

SACT EDUCATIONAL COMIC BOOK ON THE PLIGHT OF THE GROUND PANGOLIN.

Vusa

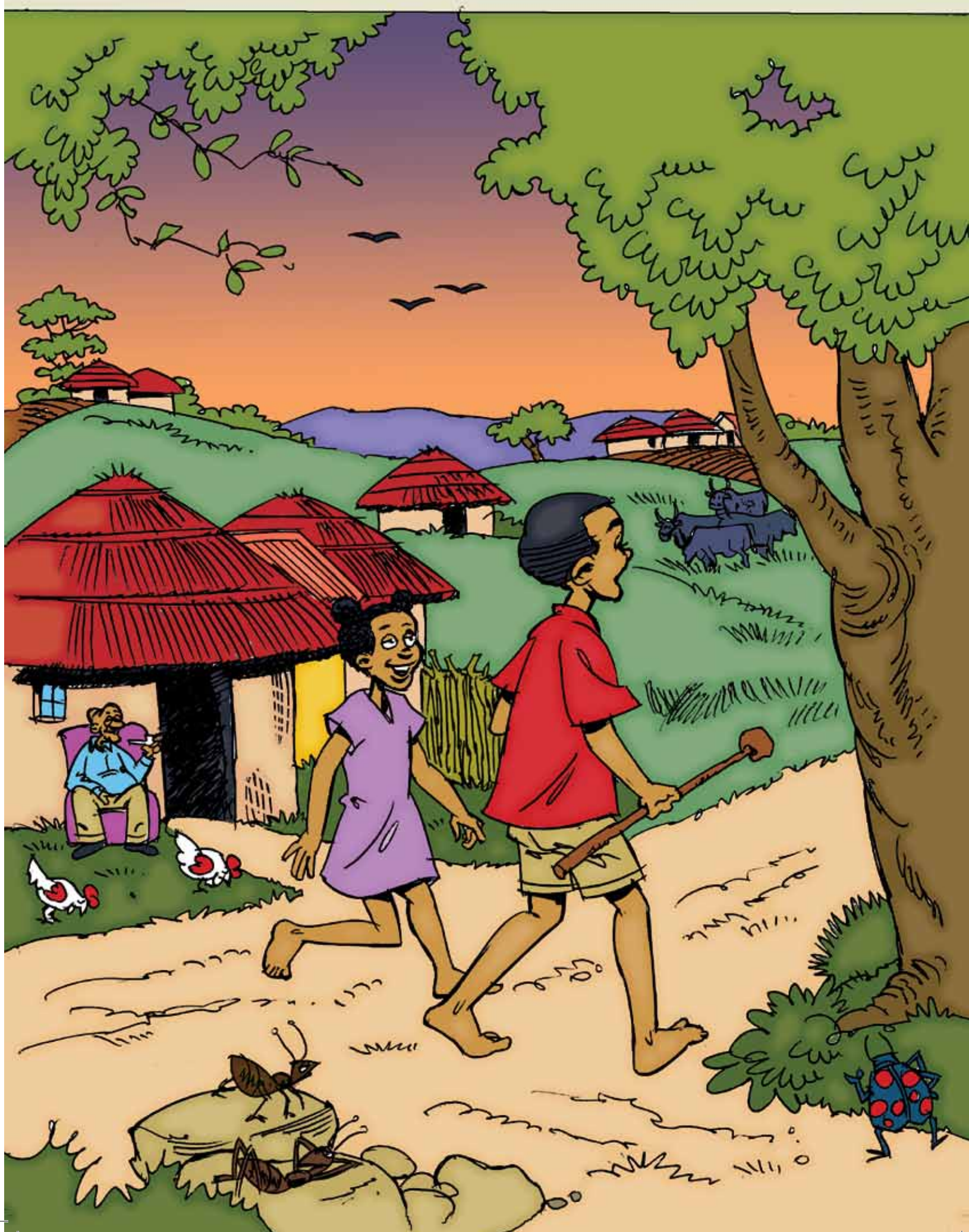
THE GROUND PANGOLIN GUARDIAN



Volume 1. 1st edition - 2020



IT IS A PEACEFUL, SUNNY WINTER AFTERNOON IN THE VILLAGE. VUSA GOES OUT TO THE FIELD TO CHECK ON HIS CATTLE WITH HIS SISTER THANDI.





THANDI LOOK OVER THERE, A PANGOLIN! IT IS MY LUCKY DAY!

WHERE? I CAN NOT SEE IT!



THERE IT IS, AMONGST THE SOIL AROUND THE TERMITE MOUND! HE IS STANDING UP ON HIS BACK LEGS USING HIS LONG TAIL FOR BALANCE.



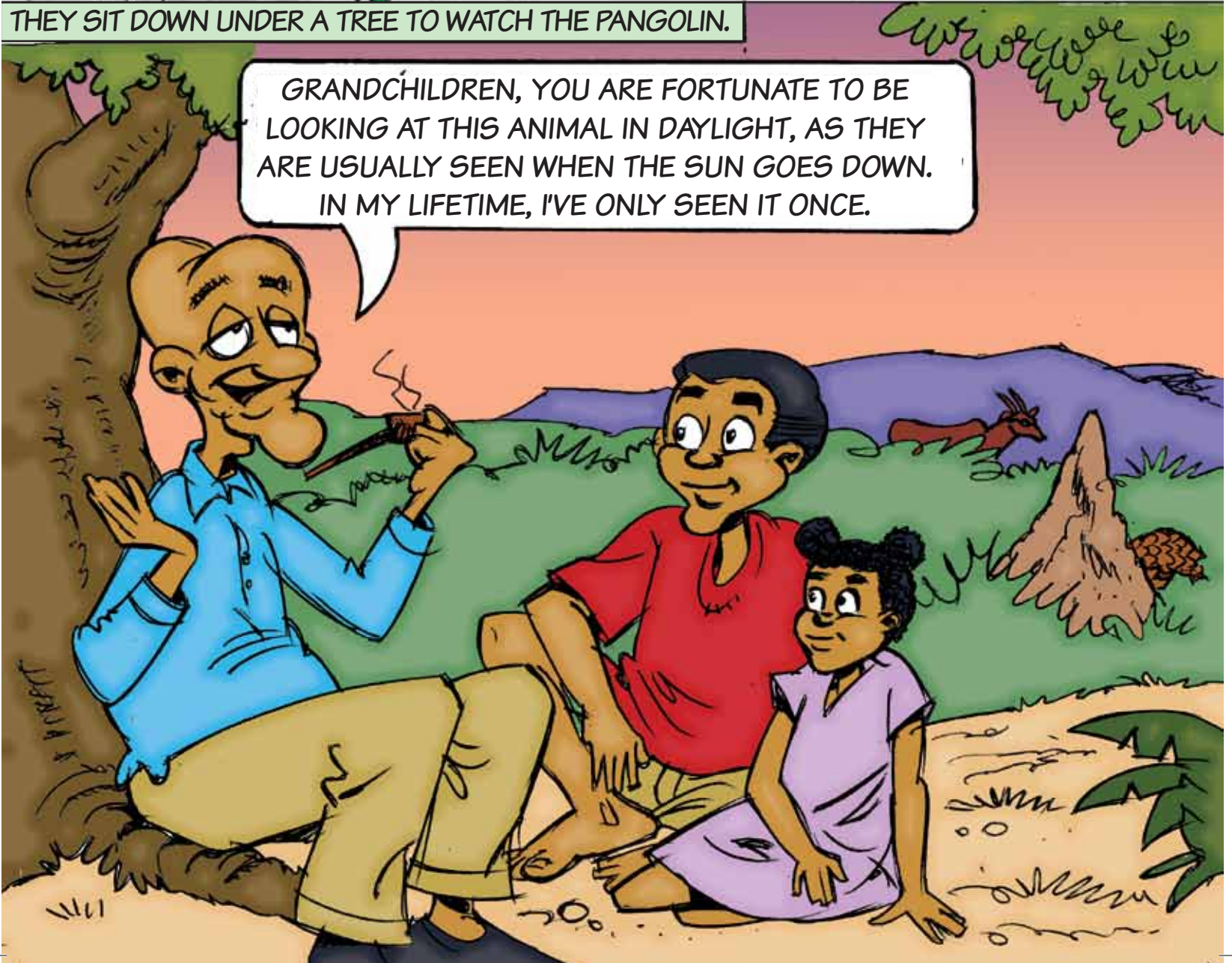
REMEMBER GRANDFATHER WARNED US TO BE CAREFUL IF THE PANGOLIN SWINGS ITS TAIL, AS IT IS A SHARP WEAPON. GO AND CALL HIM PLEASE THANDI. HE STILL REMEMBERS THE STORIES HIS ANCESTORS TOLD HIM.

THANDI HURRIES BACK TO THE VILLAGE TO CALL THEIR GRANDFATHER. SHE REMEMBERS HIS STORIES ABOUT THIS SHY ANIMAL. A LITTLE WHILE LATER THE OLD MAN AND THANDI GREET AN EXCITED VUSA.



