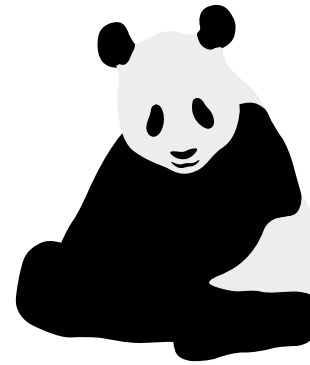


FEEDING

- Their diet is extremely specialised, compared to other bears.
- They mainly eat bamboo, which makes up 99% of their diet but they are really an omnivore and can sometimes eat meat other predators leave!
- Pandas can eat up to 15kg of bamboo roots, stems, shoots and leaves per day – but are also capable of eating up to 39kg of ‘new’ bamboo shoots per day.

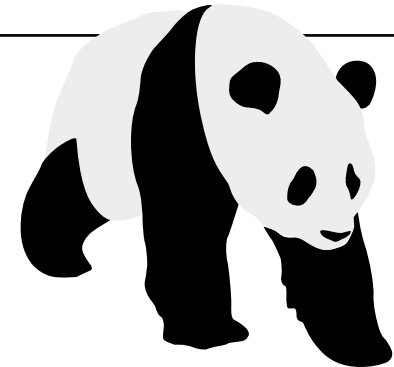


DID YOU KNOW

Although giant pandas are good swimmers and excellent tree climbers, they spend most of the time feeding - about 14 hours a day!

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List. After years of decline, however, the population is now slowly recovering in the wild.



STATUS

Fragmentation and climate change are the greatest threats facing their population today. Historically large areas of China's natural forest have been cleared for agriculture, timber and firewood, to meet the needs of the large and growing human population.

Roads and railways are increasingly cutting through the forest, which isolates panda populations and prevents them from breeding and finding new sources of food.



Their habitat is also affected by livestock grazing and people collecting medicinal herbs and harvesting bamboo – their main source of food.

There are around 1,860 pandas remaining in the wild and conservation efforts seek to grow this number.

Although poaching has been a problem in the past, the introduction of high penalties for poaching has reduced it to levels which are no longer believed to pose a significant threat to giant pandas.