

ARTICLE

Red panda: World's most threaten animal

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ABSTRACT : The study makes an attempt to assess the situation of red panda. The result indicates that conditions of red panda are not good. Quantity of red panda is decreasing continuously. Red panda are basically found in Himalayan area. Soft bamboo strict is the main food of them. Deforestation and hunting are also responsible for its extinction. Thus, the paper suggests that government should take step for providing protection of this animal.

Key words : Red Panda, Animal, Forest

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INTRODUCTION

The giant panda is the rarest member of the bear family and among the world's most threatened animals. Pandas are usually found in the mountains at about 3000 meters above sea level. In the winter they sometimes make their way down to about 800 meters. They do not make a permanent den, but take shelter in any suitable cavity in trees or rock crevices. The red panda is endemic to the temperate forests of the Himalayas, and ranges from the foothills of western Nepal to China in the east. It is found in southern Tibet, Sikkim, Assam and Bhutan, in the northern mountains of Myanmar, and in southwestern China in the Hengduan Mountains of Sichuan and Gongshan Mountains in Yunnan. It may also live in southwest Tibet and northern Arunachal Pradesh, but this has not been documented. Red pandas are territorial. Shortly after waking, red pandas clean their fur like a cat, licking their front paws and then rubbing their back, stomach and sides. The red panda weighs 3 - 6 kg (7 - 13 lb). It lives in mountain forests with a bamboo understory, at altitudes generally between 1500 and 4800 m (5000 - 15,700').¹

The main objectives of this paper are to analyse the current situation of red panda in Asia and to identify the various factors which are responsible for its survival problem.

The present study is based on secondary sources. Secondary data have been collected through available

literature in form of books, Journals, reports and websites.

A large section of society has been concerned for the fast depleting rare species of wild animals which in turn will affect the biodiversity and generatic improvement. The panda is a characteristic animal of China; till 1984 the 60 pandas in the various zoos of China were kept for diplomatic purposes. As a gift the animal was dispatched to U.S.A., North Korea, U.S.S.R., West Germany, England, Japan and Mexico. The authorities approached World Wide Fund in 1979 to get help to save this world's most loved creature. A project titled "Save the panda" was initiated and a scheme was introduced by the Chinese government to loan a panda to any zoo in the world after the receipt of a donation of US \$ 3,00,000 for a period varying from 4 to 6 months. The Chengdu Zoo in the Szechuan capital has the largest number of domestically raised pandas in the world. This zoo was probably the first to breed the rare animal. Broadly speaking the pandas can be studied under two heads, *i.e.*, the "lesser Pandas" and the "giant Pandas". They are gentle by nature and use their sharp claws for climbing and intentionally move slowly and prefer to live in dense forests. The giant pandas are mostly confined to the mountains and are found in abundance in the western part of china and are confined to hills having heights of 1500 to 1800m.²

Today, the giant panda's future remains uncertain. As China's economy continues rapidly developing, this