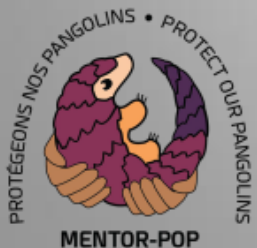


2nd CBFP Roundtable Discussion on Pangolin Conservation in Central Africa



Ichu Ichu Godwill
MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) Program
Douala, CAMEROON, 24 October 2017

Introduction to Pangolins

- Pangolins are the most trafficked wild mammals in the world.
 - Until recently, experts estimated 1 million pangolins were trafficked during last decade.
 - New study reveals up to 0.4-2.7 million pangolins hunted annually in **Central Africa alone** (Ingram *et al.*, 2017)
- 8 pangolin species globally
 - 4 in Africa
 - 4 in Asia
- Species strongholds and population status are not known



Pangolin Biology

Pangolins, also known as scaly anteaters, are:

- The only scaly mammals in the world
- Insectivorous and generally nocturnal
- Slow to reproduce, as they produce typically one young (Kingdon et al. 2013, Mahmood et al. 2015), making harvesting unsustainable
- Defenseless against humans (although curling up into a ball is a good defense against natural predators)
- Poor at surviving in captivity



Photo/Firdia Lisnawati



Central Africa's Pangolins

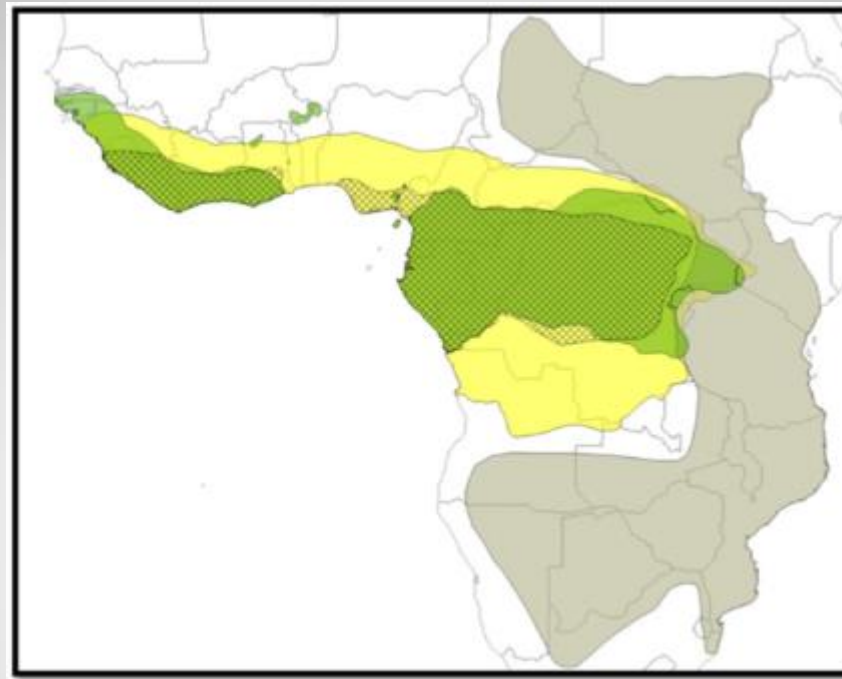


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Ground Pangolin

Photo: Darren Pietersen



Source: IUCN-SSC Pangolin Specialist Group 2014



Giant Pangolin

Photo: Ekwoge Abwe / Zoological Society of
San Diego & Drexel University



Black-bellied Pangolin

Photo: Rod Cassidy / Sangha Lodge



White-bellied Pangolin

Photo: Tim Wachter / ZSL

Threats to Pangolins in Region



Photo: Nancy Gelman/ USFWS

- Central Africa's pangolins are threatened by poaching and uncontrolled harvest, national and regional bushmeat trade, and illegal international trafficking for scales and meat.
- Demand is escalating, and Central Africa is emerging as a hub for illegal trade in pangolin scales.



