

# THREATS ON PANGOLIN:

*THE PANGOLIN COULD GO EXTINCT BEFORE MOST PEOPLE REALIZE IT EXISTS!*



**Indian Pangolin Conservation  
Project, Makwanpur Nepal**



**Presntor**  
**Mr. Suman Acharya**

## INTRODUCTION TO PANGOLIN:

- Pangolin is derived from Malay word "pengguling" explaining as "something that rolls up".
- Pangolin, often called scaly anteaters is shy, non-aggressive, nocturnal, burrowing strange mammal.
- It is distributed in Nepal, China, India, Taiwan, Japan, Bangladesh, Lao, Manymar, Thailand, Vietnam.
- Eight species of pangolin are found in the world, with four in Africa and four in Asia.

## CONTD...

- In Nepal, eastern districts, Chure range, Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Bhaktapur, Makawanpur, Dhading and some western districts are the prime habitat of two genera of Asian pangolin- Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) and Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*).
- Pangolins have their tongue longer than their actual body length.

## CONSERVATION STATUS OF PANGOLIN:

- Under the red list category of IUCN all species of pangolin are listed as endangered whereas, Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) is transferred to critically endangered from endangered recently in 2014 and is therefore considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
- All species are listed on CITES Appendix II (CITES, 2000).
- They are protected in Nepal under National park and wildlife conservation act 1973.

## KEY THREATS ON PANGOLIN:

- **The most illegally hunted and traded species in this present world!**
- The study of small mammals like pangolin seems to be overshadowed. No detail information on trades, behaviors, habits, habitats, distributions and status of conservation regarding pangolin is found.
- A single pangolin feeds about 70 millions of ants annually, plays vital role in ecosystem maintenance and is good friend of farmer still locals who are directly living with pangolin have null knowledge regarding pangolin, its importance and need for its conservation.

## CONTD...

- Key and easiest source of income: So illegally hunted rapidly in present world, especially Asia. From Nepal it is exported mostly in Chinese boarder through Kodari highway than Indians.
- Pangolin hunters and traders say that pangolins have disappeared entirely from some areas in Asia, which has led to increased trade in African pangolins.
- The status of pangolin is greatly affected by habitat destruction in the country like Nepal.

## CONTD...

- Pangolin is used for medicinal purposes that is also the burning issue for its threat: Pangolin scales, both whole and in powdered form, are used in traditional Chinese medicines to treat a variety of diseases.
- Mature pangolin as well as their fetuses are consumed for meat. They are taken for superior taste by high class family where as poor villagers just consume without any knowledge.
- High-class people use pangolin scales as a decorative showpiece and sophisticated wears.



## CONTD...

- Nepalese consider pangolin as a sign of devil or evil and kill them in first sight.
- The rules of government are not implemented as per it should be.
- Lack of conservation awareness and lack of ideas that motivates poor locals towards other job rather than hunting pangolin.



## SOME EXAMPLES REFLECTING PANGOLIN THREATS:

- *Pangolins are being poached at levels over 3000 times higher than Rhinos.*
- **A 2007 article in The Guardian quotes a Gaungdong chef explaining the distributing way in which the pangolins are prepared for the dinner:** *We keep them alive in cages until the customer makes an order. Then we hammer them unconsciously, cut their throats and drain the blood. It is a slow death. We then boil them to remove the scales. We cut the meat into small pieces and use it to make a number of dishes, including braised meat and soup. Usually the customers take the blood home with them afterwards.*

## CONTD...

- According to *Environmental News Network*, pangolins were worth around US\$ 10 per kg in the early 1990s and had soared to US\$ 175 per kg by 2009. *Wildlife Alliance* explained that the going rate of pangolin had reached a whopping US\$ 200 per kg in 2011 and has peaked the top \$ level in the present.
- In 2013, Nepal recorded around 325 kg of pangolin scale seized on the Araniko route (Kathmandu-Kodari) alone. Four pangolins make a kg of pangolin scale and this calculation reflects that 1300 pangolins must have been killed in 2013 alone and this is just the small portion.

## CONTD...

- Ms. Prativa Kaspal on Rufford report 2009 claims that the trade of pangolin parts like scales is blooming in capital Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The seizure showed that 2013 was definitely deadly for pangolins, with an estimated 8125 of these shy creatures confiscated in 49 instances of illegal trade across 13 countries. This seizure represent just 10% to 20% of the actual illegal trade volume, this strongly suggests that approximately *40625* to *81250* pangolins were killed in just one year.

CONTD...

- Recently case on March 17, Hong Kong Customs detected a suspected sea-bound cargo smuggling and seized about 2,000kg of pangolin scales. The total value of the seizure was about \$10 million.

## SOME PHOTO PLATES REFLECTING PANGOLIN THREAT:



This pangolin fetus is considered a delicacy. Photo courtesy of TRAFFIC.



Killed pangolin:  
Courtesy BBC news  
magazine.



CONTD...



Pangolin for sales:  
**TRAFFIC**



Imprisoned pangolins for  
sales: **TRAFFIC**

CONTD...



Tangoli scales:  
**TRAFFIC**



CONTD...



Thousands of pangolins  
killed: TRAFFIC

CONTD...



Pangolin scales for Sophisticated wears



# NATIONAL PHOTOS REFLECTING THREATS



Local busted red hand by hunter sl police at Bhojpur. Nepal



DFO Bhojpur weighing pangolin's scale. Photo: Suman Acharya

CONTD...



Pangolin's scale at Dhankuta Nepal. Photo: SMCRF, Nepal



Pangolin killed by locals at Taplejung. Photo: Badri Vinod Dahal.

