



Above: Dr. Morgan Hauptfleisch and student Kelsey Prediger weighing a resident pangolin as part of regular monitoring



Above: A trafficked pangolin prior to release

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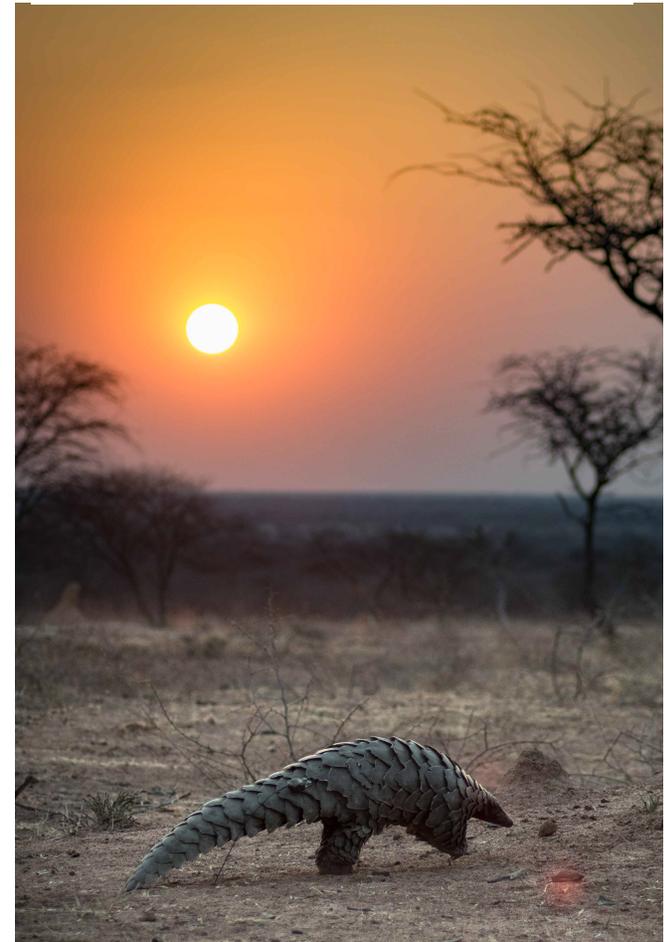
# PANGOLIN CONSERVATION & RESEARCH PROJECT



NAMIBIA  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY



Biodiversity Research Centre



## BACKGROUND

In 2014, pangolins were categorized as the most trafficked wild animal worldwide with numbers of individuals seized exponentially increasing each year. In 2016 all eight species were given the highest level of protection listed under CITES (Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species), Appendix 1 (CITES, 2016). In 2019 alone in Namibia, 123 pangolins were confiscated by authorities of which only 49 were still alive. To date, very little research has been done on pangolin. It is very important to understand the basic ecology of pangolin in order to create a foundation of knowledge to conserve and protect them.



Resident pangolin foraging on *trinervitermes* sp. in central Namibia

Determining the ecology and isotopic genome of the Temminck's ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*) and assessing the survival rates and dispersal of trafficked-released ground pangolin across Namibia.

## RESEARCH TOPICS

- Movement ecology
- Behavioral ecology
- Feeding ecology
- Social dynamics
- Establishing survey methods
- Climate change & drought
- Morphometric data collection
- Technology development
- Pup rearing

## OBJECTIVES

There has been minimal research completed within Namibia, for this reason, the PCRPP of aims to study all details of ecology and genetics for the Temminck's ground pangolin in Namibia. The overall goal of this project is to understand the home range sizes, activity patterns, population dynamics, prey preference, and overall ecology of pangolin in priority habitat sites and to gather further information about their behavior and survival strategies. Additionally, the project conducts post-release monitoring for trafficked-released pangolin in order to shed light on the survival rates and reintegration of those rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Genetic data will be utilized to determine origin of seized pangolins and better understand their genetics. The end goal of collecting this data is to create biological baseline knowledge which can be applied to a national action plan and protocols or guidelines for ground pangolin and utilized across their range. Another very important objective is to increase awareness of the vulnerable status of southern Africa's only pangolin species.