Photo: LAGA / EAGLE Network

Central Africa's Pangolin Confiscations

| Date | Quantity seized | TRADE ROUTE | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| | | Export | | Destination |
| Jan. 2017 | 5,400 kg | Cameroon ¹ | → | China |
| Dec. 2016 | 3,000 kg | DRC | → | Thailand ² (final destination Laos) |
| Dec. 2016 | 670 kg | Cameroon ³ | → | Malaysia |
| Dec. 2016 | 3,000 kg | Africa | → | China ⁴ |
| June 23, 2016 | 4,000 kg | Cameroon | → | Hong Kong ⁵ |
| January 26, 2015 | 200 kg | Cameroon | → | Indonesia ⁶ |
| June 11, 2014 | 2,340 kg | Cameroon | → | Hong Kong ⁷ |
| June, 2014 | 1,360 kg | Cameroon ⁸ | - | Not reported |
| April 14, 2014 | 120 kg | Cameroon ⁹ | - | Not reported |
| April 30, 2013 | 50 kg | Cameroon | France ¹⁰ | Viet Nam |
| April 29, 2013 | 80 kg | Cameroon ¹¹ | Nigeria | China |
| March 26, 2013 | 180 kg | Cameroon ¹² | - | Not reported |
| Estimated total seized scales | 20,400kg | | | |

Sources:

1. Camer.be via allafrica.com
2. dailymail.co.uk

3. Breaking News Live via allafrica.com
4. shanghaidaily.com
5, 7. Hong Kong Government

6. CITES
8, 9, 11, 12. LAGA
10. scientificamerican.com



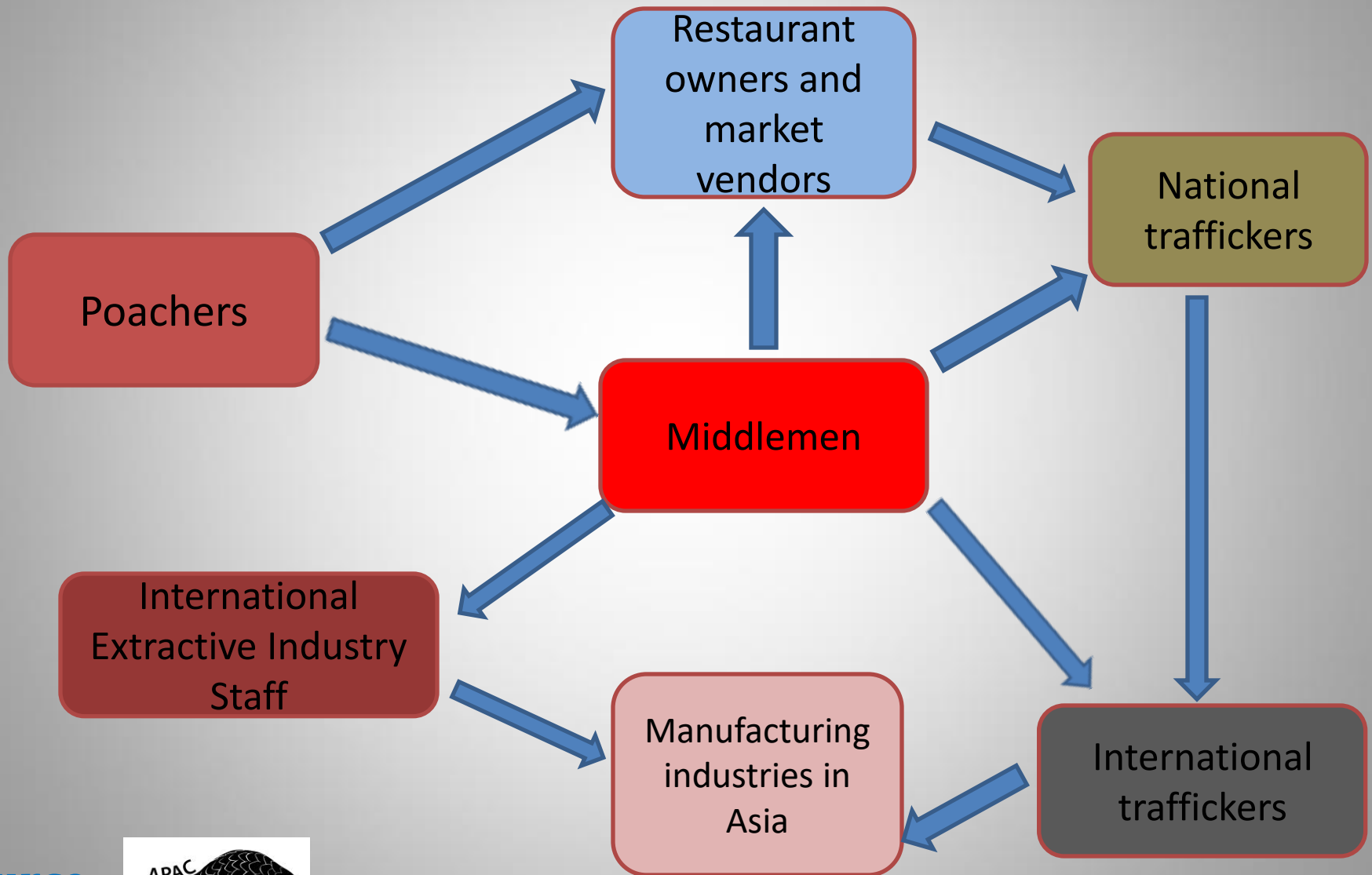
New Trends: Asian Influence, New Methods by Traffickers

