

Community-Based Conservation of Ground Pangolins in North Nandi Forest

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Pangolin image.

The ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*) lives in Kenya, but its numbers are decreasing very quickly. Because of this, it is listed as a Vulnerable species, meaning it is at risk of extinction if nothing is done. Even though international trade of pangolins is illegal, they are still hunted, and their habitats are being destroyed. Around North Nandi Forest, some communities believe pangolins are bad omens. These beliefs can lead to fear, killing, or lack of concern for protecting them. At the same time, many families depend on the forest for firewood, charcoal, and farming land. This has led to deforestation and habitat loss. Pangolins are shy and active mostly at night, which makes them hard to see and study. Another big challenge is limited environmental education. Many people are not aware of the pangolin's important role in nature or the laws that protect it.

*Ground Pangolin recorded in the field
2024*



Workshop on Pangolin recovery, Eldoret

This project aims to protect pangolins by working closely with local community and government agencies. It raises awareness in schools and local community meetings about why pangolins are important and why they should not be hunted. The project also supports better forest use practices and tree planting to restore damaged areas. Community members are encouraged to report illegal activities.

By working together with the local community, government, and conservation partners, we can protect the ground pangolin, restore forests, and ensure a healthier environment for future generations.