

## Call for Action

- The Cameroon Government supported uplisting all pangolins to Appendix I of CITES. This uplisting went into effect on January 2, 2017, prohibiting all commercial international trade of pangolins.
- The CITES uplisting provides an opportunity for countries to show leadership in improving law enforcement and demand reduction efforts to better protect pangolins.
- We encourage MINFOF to make the Ministerial Order No. 0648/MINFOF of 18 of December 2006 widely accessible and understood by all actors involved, and to update the Class A listing to reflect all three pangolin species and other species as necessary.
- Recent large seizures of pangolin scales carried out by MINFOF emphasize the urgency of strengthening enforcement and stopping those who poach, traffic, sell, or consume pangolins at local, national, regional, and international levels. We applaud MINFOF's efforts to strengthen enforcement for pangolins.
- Government action alone cannot solve this crisis. The involvement of local communities, NGOs, and the private sector is indispensable. Support from the extractive industries, especially mining and logging companies whose activities impact pangolins and their habitats, is crucial.
- Cameroon is taking important steps to protect our pangolins. Together with other Central African Range States, Cameroon can play a vital role in collaborating with Asian Range States to develop joint strategies to fight pangolin trafficking and reduce demand for pangolin scales and meat.



with thanks for additional support from:



**Table 1: Details of selected seizures originating from Central Africa (reporting country in bold)**

Date	Quantity seized	TRADE ROUTE		
		Export		Destination
Jan. 2017	5,400 kg	<b>Cameroon</b> <sup>1</sup>	->	China
Dec. 2016	3,000 kg	Democratic Republic of the Congo	->	<b>Thailand</b> <sup>2</sup> (final destination Laos)
Dec. 2016	670 kg	<b>Cameroon</b> <sup>3</sup>	->	Malaysia
Dec. 2016	3,000 kg	Africa	->	<b>China</b> <sup>4</sup>
June 23, 2016	4,000 kg	Cameroon	->	<b>Hong Kong</b> <sup>5</sup>
Jan. 26, 2015	200 kg	Cameroon	->	<b>Indonesia</b> <sup>6</sup>
June 11, 2014	2,340 kg	Cameroon	->	<b>Hong Kong</b> <sup>7</sup>
June, 2014	1,360 kg	<b>Cameroon</b> <sup>8</sup>	-	Not reported
Apr. 14, 2014	120 kg	<b>Cameroon</b> <sup>9</sup>	-	Not reported
Apr. 30, 2013	50 kg	Cameroon	<b>France</b> <sup>10</sup>	Viet Nam
Apr. 29, 2013	80 kg	<b>Cameroon</b> <sup>11</sup>	Nigeria	China
Mar. 26, 2013	180 kg	<b>Cameroon</b> <sup>12</sup>	-	Not reported
<b>Est. total seized scales</b>	<b>20,400 kg</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Source: Camer.be via allafrika.com

<sup>2</sup> Source: dailymail.co.uk

<sup>3</sup> Source: Breaking News Live via allafrika.com

<sup>4</sup> Source: shanghaidaily.com

<sup>5,7</sup> Source: Hong Kong Government

<sup>6</sup> Source: CITES

<sup>8,9,11,12</sup> Source: LAGA

<sup>10</sup> Source: scientificamerican.com



## Together Let's Protect Our Pangolins



Photo: Frank Kohn / USFWS

Pangolins are believed to be the most heavily trafficked mammals in the world. Four of the world's eight species of pangolin live across Central Africa. Very little is known about them, and the illegal trade for their meat and scales is driving them closer and closer towards extinction. Unless we act now, we risk losing our pangolins.

Recognizing the threat of international trade, the Cameroonian Government recently supported the uplisting of pangolins to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

According to Article 6 of the Ministerial Order No. 0648/MINFOF of 18 of December 2006, which classifies wildlife in Cameroon into three categories (A, B, C) based on the level of threats, all species in CITES Appendix I are automatically listed in Class A, which means that they are fully protected.

Recent large confiscations of pangolin scales by the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) emphasize the urgency in enforcing this law to ensure the survival of our pangolins.

