

# Chinese Pangolin

कालो सालक



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### **Illustrations**

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## Morphology and Structure

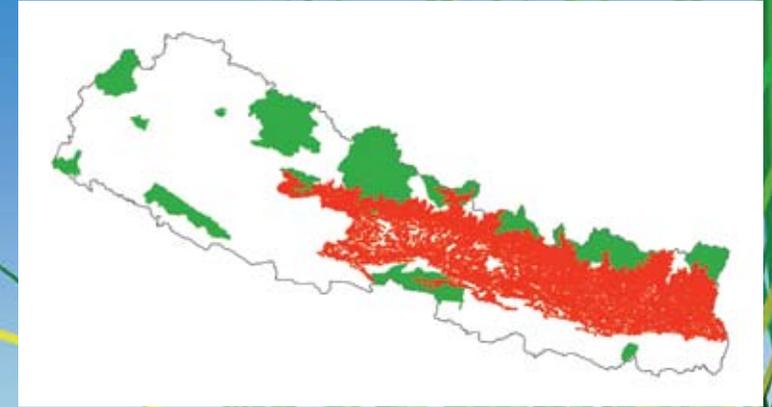
Among the four species of Asian Pangolin, two species Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* and Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* are found in Nepal. The Chinese Pangolin belongs to small mammals. It is also known as "Scaly Anteater" because of its body covered by scales and food consisting of ants. It is known by different names by different communities and districts of Nepal. For example, "Ghose" by Tamang community, "Kayaney" by Newar community and "Sal Machha" in many districts like Dhading, Nuwakot, Solukhumbu etc. The outer part of its body is covered by hard (horny) scales. Its head is small, smooth and tapered. Its snout is sensitive and is not covered with scales. It does not have teeth however has a very long tongue of about 40-45cm. The tongue is a tacky coating of saliva and helps in sticking the ants and termites. Its forelimbs of Pangolins are very powerful and have large claws which help in digging burrows, anthills and termite mounds in search of shelter and food.

एसियामा पाइने चार प्रजातिको सालक मध्ये नेपालमा दुई प्रजाति, कालो सालक र तामे सालक पाइन्छ। कालो सालक सानो स्तनधारी प्राणी वर्गमा पर्छ। शरीर खपटाले ढाकेको तथा कमिला खाने भएकोले यसलाई 'स्केली एन्टइटर' भनेर पनि चिनिन्छ। नेपालका विभिन्न समुदाय र जिल्लाहरूमा यसलाई फरक फरक नामले चिनिन्छ, जस्तै: तामाङले 'घोसे', नेवारले 'कैँड्या', धादिङ, नुवाकोट, सोलुखुम्बु र अन्य जिल्लामा 'साल माछा'। यसको शरीरको बाहिरी भाग कडा खपटै खपटाले ढाकिएको हुन्छ र टाउको तुलनात्मक रूपमा शरीर भन्दा सानो सड्कु आकारको हुन्छ। यसको दाँत हुँदैन तर एकदमै लामो (४०-४५ से.मि.) चिपचिपे जिब्रो हुन्छ। जिब्रोले निकै परसम्मको कमिला र धमिरा समात्न सक्छ। यसको अगाडिका खुट्टामा लामा र शक्तिशाली नङ्गाहरू हुन्छन् जसको मद्दतले यसले बस्नका लागि दुलो खन्ने र आहाराको लागि कमिला र धमिराको गुड भत्काउने गर्छ।



## Distribution and Population

The Chinese Pangolin is found within and outside the protected areas of Nepal. Among the protected areas, it is recorded from Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park, Shivapuri- Nagarjuna National Park, Annapurna Conservation Area, Makalu- Barun National Park, Gaurisankhar Conservation Area, Sagarmatha National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve. Similarly, it is also found in many national, community and private forests, outside the protected areas of Kavrepalanchok, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Gorkha, Illam, Taplejung, Dhankuta, Sankhuwasabha, Khotang, Makwanpur, Ramechhap, Pachathar, Terahthum and Baglung districts. Its current population is estimated to be approximately 5000 individuals in Nepal.



