2nd CBFP Roundtable Discussion on Pangolin Conservation in Central Africa

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Introduction to Pangolins

• Pangolins are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world.
  – Until recently, experts estimated 1 million pangolins were trafficked during last decade.
  – New study reveals up to 0.4-2.7 million pangolins hunted annually in Central Africa alone (Ingram et al., 2017)

• 8 pangolin species globally
  – 4 in Africa
  – 4 in Asia

• Species strongholds and population status are not known
Pangolin Biology

Pangolins, also known as scaly anteaters, are:

• The only scaly mammals in the world
• Insectivorous and generally nocturnal
• Slow to reproduce, as they produce typically one young (Kingdon et al. 2013, Mahmood et al. 2015), making harvesting unsustainable
• Defenseless against humans (although curling up into a ball is a good defense against natural predators)
• Poor at surviving in captivity
Central Africa’s Pangolins

Ground Pangolin
Photo: Darren Pietersen

Giant Pangolin
Photo: Ekwoge Abwe / Zoological Society of San Diego & Drexel University

Black-bellied Pangolin
Photo: Rod Cassidy / Sangha Lodge

White-bellied Pangolin
Photo: Tim Wachter / ZSL
Threats to Pangolins in Region

- Central Africa’s pangolins are threatened by poaching and uncontrolled harvest, national and regional bushmeat trade, and illegal international trafficking for scales and meat.
- Demand is escalating, and Central Africa is emerging as a hub for illegal trade in pangolin scales.
## Central Africa’s Pangolin Confiscations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Quantity seized</th>
<th>TRADE ROUTE</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2017</td>
<td>5,400 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon 1</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2016</td>
<td>3,000 kg</td>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Thailand 2 (final destination Laos)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2016</td>
<td>670 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon 3</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2016</td>
<td>3,000 kg</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>China 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23, 2016</td>
<td>4,000 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Hong Kong 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26, 2015</td>
<td>200 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Indonesia 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 11, 2014</td>
<td>2,340 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Hong Kong 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June, 2014</td>
<td>1,360 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon 8</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 2014</td>
<td>120 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon 9</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30, 2013</td>
<td>50 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>France 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 29, 2013</td>
<td>80 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon 11</td>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26, 2013</td>
<td>180 kg</td>
<td>Cameroon 12</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated total seized scales: 20,400 kg*

**Sources:**
1. Camer.be via allafrica.com
2. dailymail.co.uk
3. Breaking News Live via allafrica.com
4. shanghaidaily.com
5, 7. Hong Kong Government
6. CITES
8, 9, 11, 12. LAGA
10. scientificamerican.com
New Trends: Asian Influence, New Methods by Traffickers

- The trade in pangolin scales is well organized and increasing due to high demand from buyers, especially from Asia.
- Insufficient field investigators to infiltrate the source areas for concrete information on trade routes and prices.
- Traffickers are using new methods (e.g. grinding pangolin scales).
- Gaps in wildlife laws prevent effective prosecution of pangolin crimes.
- Corruption exacerbates problems.
- Insufficient resources compared to Asian traffickers.
Poachers -> Restaurant owners and market vendors -> National traffickers

Poachers -> International Extractive Industry Staff

International Extractive Industry Staff -> Middlemen

Middlemen -> Manufacturing industries in Asia

Manufacturing industries in Asia -> International traffickers

Source: ACTION FOR PANGOLIN CONSERVATION
Gaps and Needs
Pangolin Population Assessments and Determination of Strongholds

Need protocol for conducting population assessments of pangolins and fieldwork inside and outside protected areas in region.

Include local ecological knowledge surveys, transects, and camera traps in surveys.

Photos: Bill Kanapaux / USFWS
Wildlife Law Enforcement

- Following the CITES Appendix I uplisting of all pangolins, Range States need to increase national protection of all pangolin species.
- There is also a need to:
  - Conduct national surveys and analyses throughout the region to better understand pangolin seizures, arrests, prosecutions, and sentences.
  - Understand pangolin supply chains.
  - Assist governments with intelligence on wildlife trafficking.
  - Promote effective prosecution of international traffickers, e.g. case of prosecution of two Chinese traffickers with > 5 tons of scales.
 Demand Reduction Actions

What is needed:

- Messaging, materials, social media to raise awareness on protection of pangolins since CITES;
- increased wildlife law enforcement against pangolin bushmeat and international trafficking.
Voices for Our Pangolins...
National, Regional and International Coordination to Address Pangolin Trafficking and Bring Traffickers to Justice
Prioritize Actions for Pangolin Conservation Within Central Africa
We Need to Stop the Pangolin Bushmeat Trade
We Need to Prioritize and Protect Pangolin Strongholds
We Need Our Leadership to Treat Pangolin Crime as Serious Crime
Acknowledgements