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Geographical range

Amazing Species: African White-bellied Pangolin

The **African White-bellied Pangolin**, *Phataginus tricuspis*, is listed as Vulnerable on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is distributed across West and Central Africa from Guinea-Bissau through Guinea, Sierra Leone, to the Congo basin and as far east as south-west Kenya and north-west Tanzania, and south to northern Angola.

The African White-bellied Pangolin has been historically exploited by hunters and poachers for bush meat and use in traditional medicines across its range. It continues to be targeted for its meat and scales in Africa, but increasingly for illicit international trade to the Far East, following suspected declines in Asian pangolins. There are serious concerns that this intercontinental trade is set to be a major threat to Africa's pangolins in the near future (if not the case already).

This pangolin receives protection through the control of international trade under its listing on Appendix II of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). In 2012, imports of this species to the EU were banned based on concerns about the sustainability of trade from Guinea. Research on the status of populations, local levels of utilisation and demand, and intercontinental trade to Asian markets are urgently needed.

Celebrate World Pangolin Day, 21 February, 2015



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