

IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group

2019 Report



Dan Challender

Chair

Dan Challender ⁽¹⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Carly Waterman ⁽²⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

⁽²⁾ Zoological Society of London, London, UK

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) publish research papers on the most suitable methods for monitoring wild pangolin populations; (2) conduct research to investigate the impact of pangolin farming on demand and wild populations.

Plan

Planning: (1) hold a workshop to develop a regional conservation strategy for the Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*); (2) hold a workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Philippine Pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) in the Philippines; (3) hold a workshop to develop a national conservation strategy for the Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) in Taiwan; (4) hold a 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) complete an 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 a workshop to determine the 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.

Network

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



Vulnerable Temminck's ground pangolin, *Smutsia temminckii*
Photo: Darren Pietersen

Critically Endangered
Philippine pangolin, *Manis culionensis*
Photo: Roger Dolorosa



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; (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 2019

Assess

Red List

i. Revised Red List assessments for eight species of pangolin were published in 2019. (KSR #2)

Research activities

i. Two papers were published in a peer-reviewed journal. A third paper is about to be submitted for publication. (KSR #27)

ii. Research to investigate the impact of pangolin farming on demand and wild populations is ongoing. (KSR #32)

Plan

Planning

i. Action plan for the Sunda Pangolin published. (KSR #15)

ii. Action plan for the Philippine Pangolin in the Philippines published. (KSR #15)

iii. Action plan for the Chinese Pangolin in Taiwan published. (KSR #15)

iv. Action plan for the Sunda Pangolin in Singapore published. (KSR #15)

v. Workshop to develop regional conservation strategies for the Sunda and Philippine Pangolins accomplished. (KSR #15)

vi. Preparation of workshops to develop national conservation strategies for pangolins is in progress. (KSR #15)

Policy

i. The group attended the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18), contributed to international decision making, and held a side event on pangolins to disseminate guidance on monitoring pangolin populations. (KSR #26)

Act

Technical advice

i. Technical support to implementation of existing national/regional strategies is provided on an ongoing basis. (KSR #18)

ii. A guide for first responders to live pangolins seized from illegal trade should be completed by July 2020. Other discrete parts of this guide are also in the pipeline. (KSR #27)

iii. The Pangolin SG held a side event at CITES CoP18, and submitted guidance documents to the meeting, ensuring guidance was disseminated to the world's governments. (KSR #27)

Network

Membership

i. Twenty new members joined the Specialist Group.

Proposal development and funding

i. We have about GBP 20,000 in the bank raised primarily through our website. (KSR #19)

Communicate

Communication

i. We are about to launch a consultation with members on a position statement on pangolin farming; this is ongoing. (KSR #28)

ii. We have an active social media profile and maintain our website well. (KSR #28)

iii. We maintain fluent communications with members, donors and other key stakeholders. (KSR #28)

Scientific meetings

i. Members were convened to strengthen the network during the CITES CoP18 meeting and side event on pangolins. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

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Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	3	■■■
Plan	7	■■■■■■■
Act	3	■■■
Network	2	■■
Communicate	4	■■■■

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

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-015

KSR: Key Species Result