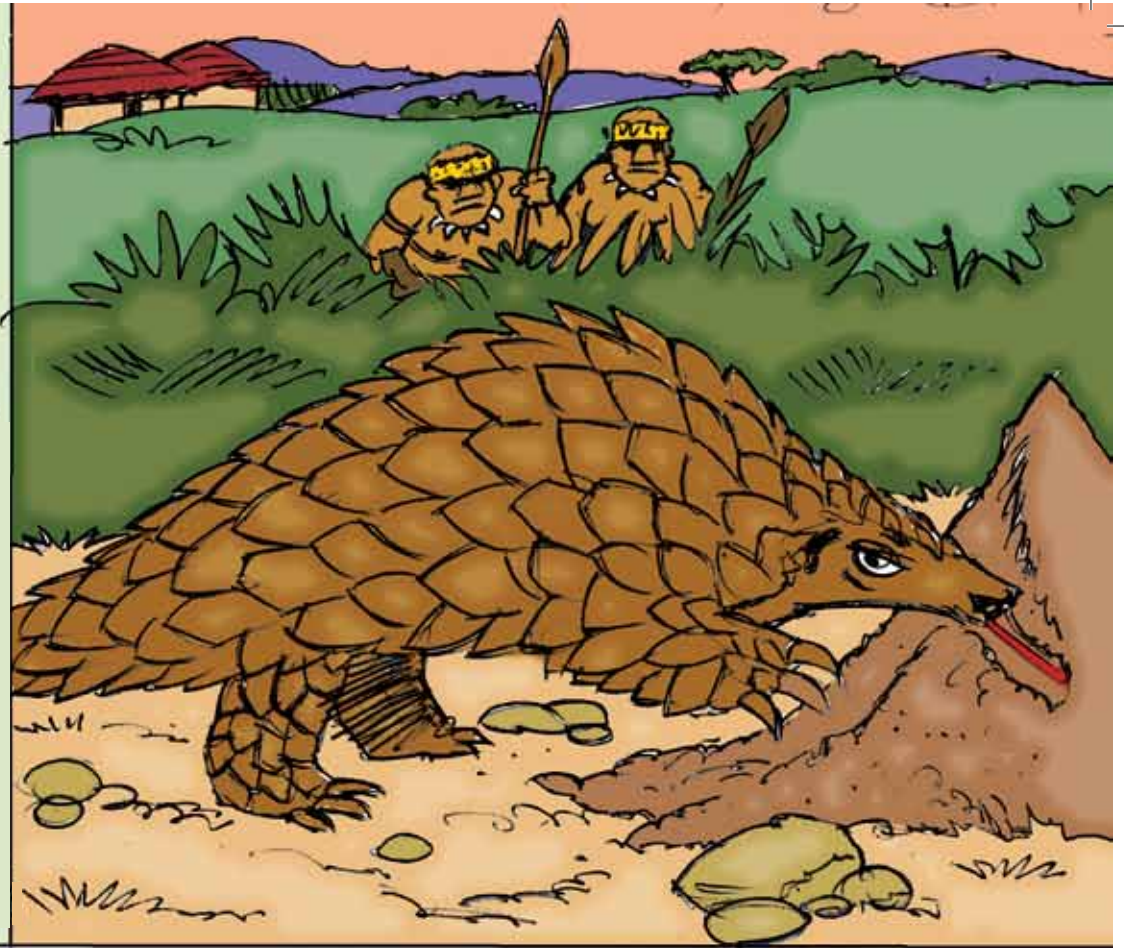
THEY SIT DOWN UNDER A TREE TO WATCH THE PANGOLIN.

GRANDCHILDREN, YOU ARE FORTUNATE TO BE LOOKING AT THIS ANIMAL IN DAYLIGHT, AS THEY ARE USUALLY SEEN WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN. IN MY LIFETIME, I'VE ONLY SEEN IT ONCE.





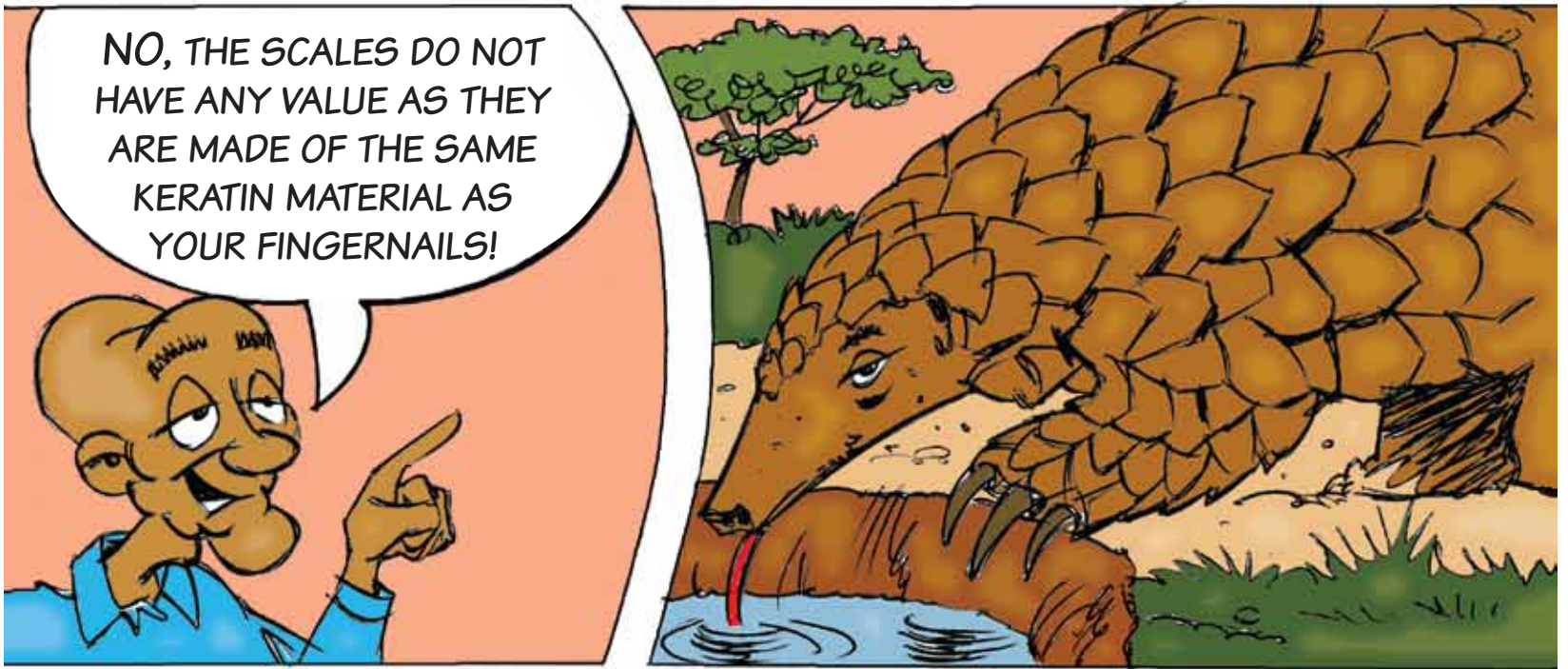
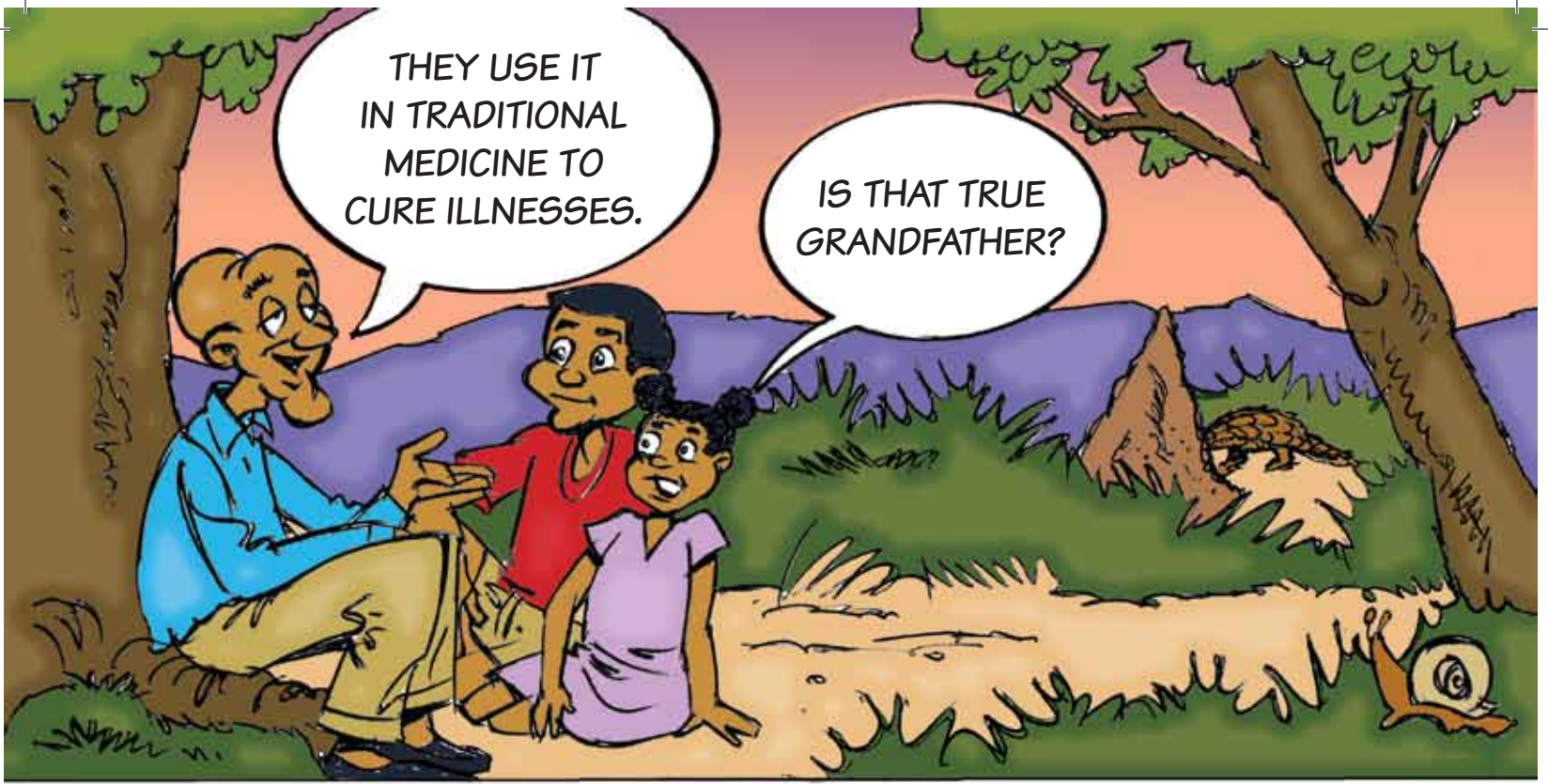
"THEY TRAVEL ALONE AND THERE ARE NOT MANY LEFT IN THE WILD! LONG AGO OUR ANCESTORS IN AFRICA USED TO OFFER PANGOLIN MEAT TO THE LOCAL KING OR CHIEF, AND THE SCALES WERE USED BY THEM TO MAKE A CEREMONIAL HAT FOR SPECIAL EVENTS!"



