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2. KEY PROJECT EXECUTORS:

Director of the project: Dr. Alexander Kulikov,
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4. INTRODUCTION

The scientific analysis of a modern condition of the amur tiger shows, that the viable population of this animal has remained only on the Russian Far East. On the territory of Khabarovskii krai there passes the northern border of distribution of the given species. Therefore changes of conditions of existence on northern limit of distribution render a large role on number and demographic structure of its population. The condition of a tiger population continues steadily to be worsened as a result of degradation of inhabitant in consequence of anthropogeneous influence.

Nowadays the area occupied by a tiger in Khabarovskii krai is 33,6 thousand km² and the number doesn't exceed 64-71 tigers (male and female). At the same time the negative tendency in changes of demographic structure of its population is marked. The number of cubs per one female is lowering consistently.

The basic reasons of that are reduction of food resources of a tiger, anthropogeneous influence in main habitats of reproduction, poaching. The large influence on distribution of a tiger was rendered by forest fires of 1998 – 1999 years. About 200 thousand hectares of tiger inhabitation was destroyed, the animals actively moved in searches of rescue from fire and smoke, that resulted in devastation in one places and unusual occurrence for this species in others.

Radical changes in economic conditions of land use, and increase of commercial assaults on nature have become the source of new threats. Motivation for poaching has increased due to new opportunities for illegal export of tiger bones and hides, which did not exist earlier. This situation is worsened by the overall social economic and political crises in the country, and by the poor control of observation of laws and administrative decrees, a lack of public awareness and public education, especially the townspeople have weak knowledge of forest customs and laws. In this connection, the project “*Environmental Education for the Amur Tiger-II*” (environmental education

activities on the amur tiger conservation), which has become possible thanks to grant of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Save the Tiger Fund, was directed on enhancement of environmental awareness of local community on tiger conservation and its habitat through realization of a complex of environmental-educational measures.

5. RESULTS OF PROJECT FULFILLMENT

The Wildlife Foundation did utmost in order to fulfill the project successfully.

The following work was done:

5.1. Seminars.

There were conducted two seminars:

1. “Sustainable forest management as an important element of conservation of the Amur tiger and its habitats”.
2. “The importance of a tiger in ecological system of Sikhote-Alin and the journalist’s role in its conservation”.

A question connected with the participants of each seminar was carefully studied before the beginning of seminars, in order not to have the casual students. The seminars were carried out in the city of Khabarovsk.

The first seminar:

Theme: “Sustainable forest management as an important element of conservation of the Amur tiger and its habitats”.

Contents: role of a tiger in ecosystem, sustainable forest management, ways of decision of the conflict of hunters on hoofed animals and a tiger, struggle with forest fires.

Term: April, 2000.

Place: the city of Khabarovsk.

Audience: forest guards, employees of Forest Service, engineers of forest management of Khabarovskii krai.

Number: 28.

The participants of the seminar got acquainted with the role of a tiger in ecosystem, its places of habitat. The listeners knew that the main habitat of tigers is the

forest, therefore sustainable forest management helps to preserve tiger habitat. There were shown that the forest and environmental legislation are coincide by many issues. That was why conservation of rare species should be coordinated by the system of forest management. Definite types of forest management (select, sanitary cuttings) increase the number of hoofed animals that attracts a tiger. At the same time the roads to the felling sites are the ways of penetration of poachers and it creates the danger of occurrence of fires. Fires are the danger both for forestry and for tigers. That is why the struggle with fires is very important for forest management and for ecologists. The listeners also got acquainted with the regional program on tiger conservation. For the seminar we prepared special materials and environmental literature connected with tiger conservation.

The following environmental set was disseminated at the seminar:

1. "Graceful", the story written by Vladimir Vasilinenko, about a female tiger.
2. "Hundred meetings with a tiger ", advises for people who spend much time in taiga, written by Eugenie Smirnov.
3. "The Amur tiger", written by Y. Dunishenko, A. Kulikov.

At the seminar we have distributed a leaflet, mainly: "Peaceful coexistence of humans and a tiger".

