

This report will be made public. If it contains confidential or sensitive information, please also provide a revised report for sharing with the public.

Section I. Project Information	
Project Title: Amur Tiger and Amur Leopard Conservation in Russia	
Grantee Organisation: Phoenix Fund	
Location of project: N 43.22.18., E 133.54.22 The project is implemented in Primorsky Krai	
Size of project area (if appropriate): 18,822 km2 (1,882,242 ha)	No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source: The Amur tiger (<i>Panthera tigris altaica</i>)- 540 individuals (2015 tiger census in Primorsky and Khabarovsk krais, Amurskaya and Jewish autonomous provinces). The Amur leopard (<i>Panthera pardus orientalis</i>) – 97 individuals (2019 camera trap monitoring in Land of the Leopard National Park)
Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i> The Phoenix Fund has been closely cooperating with the following partners: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United direction of Land of the Leopard National Park and Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve 2. Ussuriisky Nature Reserve 3. Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Nature Reserve 4. Bikin National Park 5. Pervotsvet eco-centre 6. Uragus eco-centre 7. Rodnichok eco-centre 8. Green Whirl eco-theatre 9. The Wildlife Conservation Society 	
Project Contact Name: <i>(main contact via email)</i> Sergei Bereznuk	
Email: office@fundphoenix.org	
Actual start date of project: <i>(if different from 1st February)</i> 1 st February	
Reporting period: 1 st February, 2020 – 31 st July, 2020	

Section II. Project Progress

Summary of progress for the first 6 months: *(please provide a summary for use in our communication materials)*

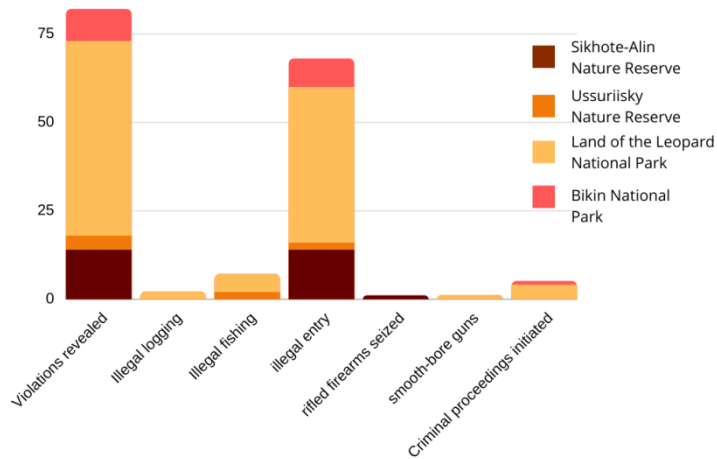
During the reported period, we continued providing our assistance to five (5) protected areas in Primorsky krai to work with SMART, hold feedback meetings with rangers, discuss patrol performance and options for improvement and provide new patrol targets for the next period. Despite coronavirus outbreak, rangers continued patrolling the assigned areas and successfully prevented wildlife crimes. For example, in May 2020 the rangers of the Land of the Leopard National Park prevented illegal hunting in protected area by a potential poacher. Thanks to coordinated work together with the police, unregistered firearms were seized. "The possession of unregistered weapons at the borders of the national park is a crime, which in itself implies the intention to conduct poaching. In our practice, there have already been similar precedents. Such people will not buy permits, engage in legal hunting in hunting farms", said Eugeny Stoma, deputy director for protection of the Land of the Leopard. "Our task is not only to detain violators directly in the protected area, in the forest, but also to facilitate the withdrawal of illegal arms from circulation. We will continue to collect and process operational information about such cases." The law enforcement team at Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve also seized an illegal rifle and initiated criminal procedure for poaching.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also implemented educational activities on schedule, namely the 15th art contest with publication of wall calendars and children's paintings, annual workshop for educators, and eco-classes at four eco-centres in Primorsky krai. Promotional materials and gifts for Tiger Day Festival in Primorsky Krai and Jewish Autonomous Province have been purchased and produced.

