

Preliminary report Community Rangers Project: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ANIMATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF PANGOLINS

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Figure 1: Cross section of project proponents

Aim: This report is centered on community and environmental activities, critical in boosting community participation and understanding in the need of the conservation of the Giant and white bellied pangolins in Deng-Deng national Park.

Specific objectives: It was for us to: 1) To activate environmental clubs and implement environmental education in schools 2) raise awareness and boost the sense of belonging through community inter-pangolins football animation.



Figure 2: Community guides working material

Training of Local Field Guides and Ecoguards

Our next action was the training of the local guides on the use of biomonitoring tools as well as on environmental ethics. This was done at different phases as shown on Figure 3 below



Figure 3: Training of the local guides: **A)** Education on environmental ethics/filling of datasheets, **B)** Outdoor training using survey tool like GPS, compass **Ci & Cii)**



Figure 4: Refresher course for MINFOF ecoguards

The entrance in the southern zone of the park was made from the village Deng-Deng marked with the GPS point on which we started the observation of animal presence indices, with special focus on pangolins, their signs and age of signs. Once in the area, we proceeded to the assessment of transects one after another as described on the map (Figure 4).

Football animation to boost the sense of belonging

A football game between the Giant Pangolin, White-bellied pangolin was played. This greatly awakened the sense of belonging and collaboration among every community members with a psychological impact in defending their pangolins. Immediately as the game was about to begin, the representatives of the pangolin teams expressed their commitment to always protect their species. It also appeared those who did not have the opportunity to directly engage in the project. It was also a ground for most community people like the youth leader to express himself how he perceived this conservation project initiative.



Figure 15: The Giant Pangolin Team (Pink) made up of Local guides and ecoguards, and the white-bellied pangolin (Green) made up of students and other community members

Environmental Education for schools

Awareness is being created in the school people through the Friend for nature initiative. We distributed flyers that contain vital educational information about nature and wildlife conservation. We emphasized on the ethical values for the conservation of nature by the school people and to also serve as ambassadors of protecting their biodiversity. The school administrators at both the primary and secondary school levels collaborated with the project team for the activation of environmental clubs. They accepted to uphold this initiative knowing that environmental and conservation education is neglected in their institutions.



Figure 16: Activation of Environmental clubs **A)** Government secondary school Deng-Deng **B)** Government Primary school Deng-Deng

Next step

We shall be retrieving camera traps in January 2024, during which there shall also be the last training phase of the local guides.

Also, the results based on the camera removal shall also be shared with the local community, including showcasing the threats and species captured.

More videos and pictures will be uploaded on the Project blog towards end of the project.

Acknowledgement

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