

PANGOLIN



Photo courtesy: Ansar Khan

ILLEGAL
WILDLIFE
TRADE

BEHAVIOUR & BIOLOGY

☛ A pangolin is a rare and unique scaly mammal, a specialised ant-eater designed especially for the task.



It feeds only on termites and ants, and eats at least 2,00,000 a day! It has strong claws to dig up termite mounds, and even climbs up trees to get to ant nests.



When threatened, it rolls itself into a tight ball creating an armour with its tough scales - a primary defence mechanism.



Pangolin is a solitary species.



Pangolins are active at night, spending their days hidden in dark burrows often in rock caves.



Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE CATEGORY



TROPHY (scales used to make fashion accessories)



MYTH AND TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

(scales used in traditional Chinese medicine)



MEAT (eaten by hunters or for local demand)



SOURCE

TRANSIT

CONSUMER

A local hunter sets up a trap for a pangolin



Once caught, they kill the animal and rip out its scales

THIS IS A BRUTAL & BLOODY PROCESS

The scales are bought by the local dealer



The scales are then sold at a high price to the main dealer in the city

The scales are then transported over a flight, going to China





The scales are bought by a distributor



The scales are sold to the main dealer in China



The scales are sold to a traditional medicine healer



The scales are used to make a medicine that has absolutely no scientific basis



The consumer buys the medicine



The consumer takes the medicine in his/her home

PEOPLE, PLACES & PROPS



Local hunter



Trap to catch it



Knife to rip out scales



Weighing machine



Local dealer



Main dealer



Airport staff



Transporter



Main dealer in China



Distributor



Traditional Medicinal Healer



Shop



Utensils to make medicine



Customer



Home



Money