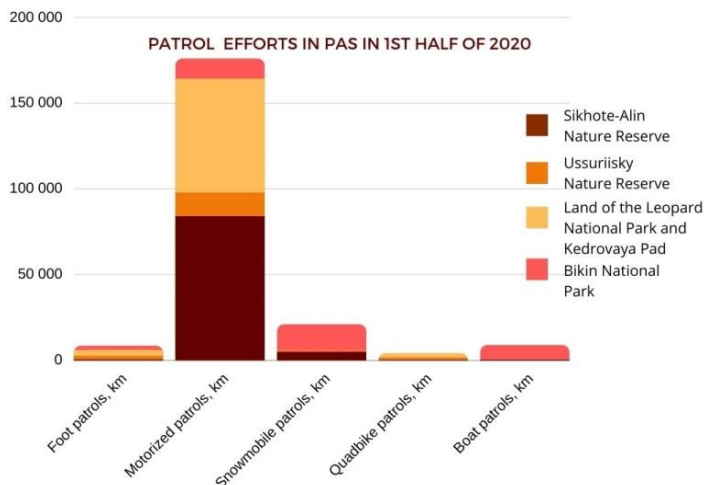
Details of activities and results to date: *(Please give details of progress made towards the objectives & outputs of your Logframe, and activities included in your Workplan. Please add any relevant charts, maps and images.*

- SMART in five protected areas** - During the reported period, anti-poaching teams of five PAs, namely Ussuriisky Nature Reserve, Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve, United direction of Land of the Leopard National Park and Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve, and Bikin National Park, protected the wildlife and the habitat through regular patrols (on foot, by motorized vehicles, boats, etc.). Despite the coronavirus outbreak and official lockdown since April 2020, rangers continued patrolling the assigned territories taking precaution measures. During the reported period, Phoenix in close cooperation with WCS continued holding feedback meetings between protected area management staff and rangers in order to discuss patrol results and options for improvement. Overall patrol quality at existing SMART sites remains good. During the first half of 2020, the anti-poaching teams of 5 PAs revealed 82 violations (165 violations were revealed during the 1st half of 2019). No illegal hunting incidents were revealed. The majority of violations were associated with illegal entry to the protected areas. During the reported period 68 cases of unauthorized presence were registered (60 cases of illegal entry were recorded by rangers during the same period last year). Five legal cases were filed. The rangers also confiscated two rifles. We motivated rangers to work with SMART and improve their efforts. For excellent performance the rangers were provided with incentives.

Violations revealed in 1 st half of 2020	Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve	Ussuriisky Nature Reserve	Land of the Leopard National Park (including Kedrovaya Pad NR)	Bikin National Park
Violations revealed	14	4	55	9
Citations issued for:				
illegal hunting				
illegal logging			2	
illegal fishing		2	5	
illegal entry	14	2	44	8
Weapons seized:				
rifled firearms	1			
smooth-bore guns			1	
Fines imposed (Rub):	45000	14000	155000	21000
Materials handed over to police				
Criminal proceedings initiated			4	1



Patrol efforts in PAs during 1 st half of 2020	Foot patrols, km	Motorized patrols, km	Snowmobile patrols, km	Quadbike patrols, km	Boat patrols, km
Bikin NP	2437	11791	15192	93	8262
Sikhote-Alin NR	641	84058	4943	377	543
Land of the Leopard NP (including Kedrovaya Pad NR)	3328	66297		2274	
Ussuriisky NR	2065	13715	833	1281	

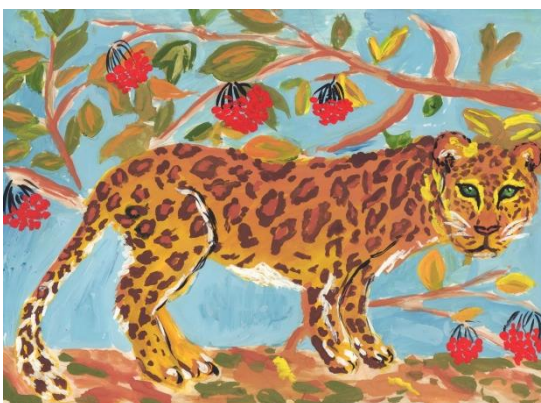
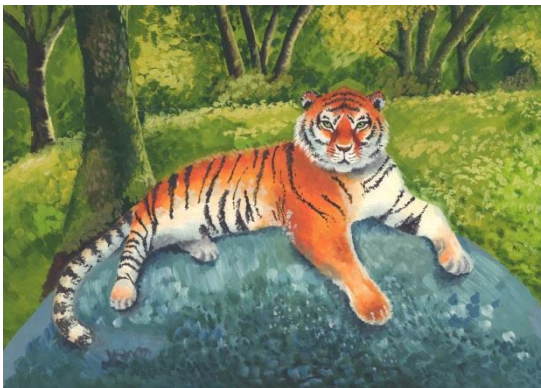