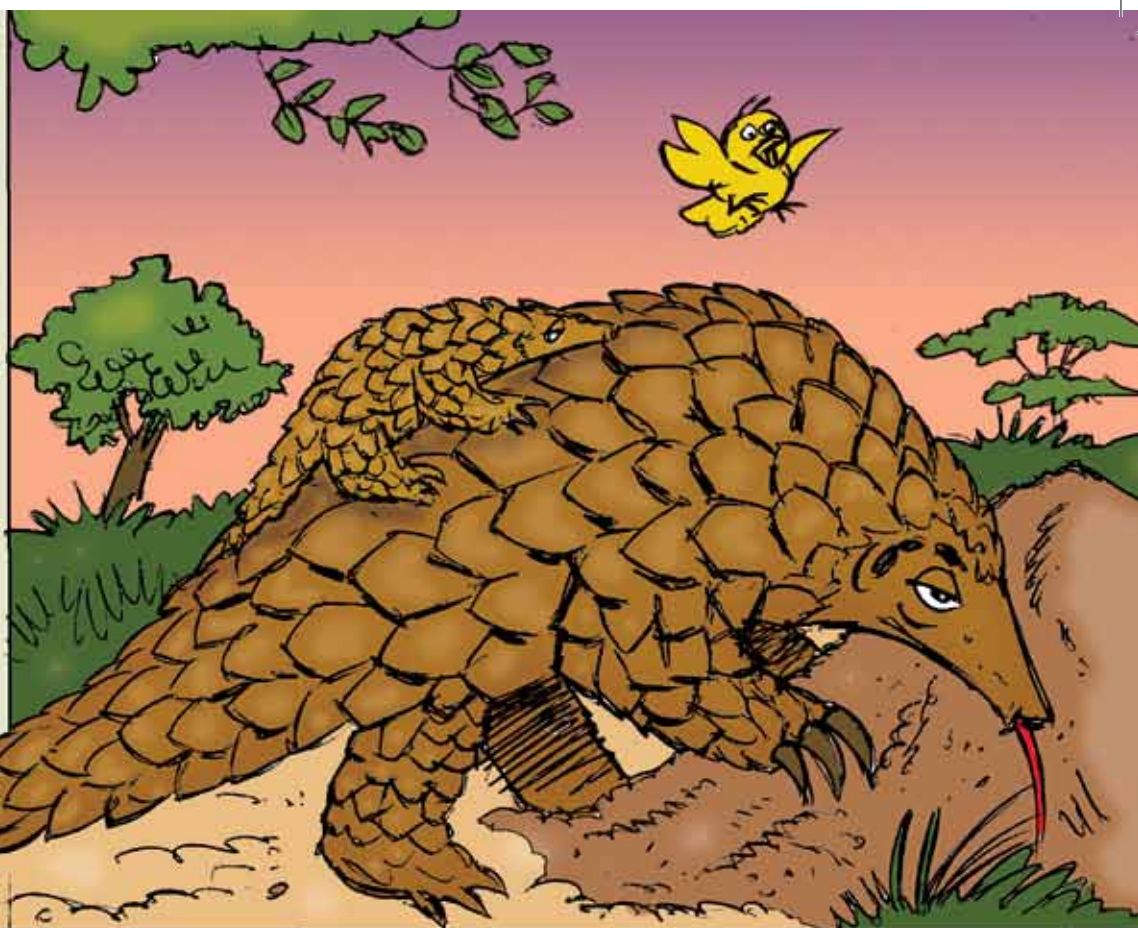
WHY DID THEY DO THAT?

"TO SHOW LOYALTY TO THEIR KING OR CHIEF, BUT THIS IS NO LONGER PRACTICED IN AFRICA, AS WE NOW PROTECT OUR PANGOLINS. TODAY PEOPLE IN DISTANT LANDS WANT OUR PANGOLIN FOR THE SCALES THAT COVER ITS BODY!"