नेपालमा कालो सालक संरक्षित क्षेत्रभित्र र बाहिर दुवै स्थानहरूमा फेला परेको छ । संरक्षित क्षेत्रभित्र यो शुक्लाफाँट वन्यजन्तु आरक्ष, बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, शिवपुरी-नागार्जुन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, अन्नपूर्ण संरक्षण क्षेत्र, मकालु-बरुण राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, गौरीशंकर संरक्षण क्षेत्र, सगरमाथा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज र पर्सा वन्यजन्तु आरक्षमा पाइएको छ । त्यसैगरी संरक्षित क्षेत्रबाहिर काभ्रेपलाञ्चोक, भक्तपुर, काठमाडौँ, गोरखा, इलाम, ताप्लेजुङ, धनकुटा, संखुवासभा, खोटाङ, बाग्लुङ, रामेछाप, सिन्धुली, पाँचथर, तेह्रथुम र मकवानपुर जिल्लाका राष्ट्रिय, सामुदायिक र निजी वनहरूमा फेला परेको छ । नेपालमा यसको लगभग ५००० को संख्या रहेको अनुमान गरिएको छ ।

## Habitat

The Chinese Pangolin inhabits in wide range of habitats, including primary and secondary sub-tropical forests throughout Nepal from Terai to mid-hills regions. It prefers to live in open lands, different types of forests, agricultural lands and near the human settlements where the food, water sources and sunlight is available.

कालो सालक नेपालमा तराईदेखि मध्य पहाडी भेगसम्म पाइन्छ । यो पारिलो घाम, पर्याप्त खाना, पानीको मुहान र खुल्ला क्षेत्र, विभिन्न किसिमका वनजंगलमा बस्न रुचाउँछ र साथै यसलाई घाँसे मैदान, खेतीपाती गरिएको क्षेत्र र मानिसको वस्ती नजिक पनि देख्न सकिन्छ ।



### Feeding Behavior

Its main food are ants and termites but prefers to eat their eggs and larvae. A pangolin can feed 140-200 gm of ants and termites in a single day which sums upto seventy millions ants and termites in an year. Pangolin drinks water by lapping its tongue.

यसको मुख्य आहारा कमिला र धमिरा भए तापनि तिनको अण्डा र लार्वालाई बढी रुचाउँछ । एउटा सालकले एकदिनमा १४०-२०० ग्राम कमिला र धमिरा खान सक्छ, अर्थात एक वर्षमा यसले सात करोड कमिला र धमिरा खाने गर्छ । यसले जिब्रोले चाटेर पानी खान्छ ।



## Reproduction and Life Cycle

The Chinese Pangolin gets sexually matured at 1-2 years of age and male and female live together in a single burrow only during the mating period. Gestation period lasts about 318-372 days and mating period in captive was observed during May and June. It usually gives birth to one offspring but sometime is known to give birth upto 3 offsprings. The weight of the newly born baby is about 80-450 gm and length is about 6 inches. The scales of newly born baby pangolin is light brown in color, soft and not so bristly sharper like the mother's scales but nearly equal in number throughout the body. Chinese Pangolin gave birth to an offspring in February 2007 in Central Zoo, Nepal which weighed 0.45 kg with tail length of 26 cm at birth. Pangolin takes care of its babies and breast feed like other mammals. The lifespan of pangolin in captivity is recorded upto 19 years.

कालो सालक १-२ वर्षको उमेरमै परिपक्व भएर बच्चा जन्माउन सक्छ । गर्मी महिनाको अन्त्यतिर वा वर्षा हुनुअघि संसर्गका लागि मात्र भाले र पोथी एउटै दुलोमा बस्ने गर्छन् । भाले र पोथीको संसर्ग भएको ३१८-३७२ दिनपछि पोथीले बच्चा जन्माउँछे । प्रायःजसो एउटै र कहिलेकाही तीन ओटासम्म बच्चा जन्माउँछे । भर्खर जन्मिएको बच्चाको तौल ८०-४५० ग्रामसम्म हुन्छ भने औसत लम्बाई ६ इन्चसम्म हुन्छ । बच्चाहरूको खपटाहरू सेता र नरम भए तापनि माउको जति नै संख्यामा हुन्छ । नेपालको सदर चिडियाखानामा २००७ को फेब्रुअरीमा जन्मिएको सालकको बच्चाको तौल ०.४५ के.जी. र पुच्छरको लम्बाई २६ से.मि. थियो । माउले आफ्नो बच्चालाई ६ महिनासम्म आफूसँगै राख्छे र ३ महिनासम्म दैनिक ५-८ पटकसम्म दूध खुवाउने गर्छे । यसले आफ्नो बच्चालाई पछाडि पुच्छरमा बोकेर हिड्ने गर्छ । चिडियाखानामा कालो सालक १९ वर्षसम्म बाँचेको भेटिएको छ ।



## Social Behavior

The Chinese Pangolin is shy, sensitive and peace loving animal which mostly lives solitary life. It communicates and searches its food with the help of its nose as its sense of smell is stronger than its sense of vision. Pangolin is burrowing and nocturnal animal. It is a very good swimmer and can even climb the trees. It marks its territory with the droppings. It erects its bristle scales as protected armor and roll up into a tight ball when felt threatened. Emitting foul smelling secretion from anal gland is their defensive mechanism to scare its enemies away. While sleeping and being alarmed, the mother rolls up around the young to protect it.



