

352. Cystadleuaeth Cyfieithu 19-25 oed

Cyfieithwch y darn isod i'r Gymraeg

The giant panda is perhaps the most powerful symbol in the world when it comes to species conservation.

Adored around the world, the distinctive black and white animal is a national treasure in China and has been the symbol of WWF since its formation in 1961.

While its numbers are slowly increasing, the giant panda remains one of the rarest and most endangered bears in the world.

The latest census in 2014 found that there were 1,864 giant pandas alive in the wild. While these numbers are still very low, they represent a real success story, since there has been an increase from around 1,000 in the late 1970s. In the past decade, giant panda numbers have risen by 17 percent.

Finding out how many pandas exist in the wild is not an easy task. In fact, it requires a massive effort, with teams of researchers spending many hours trekking through steep, mountainous bamboo forests looking for telltale signs. Often, they have to walk for days, inspecting every metre of the forest floor for panda poop!

When they find some, they sift through it and pick out any pieces of undigested bamboo. By carefully studying any bite marks, it is possible to identify individual pandas because their bite marks are all unique (a bit like fingerprints).

Giant panda numbers are slowly increasing, but the rare bear is not out of the woods yet. Traditional threats to pandas such as poaching appear to be declining, but large-scale disturbances including mining, hydro-power, tourism and infrastructure construction are becoming more severe.

Panda protection efforts over the next decade will focus on improving panda habitat in a manner that balances conservation with local sustainable development. These conservation efforts will also benefit many other rare species of animals and plants that live alongside the pandas.