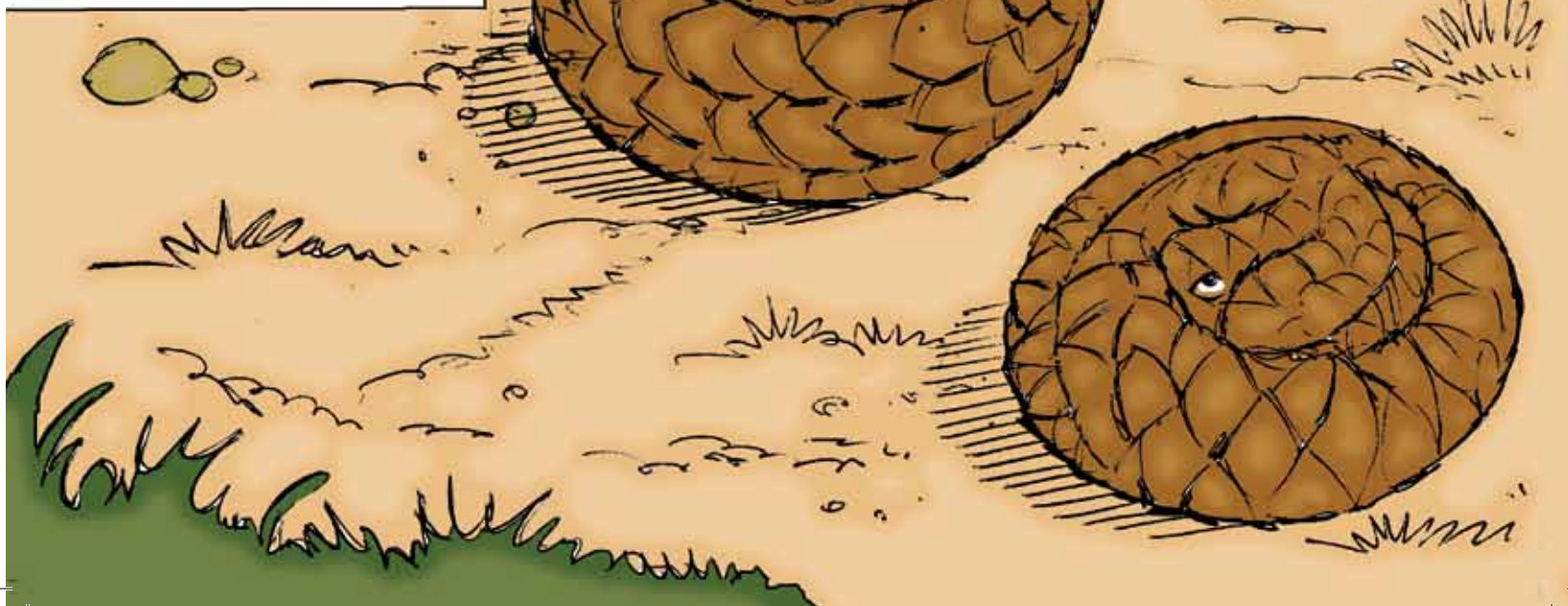


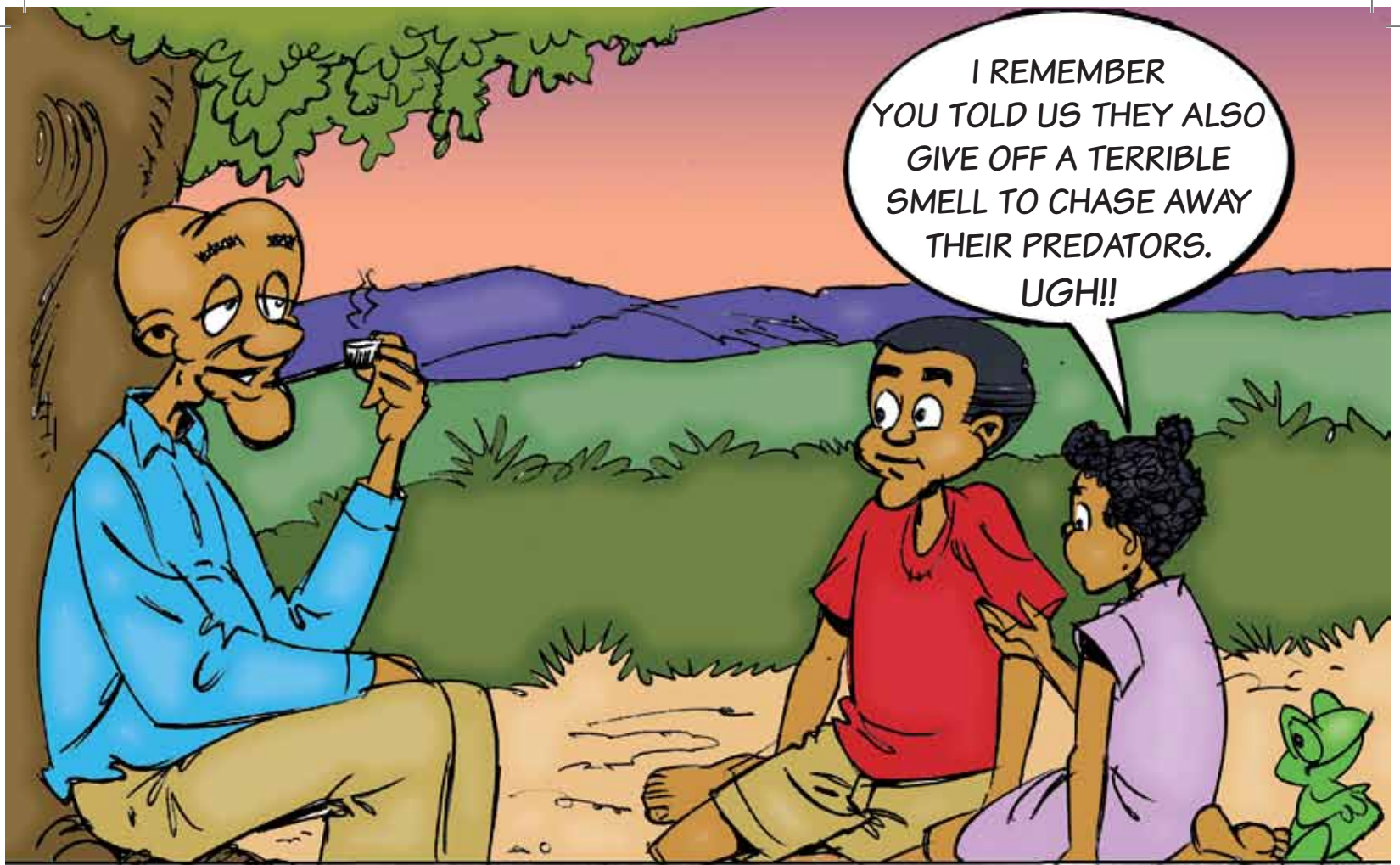
"YES. THE MOTHERS ALWAYS CARRY THEIR YOUNG BABY ON THEIR BACK FOR ALMOST 5 MONTHS, WHEN THEY ARE MOVING TO A NEW BURROW. WHAT IS INTERESTING IS THAT THEY ARE MAMMALS LIKE US AND ALSO FEED THEIR MILK TO THE BABY."



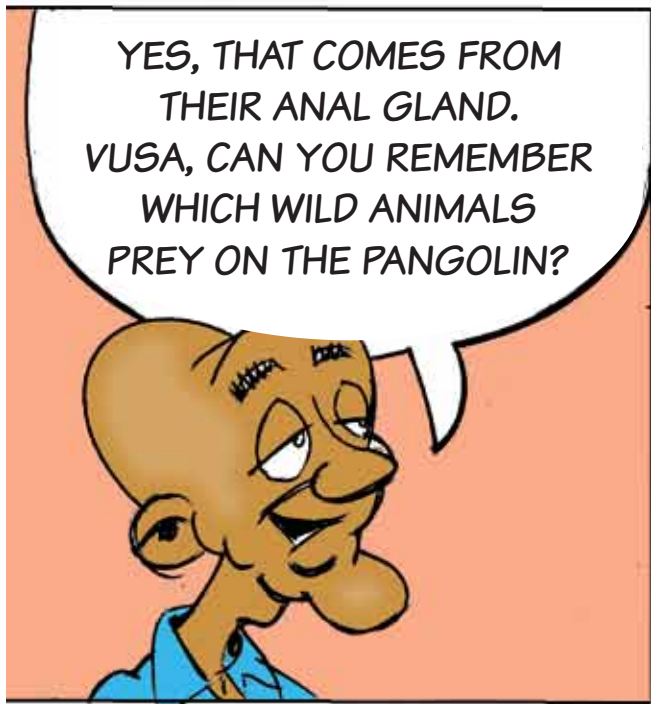
WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY ARE ATTACKED OR HARMED BY OTHER WILD ANIMALS?

"THEY CURL UP INTO BALLS FOR PROTECTION. THIS ALSO KEEPS THE BABY SAFE IN THE MOTHER'S UNDERPARTS."