As illustrative materials we used a video film "Taiga without tiger" and also cartographic materials describing distribution of a tiger on the territory of Khabarovsk region for various periods of time, since 1930-th years. To the maps we have applied modern data of distribution of a tiger.

Information about the seminar was transmitted by the regional broadcast.

The seminar had a success.

The second seminar:

Theme: "The importance of a tiger in ecological system of Sikhote-Alin and the journalist's role in its conservation".

Contents: role of a tiger in ecosystem, modern condition of a tiger population,

tiger conservation issues, international aspects of a tiger conservation, the journalists' role in a tiger conservation.

Term: June, 2000.

Place: the city of Khabarovsk.

Audience: journalists of district and regional newspapers, journalists of TV and broadcast, informational agencies, representatives of Mass Media Department of Khabarovskii krai.

Number: 26.

People who are living on the territory of a tiger habitat consider it their direct competitor. The tiger hunts on hoofed animals that are the objects of a hunt for local people. A tiger also catches the hunting dogs that help to conduct hunting. That is why there exists a constant problem between a hunter and a tiger. In order to solve this problem we need to provide the local population with more information about a tiger. One of the sources of getting information is the newspaper. But the journalists sometimes write in the articles about the tiger as a monster eating animals and people. That was why we decided to attract to this problem the journalists of district and regional newspapers, informational agencies, TV and broadcast. We arranged the seminar for them.

The journalists of the sixteenth local and regional newspapers and agencies, local TV and broadcast participated in our seminar. At the seminar the journalists knew much about the importance of a tiger in ecosystem of Sikhote-Alin, got knowledge of a modern condition of a tiger population. The listeners discussed tiger conservation issues, international aspects of tiger conservation, legislative base of the amur tiger conservation and the problems of its realization.

To that seminar were invited the people responsible for the destiny of a tiger. So the journalists had a good opportunity to ask them questions that trouble them most of all.

There was a discussion at the end of the seminar connected with the competition of mass media "Conserve the amur tiger for future generations". The organizers of the

competition decided to conduct it by three nominations: the best article, video-film, broadcast. The journalists shared their opinion about the done work regarding the competition. The deadline for the competition of mass media was approved at the seminar.

For the seminar we prepared environmental literature connected with tiger conservation and disseminated it among the participants. The following environmental set was disseminated at the seminar:

1. "Graceful", the story written by Vladimir Vasilinenko, about a female tiger.
2. "Hundred meetings with a tiger ", advises for people who spend much time in taiga, written by Eugenie Smirnov.
3. "The Amur tiger", written by Y. Dunishenko, A. Kulikov.
4. "The purl of the Ussuri taiga is the amur tiger", written by Y.Dunishenko and A. Kulikov.

At the seminar we have distributed leaflets with information about tigers. As illustrative materials we used video films "Taiga without tiger", "Who is the main in taiga?" We also distributed cartographic materials describing distribution of a tiger on the territory of Khabarovskii krai for various periods of time, since 1930-th years. The seminar had a success.

Information about the seminar was transmitted by regional broadcast and TV.

5.2. Competition of mass media "Conserve the amur tiger for future generation".

The purpose of the given competition was to increase a level of knowledge of mass media on a problem of the amur tiger conservation and report information in the accessible form for the population.

The Wildlife Foundation together with Mass Media Department of Khabarovskii krai decided to arrange the competition not only for journalists of district and regional newspapers and agencies, but also for the journalists of regional TV and broadcast.

Before conducting the competition we've done a large preparatory work. First of all we arranged a meeting with the journalists. To this meeting we invited the representatives of mass media from Nanaiskii, Bikinskii, Vyazemskii, Lazo, Komsomolskii, Solnechny, Vaninskii, Sovgavanskii districts. The chairman of the Wildlife Foundation informed the journalists about the project of the Save the Tiger Fund and its directions. The journalists also received information about the Wildlife Foundation's environmental programs on tiger conservation, about the activities of the Save the Tiger Fund and the forthcoming competition of mass media "Conserve the amur tiger for future generation". We developed theses of the competition and disseminated among the participants of the meeting (theses are applied) and also sent information by mail to those who couldn't attend our meeting.

