



Phoenix Fund

Siberian Tiger Protection Efforts in 2006

Final report
January 01 – December 31, 2006



Vladivostok
2006



**FINAL REPORT
January 01 – December 31, 2006**

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I. Project overview

To ensure long-term survival of Amur tigers Phoenix proposes to strengthen and expand successful ongoing protection, conflicts resolution and education / outreach activities in the Russian Far East.

II. Anti-poaching activity

Public environmental investigation teams



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Checking documents

Two public environmental investigation teams were established in March 2001 to enhance the protection work of the state agencies. The teams work mainly in Northern Primorye, important tiger habitat, together with police officers, wildlife managers and fishing inspectors. The heads of the teams are experienced rangers that have been working in environmental law enforcement for more than 15 years. The teams carry out three- or four-day long patrols one or two times a week. For the period from January 01 to December 31, 2006 the teams conducted 89 patrols in Pozharsky, Krasnoarmeisky and Dalnerechensky districts of Primorye, drew up 84 reports on violations of hunting regulations, confiscated 57 illegal rifles, 39 traps, 38 snares and other poaching devices and poached wildlife, and participated in ten meetings with

schoolchildren (see Table 2). Description and results of the project activities for the period January 01 - September 30, 2006 can be found in the Interim Report.

In October 2006 the public environmental law enforcement officers conducted three many-day patrols. The rangers worked in cooperation with officers of Primorsky Department of Federal Service for Veterinarian and Vegetation Sanitary Supervision.

On October 03, the public rangers reached the mouth of the Amba River that flows into the Bikin River and made a stationary post of Fishing Inspection there. Six rubber boats going down to Krasny Yar town were checked there. No fish or illegal fishing tools were discovered. A resident of Khabarovsk city, whose boat was examined, had no license for a loaded gun he kept in the bow of the boat. The officers drew up a report on violation and passed it to the Hunting Management Department of Pozharsky district.

On October 04, the public rangers checked seven wooden boats and five rubber boats powered with an outboard motor.



Near Tashanza channel, in one of the river bays the officers found seven fishing nets with fish in them: goldilocks (30 fish), Siberian salmon (1 fish), and graylings (8 fish). They did not have enough time to search for the owners of the nets as they had to cover 38 km (23.6 miles) more up the Kluchevaya River and it was already getting dark. It was difficult to boat because of strong shoals and shallow water. The rangers stopped for a night in a winter cabin.

On October 06, they fixed three warning signs. For that, they had cleared the ground from bushes and trees, stretched wire, made ladders etc. Afterwards the officers started for the checkpoint of Fishing Inspection in the mouth of the Panchelaza River. On that day they met only one boat with tourists from Vladivostok city. They caught legally three pikes and four goldilocks.

On the same day six reports on fishing violations and two on hunting violations were drawn up.

On October 18, while patrolling in cooperation with a ranger of Hunting Management Department in the hunting grounds of "Alchan" Ltd. 7 km far from Zvenyevaya village near Funtasu natural landmark the public rangers heard two gun shots. Walking to the place of the accident they met a man with a gun, dweller of Bikin town. He hunted hazel-grouses without license. The officers made a report on the detainee and imposed a fine on him.



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Ranger found meat of poached wild boar

In November the public rangers, in cooperation with officers of Primorsky Department of the Russian Service for Natural Resources (Rosprirodnadzor), Hunting Management Department, Special Police Force and Primorsky Economic Crime Department, conducted nine many-day patrols in Pozharsky, Danlnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts. During patrols the team members talked to people on infeasibility of hunting without a license.

In the beginning of November the wildlife manager of Pozharsky district received information that a group of seven people with dogs was poaching at the Dedov spring, 80 km far from Vyazemsky village. On November 03, the joint team went to check the obtained information. Short of the winter cabin the public rangers noticed three vehicles of the poachers. Having examined the vehicles, the rangers

found the sacks containing meat of red deer. Then, the team went quietly towards the winter cabin, burst in and arrested the hunters with six dogs. All hunters were residents of Luchegorsk city. While checking the hunters' documents, the public rangers found out that Mr. Mosolov and his son had an overdue and unpaid hunting ticket. The rangers drew up two reports on violations and confiscated a rifle, 22 cartridges, poached meat and the hunting ticket. Then, the rangers checked the documents of the rest of the hunters. Mr. Zabolotny and Mr. Shtok had hunting licenses to hunt squirrel and hazel grouse. There were two more hunters' names along with the license owners. According to the hunting regulations, this is inadmissible and is considered to be a gross violation. "Alchan" Ltd. appeared to have allowed a round-up of squirrel by a group of hunters. According to the hunting regulations, each hunter should have its own one-shot license to hunt a certain animal or bird on the hunting grounds, and each of them should pay for the license. Probably, the bookkeeper of "Alchan" Ltd. who had issued the hunting license wanted to get some money illegally. He could have taken payment from two



hunters officially and hidden the money from the others in his pocket. The rangers confiscated the hunting licenses and handed them over to a wildlife manager of Pozharsky district for further investigation.

On the same day, while examining a hunters' hut in the hunting grounds in Tayozhny wildlife refuge the officers revealed a cache with an illegal 12-gauge shotgun. A fine in the amount of 500 rubles (\$19) was imposed on the violator.

On November 04, the joint team examined an abandoned logging base in the hunting grounds of "Alchan" Ltd. and found a shotgun IZH-17, 16 gauge, and 12 cartridges in one of the carriages near the Zubchenko spring. The parts of the gun had different serial numbers. The rangers did not manage to determine the owner of the illegal gun and confiscated it along with the cartridges.

From November 08 through November 15 the joint team patrolled Pozharsky, Danlnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts, especially forest resources of Verkhneperevalninsky forestry and the hunting grounds of "Tiger" hunting society of indigenous people. As a result, the team revealed five violations of hunting regulations and confiscated two rifles and 17 cartridges. Below, there is a description of the patrols.

On November 08, the team stopped a Nissan-Datsun vehicle on the back road Verkhny Pereval – Sobolinoye, 7 km (4.3 miles) from Verkhny Pereval village. The rangers noticed a loaded rifle Saiga-12 on the back seat of the car. The gun-cover was taken off. Mr. Lopin, the car's owner, told that he had loaded the rifle and forgotten to cover it. Such violation is considered to be gross and is equal to hunting using motor transport. The public rangers drew up a report and confiscated the rifle.

On November 10, while checking a logging base one kilometer far from Yasenevoye village, the officers found two rifles under the mattress in one of the dwellings. The first rifle, IZH – 27E, 2-12 gauge belonged to Mr. Petukhov, director of the logging base. The second one, Saiga-12, belonged to Mr. Golovachev, chief engineer of the logging base. The rangers found out that both men did not have permits to hunt. Mr. Petukhov and Mr. Golovachev told that they had taken their rifles as means of self-defense and not for hunting. But if a person with a gun is in the hunting grounds he is considered to be hunting. The rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations.



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Drawing up a report on violation

On November 11, Mr. Sinelnik was arrested for illegal hunting with dog and using traps for sable in the hunting grounds of "Tiger" hunting society of indigenous people. The violator did not have a permit to hunt. The rangers confiscated six traps and drew up a report.

Next day the joint team continued patrolling the hunting grounds of the "Tiger" hunting society. The rangers checked a winter cabin near the Severny spring and found a gun with eight cartridges 30 meters from it. The parts of the gun had different serial numbers that meant that it was illegal. It was impossible to determine the gun's owner. The rangers drew up a report and handed the gun over to the local police department.



On November 14, while patrolling Tayozhny wildlife refuge in Krasnoarmeisky district, the joint team arrested Mr. Kirpichev, a retired local of Vostretsovo village, in the flood-plain of the Nadezhda spring. Mr. Kirpichev tried to flee, but had no luck. The arrested man had a carbine OP SKS with rifled barrel. The violator did not have a permit to hunt ungulates. The rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine.

On November 10-13, the public rangers also patrolled along the boundary of Tayozhny wildlife refuge. The rangers checked the activity of a group of loggers of PrimTransLes logging company and two hunters. No violations of hunting regulations were revealed.



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Ranger found traps and poached meat

On November 19, close to Basayev spring natural landmark the team found an unwarranted felling of spruce and Korean pine in the total volume of 23.4 m³. Damage amounted to 123,340 rubles (\$4,744). The documents were forwarded over to the local police station for initiating criminal proceedings.

On November 23, in the vicinity of the Grigoriev spring natural landmark the rangers found five snares for roe deer and destroyed them.

On November 24, on Melnichnoye – Novopokrovka autoroute the group of environmental law enforcement officers stopped a jeep driven by a resident of Dalnegorsk town. Examination of the car revealed a head of a Himalayan black bear in the boot. Mr. Mokrobodov, the driver, denied his immixture in poaching the bear. The team conducts an investigation now.

From November 27 to December 01 the joint team carried out patrols by Toyota Hilux jeep in Krasnoarmeisky district of Primorye. As a result, the rangers drew up nine reports on violations of hunting regulations, confiscated three rifles, roe deer meat, badger, kolinsky and red deer.

