



INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PANGOLIN TRADE

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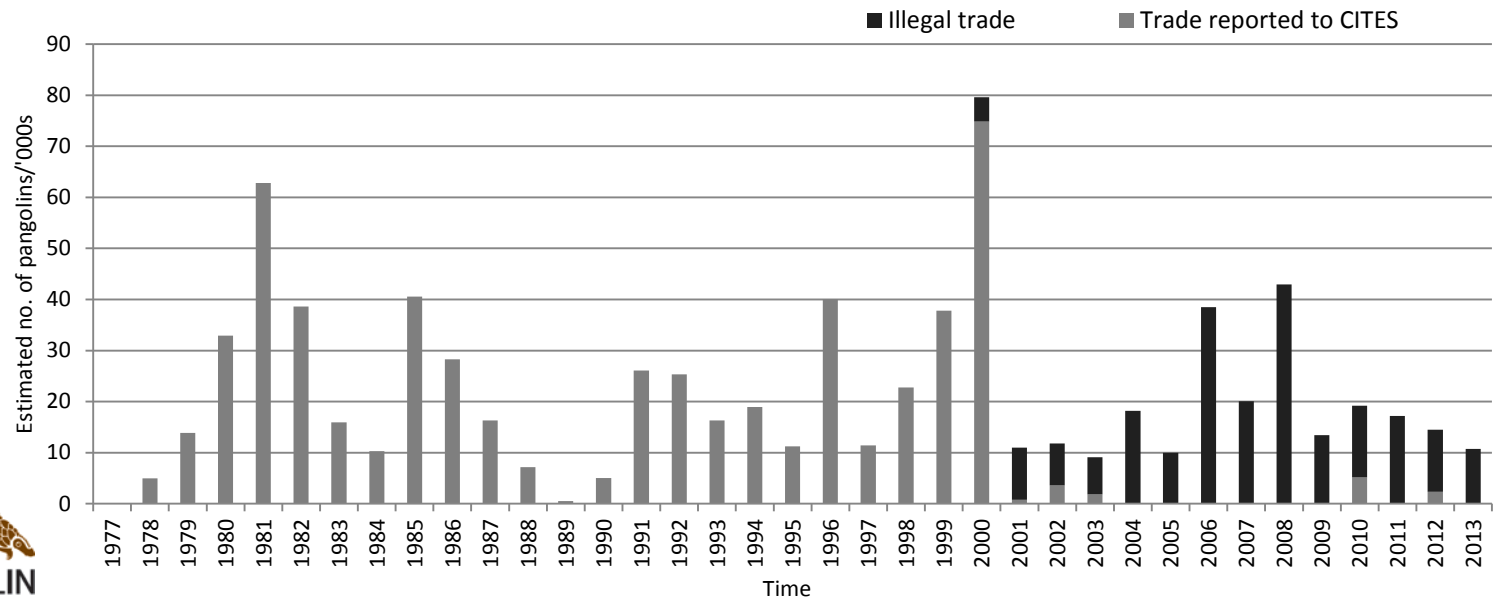
LEGAL/ILLEGAL TRADE

- Commercial trade in pangolins since early 20th century
- Pre-CITES
 - Tens of tonnes of scales, Indonesia to East Asia, 1925-1960
 - Annual harvest in China 1960s-80s, 160,000 animals annually
 - Tens of thousands of skins, 1950s-70s, SE Asia to Taiwan (P.R. China)



LEGAL/ILLEGAL TRADE

- By 1975, CITES and (current) legal protection – Asia/Africa
- Heavy hunting for international trade in Asia
- Trade reported to CITES (1975-2012), c.576,000 animals
- Little reported within/from Africa
- Also, handbags, shoes, belts, leather items...



