

The Scale of Pangolin Poaching in India: At least 3000 animals illegally hunted 2009-2014

Pangolins, often called scaly anteaters, are toothless and have large keratin scales covering their skin. They are the only known mammal with this adaptation. Of the eight species found worldwide (four each in Asia and Africa), two are known from India- **Indian Pangolin** *Manis crassicaudata* and **Chinese Pangolin** *Manis pentadactyla*

Population status: Unknown

With virtually no information available on their population status, the current level of illegal utilization is having an unknown impact on pangolin populations in Africa and Asia.

Threat: Seizure reports from the past five years (2009-2013) in India has revealed that around 3350 pangolins were poached in the country. However, this may only be a conservative estimate as a large part of this trade presumably remains undetected.

In India, pangolins, are netted, trapped, shot or snared for local trade and they are also captured to meet the demand from international markets in China and South-East Asia. Pangolin meat is considered a delicacy among several communities and as a “tonic food” because of its alleged medicinal properties. Their scales are also used for making traditional medicines. Pangolins are also traded and smuggled alive.

Pangolin scales are used as an ingredient in traditional Asian medicines to help breast feeding women lactate and cure ailments ranging from asthma and psoriasis to cancer, although there is a lack of evidence suggesting they are effective.

Vernacular Names: *Bojrokit* (Bengali); *Bajra kit, Bajra kapta, Suraj mukhi, Silu, Sal sala, Chiti khor, Sakunphor* (Haryana, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar); *Kishaur* (Jammu & Kashmir); *Chalo, Bhimgaroo, Pingaroo, Shalma, Mirun* (Gujarat and parts of Maharashtra). *Alawa* (Andhra Pradesh); *Alangu, Alugu* (Tamil Nadu and Kerala); *Bajra kapta* (Orissa); *Alavi, Tirega, Chippu Handi* (Karnataka); *Bonuri, Kat-pohu, Keyot- Mach* (West Bengal); *Hochik, Salak* (Assam and North Eastern states).

Is pangolin trade legal in India? NO.

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| Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 | Schedule I. No trade permitted |
| Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. | Appendix II for all eight species, with a zero quota for commercial trade in the four Asian species. |

Punishment: Hunting or trade in pangolins in India is a criminal offence leading to imprisonment for between three and seven years and a fine of not less than INR **10000**.

Global trade: Pangolins are amongst the most frequently seized species smuggled in Asia.

Trade routes: Africa to Asia and from India and Nepal to South-East Asia and East Asia.

ACT NOW! STOP PANGOLIN POACHING AND TRADE.

- Lend your voice to create awareness about the plight of pangolins
- Do not buy products made from pangolin body parts.
- If you come encounter poaching or trade in pangolins, please report it to the nearest Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) office or Forest and Police department office.
- Take part in any campaigns conducted to save Pangolins - support every effort to protect and conserve them.

INTERESTING FACTS:

- 1. Although covered in scales like a reptile, pangolins are actually mammals**
- 2. A pangolin's tongue is longer than its body**
- 3. Male Indian Pangolins can be up to 90% heavier than their female counterparts.**
- 4. Pangolins have no teeth and feed mainly on ants and termites, which they suck up using their tongue.**