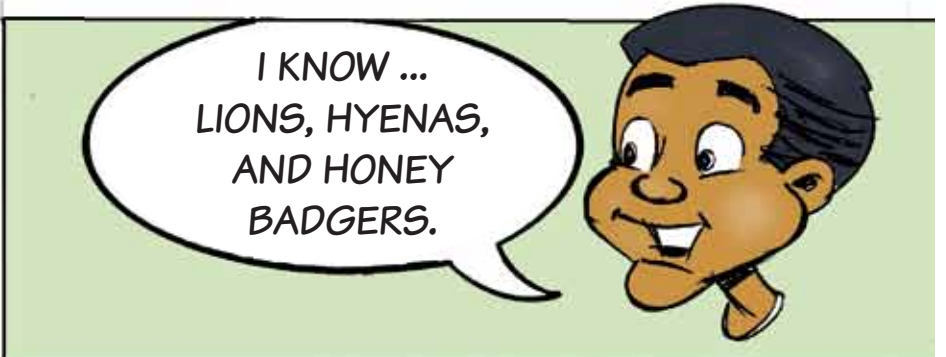




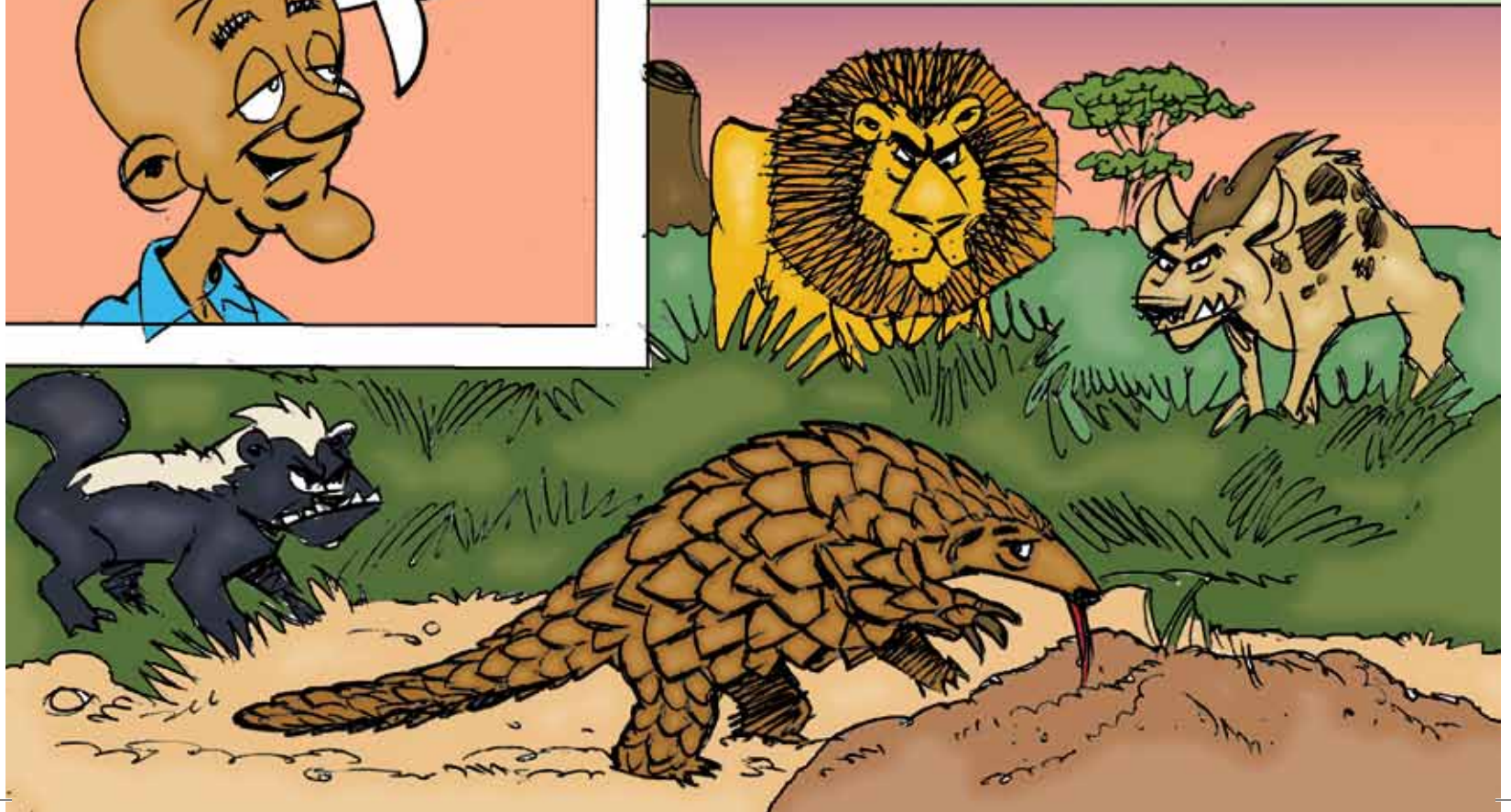
I REMEMBER YOU TOLD US THEY ALSO GIVE OFF A TERRIBLE SMELL TO CHASE AWAY THEIR PREDATORS. UGH!!

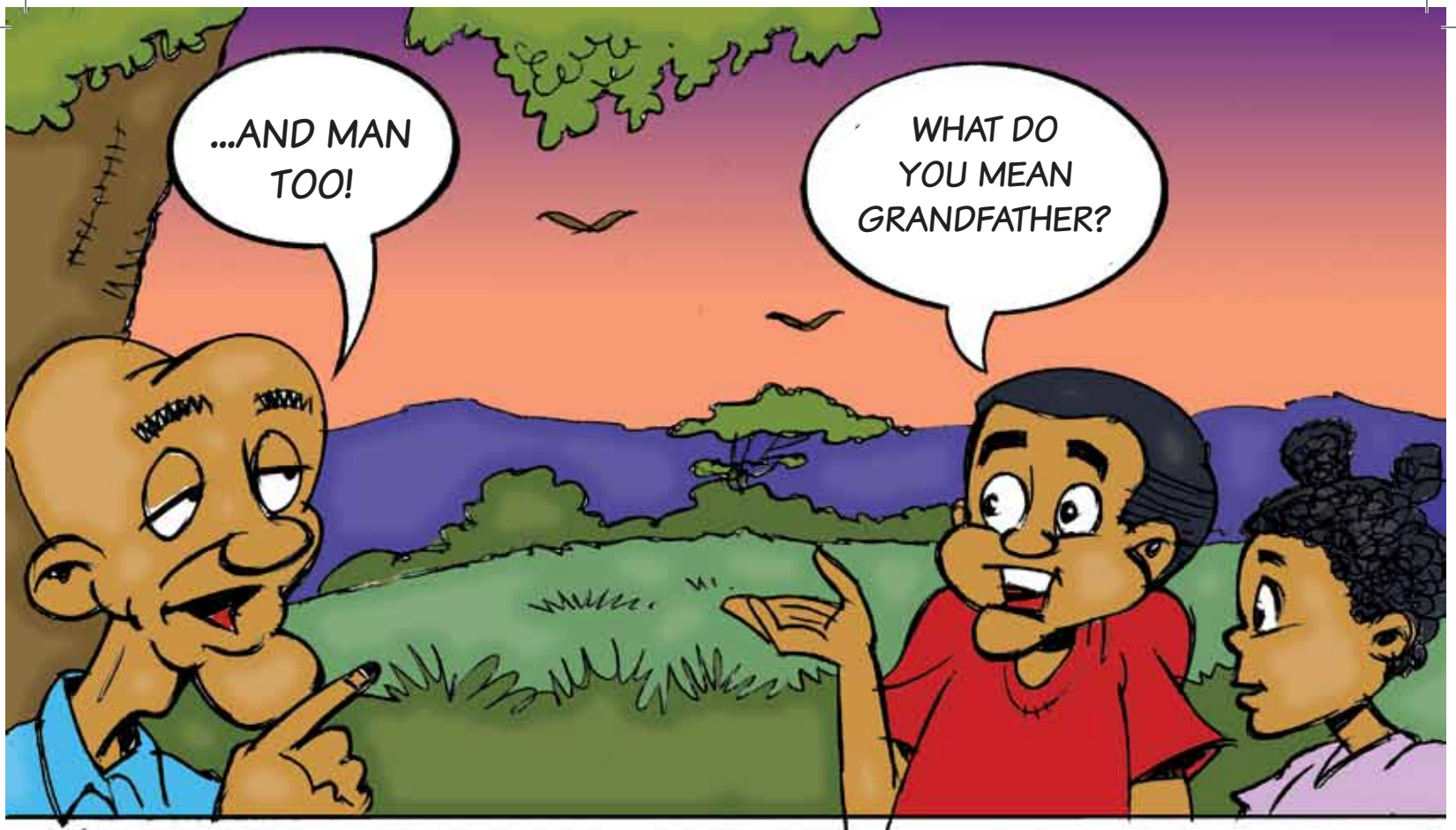


YES, THAT COMES FROM THEIR ANAL GLAND. VUSA, CAN YOU REMEMBER WHICH WILD ANIMALS PREY ON THE PANGOLIN?

