephan@gmail.com
- Stanislas ZANVO, LEA-FSA, Co-promoteur
Email : zanvostanislas@yahoo.fr

Messieurs les Professeurs,

Nous sommes heureux de vous informer qu'il a plu à la direction de l'ERAIFT de vous nommer comme promoteur et co-promoteur, pour conduire ce travail de fin d'études intitulé : « *Post-release ecology of the white-bellied pangolin (Phataginus tricuspis) rescued from illegal trade using camera trapping and telemetry in the Lama Forest Reserve in Benin* ». Ce travail est réalisé par l'apprenant Maurice FOUNDIE de nationalité béninoise.

En effet, cette étude s'inscrit dans le cadre de la 5^{ème} promotion des masters régionaux de l'ERAIFT avec comme spécialisation : *Master 2 Professionnel Gestion des Aires Protégées et Gestion des Réserves de Biosphère (GAP/GRB)*, et se déroule de janvier à juin 2025 (Semestre 4).

Ainsi, les tâches suivantes incombent au promoteur et co-promoteur pour l'accompagnement de cette étude :

1. Assurer le suivi régulier du travail depuis sa conception jusqu'à sa mise en œuvre sur le terrain ;
2. Faire des évaluations à mi-parcours sur le cheminement du travail et en informer l'ERAIFT ;
3. Assurer le suivi de la récolte des données, leur traitement ainsi que l'écriture scientifique du travail selon les directives de l'ERAIFT ;
4. Préparer l'apprenant à la soutenance publique de son mémoire (PowerPoint et communication orale) ;
5. Informer l'Ecole de tout incident éventuel survenu sur le terrain ou dérapages constatés chez l'apprenant ;
6. Assurer le respect des règles d'éthique scientifique et du CLIP auprès des communautés locales ;
7. Conduire cette dissertation jusqu'à sa soutenance publique et participer au jury.
8. Préparer l'apprenant à la valorisation de ses données de recherche en publication scientifique internationale.

Veuillez agréer, Messieurs les Professeurs et chers collègues, l'expression de notre franche collaboration.



Gauduin MICHEL
Ecole Régionale Post-Universitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrée des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT)

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