



WWF®

ADOPTION

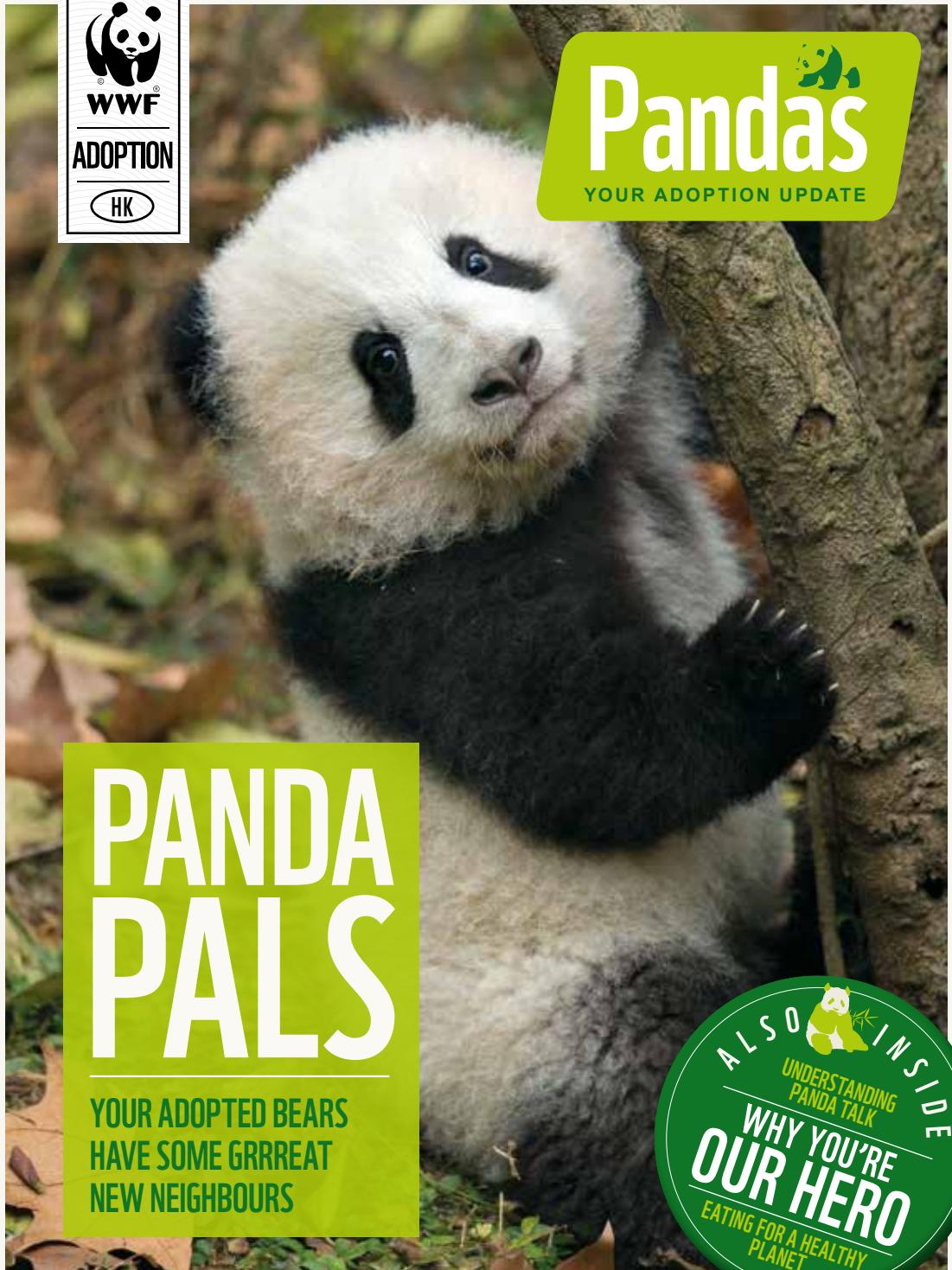
HK

Pandas

YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE

PANDA PALS

YOUR ADOPTED BEARS
HAVE SOME GRRREAT
NEW NEIGHBOURS



YOUR FIELD REPORT



Compiled by Wan Hui
of WWF-China's giant
panda programme,
which your adoption
helps support



Our camera traps have revealed that your adopted pandas, and leopards, are using the Qinling tunnel corridor

Wild leopards are about as hard to spot as giant pandas, so you can imagine how excited we were to make this new discovery. What's more, some of the camera trap images show a beautiful leopardess and her cubs, so we think the big cats could be breeding.

