



**FINAL REPORT
January 01 – December 31, 2003**

The Grantor: Save the Tiger Fund
Project No: № 2002 – 0301 – 034
Project Name: “Operation Amba Siberian Tiger Protection – III”
The Grantee: The Phoenix Fund
Report Period: January 01 – December 31, 2003
Project Period: January 01 – December 31, 2003

The objective of this project is to conserve endangered wildlife in the Russian Far East and ensure long-term survival of the Siberian tiger and its prey species through anti-poaching activities of Inspection Tiger and non-governmental investigation teams, human-tiger conflict resolution and environmental education. To achieve effective results in anti-poaching activity Phoenix encourage the work of both governmental and public rangers.

I. KHABAROVSKY AND SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS OF INSPECTION TIGER

This report will highlight the work and outputs of **Khabarovsky anti-poaching team** and **Special Emergency Response team** that cover the south of Khabarovsky region and the whole territory of Primorsky region. For the reported period, the Khabarovsky team has documented 47 cases of ecological violations; Special Emergency Response team has registered 25 conflict tiger cases. Tables 1 and 2 show the results of both teams.

Conflict Tiger Cases

The Special Emergency Response Team works on the territory of Primorsky region and south of Khabarovsky region. For the reported period, 25 conflict tiger cases have been registered and investigated by the Special Emergency Response team of Inspection Tiger, one of them transpired to be a “false alarm”.

1) On January 04, 2003 the Special Emergency Response team received information from gas filling station workers that in the vicinity of Terney village they had seen a tiger with a killed dog crossing Terney-Plastun route. The team examined the territory, but it was impossible to find the tiger tracks because of heavy snowfall. The team questioned the local people and took actions to scare the tiger away. The team had remained alert, but since his last visit, the tiger did not appeared again.

2) On January 15, 2003 the team received information from a gamekeeper of Chukensky wildlife refuge, Lazo district, Khabarovsky region that on January 10 a dead tiger was found 5 km far from the border of the wildlife refuge. Immediately afterwards, the Khabarovsky and Special Emergency Response teams, together with the law enforcement and police officers, went to investigate the case. The tiger was emaciated, its hair was dim and mussy, the length of frozen body was 130 cm, its tail - 90 cm, and paw - 11 cm. The carcass of dead animal was transported to a veterinary lab in Khabarovsk for post-mortem examination.

3) On February 03, 2003 John Goodrich, Siberian Tiger project coordinator / WCS, informed that a radio-collared tiger walked near Terney village. The Eastern and Special Emergency Response teams took actions to scare the tiger away.



Scheme of tiger tracks near Razdolnoe village

4) On February 10, 2003 the Special Emergency Response team received information from a logging truck driver that a tiger came up to the village near the Takunzha River several times. The team investigated the place of tiger presence and found tiger tracks (paw width 10.5 cm) 30-50 m far from the village houses. The rangers did not notice aggressive behavior of the tiger. The team organized training for loggers on safety rules and methods to deter a tiger.

5) On March 03, 2003 villagers from Razdolnoe village, Nadezhdinsky district of Primorye, found tiger tracks with blood. The Special Emergency Response team carried out a thorough investigation during several days. The rangers found tiger tracks (10 cm paw pad) with blood in the vicinity of the village. But it was impossible to determine to where the tiger went away because of thawing weather.

6) On March 06, 2003 the Special Emergency Response team received a phone call from “Terneyles” logging company that a tiger had tried to kill a dog on the hunting base in Dalnegorsky district. Immediately afterwards, Eastern and Special emergency Response teams of Inspection Tiger went to investigate the case. As the result of investigation, 8.5 cm wide tracks were found near the hunting base. The team rangers interviewed the guards of the hunting base and ascertained that about three times the tiger came up to 50-100 m to the hunting base with attempts to kill a dog, but was scared away by a guard. The rangers were watching for three days and used sound and flashlights to scare the tiger away. Now, the situation is under control of the Special Emergency Response team.



© Phoenix Fund / Boris Litvinov
The Special Emergency Response Team examines a place of tiger attack, Dalnegorsky district, Primorye

7) On April 01, 2003 the Special Emergency Response team received information from the director of “Amur tiger” project of Sikhote-Alin reserve that a tiger had killed a horse near the Tazhnaya River, Terney district. After a thorough investigation, the team revealed tracks of two tigers (11 cm and 7 cm paw width), interviewed local people and drew a scheme of the place of attack. The team rangers took measures to scare the tiger away and now the situation is under control.



© Phoenix Fund / Inspection Tiger
Tiger track found by the Khabarovsk anti-poaching team

8) On April 20, 2003 the executive director of “Amur tiger” project informed the team that a tiger had attacked a horse at night in Terney district. Immediately afterwards, the Special Emergency Response team went to investigate the case. The fact of tiger attack was confirmed. The team rangers kept watching for three days and took measures to scare the tiger away. Now, the situation is kept under control of Special Emergency Response team.

9) In May two conflict cases were registered at the Kozli stream in Dalnegorsky district. As it turned out, there was only one conflict situation,



but the measures to solve it were taken in two steps: investigation and entrapment. The Special Emergency Response Team, in conjunction with a specialist from Siberian Tiger project of WCS, investigated the case.

As it was reported, on May 06, 2003 the Special Emergency Response Team received a phone call from a wildlife manager of Dalnegorsky district who informed that a tiger had killed a dog on a hunting base near the Kozli stream. The guard of the hunting base observed the tiger movements and informed that the tiger had been near the base in April. On May 04 the tiger came to the base several times. The wildlife manager found tiger tracks (5-7 cm paw width) near the hunting base. Immediately upon receiving such information, the Special Emergency Response Team went to investigate the case. The team rangers questioned the guard, examined the place, instructed the guard of safety rules, organized a 3-day watch and took measures to scare the tiger away. The team sent a letter to Inspection Tiger headquarters with a request to catch the tiger, take him to “Kunali” rehabilitation center with further release with radio collar in Terneisky district. On May 12 the Eastern and Special Emergency Response Teams of Inspection Tiger, together with a specialist from Siberian Tiger project of WCS, took measures to catch the tiger. The rangers set up 10 traps with dogs on 2 grounds, filming and taking photos daily. As a result of the 12-day watch, the tiger was not caught, but it went away to the other district. The team decided to stop entrapment. Now, the situation is under control of the Special Emergency Response team.

10) On June 05, 2003 the Khabarovsk anti-poaching team of Inspection Tiger received information from a Khorsky forestry manager about tiger presence near Kutuzovka village, Lazo district, Khabarovsk region. On June 05-06 the team conducted investigation and found that on May 29 the tiger (10 cm paw width) had caught away a sheep from apiary 2 km far from Kutuzovka village, and on June 03 the tiger had killed a dog. After questioning the local people, the rangers instructed the villagers on safety rules and asked them to inform if the tiger was back. On June 20 the team received repeated information about tiger presence near Kutuzovka village, and the rangers went to investigate the case and stayed alert until June 23.

11) On June 09 the Special Emergency Response Team received information from a wildlife manager that at night on June 08 a tiger had killed a calf 300 m far from a farmstead near Melniki village, Partizansky district. Immediately afterwards, the Special Emergency Response Team, together with a specialist from Siberian Tiger Project (WCS), the head of Vladivostok team of Inspection Tiger and a state ranger, went to investigate the case. The joint team questioned the witnesses, examined the place and took photos, drew up a report on the case, instructed local people on safety rules and distributed booklets “Guidelines to human behavior in tiger habitat”. As a result of investigation the rangers defined the following: the tiger (8-10 cm paw width) had been living near Melniki village since March 2003. Prior to that conflict case, neither aggressive behavior, nor deaths of livestock or dogs had been registered. The local people noticed that the tiger had been living close to the village and had seen its tracks on the kitchen gardens several times.



© Phoenix Fund/ Inspection Tiger
Conflict case in
Bezverkhovo deer farm (background)
and tiger track (foreground)



12) On June 10-11 the Special Emergency Response Team transported a wild tiger cub to Vladivostok airport. In February 28, 2003 the forestry officers found an emaciated three/four-months old tiger cub in Spassky district of Primorye, Russian Far East. It had frostbit paws and weighed only 12 kilograms. The officers enveloped the weak animal into warm clothes and sent it to the Rehabilitation Center near Spassk City. The tiger cub was named "Baby". Since that time the Phoenix Fund and other nature-oriented NGOs were looking for solutions on how to rehabilitate and conserve the cub. After thorough negotiations the Moscow Zoo agreed to host the tiger cub and take care of it. The tiger cub went to the Moscow Zoo according to recommendation of the EEP coordinator Sarah Christie, and the female has been included into EEP co-operative program meaning that her future (location, breeding, etc.) will be managed for the benefits of the program. Phoenix staff, Inspection Tiger officers, together with the Siberian Tiger Project specialists of WCS, organized and carried out transportation of the wild tiger cub to Vladivostok airport, from where it flew to Moscow and got into caring hands of the Zoo specialists. During transportation to the airport no aggressive behavior was registered. After a weekly quarantine the cub will be placed in a spacious forested enclosure, where it will be well taken care of.