On November 28, while checking a winter cabin owned by Mr. Daniluk the rangers revealed a violation. Mr. Daniluk had a permit to hunt sable, but the rangers found 10 kg of red deer meat in a special cache (*lobaz*) 120 meters far from the cabin. Besides, they found two poached hazel grouses. While examining Mr. Daniluk's clothes, the rangers found 11 cartridges in a pocket of his jacket. Mr. Daniluk said that he had not have a gun and that he had been hunting for sable with traps. He also said that the jacket had belonged to other person and it had been the first time he had put it on. Then Mr. Daniluk explained that it was his acquaintance from Plastun town who had given him red deer meat. The rangers did not believe his story and went to examine the paths around the cabin. As a result, they found a loaded gun IZH-17, 1-28 gauge against a tree, 60 meters far from the winter cabin. The parts with different serial numbers indicated that the gun was illegal. The rangers confiscated the gun and poached wildlife products, drew up a report and imposed a fine.

On November 28, the team was examining a dead-end road near Chertova Polyana tract when the rangers saw a man with a rifle walking along the road. As soon as he heard a patrol car, he rushed into the forest with hope to escape. Fortunately, the public rangers managed to catch the runaway. The arrested man turned out to be a local of Melnichnoye village. He had a loaded rifle TOZ-34, 2-20 gauge and two poached hazel grouses in his rucksack. The violator had gone hunting without a permit. The rangers confiscated his rifle and poached birds and drew up a report. Later on, an interesting incident took place near the Borisov spring of the Naitukha river



when the rangers were examining a winter cabin. When they entered the cabin, they saw a man who had come from Novopokrovka village to hunt for squirrel and sable. Mr. Matsarsky, the hunter, had a permit to hunt. Everything was all right with his documents on rifle. Three harvested squirrels were in the cabin, but there was no rifle there. On the rangers' demand to show the rifle the hunter said that he had left it on a path not far from the winter cabin and went out. The rangers had some suspicions about this. If rifle is legal, hunter never leaves it in the forest. When Mr. Matsarsky brought his rifle IZH-18, 1-28 gauge, the rangers determined that the serial numbers on the rifle parts coincide with the numbers in the documents. Nevertheless, some suspicions still lurk in their minds. Besides, Mr. Matsarsky was very nervous. When one of the rangers started to examine the squirrels' carcasses, he found out that they were killed with a different gun. After that the hunter's nervousness became obvious. The rangers asked the hunter to take away a mattress from a bed. Mr. Matsarsky drew aside the mattress, and the rangers saw a gun "Belka", 5.6 – 28 gauge. The hunter said that he had found it four days earlier and was going to hand it over to a police department. Several minutes later, the rangers found a box with 29 cartridges, 5.6 mm gauge and 6 cartridges, 28 gauge. It was no doubt that the hunter had gone hunting with the illegal gun and that he had hidden his legal rifle in the forest. Thus, the rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations, confiscated two guns and the cartridges, and forwarded all documents to the local police department to initiate criminal proceedings by article No.222 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.



© Phoenix Fund
Ranger found a rifle hidden in snow

On November 29, the joint team decided to check the obtained information on illegal logging near the Markelov spring. When the team was 3 km far from a winter cabin a huge fallen birch barred the way. Having examined the tree the rangers came to conclusion that it had been felled earlier in the morning. They decided to track the footprints leading from the tree to the winter cabin. When the officers reached the cabin, they saw 27 felled trees of various species barring the way. There were three dogs on the leash near the cabin. A local of Melnichnoye village was inside. He told that he barred the way with trees in order to eliminate intrusion into his hunting grounds. As a result, the rangers drew up a report on violation of the Forest Code of the Russian Federation. Later on, the rangers continued

their patrol and arrested Mr. Golovsky with three dogs near the Berezovy spring. The arrested man confessed that he wanted to kill a badger. The officers drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations.

On November 30, Mr. Yakovets was arrested for illegal hunting. The violator was poaching badger with traps. On the same day the rangers detained Mr. Gavrilenko at a winter cabin near the Situkha spring. While checking his gun license and a permit to hunt a wild boar, the rangers did not reveal any violations. They asked the man to show them his backpack. When Mr. Gavrilenko opened it, the rangers saw a trapped kolinsky (Siberian weasel) in it. As the man did not have a permit to hunt fur-bearing animals, the rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations and confiscated the poached animal. Later on, at night the team stopped a Niva vehicle going from a logging base near the Naitukha river. While examining the luggage space of the vehicle, the rangers found a white sack with eight hunks of frozen roe deer meat. Mr. Vereschagin, the vehicle's owner, said that he had found the sack in the forest and decided to take it home. Further examination revealed six cartridges, 16 gauge. The hunter explained that he had a rifle MTS 21-12 at home and that he had forgotten to take the cartridges out after hunting two days earlier. Then, the rangers asked him to show the place where he had found



the sack. He refused to show and confessed that he had killed roe deer two days earlier, put the meat into the sack and hidden it in the forest. In two days he decided to take the meat home. The rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations and confiscated the meat.

On November 30, on returning home the rangers decided to check a winter cabin near the Olkhov spring. While approaching the cabin, the team members saw a light of lantern flashing among the trees. The rangers hid behind the trees and waited for a coming man. Several minutes later the rangers arrested Mr. Motsarsky with a gun IZH-56, 2-12 gauge. The hunter had a permit to hunt fur-bearing animals, but his gun was loaded with buckshot to hunt ungulates. The rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine.



Hunters' camp

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In December the officers continued their work together with Federal nature protection agencies of Primorsky Federal Service for Veterinarian and Vegetation Sanitary Supervision, namely with Krasnoarmeisky branch of Hunting Management Department. In total, the team carried out ten patrols, four of them lasted many days. In the process of work nine reports on violation of hunting regulations and four reports on violation of forest regulations were made. The officers checked 13 hunters and fishermen, 16 vehicles, one logging camp and six winter cabins. They confiscated 55.6 m³ of illegally felled timber, four shotguns, 27 cartridges and 119 foot snares. They withdrew meat of one wild boar, two badgers, one sable, and one kolinsky.

On December 05-08, the team patrolled Tayozhny wildlife refuge with an aim to reveal violations of nature protection laws. The rangers found no violators but remarked tracks of an adult male tiger in the vicinity of the Osoka spring; of a tigress with two cubs near the Rogaty spring; and of a young tigress close to the Chisty spring. As regards to the last animal, the rangers saw it at 50-70- meter distance.

On December 11-16, the rangers conducted three patrols together with inspectors of Hunting Management Department and a forest manager of Izmailikhinsky forestry. As the result, eight reports on violators of hunting regulations were made and illegal guns and objects of prey were confiscated.

On December 12, while being on duty on the crossroad of Novopokrovka – Glubinnoye – Limonniki at 7 p.m. one of the rangers noticed a man with a gun coming out of the forest. When asked to stop for examination of the documents, the man threw away the gun and escaped in the forest. The hunter was not identified. A 28-gauge gun was illegal as all its parts had different factory numbers.

On December 12, in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district 16 km far from Glubinnoye village the team remarked a parked mini- truck. In the cabin there was a 12-gauge cartridge, obviously fallen out a cartridge belt or a pocket. The officers decided to lay an ambush and managed to detain Mr. Zakharov, resident of Glubinnoye village. He had a license for hunting a squirrel and a sable and carried a preyed squirrel. Close to the place of the accident he hid a rucksack with wild boar meat.

On December 12, in the public hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district in the vicinity of the Vinogradny spring the rangers stopped Mr. Barinov, resident of Roschino settlement who was



taking the skin off the preyed Siberian weasel/kolinsky. He poached it with the help of the snares and had no hunting license. The officers drew up a report on the violator.

On December 13, in the public hunting grounds near the Levy Meteoritny spring in a derelict winter cabin the team discovered a hidden rifled hand-made gun gauged 7.62 – 39 mm and confiscated it.

On December 13, in the upper reaches of the Meteoritny spring the rangers stopped an UAZ off-road vehicle. The driver and the passenger had poached a badger and a raccoon and had eight snares in the car. The men had no hunting licenses. The officers drew up a report on the violators and confiscated the snares and the objects of prey.

On December 15, close to the Shpalny spring in Krasnoarmeisky district the rangers saw a man in a camouflage cloak. He examined thoroughly the animal tracks. When the officers surrounded him, the man looked frightened. In his backpack the team members found a frozen badger killed in a snare. The young hunter of Izmailikha village had no hunting license. He said he was going to his winter cabin. The officers accompanied him to make a report there. In the cabin they saw another man, who was cooking and kept a preyed sable near the oven for defrosting. He had no hunting license either. The team withdrew the prey and 11 snares.