Then we conducted the seminar for the journalists. The journalists of the sixteenth local and regional newspapers and agencies, local TV and broadcast participated in our seminar. During the seminar they got knowledge about the amur tiger and the existing problems on tiger conservation in our country and abroad. The participants received very good environmental literature on tiger conservation issues that was very useful and necessary for enlightening of local population. The deadline for the competition of mass media was approved at the seminar. During four months we have been receiving articles, video-films and broadcasts submitted to the competition. We received 17 articles from 15 journalists, 3 video-films and 3 broadcasts (articles are applied). After receiving the works we formed a competent jury out of the well-known scientists, writers, producers and the representatives of the Mass Media Department of Khabarovskii krai that considered the works and awarded the winners.

As it turned out the best works among the articles were the following:

"Tiger is an elder brother for Udege people" written by Igor Dalin, "Is it possible to save the amur tiger?" written by Victor Larin, "The yellow lightning of the Amur" written by Vyacheslav Sukachev.

There were presented the following video-films:

1. Subjects in "Panorama" produced by Vladimir Kochkovsky.

2. "Rhyme for a tiger" produced by Alexander Cherkasov.
3. "To see a tiger" produced by Alexander Tsaberyabyi.

The winner in broadcasts became Tatyana Dalina.

By the results of the project there was organized a press conference. To the press conference were invited the journalists of district and regional newspapers, informational agencies, TV, broadcast. The total number of the participants was 23.

At the end of the conference there was summing up of the results of the competition of mass media and awarding of the winners. All the winners were awarded by gifts and certificates. At the press conference the journalists expressed willing to organize the journalists' club "The friends of the amur tiger", which would help the journalists to obtain and distribute the objective information about the amur tiger conservation. It would be achieved through informal meetings with specialists in the field of tiger conservation and study, government officials and representatives of companies that deal with nature resources use in tiger habitats. The Environmental Committee and the Mass Media Department of Khabarovskii krai approved this idea. To the competition of mass media were submitted not many video-films and broadcasts on tiger conservation issues and that arouses an alarm. We know that radio is one of the accessible sources of receiving information in the remote villages. That is why we decided to continue the work with journalists.

The results of the press conference and the competition of mass media "Conserve the amur tiger for future generation" were transmitted by regional TV, broadcast and written in the newspapers.

The competition of mass media helped the local community to get more information on tiger conservation issues and places of its habitat.

5.3. Distribution of the leaflets on the amur tiger conservation.

The leaflet is the mass material and is possible for a greater part of the

population. The leaflets were published in the framework of the project. They were distributed among the town and village population. Most of the leaflets were distributed in those districts where the tiger habitat was. The total number of the distributed leaflets is about 2000 copies.

The leaflets were distributed by the following channel: conversations, lectures, meetings, conferences, anti-poaching brigade. We disseminated the leaflets with the help of anti-poaching brigade among the poachers and those who didn't observe the hunting laws.

5.4. Lectures and conversations.

For lectures and conversations we have chosen a wide audience including all layers of population. We also worked with journalists. It is necessary to work with them, as they frequently deform information on a tiger in the newspaper articles and write about it as a monster eating a person.

In March, 2000 we conducted a conversation on the amur tiger conservation with the representatives of the Far Eastern journalist association represented by the local newspapers of Lazo, Vyazemskii, Bikinskii, Nanaiskii districts. There were discussed questions on international projects and programs, the role of international NGO's and activities of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Save the Tiger Fund and the Wildlife Foundation (Khabarovsk). Information received by the journalists during the conversation helped them to realize issues on the amur tiger conservation.

At the beginning of April we conducted a conversation with the children attended the environmental center in Khabarovsk. The theme of the conversation: "The problem of co-existence of people and tigers. The number of the audience was 35. The children were very active and asked many questions. At the end of our meeting we showed a film about the amur tiger "Who is main in the tiger?" The children expressed their attitude to this problem.