13) On July 03, 2003 Inspection Tiger headquarters received information from a wildlife manager that a tiger had killed a four-month calf and severely injured a cow in Melniki village, Partizansky district. Earlier in June the Special Emergency Response Team documented two attacks of that tiger on livestock. After a thorough investigation, Inspection Tiger sent a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources with a request to catch the tiger. When the permit was received, on July 11 the Special Emergency Response Team went to Melniki and questioned the witnesses, wildlife managers and local people to get detailed information on the tiger. According to obtained information, it was a tigress with one or two cubs. The rangers found out that the main place where the tiger appeared was the Kievsky stream. An extensive examination of the surroundings and the territory near the Kievsky stream revealed the place where the tiger spent last 4-6 days. The team rangers set up two special traps and left two dogs there. The tiger did not react to the dogs, and on July 16 the head of the team decided to stop operation. Although, the team was sure that the tiger would come again. Therefore, the rangers sent the second letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources with a request to permit catching the tiger and cubs in case they would appear in the village and attack livestock.

14) On July 28 Inspection Tiger received information from a manager of "Razdolninsky" state farm that a wild animal had killed two calves. Inspection Tiger team went to investigate the case. As a result, the rangers found tracks that could belong to a wolf or a leopard. The farm workers told that they had seen a red color animal going away to the forest. Inspection Tiger rangers instructed the farm workers on safety rules and asked them to inform if the animal was back.

15) According to information, received from the staff of Bezverkhovo deer farm, during the period from August 18 to 22 the Far Eastern leopard killed three deer. Prior to arrival of the Special Emergency Response Team, Khasan team of Inspection Tiger checked this information and took measures to scare the leopard away. On July 23 the Special Emergency Response Team received a permit to catch the leopard. A thorough examination of place revealed the presence of both leopard and tiger. The rangers found the tiger tracks on sand (9,5 – 10 cm paw width) in three points of the deer farm. While conducting examination of the fence, the rangers found four trees with marks of the leopard claws. To catch the animals there were 6 snares set up. However, the rangers did not manage to catch the predators in a snare. On August 29 the snares were removed and the situation was kept under control of Khasan team during seven days. There were no more cases of tiger or leopard attacks.

16) On August 13-15 the Khabarovsky team received information from a wildlife manager of Mataisky wildlife refuge that a tiger had pursued a vehicle driving along the timber-carrying road



in Lazo district several times. During two days the team was checking that information and did not find any evidence.

17) On September 25, 2003 a conflict situation took place near Pozharski railway station, Khasan district, Southern Primorye. The Special Emergency Response Team of Inspection Tiger received information that a tiger had attacked a calf. While investigating the case, the team found out that the tiger had attacked two animals. One was a calf, which was killed by the tiger and another one was a baby horse, which died in two days because of injuries. The rangers found tiger tracks (8.3 cm paw width), documented the case and instructed local people on safety rules.

18) On September 29 the Special Emergency Response Team received information that a tiger had killed one and injured two cows in Vetka village, Olginsky district. During the investigation by the team rangers, it became clear that on September 20 a tiger killed a bull pasturing near Vetka village. It happened near the house of a villager who was working in his kitchen garden at that moment. He heard a roar of the cow and saw two cows running from the forest side towards the river, and after that, he heard a bull's roar and predator's growl resounding from the forest. During 5-7 minutes there were sounds of the fight. The villager could not bring himself to check what had happened there and informed a forest manager about the incident. As a result, the body of a bull with broken neck and injures on its back was found. On September 23 a tiger attacked a cow, pasturing in 700 m from the same village. Injures were not mortal. Next day a tiger killed another cow. When the Special Emergency Response Team came, the rangers interviewed the villagers and forest manager about conflict cases. The locals told that a tiger and a cub had been walking there since May 2003. But it was determined that attacks were made by one tiger. The rangers took measures to scare the tiger away, instructed local people on safety rules and distributed booklets "Guidelines to human behavior in tiger habitat". During seven days the rangers stayed alert and situation was under control. There was no more information about the tiger.

19) On October 13 a conflict situation took place in Anuchinsky district. The Special Emergency Response Team received information that a tiger killed a 13-year old horse. The team rangers went to investigate the case and got information that the horse's owner lived on the outskirts of the village. While examining the place around the owner's house, the rangers found tracks of two tigers, probably tigress and a cub (9 cm and 12 cm paw width). After a thorough investigation, the rangers found out that on October 10 two tigers had already visited the village and killed two dogs. The rangers instructed local people on safety rules and distributed booklets "Guidelines to human behavior in tiger habitat". During two weeks the rangers stayed alert and situation was under control. There was no more information about the tigers.



20) On November 03 the Special Emergency Response Team received information from the head of Amgu village administration that during the period from October 28 to November 01 a tiger had killed a calf and a colt. On November 04-06, 2003 the joint team consisting of the head of the Special Emergency Response Team, an Inspection Tiger ranger and a specialist of Siberian Tiger Project (WCS) carried out investigation of that case. They talked to the head of the Amgu village administration, the owner of the killed livestock and examined the horse's remains with the traces of tiger teeth and took photos. They examined the surroundings of Amgu

© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
Conflict tiger case near Amgu village.
Dead horse (background) and tiger track (foreground).



village, instructed local people on safety rules and disseminated “Rules on human behavior in tiger habitat” leaflet. As a result, it was ascertained that during October 28-November 01 the tiger had killed three horses. The previous information about the killed calf and colt was not confirmed. According to the obtained information, the tiger had a gunshot wound. Taking into consideration the fact that the tiger could pose a threat for local people, the joint team organized a special twenty-four-hour watching in the vicinity of Amgu village during November 07-09. For the period of the watching, the team did not register tiger presence. Now, the situation is under control of the Special Emergency Response team.

21) In November there was a conflict situation covered by all local and central mass media. On November 21 a group of loggers found a two-year old tiger near Pokrovka village, Khabarovskiy krai, and tried to scare the animal back into the forest with dogs, flares and sounds of gunshots, but in vain. Tiger Response team of Inspection Tiger and Siberian Tiger Project team of WCS came to investigate the case. Finally, the tigress was sedated and taken to the rehabilitation center in Terney, northern Primorye. The tiger did not react to sound, light of touch, but showed neither signs of physical exhaustion, nor obvious injuries – body was well nourished and fur shiny. That the tiger may have been held in captivity was not ruled out by the veterinarians, and would explain tiger healthy weight, lack of aggression to people, as well as reluctance to go into the forest. The WCS specialists conducted consultations with renowned veterinarians in the US and Russia. The veterinarians decided to make IV drips two times per day to give the tigress enough liquid, glucose and vital vitamins as she could not drink or eat on her own (a tiger needs at least 4 liters per day). Her condition slightly improved. Specialists of Siberian Tiger Projects supposed that the tiger could have been poisoned, or, more likely, contracted a virus, such as rabies. The specialists continued to fight for the weak tigress’ life. Unfortunately, on January 10, 2004 the tigress died.



© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
Rangers of Inspection Tiger and specialists from Siberian Tiger Project of WCS make preparations for tiger transportation



© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
Conflict tiger case near Dvoryanka village, Khankaisky district of Primorye, November 30, 2003

22) On November 30, 2003 Inspection Tiger received information that hunters had killed Amur tiger after its attack on one of the hunters near Krasny stream, Khankaisky district of Primorye. Further investigation by Inspection Tiger team revealed that two hunters had gone hunting illegally near Dvoryanka village. A young tiger was hunting there too when four hunters’ dogs found it and started barking. The poacher thought that the dogs had found a wild boar because there were many boar tracks around, and hurried towards the bark. At that moment the tiger attacked the hunter who managed to shoot and kill the black-striped feline. Inspection Tiger rangers came to conclusion that illicit hunting with dogs had provoked tiger’s attack. Initiation of criminal proceeding was rejected.



23) On December 08, 2003 Inspection Tiger rangers received information about tiger poaching in Spassky district. Immediately afterwards, the Inspection Tiger team went to investigate the case. Investigation revealed that two poachers (37 and 17 years old) had found a tigress with two cubs while hunting near Vasilkovka village, Spassky district of Primorye. Illegal hunters shot one tiger cub dead and injured the tigress. The tigress with another cub managed to flee into the forest. The poachers took the corpse of the killed tiger cub and returned home. Next day the 17-year old hunter, together with his 20-year old accomplice and three dogs, went hunting and was tracking the tigress for two hours. The dogs helped to find the tigress and the hunters killed it by two shots. The poachers cut off pads and head and skinned the dead animal. Then the hunters took everything but meat. As a result of Inspection Tiger rangers' work, one tiger skin was confiscated, two criminal proceedings were initiated and there is a hope that poachers will be punished severely. After a thorough search in that area, the Inspection Tiger rangers managed to find the orphaned tiger cub and now are taking measures to feed the cub and support it through the winter. There is a hope that the cub will survive this winter and will be able to live on its own in taiga.



© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
 Police officer with confiscated tiger skin, head and legs



© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
 Injured horse back, December 15, 2003

24) On December 15, 2003 Inspection Tiger received information that a tiger had attacked a horse in Shkotovsky district. On December 29 a tiger appeared again and Inspection Tiger rangers sent a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources with a request to permit catching the predator. On January 03, 2004 the permission was received. The results of this case will be given in the next report.