Squirrel skins

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On December 15, the team patrolled the hunting grounds near Luchegorsk town. In the vicinity of Chanza natural landmark which is a part of the protected area (zone of peace for wild fowl), where hunting is prohibited, the officers saw a parked vehicle with an opened door and waited for the owner. He appeared with a Saiga shotgun, 7.62 mm gauge. Mr. Chulkov, a resident of Luchegorsk town, said he knew nothing on the ban to hunt in the territory and did not notice the warning signs. The public officers made a report on the fact and passed it on to the Hunting Management Department of Pozharsky district.

On December 16, the group of rangers stopped a “Kamaz” off-road vehicle with linden-tree timber assortments without documents for transportation. In the course of investigation the officers discovered that Mr. Murin, resident of Novopokrovka town, felled illegally that timber. He showed the logging site. In total, he felled eight trees. The documents were forwarded to a police station for initiating criminal proceedings.

On December 19, near the Kapitulinsky spring the team apprehended a tractor and two cars loaded with illegal timber (22 oak trees).

On December 22, at 03 a.m. on Romni-Novopokrovka road the team stopped a car that transported linden, oak and nut wood assortments. The violator Mr. Dunaev will appear before the court.

On December 25, in the vicinity of the Smirnovsky spring the rangers seized a man who was dragging three oak assortments by a tractor T-40. He felled the trees in water protection zone. The team passed the document to a police station for initiating criminal proceedings.



Other

Besides anti-poaching activities the public rangers continued the educational project through lectures at local schools. In November the team gave lectures on the following themes: “Human-tiger conflicts”, “Goals and values of protected territories”, and “Nature conservation activities of the federal law enforcement services”. During the lectures the rangers showed films and photos illustrating their field work. In December two visits to local schools were carried out within the framework of the educational project.

Also, the public rangers cooperated with local mass media and often provided interesting materials. For example, a local TV channel of Luchegorsk city broadcasted a program devoted to mass gathering of pine nuts. This year there was a rich yield of pine nuts in Northern Primorye. Primorsky Forest Agency did not set a quota for free nut-gathering. The unregulated harvest of pine nuts attracted many people. The Chinese buy up the nuts. One kilo of the nuts cost 90 rubles (\$3.4). The unemployed as well as well-off people rushed into the forest from all parts of Primorsky region to earn extra money.

Khabarovsky anti-poaching team of Inspection Tiger



© Inspection Tiger
Ranger found a poached deer

The Khabarovsky anti-poaching team of Inspection Tiger consists of three experienced rangers and covers southern part of Khabarovsky region and northern border of the tiger habitat. The team has showed one of the best anti-poaching results in Inspection Tiger. For the reported period the team drew up 53 reports on violations of hunting regulations, revealed 21 violations of fishing regulations, confiscated 25 illegal rifles, 55 fishing nets and investigated conflict tiger cases (see Table 1). See the description and results of the project activities for the period from January 01 to September 31 in the Interim Report.

On October 02, the rangers participated in the hearing of the case against Mr. Trapeznikov (report on violation dated March 10, 2006). According to the judgment, the violator must pay 18,000 rubles (\$676) for the poached wild boar.

On October 04-05, the Khabarovsky team and the wildlife manager patrolled “Matai” military hunting society in Lazo district. On October 05, a joint team detained Mr. Khaikin for poaching roe deer. The poacher paid a fine.

On October 10-12, the joint team patrolled the Katen River in Lazo district. On October 11, while checking the hunters, the rangers found an illegal rifle. They drew up a report and confiscated the gun. On the same day at the Krasny Yar tract the rangers revealed illegal hunting. As a result, they detained the poacher, confiscated his rifle and imposed a fine.



On October 18-20, the Khabarovsk team carried out a joint patrol with the Fishing inspection and police officers on the Suklay river. As a result, four reports on violations of fishing regulations were registered. The rangers found illegal fishing nets of 200 meters (656 feet) long in total.

On October 26 –27, the joint team patrolled Mataisky wildlife refuge. No violation was revealed. On October 30, the team members were summoned to provide evidence against Mr. Krivenko (report on violation dated August 25, 2006).



© Inspection Tiger
Checking rifles at logging site

On November 02, the team members were invited to the police department of Lazo district as witnesses on the case No.215921 against Mr. Krivenko for illegal hunting an endangered mandarin duck.

On November 08, the rangers took part in the court session on case No.226021 against Mr. Sviridov for illegal hunting an endangered mandarin duck. The violator had to reimburse the damage in the amount of 4,500 rubles (218 AUD).



© Inspection Tiger
Checking hunters

On November 16, the team went to Innokentievka village to check the information about presence of a tiger cub there. The tiger cub was found there and transported to the Far Eastern Zoo Garden for intensive veterinary treatment.

On November 18-20, the officers went to Mataisky wildlife refuge to check the information on the presence of three tiger cubs without a tigress there. A thorough investigation and snow tracking showed that there was an adult tigress with three cubs which the female had left during her hunt on wild boars in the Metsa River drainage.

On November 25-27, the officers patrolled Mataisky wildlife refuge together with a wildlife manager of Lazo district.

On November 25, during a patrol in Mataisky wildlife refuge in the Khima-2 River drainage the rangers found an unregistered hunting rifle near a logging camp. The weapon was confiscated and forwarded to the police department of Lazo district.



© Inspection Tiger
Rescued tiger cub



On December 05-08, the Khabarovsk team in cooperation with a wildlife manager of Lazo district patrolled Lazovskoye hunters and fishermen society. On December 08, the rangers drew up a report on Mr. Ludov who was hunting illegally near the Kamen river. The violator had a rifle TOZ 54 but he did not have a gun license. The rangers confiscated the rifle and handed it over to the police department of Lazo district.



© Inspection Tiger
Chinese violator removes snares

On December 15-17, the team conducted a joint patrol with a wildlife manager in Matai military hunting society. As a result, on December 15 the rangers arrested Mr. Grishko for hunting with illegal rifle IZH-27. The violator without a permit to hunt killed a sable. The rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations, confiscated the rifle and handed it over to the police department of Lazo district.

On December 22-23, the joint team patrolled "Udege" hunting society of indigenous people. On December 23, the rangers arrested Mr. Liu Chan Ling, Chinese for hunting musk deer using snares. The rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations and imposed a fine.

arrested Mr. Vasilishin for illegal hunting roe deer with a rifle TOZ-34. The rifle was confiscated and handed over to the police department of Lazo district.

On December 27-29, the Khabarovsk team carried out a patrol in Vyazemsky commercial hunting society. On December 27, the rangers

III. Conflict tiger cases resolution

For the reported period the Emergency response team, the Siberian Tiger Project of Wildlife Conservation Society, nature reserves' staff, and wildlife managers investigated 49 human-tiger conflicts, including ten conflict tiger cases and 39 messages on tiger presence near human settlements in Primorsky and Khabarovsk krais. See the description and results of the project activities for the period from January 01 to September 30, 2006 in the Interim Report.

In connection with the necessity to classify and use the obtained information about conflict situations between people and Amur tigers/leopards, Inspection Tiger introduced the following terms:

«CTE» - «Conflict tiger episode» - presence of one or more (Ex. female with litter) Amur tigers or leopards on determined territory



© Inspection Tiger
Tiger radio-tracking



(settlements or outskirts, places of temporary living, human presence and running any activities in tiger habitat, sites of 10 x 10 km), with connection of which a number of contacts with large predator was registered that can result in human victims, health damage or livestock kills. This situation needs to be investigated urgently to determine the conflict's reasons, take measures to deter a predator, and capture or shooting "conflict species".

«CTC» - «Conflict tiger case» - a single "conflict episode" on determined territory or a number of "conflict episodes" in different places, but related to one certain Amur tiger/leopard (or a group) entailing the necessity of urgent intervention of authorized agencies.

«ITA» - «Information taken into account» - registered direct or indirect information about human contacts with Amur tiger or leopard posing real threat of conflict case emergence, but not confirmed during investigation.

<u>Conflict cases</u>		<u>Information taken into account (ITA)</u>	
<i>Chernigovsky district (Primorsky krai)</i>	1	<i>Artyom city (Primorsky krai)</i>	3
<i>Chuguevsky district (Primorsky krai)</i>	1	<i>Dalnerechensky district</i>	4
<i>Dalnerechensky district (Primorsky krai)</i>	1	<i>Kavalerovsky district</i>	1
<i>Krasnoarmeisky district (Primorsky krai)</i>	2	<i>Khasan district</i>	5
<i>Terneisky district (Primorsky krai)</i>	1	<i>Khabarovsky krai</i>	5
<i>Khabarovsky krai</i>	1	<i>Nadezhdinsky district</i>	3
<i>Shkotovsky district</i>	2	<i>Olginsky district</i>	1
<i>Olginsky district</i>	1	<i>Poharsky district</i>	1
		<i>Shkotovsky district</i>	1
		<i>Ussuriisky district</i>	4
		<i>Terneisky district</i>	1
		<i>Other</i>	10

In total 10 conflict tiger cases and 39 ITA.

In October the Inspection Tiger received two messages on Amur tiger presence in human settlements and around them.

