

# the Pangolin

## *a Mother of Dragons*

Pangolin mothers fiercely protect their one pangolin "pup". Pangolins are mammals just like all of us. There are eight species and every species is at risk of extinction. No matter the species, pangolin mothers raise their pups in an underground den, rolling up around their young while sleeping or when they are threatened! The baby pup often rides on the mother's tail while she is actively foraging for insects.

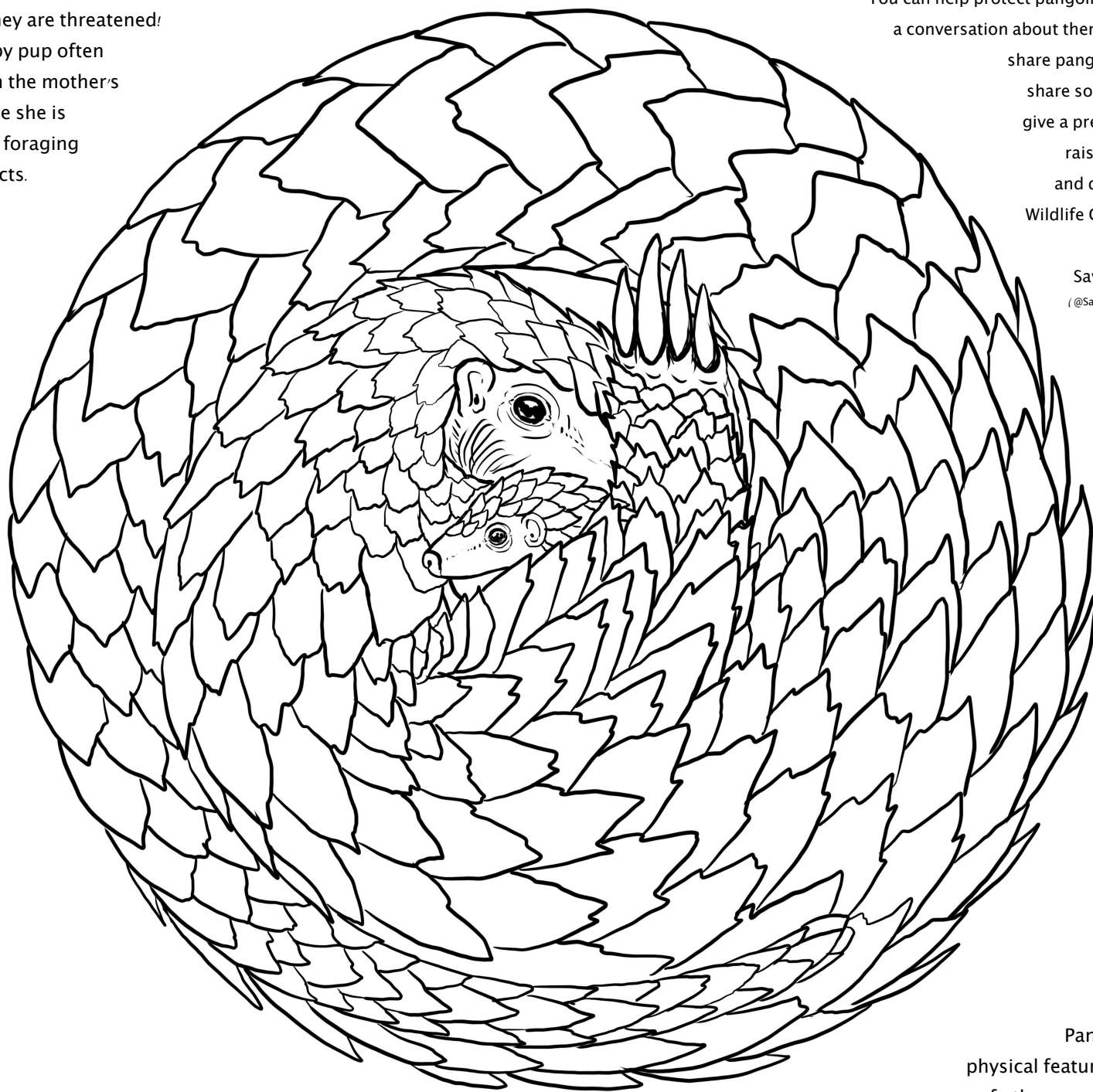
## *What is a pangolin?*

The word pangolin comes from the Malay dialect *pěngguling* meaning "one who rolls up". Their main line of defense is rolling up into a protective, impenetrable ball with rigid scales. Pangolins are the only mammals completely covered in scales. Their scales are made of keratin, the same protein that makes up your fingernails and hair!

The eight pangolin species can be found in Africa and Asia. Pangolin populations are declining due to poaching for the illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss, and consumed as a delicacy.

## *What can you do to help save them?*

You can help protect pangolins by having a conversation about them, create and share pangolin artwork, share some fun facts, give a presentation to raise awareness, and donate to the Wildlife Conservation Network and Save Pangolins. (@SavePangolinsOfficial)



Illustrated by: Sean Vidal Edgerton

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I would love to see what you have created! Share and tag me in the accounts above on Instagram and Twitter. Enjoy!

Pangolins share physical features similar to a group of other mammals known as Xenarthrans (anteaters, armadillos, sloths). Interestingly, pangolins are more closely related to another group of mammals called the Carnivora (cats, dogs, bears, seals, raccoons).

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