25) At the end of December there was a conflict case in Anuchino village, when a tiger got into the barn and dragged the dog off. The exact information on this case will be described in the next report as the case is still under investigation.

Training of the Special Emergency Response team



©John Goodrich, WCS
 Training in the Haenry Doorly Zoo, spring 2003

From 24th of March through 6th of April, 2003 Evgeny Tsarapkin, the Special Emergency Response team member, attended the second half of an anesthesia training course held by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Henry Doorly Zoo in the United States.

The first half of the course was held in September 2002 at Utes Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Khabarovsk region, Russia. The second half of the course included seven Russians selected from those



attending the first half of the course and was organized by veterinarians K. Quigley, WCS and D. Armstrong, Henry Doorly Zoo. From 24th of March through 1st of April, the group visited Bozeman Montana and Yellowstone National Park, where they met with representatives of the Park, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Turner Endangered Species Fund, and WCS biologists involved in large carnivore conservation. The focus of these meetings was techniques for dealing with conflicts between people and large carnivores, particularly wolves and grizzly bears. On 1st of April, attendees flew to Omaha, Nebraska, and spent the next several days anesthetizing five tigers, one leopard, and one cougar at the Henry Doorly Zoo under the supervision of Dr. Armstrong.

Hunting regulations violations



© Inspection Tiger
Checking a car

The Khabarovsk team became part of Inspection Tiger in February 2001. The team consists of three experienced rangers and covers the southern part of Khabarovsk region and the northern border of the tiger habitat, a very important territory for tiger distribution. The main goal of the team is to protect the tiger habitat and struggle with illegal logging in the north of Primorye. The rangers are also involved in conducting educational work in local schools.

From January 01 to December 31, 2003 the Khabarovsk team of Inspection Tiger documented 47 cases of ecological violations and confiscated 12 illegal rifles. On January 20-22, 2003 the Khabarovsk team together with gamekeepers were patrolling on the territory of Mataisky wildlife refuge.

During the raid the team ranger found a rifle (16 caliber) 50 m far from the logging place. None of the loggers confessed who was the owner of the rifle. As a result, the rangers confiscated the rifle and handed it over to the local police department.



© Inspection Tiger
Poached bear without gall bladder and liver

On February 13-16, 2003 the Khabarovsk team rangers, in cooperation with a police officer, carried out patrols in Lazo district. As a result, one man with illegal rifle was arrested. The rangers confiscated the rifle and initiated criminal proceeding. On February 19-21, 2003 after the hunting season was closed, the team patrolled Matai hunting lease, checked eight hunting houses and fifteen hunting routes. The rangers drew up three reports and instituted proceedings on administrative violations for illegal usage of wildlife products.

On March 07-09, 2003 the team was patrolling the north of Lazo district and the south of Nanaisky district. As a result, the team found a rifle hanging on the tree 30 m far from a hunting house. The rangers found no hunters there. The rifle was handed over to the local police department. Later the team arrested three men hunting musk deer without license and during forbidden period. The rangers drew up three reports on hunting regulations violations and imposed a fine of 3,300 rubles (\$106) for each. On March 14, 2003 the team



arrested three people for illegal hunting. As the result, the rangers confiscated rifles, imposed a fine and drew up three reports on hunting regulations violations. On March 22-25, 2003 while conducting patrols, the team arrested a poacher hunting with a dog. The rangers confiscated a rifle, meat of sable and drew up a report.

On May 11-14, 2003 the team patrolled the north of Lazo district, drew up two reports on violations of hunting regulations, and arrested two people (article 7.11 of Administrative Code of the Russian Federation). On May 18-22 the rangers arrested a man with roe deer meat in a hunting lease. He was hunting with a snare. The rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine.

On June 02-10, 2003 the team patrolled the south of Lazo district. The rangers revealed a gun 30 meters far from a salt lick in Lazovsky hunting lease near the Khima. The gun was handed over to the local police.

On June 20-23 while solving a “conflict” case near Kutuzovka village, Lazo district of Khabarovskiy krai, the Khabarovskiy anti-poaching team paid attention to tremendous gathering of crows along the timber-carrying road in the forest. As a result of examination of some sector of the ground, the team found a dead brown bear (4-5 days’ prescription of death coming). The bear was about 1.5-2 years old. According to assumption, the poachers killed the bear, disemboweled, took its liver and gall and hid the carcass in the bush. Unfortunately, the team rangers did not reveal the poachers. The team rangers presuppose that it was one of bear cubs released into the wild after the course of rehabilitation in Kruglov’s center. They documented the case and handed over this information to the wildlife manager of Lazo district.



© Inspection Tiger
A violator with illegal rifle

On July 14-20 the Khabarovskiy team conducted a joint raid with fishing managers and police officers along the Khor River, Lazo district. As a result, the rangers drew up four reports on violations of hunting regulations, confiscated four illegal rifles and initiated one criminal proceeding. While conducting a patrol raid along the river, the rangers drew up six reports and confiscated a 500-meter long fishing net.



© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
Checking documents during night anti-poaching raid

In August the Khabarovskiy team carried out joint raids with wildlife managers of Mataiskiy wildlife refuge and law enforcement officers, and did not reveal any violation.

On September 03-05 the team, together with Police officers, conducted a joint raid resulting in two reports on violations of hunting regulations. On September 09-11 the while patrolling by boat, the Khabarovskiy team arrested two illegal hunters, drew up reports and imposed a fine (article 7.11 of Administrative Code of the Russian Federation). On September 22-25 during the joint raid the Khabarovskiy team, together with the Police officers, arrested three people for illegal hunting, drew up three reports and



initiated administrative proceedings (article 7.11 of Administrative Code of the Russian Federation).

On October 01-03, 2003 the Khabarovsk team rangers, in cooperation with the Nature Conservation and Environmental Resources Department patrolled along the Kia river. They composed five protocols and some administrative cases brought an action. The rangers arrested three men for illegal fishing with nets without fishing license. Two men hunted without special permits on the wildlife products. Both hunters faced the fines. On October 07-09, 2003 while conducting regular patrols, the rangers drew up three reports and initiated administrative proceeding. A hunter killed a goose, while hunting without a special permit. Another man used the nets for fishing without license. On October 10-13, 2003 a control patrol was organized together with the Fishery Department along the Khor river. The Fishery Department composed six protocols on violations of fishing regulations.

In the beginning of November 2003, the violations of fishing and hunting regulations were the same, as in October. On November 20-23, the Khabarovsk team rangers were patrolling in Vyazemski and Lazo districts. While going on the Mataisky forest road, the visible prints of the car were found by rangers, this led to a fire –break. Having covered 15 km, the rangers saw a car with the federal number T-347 CK. Inside the car, there were empty cases of the rifles. While investigating the place, the rangers determined the fact, that the hunters had been tracking a roe deer. Car observation was organized. In a couple of hours, the hunter with a sack and a rifle came to his car. He killed the roe deer without special license. Later the rangers found out,



© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
Trap for sable found by rangers

that two more hunters had been supposed to wait for him on the road. The search was organized. The team found two more hunters on Dubovaya hill. All hunters did not have documents and hunting permits. One hunter did not have a license to possess and use rifle. The one, which he had, had been stolen two years ago. The rangers drew up three protocols, confiscated the rifles and made the hunters paid the fines. On November 27, 2003 the rangers found a rifle, which was hanging on the tree in “Mataisky” wildlife refuge, not far from the Krutoy spring, on the road Yuzhny-Bedovy. The owner of that rifle was not determined. The rifle was handed over to the police of Lazo district, Khabarovsk krai.

On December 06-09, 2003 the Khabarovsk team carried out patrols in Lazo district. As a result, 2 protocols were composed and administrative proceedings were initiated. The rangers arrested 2 men for hunting without licenses. Both paid fine. On December 18-27, 2003 the rangers were patrolling in Lazo district, on the Katen river. While checking a winter house, the rifle was confiscated from a hunter, as he did not have a license to use it. He hunted illegally and killed a roe deer. He was made to pay a fine. Three hunters hunted illegally on the ungulates without a special permit. Hunters also did not have necessary



© Inspection Tiger / Phoenix Fund
Checking documents and hunting license



document for possessing and using rifles. The protocol was composed and the hunter paid the fine. One of them hunted illegally on Siberian stag, not far from the Krivay river. He did not have a hunting permit. The protocol was composed and administrative case brought to action.

Forest violations



© Phoenix Fund / Inspection Tiger
The Khabarovsk team revealed unauthorized felling in Lazovsky forestry

On January 10, 2003 the Khabarovsk team arrested a man for illegal logging near the Kia River. The rangers drew up a report and confiscated a chain saw. On January 11, 2003 the team arrested an illegal logger in Kapitonovsky forestry. The crime was documented and all documents were forwarded to Khabarovsk Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection. On January 12-13, 2003 the team arrested a man for illegal logging in the vicinity of Pereyaslavka village. The rangers drew up a report and confiscated two chain saws.

On February 01, 2003 the team arrested a tractor driver of “Khorskaya LPK” Ltd. who was polluting the forest. The rangers instituted a proceeding on administrative violation (article 8.31, section 2) and imposed a fine. On February 10-12, 2003 while conducting regular patrols in Vyazemsky district the team arrested two men for illegal logging near Avansky forestry.

