

Breaking News English.com

Panda conservation drive harms other mammals – 7th August, 2020

Level 4

Saving the giant panda from extinction is a conservation success story. The panda is the symbol for endangered species and is the WWF logo. An international conservation union removed it from the endangered species list in 2016. It is still "vulnerable". Conservationists fear the panda's success has come at a cost to other mammals sharing its habitat. A study found that many animals have disappeared from areas where the panda lives.

A researcher was happy the panda is safer. However, he is sad some of China's carnivorous mammals are now at risk. Since panda conservation started in the 1960s, Asian wild dogs have disappeared from 95% of protected areas, wolves from 77%, and snow leopards from 38%. However, the research findings recognised "the power of the giant panda as an umbrella that has effectively sheltered many other species".

Level 5

Saving the giant panda from the brink of extinction is hailed as a conservation success story. For decades, the panda has been the symbol for all endangered species and is the logo of the World Wildlife Fund. An international conservation union removed it from the endangered species list in 2016, but it remains "vulnerable". Conservationists fear success for the panda has come at a cost to other mammals sharing its habitat. A study published in a journal found that the snow leopard, wolf and Asian wild dog have disappeared from many areas in which the giant panda lives.

A researcher from Peking University was happy the panda is safer. However, he lamented the fact that this has put some of China's larger, carnivorous mammals at risk. Since panda conservation started in the 1960s, Asian wild dogs have disappeared from 95% of protected reserves, wolves from 77%, and snow leopards from 38%. Research findings "indicate the insufficiency of giant panda conservation for protecting these large carnivore species". It recognised "the power of the giant panda as an umbrella that has effectively sheltered many other species".

Level 6

Zoologists have long hailed saving the giant panda from the brink of extinction as a conservation success story. For decades, the panda has been the "poster animal" for all endangered species. It is even on the logo of the World Wildlife Fund. The International Union for Conservation of Nature removed it from the endangered species list in 2016, although it remains "vulnerable". Many conservationists are now concerned this has come at a cost to other mammals, especially those sharing its habitat. A study published in the journal Nature Ecology and Evolution found that the leopard, snow leopard, wolf and Asian wild dog have almost disappeared from the majority of areas in which the giant panda lives.

Researcher Professor Sheng Li, from Peking University, commended the efforts to protect the giant panda but lamented this has come at the expense of some of China's larger, carnivorous mammals. Since panda conservation areas were established in the 1960s, Asian wild dogs have disappeared from 95% of protected reserves, leopards from 81%, wolves from 77%, and snow leopards from 38%. Professor Li said his findings "indicate the insufficiency of giant panda conservation for protecting these large carnivore species". However, he added: "Failing to safeguard these large carnivore species does not erase the power of the giant panda as an umbrella that has effectively sheltered many other species."