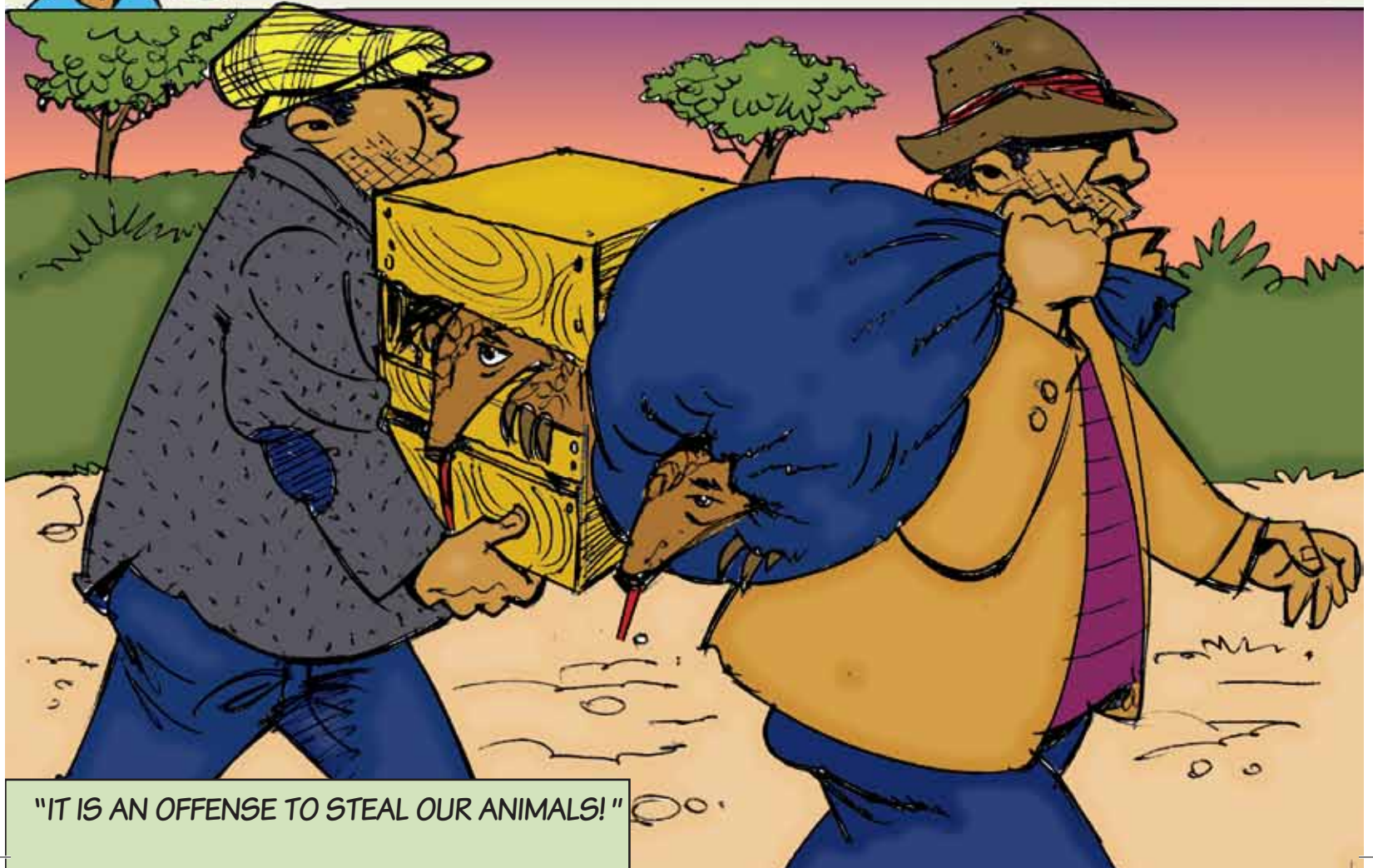


I KNOW ... LIONS, HYENAS, AND HONEY BADGERS.





"WELL, TODAY PANGOLINS ARE DISAPPEARING IN THE WILD, BECAUSE HUMANS HUNT THEM. THEY TAKE THEM AWAY FROM THEIR NATURAL HABITAT IN HOLLOWED OUT TREE STUMPS..."



"... AND BURROWS. THE PEOPLE WHO STEAL THESE ANIMALS SELL THEM IN DISTANT COUNTRIES FOR MONEY."

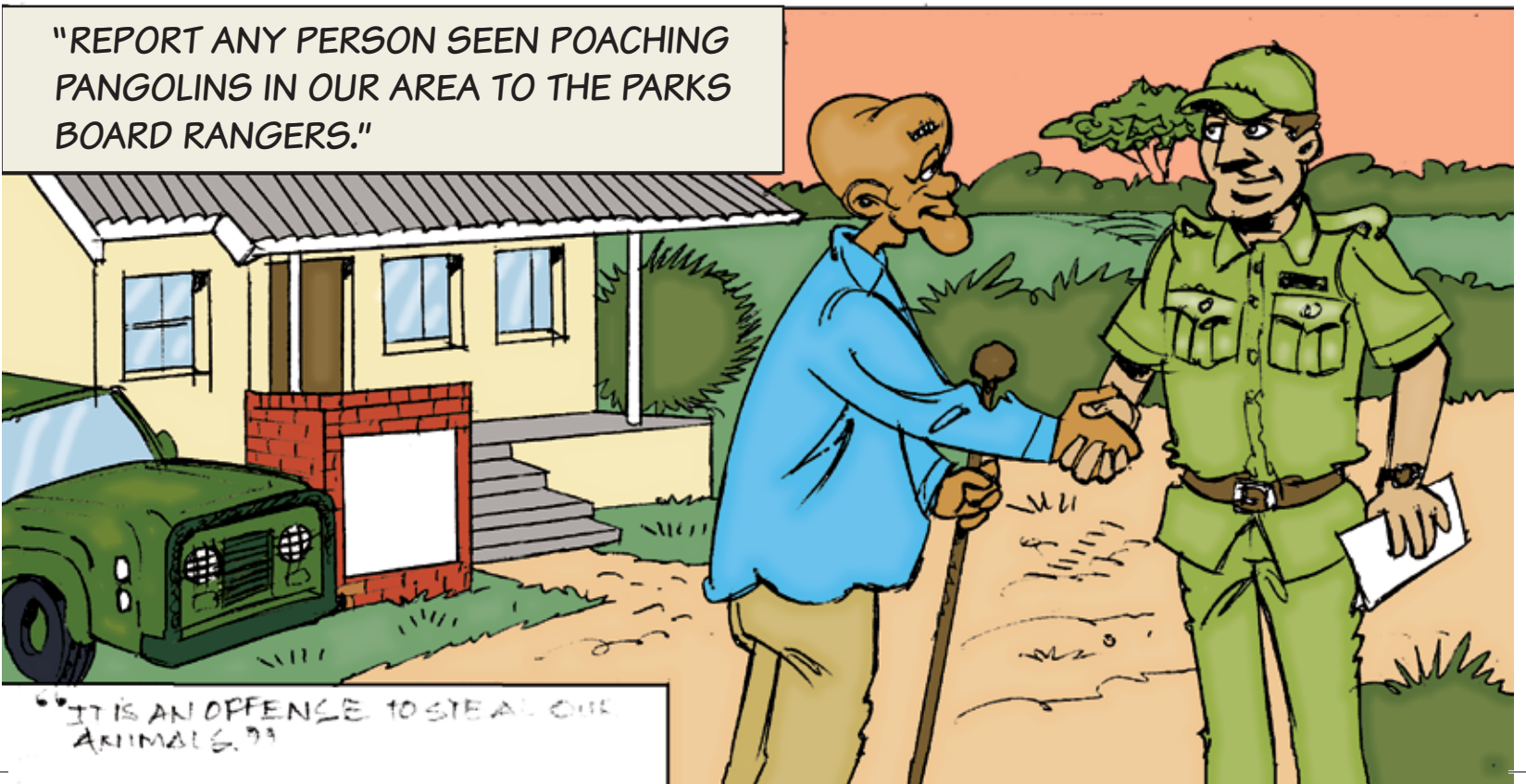


OH NO!
THAT IS
SO SAD.

THIS IS WHY YOU
HAVE TO PROTECT THESE
ANIMALS! THEY BELONG IN THE
AFRICAN BUSH, AND THEY BELONG
TO US AND OUR PEOPLE.
SO YOU NEED TO TELL YOUR
FRIENDS THIS.



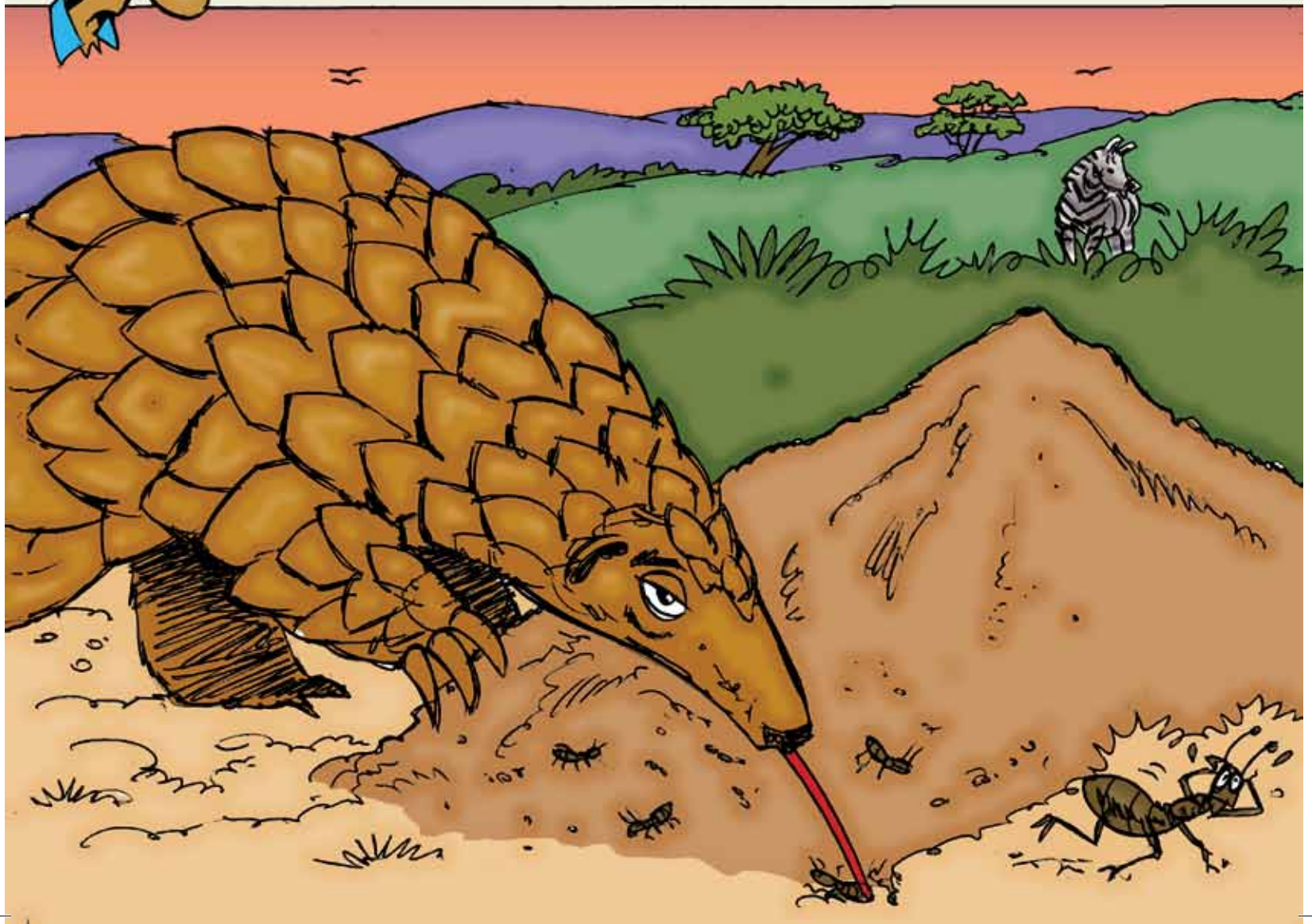
"REPORT ANY PERSON SEEN POACHING PANGOLINS IN OUR AREA TO THE PARKS BOARD RANGERS."



