

2018.8.29

# Sharing CBCGDF's experience in curbing the illegal "pangolin laundering" practice in China

*- towards a shared future for mankind*



中国生物多样性保护与绿色发展基金会  
China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation

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Secretary-General of the CBCGDF

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2018.8.29



## CBCGDF: A Leading Chinese Conservation NGO

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The China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) is an **independent non-governmental organization (NGO)** dedicated to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.

As China's leading biodiversity organization today, the NGO was originated from the **Milu Deer** reintroduction **in 1985**.

It have about **50 staff** and **thousands of registered volunteers** nationwide.



## CBCGDF: A Leading Chinese Conservation NGO



In 2014, we're honored to become a member of the **IUCN**, and become partner of the **CMS** in 2016, and a member of **GGBN** and an observer of **FAO's ITGPRFA** in 2017. We are also an authorized publisher of the **GBIF**.

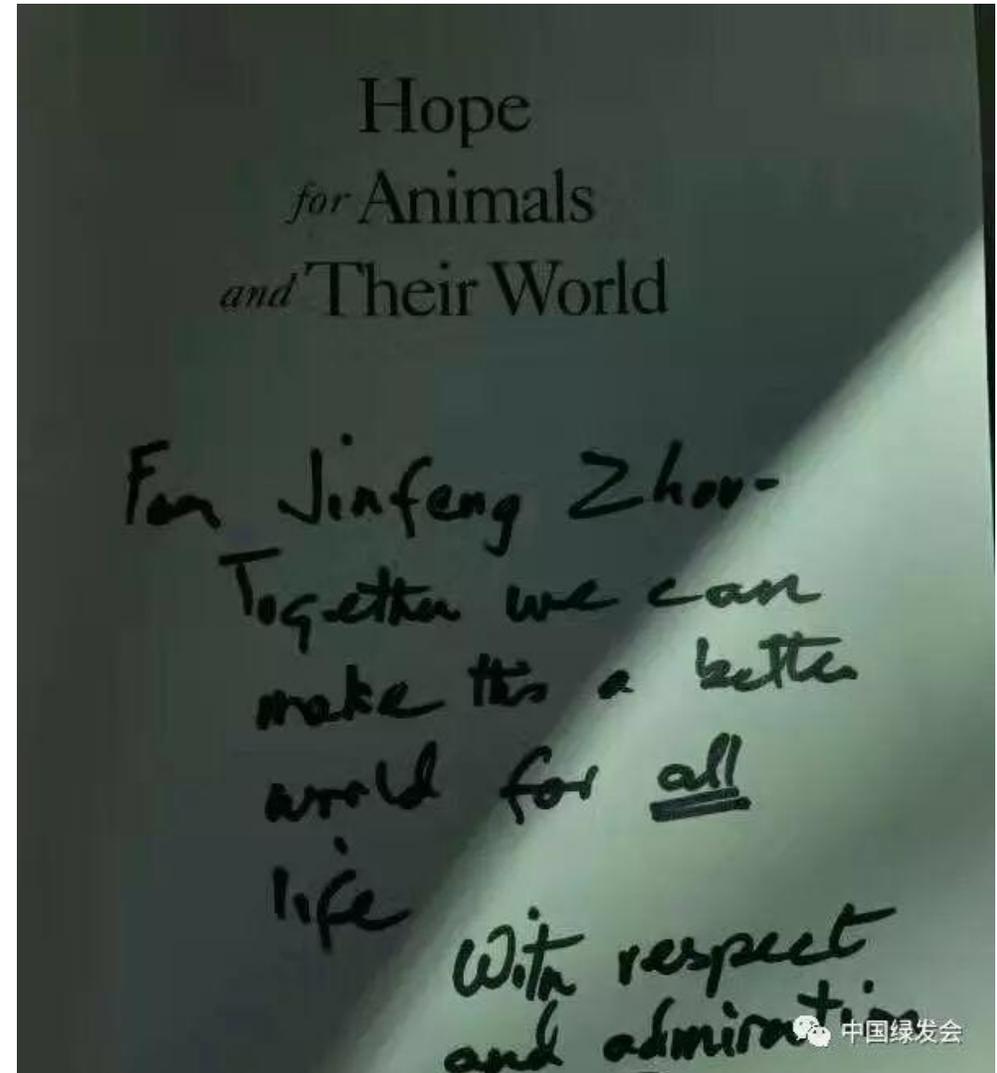
With a public fund raising license, we funded hundreds of grassroots NGOs and individuals in past 3 years, and hosted many biodiversity projects and environmental events around the country to **aware the people, encourage the people, and empower the people.**



Jane Goodall: “Together, Let’s make it a better world for all life...”