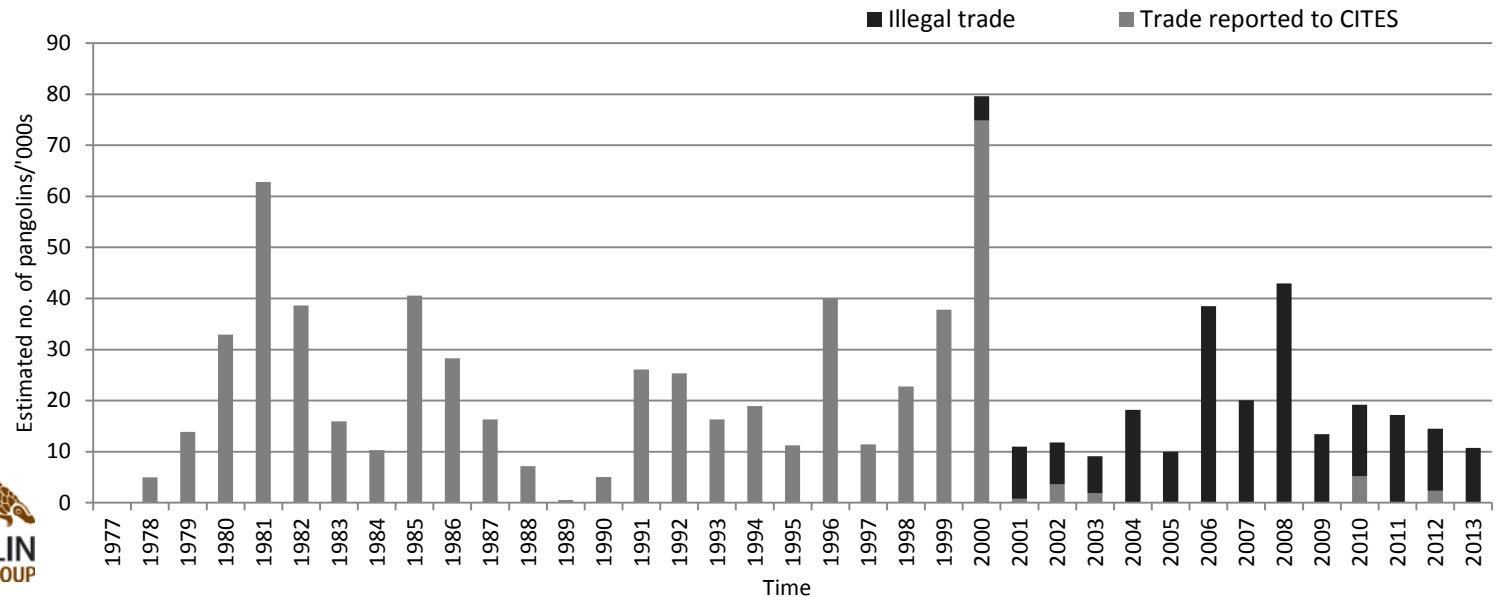
LEGAL/ILLEGAL TRADE

- Hunting/trade driven population declines, Asia (CITES RST, 1999)
- Up to 2000, much illegal, international trade also taking place.
- At least 88-163% higher than CITES trade (Challender *et al.* 2015)
- E.g., tens of tonnes of scales to China/Taiwan/South Korea annually
- This is against the backdrop of domestic harvest and trade taking place e.g., for consumption/use of scales.



ILLEGAL TRADE

- At CoP11 (2000) Asian pangolins - zero quotas for wild-caught animals traded for commercial purposes established
- Since then, high volumes of illegal, international trade in Asia
- c.227,000 animals (2000-2013), individuals, scales, meat.
- Rough extrapolation to 1,000,000 animals traded since 2000 in Asia.