Conflict case № 06/09
(Shkotovsky district)

On October 17, a law enforcement officer reported that people had seen a big tiger one more time near Serafimovka village. As that ranger was on vacation at that time, officers Starostin, Gorbachev and Kizmenko arrived at the place for thorough examination and with an aim to determine the state of the tiger that had already attacked livestock there several times. Having examined the area the rangers came a conclusion that it was a male tiger (12.5 – 13.5 cm (4.9 – 5.3 inches) paw width). It proved impossible to determine the exact size of the paw as the soil was dry and dusty. That time tiger did not attack anybody or anything. It did not change its place of living and thus, there may arise a serious conflict between it and residents of some farms near Serafimovka village. The head of the team held a back brief on further actions after snow falls in Olginsky district. The team obtained permission from Primorsky Department of Federal Nature Use Service to capture the tiger.



ITA-32 - On October 26, the rangers received a message from a wildlife manager of Primorsky Department of Federal Service for Veterinarian and Vegetation Sanitary Supervision in Terneisky district. According to him, at night on October 24-25 a young tiger tried to catch dogs on a logging lot 20 km far from Terney town. The wildlife manager went to the place and determined that it was a cub left by its mother for some reason and unprepared yet to live on its own. The dog owners usually do not shut or tie their dogs at the camp. Being in the forest with dogs equals hunting. On October 27, the wildlife manager was going to visit the lot again. Inspection Tiger rangers asked him to pass their request to loggers to remove all the dogs till the tiger leaves the area in order not to aggravate the situation. No repeated messages came from Terney.



© Inspection Tiger
Measuring tiger tracks

In November Inspection Tiger headquarters received four messages on tiger presence in human settlements and close to them.

ITA-33 - On November 15, a resident of Innokentievka village of Nanaisky district of Khabarovsk region found a weak Amur tiger cub on the roadside of Komsomolsk – Khabarovsk federal highway. No adult tigress was seen in the neighborhood. The cub was so emaciated that it did not even try to escape. The man sheltered the tiger at his place and reported it to Khabarovsk team of Primorsky Department of Federal Nature Use Service who in turn let Inspection Tiger know about the fact. Inspection Tiger rangers went to the place of the accident.

The cub is about 4-6 months old. It is very weak and has dull hair and hollow sides. It had a graze on its neck, broken canine, running eyes and practically could not move. The animal was transported to the Far Eastern Zoo for urgent medical care until the decision is made where it would follow a rehabilitation period. Inspection Tiger officers examined the place of the accident to clear out what had happened.



© Inspection Tiger
Killed tiger, November 15, 2006

On November 17, another report on an orphaned tiger cub in Mataisky wildlife refuge came. People saw small tiger tracks. The officers concluded that a tigress returned and brought the cub with her. Presumably it had been hunting. There is no threat for the cub.

Conflict case № 06/10
(Krasnoarmeisky district)

On November 24, the team received a message from Krasnoarmeisky district that a hunter shot at a tiger when it was eating its prey. Five members of the team went to the place. As a result of investigation led by the rangers in cooperation with police officers on



November 25-26, Mr. Khudyakov confessed having fired at a tiger. They confiscated his 28-gauge gun and examined the creek valleys adjacent to the point in search for the wounded tiger's tracks. Snowfalls often hide signs of life activity and make investigation more difficult. The case is under investigation.

ITA-34 -On November 28, an Inspection Tiger officer of Khasan anti-poaching team reported that a predator had attacked rams and deer at Gamov deer farm. It turned impossible to clear out whether it was a tiger or a leopard. Later it was proved to be a leopard living in the vicinity of the deer farm.

On November 15, a poacher killed a ten-year-old male tiger. Inspection Tiger officer drew up a report on the fact and passed it to Khasan district police station for initiating criminal proceedings.

In December Inspection Tiger headquarters received five messages on Amur tiger presence in human settlements and close to them.

Conflict case № 06/10 (continuation)
(Krasnoarmeisky district)

On November 24, the headquarters received a message that a hunter shot a tiger while it was eating its prey close to the hunter's winter cabin near the Sentyabrsky spring, the upper reaches of the Cheremshanka river. The team arrived at the place and in the process of investigation on November 25-26, Mr. Khudyakov confessed committing that crime. The rangers, in cooperation with police officers, withdrew a 28-gauge gun from the violator. The team started for the cabin and examined the place of the accident. On about 12 m² there were clear signs of struggle (crushed bushes, stirred forest cover) between a tiger and a wild boar. There was a fragment of a young boar's jaw in the south-western part of the glade with remnants of meat in it.

Mr. Khudyakov showed in what direction he had gone. Twenty meters farther in parallel with the runway the rangers discovered a bed. A branch of a hazel-wood turned to have been broken by a bullet. No bloodstains were found within a radius of 100 m.

On November 27, the team went on searching for tiger traces near the Pravy Sentyabrsky spring. Mr. Kruglyakov recommended examining the southern slope. In the result of the search no tiger prints were seen, a tiger bed was found as well as numerous human tracks with a right footstep slightly turned to the right. This proved the footprints belonged to Mr. Khudyakov. The man explained that two Amur tigers inhabited the creek valley, but after shooting he saw only one track leading to the northern slope of the Sentyabrsky spring.

On November 28, the officers examined the territory of 8 km and discovered a fresh tiger track 9 cm (3.5 inches) paw width.

On November 29, the team continued tracking a tiger and came to a conclusion that it



Tiger tracks © Inspection Tiger



appeared from the other lot, namely from the neighboring watershed and returned back. Local people say a tigress with a cub under a year old dwells there. Snowfall prevented the team from examining the area further.

On November 30, the team members explored the northern and the southern slopes of the Sentyabrsky spring. Numerous footprints of Mr. Khudyakov were revealed, no traces of a wounded tiger seen.

ITA-35 Since December 01, two state officers checked information on a lonely cub's traces and a cub knocked down by a logging truck in Krasnoarmeisky district.

On December 01, Mr. Vdovenko reported to the Inspection Tiger that about a week before he and seen tiger cub tracks in the vicinity of Snezhnoye (Snowy) village and that local people laid out cow bowels, allegedly trying to bait a tiger. Two inspectors went to the place of the accidents and examined the territory adjacent to the village. They found no tiger tracks. There indeed were some bowels and a roe deer skin. Supposedly a roe deer was poached and the hunters hid its remnants from onlookers.



© Inspection Tiger

Examination of the scene

On December 02, a resident of Roschino town reported that a tiger cub had been knocked down by a vehicle near the Lavlyagin spring and the tigress showed aggression towards passing cars. The rangers started for Roschino town. They concluded that a cub had been killed by a loaded logging truck. There were tiger tracks 8.5 – 9 cm (3.4-3.5 inches) paw width, presumably of the tigress. She scabbled snow and barked the neighboring trees. Then she took the dead cub and went into the forest on a logging road. On December 02-05, the rangers examined the area and discovered numerous tiger beds. The tigress put her cub with her. At night the officers took deterrent actions with firearms to make the tigress go as deep into the forest as possible in order to prevent her revenge on people.

ITA-36 On December 05, Mr. Ivanov, resident of Roschino village, phoned to one of the IT officers and reported that on December 04, he saw a tiger cub tracks in his hunting grounds near the Tikhomov spring. The cub came from the Sentyabrsky spring where Mr. Khudyakov shot at a tiger. Two Inspection Tiger rangers came to the place and found tiger cub tracks 4.5 – 5 cm (1.8-2 inches) paw width. It moved in the direction of Tikhomov Spring settlement. About 500 m farther from its tracks a skin and bowels of a wild boar were thrown away by hunters. The cub did not react to that. On December 05-08, the rangers tracked the animal but could not catch up with it. The cub virtually did not stop. It did not lie anywhere for a long time and there were no signs that it had eaten something. It snowed on December 08. On the following day the officers went on tracking but never found fresh tracks.

Afterwards, they went to the Lavlyagin Spring and explored on foot the territory adjacent to the point where a logging truck had knocked down a tiger cub. No fresh tiger tracks were found.

ITA- 37 On December 08, a message on three orphaned tiger cubs near Starovorvarovka village came from Anuchinsky district. Two officers went there to check the information. Last time a tigress and her cubs' tracks were seen about a month earlier. One sees the cubs' tracks



at 3- km distance from Starovarvarovka village along the Arsenievka river on the adjacent soybean field. Their paws width is 5 – 7 cm (2-2.8 inches) in snow. The circumstances under which they got orphaned have not been found yet. The cubs hunt pheasants and raccoon dogs. In case of heavy snowfalls or intensive frost it will be more difficult for them to get food. Besides, there is a settlement nearby and people might shoot them or bait with dogs. Meanwhile, Inspection Tiger officers arranged with a local hunter that he would report if any fresh tiger cub tracks appeared. They had also consultations with the scientists as to further fate of the little predators.

ITA-38 Mr. Chupanov of Chernigovsky district reported that a tiger attacked livestock there. In Rettikhovka village an exhausted cub killed a small backyard dog. A tiger killed two dogs in two farms. On December 13, two Inspection Tiger officers arrived at the place of the accident. They observed several tracks of a middle-sized tiger (5 – 6 cm; 2-2.4 inches) paw width. The temperature was about 0°C and they melted.

