

A pangolin is depicted sitting in a courtroom dock. The pangolin is the central focus, with its characteristic scaly armor and a red chest. It is holding a small yellow stick in its mouth. To the left of the pangolin, a wooden gavel rests on a wooden block. In the background, a pair of scales of justice is visible, along with a blurred image of a classical building. The text 'PANGOLINS IN THE DOCK' is overlaid on the scene in a stylized font. The word 'PANGOLINS' is in white with a black outline, 'IN THE' is in a smaller white font, and 'DOCK' is in a large, bold, grey font with a white outline. The background is dark and atmospheric.

**PANGOLINS**  
IN THE **DOCK**

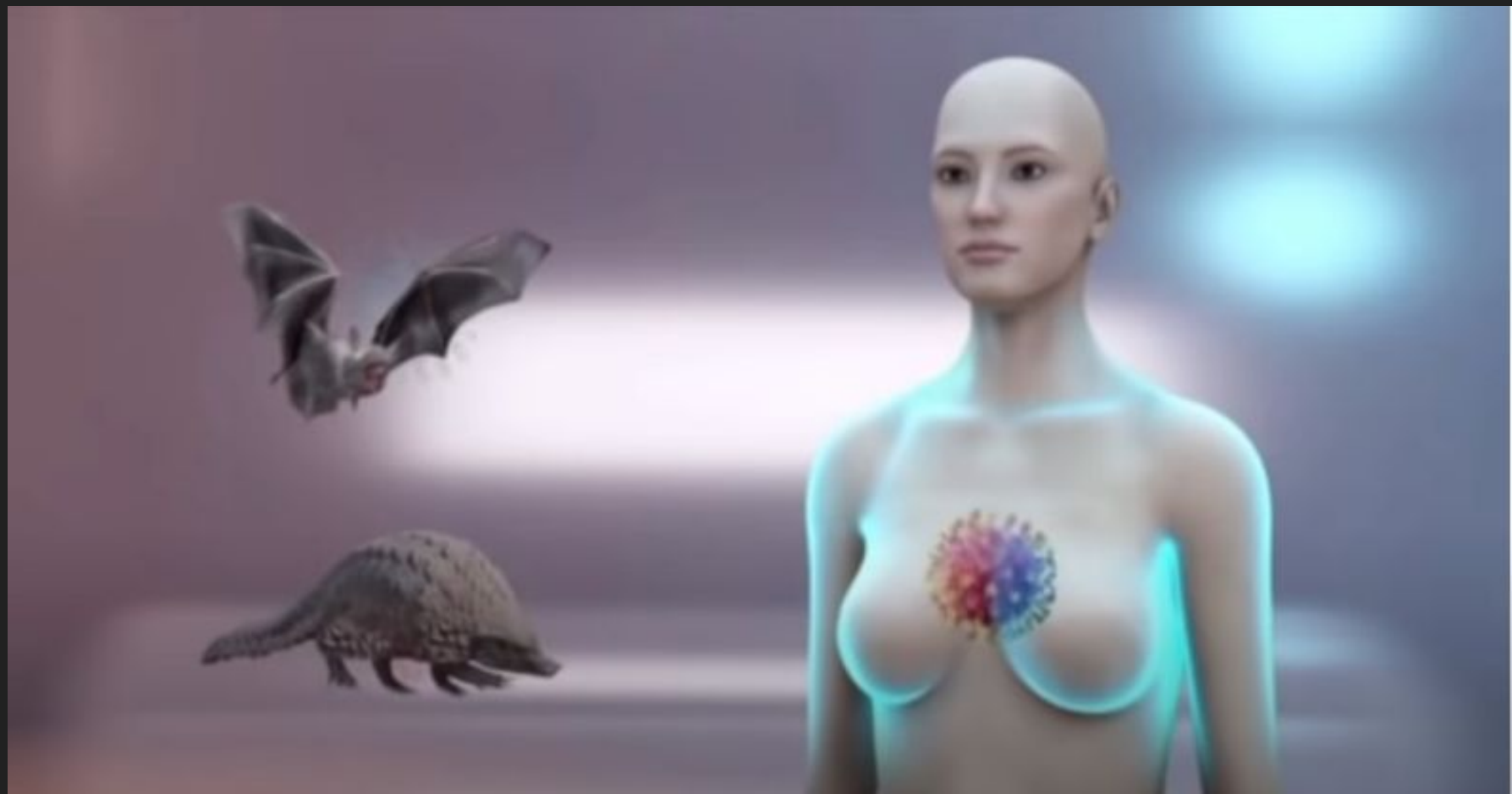


# PANGOLINS IN THE DOCK

Presentation by Dorcas Wangira

# STORY BACKGROUND

The pangolin is the world's most trafficked mammal. No one truly knows its conservation status in Kenya. When COVID-19 broke out in early 2020, some medical researchers linked coronavirus to horseshoe bats. Other researchers suspected the malayan or javan pangolin to be the intermediate host of coronavirus before it jumped to human beings. But is the pangolin really guilty as charged? Pangolins in the Dock is a multimedia story and documentary that explored the claim that pangolins were the intermediaries of the SARS-COV-2 virus and its conservation status.