TOP CATS

Leopards are the main predators in Qinling and their presence is a good sign that the forest is healthy. That's because a healthy forest means plenty of prey, and we've been finding lots of images of wild boar, muntjac and tufted deer in the camera traps – all of which are hunted by leopards.

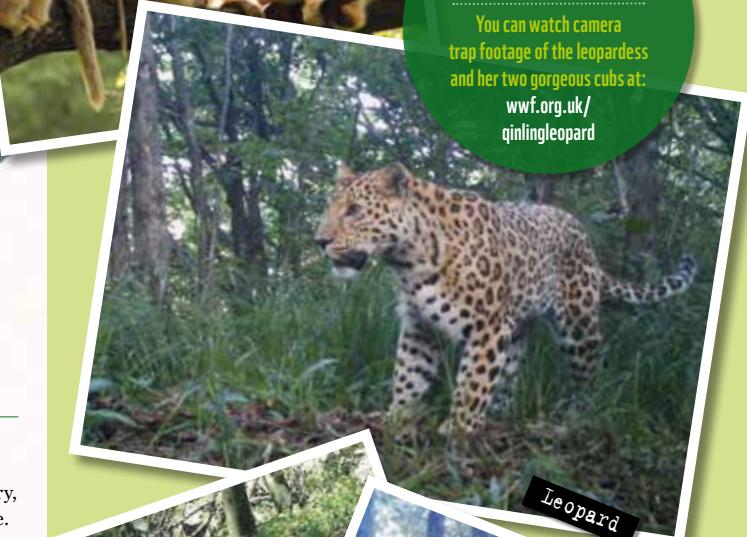
DID YOU KNOW?

Sometimes, to leave their scent higher up and help it spread further, giant pandas use their hind feet to climb a tree backwards until they're in a kind of panda handstand

Of course, a healthy forest is also good for your favourite black-and-white bears but, in contrast to leopards, they're mainly vegetarian and rely on a plentiful supply of bamboo. They can eat up to 39kg of new bamboo shoots per day – about the same as 39 medium-size cantaloupe melons!

You may remember reading in your last update that the corridor is on a disused stretch of the 108 highway. We've been helping to replant lots of bamboo in the corridor, to create a lush green link between Guanyinshan and Zhouzhi Nature Reserves. Pandas, leopards and other wild animals can now move freely to feed and breed, and from what we've seen so far, the leopard population seems to be thriving. We're hoping for an increase in panda numbers too, and we were delighted to find some great camera trap footage of a panda leaving its scent.

MAIN: © ZHOUZHI NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE; OTHER IMAGES: © GUANYINSHAN NATURE RESERVE, WWF-CHINA



Main and inset left:
We now know that giant
pandas are using the
Qinling tunnel corridor
Inset below left:
Some of the amazing
camera trap images

PANDA POINTER

The footage, from Zhouzhi Nature Reserve, shows the panda urinating against a tree, which is what males do to mark their territory, and females do to show they're ready to mate. Weeing on the rough bark helps embed the panda's personal aroma for longer, making it more likely to be picked up. Pandas seem to prefer larger trees, presumably as it's easier for them to hit their target!

The panda finished its scent marking, but then for some reason it headed straight for the camera and started bashing into it – as if it didn't want to be filmed! You can watch the peeved panda's antics at:

wwf.org.uk/pandascent

Seeing all these amazing images of pandas and their wild neighbours just goes to show how conserving panda habitats can help other animals too. It's because of adopters like you that we can continue our efforts to protect these incredible bears and the forests they depend on. Thank you. 

YOU'RE AMAZING >> As well as helping to safeguard giant pandas, your adoption supports our other vital work to help protect our beautiful planet and its wildlife. You're really making a difference.