On December 15, a principle engineer of “Prim ARM” Ltd. Mr. Denezhkin said that during the whole day on December 13 the dogs had behaved aggressively near the main gate where the lodge was located. At night on December 13 – 14, Mrs. Rafienko, a watchwoman, called him and explained that at about 11 p.m. a tiger cub crawled from under the gate and approached the barking dogs. Then it got frightened, crossed the ground for about 150 m and left. The engineer showed the path the cub followed from the railway station and its bed where he lay for a day. It is 50-70 m far from the gate of “Prim ARM” Ltd.



A day earlier supposedly the same tiger tried to attack a dog on the territory of the neighbouring company 30 m farther, along Rettikhovka – Buyanki settlement. The guard made noise and scared the cub away.

The officers explored the forest and established that the cub moved along for more than 5 km. No beds were seen within the distance. Having passed through Korean pine forest, it went down to the local dump. The tracks led to a house on Tsentralnaya street where a dog was stolen from Mr. Mironov’s backyard on December 12. There were signs on the snow that a tiger was dragging its prey. Then in 350-400 m the tracks got lost on a sandpit, with no snow on the ground.

On December 12, the officers explored Mr. Khizhinsky’s farm and learnt from the watchman that a tiger had stolen a chained backyard dog on December 11. The officers concluded that the animal had 8-9 cm (3.1-3.5 inches) paw width and ate its prey 250 meters far into the forest.

Inspection Tiger officers distributed the booklet “Guidelines on human behavior in tiger habitat” and conducted explanatory talks to people. Having investigated the case, the rangers made a conclusion that those were the same tigress and her cub that attacked dogs in Chernigovsky district last winter. Now they separated. That “conflict” tigress was radio-collared last winter by Wildlife Conservation Society, so its Director Dale Miquelle intended to send an employee with a direction finder to make sure that it was indeed the same individual.

© Phoenix Fund
“Amur tiger” outreach bookmarks
developed by Phoenix



Information support

In 2006 the Phoenix Fund designed and published "Amur tiger" bookmarks. They will accompany children into the world of knowledge and will become a guide on rich nature of Primorye. It contains information about fauna of the region and teaches to treat wildlife with care, especially the closest and least numerous ones - the Amur tiger. The bookmark also includes the rules of human behavior in tiger habitat and recommendations how to prevent conflict cases between human and tiger. The fact is sure to turn up news for many local residents, including parents who will learn about this while checking their kids' successes at school.

IV. Trainings on law enforcement legislation

For the period from January 01 to December 31 Vladimir Schetinin continued providing law enforcement officers of Rosprirodnadzor (Russian Nature Use Control Department) with legal documents and gave interpretation of changes in legislation and normative-legal acts and of several communications in the media. By request of public and state law enforcement officers, 584 files on Administrative Code application and ecological violations were sent with corresponding reviews and commentaries. Besides, the consultant conducted trainings for the specialists of the nature reserves and wildlife refuges of Primorye and Amur oblast and Jewish Autonomous Area.

Themes covered in most detail are: general characteristic of review stage in administrative violations proceedings, prescription period for administrative violations, initiating administrative violation proceedings. Questions concerning ecological violations were the following: water reservoirs under protection, protected territories, agricultural lands and other grounds.

Mr. Schetinin sent a commentary to the governmental resolution "On the list of objects liable to the Federal State Ecological Control" to all interested officials. Besides, he systematized and sent them the Federal law "On changes in certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation caused by improving powers division".

In July, by request of Yury Trusch, head of the public law enforcement officers' team, the environmental law enforcement consultant helped in case against a poacher by providing 27 documents in total. Besides, the consultant prepared a set of laws and rules regulating conservation and harvest of wild ginseng for the police of Primorsky Region (14 documents in total).

In August, chief wildlife manager of the hunting society of the Pacific Fleet and the wildlife manager of Vladivostok hunters' club asked the consultant to prepare a set of legal documents regulating conservation of wildlife in the region that can help establish working relations with the officers of the Border guard, Nature Use Department, Federal Security Bureau etc (282 documents in total). The main goal of the set of documents was to raise the professional level of wildlife managers in the region and to help



© Phoenix Fund
Environmental laws consultant Vladimir Schetinin



establish cooperation between various law enforcement agencies working in the nature conservation field.

In September Mr. Schetin prepared for training on environmental legislation for state law enforcement officers, nature reserves' staff and public rangers. The training was to be held in mid-October.

On October 23-24, 2006 the legislation consultant took an active part in work of the training seminar on conservation legislation that was organized in Ussuriisk city by Primorsky reserves together with WWF-Russia. The main theme of the seminar was "Responsibility for the violations of nature conservation legislation on protected areas". The specialists of the nature reserves of Primorye and Amur oblast and Jewish Autonomous Area took part in the training. The consultant presented a set of legal documents and laws (22 documents in total) regulating conservation of animal world on protected areas and facilitating cooperation with police and other law enforcement agencies.

The consultant conducted the same training for the specialists of wildlife refuges of Primorye in order to check and improve their knowledge on conservation legislation. The heads of the law enforcement teams received texts and tasks for homework. "Tikhy" wildlife refuge showed the best results in the test.

In connection with the Forest Code of the Russian Federation coming into force, the consultant edited the procedural documents required by the Code of Administrative Violations of the Russian Federation. The documents with comments will be useful for the state officials ensuring control over use of the forest and for the nature conservation officials.

By request from the State Centre for Small Vessels of the Ministry for Emergency Management in Primorye, the consultant prepared over 80 procedural documents regulating control over small vessels and ensuring safety of people and conservation of the environment. Presentation of the set of documents is scheduled on January 2007.

V. Environmental Education and Outreach

Environmental classes at schools



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Eco-lesson in Pozharsky district

In 2006 the eco-classes started in the mid-January because of winter holidays (January 01 through January 15). From January 15 to December 31 over 3,470 children attended 114 ecological lessons, performances, round tables, conferences and festivals. See the description and results of the project activities for the period from January 01 to September 30, 2006 in the Interim Report.

In October the educators conducted four ecological lessons in the eco-club for schoolchildren of the 3rd –8th forms (8-14 years old), 67 children in total.



On October 27, the educators held a lesson “Reserved Primorye” where she showed a cartoon “Rehashed tale about the Gold Fish” for small children.

On October 30, “Reserved Primorye” lessons were conducted for senior schoolchildren. They included an interactive moment. The children wrote three wishes on their sheets of paper and put them onto the Hope Tree. Among the wishes were: “I want that people were friends with the forest and understood each other”, “I wish there were no List of Endangered Species on our planet”, “I wish there became more nature protectors in Luchegorsk city”, “I wish tigers came back”, “I wish people did not kill animals”, “I wish the forest were well and animals in this forest lived happily” and others.



© Phoenix Fund

Children write their wishes on the Hope Tree leaves

The teachers chose this subject for the lessons on purpose as on October 25 a Day devoted to Primorsky region is celebrated. At the lessons the children discussed actively a number of species and richness of the region, recollected the names of nature reserves, wildlife refuges, animals and plants listed in the Endangered Species List. Furthermore, they spoke on ecological problems of Primorsky region and suggested ways to solve them. The children of “Vesnyanka” (“Caddis fly”) eco-club started working on slide presentations for ecological lessons. They are supposed to carry out lessons for children of their age themselves. Now they collect information, search for photographs, learn to make presentations themselves and use them at their lessons. They work with enthusiasm.



© Phoenix Fund

Lesson “Reserved Primorye”

On October 27, the children of “Robinsons” group (19 persons) were conferred ecologists. During the event the pupils fulfilled some creative tasks, among which there were questions on ecology and different assignments to check their tourist skills.

It already became a tradition for the children of “Vesnyanka” and “Robinsons” groups to hike in autumn. All of them liked most of all a trip to the Muziza River behind Verkhny Pereval town. Fifteen children took part in it. During the hike the young ecologists went on with their research, biological monitoring of the Bikin River.

The teachers organized two excursions around the ecological centre for children of the 3rd – 4th forms, 44 children in total.

On November 02, 07 and 28, the educators conducted excursions in “Pervotsvet” eco-centre. Sixty-four children of Luchegorsk city and Svetlogorye village took part in them. They brought vegetables to feed the pets living in the eco-centre.



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-lesson in Luchegorsk city

On November 02, nineteen pupils of “Robinsons” eco-team participated in an eco-lesson and watched a film “Tiger Odyssey”.

On November 07, the educator held a lesson “Reserved Primorye” for 25 schoolchildren of the 2-4th grades of secondary school No.1. In the process of the lesson the children watched a cartoon “Tale on the Golden Fish”. Afterwards they discussed how dangerous were oil spills at the sea and how harmful it was for the sea inhabitants. They disapproved the arguments the main personage, a greedy and cross old lady who was ready to take everything from the nature without giving anything in return.

