



PANGOLINS

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CONSERVATION STATUS

All 8 species of Pangolins in the world, all listed in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species:



- All 8 species are listed in CITES* Appendix I.
- International trades of the CITES species are banned by Cap. 586 Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance.
- Countries have their own national legislations:
 - illegal trade of pangolins can be subject to up to 15 years in prison or fined up to US\$645,000 in Vietnam.

*CITES = the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CURRENT SITUATION RELATED TO ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

- Around 20 tonnes of pangolins and their parts are trafficked internationally every year.
- Hong Kong is a major transit hub. Poached pangolins from Africa e.g. Nigeria and Cameroon entered mainland China, through Hong Kong. Other destination countries include Vietnam and Singapore.
- Between 2014 and 2018, 370,000 pangolins were seized globally. In Hong Kong, there are 11 seizures record consisting of 8940 kg pangolin scales in total in 2019, worth around HK\$44 million.

PANGOLINS



WHY THEY ARE TRADED ILLEGALLY

- Widely used in Traditional Chinese Medicine, it is believed to treat conditions such as asthma, breast milk stoppage and rheumatoid arthritis.
- As of 2016, 200 Chinese pharmaceutical companies were allowed to manufacture more than 60 products containing pangolin scales.
- Their meat is also considered a delicacy in some area.

HOW THEY ARE TRADED ILLEGALLY

- They were usually smuggled into Hong Kong through large shipments together with other illegal trade products, e.g. ivory and rhino horns, from Africa.



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IMPACT

Pangolins burrow in soil for food and shelter, which help soil aeration and provide shelter for other wildlife. Removing them from nature increases pressure on the ecosystem and other wildlife.

Pangolins are important in keeping number of insects in balance, they consume around 70 million insects annually. Without pangolins, insect numbers may go out of control, pest problems arise.

Trafficking and selling pangolins in illegal markets together with other wildlifes may give rise to zoonosis, transmission of disease from animals to humans.

Intensive poaching of pangolins can drive pangolin population to extinction.



BREAK THE CHAIN

- Avoid medicines with pangolins as ingredient.
- Raise penalty and effective law enforcement by including Cap. 586 offences in Schedule 1 of Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (OSCO).

EXTENDED KNOWLEDGE

The Pangolin Reports (2021)
The Pangolin Trade Explained: Situation In Hong Kong
<https://www.pangolinreports.com/hong-kong/>

Traffic (2021) Pangolins
<https://www.traffic.org/what-we-do/species/pangolins/>

WWF-UK (2021) Pangolin
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/pangolin>

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