

# IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group

2020 Report



Dan Challender

## Chair

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## Number of members

148

## Social networks

Facebook: IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group

Instagram: pangolinsg

Twitter: @PangolinSG

Website: [www.pangolinsg.org](http://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 for 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.

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 2020

#### Assess

##### Research activities

i. One paper was published on the impact of pangolin farming on demand and wild populations. (KSR #27)

#### Plan

##### Planning

i. Development of national conservation strategies for pangolins has been achieved through other targets, but there is still scope to do more here. (KSR #15)

### Act

#### Technical advice

i. Technical support for implementation of existing national/regional strategies is ongoing but complete for 2017–2020. (KSR #18)

ii. A pangolin captive care guide was produced for CITES parties; other products are in progress. (KSR #27)

iii. A captive care guide on rehabilitation and husbandry of pangolins for first responders is about to be published. (KSR #27)

iv. Various papers and reports were published on methods for detecting and monitoring pangolin populations to key stakeholders. (KSR #27)

v. We have served as a hub of knowledge and best practice on pangolin conservation during the 2017–2020 quadrennium, and this remains ongoing. (KSR #27)

### Network

#### Synergy

i. We continued building relationships with range state governments during 2020. (KSR #29)

### Communicate

#### Communication

i. We made progress on position statements on key issues facing pangolins. (KSR #28)

ii. We continued communicating the Pangolin Specialist Group's conservation work through strategic and targeted communication. (KSR #28)

iii. Communications with members, donors and other key stakeholders were maintained and enhanced where possible. (KSR #28)

#### Scientific meetings

i. Meetings took place throughout the quadrennium. (KSR #28)

Critically Endangered Sunda  
Pangolin, *Manis javanica*  
Photo: Michael Pitts



### Acknowledgements

We thank all our donors for their continued support of the Pangolin Specialist Group. We thank Rachel Hoffmann for her advice to the group in the last decade.

### Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 5/5

Assess	1	
Plan	1	
Act	5	
Network	1	
Communicate	4	

Main KSRs addressed: 15, 18, 27, 28, 29

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-015

KSR: Key Species Result