中国绿发会



中国绿发会



# A holistic & innovative approach towards conservation





## Pangolins: who are they? – the world's most trafficked mammal

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## Pangolins: who are they?

**There are 8 subspecies of pangolin: 4 Asian subspecies and 4 African subspecies.** Thanks to the unfortunate belief that pangolin flesh, scales, and fetuses are delicacies and/or have medicinal benefits, the Chinese Pangolin and the Sunda Pangolin are classified as **Endangered**. As *Asian* pangolin species become scarce, wildlife traffickers are sourcing *African* pangolin species for illegal markets.

**All eight pangolin subspecies are listed in CITES Appendix I, which would essentially ban international trade in pangolins and their parts or derivatives.**

### Asian pangolin subspecies:

- Chinese or Formosan pangolin ([\*Manis pentadactyla\*](#)) – Critically Endangered
- Malayan or Sunda pangolin ([\*Manis javanica\*](#)) – Critically Endangered
- Indian or thick-tailed pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) – Endangered
- Palawan or Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) – Endangered

### African pangolin subspecies:

- Tree or African white-bellied pangolin ([\*Phataginus tricuspis\*](#)) – Vulnerable
- Giant ground pangolin ([\*Smutsia gigantea\*](#)) – Vulnerable
- Cape or Temminck's ground pangolin ([\*Manis temminckii\*](#)) – Vulnerable
- Long-tailed or black-bellied pangolin ([\*Uromanis tetradactyla\*](#)) – Vulnerable



Species ranges

*Manis crassicaudata*

*Manis pentadactyla*

*Manis javanica*

*Manis culionensis*

*Phataginus tricuspis*

*Phataginus tetradactyla*

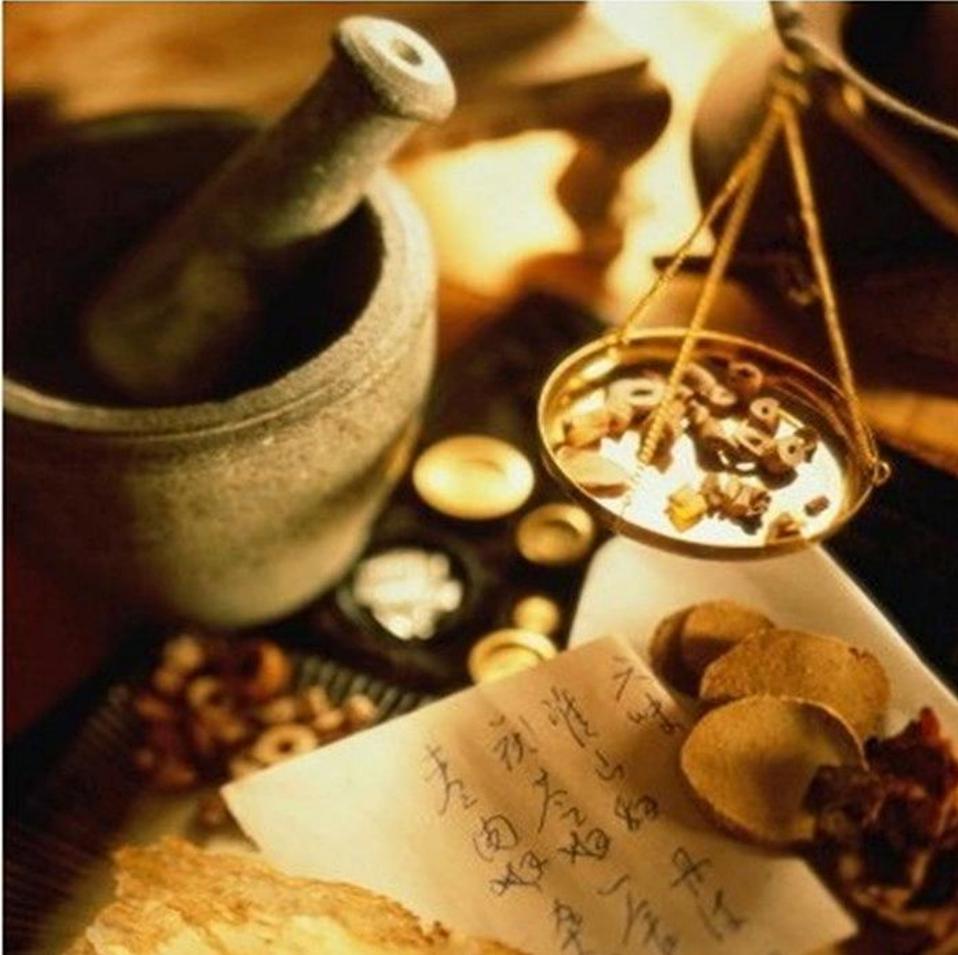
*Smutsia gigantea*

*Smutsia temminckii*



## What are pangolins hunted for?

Scales - Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)