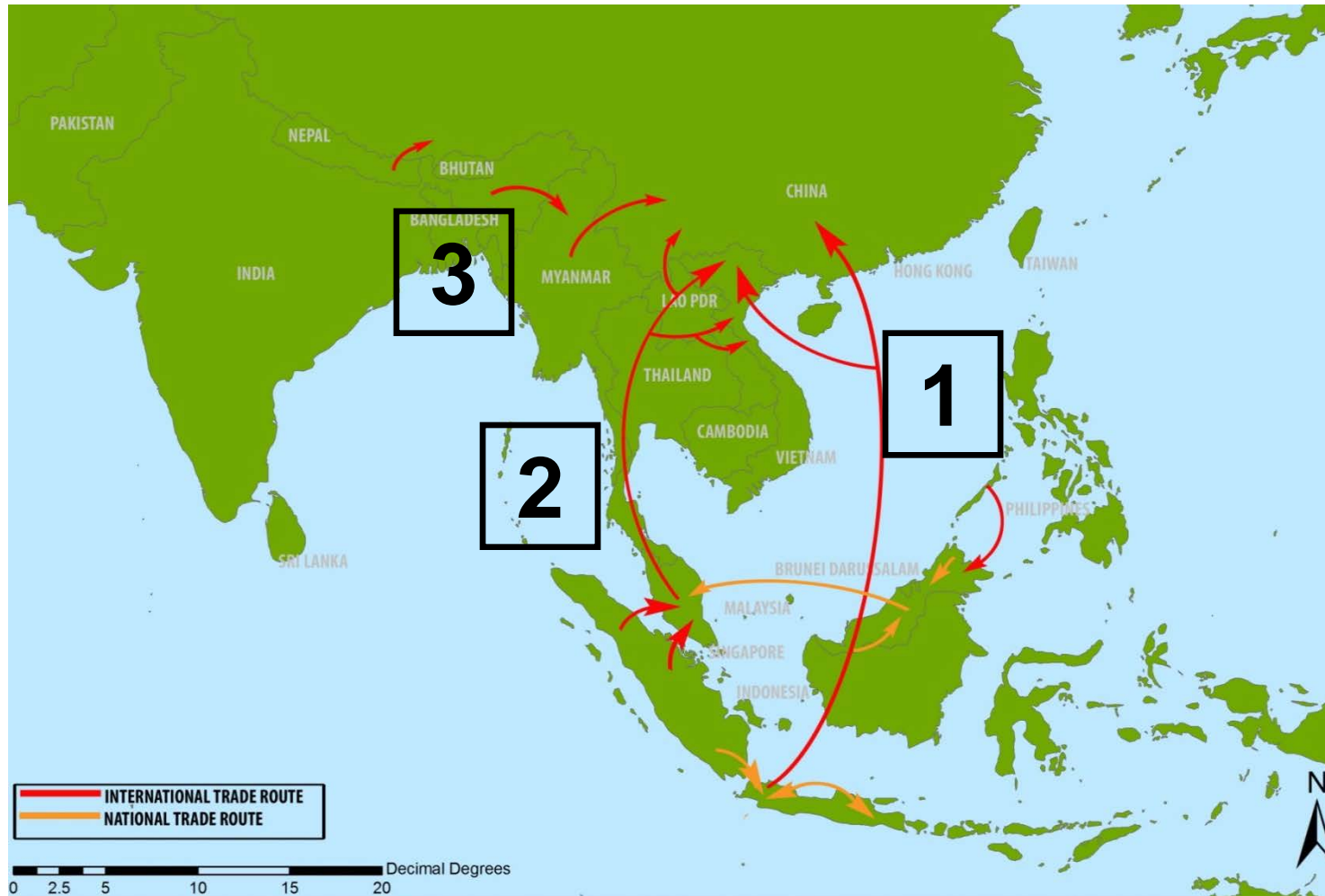


ILLEGAL TRADE

- Also seizures on-going in 2014 and 2015...
- E.g., 39 live pangolins seized in Fangchenggang, China, Jan 2014
- E.g., 130 live pangolins seized in Pathum Thani Province, Thailand, May 2014
- E.g., 21 pangolins seized at Mong Cai, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam, May 2015

ILLEGAL TRADE

- Three main strands to the trade in Asia



ILLEGAL TRADE

- Africa
- Domestic use historically – bush meat/protein source
- Traditional medicines
 - E.g., 47 uses in Nigeria (Soewu & Adekanola 2011)
 - E.g., 22 pangolin parts used in Sierra Leone (Boakye et al. 2014)
- Comparatively little trade reported to CITES pre and post-2000
- To 2000, small number of animals....
- Also, bodies/trophies/specimens.
- Similar post-2000.

- Luxury, urban markets developing....



