



HONG KONG

**Pandas**

YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE

**ALSO  
INSIDE**

AMAZING CAMERA  
TRAP MOMENTS

# PANDA PROTECTOR

MEET HE TIANHU, WHO WORKS TO MONITOR AND  
PROTECT YOUR ADOPTED PANDAS AND THEIR HABITAT



# YOUR FIELD REPORT



COMPILED BY XU QIANG,  
OF OUR GIANT PANDA  
PROGRAMME, WHICH YOUR  
ADOPTION SUPPORTS



A giant panda rests  
in a tree

Senior programme officer He Tianhu has enjoyed some exciting encounters with your adopted pandas. He shares his highlights

**H**ello panda adopters, and thank you for supporting our crucial work to protect these incredible black-and-white bears! I've been working in panda conservation for over 10 years. Before joining WWF I was lucky enough to care for giant pandas at one of China's breeding centres, and today I focus on promoting the effective management and restoration of their forest homes.

## SIGNIFICANT START

The breeding base where I used to work was set up in 2012 by the Chinese government, to help study and increase the giant panda population. Pandas are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity, as females are only able to become pregnant for two to four days each year. At the base, panda pairs are put together and their cubs are carefully adapted to the natural



**18 MONTHS  
PANDA CUBS  
ARE WEANED AT  
AROUND NINE  
MONTHS BUT  
STAY WITH  
THEIR MOTHERS  
UNTIL THEY'RE  
18 MONTHS OLD**

environment. I was overjoyed to discover that Zhu Zhu, one of the females I'd been monitoring, was pregnant. I was there when she gave birth to her tiny cub. But it was very weak and I was concerned it might not survive.

Panda cubs are just 85–140g when born – around 0.1% of their mother's weight. They're so fragile that the mothers have to be extremely careful when picking them up. They use their mouths rather than their paws at first, as this allows more precision. Unfortunately, Zhu Zhu was concentrating on caring for her little cub so much that she stopped eating. To encourage her, I cut some bamboo leaves into pieces and fed her by hand. Zhu Zhu just sat there, waiting for me to feed her and looking slightly annoyed if I was too slow. This was one of the most amazing experiences of my career.

## FOREST FIND

Another really close encounter happened in the wild, a couple of years after I began working for WWF.

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Insets left to right:  
Changqing National  
Nature Reserve;  
one of the pandas  
He Tianhu saw in  
the reserve; He,  
with Zhu Zhu and  
her tiny baby



## BEARING UP

Thankfully, the Covid-19 pandemic has had little impact on the remote communities where we work

**C**rucial activities you help fund, such as monitoring giant pandas and their habitat, and restoring bamboo forests have continued as normal. Like you though, we've been staying at home a lot more than usual!

On page 6, you can read about important work you're supporting in Baishuijiang National Nature Reserve, Gansu province, where camera traps have revealed some wild and wonderful surprises. Meanwhile, thank you again for all the support you give us. You're a big part of our team and I hope you'll keep adopting.

Xu Qiang





HONG KONG





# PANDA PARADISE

**INFRARED CAMERA TRAP MONITORING YOU'VE SUPPORTED  
CONFIRMS THAT BAISHUIJIANG NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE IS  
A HAVEN FOR GIANT PANDAS AND OTHER WILDLIFE**

**B**aishuijiang National Nature Reserve is shaped like a ribbon and extends for almost 2,000km across the north-east Minshan mountains. The reserve was established in 1978 to protect giant pandas and their habitat, and around 110 are estimated to live in the lush bamboo forests that cover its steep mountain slopes.

We've been supporting crucial monitoring and patrol work in the reserve since 2018, helped by adopters like you. Recent footage from camera traps in the core zone of the reserve shows the bears and their remarkable wild neighbours are thriving.

Giant pandas typically lead a solitary life and it's extremely rare to see one in the wild. So you can imagine our excitement at finding images of an adult panda (above) moving towards the camera trap – as if coming to say hello. We also found amazing footage of a male and female golden monkey hugging each other. We don't know for sure why they were hugging but, like humans, it's a way of expressing emotions. 🐼

## WATER LUCKY ESCAPE!

A WWF water bottle proved a life-saver for panda ranger Liu Jifu, who works in Dujiangyan panda habitat

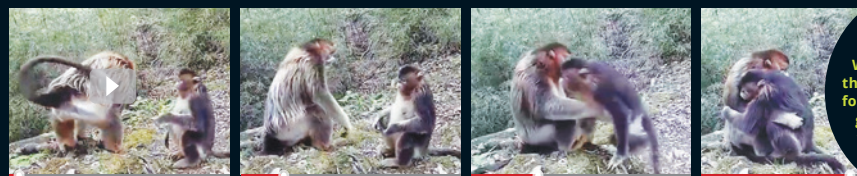
Liu and his colleagues were patrolling the mountain slopes when a large rock fell and hit him on the back. Thankfully, Liu's trusty WWF water bottle took the full force of the blow, preventing what could have been a very nasty accident.

Dujiangyan is home to an estimated 12 giant pandas and Liu spends around 15 to 20 days there each month, collecting data and looking for signs of any habitat disturbances. Thanks to the bottle, he can continue his crucial duties.

"I've heard that zippo lighters were used to block bullets for soldiers," jokes Liu. "But I never thought one day a bottle would save me!"

SEE IT  
AND SMILE!

We're thrilled to share the amazing camera trap footage of the panda and golden monkeys with you. Watch it now, at [wwf.org.uk/minshan](http://wwf.org.uk/minshan)



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S L O W C A T I O N

@ Mai Po



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Event Ambassador:  
倪晨曦  
Elva Ni



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WWF-Hong Kong



As well as helping to safeguard pandas,  
your adoption supports our other vital work to help  
protect our beautiful planet and its wildlife.

**Thank you.**



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WWF-Hong Kong, 15/F Manhattan Centre, 8 Kwai Cheong Road, Kwai Chung N.T. Hong Kong  
香港新界葵涌葵昌路8號萬泰中心15樓世界自然基金會香港分會  
Tel 電話: (852) 2526 1011 Fax 傳真: (852) 2845 2764 Email 電郵: [wwf@wwf.org.hk](mailto:wwf@wwf.org.hk)  
Registered Name 註冊名稱: World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong 世界自然(香港)基金會  
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