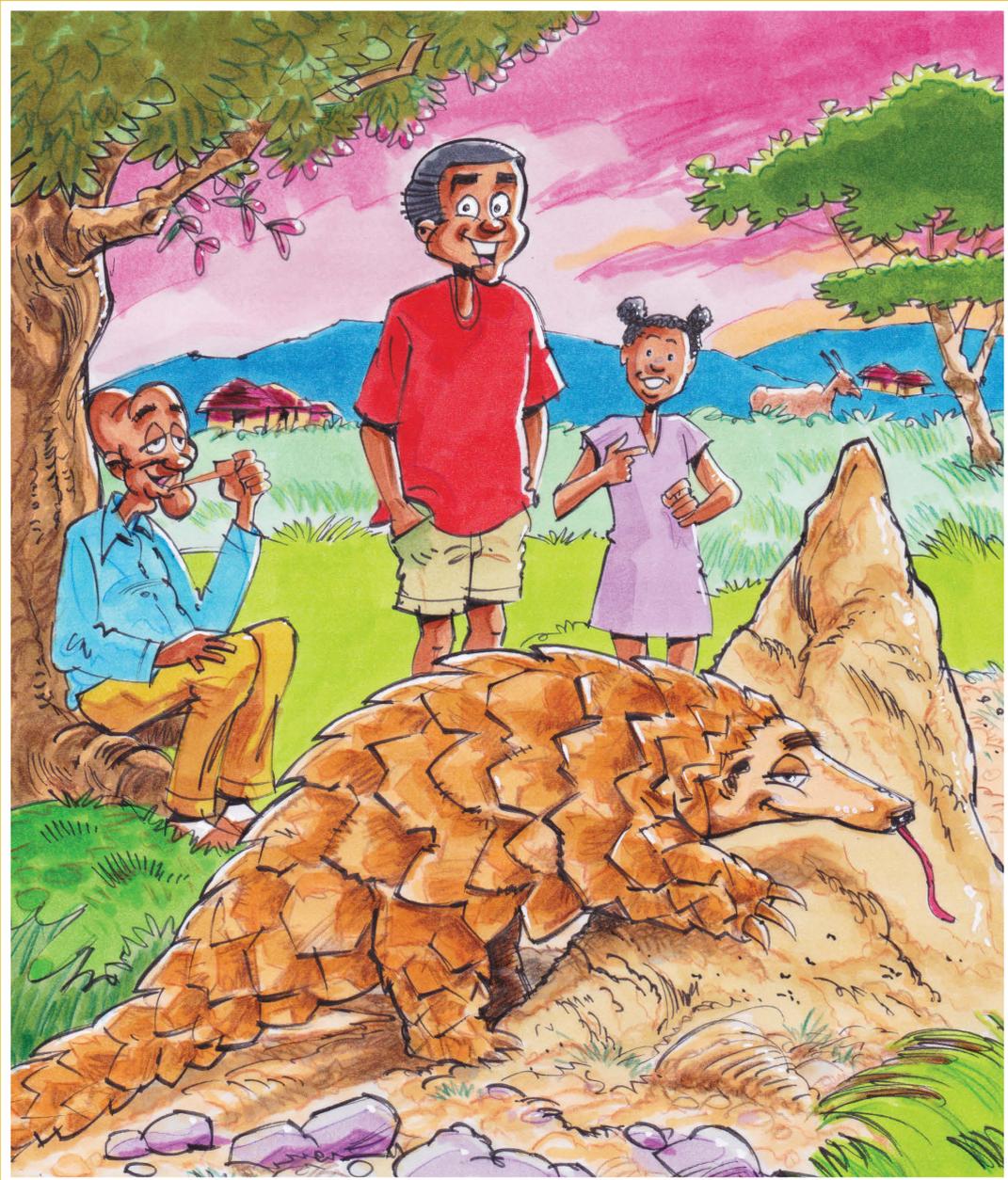


SACT EDUCATIONAL COMIC BOOK ON THE PLIGHT OF THE TEMMINCK'S GROUND PANGOLIN.

Petrus

THE TEMMINCK'S GROUND PANGOLIN GUARDIAN





The Namibian Pangolin Working Group (NPWG) was established in April 2020 as a collaborative effort between the Namibian government and non-governmental partners in response to the increasing threats faced by pangolins (Temminck's Ground Pangolin *Smutsia temminckii*) in Namibia.

The current priorities of the NPWG are to:

- Develop and implement a concise **National Conservation Management Plan** for pangolin.
- Prepare and implement **guidelines and protocols** for the handling of confiscated pangolins by first responders, getting them quickly into rehabilitation and veterinary care, and the procedures for selecting good release sites.
- **Guide priority research** to better understand key areas specifically related to pangolin conservation, diet, status and release.
- **Raise awareness and help educate target groups** about pangolins, particularly their ecological role and importance to ecosystem functioning.
- Promote **international collaboration and information sharing**.

The NPWG, through its members, administers a cash reward scheme for any information leading to the arrest of pangolin poachers and traffickers or seizure of live pangolins and pangolin parts. This reward scheme has led to more than 100 arrests, the confiscation of more than 50 live pangolins that were rehabilitated and released, and information on the criminal networks involved in illegal pangolin trade.

The NPWG is chaired by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), and includes the Namibian Chamber of Environment (NCE), the Namibia University of Science and Technology's Biodiversity Research Centre (NUST-BRC), the Rooikat Trust, the Namibia Animal Rehabilitation Research and Education Centre (NARREC) and the Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation (PCRF).

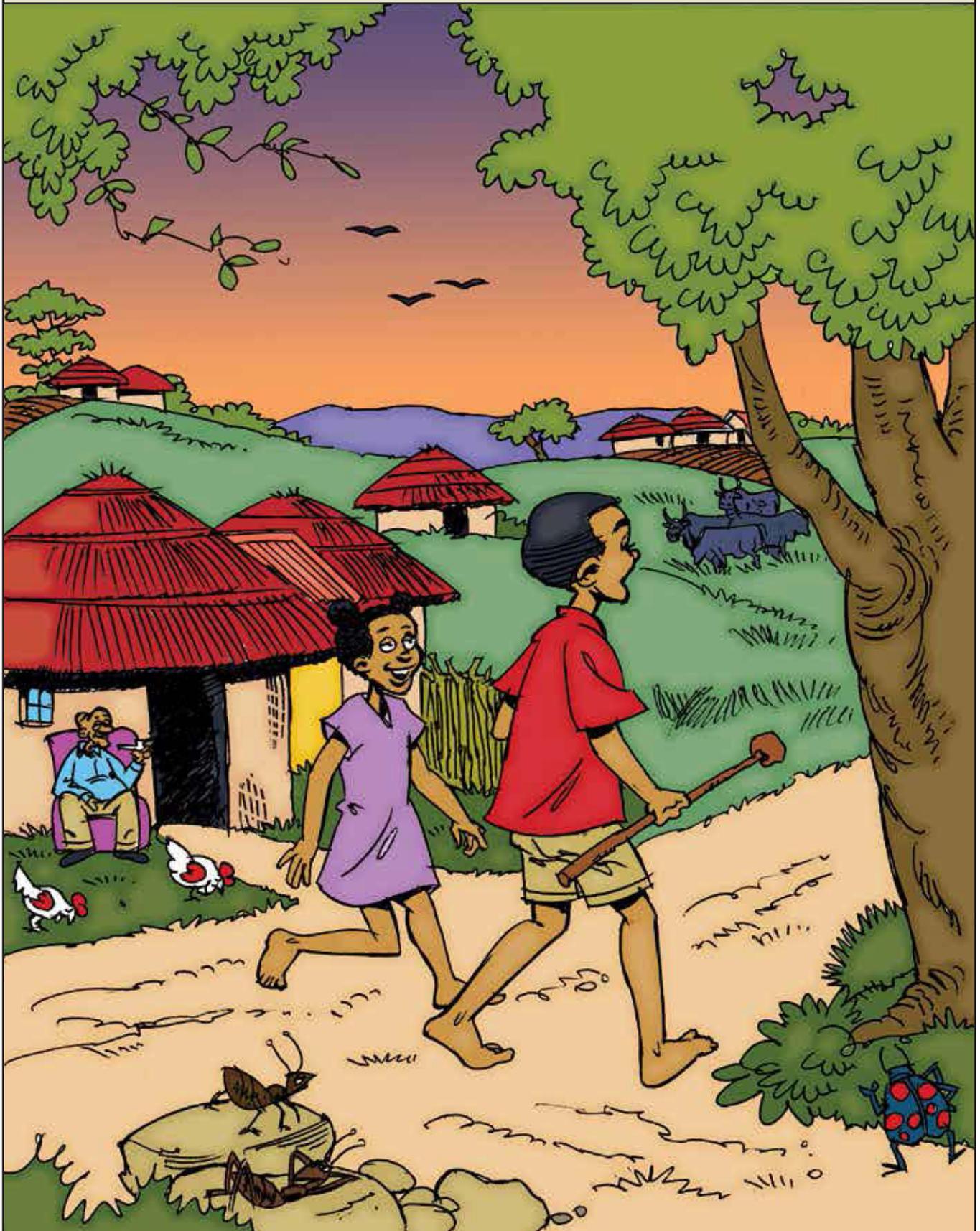


COMMON NAMIBIAN NAMES FOR THE TEMMINCK'S GROUND PANGOLIN (this is the official English name)

Other English names: Cape pangolin, Scaly anteater

- OshiWambo: Ongaka • OtjiHerero: Ongaka • SiLozi: ñake • Rumanyo: Nkaka
- Khoekhoegowab: //Khommi, //Khoms • Afrikaans: Ietermagôg, Ystermagôg • German: Schuppentier.

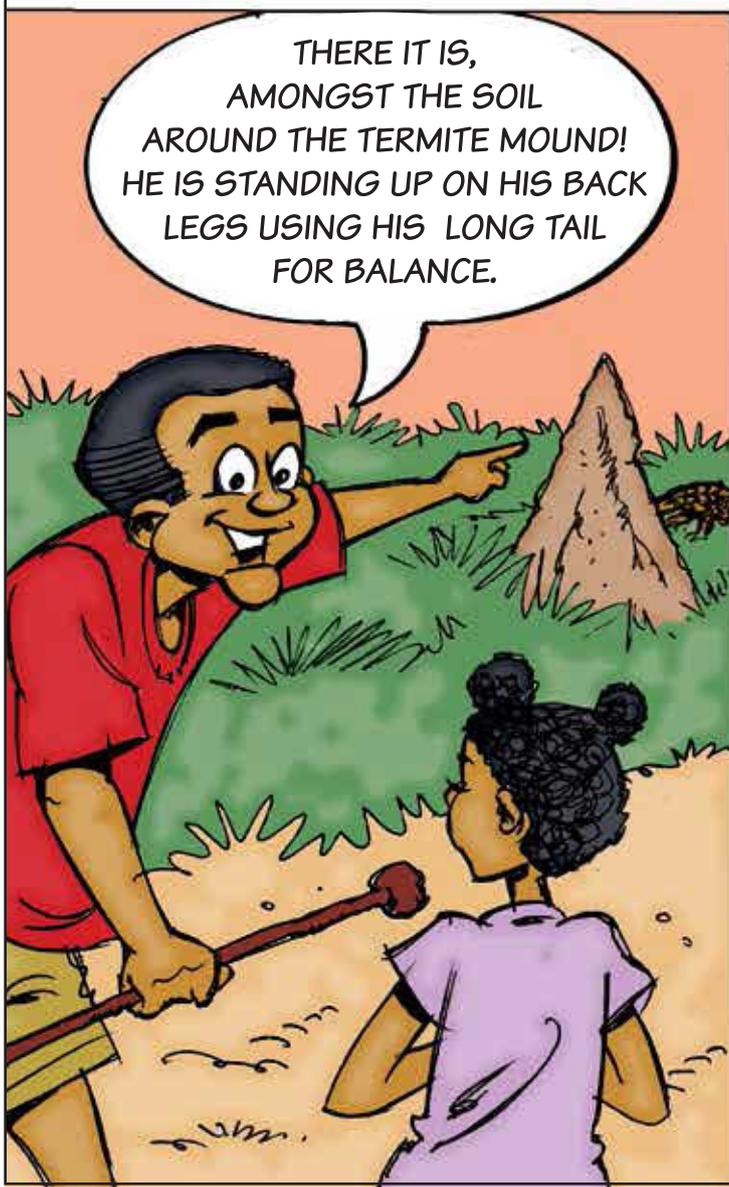
IT IS A PEACEFUL, SUNNY WINTER AFTERNOON IN THE VILLAGE. PETRUS GOES OUT TO THE FIELD TO CHECK ON HIS CATTLE WITH HIS SISTER ESTER.





