



# Pangolin

[Source: DTE](#)

Nigerian authorities seized approximately 2.18 tonnes of **pangolin scales**, a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to combat [pangolin trafficking](#).

- Pangolins are the most trafficked **mammals**, with high demand for their **meat and scales** in Asia and Africa, primarily for use in traditional medicine to treat ailments like rheumatism, arthritis, and skin conditions.
- **Pangolins Species:** There are eight species of pangolins, found across two continents:
  - **Africa:** **Black-bellied pangolin**, **White-bellied pangolin**, **Giant Ground pangolin** and **Temminck's Ground pangolin**.
  - **Asia:** [Indian pangolin \(\*Manis crassicaudata\*\)](#), **Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*)**, **Philippine pangolin**, and the **Sunda pangolin**.
- **Characteristics:** Pangolins are **solitary, nocturnal animals** with a distinctive armor of scales. Also known as **scaly anteaters**, they primarily feed on ants and termites.
- **Conservation Status:** The conservation status of these species ranges from **Vulnerable to Critically Endangered**.
  - Trade of pangolins is banned under the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species](#) and they are listed in **Appendix I** of the [IUCN Red List](#), indicating they are threatened with extinction.
  - In India, the **Indian** (endangered on IUCN Red List) and **Chinese pangolins are listed under [Schedule I of the Wildlife \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#)**, prohibiting exploitation.



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