“ Seeing all these amazing photos and footage of pandas and their wild neighbours just goes to show how conserving panda habitats can help other animals too ”



SPOT THE LEOPARDS

You can watch camera trap footage of the leopardess and her two gorgeous cubs at:
wwf.org.uk/qinlingleopard

A close-up photograph of a giant panda cub clinging to a tree trunk. The cub's white fur with black patches around its eyes, ears, and on its limbs is clearly visible. It is holding a piece of bamboo in its front paws and is in the process of eating it. The background shows more of the tree and some green leaves.

SAVING OUR SHARED HERITAGE

MORE THAN Half of all natural World Heritage sites are at risk, but together we can help remove the danger and save them from destruction

They're some of the planet's most extraordinary natural treasures – home to precious plants and animals, and they provide jobs, food and fresh water for millions of people living nearby. Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries is one of them and contains 30% of the world's remaining giant panda population. Yet shockingly, 114 out of the 197 natural World Heritage sites are under threat from harmful industrial activities such as mining, oil and gas drilling, and construction of large-scale infrastructure.

You're already helping to safeguard giant pandas and their habitats through your adoption, thank you so much for your support!

PANDA PATTER



You can tune in to the sound of wild pandas mating at:
wwf.org.uk/pandas

SCIENTISTS IN CHINA CLAIM TO HAVE DECIPHERED AT LEAST 13 DIFFERENT SOUNDS PANDAS MAKE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER

Chirping and baaing are among a range of barks, roars and squeaks the scientists interpreted during their five-year study at the China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda. So, what are the conclusions so far? Here are some of the study findings:



Language of love

As part of their courting ritual, amorous male pandas make a baaing sound, and females chirp if they're interested.



Stress signal

An anxious panda is reported to emit a kind of rhythmic honking, a bit like 'unh, unh'.



Cub communication

Decoded panda cub sounds include 'gee-gee' (I'm hungry), 'wow-wow' (not happy) and 'coo-coo' (nice).

We'll keep an ear on what happens next with the study and let you know of any further developments. Meanwhile, it's really 'coo-coo' to know that you care about pandas, and thank you for supporting our work to protect them through your adoption.

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YOU'RE OUR HERO THANK YOU!

Not a day goes by without us appreciating the lifeline you give amazing giant pandas through your adoption. To us, and to the field team in China, you're a conservation hero and we can't thank you enough



“ Thank you so much for supporting giant pandas through your adoption. Because of you, we can continue to monitor panda behaviour and enable local people to find sustainable livelihoods that help protect the forests they and the pandas depend on **”**

Wan Hui, WWF Giant Panda Programme

WHO'S YOUR CONSERVATION HERO?

We'd love to know who inspires you when it comes to protecting wildlife. They could be a person already famous for conservation, or your very own unsung hero - such as someone who's gone the extra mile to help an animal in trouble. We hope you'll get in touch and tell us with a letter, picture.

Email us at adopt@wwf.org.hk, your hero could be. Your hero could be featured in a future update.



George Schaller

Giant Panda Guardian

Another of our heroes is renowned field biologist, George Schaller, one of the first westerners to observe giant pandas in the wild. In 1980, with the Chinese government, we invited him to monitor pandas in the Sichuan mountains. He and his wife spent four-and-a-half years living in the forests of the Wolong panda reserve studying the movements and behaviour of these amazing bears.



LIVEWELL FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

The food we eat has a massive impact, not just on our health but also on the health of our planet.

With just a few small changes, we can make a positive difference for ourselves and for nature, including giant pandas.

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COLOUR YOUR PLATE

Eat a rainbow of yummy fruit and veg each day, with beans, nuts and other proteins, and cut down on meat



THINK THRIFTY

One third of the food we produce is lost or wasted. Try planning your meals so you use everything you buy



SHOP SAVVY

Buy foods from sustainable sources - look for MSC-certified fish, free-range and fair trade products

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

wwf.org.hk

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PANDA PECULIARITY

Although giant pandas are 99% vegetarian, their digestive system is typical of a carnivore



MIX
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