Meat - Food



## Pangolins: the world's most trafficked mammals



500kg of trafficked pangolin scales were seized in Benin, March 2018



Chinese customs officials stand near scales of pangolins they seized on a ship in Shenzhen on Wednesday. | REUTERS

ASIA PACIFIC / SCIENCE & HEALTH

### China seizes record 12 tons of endangered pangolin scales

China seizes record 12 tons of endangered pangolin scales, according to Shenzhen Customs in November 2017



# You do the math...

**1 adult pangolin has about 0.4 kg scales on average**



When	Where	Weight	From how many?
March 2017	Shanghai Customs	3100 kilograms	<b>7750</b>
July 2017	Shenzhen Customs	11900 kilograms	<b>29750</b>
May 2018	Zhenjiang Customs	429 kilograms	<b>1073</b>
July 2018	Hongkong Customs	7100 kilograms	<b>17750</b>
Aug 2018	Japan Customs	7100 kilograms	<b>17750</b>



# Pangolin Eaters

Home | News | Photo | Video | Travel | Learn Chinese | Opinions | EZFM | NEWS Plus

## Guangxi: official at pangolin banquet arrested for corruption last year

2017-02-09 11:40:00 Xinhua Web Editor: Zhang Xu

In February 2017, CBCGDF Wildlife Volunteers found people eating pangolins and showed off the luxury experiences on social media (Weibo).

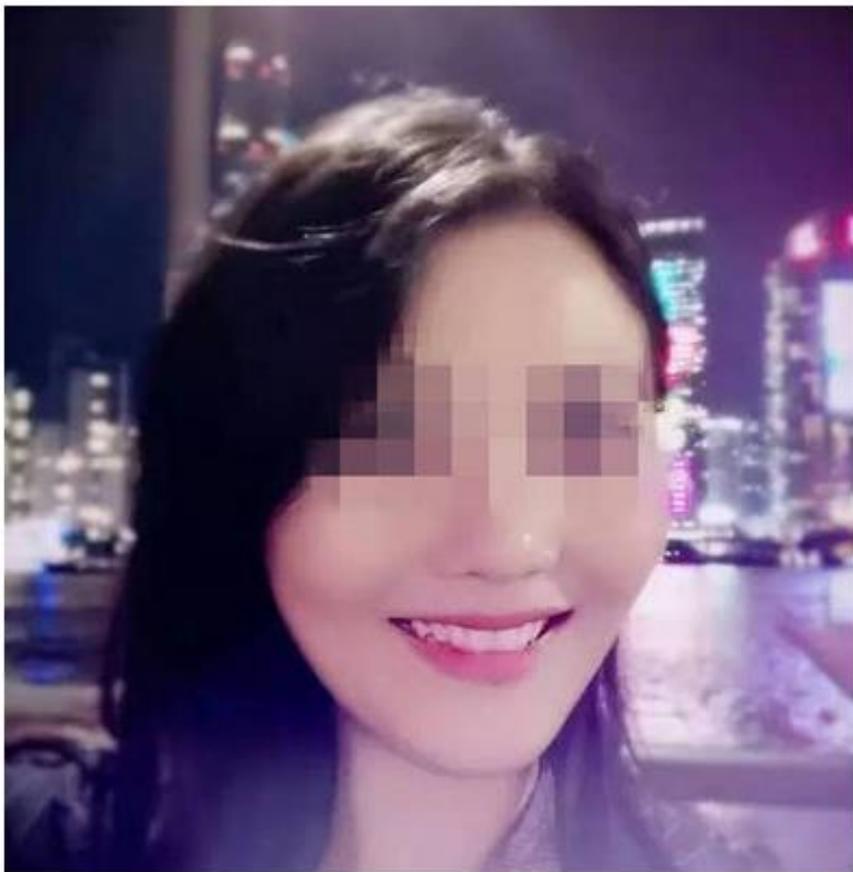
The screenshot of a blog post about Guangxi officials inviting business investors from Hong Kong to eat pangolin at a reception went viral on Weibo. Officials from the Guangxi Investment Promotion Agency have been accused of hosting the banquet.





