

DRAFT

ANNOUNCEMENT

2nd CBFP Informal Technical Roundtable Discussion on Pangolin Conservation in Central Africa 24 October 2017 Douala, Cameroon

Pangolins or scaly anteaters are the most trafficked mammals in the world. All eight species of pangolin (four in Africa and four in Asia) are threatened by unsustainable and illegal international and domestic trade of their scales, which are used in traditional Asian medicine, and their meat, which is considered a luxury food in many cultures, as well as by habitat loss.

All species of pangolin recently received increased protection at the 17th Conference of the Parties of CITES (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) where they were uplisted to Appendix I. As of 2 January 2017, the CITES listings have gone into effect, banning the commercial trade of all pangolin species and their parts. This empowers pangolin range states to increase domestic protections to fight the tremendous threats facing pangolins.

In 2015, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) hosted the 1st Roundtable Discussion on pangolin conservation in Central Africa. The information from this CBFP Roundtable was shared at the First Pangolin Range States Meeting hosted by the governments of Vietnam and the United States.

Recently, there has been a surge in pangolin trafficking. It is important to hold another technical discussion to exchange information on current threats to pangolins in Central Africa and actions to address these threats.

The roundtable discussion is scheduled for XX October 2017 (confirm date and time) as a side event of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Meeting in Douala, Cameroon.

The goal of the roundtable discussion is to facilitate the exchange of information on current pangolin conservation actions relating to:

- pangolin field assessments for population modeling and determination of strongholds for the four African pangolin species;
- wildlife law enforcement;
- demand reduction for pangolin meat and scales;
- future plans for Central Africa.

In honor of World Pangolin Day 2017, the Government of Cameroon conducted the first pangolin scale burn to raise awareness on the plight of international pangolin trafficking. The Cameroonian Government has also uplisted all of their pangolin species to Class A to give them full protection. **The roundtable is an opportunity for partners from governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and donors to learn about this and other key actions.**

Despite escalating demand for pangolins, little is known about the four species found in Central Africa which include the white-bellied tree pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*), black-bellied tree pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*), giant ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*), and Temminck's ground pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii*). Connecting with partners will facilitate improved efforts for pangolin conservation in Cameroon and the region.

The informal technical roundtable discussion will include a presentation providing background information on the species of pangolins found in Central Africa and the threats they face.

Participants are requested to come prepared to discuss the following information:

- 1) Pangolin Population Status Information
- 2) Legislation/ Regulatory Frameworks on Pangolins
- 3) International Trade of Pangolins
- 4) Wildlife Law Enforcement on Pangolins
- 5) Use of Pangolins in your country
- 6) Demand Management for Pangolins
- 7) Partner engagement
- 8) Current conservation programs for pangolins
- 9) Future plans on pangolin conservation.

Expected Outcomes

- A list of current and planned pangolin conservation actions by partners working in Central Africa.
- Ideas for engaging governments, NGOs, civil society, and donors in pangolin conservation.

**Informal Technical Roundtable Discussion on
Pangolin Conservation in Central Africa**

Agenda

DATE: 24 October 2017

TIME: 4:00pm – 5:00pm

LOCATION: Side Event of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Meeting
Hotel Sawa (to be confirmed)
Douala, Cameroon

MEETING GOAL: To update partners on current pangolin conservation activities and to discuss future plans in Central Africa.

SESSION CHAIR: Francis Tarla, MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) Program, Zoological Society of London and University of Dschang, Cameroon

AGENDA:

4:00 pm- 4:15 pm

Welcome, Introductions and Networking

Francis Tarla, MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) Program, Zoological Society of London and University of Dschang, Cameroon

4:15 pm - 4:25 pm

Presentation on the three species of pangolins found in Central Africa and the threats they face.

David Olson, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) (to be invited)

4:25 pm – 4:35 pm

Presentation on International Pangolin trafficking in Central Africa

Nebaneh Samuel Neba, MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) (to be invited)

4:35 pm – 4:45 pm

Presentation on Pangolin Bushmeat trade in Central Africa

Emma Stokes, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) (to be invited)

4:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Keynote Address:

Efforts by the Government of Cameroon to Address Threats to Pangolins

Lekealem Joseph, Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Cameroon (to be confirmed)

5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

Roundtable Discussion:

Partners share their work on pangolins (each group takes up to 5 minutes). Issues to be considered include:

- 1) Pangolin Population Status Information
 - Which species of pangolin are found in your country?
 - Are pangolin populations increasing, remaining stable, declining or is data deficient?
 - Have field assessments been conducted on pangolin populations and strongholds identified? If so, where?
 - Have key landscapes for pangolin conservation been identified?
 - Is data available on the impact of international or domestic illegal or legal trade on wild pangolin populations?
 - Have bushmeat market assessments been conducted and where? Have key markets been identified?
 - Is international trafficking information being gathered?
- 2) Legislation/ Regulatory Frameworks
 - Has legislation been adopted to regulate international trade of pangolins in your country? If so, which species?
 - Is domestic use of pangolins regulated in your country? If so, how is it regulated?
 - What are the penalties for poaching, illegal trade in, possession of, or other illegal activities concerning pangolins?
- 3) International Trade
 - Have pangolins been legally imported or exported from your country in the last five years?
- 4) Enforcement

- Have any seizures of trafficked pangolins been made in your country since 2010?
 - Have there been associated prosecutions or convictions and what were the penalties?
 - What are the enforcement challenges faced with poaching, illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning pangolins?
 - Are there enforcement best practices or actions to share on poaching, illegal trade and other illegal activities concerning pangolins?
- 5) Use of Pangolins in your country
 - What are the most common uses (e.g. live, meat, skins, scales, fetus, blood, bones, other) and for what purpose (e.g. medicinal, meat consumption, leather, display, decoration, musical instruments, witchcraft, artificial nails)?
 - 6) Demand Management
 - What measures are being taken to manage demand for pangolins?
 - Are there on-going or planned outreach and communication campaigns and at what level?
 - What are the results of these demand management measures?
 - 7) Partner engagement
 - Are you engaging with local communities on pangolin conservation? If so, where?
 - Are you engaging with the private sector?
 - Are you engaging with the media?
 - 8) Current conservation programs for pangolins
 - 9) Future plans on pangolin conservation.

5:45 pm – 6:15 pm

National Break Out Group Discussions

6:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Wrap Up

Please contact Francis Tarla (tfrancisnchembi@gmail.com) to RSVP and for additional information.

Everyone is welcome to participate, share their experiences, and learn about the threats to pangolins and actions to conserve them and address wildlife trafficking.