ESTER LOOK OVER THERE, A PANGOLIN ! IT IS MY LUCKY DAY!

WHERE? I CAN NOT SEE IT!

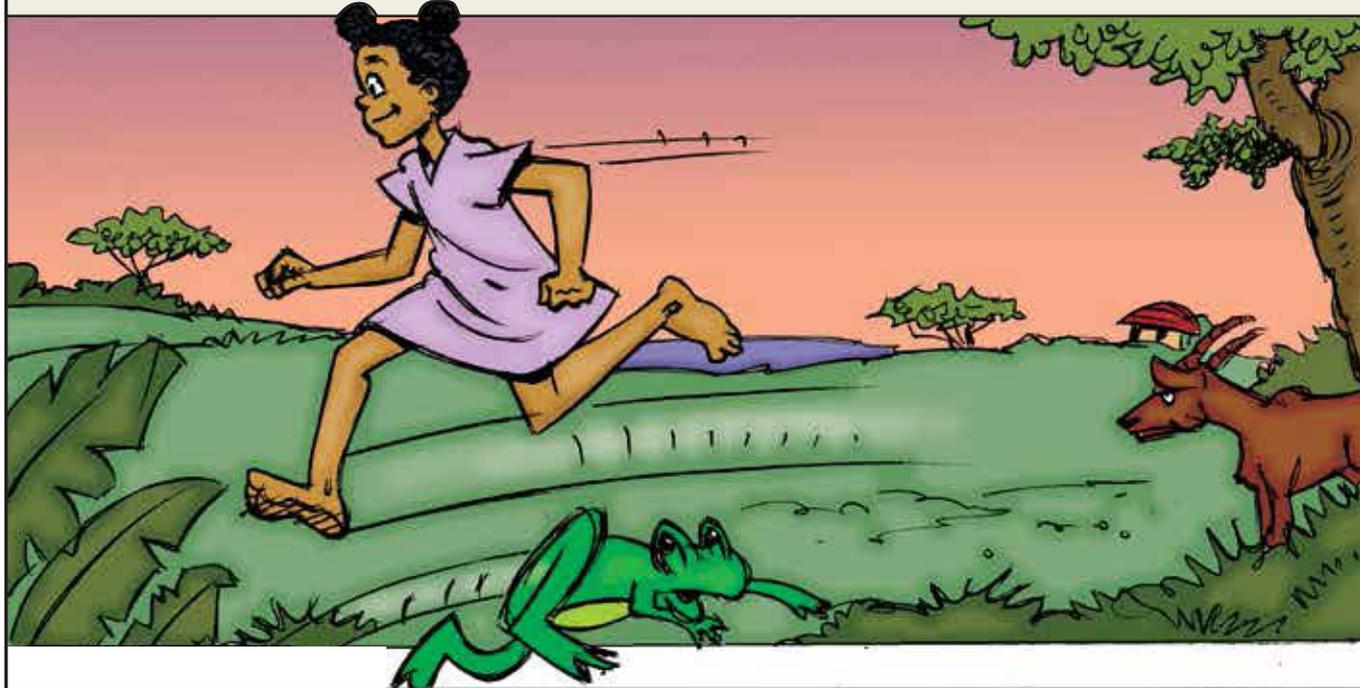


THERE IT IS, AMONGST THE SOIL AROUND THE TERMITE MOUND! HE IS STANDING UP ON HIS BACK LEGS USING HIS LONG TAIL FOR BALANCE.



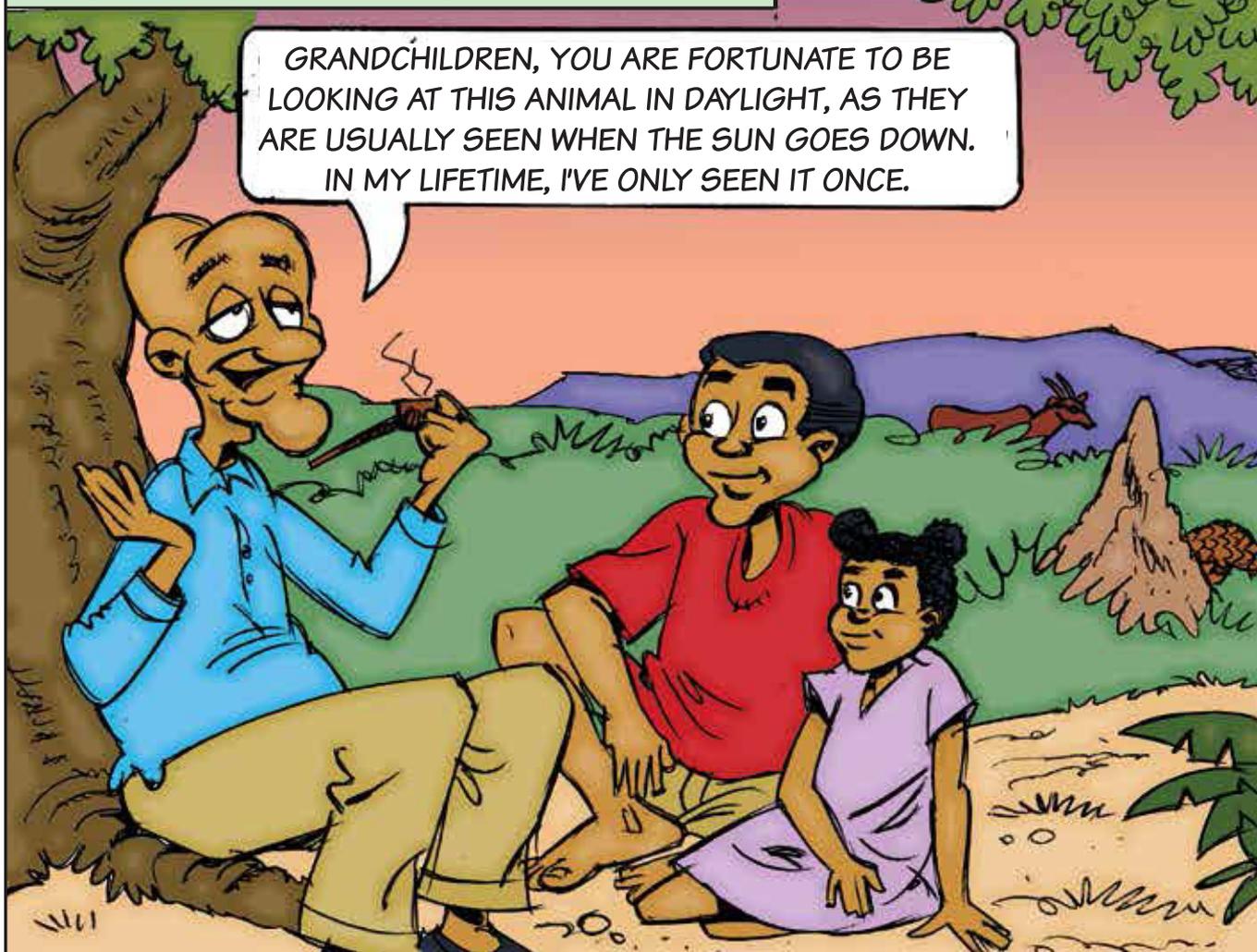
REMEMBER GRANDFATHER WARNED US TO BE CAREFUL IF THE PANGOLIN SWINGS ITS TAIL, AS IT IS A SHARP WEAPON. GO AND CALL HIM PLEASE ESTER. HE STILL REMEMBERS THE STORIES HIS ANCESTORS TOLD HIM.

ESTER HURRIES BACK TO THE VILLAGE TO CALL THEIR GRANDFATHER. SHE REMEMBERS HIS STORIES ABOUT THIS SHY ANIMAL. A LITTLE WHILE LATER THE OLD MAN AND ESTER GREET AN EXCITED PETRUS.



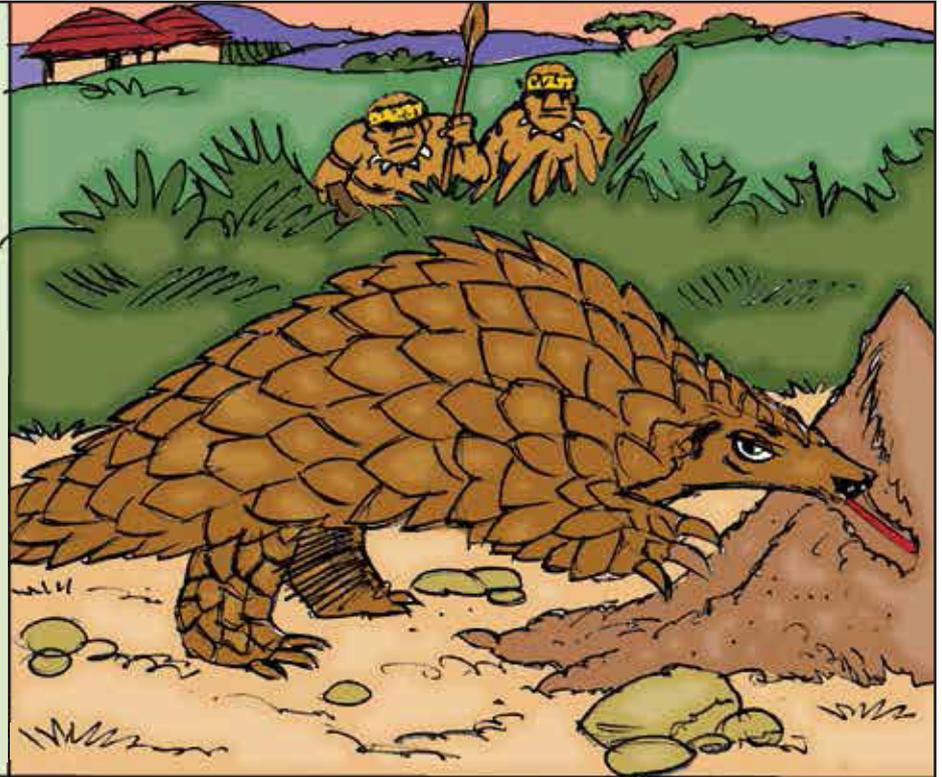
THEY SIT DOWN UNDER A TREE TO WATCH THE PANGOLIN.

GRANDCHILDREN, YOU ARE FORTUNATE TO BE LOOKING AT THIS ANIMAL IN DAYLIGHT, AS THEY ARE USUALLY SEEN WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN. IN MY LIFETIME, I'VE ONLY SEEN IT ONCE.





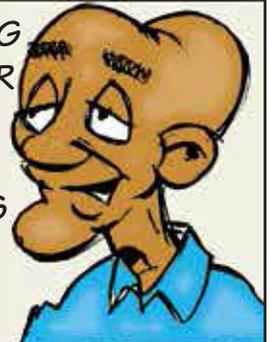
"THEY TRAVEL ALONE AND THERE ARE NOT MANY LEFT IN THE WILD! LONG AGO OUR ANCESTORS IN AFRICA USED TO OFFER PANGOLIN MEAT TO THE LOCAL KING OR CHIEF, AND THE SCALES WERE USED BY THEM TO MAKE A CEREMONIAL HAT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS!"