"IT IS AN OFFENCE TO STEAL OUR ANIMALS."



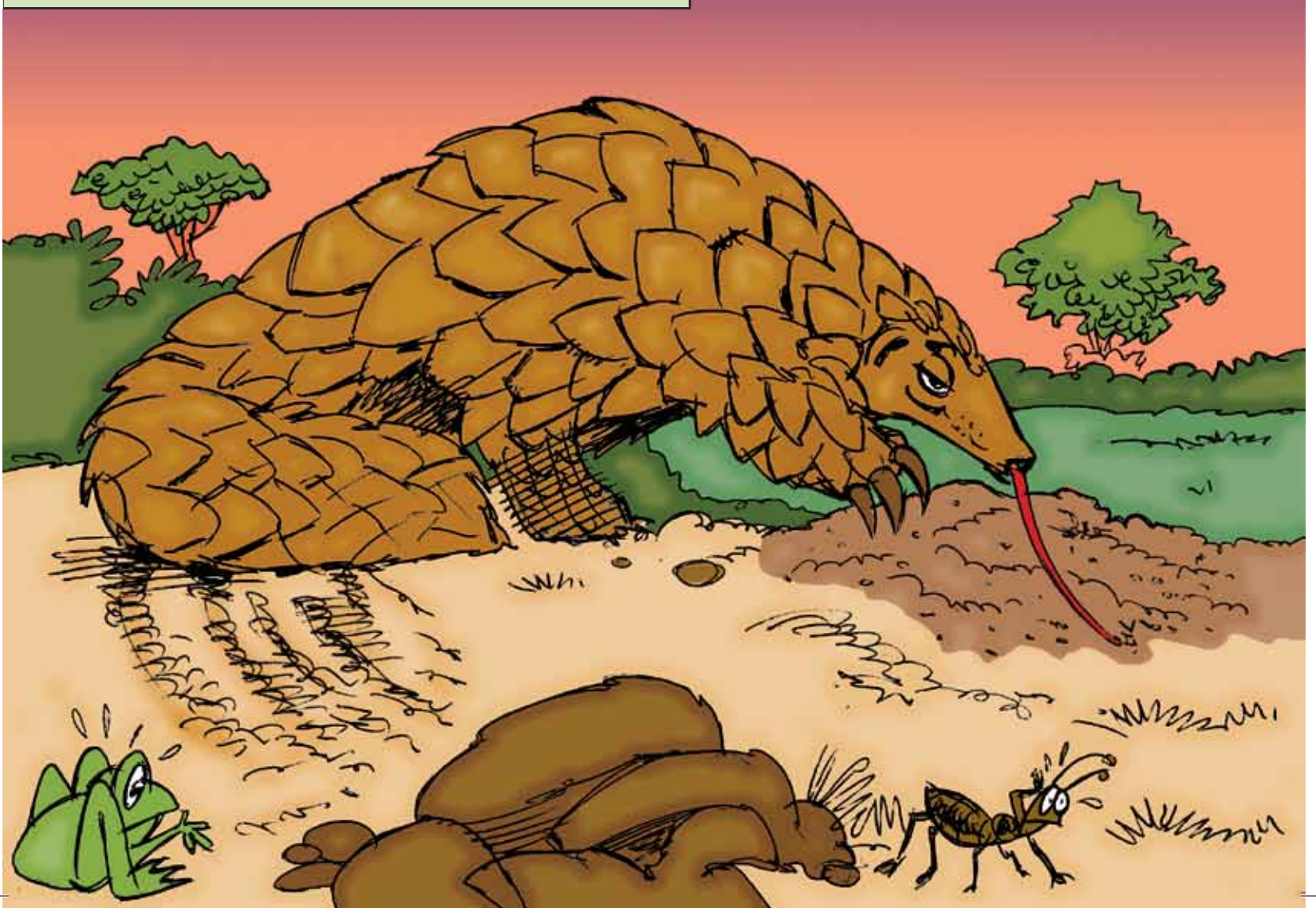
"PANGOLINS FEED MAINLY ON ANTS, TERMITES AND THEIR EGGS, EVEN THEIR LARVAE. THESE INSECTS ARE ALSO A SOURCE OF THEIR WATER."

