

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2023/088

Geneva, 19 July 2023

CONCERNING:

Request for samples of pangolin specimens

1. At its 19th meeting (CoP19; Panama City, 2022), the Conference of the Parties renewed Decision 18.239 on *Pangolins* (*Manis spp.*) as follows:

Directed to the Secretariat

18.239 *The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, work with the Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other relevant experts and in collaboration with the pangolin range States to develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species, that will enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized, that can be used by Parties in cases where national legislation demands that such information be provided for court purposes.*

2. The Secretariat worked with the Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group of the IUCN, hereafter referred to as “the pangolin specialist group”, to in collaboration with the pangolin range States develop conversion parameters for all pangolin species, that will enable the reliable determination of the number of animals associated with any quantity of pangolin scales seized. The final report concerning this work is presented in the Annex to document [AC32 Doc. 31](#).
3. The report outlines a number of next steps that need to be taken, including further data collection and examination of bias associated with the estimates, before scale mass estimates for all eight pangolin species can be considered robust to derive the finalised conversion parameters.
4. At the request of the Animals Committee, the Secretariat invites Parties and institutions such as zoos and museums, who may possess samples of carcasses and skins of pangolin (*Manis spp.*), to assist in this work, by providing additional material to help increase the sampling sizes to meet or exceed the minimum baseline of 30 specimens, particularly for *M. culionensis* (Philippine pangolin), *M. crassicaudata* (Indian pangolin), *M. gigantea* (giant pangolin), *M. tetradactyla* (black-bellied pangolin) and *M. temminckii* (ground pangolin).
5. Parties and organizations willing to provide such material are invited to contact the IUCN pangolin specialist group at m.shirley@pangolinsg.org and/or dan.challender@biology.ox.ac.uk; with copy to karen.gaynor@cites.org.