**Learn more and help protect our pangolins!**

**Together Let's Protect Our Pangolins!**

## Pangolin Characteristics and Ecological Importance

Pangolins are the only mammals in the world with scales. These scales are made of keratin, the same substance as human finger nails and rhinoceros horn.

In response to threats, pangolins curl into a ball, shielding their body with their tough armor of scales. This behavior protects them from predators such as big cats. Unfortunately, it also makes it easier for humans to collect them.

Central Africa's four pangolin species are primarily nocturnal, solitary, and shy mammals. They give birth to only one offspring per year and are highly vulnerable to overexploitation.

Pangolins live predominantly on a diet of ants and termites. This specialized diet makes it extremely difficult to maintain them in a captive setting. Longevity in the wild is uncertain. Pangolins play a critical role in their ecosystems. They provide the earth with all-natural pest control and are fantastic tenders of soil, and they do these things simply through their everyday behaviors. It is said that a single pangolin consumes as many as 70 million insects per year, mainly ants and termites.

Central Africa is home to the following four species of pangolin:

### Giant pangolin/Giant ground pangolin (*Manis gigantea*)



Photo: Ekwoke Agbe / Zoological Society of San Diego & Drexel University

The giant pangolin is the largest living pangolin species, weighing up to 35 kg. Apart from its size, it is easily distinguished from the much smaller tree-dwelling African pangolins by a regular scale pattern, fossorial lifestyle, and the lack of pads at the end of the tail, which aid climbing in the arboreal species. The giant pangolin inhabits moist tropical lowland forests and forested swamps, but also occurs in mosaic habitats comprising forest and savanna.

### Temminck's ground pangolin/Ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*)



Photo: Darren Pietersen / African Pangolin Working Group

as opposed to arboreal lifestyle and regular scale pattern. Unlike the larger giant ground pangolin, this species is found in dry and arid environments.

### White-bellied pangolin/Tree pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*)



Photo: Tim Wacher / ZSL

The white-bellied pangolin is the most frequently encountered pangolin in Africa. Compared to the ground pangolins, the white-bellied and black-bellied pangolins are much smaller in size, have very small first forelimb claws, an irregular arrangement of scales, tail pads used for climbing, and a long and prehensile tail. They have hair on the lower sections of their forelimbs, as opposed to scales. The white-bellied pangolin inhabits lowland tropical moist forest and forest-savanna mosaics.

### Black-bellied pangolin/Long-tailed pangolin (*Manis tetradactyla*)



Photo: Rod Cassidy / Sangha Lodge

The black-bellied pangolin is the smallest and most arboreal of all African pangolins. Its tail is much longer than that of the white-bellied pangolin, reaching up to twice the length of its body. Certain characteristics separate the arboreal pangolins from the ground pangolins, including smaller size, very small first forelimb claws, irregular arrangement of scales, the presence of tail pads used for climbing, and the length of the tail, which is prehensile. The black-bellied pangolin chiefly occupies moist tropical forest around rivers and swamps.

## Threats to Pangolins

Pangolins are the most heavily trafficked mammals in the world. Until recently, experts estimated that one million pangolins had been poached from the wild over the past decade. A new study estimates that up to 0.4-2.7 million pangolins are hunted annually in Central Africa alone (Ingram et al., 2017). All eight species - four in Africa and four in Asia - are threatened with extinction.



Photo, above: Confiscation of illegal ivory and pangolin scales. Credit: LAGA / EAGLE Network Photo, below: Urban demand for bushmeat is exacerbating the decline of pangolins in Central Africa. Credit: Nancy Gelman / USFWS

At the same time, Central African pangolin species are under pressure from local and regional demand for bushmeat. In Cameroon and other Central African countries, urban demand is exacerbating the illegal bushmeat trade, including in pangolins.



## Legal Status of Pangolins Internationally and in Cameroon

All eight species of pangolin are listed on Appendix I of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). This bans their commercial trade and represents the highest level of protection available under international law.

According to Article 6 of the Ministerial Order No. 0648/MINFOF of 18 of December 2006, which classifies wildlife in Cameroon into three categories (A, B, C) based on the level of threats, all species in CITES Appendix I are automatically listed in Class A, which means that Cameroon's pangolin species are now also fully protected by Cameroonian law. These laws are being actively enforced.