During June and July we arranged two conversations for the children resting at the summer camps.

The number of the audience was 140. The children received much information about the amur tiger and measures of its conservation. At the end of the conversation the children saw a new film “For future generation”. This film was about the environmental organizations, their works and programs on tiger conservation.

5.5. Work with mass media.

Much work was done with mass media. We conducted 2 broadcasts on tiger conservation for local population, hunters and woodcutters who work in tiger habitats. The duration of each broadcast was 20 minutes.

It is very difficult to calculate the number of the audience, because most of the people in the Russian Far East like to listen to radio (the total number of population in Khabarovsk region is more than 1,608,000 people).

There were given 3 interviews. The interviews were given by Dr. Kulikov and Mr. Dunishenko.

The themes of interviews:

“The role of the local people in Amur tiger conservation”,

"Rules of safe behavior of people at meeting with tiger,

"Prevention of conflicts between tigers and human beings".

There was organized a conversation on the amur tiger protection with the representatives of the Far Eastern journalist association represented by the local newspapers of Lazo, Vyazemskii, Bikinskii, Nanaiskii districts.

There were conducted regular meetings with mass media on the results of fulfillment of the present project. There was organized a meeting with mass media concerning with preparation to the competition. There were written 27 articles in the local newspapers on tiger conservation. We should say that in this year is written more

articles as compare with the previous one. There was conducted a press conference for the journalists on the results of the fulfillment of the present project. There was organized a competition of mass media, the results of which were summed up at the conference.

The results of the conference and the competition were transmitted by TV, broadcast and written in the newspapers.

Thanks to our work with mass media there were shown four films on tiger conservation issues by regional TV. The films were of great interest among local population.

5.6. Participation in meetings, conferences, seminars.

We took an active participation in meetings, conferences and seminars conducted not only in Khabarovskii krai but in the other regions too.

In mid of April we participated in two meetings on tiger conservation. One meeting was conducted in Ternei (Primorskii krai) where the director of the project made a report about environmental activities by the project on tiger conservation in Khabarovskii krai. Another meeting on tiger conservation was with the representatives of International Youth Voluntary Service. 20 foreign volunteers participated in our meeting. They were impressed by our work on the project.

At the end of April there was a meeting with the regional group on biodiversity conservation. During this meeting there were discussed issues connected with the regional program on tiger conservation.

At the beginning of August there was an International meeting “Saving the taiga: Strategies for Forest Protection in Siberia and the Russian Far East” in Khabarovsk. The chairman of the Wildlife Foundation made a report about the Wildlife Foundation’s activities on the amur tiger conservation.

5.7. Competition of teens' projects "How to preserve tiger in your district".

A high grade conservation of a tiger is impossible without effective public support of the appropriate measures, first of all on the part of growing generation. Such work was conducted within the frame of the project – competition of teens' projects. It was carried out on the territory of Khabarovskii krai with the teens of 8-11 grades living in places of tiger habitats.

The basic purpose of the given competition was to include teens in work on study and improvement of environmental conditions in the amur tiger habitats.

The work under this project was carried out under the leadership of the environmental teachers, those received all necessary methodical materials and advises from the director of the project Dr. Kulikov and scientific adviser Yurii Dunishenko. There were developed special rules and recommendations including information how to make the project and where to find the necessary materials (rules and recommendations are applied). Then was prepared the package of materials and district maps that were necessary to study and examine. That package consisted of the following environmental literature on tiger conservation issues:

A book "The amur tiger " written by Y. Dunishenko and A. Kulikov, published within the framework of the previous project; the brochure "The purl of the Ussuri taiga is the amur tiger" written by Y. Dunishenko and A. Kulikov, directory containing information on nature use in the given district; map-scheme.

Each project presented a joint research, creative, public activity of teens, directed on study of environmental conditions of the amur tiger.

