

Photo Courtesy Edwin Tan (Schmike)



**Scales**  
Overlapping scales provide protection from predators and attacking insects. By rolling into a ball when threatened, pangolins can protect the vulnerable parts of their bodies which don't have scales. They can also roll around their young to protect them.

**Eyes**  
Poor eyesight. Thick eyelids protect eyes from biting insects.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- EX Extinct
- EW Extinct in the wild
- CR Critically endangered
- EN Endangered
- ▶ VU **VULNERABLE** ◀
- NT Near threatened
- LC Least concern

IUCN Red List of Endangered Species

**Tongue**  
Exceptionally long, sticky tongue, which is attached inside the body near the pelvis and last pair of ribs, helps them to reach insects and draw them into their mouths. When not in use the tongue is held in a pouch in the throat.

**Tail**  
Erect scales on tail can be used to lash out at predators. Pangolins carry their young around on the base of their tails.

**Mouth**  
Pangolins have no teeth. Special muscles in mouth prevent insects escaping.

**Stomach**  
Pangolins have keratin spikes in their stomach which along with sand and small stones (which it swallows along with the insects it eats) grind up food.

**Throat**  
Special muscles close the ears and nostrils, protecting them from insect attack. Well developed sense of smell which they use to detect insects.

**Claws**  
Strong, curved claws on front feet help break into ant and termite nests, and help climbing species to grip.

**Nose**  
Excellent sense of smell used to locate ant and termite nests.

Pangolins are the most heavily trafficked wild mammal in the world. Based on reported global seizures between 2011 and 2013, an estimated 116,990-233,980 pangolins were killed. The David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) is funding a Pangolin Protection Programme in Zambia to ensure the survival of the species in the country. [www.davidshepherd.org](http://www.davidshepherd.org)



# PANGOLIN (African Species)