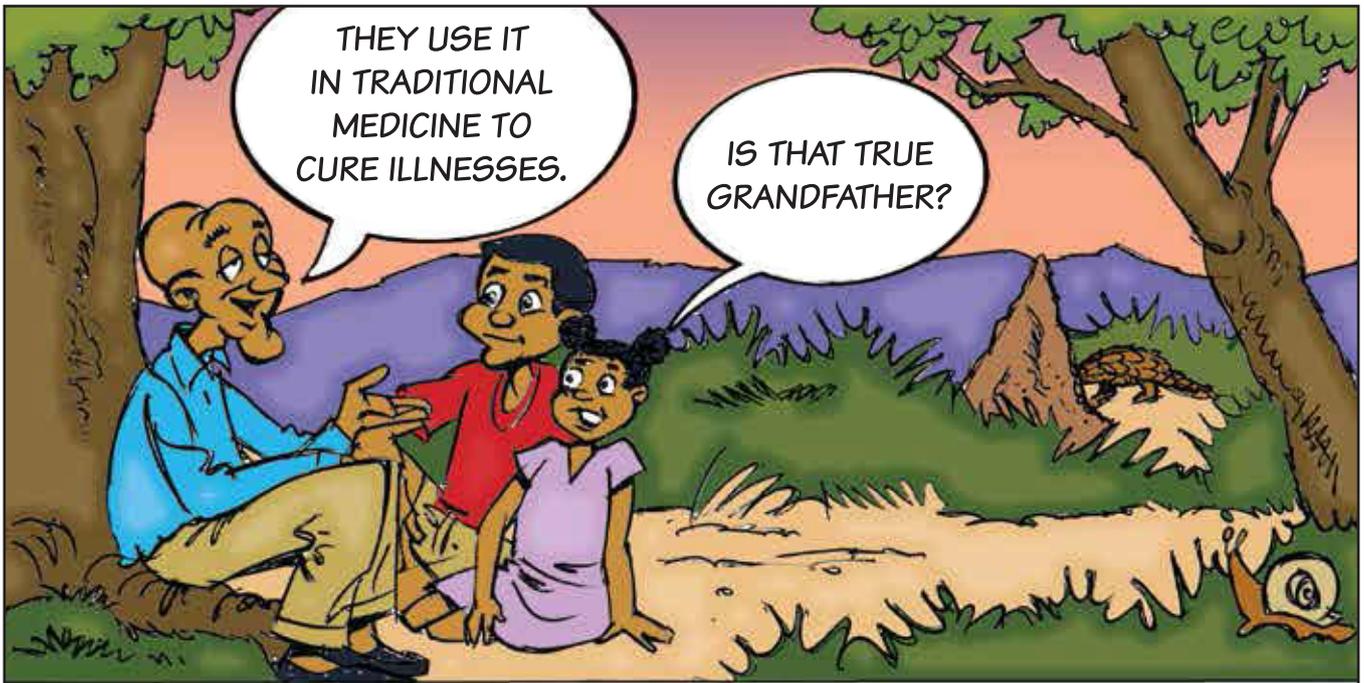


WHY DID THEY DO THAT?



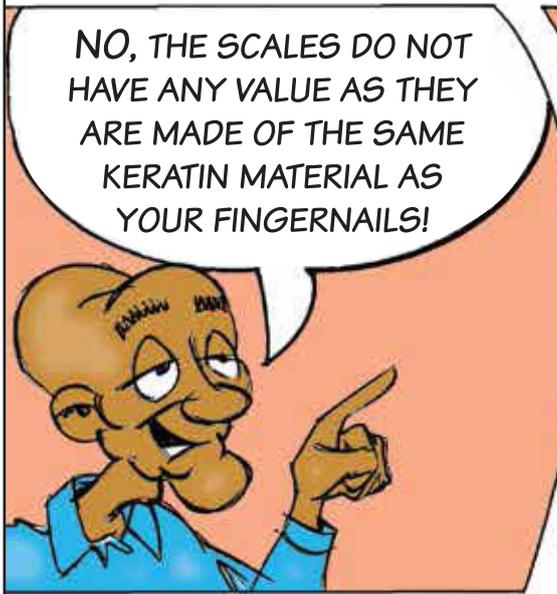
"TO SHOW LOYALTY TO THEIR KING OR CHIEF, BUT THIS IS NO LONGER PRACTICED IN AFRICA, AS WE NOW PROTECT OUR PANGOLINS. TODAY PEOPLE IN DISTANT LANDS WANT OUR PANGOLIN FOR THE SCALES THAT COVER ITS BODY!"



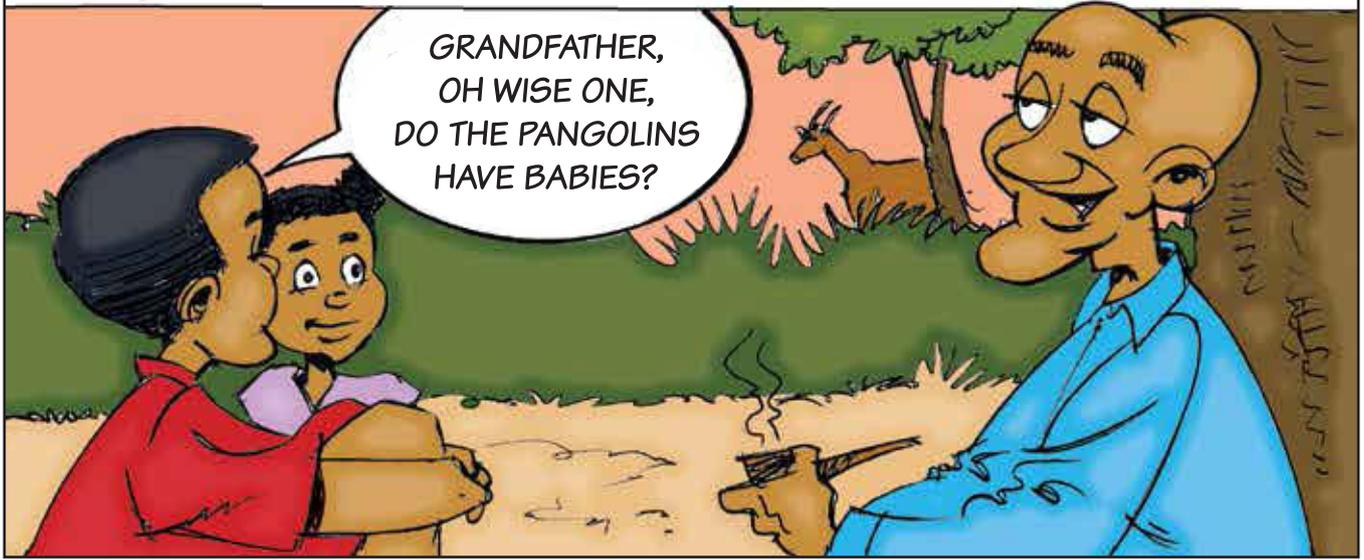
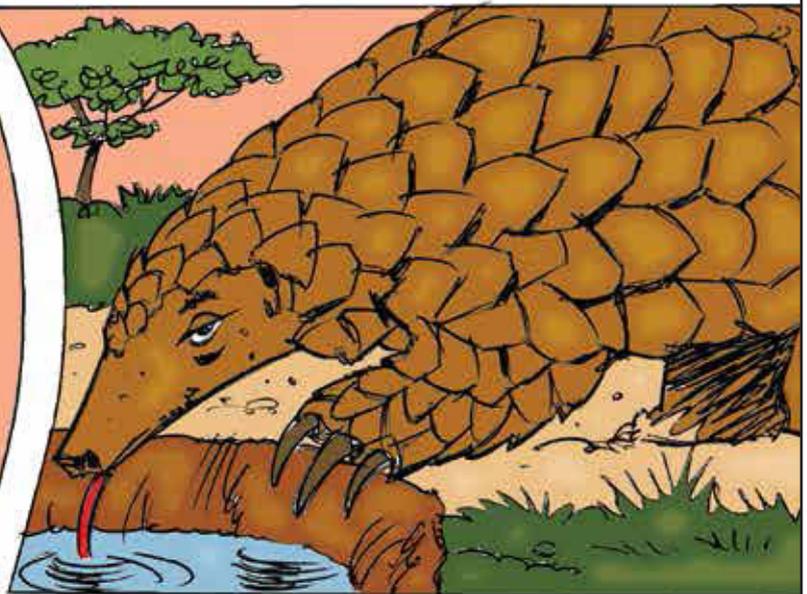


THEY USE IT
IN TRADITIONAL
MEDICINE TO
CURE ILLNESSES.

IS THAT TRUE
GRANDFATHER?

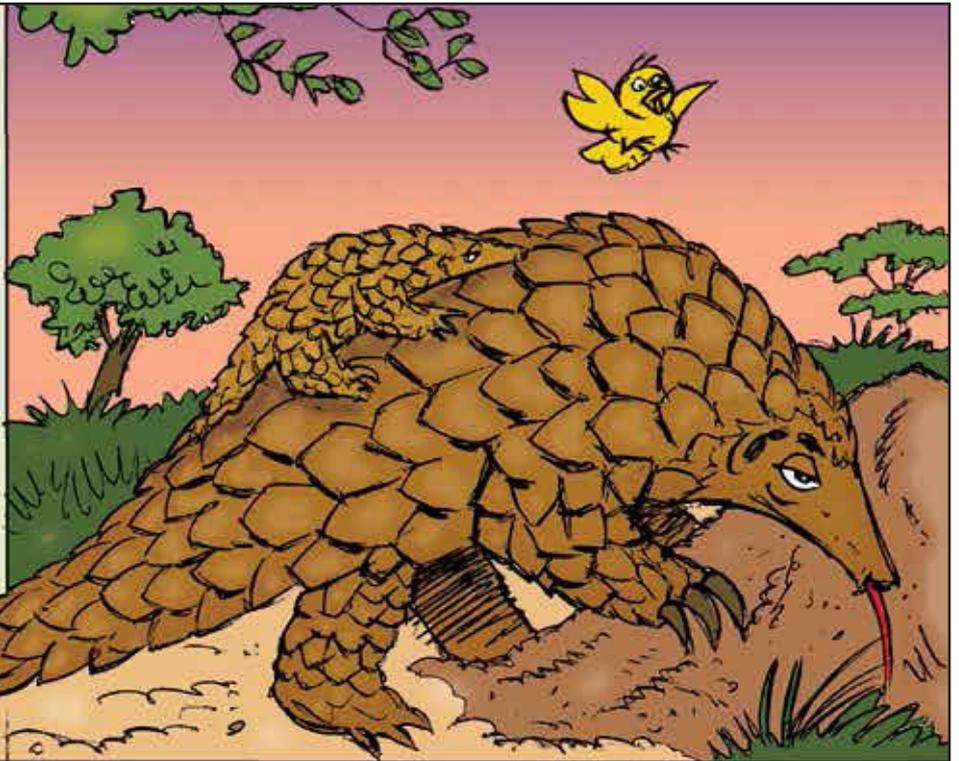


NO, THE SCALES DO NOT
HAVE ANY VALUE AS THEY
ARE MADE OF THE SAME
KERATIN MATERIAL AS
YOUR FINGERNAILS!



GRANDFATHER,
OH WISE ONE,
DO THE PANGOLINS
HAVE BABIES?