On November 08, twenty-five children of the 2-4th grades attended a lesson “Reserved Primorye”.

On November 23, seventeen members of “Robinsons” eco-group, pupils of the 5-7th grades, took part in the action “Life without dumps is possible”. They made birdfeeders and other useful objects of solid domestic waste. After the lesson they hung the birdfeeders with food onto trees.

On November 18, the teachers initiated a trip to the forest on Lysaya (“Bold”) mountain. Twelve teenagers joined her. In the course of the event they remembered the rules of behavior outdoors in order not to cause harm to nature.

On November 11, a game “Searching for treasures” took place in the suburbs of Luchegorsk city in which 14 schoolchildren participated.

In November, eight pupils of the 6-7th grades, members of “Robinsons” eco-group, worked on slide presentations for ecological lessons on the following topics: “Nature Reserves of Primorye”, “Relict plants of Primorsky region”, “Big felines”, “Useful plants”, “Korean pine is a life-giving tree”.



© Phoenix Fund
Lesson “Nature reserves of Primorye”

In the course of the month 18 students of the 5-11th grades prepared articles and published them the issue of “SHIP’ovnik” newspaper. “SHIP” is abbreviated from Russian as “School Information Project”. The young journalists covered different subjects in their articles including ecological ones: “Tiger in the Sky and on the Earth”, “Story of a Sad Tiger”, “The Camp that We Built” and others.

On November 15, there was a gathering of teachers of the district schools. The teacher reminded her colleagues of the coming art contest by David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (paintings on endangered species), presented beautiful “tiger” calendars to the classes who had taken an active part in the opinion poll “A day of Amur tiger’s life” and also informed them about a new program “Yourself” and about a possibility of implementing social and nature conservation projects in the villages of Pozharsky district.



In December 2006, ninety-nine children took an active part in environmental education and outreach activities organized by the educator in Pozharsky district of Primorye.

On December 15 and 16, the educators conducted four classes “Long life to the beautiful fir-tree!” at the eco-centre for 55 children in total. In a discussion children learnt to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of a life fir-tree versus artificial one. First, children divided into three groups and each of them tried to identify the advantages and disadvantages. Their goal was to find arguments to persuade the other groups. Then all groups presented their ideas and discussed them. Usually, the group that defends the right of the fir-trees to live and advantages of the artificial Christmas trees wins over. After the discussion children drew leaflets on conservation of fir-trees during Christmas period and presented them.

On December 17, the educators organized a hike for schoolchildren along an eco-trail to Lysaya Mount. Before the hike they studied the compass and orientation theory. During the hike, they learnt the orientation skills in practice.

On December 26, there was an excursion of schoolchildren of school No. 34 to the eco-centre. Children brought some vegetables to feed the pets at the eco-centre and enjoyed taking care of the animals there.

On December 26, there was an eco-class for 11 junior schoolchildren at the eco-centre. After an excursion and acknowledgement with the pets there children took part in an eco-class “Protected Primorye” where they discussed their knowledge about nature reserves and learnt much new information about endangered animals and plants. Having discussed ecological problems and threats, children watched a cartoon “Goldfish tale”, after which they tried to analyze what had happened to the Goldfish, reasons for pollution and lessons of that tale.

In December the educator, together with children of “Vesnyanka” eco-team completed slide presentations for eco-classes on the following themes: “Nature reserves of Primorye”, “Relict plants of Primorye”, “Big felines”, “Useful plants”, and “Cedar is a tree of life”. In January 2007 children will try to present their own lessons on these themes.

Besides, in December 2006 the educator collected paintings for the art contests organized by the Phoenix Fund and wrote a number of grant proposals, such as “Nature museum” for Verkhny Pereval village, “School park” for Krasny Yar and Guberovo villages.

Public opinion polls

In January 2006 Phoenix carried out the first stage of opinion poll to ascertain local people’s attitude towards Amur tiger and to fix changes in adults’ attitude through educating their children in three model districts of Primorye. Phoenix and Sociology Institute (Marine State University, Russia) developed a test to determine the efficiency of ecological education and outreach activities. The activities were as follows:

- setting up big banners with an attracting Amur tiger photo and conservation motto “Let’s save tigers together” (“Sokhranim tigra vmeste” in Russian) on the walls of local schools;
- placing at local schools the information boards with tiger stripes, conservation motto, major information on the Amur tiger, population number, habitat, threats for survival, and conservation projects, as well as information on the art contest for kids and many more;
- organizing children’s art contest “A day in the life of a tiger”, publishing and distributing a calendar with the best children’s drawings of tigers.



The objective of the poll was to assess the change in children's attitude towards Amur tiger through the project implementation.

The following methods of psychological diagnostics were used:

1. semantic differential to assess attitude towards animals;
2. graphic projective method: "A day in the life of a tiger";
3. projective method (essay) : "Event from tiger life";
4. semantic method "Motivation for non-nature-friendly attitude";
5. analysis of questionnaire.



The schoolchildren from six schools in Northern Primorye participated in the poll.

As a result, after the first stage of the poll Phoenix received 320 questionnaires and 153 tiger drawings. The most of the children (80%) gave negative description of tiger: bloodthirsty, hostile, frightful and evil. The paintings had a lot of dark colors. The second poll was carried out in September 2006 after three-month summer holidays. Comparing the results of both polls, the Phoenix assessed the change of the attitude of children towards the tigers. More than 53% of the schoolchildren described tiger as a "peaceful", "good-natured", "strong", "nice", and "clever" animal. Tiger drawings gathered during the second poll were painted in bright and vivid colors, reflecting good attitude towards the predator. After comparison of the polls' results, we got the evidence of attitude change. The polls' results assured us that our education and outreach program brings significant influence on children's perception of tigers and their attitude to conservation.

Outdoor education activities

On May 20 the educator and 50 schoolchildren from "Vesnyanka", "Nezabudka" and "Robinsons" ecological clubs carried out "Clean ponds" action. The main purpose of that action was to gather garbage and clean the territory around the ponds in Luchegorsk city. While cleaning the ponds' shores the children discussed with the educator negative impact of the garbage on the environment. As a result, the children gathered 300 kg of garbage, that was later taken to the city's scrap heap. Besides, they took out a lot of bulky rubbish from the ponds.



© Phoenix Fund
"Clean ponds" action

Thanks to support from the Save the Tiger Fund and 21st Century Tiger, from July 27 to August 13, 2006 the Phoenix Fund, together with "Flowerspring" NGO, organized a many-day "Lotus"



summer camp for young activists and their parents near to Solenaya Pad Lake in Pozharsky district, Northern Primorye. The main purpose of the camp was to educate the youth about the forest and its inhabitants, strengthen the knowledge on close relations between man and wildlife and involve children in conservation activities. The camp was set close to Solenaya Pad Lake. The children carried out monitoring of lotus* and patrolling the area around the lake. The schoolchildren constructed a special eco-check point in front of the lake and were on the duty there. They explained to every tourist and visitor how it was important to save the unique species and gave out a specially designed leaflet on the lotus and other endangered species of the region. The children made a visual assessment of Lotus habitat and came to a conclusion that the range had increased in comparison with the data of previous years. Such positive changes are the result of effective work of the eco-check point.

Solenaya Pad Lake is a favorite leisure area of people living in Pozharsky district, and that is why man's impact is too strong there. The children participated in two cleaning-up actions round the lake.

During the summer camp the participants attended trainings and lectures on hunting management, law enforcement, environmental legislation etc. Themes of the lectures attended by the children are as follows: 1) Meaning of environmental law enforcement service, 2) law enforcement equipment, 3) working with violators, 4) writing a report on violation. Most of all the children like the trainings on the following themes:

- 1) Work with portable radio stations;
- 2) Work with GPS to determine the location;
- 3) Participation of senior pupils in four patrols to reveal violations of fishing regulations (as a result, 16 fishing nets were confiscated);
- 4) Participation of junior pupils in a game «Tracking poachers».

Annually the children carried out research on fresh water and resources of the lake and conducted monitoring to determine the level of water pollution. This year the young activists conducted a research in four areas along the lake's side.

A specialist gave lessons and trainings on safety rules in cases of emergency that covered the following themes:

- Survival in extreme conditions;
- Construction of a shelter;
- Search of food in the forest;
- First aid.



© Phoenix Fund
Training "Work with portable radio stations"

The senior pupils were involved in organizing the camp: setting tents, building facilities, chopping firewood and setting fire. Special orienteering trainings were given for the junior pupils. The children learnt to orient themselves using map, compass and different signs and characters. During the trainings the children drew a map of a particular area, and used it playing the game "Find treasure!" After the course "Survival

* Lotus (*Nelumbium Komarovii*) is a herbaceous plant that grows in lakes and ox-bow lakes. Its bright pink flowers are up to 20-25 cm in cross-section. Lotus is used in Asiatic traditional medicine. It is listed in the Russian Red Book of Rare and Endangered Species. Flowers of this plant are beautiful only when it grows in the lake. As soon as the plant is taken from its habitat, the flowers fade and fall.



in extreme nature conditions”, children passed an exam in a way of competition. Gained skills and knowledge will help the children keep their head during extreme situations in wild nature.