## CONSERVATION STEPS ON PANGOLIN:

- Internationally as well as nationally its trade is taken as severe so illegal poaching and hunting are kept as eagle eyed.
- Severe punishments are allocated for pangolin trade.
- Different researches are launched to understand details about pangolin.
- Varieties of conservation awareness are launched regarding its conservation.



CONTD...



Pangolin conservation site inside Rani Forest -Photo by: KP Dahal

Pangolin conservation site inside Rani forest



Rani Community Forest User's Office-Photo by: KP Dahal

Pangolin conservation site inside Rani Forest.

CONTD...



Community-meeting-at-  
Boharadin-of-  
Nangkholyang-village



Chinese-pangolin-  
hoarding-board



## WHAT I DID FOR PANGOLIN CONSERVATION?

- My small contribution: I wrote many articles reflecting the need of pangolin conservation in different papers. I also attended some workshops and talk programs regarding pangolin and its conservation.
- My blog contains article on World Pangolin Day: The pangolin could go extinct before most people realize it exists!

# CONTD...

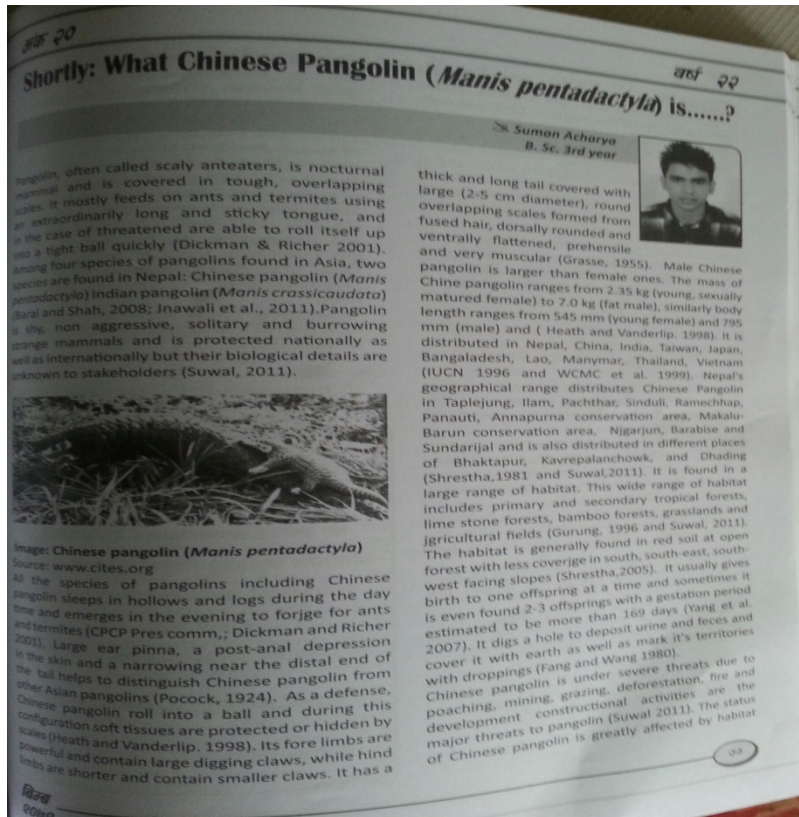


Talk program on pangolin on the day of World Pangolin Day 2015.

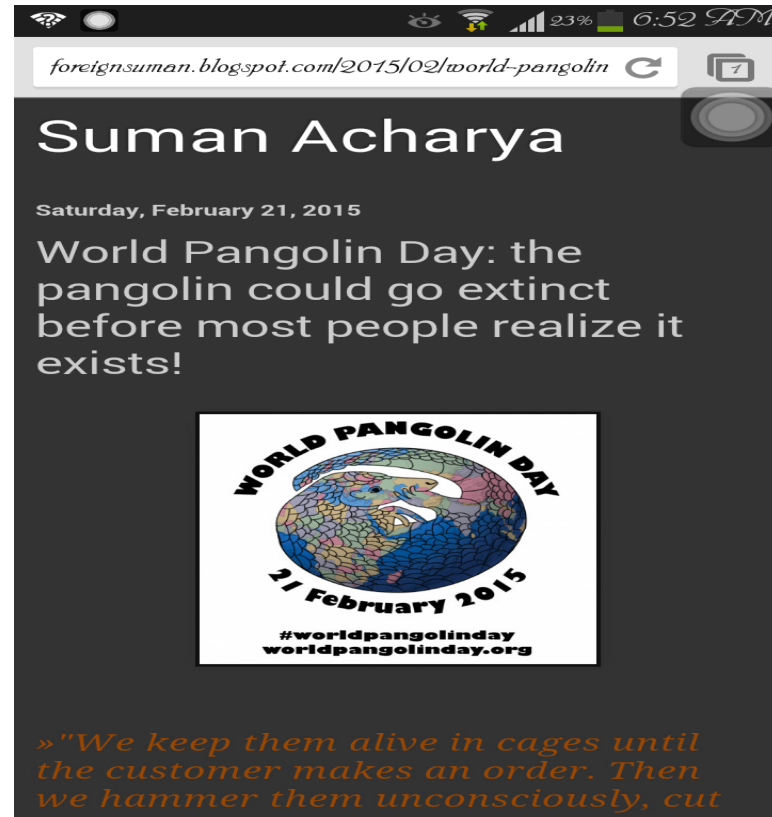


Article in Kathmandu Post on Pains of the Pangolins.

# CONTD...



Article related to Chinese pangolin.



Blog post on the day of Pangolin day.

*Lets join our hands with  
Pangolin!!!*

Thank you