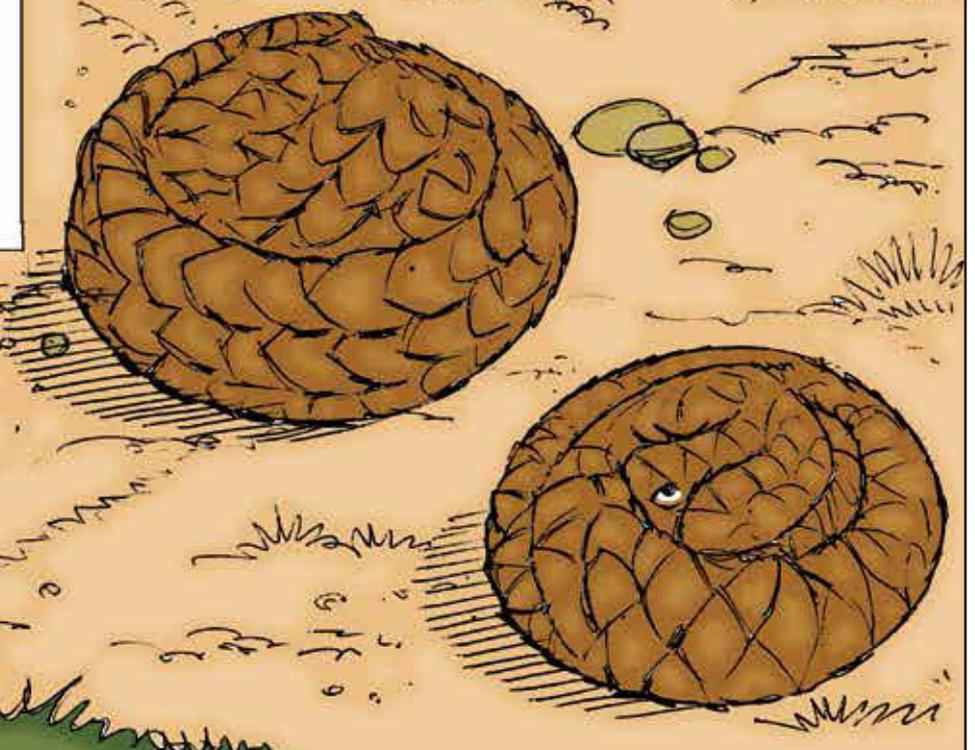
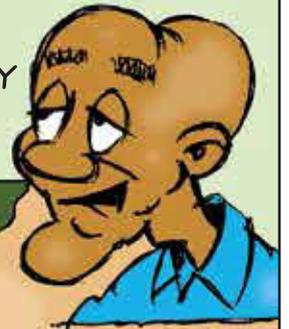
"YES. THE MOTHERS ALWAYS CARRY THEIR YOUNG BABY ON THEIR BACK FOR ALMOST 5 MONTHS, WHEN THEY ARE MOVING TO A NEW BURROW. WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT THEY ARE MAMMALS LIKE US AND ALSO FEED THEIR MILK TO THE BABY."

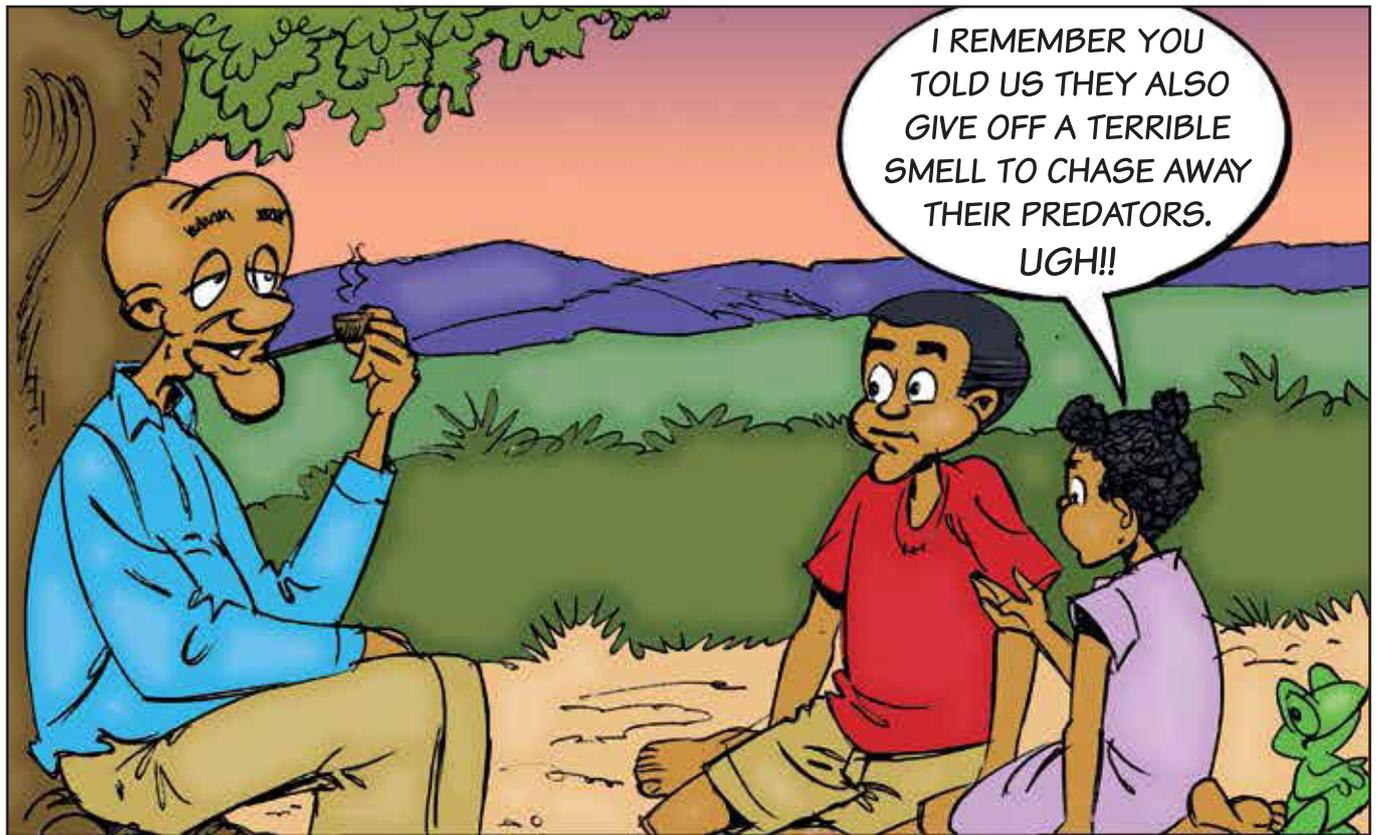


WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY ARE ATTACKED OR HARMED BY OTHER WILD ANIMALS?

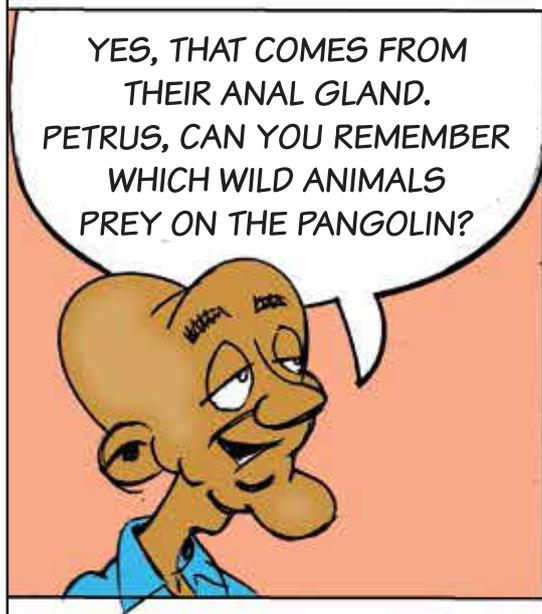


"THEY CURL UP INTO BALLS FOR PROTECTION. THIS ALSO KEEPS THE BABY SAFE IN THE MOTHER'S UNDERPARTS."

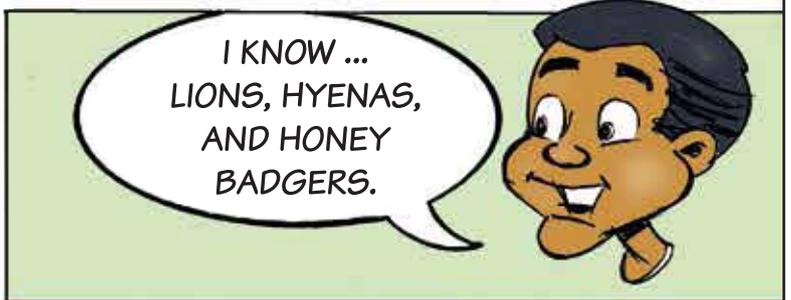




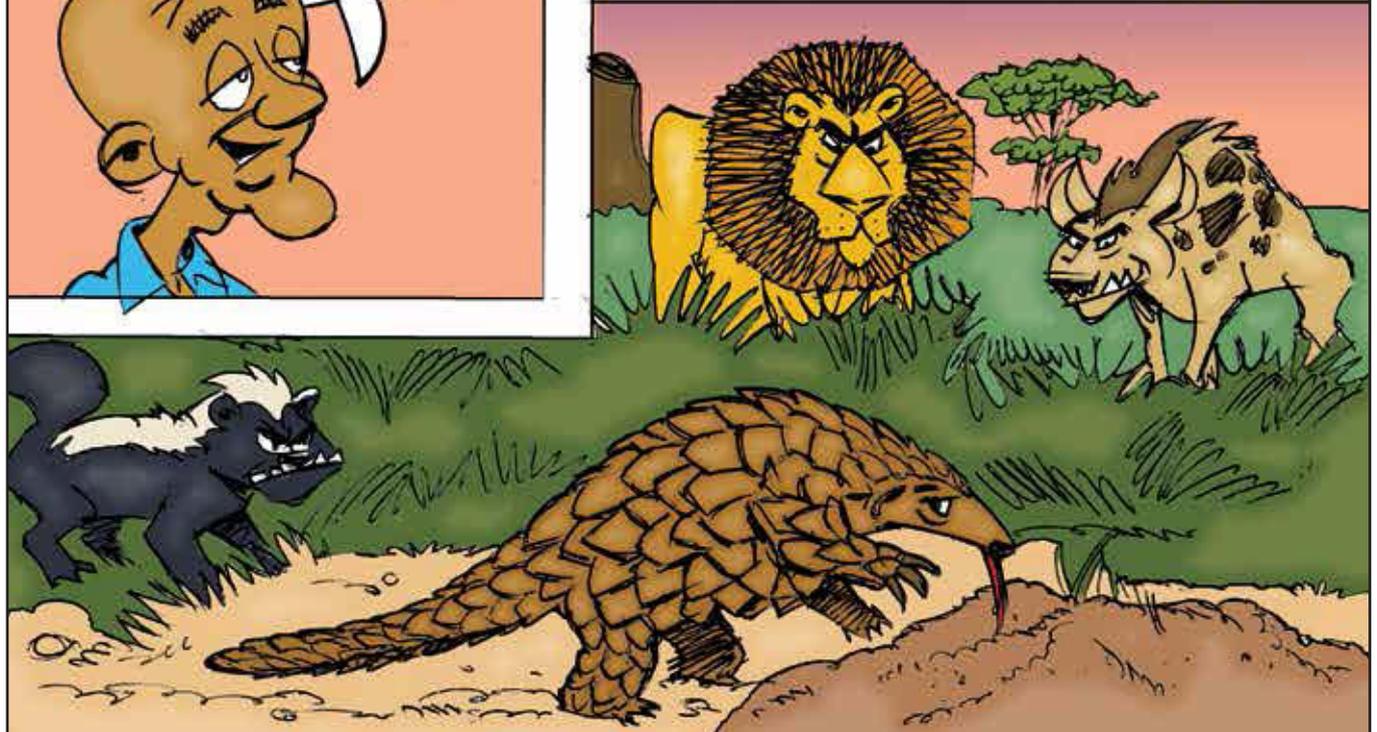
I REMEMBER YOU TOLD US THEY ALSO GIVE OFF A TERRIBLE SMELL TO CHASE AWAY THEIR PREDATORS. UGH!!