कालो सालक एकदम लजालु, संवेदनशील र शान्तप्रेमी प्राणी हो । यो प्रायःजसो एकलै बस्छ । यसको दृष्टि कमजोर हुन्छ, तर सुन्ने र सुघ्ने क्षमता प्रबल हुन्छ । यसको नाक अत्यन्त संवेदनशील अङ्ग हो र यो खपटाले पनि ढाकिएको हुँदैन । यसले आफ्नो आहारा र अरु सालकलाई सुँघेर पत्ता लगाउँछ । यो प्रायः आफैँले खनेको दुलोमा बस्न रुचाउँछ । दिनमा आराम र रातको समयमा विचरण गर्ने सालक जति राम्ररी जमिनमा हिडडुल गर्न सक्छ, त्यति नै राम्ररी रुखमा चढ्न र पानीमा पौडीन सक्छ । कुनै खतरा वा डरको आभास भएमा आफ्नो खपटालाई माथितिर उठाएर शरीरलाई भकुण्डो जस्तै गोलो पार्छ । यसले आफ्नो मलद्वार नजिक भएको ग्रन्थीबाट गन्हाउने रस फालेर पनि शत्रुहरुलाई भगाउने गर्छ । सुत्ने समयमा आफ्नो बच्चासहित शरीरको कोमल अङ्गलाई खपटामा लुकाएर भकुण्डो जस्तै डल्लो परेर बच्चा र आफू सुरक्षित हुने गर्छ ।

## Threats and Conservation Measures

Livestock grazing, deforestation, human encroachment for housing and cultivation, road/tower/resort construction, rock/soil mining and forest fire are destroying the habitats of the pangolin. It is the most trafficked animal of the world for meat and other body parts. Superstitious beliefs of the communities, negative attitude, illiteracy and economic problem, lack of research and awareness program are major threats to the conservation of the Chinese Pangolin. Lack of conservation awareness to the local community is also the reason for the decrease in its population. The Chinese Pangolin plays an important role in maintaining the ecosystem balance by controlling the pests and increases the fertility of soil. Developing the pangolin distributing sites into a eco-tourism hub and conservation and management of the habitats with strict control on its poaching are important for its survival.

घरपालुवा जनावरको चरण, घर र खेतीपातीका लागि वन अतिक्रमण, वन फँडानी, बाटो, टावर, रिसोर्टको निर्माण, माटो र ढुङ्गाको उत्खनन् तथा वनमा डढेलो लाग्नाका कारण सालकको वासस्थान साँघुरिँदै छ । सालक संसारमै सबैभन्दा बढी तस्करी हुने प्राणी हो । मानिसहरु यसको शिकार मासु र खपटाका लागि गर्छन् । यसलाई जिउँदै वा मारेर यसको अंगहरु जस्तै मासु, खपटा, नङ्गा आदिको अवैध व्यापार गरिन्छ । जनचेतनाको कमीका कारण ग्रामीण समाजमा व्यापक अन्धविश्वास, सालकप्रतिको नकारात्मक सोच, अशिक्षा, आर्थिक कमजोरी, अध्ययन अनुसन्धानको कमी आदिले सालक विनास हुँदैछ । सालकले कमिला, धमिरा खाई बालीनाली जोगाउने तथा माटोको उर्वराशक्ति बढाउँछ । सालक पाइने ठाउँमा पर्यापर्यटनको विकास गरी त्यसको वासस्थानको उचित संरक्षण गरेमा तथा अवैध रुपमा हुने यसको चोरी शिकारी बन्द गरेर सालक जोगाउन सकिन्छ ।



### Conservation and Legal Status

According to IUCN Red List, nationally and globally Chinese Pangolin is categorized as Critically Endangered species. It is listed in Appendix I in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The species is protected under National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 A.D. (2029 B.S.). Killing, harming or trading of pangolin or its part is a punishable crime with the penalty of NPR 40,000-75,000 or imprisonment of 1-10 years or both. Nepal Governments Forest Act, 2049 B.S. prohibits and control the poaching, collection, uses, trade, transport and international export of Endangered wild animals.



