

ANNOUNCEMENT
Informal Technical Roundtable Discussion on
Pangolin Conservation in Central Africa

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is organizing an informal technical roundtable discussion with partners interested in the conservation of pangolins in Central Africa. The roundtable discussion is scheduled for 16 June 2015 from 4-6:30pm at Palais des Congres as a side event of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The goal of the roundtable discussion is to facilitate the exchange of information on current pangolin conservation activities and to discuss future plans for Central Africa. Since the 1990s, the USFWS International Affairs Program has been working with numerous national and international partners to address threats to species, habitats and key landscapes, and to implement conservation actions in Central Africa.

USFWS is concerned about the threats to Central African pangolins, which include poaching and uncontrolled harvest, bushmeat trade at various scales, international trafficking for luxury meat and traditional medicinal use in Asia, lack of appropriate legal systems and wildlife law enforcement, and escalating demand. Despite unceasing demand for pangolins, little is known about the three species found in Central Africa which include the white-bellied tree pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*), black-bellied tree pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*) and the giant ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*). USFWS believes 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 three species of pangolins found in Central Africa and the threats they face. Gathered information will feed into the upcoming First Pangolin Range States Meeting in Vietnam co-hosted by the Governments of Vietnam and the United States in late June 2015.

We are asking participants to come prepared to discuss the following information that is being collected by CITES (Notification No. 2014/059) that will be discussed at the meeting in Vietnam:

- 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.

Plans for a new team training program to develop capacity to conserve pangolins in Central Africa will be presented, and feedback and participation will be sought from partners. USFWS will present information on other potential funding opportunities for conservation.

Expected Outcomes

- A list of current and planned pangolin conservation activities by partners working in Central Africa.
- Ideas for engaging governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society in pangolin conservation.
- Input and participation sought for training a team of Central African and Asian emerging conservationists to take actions to address threats to Central African pangolins.
- Information shared at First Pangolin Range State Meeting in Vietnam.

AGENDA
Informal Technical Roundtable Discussion on
Pangolin Conservation in Central Africa

DATE: Tuesday, 16 June 2015

TIME: 4:00 to 6:30pm

LOCATION: Palais des Congres as a side event of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon

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

SCHEDULE:

4:00 pm- 4:15 pm

Welcome, Introductions and Networking

Nancy Gelman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

4:15 pm - 4:30 pm

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

Paul De Ornellas, Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Pangolin Specialist Group

4:30 pm – 5:30 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, 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.

5:30 pm – 5:45 pm

Planning for “Progress on Pangolins (POP): Developing a trans-disciplinary MENTOR team to address threats to Central African pangolins and apply conservation actions”

Francis Tarla, University of Dschang, Cameroon

5:45 pm – 6:00 pm

Feedback on MENTOR - POP

6:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Discussion and Wrap Up

Please contact Nancy Gelman of USFWS (nancy_gelman@fws.gov) to RSVP and for additional information. Everyone is welcome to participate and share their experiences.