In June the Khabarovsk team revealed unauthorized felling in Lazovsky forestry. The rangers forwarded information on the violation to the forestry. The representatives of the forestry drew up a report, confiscated wood and tractor, and initiated criminal proceedings. Amount of the damage was 145,000 rubles (\$4,776).

Environmental Education

Apart from the anti-poaching work, Khabarovsk team has been regularly conducting educational activities at schools of Northern Primorye and Southern part of Khabarovsk region. This work includes giving lectures and showing video materials on Inspection Tiger work. These lectures help children understand the importance of wildlife conservation in their home country.

Ranger training



© Phoenix Fund
Vladimir Schetinina (left) gives consultation

This year Phoenix continued supporting the activity of Vladimir Schetinina, the former Inspection Tiger Commander, who has been giving lectures-consultations for the law enforcement officers providing them with legal documentations and materials to solve arising issues during law enforcement activities.

For example, he supported state law enforcement officer with materials on government ecological control under the objects of economic and other activities, on rules of allocation and construction of logging objects in Krasnoarmeisky district. These inquiries were connected with necessity to regulate relations with the above-mentioned



objects breaking the law. Mr. Schetinin provided a state wildlife manager with materials on rights and responsibilities of indigenous people in nature conservation field, on rules of purchasing, keeping and using weapons by members of indigenous communities. The inquiry was connected with initiated proceeding on administrative violation. In May Mr. Schetinin received an inquiry from the head of Inspection Tiger to give him a legal consultation on harm (article 1064 of Civil Code of the Russian Federation), on regulation of trade in wild objects listed in Endangered Species List of the Russian Federation, on imposing fines for forest violations and other. Commander Schetinin has also developed courses for new members of Inspection Tiger. In June he read lectures on current legislation regulating state ecological control and provided materials on the following themes:

- 1) "Essential and content of administrative-legal regulations";
- 2) "Legal regulation of cases on administrative violations";
- 3) "State ecological control: purpose, principles, methods, legal forms of reaction";
- 4) "About rifles";
- 5) "Interim procedural recommendations on use of Administrative Code of the Russian Federation for law enforcement officers";

For the reported period Vladimir Schetinin consulted the head of Inspection Tiger on the rules of usage of seized rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, their parts and derivatives listed in the Statutes of the CITES Convention; he provided consultations on the federal program "Ecology and natural resources of the Russian Federation (2002-2010)"; provided the head of Khasan team of Inspection Tiger with three procedural forms of "Protocol about arrest of instruments and items of administrative violation" and consulted how to organize checking the law observation in nature conservation. Mr. Schetinin also consulted the wildlife law enforcement officer of Krasnoarmeisky district on the rules of handing over documents on violations that contain signs of penal actions to Police Department. During that period, the consultant continued working on the reference material titled "Administrative-legal regulation in nature conservation and usage of natural resources", made corrections to 70 procedural forms designed for use by Inspection Tiger rangers. In October – December Vladimir Schetinin prepared a project of Inspection Tiger regulations including rights and duties of Inspection Tiger rangers. That project was also forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources for further consideration and revision. Mr. Shetinin provided the public rangers, Inspection Tiger rangers, law enforcement and police officers with CD-Rom on "Legal regulation of cases on nature violations". In December Vladimir Schetinin helped Inspection Tiger investigate the killed tigress case (Conflict tiger case, December 06, 2003) and consulted the rangers how to help orphaned tiger cub live on its own in taiga.

Thanks to legal consultation provided by Vladimir Schetinin, rangers and law enforcement officers received tremendous assistance in solving arising issues on ecological violations.

II. PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION TEAMS



© Phoenix Fund / Yuri Trush

Checking documents by the public rangers

To struggle with poaching, strengthen protection activities in tiger habitat, enhance the protection work of the state agencies, and educate the public Phoenix formed two public environmental investigation teams in March 2001. Both teams' leaders are experienced rangers who had previously worked with Inspection Tiger. The teams consist of volunteers, mainly from nature-oriented youth organizations and university and college



environmental clubs. Considering the current state of Amur tiger population, in 2003 the both teams had been operating mainly in the north of Primorye in order to provide more efficiency to tiger conservation activities. During the reporting period, both teams have conducted combined anti-poaching raids with wildlife managers, Inspection Tiger rangers, the Police, and state rangers, drew up 159 reports on ecological violations and confiscated 97 rifles and 75 cartridges. In addition, both teams organized 24 lectures and gave talks on conservation in a number of local schools and children's centres. The results of teams' work are as follows:

On January 09, 2003 the public rangers, together with wildlife managers, conducted an anti-poaching raid in Pozharsky district. The joint team found two illegal hunters near Svetlogorie village. The violators tried to escape and the rangers managed to catch only one of them with illegal rifle and meat of roe deer. The illegal hunter was arrested and the crime was documented.

On January 11, 2003 the team stopped a car near Gogolevka village. Four passengers had illegal rifles. The rangers drew up reports and confiscated rifles. On January 12, 2003 the joint team detained people hunting from their vehicle using lights at night. On January 15 the rangers arrested a hunter without hunting license and confiscated nineteen traps.



© Phoenix Fund/ Yuri Trush
Checking poacher's sledge

On January 29, 2003 the public rangers, in conjunction with wildlife managers, carried out an anti-poaching raid near the Amba River. As a result, they arrested a man with meat of wild boar and kolinsky skin. The rangers drew up a report and confiscated an illegal rifle. The same day rangers arrested a poacher hunting with traps and without any permit papers.

In February the public rangers, together with the wildlife managers, conducted anti-poaching raids on two snowmobiles in the source of the Bikin River. During patrols the joint team used video- and photo cameras. On February 11, 2003 the joint team of public rangers and wildlife managers arrested a hunter with illegal wildlife products on Propadaushy spring. The rangers checked the hunter's snowmobile and found two Siberian stags and one wild boar. The wild meat was confiscated and poacher had to pay a fine. On the same day the joint team arrested a hunter with a rifle in winter house on Kunsu spring. The violator did not have any registration paper for the rifle. The rangers also found meat of Siberian stag 10 m far from the winter house. The crime was documented and criminal proceedings were instituted (article 222 of Criminal Code of Russia). While checking the winter house, the rangers found three wild boar's skins, head of wild boar, roe deer's skin and four legs of Siberian stag. There was no license to kill such number of animals.



© Phoenix Fund/ Yuri Trush
Checking a sledge

On February 12, 2003 the joint team arrested a hunter with illegal wildlife products who was driving along the Khabarovsk-Nakhodka road. On the same day the team arrested a hunter for illegal hunting near Ul'ma stream. The rangers found two illegal rifles and two carcasses of wild boar meat hidden in the snow. As a result of checking the winter house, the heads of Siberian stag and wild boar, three wild boar legs, two Siberian stag's skins,



kolinsky and musk deer skins were confiscated. The hunter did not have any papers permitting the hunting. The crime was documented and criminal proceeding was instituted (article 222 of Criminal Code of Russia).

Later on the same day near the Gunchugu stream the joint team arrested a hunter. During checking the hunter's sled, the rangers found two Siberian stags, one roe deer, one wild boar, one bear gall bladder, and four bear paws. The arrested hunter had license for hunting only one Siberian stag and one wild boar. The rangers drew up the report on hunting regulations violations and confiscated a rifle and wild products. On the same place the team stopped a hunter driving "Buran" snowmobile. As the result of checking the snowmobile, poached wild boar and Siberian stag were revealed. The crime was documented.



© Phoenix Fund/ Andrei Golobokov
Public ranger is drawing the report on hunting regulations violations

On February 13, 2003 on the upstream of the Bikin River the team checked the winter house. They found illegal rifle belonging to famous businessman in Vladivostok. The rangers confiscated a rifle, drew up the report and handed all documentation to the local police to institute criminal proceeding.

On February 15, 2003 near the Gungatu stream the joint team arrested a hunter while checking the winter house. There was an illegal rifle hanging on the wall. The rifle and cartridges were confiscated and handed over to the local police. On February 16, 2003 the team checked another winter house near the

Markino stream. As a result, two illegal rifles were confiscated and the hunter was arrested. Near the Tavasiki river creek the team arrested a hunter with three squirrel skins and mink skin

in the winter house. The rangers also found an illegal rifle 70 m far from the winter house. The hunter confessed that it was his rifle. The rangers drew up a report and handed all documents to the local police to institute criminal proceeding. On February 18, 2003 near the Gange stream the joint team arrested a hunter with illegal rifle. During checking his winter house, the rangers found two heads of wild boars and a sable skin. The rangers drew up a report on hunting regulations violations. On February 20 during patrol in Tazhny wildlife refuge the team arrested a man with 23 traps. The rangers confiscated the traps and made a poacher pay a fine of 1,500 roubles (\$48). On February 22, 2003 near Krasny Yar village the team arrested the same hunter driving "Buran" snowmobile. As a result of checking the snowmobile, meat of two wild boars were found.

On March 04, 2003 the rangers arrested a man when hunting was closed. As a result, the rangers confiscated a rifle and drew up a report. On March 10, 2003 the team arrested a man hunting with a dog. The rangers confiscated a rifle and drew up a report on hunting regulations violation. On March 11 the rangers arrested a man for illegal hunting with traps, confiscated seventeen traps and imposed a fine of 500 roubles (\$16). At the end of March the team received information that a local from Novopokrovka village made attempt to sell a tiger skin. This information was forwarded to Inspection Tiger for further investigation. On March 16 near the Listvenichny stream the team arrested a man with five dogs who was hunting during forbidden period.

