

Endangered Species

Pandas



Hey! You know those black and white fluff balls? Well, they need our help. They are expected to go extinct by 2050 and they need help.

Pandas pretty much only eat bamboo, so when we cut down the bamboo forest they are losing their habitat and their food. If pandas don't have food or a place to live, they can't survive. Pandas eat 27 pounds of bamboo a day. That's a lot! As more and more bamboo forests get cut down, pandas aren't getting that 27 pounds of bamboo. Pandas have a strict diet even though they do eat other foods like other plants and sometimes meats but it's unlikely. Pandas love their bamboo, so don't take it away from them!



Another reason the pandas are dying is that bamboo forests are cut down and made into roads or railways. The pandas can't cross the street or other things built on the bamboo forest land. Then the pandas can't find a new bamboo forest after their bamboo forest was cut down. They can't find a new mate to re-populate or get enough bamboo to survive.

Pandas are also dying because of poachers; hundreds are killed. Why? Well, because of the value of their coats. They tend to cost 10 million dollars in the U.S black market and even more in different countries. Sometimes people even want to try their meat. The locals say that panda meat is not very enjoyable. They say it tastes plain and disgusting.

Do you know why you don't see pandas in your local zoo? Because of how much they cost. The Chinese government wants to protect the pandas, which is a good thing most of the time. So they don't like giving pandas to zoos. Why? Because of how little the population is. So it costs 1 million - 2 million for one panda each year. They think that pandas will be gone from U.S zoos by the end of next year.

Even though the pandas population is slowly going up. They are still at high risk of going extinct by 2050. How many giant pandas are there? According to WWF, "the current wild population is estimated at 1,864. Numbers are increasing, thanks to conservation efforts to protect, restore and link areas of panda habitat".



How can you help?

- Donate to WWF or other websites.
- Travel smart. China is trying to prevent tourism so don't go looking for pandas. If you see one, leave it alone.
 - Spread the word, tell people about the pandas and how to help.