

Highlights (max 5, 85 characters each)

- Baseline data on current status of pangolins in China are almost completely lacking
- Large-scale surveys of local ecological knowledge can inform pangolin conservation
- Chinese pangolins are still present across protected areas in Hainan, China
- Chinese pangolin abundances are very low and populations have largely declined
- Risk of extirpation of Chinese pangolins from Hainan is severe due to poaching