

Pangolin

Order Pholidota (8 species)

Critically Endangered (some species) / Endangered

Fact Sheet · Colouring Page · Activities

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Pangolin — Fact Sheet

Scientific name	Order Pholidota (8 species)
Conservation status	Critically Endangered (some species) / Endangered
Region	Sub-Saharan Africa and South and South-east Asia
Habitat	Tropical and subtropical forests, grasslands, and savanna
Diet	Insectivore — ants and termites exclusively; up to 70 million per year
Weight	1.8–33 kg depending on species
Size	30–100 cm body; long tail
Lifespan	Up to 20 years in the wild
Wild population	Declining rapidly; some species may have lost 80% in 3 generations

Did You Know?

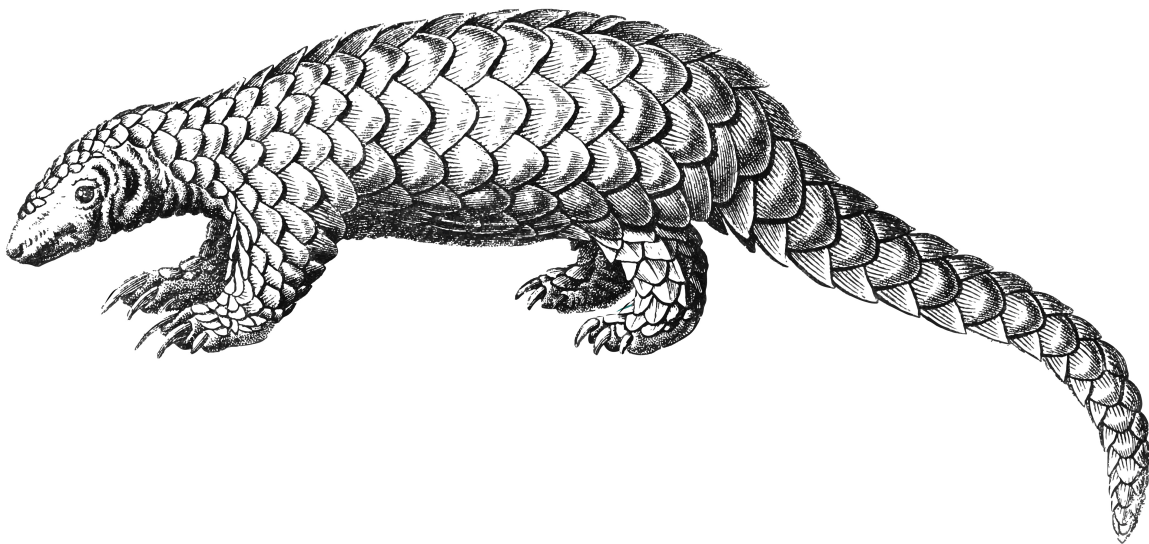
- Pangolins are the only mammals in the world covered in overlapping scales made of keratin.
- When threatened, a pangolin curls into a tight ball so its scales form a near-impenetrable shell.
- Their sticky tongue can be longer than their body and is stored in their chest cavity.
- Pangolins have no teeth; they swallow small stones to help grind food in their stomach.
- Pangolins are the world's most trafficked wild mammal, poached for their scales and meat.

Threats to Survival

1. Illegal wildlife trade — scales are used in traditional medicine; meat is a luxury food
2. Habitat loss from deforestation across Asia and Africa
3. Difficulty breeding in captivity, hampering recovery programmes
4. Low public awareness compared to other endangered species

Colour Me: Pangolin

Scales are grey-brown to olive; the underside and face are pinkish-grey and hairless. Scales are harder toward the edges and overlap like roof tiles.



Pangolin — Activities

Word Search

Find all 8 words hidden in the grid.

D	Y	I	S	H	Z	N	R	Y	T	T	V
U	R	A	S	E	T	I	M	R	E	T	T
K	E	R	A	T	I	N	T	V	W	O	I
A	N	F	I	S	W	Y	J	K	N	N	L
A	R	O	A	F	E	E	S	G	V	I	M
C	C	O	C	E	X	L	U	U	A	L	C
I	X	Q	M	T	G	E	A	M	N	O	O
R	K	F	L	R	U	J	X	C	K	G	Y
F	S	T	C	B	A	R	E	F	S	N	Y
A	T	B	V	C	I	O	N	V	N	A	P
T	O	N	I	G	Y	Q	D	A	L	P	N
D	J	V	V	S	P	Q	V	J	L	B	H

PANGOLIN	SCALES	KERATIN	TERMITES
NOCTURNAL	AFRICA	ARMOR	TONGUE

Match It Up

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

Pangolin	the world's most trafficked wild mammal
Keratin	the protein scales and fingernails are made of
Insectivore	an animal that eats insects
Trafficked	illegally traded across borders
Scales	overlapping plates covering the pangolin's body

Fill in the Blanks

1. Pangolins are the only mammals covered in hard _____.
2. Their scales are made of _____, like your fingernails.
3. When scared, a pangolin curls into a protective _____.
4. They eat ants and _____ using a long sticky tongue.

Answers: scales / keratin / ball / termites

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