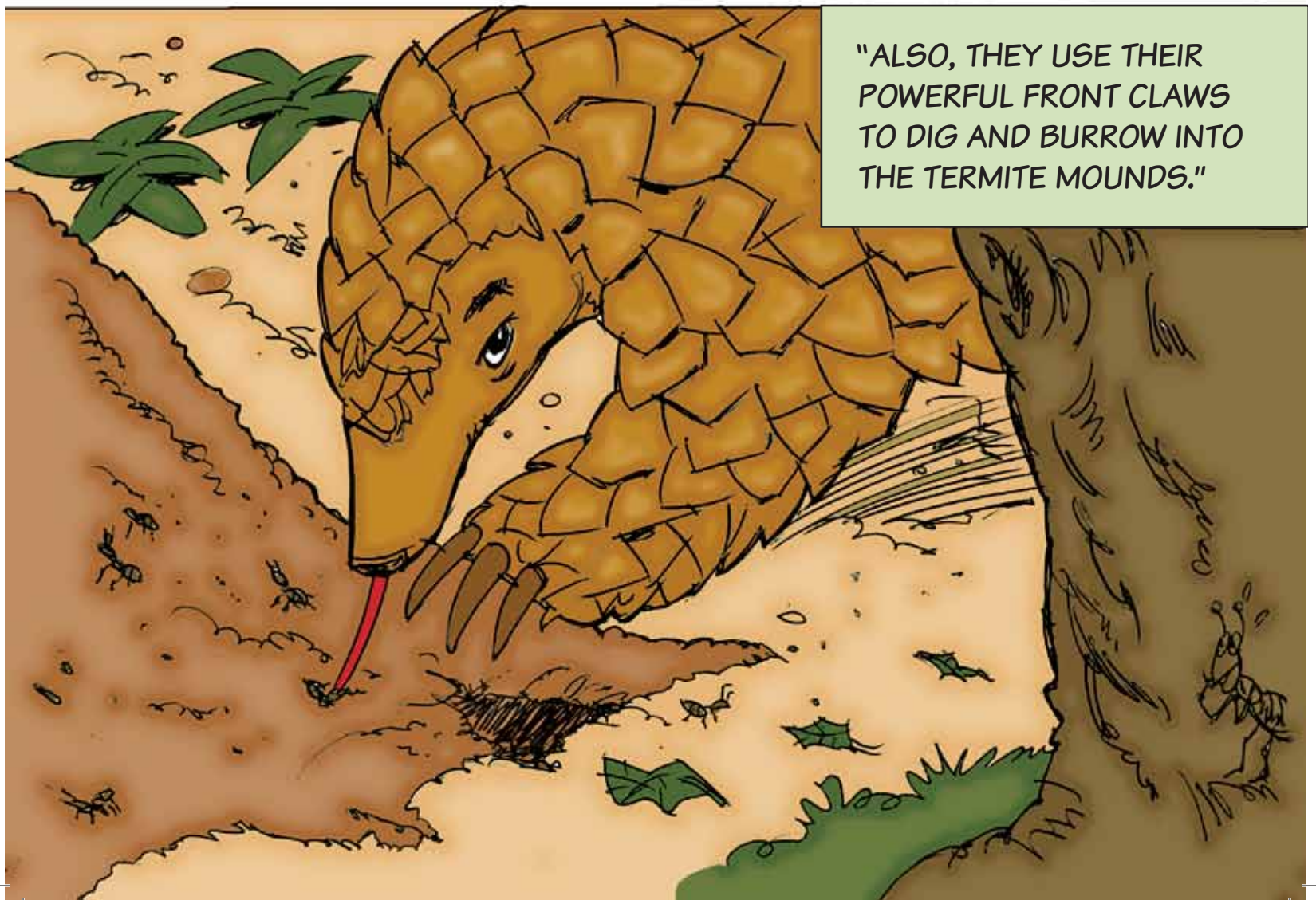
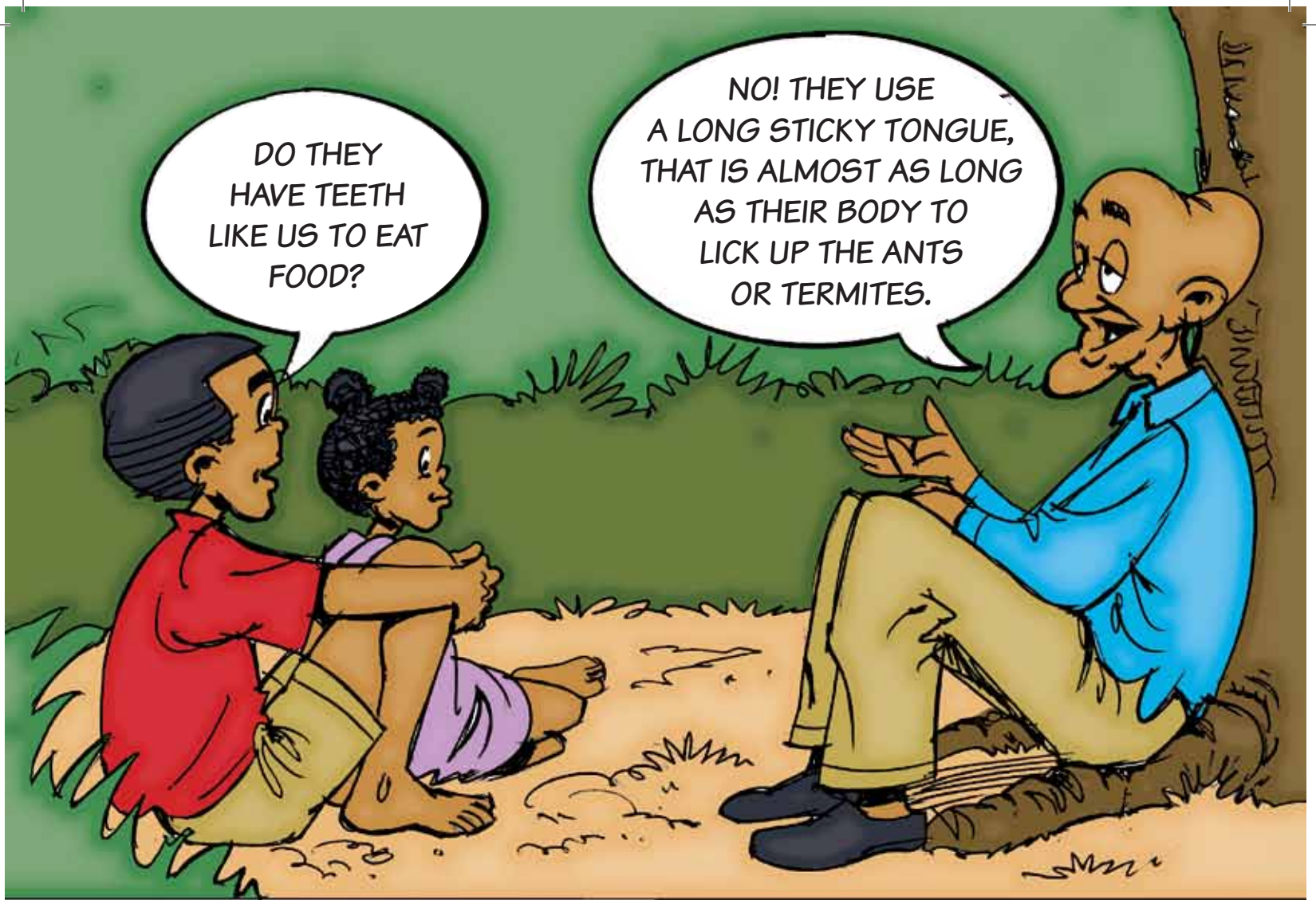


"IN FACT, IF YOU SEE TAIL MARKS IN THE SAND IT IS A CLUE..."



"...THAT A PANGOLIN HAS BEEN EATING IN THE AREA."





"PANGOLINS WALK A LONG WAY EVERY DAY ..."



"... LOOKING FOR FOOD."





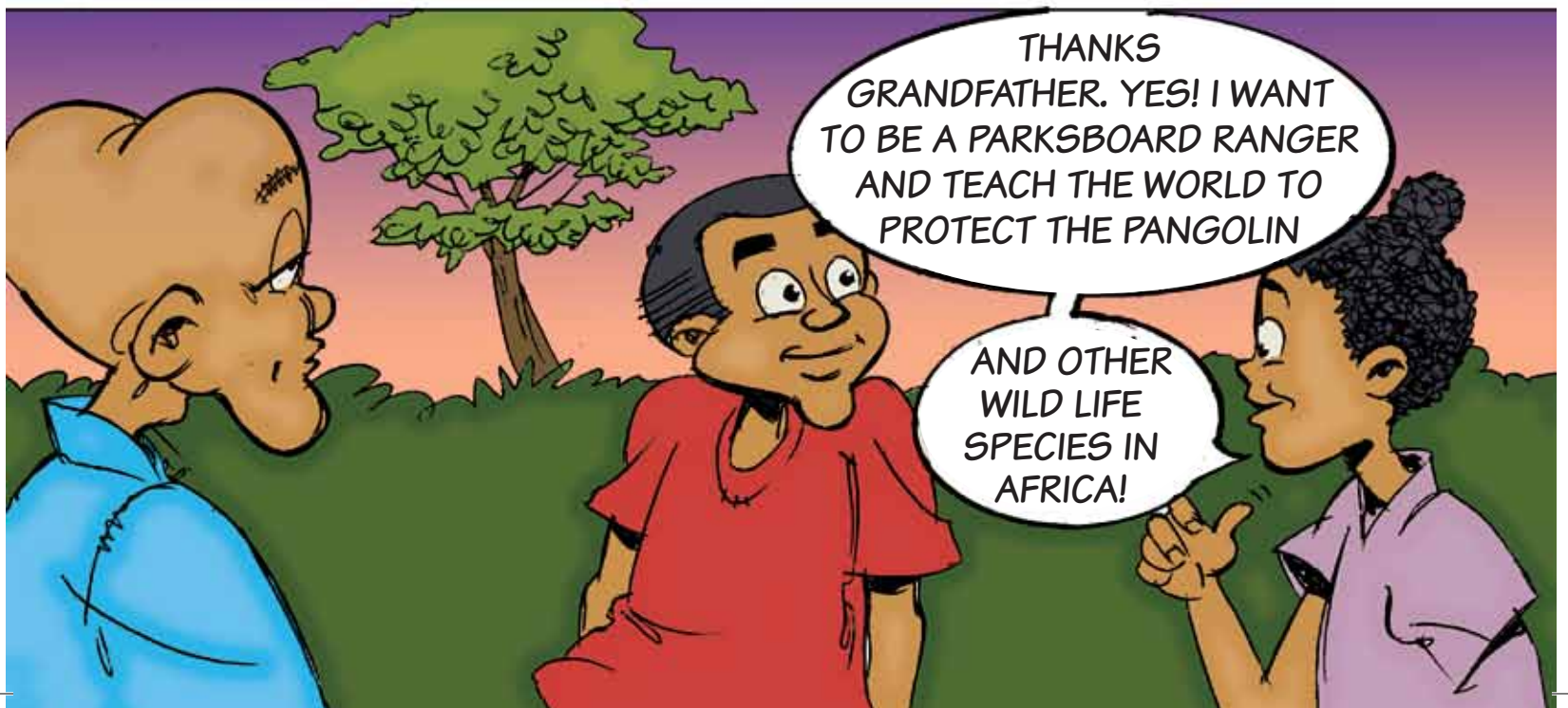
THEY SEEM
SUCH CONTENT AND
PEACEFUL CREATURES.
WHY DO PEOPLE WANT
TO HARM THEM
GRANDFATHER?



"UNFORTUNATELY MAN'S GREED
IS DESTROYING THESE SHY
PANGOLINS."



"PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WANT TO COME AND SEE OUR PANGOLIN. THAT IS WHY WE MUST PROTECT THEM!"





FRIENDS,
PLEASE HELP
US PROTECT
OUR BEAUTIFUL
SHY PANGOLIN!

PLEASE
PROTECT US
AS WE CANNOT
PROTECT
OURSELVES!