



Article Side

Can We Save Our Adorable Giant Pandas? by [Annphilip](#)

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Chinese government is taking stern actions to preserve bamboo rich forest reserves, because these are the habitats of our cute and peace loving giant pandas. The bear family member, giant panda, is really small in population and is seen mostly in China's southwest mountainous regions. When population of that country increased, people started destroying natural resources to build houses, farms etc., thereby poor pandas lose roof over their head.

Now China consider their "large bear-cats" as national treasure and started setting up nearly 30 forest reserves to protect and raise pandas. One of the biggest difficulties faced by government is bamboo plants die between 15 and 120 years and it will take that much time for the new plants to grow and develop. The time span is quite large and it is not possible for pandas to live without bamboos.

What are the other causes that pull this species into the danger of extinction? While destruction of its natural habitat is considered as the most vital cause for its extinction, some other reasons like low production rate, shortage of bamboos, hunting etc. add fire to the main cause.

Short breeding season and giving attention to only one cub, out of two, are the primary reasons behind reduction in reproduction rate. Meanwhile, pandas face starvation when it becomes difficult for them to find bamboo varieties within their vicinity.

Bamboo is panda's favorite food. An average adult panda will spend nearly 10 to 16 hours in finding and eating this cane. This means it spends a major part of its life in bamboo breaking and eating, while rest for sleeping. As bamboo cannot provide many nutrients to them, it will eat more or less 34 kilograms of bamboo per day. In winter season they will feed on hard stems, while summer season will give them tender, young bamboo shoots. Though panda can feed on 25 different types of bamboos, they used to intake four or five kinds of bamboos available near their habitat. As bamboos belonging to one variety die out at the same time, pandas have to move to another place to find some other variety. But destruction of their natural habitat hinders them from moving, thus forcing them to go hungry and later death. Though 95% of panda's diet is bamboo, it will also eat honey, fish, leaves, bananas, oranges and yams.

Giant pandas live in broadleaf and coniferous forests in the provinces of Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu regions of south-central China, where there is immense growth of bamboo trees. Climatic conditions like dense mists, heavy cloud etc gives the forest a cool and wet appearance and pandas like to live in this type of jungles throughout the year.

In the Red List Of Threatened Species of world Conservation Union, panda is considered as an endangered species. It is estimated that nearly 1,600 pandas are in the world, including 300 in the zoos and breeding centers. For retaining this species on the earth each panda's life plays a crucial role. So it is our duty to give proper protection to this species by attending their day-to-day needs, because death of each panda will take a step closer to the destruction of a marvelous species and its ecology.

Programs related to endangered species and animals that are on the verge of extinction are shown in many television channels including Animal Planet. These programs are really interesting to watch as it gives us lot of information about animal world and about a particular species. I got the habit of watching these programs in my digital television connected to Dish TV. In order to protect these extraordinary creatures, giant panda, let's all come together and take part in the efforts to conserve bamboo forests and improved breeding of the species.

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Ann is a freelance writer. She is interested in watching shows related to wild life on her digital television powered by a [Dish TV](#).

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