

Project Update: September 2023

The project execution has gone well with some challenges. Communities have cooperated well with the project team to reduce incidences of pangolin hunting. The locals have set up stewards who tend to support the team with the monitoring of illegal hunting and bringing to the house individual pangolins for consumption. We have had community engagements to sensitise the locals on the conservation status of the species and this seems to have worked effectively reducing reports of illegal hunting.

The main challenge to the team has been a fissure in the relationship between the forestry staff and illegal loggers that led to the loss of one of the staff of the commission. This event limited our fieldwork since we could not access the area for over 4 months due to security reasons.

We have been able to impact lives through the distributing 2000 branded exercise books and other educational materials to school kids in the local communities. This gesture by the team saw parents of the kids attending our conservation campaign programs in numbers.



Left: Project Leader doing a presentation. © Francis Boafo Asamoah. Right: Project leader with a rescued, Black-bellied pangolin. © Francis Boafo Asamoah.

Finally, we are about to roll out our livelihood programme at the end of this month. This was scheduled such that it does not interfere with the major farming season of the communities. Beehives are being constructed and we are taking deliveries in a week's time. In all 20 beneficiaries representing the four initial communities will be participating in the training in bee keeping whereas four (one from each community) will be trained in rabbit rearing. These trainees will go back to train 10 more community members, and we will provide technical support.

From January 2023 to date, we have made 10 rescues, all white-bellied pangolins. We also celebrated this year's World Pangolin Day with school children, teachers and community members in the Yawbrefo community.



Our rescued, Black-bellied pangolin became the photographer. © Francis Boafo Asamoah.



Project leader handed over a rescued, Black-bellied pangolin to caretaker at the Kumasi Zoo.



Sent back to the wild. © Francis Boafo Asamoah.



Pangolin branded exercise books and chalking distributed to school children. © Francis Boafo Asamoah.



Beehives under construction. © Augustine Oti Yeboah.



Presentation of educational items to school children. © Francis Boafo Asamoah.



Group picture with school children, teachers and community members. © Francis Boafo Asamoah.