The children began the work with a choice of a small area, where they were going to carry out the supervision and researches. They received all necessary materials, studied the environmental literature. They had meetings with the hunters, local forest services (leskhoz), local administration, people from local Environmental Committee, the local population. They also conducted a small sociological survey. When the data had been collected and generalized, they proceed to make up the project. We collected the

children projects at the appointed time. Then was formed a competent jury out of the well-known scientists (Y. Dunishenko, scientific adviser; S. Slotgauer, Dr. of biology; A. Kulikov, Dr. of biology), the writer (V. Sukachev, a member of the Russian Union of writers), the representative from the regional Environmental Committee (A. Istigichev). The jury considered the works and awarded the winners. It was a very difficult task for the jury to choose the best projects. In order to make the jury's work easier we developed the special estimation list (the list is applied).

Teens from Vyazemskii, Nanaiskii, Bikinskii and Lazo districts participated in the competition. They presented 17 rural schools (the names of projects are applied). The total number of children involved into these projects was 58 (the names of children are applied).

The competition was carried out in two stages: a district level and a regional. We have invited to the regional competition on supporting (presenting) of the children's projects the leaders of the projects and their teachers. During the supporting of the projects the teens used their own visual manuals, posters, map-schemes, diagrams of tiger's food resources. Each project had the unique highlight. Practically all the projects were executed accurately, competently, were well illustrated, had a good regional material.

The teens carried out a huge preparatory work. They carried out the sociological survey among the schoolchildren and local population. Many even have counted up, how many tigers should live in their territory at the given fodder base. Almost in each project was marked, that the number of a tiger in their area is reduced. To teens' opinion the main reasons of lowering a number of a tiger population are poaching and fires, continuous cuttings of forests, negative hunters' attitude to a tiger, as their direct competitor, and also low level of environmental knowledge, weak elucidation of protection issues of a tiger in mass media.

The teens in their projects offered concrete measures on protection of the amur tiger in their district. Among measures, which are necessary to undertake, are specified the following:

1. To begin environmental education from the kindergarten.
2. To implement a lesson on rare and disappearing species at schools.
3. To reduce cuttings of forests.
4. To continue the creation of specially protected areas, national parks, zones of calmness for tigers.
5. To intensify the laws towards the poachers.
6. To increase the penalties for the poachers.
7. To carry out the exhibitions of children's drawings on tiger conservation at the school libraries.
8. To involve all layers of population in the work on the amur tiger conservation, including the national communities.
9. To produce the copy-books, pens and pencils with the image of a tiger.

Very interesting projects were prepared by the teens from school #1 of the town Vyazemskii (Vyazemskii district), school of Lidoga village (Nanaiskii district), school #26 of the town Bikin (Bikinskii district).

As we have already mentioned the competition was carried out in two stages: on district and regional levels.

The winners on the district level became the following schools:

Among schools of Vyazemskii district the first place won school number 1 of the town Vyazemskii; the second place – school from the village Avan, the third place – school number 2 of the town Vyazemskii.

Among schools of Nanaiskii district the first place won school from the village Lidoga, the second place – school from the village Dubovyi cape, the third place – school number 1 from the village Naikhin.

Among schools of Bikinskii district the first place won school #23 of the town Bikin, the second place – school of the village Lesopilnoye, the third place – school #6 of the town Bikin.

Among schools of Lazo district the first place won school from the village Bichevaya, the second place – school from the village Khor, the third place – school #1 from the

village Pereyaslovka.

At the regional level the first place took the teens from school #1 of the town Vyazemskii (Vyazemskii district), the second place won the teens from school of Lidoga village (Nanaiskii district), and the third place took the teens from school #26 of the town Bikin (Bikinskii district).

All the winners on district and regional levels were awarded by gifts and the certificates. The children were very happy. The competition of children's projects helped them to learn to solve problems on tiger conservation and to accept the relevant decisions, to plan results of the actions.

6. Conclusion

Thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Save the Tiger Fund's grant we had an opportunity to fulfill an environmental project on the amur tiger conservation issues.