- The trade in pangolin scales is well organized and increasing due to high demand from buyers, especially from Asia.
- Insufficient field investigators to infiltrate the source areas for concrete information on trade routes and prices.
- Traffickers are using new methods (e.g. grinding pangolin scales).
- Gaps in wildlife laws prevent effective prosecution of pangolin crimes.
- Corruption exacerbates problems.
- Insufficient resources compared to Asian traffickers.



Photo: MENTOR-POP

Pangolin Supply Chain in Cameroon



Source:



Gaps and Needs



Pangolin Population Assessments and Determination of Strongholds



Need protocol for conducting population assessments of pangolins and fieldwork inside and outside protected areas in region.

Include local ecological knowledge surveys, transects, and camera traps in surveys.



Photos: Bill Kanapaux / USFWS



Wildlife Law Enforcement

- Following the CITES Appendix I uplisting of all pangolins, Range States need to increase national protection of all pangolin species.
- There is also a need to:
 - Conduct national surveys and analyses throughout the region to better understand pangolin seizures, arrests, prosecutions, and sentences.
 - Understand pangolin supply chains.
 - Assist governments with intelligence on wildlife trafficking.
 - Promote effective prosecution of international traffickers, e.g. case of prosecution of two Chinese traffickers with > 5 tons of scales.



Photo: LAGA / EAGLE Network

Demand Reduction Actions

What is needed:

- Messaging, materials, social media to raise awareness on protection of pangolins since CITES;
- increased wildlife law enforcement against pangolin bushmeat and international trafficking.



Voices for Our Pangolins...



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National, Regional and International Coordination to Address Pangolin Trafficking and Bring Traffickers to Justice



Prioritize Actions for Pangolin Conservation Within Central Africa

Protégeons nos pangolins



Credit photo: Frank Kuhn / ENFW

Les pangolins font partie des mammifères les plus braconnés au monde. Trois des huit espèces de pangolin au monde vivent au Cameroun et dans la sous-région. On en sait très peu sur eux, et le commerce illégal de leur viande et de leurs écailles entraîne davantage leur extinction. Si nous n'agissons pas au plus vite, cette planète risque de perdre ses pangolins.

Reconnaissant la menace du commerce des pangolins à l'international, le Gouvernement camerounais a récemment soutenu la proposition visant à reclasser les pangolins à l'Annexe I de la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction (CITES).

Il est temps pour le Cameroun d'adopter une législation locale visant à protéger les pangolins à l'échelle nationale. De récentes confiscations d'écailles de pangolins par le Ministère des forêts et de la faune (MINFOP) traduisent la nécessité d'une action urgente.

Le reclassement des pangolins à ventres blanc et noir en classe A (même classe que le pangolin géant) permettra d'assurer la survie de ces espèces vulnérables.

En savoir plus et aider à protéger nos pangolins !



