

# MEET THE PANGOLIN

## MY SIZE

The black-bellied pangolin is the smallest at about 80cm long. The giant ground pangolin is the largest, reaching up to 1.8m long.

## MY FAMILY

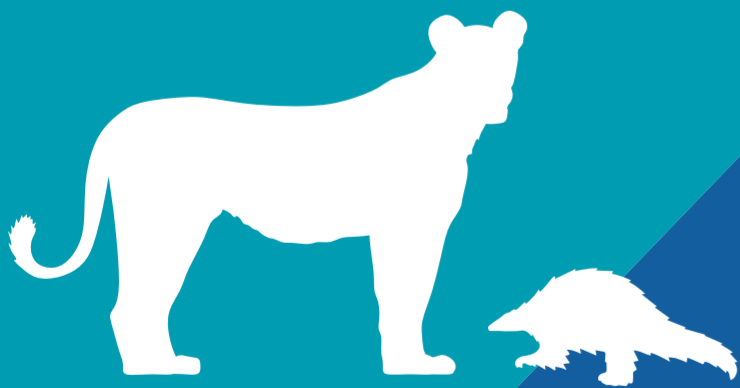
I'm an African black-bellied pangolin with a very long tail.

There are different types of pangolins in the world. In Asia, there are four kinds, and in Africa, there are also four types

- Giant ground pangolin
- Temminck's, Cape or ground pangolin
- White-bellied or tree pangolin
- Black-bellied pangolin or long-tailed pangolin (that's me!)

## MY PROTECTION

I defend and protect myself from predators by curling myself up into a ball. Although this works with my wild predators, like lions and leopards, humans can pick us up easily.



See if you can turn yourself into a pangolin ball.

## MY NAMES

The name 'pangolin' comes from the Malay word 'pengguling', which means **SOMETHING THAT ROLLS UP**. In Mozambique we have several names: In the north, I'm called **EKA**. In the central area, I'm called **NKWALE**. In the south, I'm called **HALAKAVUMA**.

## ABOUT ME

We are solitary and nocturnal, meaning we live alone and come out at night which makes it very difficult to see us. We feed from our mothers for up to four months, and ride on their tails.

**You nurse from your moms too. Your moms also carry you everywhere when you are babies. We have things in common.**

We are known as



We help to protect forests from termite destruction which helps keep a balanced ecosystem.

We also aerate the soil helping crops grow. This means that farmers can use less expensive and harmful insecticides.

## WHAT WE LIKE TO EAT

We are **INSECTIVORES** and can eat up to **70 million insects** a year (mainly ants and termites). When we eat, we close our ears and eyes to keep the insects out and 'chew' them with gravel and stones in our stomachs.

**Imagine chewing with no teeth!**



## DID YOU KNOW?

11 of us are killed every hour for our scales and meat. Our scales are made from keratin, just like your fingernails. We are now the most trafficked mammal in the world.

Farming, electric fences and insecticides threaten our survival. Logging in forested areas also threatens our habitat.

## DID YOU KNOW?

We mark our territories with urine, faeces and stinky secretions from a special gland to scare away other pangolins.

We don't have teeth but our tongues are very sticky and long, helping us to catch insects.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The pangolin's tongue is **LONGER** than its body.

