



ADOPTION

HK

My pandas

YOUR  
ADOPTION UPDATE

EXCITING PANDA  
DISCOVERY



## Welcome

A big welcome to your panda update, and a huge thank you for helping to protect these incredible bears through your adoption. Earlier we asked you to send in your questions about giant pandas and lots of you responded. I've been busy answering them and, as promised, we'll feature a selection in your updates, starting with this issue. Happy reading!



Gavin Edwards  
Conservation Director  
WWF-Hong Kong

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# RARE BEARS

Extraordinary camera trap images confirm that giant pandas are living in a remote part of Qinling

© WWF-CHINA



Close encounter! The panda nears the camera trap unaware that it's about to be snapped

As few as three to four wild pandas were thought to be living in Pingheliang Nature Reserve, which lies in the Qinling mountains. But previously, the only proof we've had have been markings and panda droppings. Thanks to you we now have photographic evidence.

## Snow patrol

The remarkable photo above is one of several taken on camera traps that giant panda adopters like you helped to pay for. As you can see, it shows a gorgeous panda out in the forest.

It's great to know there are pandas in Pingheliang, but they really

need our help. There are so few and they're so far away from other panda populations that breeding is difficult. We're working hard to restore areas of forest that connect different nature reserves, so the pandas have more chance of meeting one another.

## Bear care

The camera trap pictures are really important for another reason. They help prove that the nature reserve really is home to giant pandas, so we can ensure it stays protected.

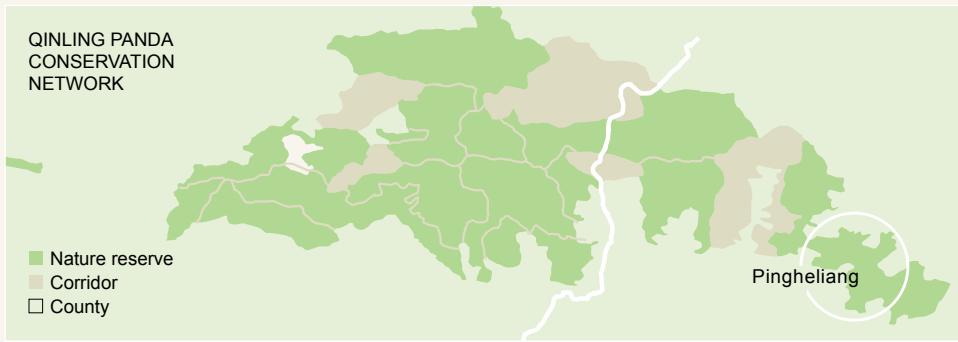
### WWF IN ACTION

SINCE 2013, WE'VE  
DONATED FIVE CAMERA  
TRAPS, AND GIVEN  
PINGHELIANG'S FOREST  
RANGERS TRAINING ON  
HOW TO USE THEM.  
WE'RE ALSO HELPING  
THEM CARRY OUT  
WILDLIFE MONITORING  
STUDIES IN THE  
NATURE RESERVE.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Giant pandas live quite solitary lives, except during the mating season and when rearing cubs



## The Qinling mountains

Qinling is home to nearly 20% of the remaining wild panda population, including your adopted pandas. We're working across the region to restore forests and connect fragmented areas, so that pandas can find food and breed.



## PANDA PARADISE

THE FORESTS IN PINGHELIANG USED TO BE COMMERCIALLY LOGGED FOR TIMBER. IN 2006 THE AREA BECAME A NATURE RESERVE, CREATING AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN GIANT PANDA HABITATS IN THE NORTH, EAST AND WEST. THE RESERVE IS BURSTING WITH BAMBOO, MAKING IT THE PERFECT PLACE FOR PANDAS.



**10**

AT LEAST 10 SEPARATE PANDA POPULATIONS HAVE FEWER THAN 10 INDIVIDUALS EACH, MAKING THEM VERY VULNERABLE TO EXTINCTION

## PERSISTENT PANDA

Pandas usually keep their distance from people. So we were amazed to receive yet another report of one entering a village

© JOHN MACKINNON / WWF-CANON



Remember reading in your last update about a giant panda that local villagers in Laoxiancheng found sleeping in a tree? Well, it seems to have started a trend.

### Time for tea?

Guan Zhiquan is a tea plantation worker in Liziba Village, Gansu province. At around 10 o'clock one morning, he was amazed to see an adult panda walk out of the forest and straight into the plantation. The panda seemed relaxed at first,

but as more and more people gathered it became increasingly nervous. In its rush to get back to the forest, the baffled bear ran into Guan and bit his foot. Guan was treated in hospital and thankfully was none the worse for wear.

Strangely enough, it's the second time the same panda has visited the village. Rangers at a local nature reserve are now studying its droppings, to find out more about the mystery bear.

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A ranger introduces the video showing the fighting pandas and some of their wild neighbours

## PANDA PLAY FIGHT!

STAFF CHECKING CAMERA TRAPS IN XIAOHEGOU NATURE RESERVE DISCOVERED AMAZING FOOTAGE OF TWO WILD PANDAS THAT APPEAR TO BE WRESTLING WITH EACH OTHER. YOU CAN WATCH THEIR ANTICS AT: [www.org.uk/pandaantics](http://www.org.uk/pandaantics)



# ASK AN EXPERT

## YOUR PANDA QUESTIONS ANSWERING

Thanks to everyone who responded to our request for questions. Some are featured here and we'll include more in future updates.

### "HOW LONG DO GIANT PANDAS LIVE FOR?"

Giant pandas can live for over 20 years in captivity, but no one knows exactly how long they live for in the wild. There's lots we still don't know about these shy and elusive bears, but the money raised through adoptions is helping us to find out more. For example, it's helping to pay for long-term monitoring in the Qinling mountains where your adopted pandas live, as well as other panda habitats across south-western China.

### "HOW DIFFICULT IS IT FOR PANDAS TO BREED?"

Female giant pandas can breed from 4-7 years old and can continue to have cubs into their 20s, but they only come into season for a few days each year. During this very brief breeding season, calls and scents draw males and females to each other.



Females give birth 83-184 days after mating. Although two cubs may be born, usually only one survives. At birth, cubs weigh just 80-200g. They become mobile from around three months old and are weaned at around nine months old. At around one year, the cubs are fully independent, but stay with their mothers until around 18 months.

**4-7 YEARS  
FEMALE  
PANDAS CAN  
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FOUR AND  
SEVEN  
YEARS OLD**

COVER IMAGE © MICHEL GUNTHER / WWF-CANON PANDA TOP © SUSANA MAINKA / WWF-CANON CLUB © SUSANA MAINKA / WWF-CANON



#### 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.

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# WILDLIFE AT RISK



Around the world, wild animals like giant pandas are under threat. One in four mammals, one in eight birds and one in three of all amphibians are facing extinction. All are victims of the same human-induced pressures of loss of habitat and over exploitation. And climate change piles yet more stress on these vulnerable creatures. With your support we can build a sustainable future where the natural environment is protected, species thrive and conservation is at the core of any development. Here at WWF, we're working globally to find the answers that are needed.

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