Pangolins, the most trafficked wild mammal, are considered worldwide. They are trapped, shot or snared for their scales which are used as an ingredient in traditional Chinese medicines, and for their meat which is consumed as a delicacy.

TRAFFIC’s study found more than 650 pangolins in illegal wildlife trade in India every year. This is a conservative estimate as only a fraction of illegal wildlife trade is detected, the actual number is likely to be far higher. Manipur and Tamil Nadu are the hotspots for pangolin smuggling in India.

Hunting, trading or any other form of utilisation of pangolin species is a crime under India’s Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. International trade is also prohibited under CITES.

Nearly 6,000 pangolins in illegal wildlife trade in India since 2009 found TRAFFIC’s study in India.

Boiled alive to remove scales.

Remember: Hunting, trapping and trade in pangolins is a crime.

Report poaching, smuggling or illegal trade to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), local Forest and Police Departments.

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Indian Pangolin: Manis crassicaudata & Chinese Pangolin: Manis pentadactyla. Two species found in India.

Toothless and scaly, pangolins are considered farmer’s friend as they keep a check on ant and termite populations, and help improve soil quality.

Curls itself into a ball as self-defence against predators such as lion.

Meet the Pangolin: World’s most trafficked wild mammal.

You can help:
1. Do not buy products or derivatives made from pangolins and their body parts.
2. Spread awareness about pangolins in India by sharing information on social media platforms. Follow TRAFFIC India on Facebook: TRAFFIC, India Office; Twitter: @TRAFFIC_India, #HelpStopIllegalWildlifeTrade #EndWildlifeCrime.
3. Report poaching, smuggling or illegal trade to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), local Forest and Police Departments.