



ADOPTION

HK

Pandas

YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE

ALL-NEW BAMBOO

HOW YOU'VE HELPED RESTORE THE
PANDA'S FAVOURITE FODDER

ALSO
INSIDE
PANDA-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

On the hunt for
more bamboo



YOUR FIELD REPORT



COMPILED BY WAN HUI
OF WWF-CHINA'S GIANT
PANDA PROGRAMME,
WHICH YOUR ADOPTION
SUPPORTS

You've supported crucial work to restore the bamboo forests your amazing adopted pandas depend on

You may remember reading in past updates that giant pandas living in Tianhuashan and Xinglongling became separated in the 1970s, when National Highway 108 was built through the Qinling mountains. In 1999, a section of the highway was rerouted through a tunnel, leaving a 14.5km stretch abandoned. With the support of adopters like you, we seized the chance to reconnect the parted pandas.

APPETISING OPPORTUNITY

In 2005, working with teams from neighbouring nature reserves and local people, we began replanting and restoring arrow bamboo along the abandoned road – creating a flourishing and tasty wildlife corridor few pandas could resist.

40-120 YEARS

BAMBOO FLOWERS AND NATURALLY DIES-OFF IN CYCLES EVERY 40-120 YEARS, DEPENDING ON THE VARIETY



We recently completed a new section in north-east Xinglongling. This will enable the bears to spread further north and hopefully breed with the Tianhuashan population. We've also been tackling a big bamboo concern.

As I'm sure you know, giant pandas depend on a healthy supply of bamboo. A single bear can get through 39kg of new shoots a day – about the same as eating 39 medium-sized cantaloupe melons! But, for years, Xinglongling's pandas have faced a serious shortage.

Around the time of the third National Giant Panda Survey in 2002, a mass flowering of arrow bamboo occurred in the region, with lots of plants producing flowers at the same time. Once it's flowered, bamboo naturally dies off, and it can take 15 to 20 years for it to grow back to its full height – leaving the pandas with less to feed on.

DINNER DILEMMA

With their main food source depleted, the pandas have three options. They can increase their home range, migrate to an entirely new area, or forage for different species of bamboo by moving up or down the mountainside. However, this is more difficult when, like the Xinglongling population, pandas are isolated and their movements restricted.

Worse was yet to come. In 2012, when the fourth National Giant Panda Survey took place, we discovered that the bamboo wasn't recovering as well as we'd expected. There were fewer signs of giant pandas than previously too. Urgent action was needed to give the bamboo a vital boost. So we set about organising a massive clean-up exercise with nature reserve staff.

PANDAS © SHAANXI PINGHELIANG NR / WWF-CHINA BAMBOO MONITORING © WWF-CHINA

Through the monitoring work you help support, we know that clearing away dead bamboo encourages new shoots to grow and speeds up the plant's recovery time. Plus, fresh bamboo shoots give the pandas more nutrition.

Encouragingly, clearing away the dead bamboo in the section of corridor we've just restored has already increased new growth by over 10%. Even better, we've found fresh panda poo in the corridor, showing that your amazing adopted bears are making the most of their tasty new access route. We're really grateful to you for supporting this crucial work. 

Thank you!



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PANDA STANDARD

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE'VE HELPED SET NEW, SUSTAINABLE STANDARDS FOR HARVESTING WILD PLANTS FROM PANDA HABITATS



Wild herbs and plants have long been used as ingredients in traditional Chinese medicine, and harvesting them generates much-needed income for rural communities. But increasing demand has led to over-harvesting in some areas, disturbing and damaging the forests pandas rely on.

Thanks to adopters like you, we're working hard to address the needs of local producers, while at the same time safeguarding panda habitats. With Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, plus our wildlife trade monitoring network partner TRAFFIC, we've developed panda-friendly standards for certifying sustainably harvested medicinal and aromatic plants, including super-fruit schisandra.

BERRY BENEFICIAL

Schisandra berries grow on vines, much like grapevines, that spiral up tree trunks and around branches. They're said to replenish the body's vital energy and cure ailments such as coughs, wheezing, diarrhoea and spontaneous sweating. Schisandra is also known as the 'wu wei zi', or 'five-flavour fruit', because it has all five basic flavours used in traditional Chinese medicine – bitter, pungent, salty, sour and sweet.



30%
SCHISANDRA PRODUCERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE PILOT PROJECTS SAW A 30% INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF THEIR SUSTAINABLY HARVESTED BERRIES



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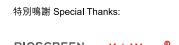
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截止報名日期 Enrolment deadline: 17.10.2018

林二汶 EMAN LAM
活動大使 Event Ambassador

立即報名 SIGN UP NOW
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**As well as helping to safeguard giant pandas,
your adoption supports our other vital work to help
protect our beautiful planet and its wildlife.**

Thank you.



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Working to sustain the natural
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