

# PANGOLIN SPECIES IDENTIFICATION MATERIALS

The *Pangolin Species Identification Guide* is a user-friendly booklet and smartphone application featuring a simple photo layout with minimal text, written for the non-scientific user. It depicts the eight pangolin species and range states, as well as photos of scales, skins, and descaled bodies.

In addition to English, the *Pangolin Species Identification Guide* is available in ten key languages, encompassing pangolin range states in Asia and Africa. The pangolin identification materials include a *Pangolin Species Identification Quick Reference Poster* (available in Chinese, English, Thai, and Vietnamese). The materials are located on the USAID Wildlife Asia website at the [“Pangolin Species Identification Portal.”](#)

## WHAT’S INSIDE?

The *Guide* includes the following sections:

- Range Maps and Species Summaries
- Heads and Profiles
- Scale Distribution
- Feet
- Tails
- Scale Samples
- Skins
- Pangolin Products
- Regional Rescue Center Contact Information

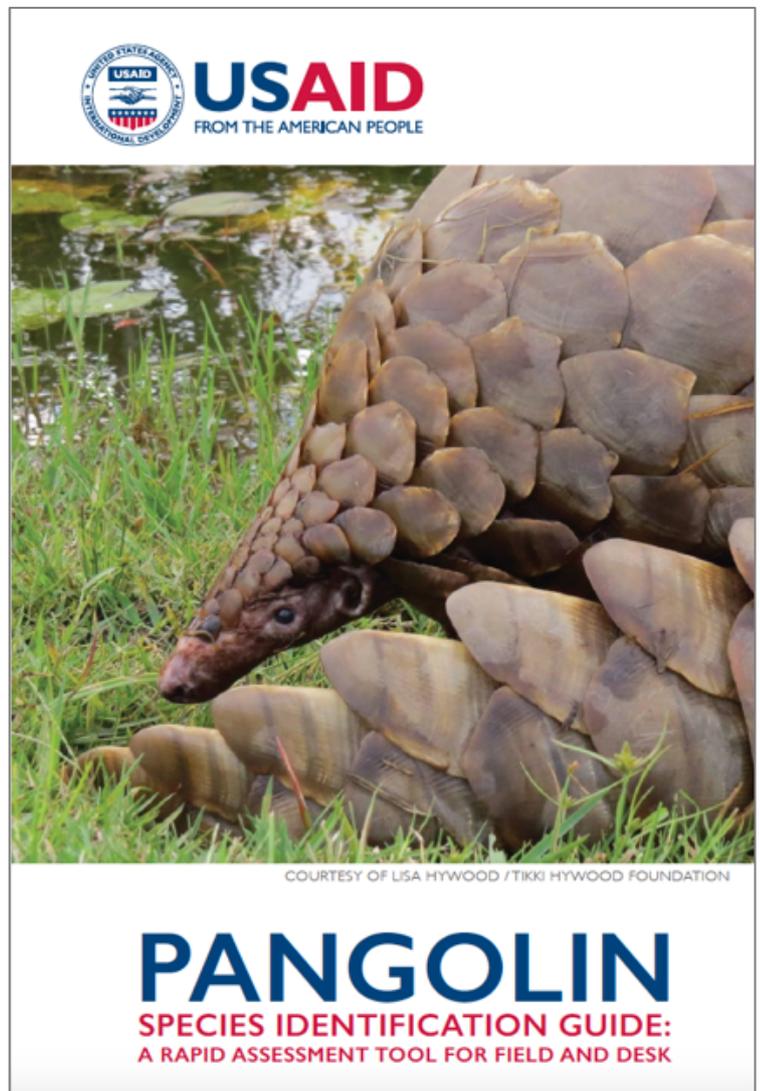
## WHERE CAN I FIND THE PANGOLIN GUIDE?

