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Pangolins: Heavily poached, little studied

Lovable creatures or largely ignored? A lecture in Swakopmund revealed that there is surprisingly little research on pangolins.





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An event organized by the Scientific Society Swakopmund on October 29 met with great interest. The event hall of the Swakopmund Museum was three quarters full when Kelsey Prediger gave her lecture on the ecology of the steppe pangolin (Temminck's ground pangolin) in Namibia. This species, native to Namibia, feeds on termites and ants and plays an important role in the country's ecology.

The committed speaker from the NUST Biodiversity Research Center presented in the one-hour lecture condensed and easily understandable facts about this interesting animal species. Unfortunately, pangolins are one of the most poached animals - thanks to the demand from East Asia. But electric fences also become deadly traps for the steppe pangolin. Ms. Prediger also gave an overview of the current state of research on this species. An example: If poachers are arrested who have living pangolin with them, the question arises as to where the freed animals can be released. Because pangolins usually live solitary - whereby the territories overlap.

When releasing a released pangolin, it is important to ensure that the area in question is already occupied. The lecture met with great interest from the audience, as the numerous inquiries testified. According to his own statement, one guest came from Windhoek only for the lecture. Kelsey Prediger announced that a pangolin working group would welcome help from the population. Contact is possible via the Swakopmund Scientific Society.

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