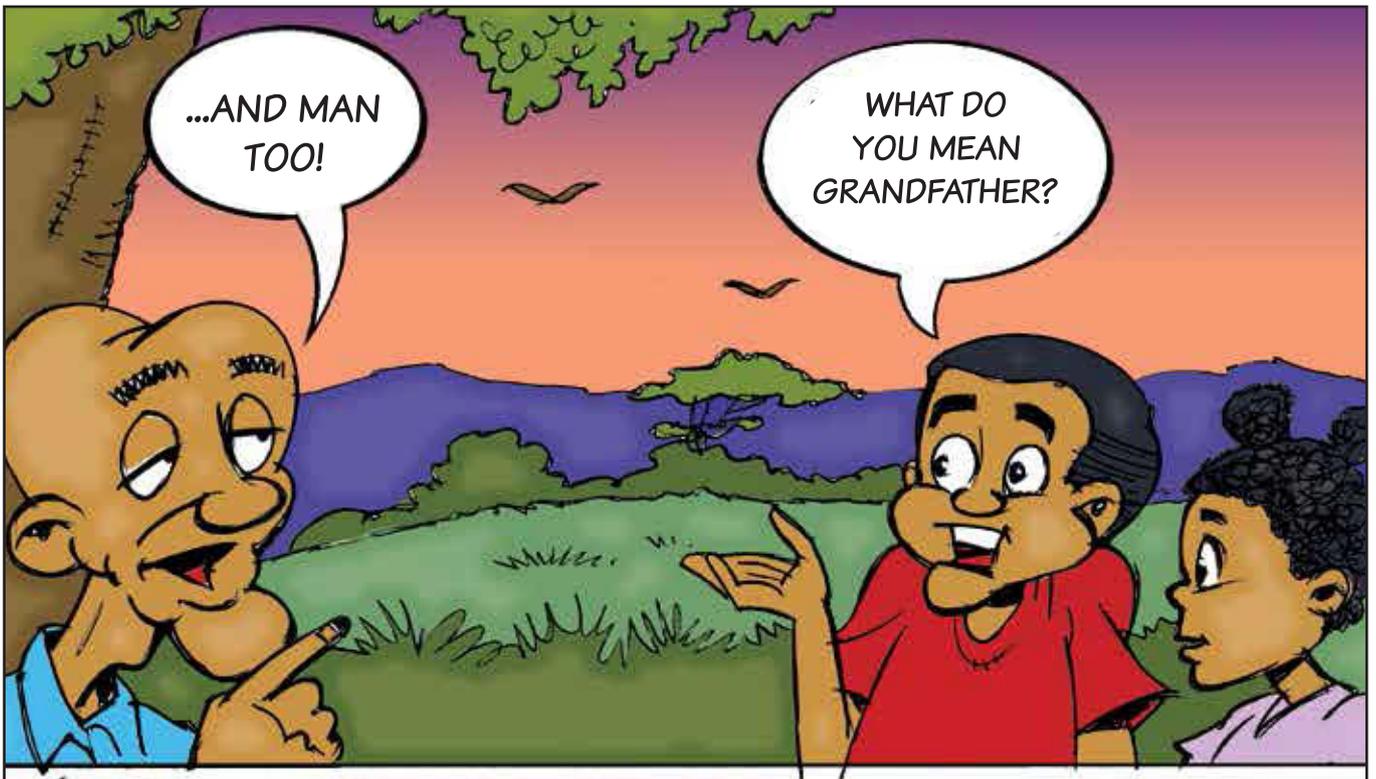


YES, THAT COMES FROM THEIR ANAL GLAND. PETRUS, CAN YOU REMEMBER WHICH WILD ANIMALS PREY ON THE PANGOLIN?



I KNOW ... LIONS, HYENAS, AND HONEY BADGERS.



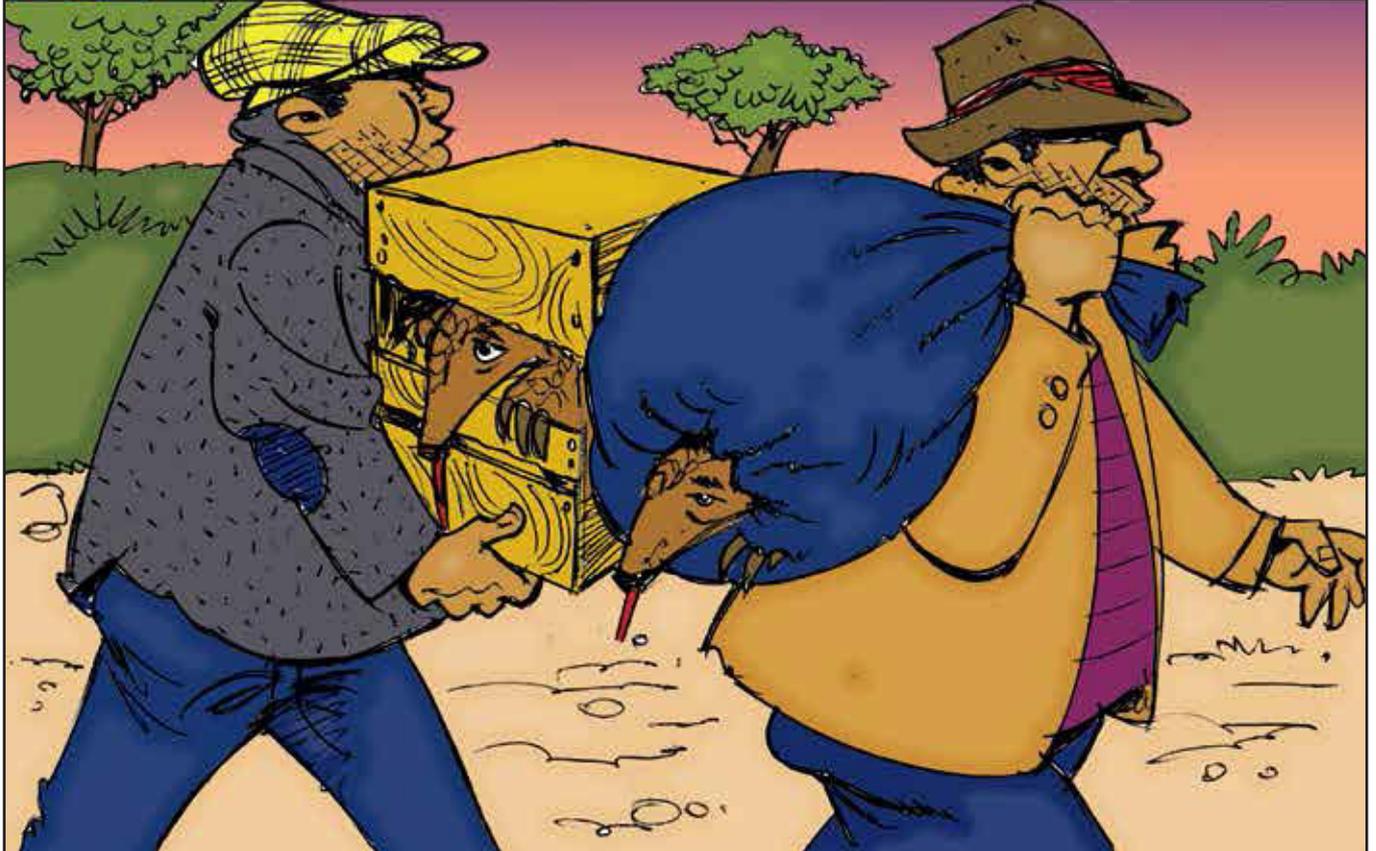


...AND MAN TOO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN GRANDFATHER?



"WELL, TODAY PANGOLINS ARE DISAPPEARING IN THE WILD, BECAUSE HUMANS HUNT THEM. THEY TAKE THEM AWAY FROM THEIR NATURAL HABITAT IN HOLLOWED OUT TREE STUMPS..."



"... AND BURROWS. THE PEOPLE WHO STEAL THESE ANIMALS SELL THEM IN DISTANT COUNTRIES FOR MONEY."



OH NO!
THAT IS
SO SAD.

THIS IS WHY YOU
HAVE TO PROTECT THESE
ANIMALS! THEY BELONG IN THE
AFRICAN BUSH, AND THEY BELONG
TO US AND OUR PEOPLE.
SO YOU NEED TO TELL YOUR
FRIENDS THIS.



"REPORT ANY PERSON POACHING PANGOLINS AND OTHER ANIMALS IN OUR AREA TO CONSERVATION OFFICERS IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM, OR TO THE NAMIBIAN POLICE, OR SEND AN SMS TO THE WILDLIFE PROTECTION HOTLINE AT 55555 - ALL INFORMATION IS TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL."



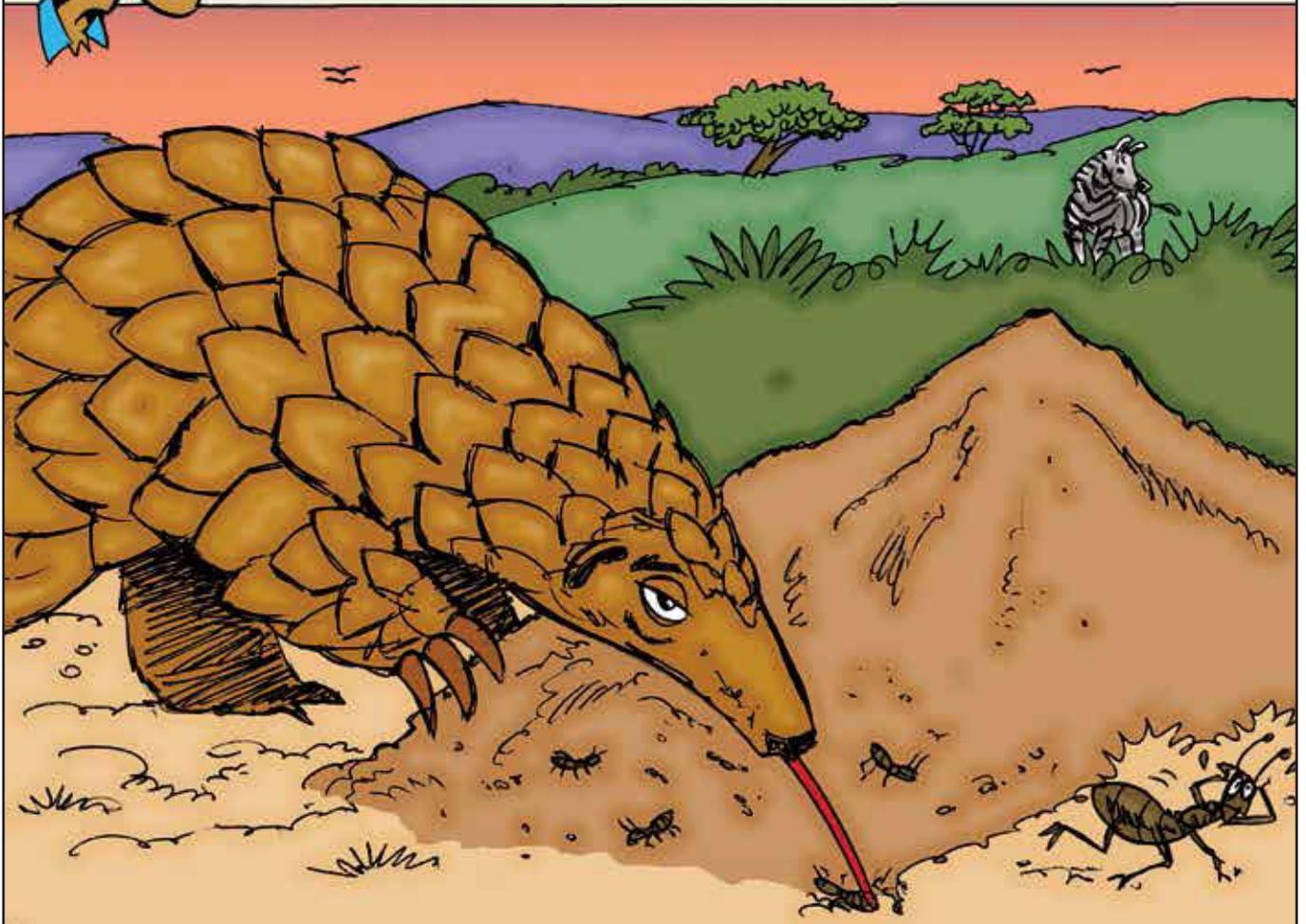
"IT IS AN OFFENSE TO STEAL OUR ANIMALS!"



WHAT ABOUT THEIR FOOD?