## Woman eating pangolins arrested and under investigation

2017-02-14 16:41:17 CRIENGLISH.com Web Editor: Zhang Guanghao



File photo of the woman. [Photo: Weibo.com]

A young woman has been arrested and is under investigation in Shenzhen, only days after pictures showing her eating protected animals were discovered online by local officials.

# Pangolin Eaters

The “Pangolin Princess” discovered by CBCGDF Wildlife Volunteers

A young woman has been arrested and is under investigation in Shenzhen, only days after pictures showing her eating protected animals were discovered online by local officials.

Local police said that according to the pictures posted on the woman's Weibo account she had eaten protected animals at least twice in 2011 and 2012.

The endangered animals that she is said to have eaten include pangolins, snakes and swans.

The woman has deleted all of the messages involving protected animals that were posted on her Weibo account.

<http://english.cri.cn/12394/2017/02/14/3941s951840.htm>



## 2017: A Turning Point for Pangolins



CBCGDF Volunteers went on black market investigation in 2017.



CBCGDF volunteers reported a local TV broadcasted Cooking Show teaching people how to cook pangolins for alleged health benefits in 2017.



## 2017: A Turning Point for Pangolins



CBCGDF has established 3 Community Conservation Areas (CCAfa) for Pangolins all over China since 2017.



## 2018: We're Counting Pangolins

*2017 has become a Turning Point for Pangolins. Now we are continuing ...*



**2018: a Counting Year for Pangolins**



**China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation**



## 2018: A Year of Counting Pangolins



- 1. **Taking inventory of pangolins and pangolin products confiscated by Customs in the past few years: disclose the statistics about their whereabouts and usages after confiscation;**
- 2. **Counting pangolin products sold by stores and online: varieties, stock volume, sale, source of the pangolin products; share the inventory information with the public;**
- 3. **Counting the number of pangolins received by Wildlife Rescue Centers, pangolin farms, and research institutions: how many pangolins they've received in the past years, and where those mammals ended up? Reveal the information to the public;**
- 4. **Making an inventory of the amount of pangolin and its products in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) pharmacies and open to the public.**
- 5. **Demanding the Custom-confiscated pangolin scales should be burned in fire, to give a clear signal to international suppliers.**



## Confiscated pangolins



Pangolin  
Laundering  
???

?

Pharmacy  
companies

?

restaurants

## Wildlife Rescue Stations

Managed by Provincial-Level  
Forestry Departments

## Pangolin Farms

For commercial utilization



## 2015.3-9 The Guangxi Wildlife Rescue Station transported 42 pangolins to pangolin farms and a steel company...

According to the open information available on the Guangxi Forestry Department's website:

During March-September 2015, the Guangxi Rescue Station transported a total of 42 pangolins to a steel company and a Pangolin farm in 6 batches.

**WHY A STEEL COMPANY NEEDS PANGOLIN?  
How many pangolins the Rescue Center have sent in other times?**

广西陆生野生动物救护研究与疫源疫病监测中心申请向广东省佛山市南海区盐步粤辉腾钢材经营部运输穿山甲 10 只运输证核发。

2015. 4. 13 行政许可：

广西陆生野生动物救护研究与疫源疫病监测中心申请向江西省樟树市三蛟穿山甲驯养繁殖中心运送 2 只穿山甲运输证核发。

2015. 9. 6 行政许可：

广西陆生野生动物救护研究与疫源疫病监测中心申请向江西省樟树市三蛟穿山甲驯养繁殖中心运送 7 只穿山甲运输证核发。

2015. 9. 6 行政许可：

广西陆生野生动物救护研究与疫源疫病监测中心申请向广东省佛山市南海区盐步粤辉腾钢材经营部运输穿山甲 8 只运输证核发。

2015. 9. 16, 行政许可：

广西陆生野生动物救护研究与疫源疫病监测中心申请向广东省佛山市南海区盐步粤辉腾钢材经营部运输穿山甲 10 只运输证核发。

2015. 9. 23 行政许可：

广西陆生野生动物救护研究与疫源疫病监测中心申请向江西省樟树市三蛟穿山甲驯养繁殖中心运送 5 只穿山甲运输证核发。

以上，还仅仅是 2015 年 3-9 月份的数据。网上公开信息显示，廖河康主任是多年前就开始担任自治区珍稀濒危野生动物救护研究中心主任。如果仅仅 2015 年 3-9 月这半年的信息就显示了贵中心输出了 6 批、一共是 42 只（10+2+7+8+10+5）穿山甲。



