

Giant panda running out of food (Video)

NEWS | NOVEMBER 12, 2012 | BY: PAUL HAMAKER |



Video: [Zoo Director: Panda Cub's Death Is 'devastating'](#)

RELATED TOPICS

- [News](http://www.examiner.com/news) (http://www.examiner.com/news)
- [panda](http://www.examiner.com/topic/panda) (http://www.examiner.com/topic/panda)
- [Climate Change](http://www.examiner.com/topic/climate-change) (http://www.examiner.com/topic/climate-change)

Scientists from [Michigan State University](http://www.newsroom.msu.edu/) and the [Chinese Academy of Sciences](http://english.cas.cn/) published the most comprehensive analysis to date forecasting the effects of [climate change](http://www.examiner.com/topic/climate-change) on bamboo forests in China and the effect on the [giant panda](http://www.examiner.com/topic/panda)'s potential for survival in the journal [Nature Climate Change](http://www.nature.com/nclimate/index.html) on November 11, 2012, that was reviewed at the [Eureka Alert web site](http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2012-11/msu-cct103012.php) the same day.

Even the most optimistic forecasts indicate the bamboo that is primary food source for the panda will be gone due to climate change induced die off by the end of the present century.

The study was based on 275 wild pandas, about 17 percent of the remaining wild population, in the

[Qinling Mountains \(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qinling_Mountains\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qinling_Mountains) in Shaanxi Province.



http://cdn2-b.examiner.com/sites/default/files/styles/large_lightbox/hash/17/3d/173d7fabd882064f39c0930c39acccef.jpg

This is one of about 275 wild Qinling pandas in the study region. Their isolation has resulted in genetic variation from other giant pandas. Some, like this one being studied, are brownish.

Photo credit: Credit: Yange Yong

Usage Restrictions: With credit

The species of bamboo that supply the panda's food source only flower and reproduce every 30 to 35 years. This fact, coupled with destruction of natural habitats by human development, may spell the end of wild panda populations.

Human development prevents a direct easily accessible path for pandas to their food source. Pandas are not extremely fast or athletic so making barriers between the animal and the food source could be an impending disaster.

The researchers propose several solutions but the most likely scenario is the loss of wild panda populations.



Paul Hamaker, Paeleontology Examiner

Bryan Hamaker is a Chemist and Mathematician.