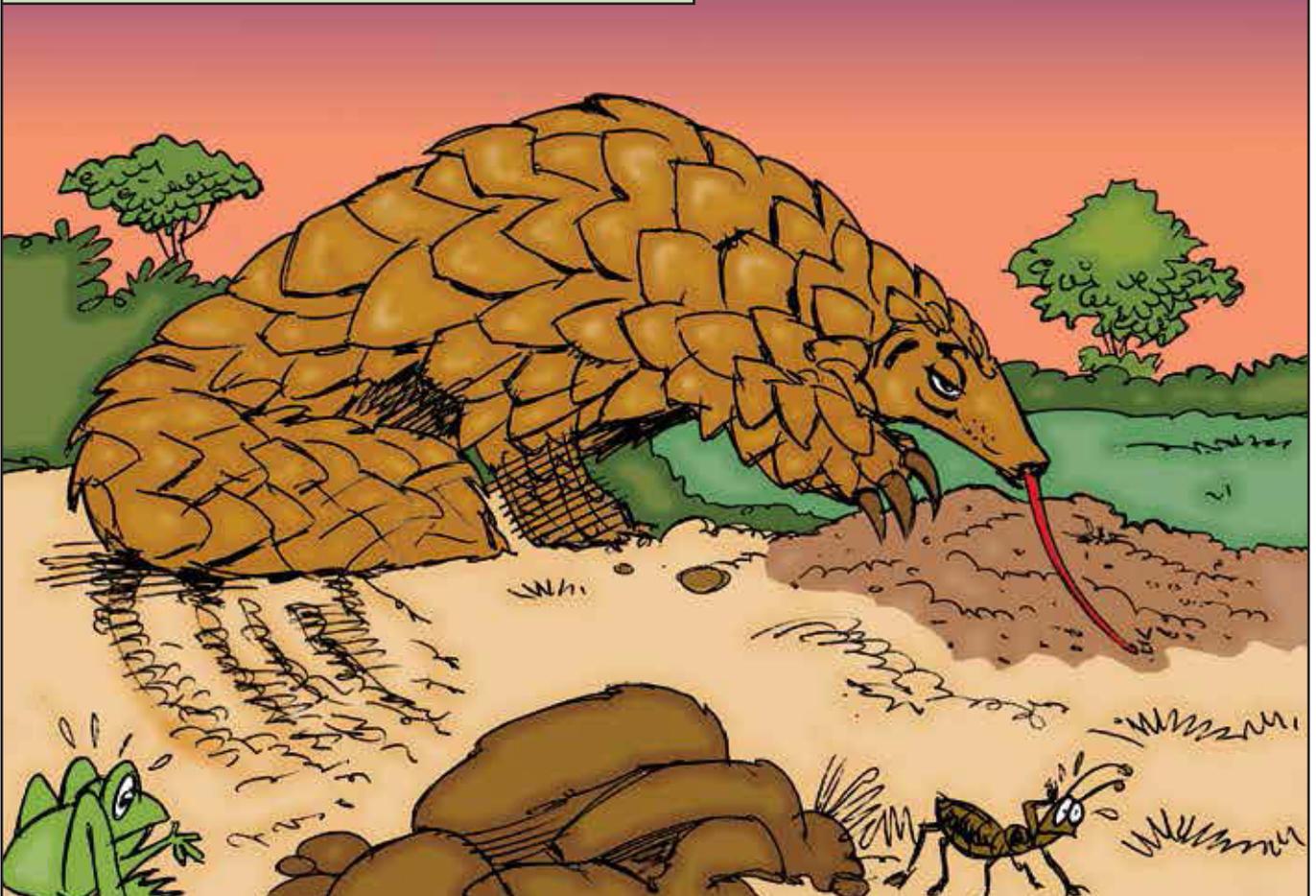
"PANGOLINS FEED MAINLY ON ANTS, TERMITES AND THEIR EGGS, EVEN THEIR LARVAE. THESE INSECTS ARE ALSO A SOURCE OF THEIR WATER."

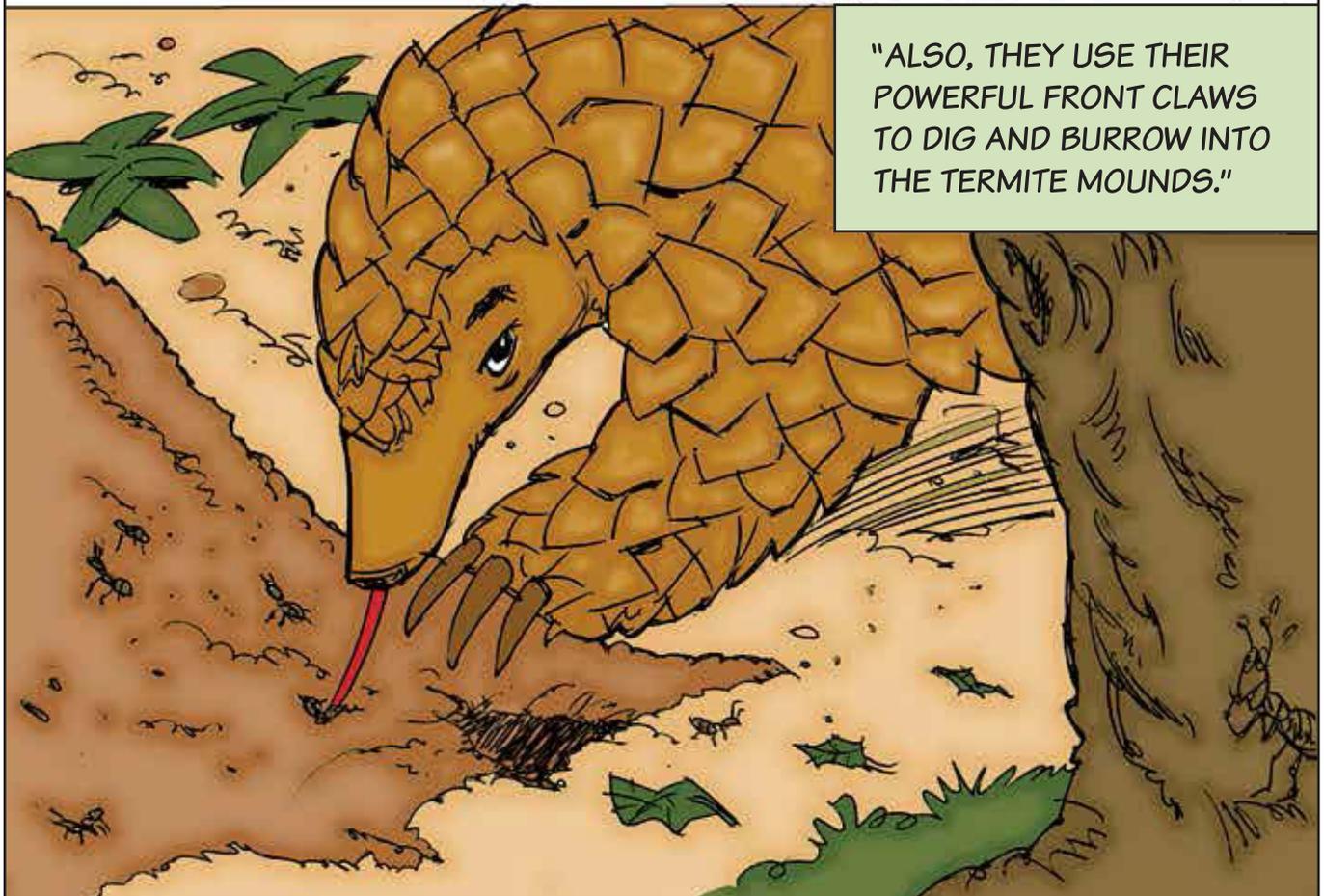
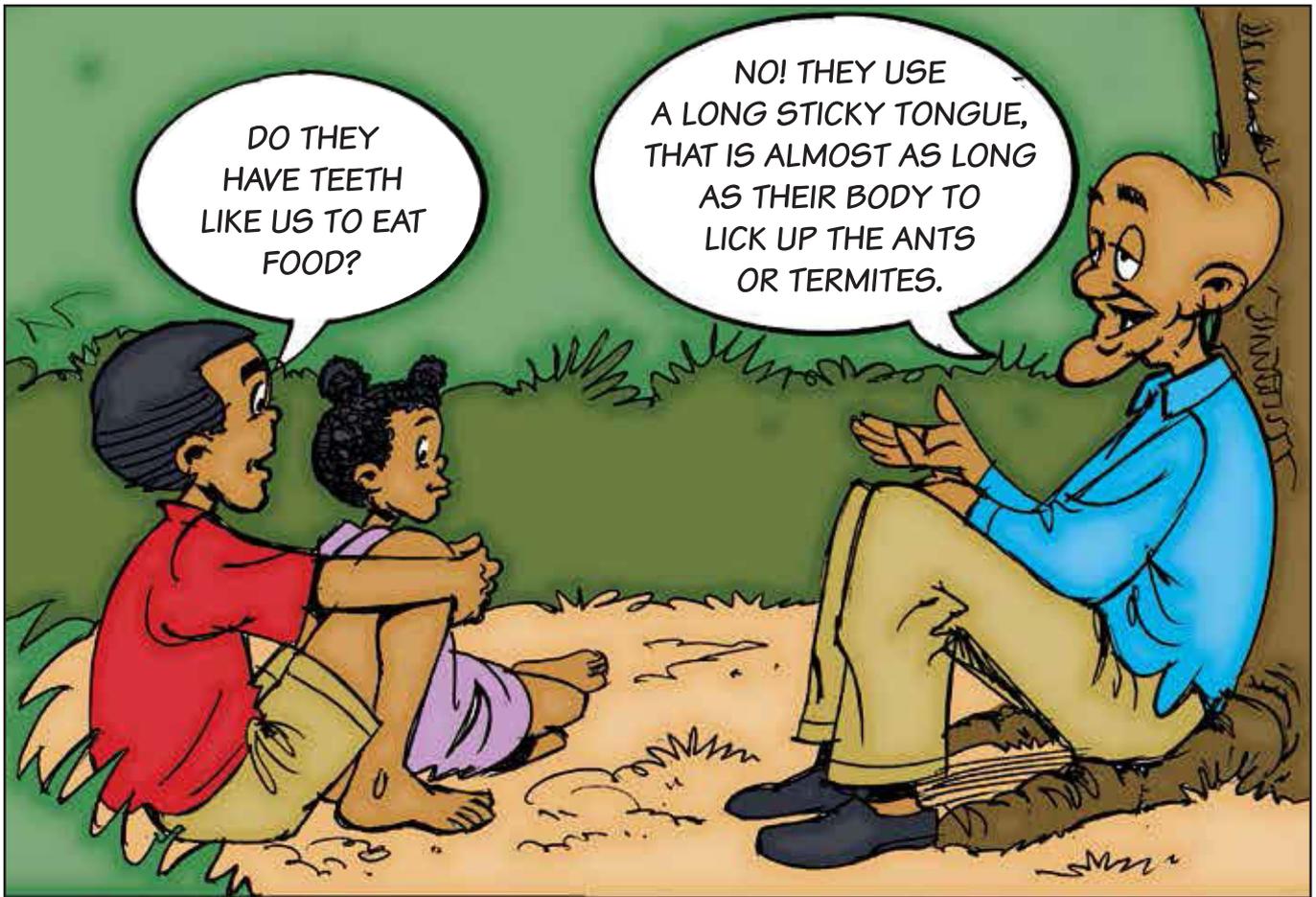


"IN FACT, IF YOU SEE TAIL MARKS IN THE SAND IT IS A CLUE..."