The children took an active part in ecological games and contests, such as “Ecological fairy tale” contest, “Tiger mail” game, “Save lotus!” contest, “Guess the animal” game, etc. During the last day of the summer camp the Phoenix Fund gathered all participants and awarded everyone with a certificate of ecologist’s friend. On August 13, 2006 late in the evening all of the organizers and the children gathered around farewell fire. Thanks to the summer camp we managed to acquire a lot of friends and young conservationists who concern about the state of environment and wildlife protection.

Eco-centre in Novopokrovka city, Northern Primorye

In January 2004 the Phoenix Fund offset up the Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka town, Northern Primorye. The city authorities provided a classroom for the centre at a local school and an experienced educator conducts ecological classes, lectures, slide presentations and other activities for children and adults. The classes have been hugely successful and have attracted 2,500 children from around this vast region. For the reported period the teacher carried out over 180 eco-classes and over 2,940 children visited the eco-centre regularly. See the description and results of the project activities for the period from January 01 to September 30, 2006 in the Interim and Programmatic Reports.



© Phoenix Fund
Children at the tiger eco-centre

On October 02, the teacher conducted an ecological game “Tigers and deer” for 16 schoolchildren. The essence of the game is that the third person is superfluous. Children form pairs and take one another by the arm. All of them stand in a circle facing its centre. They are different “trees” and “bushes” in the forest that give shelter to deer. In the centre of the circle there are “a tiger” and “a deer”. The tiger tries to catch the deer. The deer can hide under a tree; that is s/he can link any player acting as a tree. The third person becomes a deer. From time to time the leader of the game (the teacher) disbands certain pairs, thus, there become less shelters and more deer that have to hide from the tigers. Consequently, number of tigers grows as well. In the process of the

game kids realize how important it is to preserve enough places that animals might use as refuges.

On October 03, the teacher conducted an ecological contest of erudites “Dump named the Earth”. Before the game starts the teams of participants are formed and structure of the jury defined. Music accompanied the game, created certain mood and filled occasional pauses. The game was devoted to one of the most up-to-date subjects – pollution of our planet. Its aim is to make children understand that with such indifference towards nature we are doomed to live among rubbish for a long time. The game had four stages. The first one was “Golden deposits of dumps”. The teams got three plates with numbers 1, 2, and 3. The teacher asked a question, suggested three answers and gave a sign. The players were to raise the plate with the number of the right answer quickly.



The second stage is called “out of child’s mouth”. Children got acquainted with the most widely spread waste and methods of its recycling.

The third round of the game was called “Main allies of ecologists”. Judging by appearance of a plant or herbarium the participants were to determine what pollutant caused changes in these or those organs. It turned out to be the most difficult for children as the questions were from the sphere of chemistry and biology and required additional knowledge in these disciplines.



© Phoenix Fund

Lesson devoted to Amur tiger

The fourth stage titled “What depends on each person?” presupposed that the children would continue some phrases and sayings. In this way they summarized the information they got before in the previous tasks.

On October 04, the teacher organized “Cabbage kickback”. It is a tradition in Russia to cook sour cabbage. At this kind of holiday children told about the history of cabbage, subspecies of this vegetable. Girls in folk dresses sang couplets. “Doctor” told a lesson on health and spoke on advantages of vegetable diet. The children guessed riddles and ate cabbage patties.

On October 07, the educator organized a round table with representatives of the Geographical Society of Vladivostok. Nineteen schoolchildren and five adults attended the meeting. The children of the ecological centre as well as members of “Namba” ecological club met with the organizers and participants of a motor rally devoted to a 100 year anniversary of V.K. Arseniev’ expedition. He was a well-known traveler and explorer of the region. The guests acquainted the audience with his life, discoveries, and personal documents. Both children and adults were glad to learn how the Tiger Day was celebrated in Vladivostok, the capital of the region. And the teacher, together with the club members, shared their own experience of the Tiger Day festival, which had already become a tradition in Novopokrovka town, capital of Krasnoarmeisky district.

On October 14, twenty-six children accompanied by four adults cleaned the banks of the local river once again.

On October 16-20, the teacher held lessons “Is fire good or bad?” Two hundred schoolchildren of 7-11 years old attended it. In the classroom the teacher hang a map of Primorye, a portrait of K. Paustovsky (Russian wildlife writer, author of numerous tales for children), paintings of “Namba” eco-club members and prepared sheets of paper and felt pens. She put booklets “Guidelines for tourists” on each desk. The schoolchildren learned about the history of fire, got notions of “fire triangle” and its components. In a game form they spoke about advantages and disadvantages of fire. The teacher read a story “Hare’s paws” by K. Paustovsky after which the young ecologists came to a conclusion that the consequences of forest fires are horrible and only the most quick, brave and canny animals can survive in them. The pupils got to know about three types of forest fire. Using the map of the region the teacher spoke about the greatest fires that are considered global ecological catastrophes. According to the statistics, only 15% of forest fires are caused by lightning and people are guilty of the rest of them.



Children divided into groups and read “Guidelines for tourists” in turns and draw illustrations for the rules of behavior in the forest. The teacher started a story about two boys who dried their wet clothes over a gas oven on and the kids gave two different continuations of the story. Afterwards, the children practiced how to behave if a fire arouse in the building. At the end of the lesson everybody came to a conclusion that it is impossible to call fire bad or good. It depends on people. The teacher suggested drawing “bad/good fire” with its causes or consequences as a home task.

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Lesson “Is fire good or bad?”

On October 25, twenty children attended a lesson devoted to the 68th anniversary of

Primorsky region. History of Primorye, its flora and fauna, nature reserves, animals and plants under protection are some of the topics covered.

On October 26, twelve pupils removed faded flowers from the school flowerbed.

During October the teacher coordinated a children’s contest of compositions on the subject “What depends on everyone?” The winners’ works were published in the Sikhote-Alin local newspaper.

Eight members of the eco-club took part in a painting contest “A day of tiger’s life”.

In November 2006 the educator conducted 16 different lessons and events that covered 278 children. On November 01, the educator carried out a game “Do I know tiger well?” for 21 schoolchildren. They agreed or disagreed to the teacher’s statements and got points for right answers.

On November 02, the educator held a lesson “Signs of coming danger” for 19 children. The Constitution of the Russian Federation claims that each person has a right to live in sane environment. According to the World International Organization of Health Protection, the state of the environment accounts for 25-30% of everyone’s health. Toxins, global warming and epidemics were among the topics discussed at the lesson.

On November 03, fourteen schoolchildren attended a lesson “Get acquainted with Phoenix”. They got to know the legend about the Phoenix bird and about the Phoenix Fund’s activities aimed at conservation of biological diversity of the region.

On November 08, twelve kids participated in the lesson “It’s us who will live here”. They conducted a regular clean-up of the centre, cleaned the pet’s cages and watered the plants.

On November 09-10, two groups of pupils (16 and 7 persons accordingly) listened with great interest to a story “Hello, Amba!” (a native name for tiger) by S. Kucherenko. It was published in “Natural Scientist” magazine in October 2006. The action takes place in the Sikhote-Alin Mountains and the main personage is a young wildlife manager Gennady. He studied the habits of the striped predator thoroughly and dreamt of meeting it in taiga. The pupils discussed whether the gamekeeper had acted correctly at that definite situation and also the ways tiger behaves in the forest.



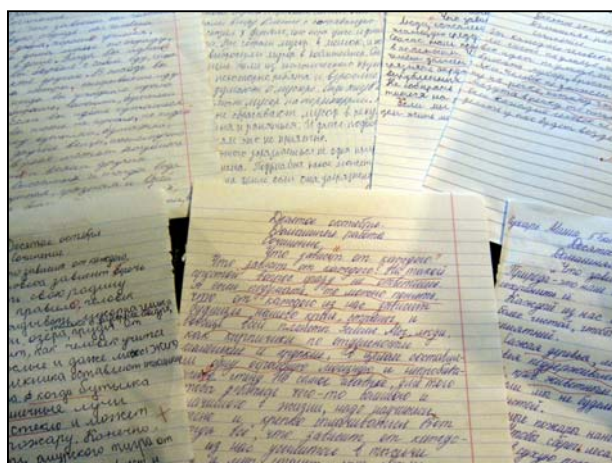
On November 13 and 17, the teacher organized a lesson for 24 and 20 schoolchildren called “Russian language with a tiger”. As the educator works both at the eco-centre and conducts Russian language courses for junior schoolchildren she has a possibility to use the information on tiger when preparing different tasks that would enliven the lesson and make children stir their memory and imagination. Thus, she invented various exercises: to find and correct lexical/grammar/spelling/punctuation mistakes in the test; to insert the missing letters/parts of speech/words using the context; to analyze a word/sentence structure; to entitle the text etc. She plans to use information from the teachers’ guide “Russian language with a tiger” in the future for tests, compositions, dictations, and expositions.