Fouh mèn ànyen ndabba wiéténga hemsiei

Protégeons Nos Pangolins



Together Let's Protect Our Pangolins

Photo: Darren Piersson

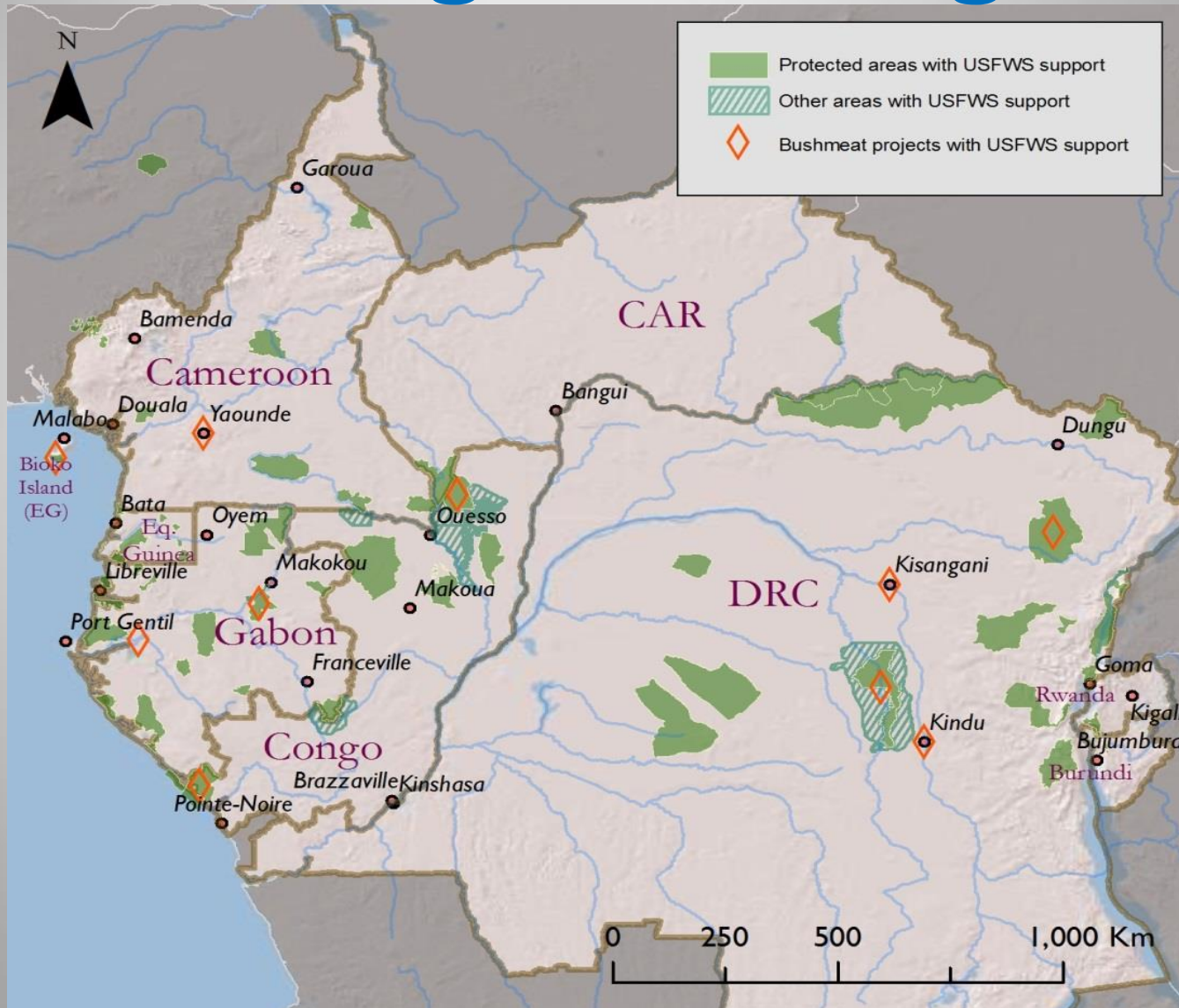
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We Need to Stop the Pangolin Bushmeat Trade



We Need to Prioritize and Protect Pangolin Strongholds

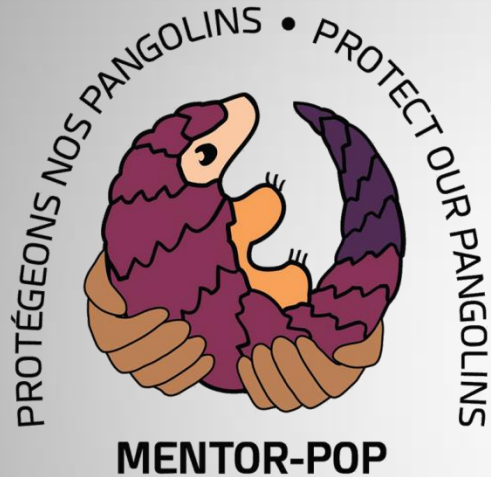


We Need Our Leadership to Treat Pangolin Crime as Serious Crime



Photo: Ken Cameron / USFWS

Acknowledgements



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