In April the public rangers, together with the police officers and forest managers, conducted five anti-poaching raids. Their activity was focused on conservation of wild habitat. The four-day raids were conducted during the opening of the hunting season on waterfowl. While patrolling,



the team checked twenty-three hunters and forty-four cars, and arrested four poachers. The team rangers drew up reports, confiscated two illegal rifles, one carbine, and five ducks. The violators had to pay a fine totalling 4,000 roubles (\$130).

In April the Southern team arrested four people for illegal hunting. The team rangers drew up reports, confiscated two illegal rifles, one carbine, and five ducks. The violators faced a fine of 4,000 roubles (\$130).



© Phoenix Fund / Yuri Trush
Poacher's hut

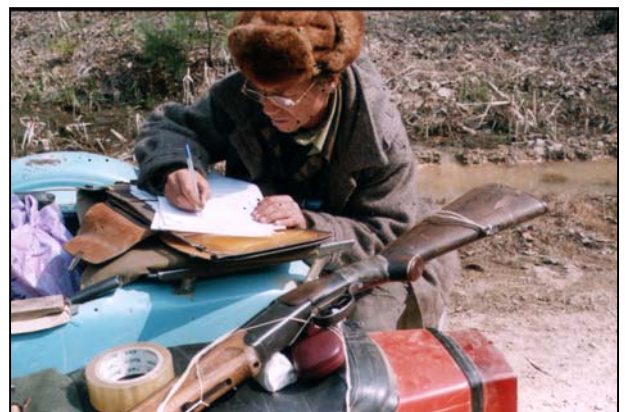


© Phoenix Fund / Yuri Trush
The public ranger found a hidden rifle

On April 09, 2003 the Northern team received information from the officer of Criminal Investigation Department of Pozharsky district that two local people from Yasenevov village had shot a tiger on March 23. According to the information, the tiger skin was hidden in the house of one of the poachers and tiger bones were buried in the kitchen garden. The poachers divided the tiger meat into three parts and ate it. The criminals tried to sell the skin to a woman of the same village (in May 2000 she was arrested for illegal possession of a lot of skins, ginseng roots, and derivatives of wild animals). Immediately upon receiving such information, the public investigation team, together with the wildlife manager and police officer, made an attempt to seize the skin and bones, but they did not have the right to conduct a search of the house. Therefore, the team forwarded this information to Inspection Tiger for further investigation and confiscation. On April 13 during the patrol raid the team found a disguised hut near Kungulaza hill. While checking the hut and contiguous territory, the rangers found a rifle with removed number. Its owner was not found. Next day the public rangers found a rifle with removed number near a hunting house on the Funtasu stream. All revealed rifles were handed over to the local police.

together with the wildlife manager and police officer, made an attempt to seize the skin and bones, but they did not have the right to conduct a search of the house. Therefore, the team forwarded this information to Inspection Tiger for further investigation and confiscation. On April 13 during the patrol raid the team found a disguised hut near Kungulaza hill. While checking the hut and contiguous territory, the rangers found a rifle with removed number. Its owner was not found. Next day the public rangers found a rifle with removed number near a hunting house on the Funtasu stream. All revealed rifles were handed over to the local police.

In May the Northern public environmental investigation team conducted six anti-poaching raids by car and two patrols by boat up-stream the Bikin. As a result, five reports on violations of hunting regulations were documented, four illegal rifles and fifteen cartridges were confiscated, and one criminal proceeding was initiated.



© Phoenix Fund/ Yuri Trush
Arrested poacher is writing an explanatory note



In May and June special attention of the Southern team was paid to conservation of the ungulates habitat, as it was a period when ungulates (Siberian stag) fawn. During that season the most common type of poaching was hunting at salt licks. In May the rangers arrested four poachers hunting at salt licks, confiscated two illegal rifles, and imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$32). The team also arrested a man for setting up two bear snares and made him pay a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$32).

© Phoenix Fund/
Yuri Trush

The public rangers found "lobaz" and hidden remains of Siberian stag

On May 13 while patrolling near the Chemchuguza, 8 km far from Sobolnoe village, the team arrested a man with badger meat and skin. As he did not have any permits, the rangers drew up a report and confiscated wildlife products. On May 15 the public investigation team, together with the local wildlife managers, conducted an anti-poaching raid on the Bikin in order to check information on illegal hunting by people from Strelnikovo village. The information was confirmed. On May 16 the rangers stopped a man on a motorcycle on a forest path, 16 km far from Strelnikovo village. While checking the motorcycle, the team revealed one rifle without documents and cartridges and drew up a report on violation. On May 17 the team made three arrests of people from Strelnikovo village. For example, the public rangers stopped two violators with rifles coming out of the forest. One hour later, they arrested another man on a motorcycle with rifle and without any permit. He also had a special light device for hunting at night. That violator received a three-year conditional sentence (article No. 222 Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

On May 13 while patrolling near the Chemchuguza, 8 km far from Sobolnoe village, the team arrested a man with badger meat and skin. As he did not have any permits, the rangers drew up a report and confiscated wildlife products.



© Phoenix Fund / Yuri Trush
Confiscated illegal rifles

On June 06 – 12, 2003 the public rangers, in co-operation with the wildlife managers of Primorsky Hunting Management Department, conducted an anti-poaching raid from the headstream of the Bikin to the Ada. The raid was carried out on the territory of "Bikin" hunting lease with a purpose to reveal violations of hunting regulations. As a result, four reports on violations of hunting regulations were documented. On June 03 the joint team stopped a boat near the Metaheza stream.

There were three people in the boat, including an ex-policeman. The rangers examined the boat and found meat and a head of Siberian

stag with young horns and illegal rifle. There were no hunting permits. As a result, the rangers drew up a report on violation, confiscated the rifle and documents.

On June 07 upon arrival to the mouth of the Ada, the joint team arrested Y.P. Sharapov, a citizen and businessman of Vladivostok, for poaching a Siberian stag with young horns. He did not have any hunting permit. The rangers confiscated two illegal rifles. Mr. Sharapov told that Siberian stag had been killed to feed four people working for the hunting lease. He showed a faked certificate of a ranger of the "Bikin" hunting lease. After examination of the territory, the rangers revealed a place for attracting bears where the poacher had left the remains of a Siberian stag (head, neck, skin, guts) on the right shore of the Ada. On the opposite side, 50 m



far from the river, the rangers found a special hiding construction (lobaz) covered with a blue tent. Probably, poachers were waiting for a bear that felt the smell of hidden remains of Siberian stag and came to the river shore to become an easy aim for illegal hunters. The rangers found three hiding constructions, including a man-made salt lick. There were two more people on the territory of the hunting lease (indigenous people from Krasnyi Yar village), which could not explain the purpose of their presence there. Mr. Sharapov explained that those people were his employees. He owns a base that consisted of eight houses situated 18 km far from the mouth of the Ada. According to the explanations of Mr. Sharapov, this infrastructure was built in order to develop eco-tourism and attract foreign visitors. As operative information showed that hunting for one wild animal could cost from \$500 to \$1,000. Foreign guests and equipment are taken over in a plane for 16,000 roubles (\$520) per hour. The rangers imposed a fine, confiscated the documents on rifles and a ranger certificate. Mr. Sharapov informed that he knew a businessman who had built a similar base on the Kluchevaya near the Plotnikov stream. There is a suspicion that the director of the “Bikin” hunting lease let built such bases and did not inform Primorsky krai and Pozharsky district administrations regarding these constructions.

On June 11 the rangers checked an air fire-fighting team and revealed two rifles. One of the rifles belonged to the instructor of the team who was absent at that time. There was no document for another rifle, so it was impossible to determine its owner. As a result, the rangers confiscated the rifles and handed them over to the local police in Luchegorsk City.

In July and August main attention of the public rangers was paid to the conservation of wild ungulates and their habitat. It was the time when Siberian stag “roars”. The mostly spread type of poaching was illegal hunting on salt licks. On July 01 the team, together with hunting managers, arrested a man for illegal hunting on salt licks, confiscated a rifle and imposed a fine of 500 roubles (\$16). On July 06 the rangers arrested two men hunting on snakes illegally. Three Amur-chicken snakes (*Elaphe schrencki*) were confiscated. The poachers paid the fines in the amount of 500 roubles (\$16) each and received severe warnings concerning future illegal activities. The snakes were released into the wild. On July 22 while patrolling on the territory of hunting lease the public rangers arrested a man for illegal hunting and confiscated a rifle. On July 23 during the raid near the Solnechny stream the public rangers checked the hunting house and found five young people stupefied with narcotics. A thorough examination of the hunting house revealed an illegal rifle and 9 cartridges without any permit papers. The rifle and cartridges were confiscated and handed over to Luchegorsk police department. On the same day two hunters were detained for hunting with dogs illegally. The public rangers drew up a report and fined each person with 500 roubles (\$16).



