

IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group

2018 Report



Dan Challender

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinator

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

110

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group

Instagram:

pangolinsg

Twitter:

@PangolinSG

Website:

<https://www.pangolinsg.org/>

YouTube:

IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group



Mission statement

To work within the framework of the IUCN SSC to secure a future for wild pangolins through advancing knowledge on pangolin status, threats and conservation priorities, and by catalysing action to conserve them.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By 2020, subject to secured resources, we envision publication of updated assessments for each species of pangolin on The IUCN Red List and a greater number of conservation strategies for pangolins developed at the national and regional level, to complement global conservation planning and guide investment in reducing the extinction risk to pangolins. The Pangolin Specialist Group will be a global hub of knowledge and best practice on pangolins and their conservation, including the rehabilitation of trade-confiscated pangolins and applicable ecological monitoring methods. It will continue to provide technical and scientific expertise to CITES, having developed a pangolin trade resource kit to assist countries in combating illegal trade in pangolins and their parts. We envision a larger, more diverse, proactive membership that readily collaborates with other stakeholders and communicates effectively internally and externally with diverse audiences.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: re-assess all species of pangolin for the IUCN Red List.

Research activities: (1) research papers published on most suitable methods for monitoring wild pangolin populations; (2) research to investigate the impact of pangolin farming on demand and wild populations.

Plan

Planning: (1) hold workshop to develop a regional conservation strategy for the Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*); (2) hold workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Philippine Pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) in the Philippines; (3) hold workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) in Taiwan; (4) hold workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Sunda Pangolin in Singapore; (5) hold workshops to develop regional conservation strategies for pangolins; (6) hold workshops to develop national conservation strategies for pangolins.

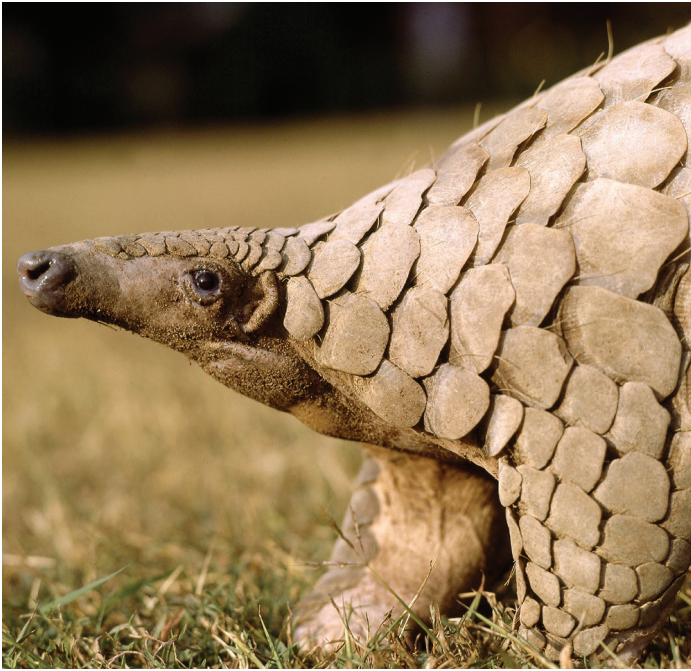
Policy: (1) completion of authoritative report on the status, trade, conservation and legislation affording protection to pangolins for the 69th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (CITES SC69); (2) contribute scientific and technical expertise to CITES meetings.

Act

Scientific meetings: hold workshop to determine most appropriate methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations.

Technical advice: (1) provide technical support to implementation of existing national/regional strategies; (2) develop a pangolin trade resource kit for CITES parties; (3) provide technical advice on rehabilitation and husbandry of pangolins; (4) provide technical advice on methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations to key stakeholders; (5) provide technical guidance on collecting, storing and transporting samples for genetic analyses; (6) serve as a hub of knowledge and best practice on pangolin conservation.

Endangered Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata*
Photo: Gerald Cubitt



Endangered White-bellied Pangolin *Phataginus tricuspis*
Photo: Hugues Akpona



Network

Membership: increase membership of the group to include at least one individual from each range state.

Proposal development and funding: secure finances to support Pangolin Specialist Group priorities and conservation work.

Synergy: build relationships with range state governments.

Communicate

Communication: (1) develop position statements on key issues facing pangolins; (2) communicate the Pangolin Specialist Group's conservation work through strategic and targeted communication; (3) document and communicate successful local community engagement case studies to catalyse such engagement in other places; (4) document and communicate successful law enforcement effort through case studies; (5) develop educational resource packs to educate and inspire young people about pangolin conservation; and (6) maintain and enhance where possible communications with members, donors and other key stakeholders.