## 2018.2 CBCGDF wrote to Northeast Forestry University: on 11.9 tons of Scales



It was reported the 11.9 tons of confiscated pangolin scales by Shenzhen Customs (in late 2017) were transferred to China's Northeast Forestry University. CBCGDF asked: where are they? **What kind of scientific research project needs 11.9 tons of pangolin scales?**

### 海关将向东北林大移交11.9吨穿山甲鳞片?校方回应

网易 2018年02月09日 07:31

2月6日,一环保组织在其官网发布消息称,该组织已向上海海关、深圳海关、东北林业大学发函申请公开此次查获的穿山甲鳞片的相关情况:海关罚没转给学校的原因和理由、研... [百度快照](#)

### 东北林大回应获移交11.9吨穿山甲鳞片:仅代管一百多公斤



澎湃新闻 2018年02月09日 07:31

环保组织所指的“11.9吨”穿山甲鳞片尚未移交,东北林业大学也无相关科研项目,该校仅代国家林业局接收和保管... [百度快照](#)

### 东北林大回应获移交11.9吨穿山甲鳞片:仅代管一百多公斤



东方网 2018年02月09日 08:46

2月6日,一环保组织在其官网发布消息称,该组织已向上海海关、深圳海关、东北林业大学发函,申请公开此次查获的... [百度快照](#)

### 东北林大回应获11.9吨穿山甲鳞片:代管一百多公斤



新浪新闻 2018年02月09日 07:31

原标题:东北林大回应获移交11.9吨穿山甲鳞片:仅代管一百多公斤近E,“深圳海关将向东北林业大学移交11.9吨... [百度快照](#)



## 2018.3 CBCGDF wrote to Shanghai Customs: on whereabouts of 3.1 tons scales



In March 2017, Shanghai Customs announced 3.1 tons of pangolin scales were confiscated.



## 2018.4.7 Awareness Promotion for Pangolins for Students





## 2018.4.10 Administrative Lawsuit Filed by CBCGDF against Forestry Dept. Accepted by Court

环保组织申请公开广西救护穿山甲信息被拒，  
提行政诉讼获立案

澎湃新闻记者 吴跃伟

2018-04-10 18:28 来源：澎湃新闻



中华穿山甲母子 WCS缅甸项目 供图

4月10日，澎湃新闻（[www.thepaper.cn](http://www.thepaper.cn)）从广西壮族自治区南宁市西乡塘区人民法院获悉，公益组织诉广西壮族自治区林业厅（以下简称“广西林业厅”）不履行信息公开法定职责案正式立案。目前，该案已移交至该院行政庭。

In August 21, 2017, 33 living pangolins were confiscated and sent to the **Guangxi Forestry Department (GFD)**, which later handed them over to a Wildlife Rescue Center. The CBCGDF offered veterinarian help but got refused.

In September 2017, the CBCGDF applied to the GFD for information disclosure of its pangolin data and treatment measures for the past 5 years (2012 -2016). Once again, the GFD dismissed our request.

**The GFD has clearly violated China's governmental information disclosure regulations.**

**Later, all pangolins were reported died.**

In February 26, 2018, the CBCGDF brought an administrative lawsuit. The case was heard on June 6<sup>th</sup> in Guangxi.