ILLEGAL TRADE

- However, since around 2008, inter-continental trade mainly in scales.
- E.g., 1 tonne of scales seized in Hong Kong from Kenya(?), May 2014
- E.g., 2.3 tonnes of scales seized in Hong Kong from Cameroon via Malaysia
- Also, legal, but sustainable trade?
- E.g., trade in 7.5 tonnes of Giant pangolin scales from Uganda
- Trade in meat to Europe – also apparent though on smaller scale



SMUGGLING/CROSS BORDER LAUNDERING

- Asia
- Shipping container (frozen, labelled as fish),
- By car, train, post, speed boats.
- Well concealed – e.g., hidden compartments



SMUGGLING/CROSS BORDER LAUNDERING

- Africa
- Disguised as dog biscuits...
- With ivory...



IDENTIFICATION OF PANGOLINS IN TRADE

- Is a problem for non-technical experts
- Especially where scales and derivatives only are concerned



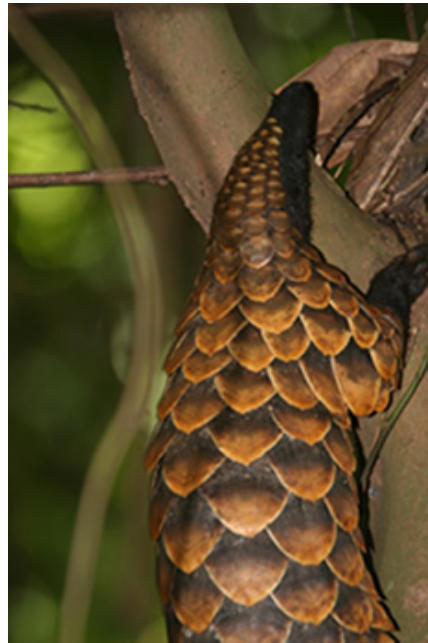
IDENTIFICATION OF PANGOLINS IN TRADE

- However, there are ways to differentiate between species:
- Asian sp. have hair between the scales, the African sp. do not.
- Number of scale rows across the middle of the back:
 - Sunda Pangolin 15-18
 - Philippine Pangolin 19-21
- Number scale rows on the tail:
 - Sunda Pangolin 25-27
 - Chinese Pangolin 14-18



IDENTIFICATION OF PANGOLINS IN TRADE

- Among the African species: scale morphology/disposition, skin colour
- Black-bellied – skin colour, scales absent from lower forelimbs
- White-bellied – skin colour, shape of scales – 3 ‘points’



USES

- International
 - Meat
 - Urban, luxury consumption
 - Affluent consumers
 - Imparts status in Asia
 - European market
 - Scales – ingredient in traditional medicines
 - Treat ailments in traditional pharmacopeia
 - Import of ‘derivatives’ to the US



USES

- Domestic

- Used locally historically
- Meat consumed
 - Locally (protein source, bush meat)
 - Urban markets (luxury product)
- Scales used for medicinal/ritualistic purposes
 - Locally
 - Keep away evil spirits
 - Keep away lions
 - Protect children
 - Etc
- Substitution of use for trade in Asia, ...and in Africa...



REGULATORY MEASURES

- Asia
 - Listed as protected in 17/19 range countries (ex. Bhutan, Brunei Dslm)
 - Strong regulation and certification in China
 - Some confusion over regulation regarding auctions, Vietnam
 - Generally, regulations in place, lack of enforcement/detection
- Africa
 - Listed as protected to varying degrees across range states
 - Totally, partially and not protected in some species/countries
 - Precautionary approach – increase protection levels?
 - Also, lack of enforcement/detection

THANK YOU

References:

- Boakye, M. K., Pietersen, D.W., Kotze, A., Dalton, D.L., Jansen, R., (2014). Ethnomedicinal use of African pangolins by traditional medical practitioners in Sierra Leone. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* **10**: 76.
- Challender, D.W.S., Harrop, S.R., MacMillan, D.C. (2015) Understanding markets to conserve trade-threatened species in CITES. *Biological Conservation* **187**, 249-259.
- Thanks to Arun Kanagavel, Rajesh Mohapatra, APWG and various uncredited photographers.