Report on Status and Conservation of Asian Pangolin Species in Pakistan

Only one species of genus *Manis*; Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) is found in Pakistan. Locally it is called *Salla*.

- A. Distribution and Status: In Pakistan Indian Pangolin is mainly distributed in hilly areas of Potohar Plateau and Salt Range. In Punjab it is found in Jhelum, Chakwal, Rawalpindi, Attock and Mianwali districts. It is also reported form Gujrat and Sialkot districts. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa it is found in outskirts of Peshawer, Mardan and Kohat districts. It also occurs in Sindh, Balochistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. It has very important role in biological control of termites and other insects in agriculture. Detailed studies have not been conducted to evaluate the population status and trend. However its population is believed to be declining due to various threats.
- **B.** Threats: Following are some threats to this species:
- a. Habitat degradation: Increasing human population has resulted in vast networks of roads, urbanization, industrial expansion and increased agricultural practices. All these factors have contributed to shrinkage and degradation wildlife habitat. Habitat destruction appears to be the most significant threat to the Indian pangolin.
- **b.** Human persecution: Various myths and misconceptions are associated with this harmless creature because of lack of awareness. It is killed by human, who think it dangerous because to its odd appearance. Lack of awareness is a serious threat to the species.
 - http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2011/06/26/news/national/villagers-kill-rare-pangolin/
 - http://www.dawn.com/news/639257/terrified-villagers-kill-rarepangolin
- c. Illegal Trade: There is no authentic report on any local use of Indian Pangolin in Pakistan, however there is reported smuggling of this species to China and Far East. It is illegally killed for its scales which are smuggled abroad to be used in Traditional Chinese Medicines and in making clothing. Some nomadic peoples are involved in this illicit business. No authentic data is available on level of harvest and trade in Pakistan.

C. Conservation and Management:

Conservation and management activities include:

 Legal Protection: Indian Pangolin is" Protected" under respective provincial wildlife legislations and its hunting, killing and capturing is completely banned. Any violation is punishable with imprisonment or a fine or with both.

- Establishment of Protected Areas: A system of protected areas (including national parks wildlife sanctuaries and game reserves etc.) provide safe habitat for precious biodiversity of the country including Indian Pangolin. In Pakistan total protected area comprise of more than 12% of the total area.
- o **Strict Enforcement:** Provincial wildlife authorities ensure strict enforcement through watch and ward in and around the protected areas. In view of the illegal killing of the species, field staff has been sensitized to check any illegal activity. Provincial Wildlife Departments have launched an active campaign in Potohar Region and other potential areas for conservation of pangolins. Following are some actions taken against offenders involved in killing/capturing of pangolins:

District Chakwal, Punjab:

Sr.#	Year	No. of cases Registered	Latest Position
1	2011	2	Cases are under trial in courts.
2	2012	21	 5 cases are under trial in courts; 16 cases were decided and a total fine of PKR: 150,000 was imposed.
3	2013	19	 2 cases are under trial in courts; 14 cases were decided and a total fine of PKR: 140,000 was imposed. In 3 cases imprisonment of 45 days per each case was ordered.

District Bhimber, Azad Jammu & Kashmir:

Sr.#	Year	No. of cases Registered	Latest Position
1	2013	6	6 cases were decided and a total fine of PKR: 75,000 was imposed.

- ➤ On 25th April 2014 a consignment of 145Kg of Pangolin scales was seized from two Chinese nationals at Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad which were being smuggled to Hong Kong.
- http://www.brecorder.com/general-news/172/1168352/

- Research and monitoring: To enhance understanding of the pangolin; its population status and level of trade etc. research activities have been initiated by some universities.
 - http://zsp.com.pk/pdf44/1457 1461_41_%20SHORT%20COMMUNICATIONS_.pdf

Zoological Survey of Pakistan in collaboration of WWF-Pakistan is implementing a project, "Preliminary Assessment of Indian Pangolin in Potohar Region". This six-month project (December 2013 to May 2014) is funded by WWF-Pakistan. It is being implemented in Potohar region (Northern Punjab around Islamabad) with aim to:

- o To study the distribution and status of Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) in the Potohar region
- To investigate the threats to species and its habitat
- To get information about the trade routes/chain and usage of its various body parts to facilitate future decision making about the species
- o To develop conservation plan for studied area