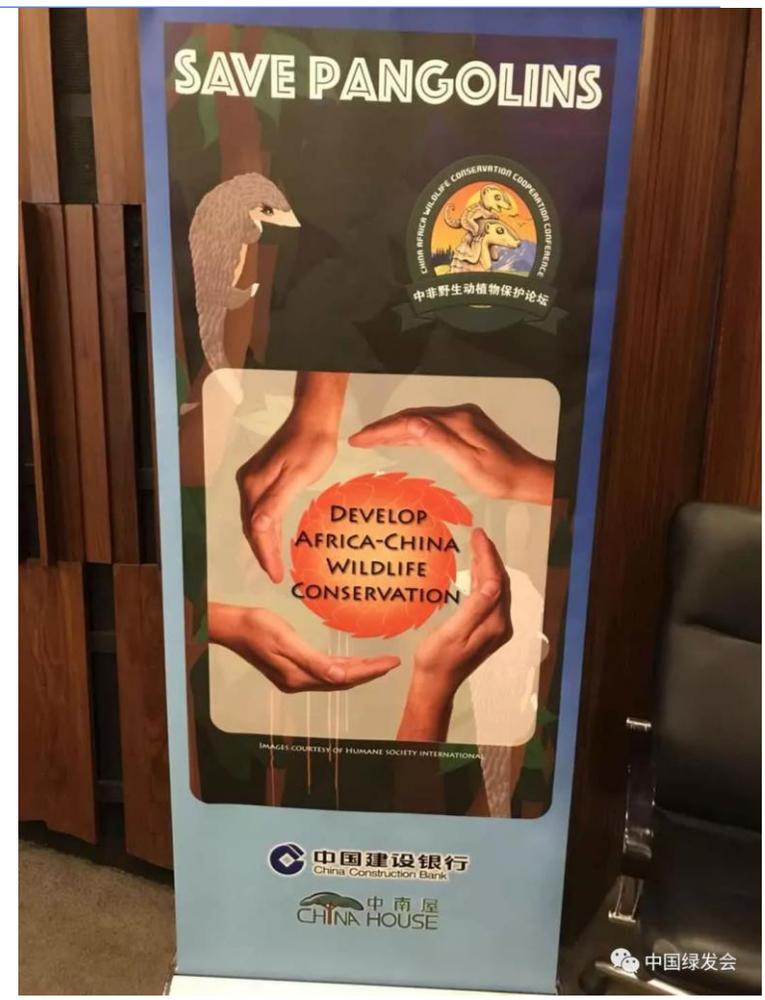
## 2018.6.4: CBCGDF Organized a Law Experts' Workshop Discussing the lawsuit



A workshop was held by CBCGDF to solicit China's top law experts' opinion on Pangolin Conservation and Information Disclosure.



## 2018.6.7 Africa-China Wildlife Conservation Conference Targets Pangolin Protection



JOHANNESBURG, June 8 (Xinhua News Agency) -- China has upped the ante in the fight against the illegal trade of wildlife by putting various measures in place to tackle the issue.



# 2018.7.11 CBCGDF Contributes Biodiversity Data to GBIF

The screenshot shows the GBIF website interface. At the top, it says "GBIF | Global Biodiversity Information Facility" and "自由开放的生物多样性数据". Below this, there are navigation tabs for OCCURRENCES, SPECIES, DATASETS, PUBLISHERS, and RESOURCES. A search bar is present. The main content area displays several statistics:

- Occurrence records: 1,008,977,612
- Datasets: 39,730
- Publishing institutions: 1,217
- Species: Learn more about the number of species covered by data in GBIF.org.

Below the statistics are several featured articles with images and titles:

- Big data for biodiversity: GBIF.org surpasses 1 billion species occurrences (9 July 2018)
- Flying foxes predict Nipah virus transmission risk (8 June 2018)
- 之于生物多样性的数据集: "全球生物多样性信息网络"平台 (GBIF.org) 已有逾十亿物种数据及生记录 (2018年7月9日)
- 资讯网页 (资讯更新) 通过数据可视化 GBIF 组
- The GBIF network (Decades of countries and organizations working together to make species data findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.)
- 2018 GBIF Ebbe Nielsen Challenge rewards open-data innovations for biodiversity (Deadline: 5 September 2018)
- ecoEd: cohesive training and skill development for ecoscience (A collaborative and innovative approach to training for the ecoscience community)
- GBIF seeks new Executive Secretary (12 June 2018)

At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a world map visualization showing biodiversity data points across the globe, with a color scale from blue to red. Below the map, there are navigation options like "Any year" and "EXPLORE". At the very bottom, there is a footer with "What is GBIF?", "API", "FAQ", "Newsletter", "Privacy", "Terms and agreements", "Citation", "Acknowledgement", "Contact", "GBIF Secretariat Universitetsparken 15 | DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø | Denmark", and a cookie consent banner.

