



**Pangolin Project - a collaboration between Humane Society International, The Greater Makalali Private Reserve and the African Pangolin Working Group for the rehabilitation and release of Temminck's Ground Pangolin (*Smutsii temminckii*)**

In the last few years, the population status of all 8 species of pangolin has reached critical levels due to the escalating poaching crisis, worldwide. In South Africa, the incidences of poachers being intercepted by law enforcement officers or anti poaching units and the pangolins being confiscated have increased too. These highly specialized feeders are timid creatures are often compromised to some degree and need to undergo a veterinary examination followed by careful nursing to stabilize their health for them to be released.

For many years, the Greater Makalali Private Reserve (GMPGR) has been a release site for a variety of species of rehabilitated wildlife. A formal collaboration now exists where HSI-Africa will facilitate the rehabilitation and release of confiscated pangolins at the GMPGR, or other suitably protected areas. Over the years, several releases have occurred, the first of which was in August 2010.

The confiscated pangolins are examined by qualified veterinary staff at the Pretoria National Zoological Garden's veterinary hospital for an overall examination and treatment if necessary. Here, DNA samples for the National Research Foundation's BioBank is collected and physiological/reproductive/demographic data is recorded that feeds into other research projects which examine various aspects of the pangolin molecular physiology.

The process is facilitated under the guidance of the APWG's Nicci Wright and HIS-Africa's Audrey Delsink.

Donations for the specialized care and veterinary treatment, as well as general husbandry, transportation and remote monitoring tools are desperately needed to ensure the highest chance of survival once the animals are rescued from the poaching ring, for successful release and monitoring back to a protected wild environment.

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The African Pangolin Working Group is a non-profit, public benefit organisation dedicated to conserving pangolins and their ecosystems in Africa

**NPO Registration Number:** 123-147 NPO

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The Greater Makalali Private Game Reserve is a protected private nature dedicated to conserving biodiversity in the savannah biome.