Eco-lesson

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On November 14, twenty children took part in an ecological lesson “Felines of the world”. They learned about our close neighbours – Far Eastern leopard and Amur tiger, conditions they live in, their prey base, the way they bring up their cubs etc. During a break they imitated the roar of a domestic cat (during breathing-in and out) and that of tigers and leopards (only at expiration).



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Children’s essays on the theme “What depends on everyone?”

On November 15, the teacher told 25 children about nature reserves of the region: Sikhote-Alin, Lazovsky, Ussuriisky, Marine, Kedrovaya Pad, and Khankaisky reserves.

On November 20 and 23, forty-nine pupils attended a lesson “Nose to nose” where they learnt how to behave when seeing a “master of the taiga” in the forest. At the lesson the teacher used the booklet “Guidelines to human behavior and livestock management in tiger habitat”. The children that can read well and already know this information were suggested to say what was right and what was wrong in the stories about different people meeting a tiger. These stories are based on real facts. Afterwards, the children gave way to imagination and made up a story “Hello, Tiger!” describing the place of the meeting, his/her

emotional state, actions etc. The teacher considered important to empathize that aggressive tigers attacking people are an exception rather than a rule and that peaceful coexistence is always possible. At the end of the lesson everybody expressed his/her opinion on the article “Tiger shot in Khasan” in the “Komsomolskaya Pravda” paper.

On November 22 and 24, the teacher made a “tiger test” destined to check knowledge obtained at the previous lesson. Thirty-four children took part in the test and 82% of them showed good level.

On November 27, nine pupils studied the Red Book of Endangered Species. Everybody knows that red color is a sign of danger and prohibition. But the children discovered with surprise that there are also yellow, white and even gray sheets signifying various levels of threat for survival!



Unfortunately, the green ones indicating species that have recovered and are not in danger, are very few.

In November eight children volunteered for constructing birdfeeders. At the end of the month all the works were awarded under such nominations as “The smallest”, “The biggest”, “The comfiest”, “The quickest”, and “The neatest”.

On December 06, the educator showed a video film “Save every one” for schoolchildren of Novokreschenka village. On the same day they attended a lesson “Forest as an eco-system”.

On December 08, the educator arranged a meeting with biology teachers of Novopokrovka town, Novokreschenka, Lukyanovka, Gogolevka villages at the eco-centre and told them about new visual materials, showed new books, explained how to work with disks and work plans for 2007.



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Lesson “Forest as an eco-system”

On December 12, children of “Romashka” kindergarten in Novopokrovka town had a lesson “A Fir-tree was born in the forest”. In the process of the lesson the children learned that forest was divided into coniferous, deciduous and mixed. They realized that careful attitude to books saved fir -trees. Children discussed who, in their opinion, could not live well without fir-trees (birds, squirrels, bears and even tigers). They also watched a film on forest fires and concluded that one should be very careful with fire.

On December 14, schoolchildren of the Children’s Art Centre watched a film “Kedrovaya Pad”. After that, the educator checked their knowledge by asking questions. Most active participants were presented with tiger bookmarks. Now the pupils know for sure the reserve’s age, its territory and what protected species inhabited it.

On December 22, the teacher contacted directors of all district schools with a suggestion to bring schoolchildren to the eco-centre during winter vacations to watch films from its collection. Many schools were very interested, as they do not have their own conditions for that.

On December 26, the teacher held a lesson “A fir-tree was born in the forest” for children of “Svetlyachok” kindergarten in Novopokrovka town.

Tiger Day Festival

On September 24, 2006 the city of Vladivostok, Primorye, Russian Far East, celebrated one of its most colourful and exotic holidays – “Tiger Day” (See detailed description of the Festival in Programmatic Report). Over three thousand citizens and guests of the city took part in the holiday devoted to the Amur (Siberian) tiger, an inhabitant of the Far Eastern forests listed in both Russian and international Red Books of endangered species. This year was the seventh anniversary of the holiday and nowhere in Russia is it celebrated on such a wide scale as in Primorsky Region. The tiger resides on the coat of arms of Vladivostok City and Primorsky Region and is pictured on logos of various sports clubs and businesses, but not everybody knows that the Amur tiger lives almost exclusively in Primorsky and Khabarovsk regions and its population is on the verge of extinction. The threats to tiger survival are poaching for tiger parts



and prey, severe logging and degradation of the habitat, as well as conflict tiger situations with local people. Many of the damaging human activities result from ecological ignorance of local



© Phoenix Fund
Tiger face painting

people and lack of information. In such a situation, ecological education and outreach play the main role in conservation of the endangered species and its habitat. That is why the main goal of the holiday is to help save the Amur tiger for future generations in the wild and not just on logos and coats of arms. In 2006, the holiday was celebrated in Vladivostok, Luchegorsk, Novopokrovka, Lazo, Partizansk, and other cities and villages of Primorye. Since 2000, the Tiger Day Festival has become a series of events in Primorsky krai. Each year, the holiday attracts more and more participants and spreads to new cities. Zoos and organizations from Europe, Asia and America also celebrate Tiger Day. We hope that the people of Primorsky krai will be proud of Amur tigers and the

unique nature of the region and help conserve it for future generations.

Acknowledgement

This project is the result of joint efforts of many people and organizations. Thanks to support from the Save the Tiger Fund of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we helped keep the Siberian tiger population stable in 2006 and prevent and resolve human-tiger conflict situations. The Phoenix Fund also managed to increase the knowledge on the Amur tiger, increase awareness of the plight of endangered species, and foster a positive attitude of local people towards Amur tiger through regular education/outreach activities in the region and educational materials. We show our appreciation to Morgan Snyder, Mahendra Shrestha, and Brian Gratwicke for all patience and assistance and hope for our fruitful co-operation in the future.



ATTACHMENT

Table 1. Summary of enforcement activities of the Khabarovsk team, January – December, 2006*

Activity	January - December 2006
I. Violations documented:	
1.1. Hunting	53
1.2. Fishing	21
1.3. Forest resources	3
1.4. Protected areas	-
1.5. Other	3
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	25
3. Confiscated poaching devices:	
a) Fishing nets	55
b) Boat engines	3
4. Poached wildlife confiscated:	
4.1. Meat of Siberian stag	2
4.2. Sable	2
4.3. Squirrel	2
4.4. Roe deer meat	4
4.5. Duck	8
4.6. Wild boar	2
4.7. Pike	20
4.8. Musk deer	1
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	3

Table 2. Summary of enforcement and outreach activities of two public environmental investigation teams, January – December 2006*

Activity	Northern team	Southern team	Total
I. Violations documented:			
1.1. Hunting	42	42	84
1.2. Fishing	13	-	13
1.3. Forest resources	19	6	25
1.4. Protected areas	-	-	-
1.5. Other	-	-	-
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	38 rifles (393 cartridges)	19	57 rifles (393 cartridges)
3. Confiscated poaching devices:			
a) Traps	39	3	42
b) Snares	38	2	40
c) Fishing nets	31 items (1,085 meters)	-	31 items (1,085 meters)
d) Knife	1	-	1
4. Wildlife confiscated :			
4.1. Musk deer	1	-	1
4.2. Bear meat	-	-	-
4.3. Wild boar	4	1	5
4.4. Roe deer	2	2	4
4.5. Siberian stag meat	3	2	5
4.6. Sable skin	3	-	3
4.7. Fish	66	-	66
4.8. Kolinsky	2	-	2
4.9. Badger	4	-	4
4.10. Raccoon	1	-	1
4.11. Mandarin duck	1	-	1
4.12. Hazel grouse	5	-	5
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	6	-	6
6. Meetings with schoolchildren	10	-	10
7. Mass media coverage			
7.1. TV reports	13	-	13
7.2. Radio reports	-	-	-
7.3. Articles	1	-	1
8. Participation in round tables, conferences, trainings	3	-	3

* Results of joint patrols



Table 3. Special Emergency Response team's results, January-December 2006

	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	March 2006	Apr 2006	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	Aug 2006	Sept 2006	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2006	Total
Conflict tiger cases	2 ¹	2	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1 ²	-	10
Information on conflict tiger taken into account (ITA)	7	4	2	1	7	2	2	3	3	1	3	4	39
Danger	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
False information	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dead tiger	1 tiger	1 tiger	1 cub 1 tiger	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 tigers	-	5 tigers 1 cub
Captured and released tiger	-	-	1 cub captured	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 cub captured	-	2 cubs captured
Human casualties	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Perished animals	6 dogs	1 dog 1 deer	3 dogs	-	3 dogs 1 deer 1 horse 2 sheep	1 deer 1 sheep	1 cow	2 horses 1 sheep 1 calf	1 bull	-	1 deer 3 rams	2 dogs	14 dogs 4 deer 3 horse 4 sheep 3 rams 1 cow 1 calf 1 bull

¹ Conflict tiger case # 06/01 was investigated from January to May, 2006

² Conflict tiger case #06/10 was investigated in November and December 2006