यसलाई आई.यु.सि.एन. को रातो सूचीमा अति संकटापन्न वन्यजन्तुको रूपमा राखिएको छ। साइटिस महासन्धिले पनि यसलाई भर्खरै अनुसूची १ मा राखेको छ। नेपाल सरकारको राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज तथा वन्यजन्तु संरक्षण ऐन, वि.सं. २०२९ अनुसार यो संरक्षित जीव हो। यसलाई हानी पुऱ्याउने, मार्ने वा अखेटोपहारको व्यापार गर्ने कार्य कानुनी रूपमा अपराध हो। यस्तो कार्य गर्ने गराउनेलाई ४०,०००-७५,००० रुपैयाँसम्म जरिवाना वा १-१० वर्षसम्म कैद वा दुवै सजाय हुने प्रावधान छ। नेपाल सरकारको वन ऐन, वि.सं. २०४९ अनुसार संरक्षित जीवलाई मार्न, समात्न, प्रयोग गर्न, व्यापार गर्न वा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय बजारमा निकासी पैठारी गर्न निषेध गरिएको छ।

<b>Key Facts</b> मुख्य विशेषता	
<b>Common Name</b> नाम	<b>Chinese Pangolin</b> कालो सालक
<b>Scientific Name</b> वैज्ञानिक नाम	<i>Manis pentadactyla</i>
<b>Global Status</b> अवस्था (विश्व)	<b>Critically Endangered</b> अति सङ्कटापन्न
<b>National Status</b> अवस्था (राष्ट्रिय)	<b>Critically Endangered</b> अति सङ्कटापन्न
<b>National Population</b> सङ्ख्या (राष्ट्रिय)	5000 ५०००
<b>National Distribution</b> फैलावट (राष्ट्रिय)	Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, Bardia National Park, Chitwan National, Park, Shivapuri- Nagarjuna National Park, Annapurna Conservation Area, Makalu- Barun National Park, Gaurisankhar Conservation Area, Sagarmatha National Park and Parsa Wildlife Reserve, Kavrepalanchok, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Gorkha, Illam, Taplejung, Dhankuta, Sankhuwasabha, Khotang, Makwanpur, Ramechhap, Pachathar, Terahthum, Baglung districts.  शुक्लाफाँट बन्धजन्तु आरक्ष, बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, चितवन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, शिवपुरी-नागार्जुन राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, अन्नपूर्ण संरक्षण क्षेत्र, मकालु-बरुण राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, गौरीशंकर संरक्षण क्षेत्र, सगरमाथा राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्ज, पर्सा बन्धजन्तु आरक्ष, भक्तपुर, काठमाडौं, गोरखा, इलाम, ताप्लेजुङ, धनकुटा, सङ्खुवासभा, खोटाङ, मकवानपुर, रामेछाप, पाँचथर, तेह्रथुम, बाग्लुङ जिल्ला ।
<b>Global Distribution</b> फैलावट (विश्व)	Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Taiwan, Thailand and VietNam. भुटान, चीन, हङ्कङ, भारत, लाओस, म्यानमार, नेपाल, ताइवान, थाइल्याण्ड र भियतनाम ।
<b>Threats</b> खतरा	Hunting, poaching and trade of body parts, livestock grazing, deforestation, human encroachment for housing and cultivation, road/tower/resort construction, rock/soil mining and forest fire. चोरी शिकारी तथा अखरोपहारको व्यापार, घरपालुवा जनावरको चरण, घर र खेतीपातीका लागि वन अतिक्रमण, वन फडानी, बाटो, टावर, रिसोर्टको निर्माण, माटो र ढुङ्गाको उत्खनन् तथा वन डढेलो ।

The Hariyo Ban Program is named after the famous Nepali saying 'Hariyo Ban Nepal ko Dhan' (Healthy green forests are the wealth of Nepal). It is a USAID funded initiative that aims to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change and threats to biodiversity in Nepal. This will be accomplished by working with the government, communities, civil society and private sector. In particular, the Hariyo Ban Program works to empower Nepal's local communities in safeguarding the country's living heritage and adapting to climate change through sound conservation and livelihood approaches. Thus the Program emphasizes the links between people and forests and is designed to benefit nature and people in Nepal. At the heart of Hariyo Ban lie three interwoven components – biodiversity conservation, payments for ecosystem services including REDD+ and climate change adaptation. These are supported by livelihoods, governance, and gender and social inclusion as cross-cutting themes. A consortium of four non-governmental organizations is implementing the Hariyo Ban Program with WWF Nepal leading the consortium alongside CARE Nepal, FECOFUN and NTNC.

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