© Phoenix Fund / Andrei Golobokov
Confiscated meat

On August 02 while patrolling in Krasnoarmeisky district the rangers arrested a man with wildlife products for illegal hunting during the forbidden period. On August 13 while conducting regular patrols along the forest the rangers found a hunting house. After its examination the ownerless rifle was revealed. A similar case happened on August 15 when the rangers found a rifle hidden under a sawed down tree. The owner was not determined. On August 15 and 16 two people were arrested for hunting on salt licks illegally. It was the third time this year when one of the violators was arrested. He paid a fine and was interdicted from hunting for three years.

On September 01, while checking a seasonal



logging village on the river shore, the rangers found an ownerless rifle. The team rangers forwarded it to the local police for further investigation. Later on, a man was arrested with a rifle and without a hunting permit. He faced a fine of 500 roubles (\$16). On September 05 the rangers arrested a man for hunting Siberian stag illegally and confiscated a rifle. On September 12 during the raid in the north of Pozharsky district, the team drew up three reports and confiscated three rifles. On September 28, while checking a logging camp the rangers found 70-kg sacks with bear meat 150 meters far from the camp. During the investigation the team rangers asked the loggers about bear meat. The loggers denied their possession of those sacks. The meat was confiscated and sent to the veterinary place for further examination. The tests showed trichina bacteria in the meat. The meat was liquidated. On September 17 while conducting regular raid along the forest, the rangers arrested a man with a rifle and decoy for hunting Siberian stag. The violator had a hunting permit for waterfowl, though there was no drop of water in that place.



© Yuri Trush
The public rangers are checking out stopped cross-country vehicle

For the period from October to December 2003 the main attention of the public rangers was paid to conservation of game-bird and ungulate species and their habitats, because it was an open season for hunting almost any game species. In October the rangers arrested 24 hunters for violations of hunting regulations. Most of violators were hunting without permits or with overdue game-licences. On October 26 the public rangers, together with hunting managers, stopped a cross-country vehicle in the forest near Dmitrevasilevka village. There was the head of Primorskaya hydroelectric power station with his driver and three other officials. While checking the vehicle the rangers found meat of a poached wild boar. That cross-

country vehicle regularly went out in the forest (almost every week), when some officials wanted to hunt and asked administration of hydroelectric power station to organise night safari. It is not so easy to detain the cross-country vehicle. For example, that arrest was possible only after seven failures. As a result, in October the public rangers confiscated 5 illegal rifles and 14 traps.

In November the public rangers arrested 18 violators, confiscated 13 illegal rifles and 12 traps. On November 08, 2003 the rangers arrested a man with poached wildlife products: three skins of mink and five skins of muskrat. On November 24-26 the joint team of public rangers and hunting managers found tracks of a tigress with five cubs (about one year old). It was strange that the tigress had so many cubs; probably some of them lost their mother and found a new family. On November 25 the public rangers conducted a joint raid with hunting managers in basin of the Ulitka River.



© Andrei Golobokov
Arrested poacher

During the patrol the team stopped and checked a vehicle, and found 63 squirrel skins and four illegal rifles.



In December the rangers arrested 12 hunters for violations of hunting regulations, confiscated 10 traps, 2 snares, 2 poached pheasants, and 6 illegal rifles. One of the rifles was found under the snow and another rifle was found in the hollow of the tree near the Ulitka river basin.

Forest protection

During anti-poaching raids the team documented a lot of logging violations. In winter season logging violations dominate over other ecological violations. The criminal situation gets worse because of uncontrolled creation of logging companies where 80% of illegal woods are accumulated.

As a result of raids, about 24 m³ of illegal wood were arrested, twenty-seven cars and two logging places were checked and seven people were fined in the amount of 11,000 roubles (\$355). Moreover, the team, together with law enforcement officers and representatives of Krasnoarmeisky administration, checked three logging companies. As a result, three reports on logging violations were drawn up. In the beginning of February the team was patrolling in Krasnoarmeisky district. As a result of three raids, two groups of illegal loggers were arrested, five reports were documented, 30 m³ of precious wood and three chain saws were confiscated, and fines of 7,500 roubles (\$242) were imposed.

Other activities

In April and May special attention was paid to controlling human behaviour in the forest during the fire season. The public rangers held meetings with hunters and fishermen and read lectures on the fire safety rules in the forest. Each arrested violator paid a fine. For example, Novopokrovka villager faced a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$32) for violating the forest fire safety rules. During the patrol raids, the public team extinguished 11 fires. Apart from the anti-poaching activity, the public rangers arrested two people for water pollution and imposed fines of 500 roubles (\$16) and 700 roubles (\$22).

Education and outreach

The Northern team organized a number of lectures for schoolchildren in the regional and local libraries and local tourist club. Those lectures covered such important issues, as human behaviour and livestock management in tiger habitat, as well as forest survival techniques. The lectures were reported to have been very popular with the local folk.

On January 17, 2003 the team organized a meeting with tourist group in Luchegorsk City. The head of the team told children about the behaviour rules in tiger habitat. On January 26, 2003 the same meeting was held for schoolchildren in Pozharsky village. On January 08, 2003 the team was on the air talking about their anti-poaching activity, the purposes and goals of the team.



© Phoenix Fund/ Yuri Trush
The head of the Northern team reads a lecture on human behavior in the forest

On February 28, 2003 the team, together with representatives of the local authorities and youth organizations, took part in press conference called “How to escape from waste?”

On March 14, 2003 the public rangers participated in the round table called “Tree of life” and discussed illegal logging of precious and rare wood.



The team cooperates with “Spring flower” NGO, “Thorn” children’s ecological TV and Luchegorsk TV and provides video materials on conducted raids.

In April the public investigation team visited local schools in Nagornoe, Lastochka, Sobolinoe villages, gave lectures about Conflict tiger team, explained guidelines to human behaviour in tiger habitat, and showed videos about anti-poaching raids.

On May 14-19 the team read lectures at school in Pozharskoe village on the following themes: “Predators of the Far-Eastern taiga”, “Human behaviour in tiger habitat” and etc. On May 23 the rangers met with schoolchildren of Nagornoe village and told them about safety rules and human behaviour in the forest.



© Phoenix Fund

The head of the Northern team reads lecture on predators

In June the public rangers of both teams took part in a “Young foresters’ school” youth summer camp organized in Lukianovka village for 12-15-year-old kids of Pozharsky, Krasnoarmeisky, Lazovsky districts of Primorye.

In September the public rangers helped local ecological NGO organize Tiger Day in Luchegorsk city. During the holiday the rangers met with children and told about Amur tiger conservation activities (see more details in Part IV).

6 ecological lectures (14 hours) on rules of human behaviour in tiger habitat, on predators, Amur tiger and Far Eastern leopard. Besides, the rangers showed the operative filming they made during anti-poaching raids.

In October – December the public rangers read

III. ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

In 2003 Phoenix continued environmental educational project in the north of Primorye (Pozharsky district). Two experienced educators have been carrying out environmental lectures, attracting kids to reading more about plants and animals of Pozharsky district, involving them into environmental games and quizzes, showing videos about the wildlife of Primorye in local schools and youth camps. For the reported period 2,097 schoolchildren and students attended ecological classes and participated in the ecological games, quizzes and other nature conservation actions.



© Phoenix Fund

Ecological art competition

On January 13, 2003 the teacher gave a lesson on ecological problems of the Volga and the Yenisei rivers, Baikal and Khanka lakes, Verkhne-Bikinsky wildlife refuge for pupils of the 8th class in Luchegorsk. The schoolchildren watched a video about Baikal Lake, read their works with interesting facts on ecology.

On January 15 the educator gave a lesson with quiz called “What? Where? When?” for pupils of the 8th form. During the lesson, children answered questions on phenomena of nature,



animals, birds, reptiles and plants.

On January 16 the teacher carried out an ecological quiz called “ Face, tail and four legs” for pupils of 3rd form. The class was divided into three teams: “Tigers”, “Squirrels” and “Lynx”. First task for the children was to write a list of wild animals with face, tail and four legs. Then, the kids had to call animals living in the forests of Primorye. During the lesson schoolchildren participated in interactive games and solved riddles. On January 17 the same quiz was carried out for another class. On January 21 the teacher gave a lesson on human influence upon environment for pupils of the 9th class. On January 21-23 the teacher carried out an ecological game called “Do not get lost in the forest of three pines” for pupils of the 5th form. The main theme of that game was vegetation of Primorye. On January 28 the teacher conducted an ecological class “Small fir-tree was born in the forest” for pupils of the 3rd class. The same class was carried out on February 03-04 for pupils of the 3rd and the 4th forms. The schoolchildren made books as fir-tree, wrote down information about fir-trees, read poems and solved riddles and puzzles. On January 29 pupils of the 9th form participated in the lesson called “Flora and fauna of our district”. The teacher told about the beauty and diversity of Pozharsky district, about rare and endangered animals and plants, forest with 80 plant species and the Bikin River with 51 fish species. On January 30 the educator gave a lesson on the theme “Ocean needs to be protected» and showed a video for pupils of the 8th class.

On February 04 the educator gave a lesson called “Far Eastern seas of Russia” for schoolchildren of the 8th form. On February 06 the schoolchildren of the 4th form visited an exhibition called “Know and love nature of your region” and watched a video “Dear-flower”. On February 07 the same activity was carried out with pupils of the 5th form.