The Wildlife Foundation worked with different layers of population among them were school teachers, forest guards, governmental officials, environmental NGO's, journalists. To our opinion the work with school teachers and journalists is necessary to continue, because they belong to the category of population with the highest social activity and just this category of the population can help us to carry out environmental education and enlightenment.

The Wildlife Foundation has conducted 2 broadcasts on tiger conservation for local population, hunters and woodcutters who work in tiger habitats. Each broadcast lasted 20 minutes. It is very difficult to calculate the number of the audience, because most of the people in the Russian Far East like to listen to radio (the total number of population of Khabarovskii krai is more than 1,608,000 people).

There were given 3 interviews on tiger conservation issues by the specialists of the Wildlife Foundation.

There were organized some conversations on the amur tiger protection, among our listeners were the representatives of the Far Eastern journalist association represented by the local newspapers of Lazo, Vyazemskii, Bikinskii and other districts.

There was organized a meeting with mass media concerning with preparation to the competition of mass media "Conserve the amur tiger for future generation".

There were written 27 articles in the local newspapers on tiger conservation, more than in previous year. There was conducted a press conference for the journalists on the results of the fulfillment of the present project with total number of the participants of 23. As a result of the work of the press conference was a decision of journalists to organize the journalists' club "The friends of the amur tiger". There was organized a competition of mass media, 17 articles were submitted to the competition (15

journalists participated in the competition), the results of which were summed up at the conference. All the winners were awarded by gifts and certificates.

Thanks to the work of the Wildlife Foundation with mass media, there were shown four films on tiger conservation issues by regional TV.

The Wildlife Foundation took an active participation in meetings, conferences and seminars conducted not only in Khabarovskii krai but in the other regions too.

There were organized two seminars for the journalists of mass media, forest guards, employees of Forest Service, engineers of forest management. The total number of the participants was 54. The seminars were very important and necessary for the participants in their future work.

The Wildlife Foundation conducted the competition of teens' projects "How to preserve tiger in your district". It was a very interesting competition. The teens of 8-11 grades participated in it. There were developed 17 environmental projects on tiger conservation. Each project presented a joint research, creative, public activity of teens, directed on study of environmental conditions of the amur tiger. It was a very difficult task for the jury to choose the best projects. But the winners were defined. They were awarded by gifts and certificates.

The competition of children's projects helped them to learn to solve problems on tiger conservation and to accept the relevant decisions, to plan results of the actions.

During the fulfillment of the project we published the leaflets and distributed among the government officials, the leaders of ecological movement, environmental NGO's, teachers and local population. The total number of the disseminated leaflets was about 2000. With the help of anti-poaching brigade the leaflets were also disseminated among the poachers and those who didn't observe the hunting laws.

The results of an environmental program of the Wildlife Foundation was set at the Wildlife Foundation's Web-site (www.wf.ru) in order to give the opportunity of local community to see the Wildlife Foundation's achievements in this sphere.

As a result of concrete actions connected with the environmental education and enlightenment is marked a tendency of decreasing poaching in Khabarovskii krai.

Strengthening of guards, a flow of educational information quickly smooth out the scales for the benefit of a tiger. Other encouraging results are rather appreciable. In particular, the number of supporters of a tiger is steadily increased. If some years ago the mention about a rare predator somewhere in a forest settlement caused an immediate negative reaction, now sharp judgements become a large rarity. It is possible to assume, that with continuation of instructive work with population in near future it will be possible to restore a situation, which was in 50 - 70 years, when the people did not think at all of shooting a tiger.

7. Appendix

7.1. Announcement about competition of teens' projects "How to preserve tiger in your district".

7.2. Methodical recommendations on the development of projects.

7.3. The names of the projects.

7.4. Evaluation list for the competition.

7.5. Certificate for the winners of the competition of teens' projects.

7.6. Programs of seminars.

7.7. Announcement about competition of mass media "Conserve the amur tiger for future generation".

7.8. The names of the articles, newspapers, authors submitted to the competition of mass media.

7.9. Certificate for the winners of the competition of mass media.

7.10. The articles published in the newspapers.

7.11. Photographs.

