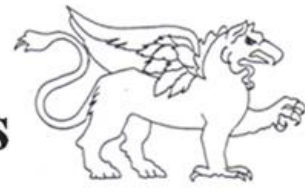




Specialised
Security Services



PROJECT:
ENDANGERED SPECIES
THE ILLEGAL TRADE OF
PANGOLINS AND
SOUTH AFRICA'S
ROLE IN IT



Pangolins are highly prized in countries like China and Vietnam, where their meat is considered a delicacy and their scales are used in traditional medicine and folk remedies.

It is important to note that all eight pangolin species are safeguarded under national and international laws.

The illegal trade of pangolins is primarily driven by the demand for their scales, which are believed to cure various health conditions in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and are also considered a luxury food in China and Vietnam. Additionally, in Africa, pangolins are sold as bushmeat for ritual or spiritual purposes and used in traditional African medicine.

Of the eight pangolin species in the world, four are found in Africa: the giant, ground, white-bellied (or tree), and black-bellied pangolin. It's worth mentioning that all four species are listed on CITES Appendix I, which prohibits all commercial international trade.

Recently, two pangolin skins were identified as belonging to Temminck's Pangolin species. After considering their weight, it was determined that one was an adult and the other was a pup. It is to be noted that the value of a live pangolin is estimated to be almost R1,000,000.00.

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- South Africa's intricate role in the illegal pangolin trade is multifaceted and includes the country's geographic vulnerability and economic enticement.
 - Situated at the crossroads of continents, it serves as a critical transit hub for the illicit trafficking networks that span Africa and Asia.
 - Its diverse landscapes and ecosystems provide ideal pangolin habitats and hotspots for poaching, making it a prime location for pangolin-related activities.
 - Furthermore, economic disparities and the persistent demand for pangolin products in traditional medicine markets, particularly in Asia, fuel the allure of pangolin trafficking as a lucrative endeavour, drawing in individuals and criminal networks eager to profit from this clandestine trade.
 - South Africa's challenge lies in navigating its role as a battleground in the fight against pangolin trafficking, balancing conservation efforts with the need for economic stability, and collaborating with international partners to disrupt the illicit supply chain that threatens these remarkable creatures.

MODUS OPERANDI OF THE ILLEGAL TRADERS:

- The illegal trade of pangolins operates like a shadowy underworld marketplace driven by a complex network of criminals and a cloak-and-dagger supply chain.
 - It begins with poachers, often armed with crude tools, who scour forests and grasslands to capture pangolins.
 - Once captured, these pangolins are trafficked through a web of middlemen, smugglers, and brokers who transport them covertly across borders, exploiting porous international boundaries and smuggling routes.
 - These traffickers employ a range of deceptive tactics, from hiding pangolins among legal cargo to forging documents.
 - Along the way, corrupt officials may turn a blind eye or even facilitate the trade for a bribe.
 - The pangolins end up in black markets, where they are sold to buyers willing to pay exorbitant prices for their scales and meat, primarily driven by traditional medicine and luxury consumption.
 - This intricate web of illegal trade operates in the shadows, making it incredibly challenging to track and dismantle the networks involved, further imperilling the pangolin populations and undermining global conservation efforts.
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POSSIBLE PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

Breaking the chain of the illegal trade of pangolins from South Africa requires a multifaceted approach that involves collaboration between governments, law enforcement agencies, conservation organisations, and local communities.