## Chinese NGO contributes biodiversity data to global platform

China.org.cn, July 11, 2018

0 Comment(s) Print E-mail

Adjust font size:

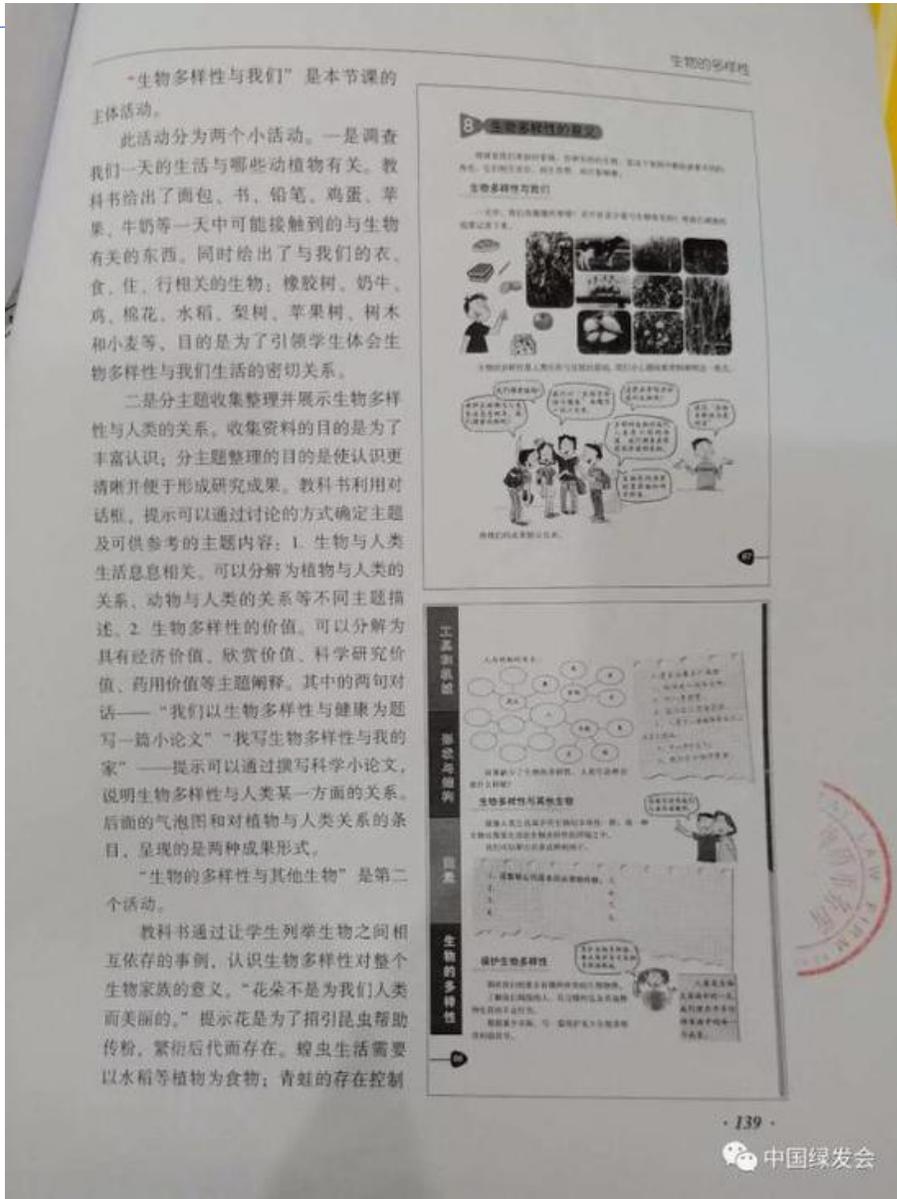
The China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, a leading Chinese non-profit in its field, has contributed significant data about Chinese endangered species to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, an international open biodiversity data network, according to a press conference held on Tuesday.

The press conference came after GBIF announced that as of July 4, its species occurrence records surpassed 1 billion. GBIF executive secretary Donald Hobern said access to the 1 billion records, together with big data analyses, can provide an effective reference for global biodiversity conservation, helping to form a dynamic network for global users free of charge.

On July 9, the Biodiversity Committee of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the only associate participant of GBIF in China, endorsed CBCGDF as the publisher of GBIF data.

This year, the CBCGDF contributed records of a baiji dolphin, seen on April 18, to the GBIF system. This is the first time visual records and observation data about the species have been obtained since the species was declared extinct in 2007. The last GBIF record of the Chinese river dolphin was in December 1921

# 2018.7.16 China Daily: Pangolins Removed from Textbooks as TCM Ingredient



## Pangolins removed from textbooks as TCM ingredient

By LI WENFANG/HU YINGXIA | China Daily | Updated: 2018-07-16 09:23



The critically endangered pangolin is hunted, traded and killed for its scales and meat. Provided to China Daily

A primary school science book and a related reference book for teachers will no longer mention pangolins as being a pharmaceutical component, after a group questioned the propagation of the belief's impact on animal conservation efforts.

