

Y4C

The Youth for Conservation Fellowship offers young biodiversity conservationists, climate advocates, and environmental policy professionals a transformative six-month journey that blends rigorous academic grounding with hands-on policy innovation. This fellowship places a strong emphasis on conservation of pangolins under the Pangolin Shield Project with Climate Ideation Initiative Uganda. Pangolins one of the world's most trafficked and endangered mammals—while examining the broader ecosystem dynamics that support their survival. Centered on the critical intersections of pangolin habitat protection, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem resilience, environmental security, and community-led stewardship, the programme is designed to build the next generation of conservation policy leaders. It prioritizes Uganda's fragile biodiversity zones and communities living near pangolin habitats.

Fellows working directly with communities affected by biodiversity loss, especially those living in forest-edge regions, wildlife corridors, and protected ecosystems. They engage groups impacted by pangolin trafficking, habitat fragmentation, ecosystem degradation, agricultural encroachment, and climate-induced loss of biodiversity.

- 1. Javiira Joe Kasumba** recently completed her master of research MAIRDS. His research focuses on Harnessing Cultural Beliefs and Community Awareness to Curb Pangolin Poaching in Uganda.
- 2. Sherinah Nakimera** is an Environmental Journalist. She's focusing on best Practices for Rescuing, Rehabilitating, and Releasing Pangolins in Uganda: Lessons, Challenges, and Climate-Related Threats
- 3. Dickson Kaweesi**, an Agriculturalist focusing on the Effects of Agricultural Expansion and Land-Use Change on Pangolin Habitat Connectivity Around Protected Areas: A Case Study of Murchison Falls, Uganda
- 4. Kirungi Ritah**, Is a senior conservationist with UWA. Researching about Genetic Diversity and Gene Flow Among Fragmented Pangolin Populations in Uganda.
- 5. Marvin Muhirwe** is an Intellectual Property expert and policy analyst with UNSCT. His research project focuses on Climate Change Effects on Termite and Ant Populations and Implications for Pangolin Survival in Uganda
- 6. Lomilo Lucius** who is a program manager, at Earth Volunteers. seeks to understand Analyzing Illegal Pangolin Scale Trade Routes in Uganda: Local to International Dynamics
- 7. Annest Nakalanzi** is a Policy analyst and Lawyer in Uganda. Her research project seeks to assess the effectiveness of Current Wildlife Laws and Enforcement in Reducing Pangolin Poaching and Trade in Uganda.
- 8. Nuwagaba Frank** who is also an Immigration officer shall conduct a research project to Evaluate Incentive Schemes for Landholders Neighboring Pangolin Habitats in Uganda
- 9. Otyang Nancy's** research project seeks to analyze the Impacts of Infrastructure Development on Pangolin Mortality and Movement Patterns in Uganda: A Population and Genetic Perspective.
- 10. Brian Odui**, a Climate and environmental researcher is conducting research to assess the Mapping Distribution and Habitat Preferences of Pangolin Species in Uganda.

11. James Onono Ojok, who is a Climate author and activist with Earth Volunteers. His examining the Role of Edge Effects on Behavior, Foraging, and Survival of Arboreal Pangolins in Uganda.

12. Pius Wandira, an Environmentalist and Climate activist. His examining the Population Size Estimation and Monitoring Trends of Pangolin Species in Uganda.

13. Eria Ndayizeye, an Environmental justice enthusiast and activist. His research is to Monitor Pangolins distribution in Uganda: Effectiveness, Challenges, and Conservation Implications

About the Youth for Conservationist Fellowship

The Youth for Conservationist Fellowship is an initiative of the *Climate Ideation Initiative Uganda* dedicated to empowering the next generation of environmental policy leaders to meaningfully contribute to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem protection, and climate-resilient policy development. This fellowship serves as a capacity development and policy innovation lab for passionate young conservationists from diverse backgrounds such as environmental science, conservation technology, law, agriculture, climate change action, community engagement, academia, and public service—united by their commitment to protecting Uganda’s biodiversity, with a special focus on endangered pangolins.

