Securing pangolin strongholds: A Cameroon case study

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Talk overview

• Cameroon pangolins – status and threats
• Dja landscape
• Strengthening protection – the SMART approach
• Supporting law enforcement
• Community engagement
• Monitoring
• Conclusion and future
Cameroon pangolins - threats

• All 3 species listed as vulnerable to extinction

• Illegal and unsustainable hunting driven by demand for pangolins and pangolin products:
  1. Local wildmeat consumption
  2. Intercontinental trade primarily to Asia
Cameroon pangolins - threats

• Compounding factors:
  1. Resourcing and skills shortages
  2. Governance and corruption
  3. Ineffective law enforcement
  4. Poverty
  5. Knowledge gaps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Destination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17/01/2017</td>
<td>5,400 kg</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/12/2016</td>
<td>670 kg</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/06/2016</td>
<td>4,000 kg</td>
<td>Hong-Kong</td>
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<tr>
<td>26/01/2015</td>
<td>200 kg</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/06/2014</td>
<td>2,340 kg</td>
<td>Hong-Kong</td>
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<tr>
<td>June, 2014</td>
<td>1,360 kg</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/04/2014</td>
<td>120 kg</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/04/2013</td>
<td>50 kg</td>
<td>Viet Nam via France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/04/2013</td>
<td>80 kg</td>
<td>China via Nigeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/03/2013</td>
<td>180 kg</td>
<td>Not reported</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data collated by MENTOR – POP fellows
Strengthening wildlife protection in the Dja - SMART

- The SMART approach
- Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool http://smartconservationtools.org
- Patrol based monitoring
- Data collection, storage and analysis on wildlife and threats
- Inform decision making and enhance protected area management
- Training and resourcing the Cameroon government Conservation Service
- Ongoing technical support
• Enables us to map
  - Threats
  - Wildlife sign
• Build a more comprehensive picture of the situation in the Dja
• Enables the park management to produce reports and target patrols
• Improved understanding of patrol effort and coverage
• Assessing gaps
• Trends over time
• Over the last 18 months increase in our coverage in the Dja
• Still some way to go...
Supporting effective law enforcement.

- Pangolins fully protected under Cameroonian law.
- Supporting application of these laws is key.
- ZSL supports mandated enforcement agencies.
- Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, gendarmerie, customs and judiciary.
Supporting effective law enforcement.

- Weak application of laws
  - Capacity gaps
  - Lack of resources
  - Corruption
- NGO partner can help address these through
  - Training on procedures/criminal process
  - Mentoring
  - Funding for legal advice
  - Civil society oversight
- Information gathering and intelligence led protection
Supporting effective law enforcement.

- **Achievements**
  - 4 cases prosecuted in the last 12 months
  - Information networks established
  - Sharing information on wildlife crime with key stakeholders
  - Range of training delivered, agent and information management, Cameroon legal process, human and indigenous peoples rights etc...
Engaging and Empowering Communities

- Forest peoples depend on the resources the forest provides
- Rural communities in the Dja have highlighted concerns over outsiders unsustainably depleting ‘their wildlife’
- They have expressed a desire to be able to actively stop this
- ZSL and partners have begun to look at ways to empower these communities
Engaging and Empowering Communities

• Community Surveillance Networks
  – 8 communities
  – Secure anonymous communication
  – Rewards for valuable information

• Sustainable livelihood initiatives
  – Village Savings and Loan Associations linked to value chain enhancement of Non-Timber Forest Products

• Partnership with UCL ExCiteS group
  – Enable forest peoples to monitor and report on wildlife crime
  – Also monitor activities of law enforcement agents and private sector.

• Local radio interactive shows
Pangolin monitoring

• Why monitor?
  – Identify key areas for pangolin within the Dja
  – Monitor impact of intervention

• Camera trap surveys of terrestrial mammals
  – First of its type in the Dja
  – Network of motion triggered cameras
Camera trap surveys
White-bellied pangolin

Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>No. of camera sites</th>
<th>No. sites detected</th>
<th>No. of events</th>
<th>No. of images</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North sector survey 2015-2016</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity patterns

No. of photographic events

Hour of the day
### Survey No. of camera sites No. sites detected No. of events No. of images  
North sector survey 2015 - 2016 33 7 10 72

**Giant pangolin**

**Activity patterns**

- 1 event / 100 days
- 10 events / 100 days
- Camera-trap
- Failed cameras
- Forest habitat within the reserve
- Village
- Trails

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**Survey** | **No. of camera sites** | **No. sites detected** | **No. of events** | **No. of images**  
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---  
North sector survey 2015 - 2016 | 33 | 7 | 10 | 72

**Hour of the day**

- No. of photographic events
- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Concluding thoughts and future plans

• Ongoing support for the Dja

• Continue law enforcement programme to target traffickers

• Pangolin monitoring methodologies – pangolin tracking, night surveys etc...

• Market and consumer surveys

• Maintain profile of pangolin conservation within Cameroon and beyond!
Thanks to partners and supporters

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