The *Pangolin Guide* is available in ten languages:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| • Chinese    | • Lao        |
| • English    | • Malay      |
| • French     | • Portuguese |
| • Indonesian | • Thai       |
| • Khmer      | • Vietnamese |

The *Guide*, quick reference posters, and links to the smartphone applications are available at

[www.usaidwildlifeasia.org/pangolin-guide](http://www.usaidwildlifeasia.org/pangolin-guide)



Pangolin Species Identification Guide cover

## WHAT IS THE GUIDE FOR?

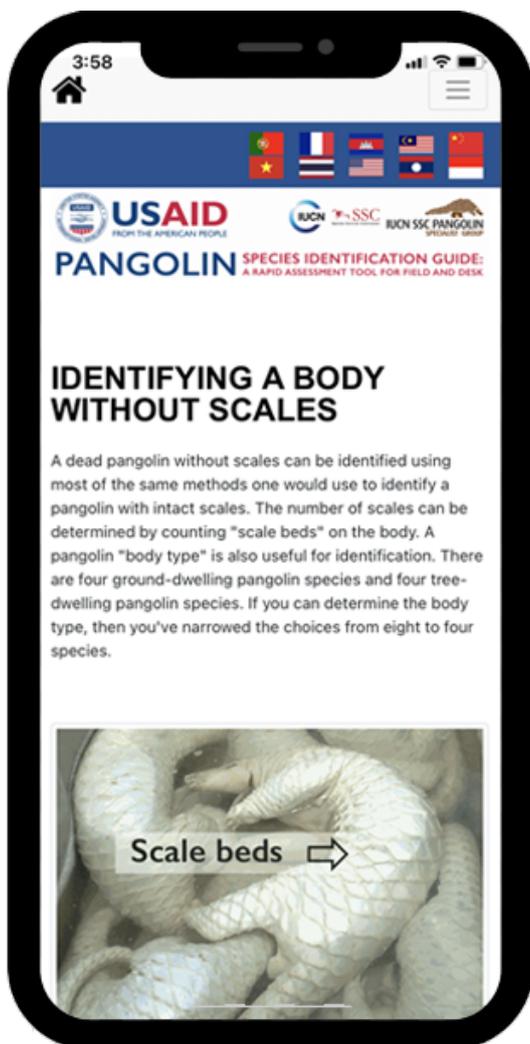
Considered the world’s most trafficked mammal, pangolins are frequently confiscated by law enforcement. The *Pangolin Species Identification Guide* was developed in response to the need for a standardized method for law enforcement officials to identify the eight pangolin species and their derivatives, including scales. Range maps are included and designed to assist law enforcers in determining possible country of origin and transit routes for intercepted pangolin species.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

The *Guide* was developed specifically for law enforcement officials and other personnel involved in wildlife trafficking seizures and prosecutions. The *Guide* makes it possible for investigators to detect and identify illegally traded pangolins and pangolin products, determine the country of origin, and improve outcomes in wildlife crime cases.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

While there is no shortage of weighty scientific tomes for identifying wildlife species, there is a lack of user-friendly identification materials specifically developed for police officers, customs officials, and other first responders. This shortcoming has challenged the effectiveness of CITES implementation, wildlife law enforcement, and judiciary outcomes in cases involving illegal trade in pangolins.



Pangolin Guide smartphone application. Photo: USAID Wildlife Asia

## HOW WAS THE PANGOLIN GUIDE DEVELOPED?

The development of the *Pangolin Species Identification Guide* was supported by USAID, with technical input and support to expand its reach from a variety of organizations including Annamiticus, Tikki Hywood Foundation, African Pangolin Specialist Group, and Education for Nature-Vietnam. The smartphone application was reviewed by members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission Pangolin Specialist Group.

A significant number of government and non-government partners helped to print, distribute, and share these tools. One notable example is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC) which made the materials available via the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Checklist and Species+ websites. The CITES Secretariat then notified its 183 Member States of their availability.

## PARTNERS

- Annamiticus
- Tikki Hywood Foundation
- African Pangolin Specialist Group
- IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group
- UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Center
- CITES Secretariat
- Education for Nature-Vietnam

**“The *Pangolin Guide* was really useful when we were figuring out the different bags of scales that were coming in. It provided useful pictorials and measurements of the pangolin scales relating to each species as well as their geographical origin, which gave us a quick preliminary identification of what pangolin species could be present in the seizures.”**

– Dr. Adrian Loo, Group Director for Conservation and Wildlife Management, Singapore National Parks Board

## ABOUT USAID WILDLIFE ASIA

USAID Wildlife Asia is a five-year (2016-2021), US\$24.5 million, regional counter wildlife trafficking (CWT) initiative addressing the illegal trade in pangolins, tigers, elephants, and rhinos in Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand, and Vietnam) and China. The project aims to reduce consumer demand for wildlife parts and products, strengthen law enforcement, enhance legal and political commitment, and support regional collaboration to reduce wildlife crimes.

<https://www.usaidwildlifeasia.org>