Here are vital steps to disrupt this illicit trade:

- **Strengthen Legislation and Penalties:** Enhance and enforce laws related to pangolin trafficking, ensuring that penalties are severe enough to act as a deterrent. This may include stricter sentencing for poachers, traffickers, and those involved in the trade.
- **Invest in Law Enforcement:** Allocate resources and training for law enforcement agencies to better detect, investigate, and prosecute pangolin-related crimes. This includes improved border security, specialised wildlife crime units, and the use of technology such as drones and surveillance cameras.
- **International Collaboration:** Work closely with neighbouring countries and international organisations to share intelligence, coordinate efforts, and establish a unified front against pangolin trafficking networks that operate across borders.
- **Community Involvement:** Engage local communities living near pangolin habitats by providing alternative livelihoods and education about the importance of pangolin conservation. Communities can serve as valuable allies in reporting poaching activities.
- **Demand Reduction:** Run awareness campaigns in consumer countries, especially in Asia, where the demand is high, to educate the public about the conservation importance of pangolins and the illegal nature of their trade.
- **Forensics and Evidence Gathering:** Develop forensic capabilities to analyse pangolin products and link them to specific geographic regions or trafficking networks, making it easier to identify and apprehend traffickers.
- **Undercover Operations:** Conduct covert operations to infiltrate pangolin trafficking networks, gather evidence, and identify key players involved in the trade.
- **Support for Conservation:** Allocate funding and resources to pangolin conservation initiatives, including habitat protection, research, and rehabilitation centres for rescued pangolins.
- **International Trade Regulations:** Advocate for stricter international regulations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to limit legal trade and improve monitoring of pangolin-related activities.
- **Public Awareness:** Raise public awareness globally about the dire situation of pangolins and the consequences of their illegal trade, fostering a sense of responsibility for their conservation.
- **Collaboration with NGOs:** Partner with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) specialising in wildlife conservation and anti-trafficking efforts to pool resources and expertise.

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- **Seizure and Disruption:** Actively intercept and seize pangolins and pangolin products, disrupting supply chains and dismantling trafficking networks.

Breaking the chain of the illegal pangolin trade requires a sustained and coordinated effort at local, national, and international levels. By addressing both the supply and demand sides of the trade and actively engaging communities, law enforcement, and conservationists, combating this illicit trade and protecting these unique and endangered creatures is possible.

CURRENT NEWS ARTICLES:

- <https://www.goodthingsguy.com/environment/update-pangolin-saved-by-uber-driver-gets-name-and-new-haven-to-call-home/>
- <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2023-09-04-three-arrested-after-allegedly-trying-to-sell-a-pangolin-in-bochum/>
- <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2023-08-22-wildlife-traffickers-in-ehailing-cab-bust-with-pangolin/>
- <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-06-05-four-men-arrested-after-allegedly-trying-to-sell-two-poached-pangolins-for-r200000/>

**CONTACT MR MIKE BOLHUIS FOR
SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES,
RECOMMENDATIONS, PROTECTION,
OR AN INVESTIGATION IF NEEDED.**

**ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED WITH THE
UTMOST PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY.**

FORWARD THIS DOCUMENT TO EVERYBODY.

Regards,

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This retaliation happens on social media and creates doubt about our integrity and ability. Doubt created on social media platforms is both unwarranted and untrue.

We strongly recommend that you make up your minds concerning me and our organisation only after considering all the factual information - to the exclusion of hearsay and assumptions.

Furthermore, you are welcome to address your concerns directly with me should you still be unsatisfied with your conclusions. While the internet provides a lot of valuable information, it is also a platform that distributes a lot of false information. The distribution of false information, fake news, slander and hate speech constitutes a crime that can be prosecuted by law. Your own research discretion and discernment are imperative when choosing what and what not to believe.

STANDARD RULES APPLY: Upon appointment, we require a formal mandate with detailed instructions. Please take note that should you not make use of our services – you may not under any circumstance use my name or the name of my organisation as a means to achieve whatever end.

POPI ACT 4 of 2013 South Africa: Mike Bolhuis' "Specialised Security Services" falls under Section 6 of the act. Read more here: <https://mikebolhuis.co.za/popi-act-4-of-2013-section-6-mike-bolhuis/>

SSS TASK TEAM:

<https://mikebh.link/Task-Team-2023>

SSS CYBERCRIME UNIT:
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