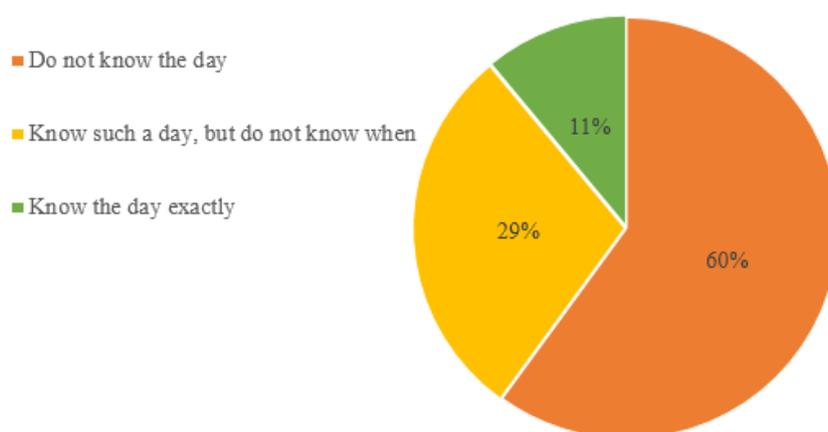


Remember Its Holiday and Save Its Life!

By Yunxiang Han, an alumnus of Chongqing Foreign Language School

The World Pangolin Day, aiming to raise awareness of its significance and its crisis, falls on the 3rd Saturday of February. This year, while many westerners celebrated the 9th annual holiday in various ways, most Chinese people kept quiet on their personal social media. According to a small-scale online survey among 55 students of the International Division of Chongqing Foreign Language School, one of the Top 100 senior high schools in China, the pie chart below shows the result that the majority of them have no idea of its existence. Obviously, as the largest consumer of pangolins, China is in urgent need of the publicity and popularization of protection for pangolins.

Do you know the World Pangolin Day?



Here are some statistics from Josh Gabbatiss, the Independent's science correspondent:

1	Pangolins are the No.1 trafficked mammal in the world.
2.7	No less than 2.7 million pangolins are poached illegally every year in central Africa.
5	Every 5 minutes on average a pangolin is taken from the wild.
27	27 new global trade routes are in use every year to smuggle pangolins.
£360	The price of pangolin scales has increased from £8.50 per kilo to £360 today.

These shocking statistics have revealed the miserable fate of pangolins caused by greedy humans. The primary reason leading to the crazy trade is the demand for their meat and scales, which is even greater in China.

On the one hand, China has a long history of food culture. It seems that no creature is a taboo to Chinese people. No matter whether it flies in the sky, creeps on the land, or swims in the deep sea, so naturally it can become the food on the tip of the tongue. Pangolins are no exception. Although it is said that the pangolin meat with stringy texture and unpleasant odor isn't tasty at all, it is still

attractive to some Chinese who are either curious or like to show off. However, even if the pangolin meat is delicious to these people, with so much choice of conventional food, is it wise to eat the risky wild animals?

On the other hand, China has a long history of medicine culture. Totally different from modern western medicine, the traditional Chinese medicine includes a large variety of ingredients, some of which are beyond imagination, such as the scales of pangolins. It has been believed for a long time that they are helpful in many ways, from curing arthritis to promoting lactation. However, since the scales are made from the same material as human nails, their medicinal value has never been proven. Therefore, people in nowadays should take a scientific attitude towards the traditional medicine.

Without doubt, the plight of pangolins, due to humans' thirst for their meat and scales, deserves more sympathy and reflection of the public. Unexpectedly, a recent study released on February 7 by a Chinese research team claimed that pangolins might be the intermediate host of novel coronavirus. This study has made the situation more complicated and delicate. As a potential threat to human kind, should pangolins still be under protection? While some kindhearted people consider the study as another disaster to pangolins, some optimistic people view it as an opportunity to promote the protection for pangolins based on the following reasons:

Firstly, the study has successfully drawn unprecedented attention of the public to pangolins. People who never know or know little about pangolins begin to concern themselves with this animal. It's a golden chance for them to realize its tragic encounter and experience. Furthermore, the evidence is far from clear and sufficient to prove that pangolins are the intermediate host. As a matter of fact, the study hasn't been formally published or gone through the conventional verification. During this emergency period, the result has been announced in advance. Therefore, it is solely a suggestion, not a conclusion. At this moment, any panic about pangolins or hostility to pangolins is unreasonable. To say the least, even if pangolins are proved to be the virus host, the rational way to deal with the problem is not to wipe them out, since every species has its own importance of maintaining the balance of nature. It is rarely known that pangolins act as the guardians of forest, because they prevent termite damage by eating over 70 million ants and termites a year. Figuratively speaking, one pangolin can defend an area equal to 31 football fields. Pangolins are also caretakers of soil, because their living habit of burrowing underground helps the decomposition cycle and improves the soil fertility. Thus, instead of killing them, keeping a safe distance and living in harmony should be a more practical and intelligent way for both humans and pangolins.

Although the Wuhan outbreak has brought pangolins under the spotlight, it's still necessary to guide the public opinion and raise the public awareness. For pangolin enthusiasts, for nature lovers, for people with conscience and humanism, the 3rd Saturday of February should always be kept in mind. Because protection for pangolins is not merely a daylong celebration, but a lifelong action. We hope more Chinese people will know, remember and celebrate the World Pangolin Day in the future; More importantly, we hope the surviving pangolins in China will escape their pathetic destiny and embrace a bright tomorrow!

The 3rd Saturday of February



Remember Its Holiday and Save Its life

10 Things you can do for pangolins:

1. Share this original poster on your personal social media;
2. Translate this article in Chinese and share with more people around you;
3. Equip yourself with knowledge of pangolins;
4. Introduce relevant websites to your family, friends and schoolmates;
5. Play a documentary about pangolins in your class;
6. Establish a club for pangolin fans in your school;
7. Initiate a signature activity for protecting pangolins in your community;
8. Report suspected restaurants or pharmacies to the police;
9. Support organizations aiming to protect pangolins;
10. Create your own poster as the students for the above-mentioned survey did.



By Tiffany Mao



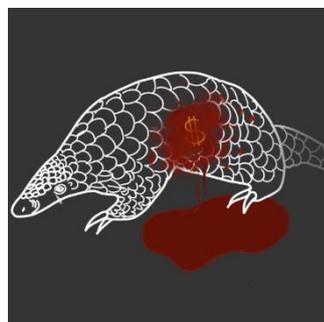
By Isabel Tian



By Una Wang



By Melissa Zhang



By Wendy Wang



By Delia Liao

Join us! Let's call for a better protection for pangolins!