

# World Pangolin Day: Raising Awareness for the Plight of Unique Scaled Mammals

Category: World

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[World Pangolin Day](#) is an annual event that brings together pangolin enthusiasts from around the globe to raise awareness about these remarkable creatures and the challenges they face. With their numbers rapidly declining in Asia and Africa due to poaching and illegal hunting, it is crucial that we take action to protect these under-appreciated animals.

Pangolins are truly unique mammals. They are the only scaled mammals in the world, with their bodies covered in hard scales made of keratin. These scales serve as a protective armor, shielding them from predators and other threats they may encounter in their natural habitats.

There are eight different species of pangolins found across the world, ranging from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Each species has its own distinct characteristics and range, but all are facing the same threats

to their survival.

One of the biggest challenges in studying pangolins is their elusive nature. These creatures are predominantly nocturnal and secretive, making it difficult for researchers to gather information about their habits and behaviors. However, what we do know is that pangolins have a specialized diet, preying almost exclusively on ants and termites. This diet is facilitated by their long, sticky tongues, which they use to extract their tiny prey from nests and mounds.

Another fascinating aspect of pangolins is the variation in the number of scales they possess. Due to differences in size and scale distribution, each species of pangolin likely has a unique range in terms of the number of scales they have. For example, the Sunda pangolin has been estimated to have approximately 900 to over 1000 scales.

Unfortunately, the demand for pangolins and their scales remains high, primarily driven by illegal wildlife trade. Pangolin scales are believed to have medicinal properties in some traditional Asian medicines, leading to their use in various products. Additionally, pangolin meat is considered a delicacy in certain cultures.

World Pangolin Day serves as a platform to educate the public about the importance of pangolins and the need to protect them. By raising awareness, we can work towards reducing the demand for pangolin products and supporting conservation efforts to safeguard their populations.

There are several ways you can get involved and make a difference on World Pangolin Day:

- Spread the word: Share information about pangolins on social media, using the hashtag #WorldPangolinDay. Educate your friends and family about the importance of these unique creatures and the threats they face.
- Support conservation organizations: Donate to reputable

organizations that are actively involved in pangolin conservation efforts. These organizations work on various fronts, including anti-poaching initiatives, habitat protection, and community education.

- Advocate for stronger laws and regulations: Write to your local representatives and urge them to support legislation that strengthens the protection of pangolins and increases penalties for wildlife trafficking.
- Choose sustainable alternatives: If you come across products that contain pangolin scales or parts, opt for sustainable alternatives. By making conscious choices, we can reduce the demand for these products and discourage illegal trade.

**World Pangolin Day** is a reminder that we all have a role to play in protecting our planet's biodiversity. By coming together and raising awareness, we can ensure a brighter future for these incredible scaled mammals.