

WAZA statement in response to the Pangolin trade crisis

WAZA supports the up-listing of all 8 Pangolin species to CITES Appendix I. WAZA does not support the attempt to commercially breed Pangolins.

Pangolins are the most commonly confiscated mammal from the illegal wildlife trade, trafficked in massive numbers for their scales and meat which are used in traditional medicine. The increased demand for pangolin parts and derivatives is pushing all eight species towards extinction. The WAZA strongly supports the following proposals for all eight species of pangolins.

CoP17 Prop. 8 and 9 - Transfer of Indian Pangolin *M. crassicaudata* from Appendix II to Appendix I

CoP17 Prop. 10 - Transfer of Philippine Pangolin *M. culionensis* from Appendix II to Appendix I

CoP17 Prop. 11 - Transfer of Sunda Pangolin *Manis javanica* and Chinese Pangolin *M. pentadactyla* from Appendix II to Appendix I

CoP17 Prop. 12 - Transfer of African pangolin species *Manis tetradactyla*, *M. tricuspis*, *M. gigantea* and *M. temminckii* from Appendix II to Appendix I

There are four species of pangolin in Africa: Giant Pangolin *Manis gigantea*, White-bellied Pangolin *M. tricuspis*, Black-bellied Pangolin *M. tetradactyla* and Temminck's Ground Pangolin *M. temminckii*, and four species of pangolins in Asia: Philippine Pangolin *Manis culionensis*, Sunda Pangolin *M. javanica*, Chinese Pangolin *M. pentadactyla* and Indian Pangolin *M. crassicaudata*. All eight species are listed as Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, with two of the species *M. javanica* and *M. pentadactyl*, at the greatest risk of extinction in the wild, listed as "Critically Endangered".

There is increasing evidence of growing illegal international trade largely of pangolin parts, mainly scales, to Asian markets. Recent research shows hunting and poaching pressure on pangolins has increased significantly compared to other vertebrates in sub-Saharan Africa, with a 9-fold increase from 2005 to 2014. Given their low productivity, any hunting and poaching is very likely to have an impact on populations of all species.

There is significant evidence showing an increase in illegal trade in African pangolin species coinciding with the decline (due to illegal trade) in Asian pangolins. Almost 15,000kg of scales from African pangolins were seized between 2013 and 2015, representing between 4,000 and 25,000 animals, depending on the species involved.

Stricter CITES protections must be enacted immediately. Inclusion into CITES Appendix I will greatly aid efforts to ensure that international trade in pangolins does not threaten their survival and improve regulatory control mechanisms by non-range states, by placing an overall higher degree of international protection.



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WAZA is aware of proposals for the commercial captive breeding of pangolins. Pangolins are a very difficult species to maintain in human care. Historical data demonstrates poor levels of survivorship, together with extremely low and inconsistent rates of reproduction. They do not easily breed in human care and therefore cannot be easily bred for commercial purposes.

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums supports all four pangolin proposals and urges Parties not to support or promote any activities relating to commercial breeding as we have strong evidence to believe that due to their biological traits and poor adaptation to captivity none of the 8 Pangolin species are suitable for such endeavours.

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) is the unifying organisation for the world zoo and aquarium community. The goal of WAZA is to guide, encourage and support the zoos, aquariums and like-minded organisations of the world in animal care and welfare, environmental education and global conservation. Our more than 300 members are leading zoos, aquariums, associations, affiliate organisations and corporate partners from around the world. WAZA regional associations are responsible for accrediting institutions and upholding the highest standards.

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