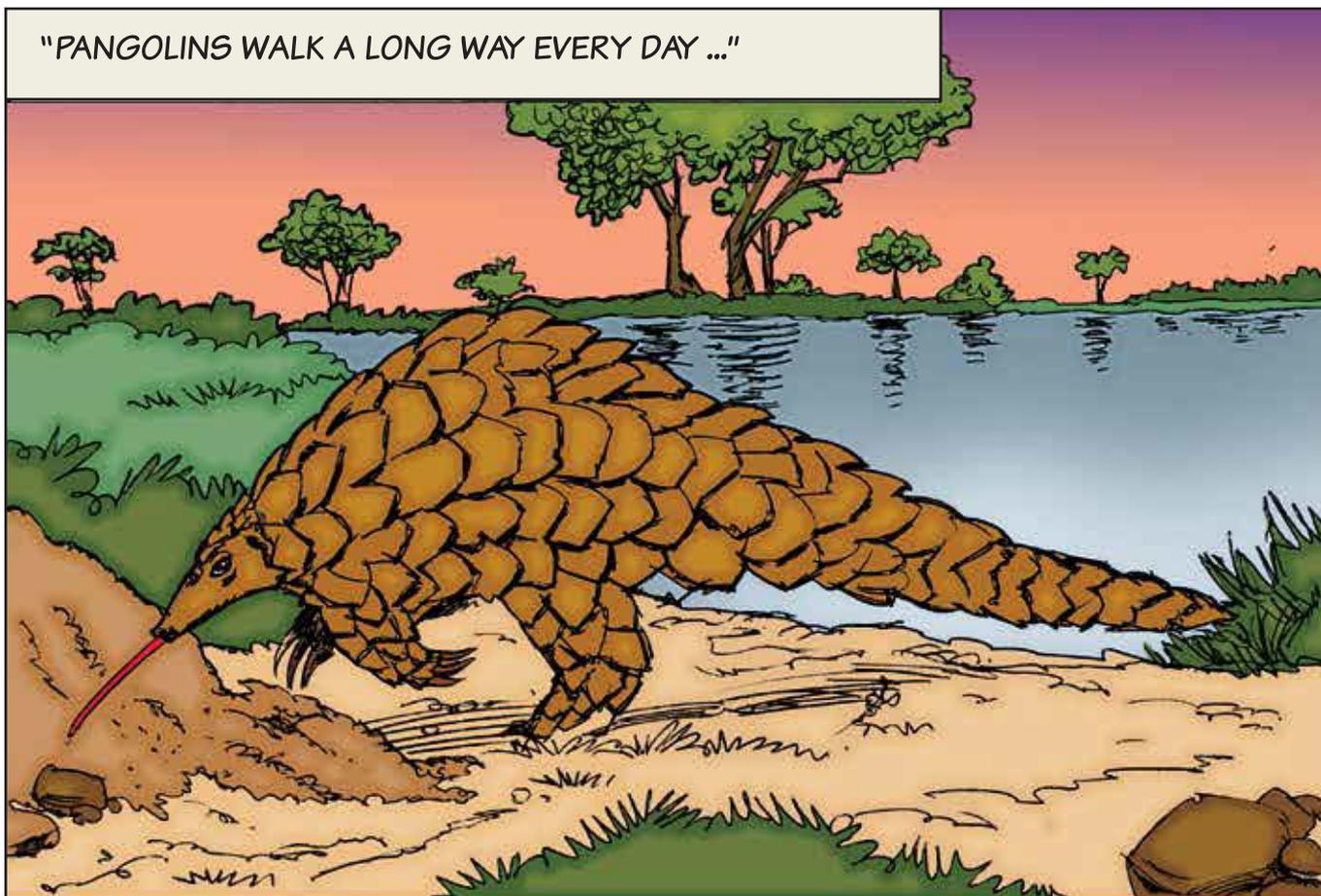


"...THAT A PANGOLIN HAS BEEN EATING IN THE AREA."

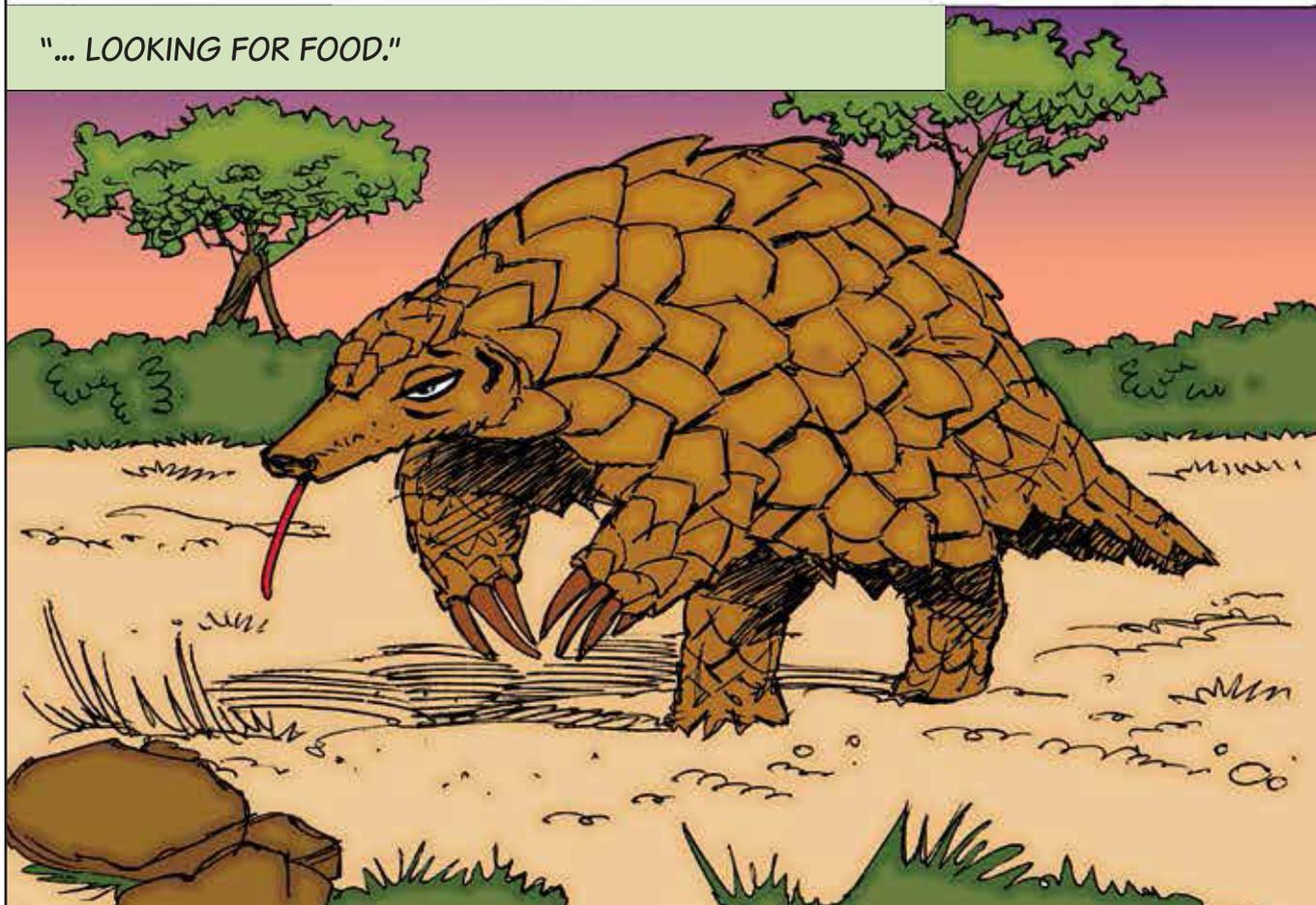


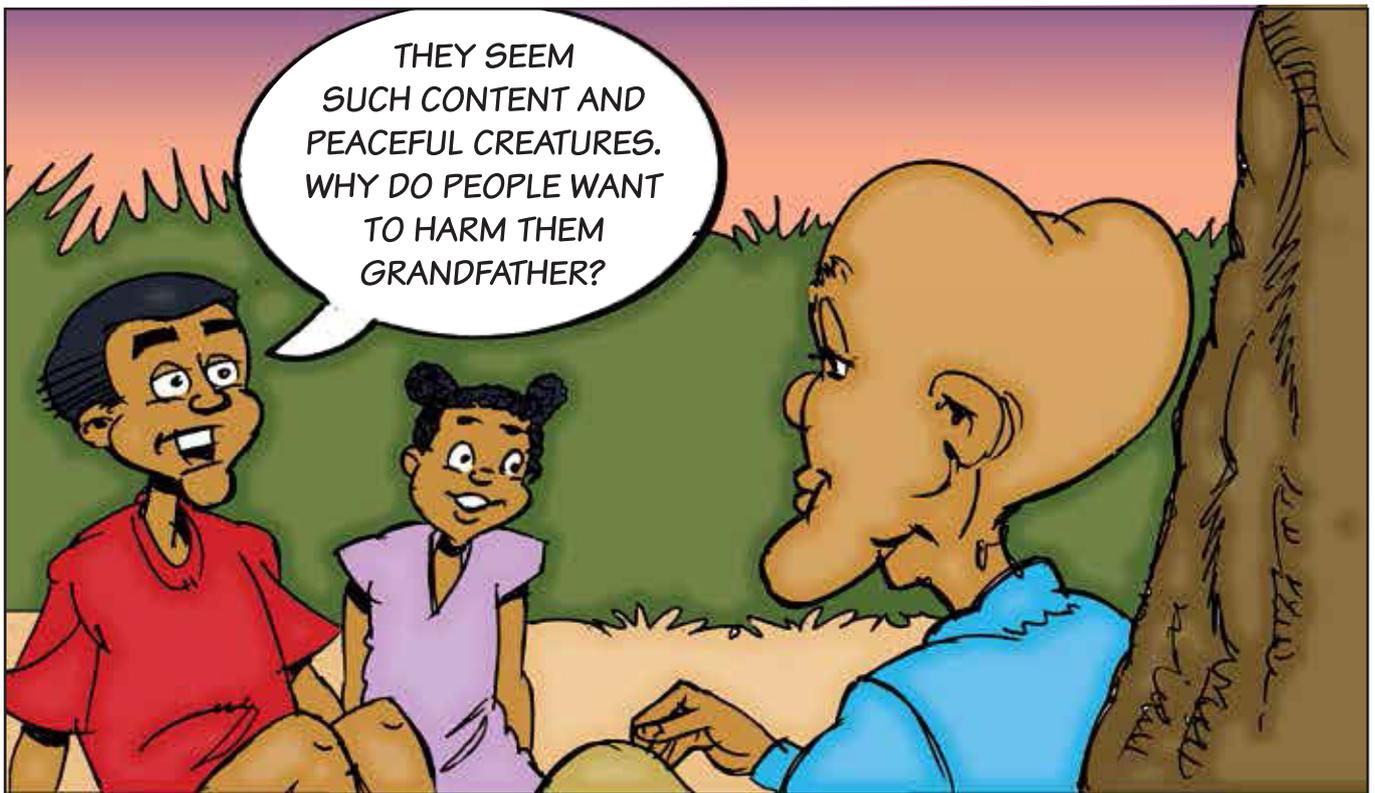


"PANGOLINS WALK A LONG WAY EVERY DAY ...!"



"... LOOKING FOR FOOD."





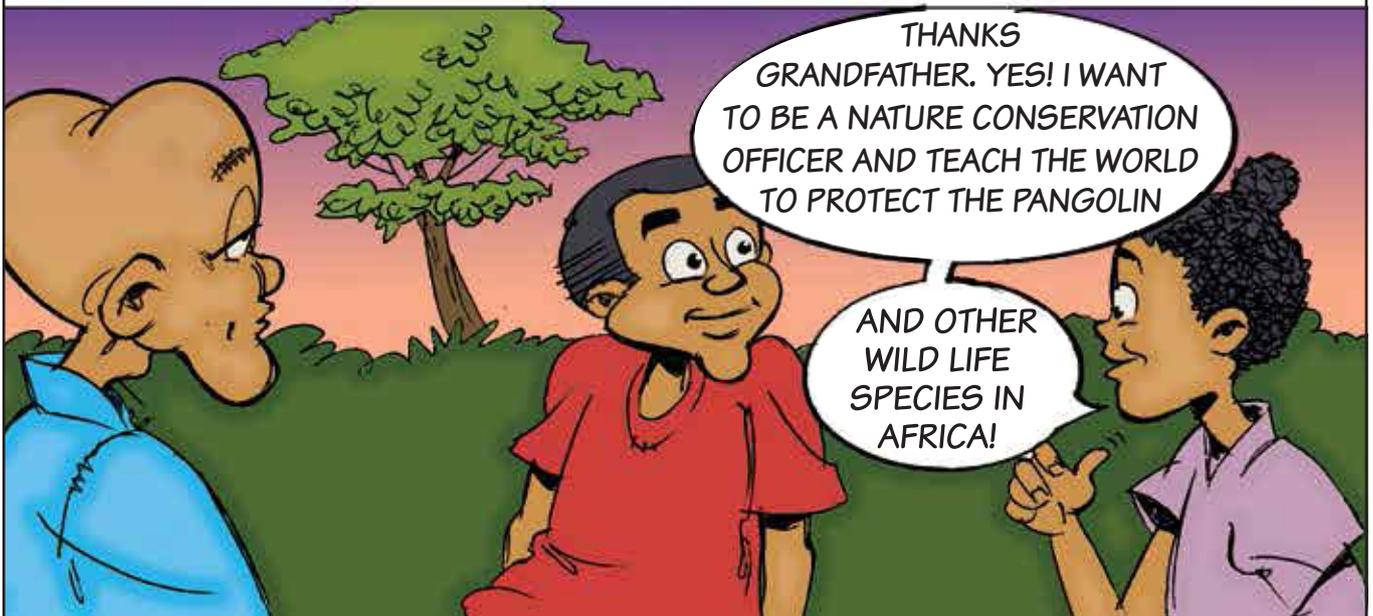
THEY SEEM
SUCH CONTENT AND
PEACEFUL CREATURES.
WHY DO PEOPLE WANT
TO HARM THEM
GRANDFATHER?

