

## Transfer of Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* from Appendix II to Appendix I

### Proposal 8 Proponent: Bangladesh

### Proposal 9 Proponents: India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and United States of America

**Note:** Proposals 8 and 9 are identical in intent. One analysis is presented for the two.

**Summary:** The Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* occurs in South Asia from northeast and southeast Pakistan south throughout the Indian sub-continent, including Sri Lanka, and east to southern Nepal. It was found throughout Bangladesh historically but there are no recent records and the species may be extinct there. There are historical records of this species from southwest China (Yunnan Province) where its presence is uncertain, and dubious records from Myanmar. *Manis crassicaudata* occurs in various types of tropical forest as well as grassland, open land and degraded habitat. Like other species of pangolin it is solitary and is considered to have low fecundity, giving birth to one young typically (though there are observations of twins), after a gestation period of approximately six months. Females typically give birth annually.

There is a lack of quantitative population data for this species. Its status in India, which comprises by far the largest part of its range (very approximately three million km<sup>2</sup>), is not well known, though it was reported in the early 1980s that populations were greatly reduced by hunting, and it is currently listed as vulnerable nationally. This species is protected in India meaning hunting and trade are prohibited but seizures of pangolin derivatives have been made across India between 2009 and 2014 indicating some level of exploitation. It is reportedly of variable abundance in Sri Lanka, but nowhere common.

*Manis crassicaudata* is also protected in Pakistan where hunting is prohibited, but there is evidence of population declines, driven by harvesting for illegal trade. In the Potohar Plateau region of northeast Pakistan, which forms a large part of this species' range in Pakistan (ca. 22,000km<sup>2</sup>), it is estimated that the average population density of *M. crassicaudata* underwent an 80% decline between 2010 and 2012, from around one individual per km<sup>2</sup> to one every 5 or so km<sup>2</sup>. Data from the last three to four years reveals the killing of around 400 pangolins here, although this is likely to be an underestimate<sup>1</sup>. Additional data from Pakistan indicate that targeted exploitation of this species also occurs in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with an estimated illegal offtake of ca. 500 between 2012 and 2016<sup>1</sup>, again likely to be an underestimate.

Since 2000, seizure data indicate that illicit, international trade in at least 8000 *M. crassicaudata* may have taken place<sup>2</sup>. International demand for this and other species of *Manis*, especially for scales, is believed to be increasing as a result of significant declines in populations of *M. pentadactyla* and *M. javanica*. This species is also said to be heavily hunted for local consumption.

This species is classified in the IUCN Red List as Endangered (2014).

**Analysis:** *Manis crassicaudata* is affected by trade. There are few data on the population status of this species. It is believed to have been extirpated from some of its range, in Bangladesh and populations appear to have declined markedly due to poaching in parts of Pakistan. Very little is known on the population in India which is the majority of the species' range, although it is believed to have been reduced. There is therefore insufficient information to determine whether the species meets the criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.

**Reviewers:** C. Shepherd and D. Pietersen.

#### References:

Information not referenced in the Summary section is from the Supporting Statement.

<sup>1</sup> Mahmood, T. (2016) *In litt.* to the IUCN/TRAFFIC Analyses Team, Cambridge, UK.

<sup>2</sup> 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.