

Documentation of the globally threatened Indian Pangolin and its threats from Ajodhya Hills, Purulia, West Bengal, India



Indian Pangolin at Ajodhya Hills captured in camera trap. © Supriya Samanta/ Purulia Forest Department.

MOULTRIE 26°C @CAM04 12 AUG 2021 10:33 pm

Pangolins are one of the most trafficked mammals on Earth (Aisher 2016). Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* Linnaeus, 1758 and Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* Gray, 1827 are found in India out of eight in the World (Menon 2014). The Indian Pangolin is an 'Endangered' species according to the IUCN Red list and listed as Appendix 1 on CITES (Mahmood et al. 2019). It is also a Schedule I species as per Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (Menon 2014). According to the census of wild animals in

southern West Bengal 2002 report by Wildlife Wing, West Bengal Forest Department, Indian Pangolin population in Purulia district was 42.

During an opportunistic camera trap survey one Indian Pangolin was photographed on 12 August 2021 at Ajodhya Hills of Purulia district, West Bengal, India. Purulia Forest Department also rescued two Indian Pangolins from poachers at Bararola and Serengdi village adjacent to Ajodhya Hills on 22 and 28 August 2021, respectively.

Interstate poaching activity between West Bengal and Jharkhand, forest fire, deforestation, killing for consumption of meat, habitat destruction are major threats to the last remaining Pangolin population in Ajodhya Hills.

References

- Aisher, A. (2016).** Scarcity, Alterity and Value: Decline of the Pangolin, the World's Most Trafficked Mammal. *Conservation and Society* 14(4): 317–329.
- Mahmood, T., D. Challender, A. Khaliwada, S. Andleeb, P. Perera, S. Trageser, A. Ghose & R. Mohapatra (2019).** *Manis crassicaudata*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019. Available online at <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-3.RLTS.T12761A123583998.en>. Accessed on 16 December 2021.
- Menon, V. (2014).** *Indian Mammals - A Field Guide*. Hachette Book Publishing India Pvt. Ltd. 528 pp.

Supriya Samanta¹, Santanu Mahato² & Adarsha Mukherjee³

¹ Department of Zoology, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, West Bengal 723104, India.

² Biopsychology Laboratory, Institution of Excellence, University of Mysore, Mysuru, Karnataka 570006, India.

³ Department of Computer Science, J.K. College, Purulia, West Bengal 723101, India.

¹⁻³ Green Plateau, Hatirampur, Bankura, West Bengal 722121, India.

Emails: ¹supriyasamanta1234@gmail.com (corresponding author), ²santanumahato94@gmail.com,

³adarsha8158@gmail.com

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to Mr. Debasish Sharma, Divisional Forest Officer of Purulia Division for his permission and support. We are also thankful to RHATC mentors and fellows & all the members of Green Plateau for their continuous encouragement.

Citation: Samanta, S., S. Mahato & A. Mukherjee (2021). Documentation of the globally threatened Indian Pangolin and its threats from Ajodhya Hills, Purulia, West Bengal, India. *Mammal Tales* #36, In: *Zoo's Print* 36(12): 65–66.