The China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation drew attention to the question in a letter to the book's distributor, and the publisher subsequently responded with its own letter to the foundation saying the passages would be removed.

The science book for the first semester of Grade 6 published by Educational Science Publishing House mentioned pangolin parts as an effective ingredient in traditional Chinese medicine, the publishing house noted in its reply to the foundation.

"It is inappropriate to list the species as such because pangolins are under national protection," it said. "After careful checks, we immediately made changes to the textbook and to a related teachers' reference book."



## 2018.8.1 NFGA Withdrew GFD's Decision and Demanded It to Reply CBCGDF again

### 国家林草局撤销广西林业厅涉穿山甲救助情况回复 要求重新答复

因不服广西壮族自治区林业厅做出的不公开穿山甲相关信息的决定，中国绿发会向国家林草局申请行政复议。国家林草局最终驳回了广西林业厅不公开穿山甲信息公开理由，要求其重新答复。

崔梁凡 2018/08/02 08:44 | 评论(388)

来源：界面新闻

A+



Disappointed by the decision made by **Guangxi Forestry Department (GFD)** who refused to disclose information about the 33 confiscated pangolins, the CBCGDF applied to the higher-level wildlife management authority -- **China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA)** -- for administrative reconsideration. On July 31st, **NFGA** judged that Guangxi Forestry Department's excuse is not sound, and it urges the **GFD** to reply CBCGDF's information disclosure request again.

Many people - even Guangxi Forestry Department officials admitted that the "33 Pangolins Operation" successfully changed their past practices and brought a reform to the country's Wildlife Rescue System, making it more regulated, transparent and subject it to public supervision.



## 2018.8.5 Pangolin Poachers in South Africa Were Released on Bail



A very rare male African pangolin, a highly endangered species, has been recovered by police after allegedly being stolen from the Rampampa Mountains just outside Mabeeskraal in Mogwase, North West.

According to information received, the taxi was stopped and searched. During the search, the animal, with an estimated value of **R400,000 (\$27,000)**, was found.

The suspects were about to sell the pangolin and were released on **ONLY R2500 (\$170) bail each.**



# Saving Endangered Pangolins: There's still a Long Way to Go...

## Over Seven Tons of Pangolin Scales Seized in Hong Kong



Pangolin in Africa

BY [MAREX](#) 2018-07-21 19:45:44

Hong Kong's Customs and Excise Department has seized over seven tons of pangolin scales in a shipping container that arrived from Africa bound for mainland China. The 7.1 ton haul is the second biggest of its kind for Hong Kong in a decade.

The container was inspected at the Tsing Yi customs cargo examination compound. It was claimed to contain plastic raw materials, but inspectors instead found 284 bags of pangolin scales.

On July 21<sup>st</sup> 2018, it's reported Hongkong Customs confiscated 7.1 tons of pangolin scales.

## Ministry begins probe of \$450m export to Japan

Posted By: Olugbenga Adanikin, Abuja On: August 2, 2018 In: News, News Update, Politics



### Debunks allegation of Nigeria as source of export

Minister of Environment, Ibrahim Usman Ibril, on Thursday disclosed that the ministry has commenced probe of alleged export of Pangolin scales worth \$450 million from Nigeria to Japan.

The animal scales put at about 7,100 kilograms by the Japanese Customs Service was said to have originated from Nigeria.

On Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, it's reported Japan Customs confiscated 7.1 tons of pangolin scales from Nigeria. Worth USD 450,000,000.



## Saving Endangered Pangolins



Innovative approaches by the CBCGDF include but not limited to...

### Protected Areas (CCAfa)

3 Community Conservation Areas for Pangolins were established since July 2017

### Public Participation

Volunteers cyber-hunted for violators of pangolin consumption and social media show-offs

### Environmental Public Interest Litigation (EPIL)

To safeguard public environmental interests of biodiversity

### Awareness Promotion

Biodiversity lectures for students; public awareness via fundraising & education projects...



# Future Prospects

- CBCGDF will continue to protect wild animals and plants by justice.
- No matter how harsh the future perspective could be, CBCGDF will always remains at the frontier of wildlife protection.





**中国生物多样性保护与绿色发展基金会**  
**China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation**



## China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation

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[www.facebook.com/cbcgdf1985](https://www.facebook.com/cbcgdf1985)

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saving endangered species    migratory species    ex-situ conservation    CCAfa    reintroduction    genetic conservation

Environmental Law    birding    heritage protection    research funding    awareness promotion    Climate Change    biodiversity education