

Pangolin

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Pangolin Latest News

Global trafficking of pangolin scales has sharply declined since 2020, primarily due to COVID-19-related disruptions, sustained law enforcement actions, and evolving smuggling tactics, according to the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) report.

About Pangolin

- **Species:** There are **8 species of pangolins**: **4 in Africa** (Black-bellied, White-bellied, Giant Ground, Temminck's Ground) and **4 in Asia** (Indian, Chinese, Sunda, Philippine pangolins).
- **Physical and Behavioural Traits**
 - **Habitat:** Pangolins live in **tropical forests, grasslands, and agricultural areas**, and are found **close to human settlements**. The **Indian pangolin** is common across **India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh**.
 - **Diet and Ecosystem Role:** They feed primarily on **ants and termites**, contributing to **pest control and soil aeration**, making them **crucial for ecosystem balance**.

- **Threats:** They are heavily targeted for **illegal trade in Asia**, where their **scales are used in traditional medicine** and **meat is considered a delicacy**. Additionally, **habitat loss** has worsened their decline.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **Indian pangolin** is **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**.
 - **The Chinese pangolin** is listed as **Critically Endangered**.
 - Both are protected under **Schedule I of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
 - All 8 species are listed in **CITES Appendix I**, prohibiting international commercial trade.

Source: DTE

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