© Phoenix Fund
Ecological game at school
“Small fir-tree was born in the forest”

On February 11 the teacher carried out a quiz called “Every bird has its song” for pupils of the 5th form. The schoolchildren listened to audio records of birds’ songs, read ecological magazine “Svirel”. On February 20 the same quiz was conducted for pupils of the 3rd form. On February 26 the teacher gave a lesson on spring flowers of Primorye for pupils of the 3rd and the 5th forms. On February 14 the teacher gave a lesson called “Animals of our forest” for schoolchildren of the 5th form. The kids learnt about manners and characters of such animals, as roe deer, musk deer, tiger and other. On February 20-21 the teacher organized a meeting with pupils from the 8th classes in central library of Pozharsky district. The theme of the meeting was “Nature, agriculture and people”. On February 28 a press conference called “How to escape from waste?” was hold in ecological center in Luchegorsk where schoolchildren of the 11th classes from different schools participated. During the press conference, organizers announced a competition on ecological projects between the youth.



© Phoenix Fund
Schoolchildren are watching
a video film during eco-class

On March 12, 2003 the teacher gave a lesson called “Wonder and miracle” for pupils of the 5th



class. The schoolchildren learnt about rare plants and watched a video about Khanka Lake and aquatic plants. On March 14 the same lesson was carried out for pupils of the 4th class. On March 14 the teacher gave a lesson called “Animals of the Russian Far East” for schoolchildren of the 8th class. During the lesson, the educator told about the Amur tiger, Far Eastern leopard, goral and other animals. On March 20 the teacher organized ecological reading for pupils of the 2nd class and showed a video about the Amur tiger.

On April 4-10, 2003 the teacher gave a lesson called “Global ecology” for pupils of the 10th form. The main purpose of the lesson was to tell the schoolchildren how people could cause damage to themselves and the future generations. After the lesson, children watched a video called “Environment: state and control”. On April 14-17 the pupils of the 8th form participated in an environmental class called “Special protected territories of Primorsky region”. The educator told about the purpose of creating such territories, and informed that there were 6 nature reserves and 10 wildlife refuges in Primorye. The schoolchildren wrote a summary about rare animals and plants of Primorye included in the Endangered Species List of the Russian Federation. At the end of the class the teacher showed a video film called “Russian nature reserves”.

On April 15, 2003 the teacher carried out an ecological class called “Fairy tales of taiga” for pupils of the 2nd form. Children listened to a fairy tale about lynx, answered questions about the animal, solved riddles, and took part in “Predator – prey” game. On April 16 the same eco-class was carried out for the other first forms.

On April 17 the educator gave a class with a game called “The place where the Bikin runs” for pupils of the 5th form. Three weeks before that lesson the teacher asked children to read about birds, insects, and animals living in forest of Primorye. During the lesson, the kids were divided into four teams. They gave a name to their team, drew its logo, and prepared performances about squirrel, chipmunk, black and brown bears. On April 18 the teacher conducted an eco-class “Animals of Primorye included in the Endangered Species List of the Russian Federation” for pupils of the 8th form. Schoolchildren learnt about mammals of Primorye, such as black bear, Amur tiger, Far Eastern leopard, goral, sika deer and other. On April 22 the educator carried out a holiday called “Animate the face of my planet”. During the holiday, children read poems about the planet and talked about animals of all continents: puma – North America, lion – Africa, tiger – Asia, kangaroo – Australia and etc.



© Phoenix Fund
“Animate the face of my planet” holiday

The kids participated in a game called “Plant of the Earth”. The first player called any plant, the second player repeated the name of the first plant and called another one. The third player had to repeat two previous plants and add the name of a new plant and so on. If someone could not continue the chain of names, the game was over and started again from that pupil.

Later the children played another game called “Not only trees suffer when the forest is being cut down”. The main purpose of that game was to show children how the cutting affected the quantity of animals living in the forest. The game passed in the following way: Several kids took their hands and made a circle to represent an area of the forest. Children in masks of different wild animals came into that circle. Then, the educator informed that some part of the forest was



cut, and ordered one player off the circle. Thus, the territory of forest reduced and there was not enough space for “animals”. Then the other player left the circle and so on.



© Phoenix Fund
“Predator – prey” game

Three weeks before that holiday children started to prepare costumes made of garbage. The participants of parade amazed the audience by their fantasy. On April 22-24 the educator gave a lesson called “Animals of our forest” for pupils of the 6th form and told about fauna of Primorye. The schoolchildren learnt that only 30 animals of the Far Eastern leopard remained in the wild. After the lecture, the pupils watched a video film called “Such different animals”. On April 25-29 the pupils of the 8th form participated in a lesson called “Natural recourses of the forests in Primorye”.

On May 6-12 the educator gave a lesson called “Ecological problems of Pozharsky district” for pupils of the 9th form. On May 14-19 the pupils of the 10th and 11th forms participated in a combined lesson called “Ecological systems and their protection”. The educator explained to children that the more diversity there was in ecosystem, the better was its state. The pupils watched a video film about the environment, its state and control under its state.



© Phoenix Fund
Children are solving ecological riddles

On May 12-13 the educator carried out an ecological class called “Fairy tales of taiga” for pupils of the 2nd form. After listening to the fairy tale about the chipmunk, the children discussed it and told about their meetings with that animal. On May 14 the pupils of the first forms participated in a game devoted to the Amur tiger. After receiving information about the biggest wild cat in the world, children participated in games called “Tiger is hunting”, “I’m an Amur tiger”, “Not only trees suffer when the forest is being cut down” and others. On May 20 the pupils of the 3rd and the 4th forms were told about animals included into the Endangered Species List of the Russian Federation. Then, they played a game called

“I’m an Amur tiger”.

On May 22 the educator gave two combined lessons for pupils of the 11th forms. The children were interested in many ecological problems of their district, such as illegal logging, poaching etc. The doctor of Epidemiological Control Station told the schoolchildren how bad ecology could harm the human health.

In June children from summer youth camps participated in the game called “Face, tail, and four legs”. All the kids were fascinated by games “What animal am I?” and “Guess the animal”. The game “What animal am I?” presupposes that a player should guess the animal which image another kid is holding behind his back. The player asked children about appearance and manners of the animal. Children could answer only “Yes” or “No”. The player should remember all positive answers and call the name of animal.



During the game “Guess the animal” the educator hang the pictures of animals in different places of the room. Then, the teacher read brief description of one of those animals and children should come to the image of animal fitting the description.

From June to August there was summer vacation, but Phoenix, together with the Russian Nature Conservation Society, organized several summer ecological camps. The main purpose was to educate the youth about the forest and its inhabitants, strengthen the knowledge on great importance of the forest. The children’s knowledge received during the summer camps will be useful in eco-teams activities and school-forestries.

In July and August 2003 the children from school summer camps attended eco-classes and took an active part in ecological events.

In July 164 children from “Sparkle”, “Megawatt”, “Cheburashka” and “Red carnation” school summer camps participated in a cognitive game called “What do you think about tiger?” The educator told about eight tiger subspecies, their numbers in the 19th and the 20th centuries, reasons for decline, ecology and present tiger habitat. To strengthen gained knowledge children took part in the following games and contests:

- “Tiger cub mosaic” (Children had to make a mosaic of a tiger cub as fast as they could)
- “Make a sentence” (Children had to make a sentence about the tiger using different available words. For instance, they made the following sentences: “Tigers have a good understanding of prey’s behaviour”, “Tigers have clear eyesight and delicate ear”, etc.)
- “Tiger characteristics from A to Z” (Children named tiger characters)
- “Tiger is hunting” (One child in tiger mask was hiding in the trees, while the other three-four kids were playing deer role)

In August 128 children from “Cheburashka”, “Red carnation” and “Buratino” school summer camps participated in an ecological program called “ The nature has an equal attitude to all of us”. The children got information on nature diversity and took an active part in games, contests, quizzes, contests such as:

- “Seven steps”
- “Guess the animal by four characters”
- “The bat and butterflies”
- “Make and explain the meaning of a proverb”
- “Birds of Primorye”



© Phoenix Fund

“Tiger is hunting” game

On September 09, 2003 the teacher carried out a lesson on the Far Eastern leopard for 20 pupils of the 7th form. The children learnt about that rare and endangered animal, its habitat, conservation problems and international ecological organisations which activities devoted to leopard conservation. On September 17 the same lesson was carried out for schoolchildren of the 8th form.

On September 13 the children from “Kolokolchik” (“Little bell”) ecological club participated in Tiger Day Festival in Luchegorsk city, Northern Primorye. They read poems and asked other participants several questions about tiger. On September 23 the educator gave a lesson called “The cat family” for 22 pupils of the 6th form. During the lesson the children watched a video film on the cat species of the Russian Far East. On September 25, 29 and 30 the pupils of the 4th form participated in an ecological program called “Live in harmony with Nature”, which consisted of the following parts:

- Review of books and magazines on forest of Primorye;



- Review of a video film called “How to behave outdoors”
- Discussion of the film’s content

On October 03 the educator carried out a lesson called “Ecological problems of Primorsky krai” for pupils of the 7th form. The children discussed the problem of environment statement, its pollution and watched a video film about inevitable consequences of human attitude towards nature resources. On October 10 the teacher gave a lesson on nature reserves of the Russian Federation and Primorye. The teacher explained to the children how it is important to create such protected territories that help save small “islands” of wild nature.