Scientific meetings: convene Pangolin Specialist Group members to strengthen the network.

Activities and results 2018

Assess

Red List

i. We have held meetings to re-assess all eight species for the Red List. We will be submitting the assessments to the IUCN Red List Unit for inclusion in a 2019 update of the Red List. (KSR #2)

Research activities

i. Two out of three peer-reviewed papers on pangolin monitoring have been published, with a third due for submission to the Special Issue of *Global Ecology and Conservation* on pangolins in spring 2019. (KSR #27)

ii. A peer-reviewed paper on pangolin farming has been accepted for publication in *Global Ecology and Conservation* subject to minor revisions. It will be published in summer 2019. Other research is planned as well. (KSR #32)

Plan

Planning

i. Workshop to develop a regional conservation strategy for the Sunda Pangolin completed. Strategy to be published in summer 2019. (KSR #15)

ii. Workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Philippine Pangolin in the Philippines completed. Strategy to be published in summer 2019. (KSR #15)

iii. Workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Chinese Pangolin in Taiwan completed. Strategy to be published in summer 2019. (KSR #15)

iv. Workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Sunda Pangolin in Singapore completed. Strategy now published. (KSR #15)

v. We have secured funds for Specialist Group member Keri Parker to develop an internal strategy for the Specialist Group for future conservation strategy development. This will be complete by September 2019. (KSR #15)

Policy

i. Report on the status, trade, conservation and legislation affording protection to pangolins for CITES SC69 is being prepared, and will be completed in time for the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CITES CoP18). (KSR #26)

ii. The Specialist Group continues to provide technical advice to CITES on pangolin trade and conservation. (KSR #26)

Act

Scientific meetings

i. Workshop to determine most appropriate methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations held and guidance prepared for publication. Guidance will be launched in summer 2019. (KSR #27)

Technical advice

i. The Specialist Group and its members provide advice to implementation of existing national/regional strategies as needed (ongoing). (KSR #18)

ii. The pangolin trade resource kit for CITES parties is in development. The intention is to complete it by September 2019. (KSR #27)

iii. The Chair, Programme Officer and members respond to queries on rehabilitation and husbandry of pangolins when they come in (ongoing). (KSR #27)

iv. The Chair, Programme Officer and members respond to queries on methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations when they come in (ongoing). (KSR #27)

Al Davies presenting feedback on monitoring options for the Vulnerable Black-bellied Pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*)
Photo: Dan Challender



Participants of the ecological monitoring workshop held in summer 2018
Photo: Dan Challender

v. A document has been drafted on collecting, storing and transporting samples for genetic analyses by Specialist Group member Antoinette Kotze, but is in need of review ahead of finalisation. (KSR #27)

vi. The Specialist Group continues to serve as a hub of knowledge on pangolin science and conservation. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

i. The Specialist Group continues to receive membership requests and targets suitable individuals for membership, and our membership is growing.

Proposal development and funding

i. Some funds have been raised to support the Specialist Group Chair and Programme Officer and for key activities, e.g. the ecological monitoring workshop, but additional funds are needed. (KSR #19)

Synergy

i. Relationships with range state governments are being built. The Chair is liaising with CITES authorities, for example, through the CITES stream of work to analyse legislation affording protection to pangolins in range states, though more concerted effort is needed. (KSR #29)

Communicate

Communication

i. An *ex situ* working group has been established – chaired by Keri Parker – who is convening key selected members and developing a process to arrive at position statements on *ex situ* conservation and farming. Keri is liaising closely with the Chair in doing so. (KSR #28)

ii. The conservation work with the Pangolin Specialist Group is being communicated. The group will shortly be publishing a range of products including two conservation strategies, guidance on ecological monitoring and peer-reviewed papers which will be communicated widely. (KSR #28)

iii. Work is underway to analyse national legislation affording protection to pangolins in range states. (KSR #28)






iv. Internally, the group communicates by email and generally does so well. We are in the process of creating a better system to ensure effective and timely communication with external stakeholders, especially where the group is approached cold by potential funders/ collaborators. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

We thank all government, foundation and individual donors that supported the Pangolin Specialist Group in 2018. In particular, we thank Fondation Segré for generous ongoing support to the group and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their support of our ecological monitoring work. We are grateful to Zoological Society of London (ZSL) for their continued hosting and support to the group. We thank all our members for their continued commitment to the group and Rachel Hoffmann from the SSC Chair’s office for always being a source of guidance if needed.

Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 5/5

Assess	3	
Plan	7	
Act	7	
Network	3	
Communicate	4	

Main KSRs addressed: 2, 15, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-015

KSR: Key Species Result