

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PANGOLINS (MANIDAE SPP.)

This document has been prepared by the working group on Pangolins in relation to agenda item 50 and submitted at the request of the Standing Committee at its fourth session.

Based on its report presented to the 66th meeting of the Standing Committee and after further in-session work, the Working Group recommends that the Standing Committee adopt the recommendations outlined below.

- a) Encourages range and consumer States who have not yet replied to the questionnaire sent out by the Secretariat through Notification to the Parties No. 2014/059 to do so.
- b) The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties is invited to consider the adoption of the following resolution.

Draft resolution for consideration at CoP17

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN PANGOLINS

CONCERNED that all eight species of pangolins, family Manidae, are considered critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable, by the combined effects of habitat degradation, overexploitation and illegal trade;

RECALLING that the Conference of the Parties decided in 1994 to include all species of pangolins, Manidae spp., in Appendix II, and to amend this listing in 2000 with the annotation: "a zero annual export quota has been established for *Manis crassicaudata*, *M. culionensis*, *M. javanica* and *M. pentadactyla* for specimens removed from the wild and traded for primarily commercial purposes";

MINDFUL that the trade in specimens, parts and derivatives of Manidae of wild origin has been the subject of the Review of Significant Trade in compliance with Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13);

CONCERNED that these measures have not prevented declines of pangolin populations due to illegal or unsustainable trade;

COMMENDING the efforts made by some range States and Parties to address the illegal and unsustainable trade in pangolins and their parts and derivatives;

ENCOURAGING all stakeholders to take note of the recommendations of the final report of the First Pangolin Range States Meeting held 24 to 26 June 2015 in Da Nang, Viet Nam;

RECOGNIZING that pangolin populations in the wild are difficult to research, manage and monitor, and that more comprehensive data on the population size and conservation status of pangolin species is needed;

RECOGNIZING also that pangolin populations are vulnerable to over-exploitation due to their low reproduction rates and ease of capture;

RECOGNIZING further that in recent years, the illegal trade in pangolin specimens and parts and derivatives has increased significantly to meet international demand;

RECALLING also that in Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the *Disposal of confiscated live specimens of species included in the Appendices*, the Conference of the Parties urges Management Authorities, in consultation with Scientific Authorities and other bodies concerned, to develop action plans to deal with seized and confiscated live specimens, and RECALLING the importance for Parties to develop such plans for pangolins;

RECALLING that, in accordance with provisions in Resolution 10.16 (Rev.) on *Specimens of animal species bred in captivity*, pangolin breeding facilities should be able to demonstrate the legal origin of any founder stock and ability to successfully breed pangolins to at least the F2 generation in a controlled environment;

RECALLING further that in Resolution Conf. 10.19 (Rev. CoP14) on *Traditional Medicines*, the Conference of the Parties recommends Parties to work closely with groups of traditional-medicine practitioners and consumers in developing public education and awareness programmes towards the elimination of illegal use of endangered species, and developing awareness of the need to avoid over-exploitation;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES all Parties to:

- a) adopt and implement comprehensive national legislation or, where applicable, review existing legislation, that makes provision for deterrent penalties to address illegal trade in native and non-native pangolin specimens;
- b) ensure strict enforcement controls to address illegal trade in pangolin specimens;
- c) further strengthen national inter-agency cooperation and international cooperation and to enhance collective efforts as range, transit and destination States, to deliver coordinated activities and law enforcement responses to combat illegal trade in pangolin specimens;
- d) carry out capacity-building activities with particular focus on:
 - i) methods and techniques to detect and identify illegally traded pangolins, including from alleged captive breeding operations;
 - ii) best practice protocols for safe handling, care and rehabilitation, and release back into the wild of live confiscated pangolins specimens; and
 - iii) promoting the understanding of legal provisions concerning trade in and use of pangolins; and
- e) promote the development of techniques, including the application of forensic science, for identifying parts and derivatives of pangolins in trade;

URGES Parties with pangolin breeding facilities to ensure that such facilities have in place effective management practices and controls to prevent parts and derivatives from entering illegal trade, including through the registration of breeding facilities, and regular monitoring and control;

ENCOURAGE Parties on whose territories stocks of parts and derivatives of pangolins exist, to ensure that adequate control measures are in place to secure these stocks, and to ensure strict application of these measures;

STRONGLY ENCOURAGES consumer, transit and range States to raise awareness among the law enforcement community, including the judiciary, local communities, relevant business sectors such as courier companies and consumers about the conservation status of pangolins and the threats posed to their survival by illegal trade;

ENCOURAGES range States to work with local communities to develop non-consumptive livelihood programs and educational programs and material to assist local communities in sustainably managing pangolin populations;

ENCOURAGES consumer States to conduct research on the uses of pangolin specimens and on consumers and their motivations for consumption of pangolin parts and derivatives, implement measures to reduce the demand for illegal pangolin specimens on the basis of the results of such research, and to initiate targeted communication campaigns;

CALLS UPON range States to work with appropriate bodies to develop and implement in situ pangolin management and conservation programmes which include the making of non-detriment findings for trade in the species, population assessments, monitoring, and management and conservation measures;

CALLS UPON all governments, intergovernmental organizations, international aid agencies and non-governmental organizations to support the efforts of range, transit and consumer States concerned with the illegal trade in pangolin specimens, parts and derivatives in fighting it, including through the provision of capacity building interventions, technical assistance, operational support, funding support, educational interventions, law enforcement support and cooperation, as may be needed.

DECISION TO BE ADOPTED BY CoP17

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) liaise with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partner agencies and regional enforcement networks such as the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF), the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and other relevant enforcement networks to convey the concerns expressed in Resolution Conf. 17.XX about the illegal trade in pangolin specimens, parts and derivatives, and to request them to take these into account when developing work programmes;
- b) Subject to external funding, prepare in cooperation with relevant organisations and in consultation with range and implicated States at least two months before SC69 a report on:
 - i) the national and global conservation status of African and Asian pangolin species;
 - ii) available information about levels of legal and illegal trade including data from Parties biennial reports;
 - iii) relevant information on enforcement actions taken, including seizures, forensic analysis of seized specimens, arrests, prosecutions and judgments relating to illegal trade in pangolins as well as disposition of seized specimens;
 - iv) inventory of current captive pangolin populations, including breeding data and mortality rates, in zoos, rehabilitation centres and other captive facilities and new developments on captive breeding activities; and
 - v) new developments regarding specific demand management, education and awareness raising measures concerning pangolins.

The Secretariat shall distribute the report in draft to range and implicated States for any comments. The final report shall be made available to SC69. On the basis of the report and the comments received from the range and implicated States, the Secretariat shall formulate recommendations for consideration by SC69, as well as draft decisions for consideration by the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.