# MAJOR TRAFFICKING FLOWS (2007-2018)



# STORY LINKS

1.Pangolins in the Dock: <https://www.infonile.org/en/2021/03/pangolins-in-the-dock/>

March 8, 2021

2. Pangolins in the Dock

<https://citizentv.co.ke/lifestyle/pangolins-in-the-dock-is-the-mammal-really-guilty-as-charged-7368145/>

February 28,2021

3.Pangolins in the Dock

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpRX-E\\_5yrA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpRX-E_5yrA)

December 20,2021

# PRODUCTION

This story was supported by InfoNile in partnership with Code for Africa with funding from Earth Journalism Network. The initial pitch was People, Pangolins and Pandemic in April 2020. At a time when the focus on the rising infections, hospitalization and COVID-19 deaths ,wildlife trafficking and poaching were not an immediate priority.However, an important question was shaping the global conversation: What is the origin of COVID-19? Was it manufactured in a lab? Did it spill over from a wild animal to human beings? Was the pangolin the intermediary for this virus?These questions were too important to ignore. The research, filming and post-production took place between April to December 2020 .A data journalism training with Info Nile was a solid foundation as the story was data-driven and depended on scientific data and findings.



# IMPORTANT LESSONS

1. Data matters. Story matters. Narratives matter
2. Sources matter. Having a multiplicity of sources, particularly residents who interact with wildlife, local scientists involved in local research, legal practitioners
3. Don't be afraid to start conversations that may seem complicated, on COVID-19 and wildlife trafficking, new models and approaches to wildlife conservation
4. Mentorship matters.

# ENGAGEMENT

<https://twitter.com/nahashon87/status/1340735297177448450>

One day historians will call the virus for what it is, biological warfare. You cannot hide the truth forever. #PangolinsInTheDock

<https://twitter.com/orangorojuu2/status/1340728211848753158>

@KoinangeJeff #PangolinsInTheDock The Pangolins are Precious Mammals hence their conservancy should be at heart.

# ENGAGEMENT

Dennis \_Kimurgor

Total lie..

Allan Bandi Masheti

Great feature. Lets stop killing and trading in pangolins

# ENGAGEMENT

<https://twitter.com/degypsyking/status/1340735578472648705>

Replying to [@citizentvkenya](#)

EDUCATING!! personally i had never heard of that animal [@KoinangeJeff](#) [#PangolinsintheDock](#)

<https://twitter.com/markphilo/status/1340734196990554113>

Humans are a threat to the existence of many species in the world. Now pangolins are almost going extinct [#PangolinsInTheDock](#)

# IMPACT/ FOLLOWUP

27th December 2020 : Kenya Wildlife Service security personnel on Sunday, arrested **six suspects** found in illegal possession of five boxes full of **pangolin scales**. All the **six suspects** were interrogated at **KWS** headquarters and later booked at Langata police station.

March 12 2021, 3 suspects were arrested for allegedly locking a pangolin in their house. There was drama at the Narok Law Courts in Kenya on Monday as attendees scrambled to catch a glimpse of a pangolin that the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) had airlifted to the court as an exhibit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7cN5GkD6KU>.





# UNDERREPORTED STORIES

1. One Health (Spillover of diseases )
2. Wildlife Crime(Prosecution and sentencing)
3. Domestic financing for tourism
4. Ownership of wildlife heritage and spaces
5. Legal issues surrounding wildlife management



SUS SCROFA DOMESTICUS  
AKA  
PIG

FELIS CATUS  
AKA  
CAT

NEOVISON VISON  
AKA  
MINK

ROUSETTUS AEGYPTIACUS  
AKA  
EGYPTIAN FRUIT BAT

MUSTELA PUTORIUS FURO  
AKA  
FERRET

RHINOLOPHUS  
AKA  
HORSESHOE BAT

A pangolin is the central focus, sitting on a wooden gavel. The pangolin's body is covered in its characteristic scales, and it has a blue nose. The gavel is positioned horizontally in front of it. In the background, a scale of justice is visible, symbolizing law and justice. The overall scene is set against a dark, moody background with a warm light source on the right.

**PANGOLINS**  
**IN THE DOCK**

