



Endangered Species Bulletin 2 October 2015



UPDATE

On the 7th of October the total number of Rhino poached in South African rose to 892, it is estimated that as of today we are at 920, Namibia have lost 77, Zimbabwe have lost 34.

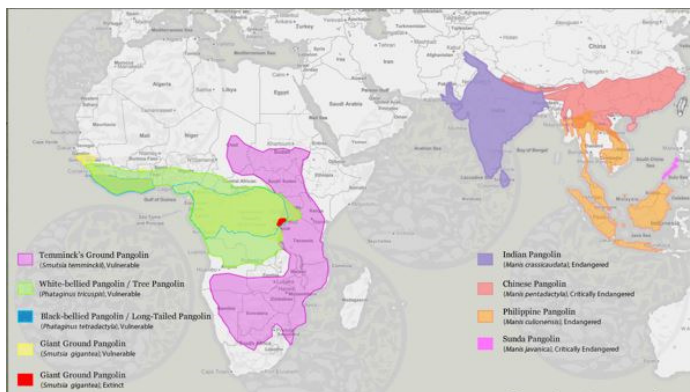
Over this last weekend, 26 elephants were poisoned in Hwange National Park with Cyanide. As a result of this an estimated 50 odd Vultures died from consuming the elephant carcasses. This shows the callousness and the knock on effect of the use of poison.

In this Bulletin we are going to cover the threat to our Pangolins by the East.

Introduction

The Pangolin is covered in hard plate like scales. They are wholly myrmecophagous (ant eaters). Very secretive and toothless. They have a long sticky tongue, which is used for licking up the ants, sharp claws on front feet for digging up ant hills, soft hind feet pads, and when they are threatened they roll up into a ball and use their scales for protection. The young are known as pups.

The Map below shows the current distribution of the species.



Home Ranges

- 10 – 24 km² in extent
- Pups remain in their maternal home range for the first year.
- Home ranges of adult male and adult female overlap closely.
- Up to 4 individuals may share a home range, temporarily.



MAJOR THREATS

Bush Meat
Traditional Medicine
Accidental Electrocutions
Cultural Talismans

TRADITIONAL USES IN SA

- Skin diseases
- Impotence & infertility
- Rheumatism & Epilepsy
- Ward off evil spirit & confergood luck
- Confer bullet-proofness

This goes hand in hand with Rhino Poaching, as the poachers carry pangolin scales for protection



The Latin Name for Pangolin is Pholidota

Conservation Status

- Temminck's Ground Pangolin (Found in South Africa) – *Vulnerable*
- Giant Ground Pangolin – *Vulnerable*
- White Bellied Tree Pangolin – *Vulnerable*
- Black Bellied Tree Pangolin – *Vulnerable*
- Sunda Pangolin – *Critically Endangered*
- Chinese Pangolin – *Critically Endangered*
- Philippine Pangolin – *Endangered*
- Indian Pangolin - *Endangered*

Threats posed by Asia

Asia has an insatiable demand for Pangolins, the Asians populations have decimated therefore they are turning to Africa.

Over 1 million Pangolins were traded in the last 10 years, data suggests that over a million pangolins were traded alone in Africa over the last decade.



RECENT SEIZURES / TRADE

- 42 kg of scales confiscated in Vietnam – 17 Aug 2015
- 200 kg of scales confiscated in Vietnam – 13 Aug 2015
- 249 kg of scales confiscated in Shanghai – 18 May 2015
- 2 tonnes of scales confiscated in Hong Kong – 20 March 2015
- 7 tonnes of scales exported from Uganda – Feb 2015
- 2.3 tonnes of scales confiscated in Hong Kong – Feb 2015
- 2 tonnes of scales confiscated at Entebbe – 26 Jan 2015

The Pangolin is protected by CITES Appendix II, and in South Africa it is protected by ToPS (Threatened for Protected Species) and provision is made for a 10 year jail sentence and or R 10 Million Fine