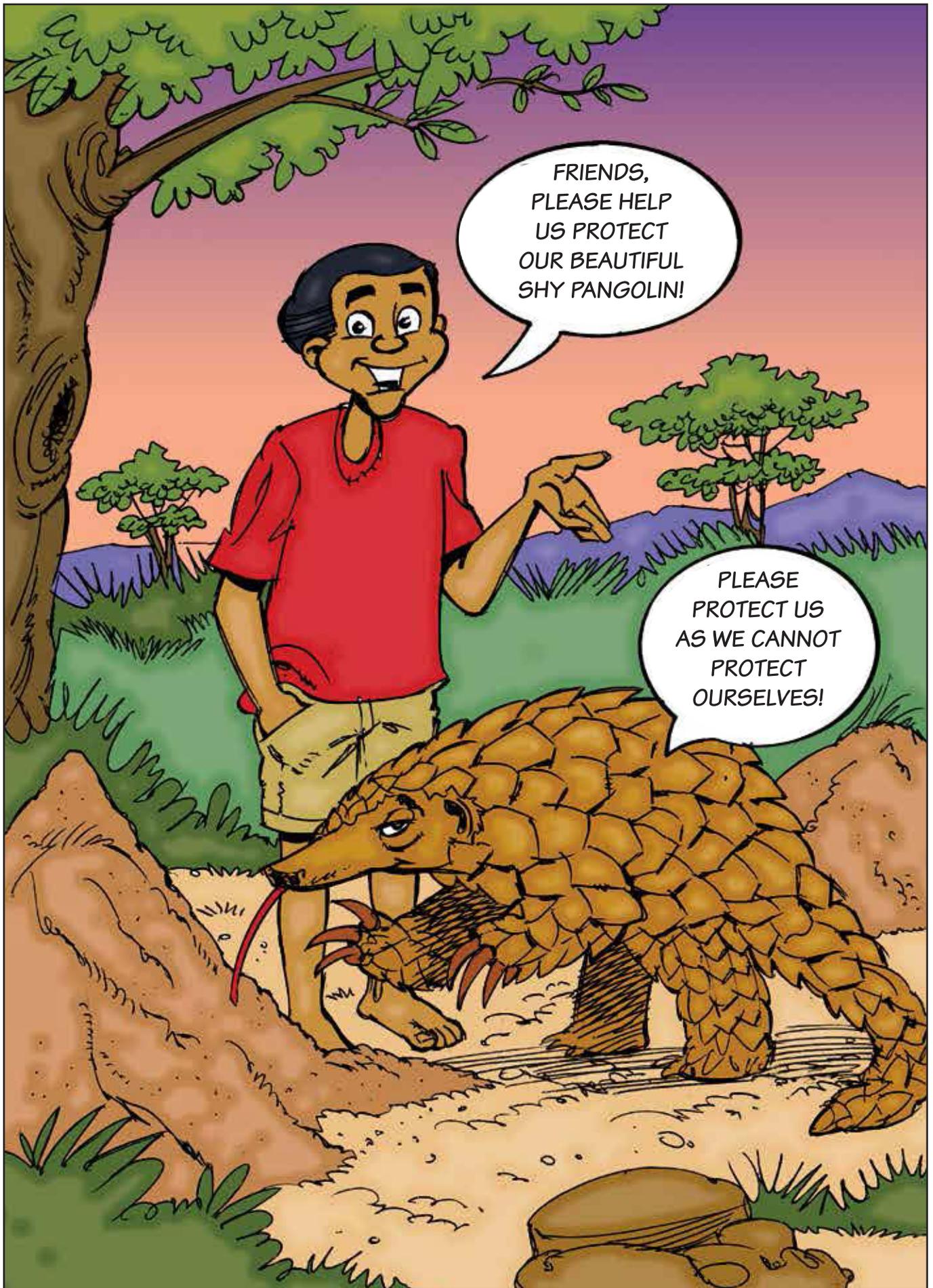


"UNFORTUNATELY MAN'S GREED
IS DESTROYING THESE SHY
PANGOLINS."



"PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WANT TO COME AND SEE OUR PANGOLIN. THAT IS WHY WE MUST PROTECT THEM!"





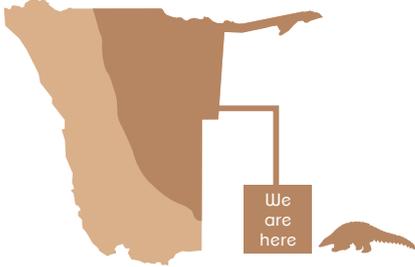
FRIENDS,
PLEASE HELP
US PROTECT
OUR BEAUTIFUL
SHY PANGOLIN!

PLEASE
PROTECT US
AS WE CANNOT
PROTECT
OURSELVES!



PANGOLINS IN NAMIBIA.....

Distribution



Temminck's Ground Pangolin

Common names:

Cape pangolin, Scaly anteater (English);
Ongaka (OshiWambo); Ongaka (OtjiHerero); Nake (SiLozi);
Nkaka (Rumanyo); //Khommi, //Khom (Khoekhoegowab);
Ietermagôg, Ystermagôg (Afrikaans); Schuppentier (German)



Photographed by Naun Amable
AfriCat Pangolin Research Project.

What is a pangolin?

Pangolins are scaly mammals that eat ants and termites with a long sticky tongue. They are mostly nocturnal and rest in the day to save energy. Four species occur in Africa and four species occur in Asia, some live in the rainforest canopy whilst others live on the ground. The scales are made out of keratin and they overlap to provide protection against predators when the pangolin rolls into a defensive ball.



Photographed by Naun Amable
AfriCat Pangolin Research Project.



Photographed by Richard Zaayman
AfriCat Pangolin Research Project.

Why are they valuable for the ecosystem?

A single pangolin can eat over 70 million ants and termites per year. This provides a natural control of potential pest species that can negatively impact grasslands and crops as well as destroy fenceposts and other infrastructure. Pangolin often dig to open ant and termite nests, this turns and aerates the soil, thereby improving seed germination. With pangolins on the land, game, livestock, and crop farmers benefit from a better balanced ecology.

Scientific Name	<i>Smutsia temminckii</i>
IUCN status	VU – Vulnerable A vulnerable species is a species which has been categorized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as likely to become endangered unless the circumstances that are threatening its survival and reproduction improve
CITES	Appendix I: All international trade, export, and import in pangolin is prohibited
Namibian Status	Specially protected
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most trafficked mammal worldwide with heavy pressure stemming from East Asian markets • Scales and parts are considered to have medicinal or spiritual purposes • There are a number of natural and man-made threats which include: electrified fencing, climate change, drought, veld fires, road accidents, shifting land use, habitat fragmentation, bush clearing, use of herbicides and pesticides, and drowning in open canals
Adult body weight	8 – 18 kg
Total body length	70 – 125 cm including the tail length of 30 – 50 cm
Diet	Myrmecophagous. Pangolin are highly selective feeders that eat specific species of ants and termites. They mostly live independent of drinking water but will drink from free-standing water when it is available
Territory size	Individuals can have up to 10 – 69 dens in a territory of 2 – 36 km ²
Dispersal age	Weaned at 4 – 5 months and disperses from natal range at about 12 months
Clanship	Mostly solitary, although males and females will sometimes move together and share a den
Gestation period	105 – 140 days
Litter size	1 pup per year - twins are rare
Life span	About 12 – 15 years. There is very little data on the longevity of any pangolin species in the wild

Fascinating Facts

- The name pangolin comes from the Malay word pengguling, meaning "one who rolls up"
- A pangolin's scales make up approximately 20% of its body weight
- Temminck's ground pangolin are mostly bipedal, they walk on their hind legs and use the tail for balance
- Pangolin do not have teeth but rather a long-sticky tongue which is as long as their body
- The pangolin stomach is designed to grind up ants and termites using ingested sand and stones and the keratinous spines found on the stomach lining, similar to a bird's gizzard
- World Pangolin Day is celebrated every year on the 3rd Saturday of February

Why are they the most trafficked mammal in the world?

Whole pangolin, scales and parts are used in traditional medicine and rituals for various beliefs. Pangolins are also consumed in Asia where their meat is believed to be a delicacy. Asian pangolin populations have been severely depleted, some to local extinction. Trafficked African pangolin species are increasingly intercepted from the illegal wildlife trade due to continued demand for pangolin products in Asia. This increasing pressure from the East Asian markets is in addition to any local demand for African pangolin species. The effect of the increasing illegal international trade on our (Namibian) pangolin population is currently unknown. In 2019 alone, there were 49 live seized pangolins in Namibia. Over the past three years, pangolin related cases have surpassed rhino and elephant combined.

What can you do to save pangolins?

SPREAD AWARENESS! Share with others what you have learnt about pangolins and why it is important to protect them. If you see a pangolin, appreciate its presence. Never tell others about a location where a pangolin has been seen.

REPORT suspicious activity to the hotline. SMS **55 555**

Suspicious activity includes: Killing or capturing pangolin – Possession of pangolin and pangolin parts – Trade in dead or live pangolin and/or pangolin parts – People asking about pangolins or offering pangolins or pangolin parts for sale.



PROTECT PANGOLINS

keep them in the wild

It is **ILLEGAL** to capture, keep, transport, injure or kill a pangolin or be in possession of any pangolin parts.

PANGOLINS have the same protection under Namibian law as rhinos and elephants.

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY BY SMS TO THE HOTLINE:
55555**

all information will be treated with strict confidentiality

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY INCLUDES:

- Killing or capturing pangolins
- Keeping pangolins in captivity
- Possessing pangolins and/or pangolin parts
- Trading pangolins (dead or alive) and/or pangolin parts
- Asking about pangolins or offering pangolins or pangolin parts for sale

Any person giving information leading to the **ARREST** of culprits or the **SEIZURE** of pangolins or pangolin parts will receive a **CASH REWARD**. **NO REWARD** is given for bringing in a pangolin, only for helping to catch criminals. You will be charged as a criminal if you remove a pangolin from the wild.

IF YOU SEE A PANGOLIN IN THE WILD, LEAVE IT ALONE.

WILDLIFE CRIME is an economic crime against local communities and the nation.



Pangolins are extremely useful animals and they are harmless to people. They eat only ants and termites and a single pangolin can eat billions of these insects per year. Pangolins reduce the impact of these insects on grasslands and crops, as well as on fence poles, homesteads and other infrastructure. This also means farmers have more grazing for their livestock with pangolins present. They provide a natural pest control for the environment. Pangolins are protected in Namibia and throughout their entire range. Local and international trade in pangolins is prohibited. Collecting or killing pangolins, as well as trade in pangolin parts, is against the law in Namibia and punished with severe prison sentences.