© Phoenix Fund

During ecological class

On October 13 a special lesson called “Ecological problems of Pozharsky district” was carried out at Pozharsky professional college for 32 prospective cooks, sellers, hairdressers. After watching a video film, the college students discussed many local ecological problems and measures of their solution. On October 24 the pupils of the 7th form listened lecture on the Far Eastern leopard.

On November 04 during the lesson the pupils of the 10th form discussed the problem of conservation of the Bikin river and taiga. The same lesson was given for 24 pupils on November 12. On November 27 the teacher conducted an ecological class on the local ecological problems.

On December 02 the educator gave a lesson called “The cat family” for 23 pupils of the 6th form. On December 11 the teacher carried out an ecological class for the pupils of the 9th form and showed a video film about our planet and its ecological statement. On December 18 the same lesson was given for the pupils of the 10th form. On December 22 the educator conducted a lesson called “Tiger stories” for the pupils of the 5th form and showed an album with colourful tiger photographs.

In total, for the reported period over 2,097 schoolchildren and students have attended the ecological classes.

IV. TIGER DAY FESTIVAL

Celebration of the Tiger Day Festival is a wonderful tradition initiated several years ago in the Russian Far East by Phoenix, a local non-governmental organization, with support from the international community. Having started as a small school event, which toddled, as a cub, through Vladivostok streets in 2000, the Tiger Day won the city holiday status in a year and grew up into a wonderful festival that leaps boldly across the country, from Moscow to Vladivostok.

For the past few years, annual Tiger and Leopard festivals have been held in Vladivostok, Russian Far East. Last year, the first ever Russian Tiger and Leopard Day was held at Moscow Zoo, in attendance was HRH Prince Michael of Kent KCVO.



© Phoenix Fund
T-shirts, badges with a Tiger Day logo (background)
and prizes for winners (foreground)

One month before the Festival Phoenix designed, developed and set up street advertising in Vladivostok with the purpose to draw attention of local people to this event. The advertising board (3 m x 6 m) was placed on the main street of the city. A colorful photography of four tigers made by Dr. Yudin was used for creation the board. A light-reflecting banner (1.1 m x 10 m) with information on Tiger Day was stretched out above the road.

Phoenix designed and produced a lot of different prizes for winners in contests (special T-shirts, badges and medals with a Tiger Day logo, etc.). Thanks to support from the Save the Tiger Fund, Phoenix purchased big toys of tiger, leopard and other animals for the

winner; decorated the stage where the main performance took place with flowers, flags, balloons, etc.; made consumes of different animals of Ussuri taiga.

A special short video on Tiger Day was developed and screened on one of the local TV programs during two weeks before the celebration. It was showed seven times a day. Citizens and guests of the city watched this video and listened to the invitation to take part in the parade, contests, quizzes, etc.



© Phoenix Fund
A cycling race in Luchegorsk city

This year a series of public environmental events devoted to conservation of large predators started on the 13th of September in Luchegorsk city, Pozharsky district of Primorye and began with a cycling race. While driving through the city streets, schoolchildren invited the citizens and guests of the city to take part in Tiger Day celebration. Then, cyclists joined the other children and a big festive parade moved towards the City Park. There were performances of theatrical children's studios, dance groups, young singers and poets. Having started in Luchegorsk, the holiday leaped across the country.

On the 27th of September the Tiger and Leopard Day celebration was held in the cities of the Russian Far East, such as Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, and in 30 zoos all over Russia, CIS and Europe - from Edinburgh, Barcelona, Antwerp, Rome to Minsk, Moscow, Perm and Novosibirsk! The aim was to create awareness of the desperate situation facing the Russian wild big cats and to recognize how zoos in Europe are now contributing to conservation programs.



In 2003 Tiger Day celebration in Vladivostok was organized by Phoenix, WWF-RFE, Wildlife Conservation Society in conjunction with city administration and was supported by Save the Tiger Fund, 21st Century Tiger, and IFAW. The same Festival in the north of Primorye (Luchegorsk city and Novopokrovka town) was organized with support from AMUR, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and 21st Century Tiger. This year the holiday in Vladivostok attracted about 3,000 citizens and guests of the city. In the afternoon the festive march started from the park near Maksim Gorky Theatre and moved towards Central Square where citizens and guests could show the main performance. The mayor made a speech and called everybody to conserve Amur tigers. Many contests and quizzes were carried out for kids on five special grounds called “Maugli”, “Forest Arbat”, “Flower meadow”, “Masks and costumes”. Art contests and shows lasted all day long. The winners received prizes for the best painting, the best song, and the best costume of a tiger and many others. The festival attracted people’s attention to the most burning issues of wildlife conservation in the region as well as gave them an opportunity to participate in resolving them.



© Vivek Menon

Tiger Day in Vladivostok

On the same day Anglo-Russian conservation charity AMUR organized “Russian Tiger and Leopard Day” at Moscow Zoo. On October 04, 2003 Tiger Day was celebrated in Novopokrovka town, Krasnoarmeisky district, north of Primorye.



© Phoenix Fund

Winners of “The best face-painting” contest



© Phoenix Fund

“The best chalk drawing of the tiger” contest

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project is the result of joint efforts of many people and organizations. Thanks to support from the Save the Tiger Fund, we helped keep the Siberian tiger population stable in 2003 and prevent and resolve human-tiger conflict situations, managed to increase the capacity of the anti-poaching teams to reduce poaching and enhance wildlife and habitat protection in Primorye, and increase awareness of the local communities about the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation through education and outreach activities. We show our appreciation to Ms. Tracy Frish for all patience and assistance and hope for our fruitful co-operation in future.



VI. ATTACHMENT I

TABLE 1: RESULTS FROM KHABAROVSKY TEAM OF INSPECTION TIGER FOR THE REPORTED PERIOD

Description	Measure	1 quarter of 2003	2 quarter of 2003	3 quarter of 2003	4 quarter of 2003	Total
1. Violations documented		14	6	10	17	47
1.1. hunting	Pieces	9	4	10	17	40
1.2. forest resources	Ps.	4	2	-	-	6
1.3. pollution	Ps.	1	-	-	-	1
1.4. fishing	Ps.	-	-	-	-	-
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed to the police:	Ps.	6	1	4	1	12
3. Confiscated poaching devices						
3.1. chainsaw	Ps.	3	-	-	-	3
4. Criminal proceedings started	Ps.	8	2	1	-	11

TABLE 2: SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM'S RESULTS

	Jan 2003	Feb 2003	Mar 2003	Apr 2003	May 2003	Jun 2003	July 2003	Aug 2003	Sep 2003	Oct 2003	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Total
Conflict tiger cases	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	25
Danger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
“Control”	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	25
False information	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Human casualties	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Perished animals	1 dog	-	-	2 horses	1 dog	1 dog 1 calf	3 calves 1 cow	3 deer	3 cows 1 calf 1 horse	1 horse 2 dogs	3 horses	1 horse 1 dog	6 dogs 8 horses 4 calves 3 deer 4 cows

**TABLE 3: RESULTS FROM PUBLIC INSPECTORS WORKING TOGETHER WITH WILDLIFE MANAGERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

Activity	2003				Total
	1 quarter	2 quarter	3 quarter	4 quarter	
1. Violations documented:	51	30	29	49	159
1.1. Hunting	34	23	29	49	135
1.2. Fishing	-	1	-	-	1
1.3. forest resources	16	3	-	-	19
1.4. protected areas	-	-	-	-	-
1.5. other	1	3	-	-	4
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed to the police	27	21 (27 cartridges)	23 (14 cartridges)	26 (34 cartridges)	97 (75 cartridges)
3. Confiscated poaching devices:					
a) Traps	58	-	-	38	96
b) Snares	-	2	3	2	7
4. Poached wildlife:					
4.1 bear paws	4	-	-	-	4
4.2. bear gall bladder	1	-	-	-	1
4.3. bear meat	-	-	70 kg	-	70 kg
4.4. meat of Siberian stag	5	-	-	-	5
4.5. head of Siberian stag	1	-	-	-	1
4.6.skin of Siberian stag	2	-	-	-	2
4.7. legs of Siberian stag	4	-	-	-	4
4.8. meat of wild boar	5	-	-	-	5
4.9. head of wild boar	4	-	-	-	4
4.10. legs of wild boar	3	-	-	-	3
4.11. wild boar skin	3	-	-	-	3
4.12. meat of roe deer	1	-	-	-	1
4.13. roe deer skin	2	-	-	-	2
4.14. squirrel skin	3	-	-	63	66
4.15. sable skin	3	-	-	-	3
4.16. mink skin	1	-	-	3	4
4.17. wood	54 m ³	-	-	-	54 m³
4.18. ducks	-	5	1	-	6
4.19. muskrat skin	-	-	-	5	5
4.20. pheasant	-	-	-	2	2
5. Lectures	8	6	5	5	24
6. Participation in round tables, conferences, seminars	5	-	2	3	10
7. Interviews:	8	11	9	5	30
7.1. TV	5	5	5	3	18
7.2. Radio	1	2	1	1	5
7.3 Newspaper	2	4	3	1	10