Awareness Raising and Capacity building: Awareness raising activities have been undertaken to highlighting importance of pangolins in ecosystem. Local communities, students and other stakeholders are involved in these campaigns. These activities include:

- Development of information material and its dissemination (Material Attached)
- o Use of print and electronic media
 - http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/10/pangolin-trade-betrays-apathy-for-biodiversity/
 - http://tribune.com.pk/story/690431/wildlife-scaling-death/#comment-2068334
 - Workshops and seminars
 - School Nature Clubs

Training workshops were arranged for customs authorities and other wildlife law enforcement agencies to control illegal wildlife trafficking. Main focus of the workshops was to enhance awareness and capacity of field staff involved in controlling illegal wildlife trafficking from ports of entry and exit in Pakistan.

- In November 2011, a two-day training workshop "Controlling Illegal Wildlife Trade in Pakistan" held at Islamabad.
- http://www.pakistanwetlands.org/urdu/Controlling_illegal_ wildlife_trade_training.php
- http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\11\2 1\story_21-11-2011_pg7_24
- http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=79273&Cat=6
 - Three "Awareness and Capacity Building Workshops on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking" were held in Lahore Karachi and Islamabad during January-February 2013.
- http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2013/01/23/city/lahore/workshop-held-on-preservation-of-wildlife/

D. References:

- o Roberts, T.J., 1997. Mammals of Pakistan, Oxford Univ. Press, Karachi, Pakistan, pp. 525.
- Sinha, Samir, 2010. "Handbook on Wildlife Law Enforcement in India".
 TRAFFIC India/WWF-India, New Dehli, pp. 151-153
- Mahmood, T., Hussain, R., Irshad, N., Akrim, F., Nadeem, M. S. 2012. "Illegal Mass Killing of Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) in Potohar Region, Pakistan". Pakistan J. Zool., vol. 44(5), pp. 1457-1461.

Compiled by:

1. Umeed Khalid, Conservator Wildlife Forestry Wing, Climate Change Division, (Cabinet Secretariat), Government of Pakistan, Islamabad umeed_khalid@yahoo.com

2. Muhammad Samar Hussain Khan, Assistant Secretary (Wildlife) Forestry Wing, Climate Change Division, (Cabinet Secretariat), Government of Pakistan, Islamabad samar_baloch@yahoo.com







اردونام: چیونی خور سائنسی نام: Manis crassicaudata انگریزی نام: Pangolin

نمايال خصوصيات:

پیٹاولین ایک ممالیہ جانور ہے جس کا سرچھوٹا اور دم لمبی چوڑی ہوتی ہے۔ اِس کے جسم کے بالائی طرف بادا می رنگ کے فلس یعنی scales عمودی تہددار صورت میں ہوتے ہیں ۔ جبکہ جسم کا نچلا حصہ بغیرفلس کا ہوتا ہے۔ اِن کے منہ میں دانت نہیں ہوتے ۔ اِسکی سو تکھنے اور سننے کی جس تیز ہے۔ اِن کی نظر فقد را گمزور ہوتی ہے۔

عادات واطوار:

پیٹولین رات کے وقت سرگرم رہتا ہے۔ دِن کے وقت بیا کثر بلوں میں رہتا ہے۔ اِن کے ناخن لمبے ہوتے ہیں۔ تیز ناخن کی وجہ سے زمین کھود کر بل بنالیتا ہے۔ خطرے کے وقت اپنے جسم کومضوطی کے ساتھ گول لیبٹتا ہے۔ خطر مُل جانے کے بعد واپس اپنے معمول کی حالت اپنا تا ہے۔ بیا کثر اکیلار ہنالیند کرتا ہے۔ اِسکی خوراک دیمک، چیو نٹیال کیڑے مکوڑے وغیرہ اپنا تا ہے۔ بیا کثر اکیلار ہنالیند کرتا ہے۔ اِسکی خوراک دیمک، چیو نٹیال کیڑے کھوڑے وغیرہ پرشتمل ہوتا ہے۔ اِن کی تخت کھال کی وجہ سے چیونٹیوں کے کاٹے سے پچھاٹر نہیں ہوتا۔ بیا پی لمبی زبان سے چیونٹیوں کو بل سے زکال کرنگل جاتا ہے۔ اِسکی زبان پرلعاب وہن کی وجہ سے دیمک اور چیونٹیاں آسانی سے چیک جاتے ہیں۔