- Tiger Day Festival in Primorye and Jewish Autonomous Province – During the reported period we were busy preparing for the Tiger Day hoping it will take place in September as usual. All our partners who are in charge of Tiger Day celebration in Terney, Novopokrovka, Luchegorsk, Arseniev, are ready to hold the festival and are waiting impatiently the decision of local administrations regarding celebration. The Phoenix Fund have produced and purchased different gifts and prizes (colourful tiger foot pins, tattoo sets with tiger images, etc.). Cute tiger mascot costumes have been designed and produced to entertain children and adults during festivities. The costumes look great and beautiful! Also, special T-shirts with a tiger image and WildCats Conservation Alliance logo and children's tiger costumes have been produced for Tiger Day parade goers. Moreover, we have published pocket calendars with children's paintings, mini books with stickers of taiga inhabitants, bookmarks with information about tigers, pens, colour pencils, acrylic awards for parade participants and other. WildCats Conservation Alliance logo has been put on all mentioned above products. To adorn our parade unit, we have produced flags with logos of Phoenix and WildCats Conservation Alliance and felt large gloves in the form of tiger head and with names of main sponsors of Tiger Day, namely WildCats Conservation Alliance, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, and Fish and Wildlife Service. In July, we had a meeting with representatives of the Youth Welfare Department of Vladivostok City Administration and discussed fun educational activities for kids (games, master classes, crossword puzzles, quizzes, contests, and sport activities that involve tiger facts) that will bring immense joy during the Tiger Day in Vladivostok. As for Tiger Day in Birobidzhan (JAP), we prepared scenario of main entertainment events and fun activities on the main city square as well as optional scenario in case the government will prohibit mass gatherings of people again in response to a second wave of the COVID-19.



- Art contest for children to promote conservation of Amur tigers and Amur leopards - In 2020, Phoenix held the 15th annual art contest for children with the purpose of promoting careful and respectful attitude towards the Amur tiger and Amur leopard at young age. The theme of the contest always concerns two big cats: the Amur tiger and the Amur leopard. This year, children sent entries on two topics “Seasons on Tiger Land” and “Seasons on Leopard Land”. We received 1,872 drawings from children between 5 and 18 years of age from Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai, Amurskaya and Jewish Autonomous provinces, the Republic of Crimea, Donetsk People's Republic, Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Korea. The jury consisted of representatives of Russian protected areas and educators. The best drawings were chosen to appear on the 2021 wall calendar. All contestants received certificates of participation and got his/her copy of the calendar. The remaining copies we are going to use as gifts during various contests, events, and festivals devoted to Amur tiger and leopard conservation.



- Workshop for educators - Between March 22 and March 24, 2020, thanks to financial support from the WildCats Conservation Alliance, Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation, Kolmarden Foundation, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Whitley Fund for Nature and the Russian Presidential Grants Foundation, the Phoenix Fund organised an educational eco-workshop for 50 educators and outreach specialists representing eco-centres, eco-clubs, and protected areas of the south of the Russian Far East. The highlight of the event was a presentation of a teachers' guide "Educational Materials on Forest Fires for Schoolchildren" (300 copies) published by the Phoenix Fund in February 2020 thanks to financial support from the Russian Presidential Grants Foundation. Moreover, the Phoenix Fund also gave the participants other materials, such as forest fire posters and bookmarks for children with rules of forest fire prevention. When developing the materials we came up with an idea to use a mascot - a little dragon called Dym Dymych (Smoke Smokey) - similar to Smokey Bear in the US to educate people about the importance to protect forest from fires.



One section of the workshop was devoted to the use of games in educational process. We invited special guests from the Sakhalin Island – two specialists from Boomerang Club that produced a good deal of ecological games. They presented their games to the workshop participants and gave recommendations and step-by-step guide how to design a game with account of local landscape, wildlife and ecological problems. The educators from Primorsky and Khabarovsk krais, Amurskaya and Jewish autonomous provinces put a high value on this part of the workshop because they got new ideas for future work with schoolchildren. In addition, during the workshop we presented a comic book "Our Neighbour Tiger" for children with the basic rules on human behaviour in Amur tiger habitat. Main characters, granddad and two grandchildren, tell the do's and don't's when meeting a tiger in the forest. The educators gave high ranks to both the teacher's guide and the comic book. The book's copies have been distributed among schools of Primorsky Krai and Jewish Autonomous Province.

- Environmental education and outreach in Slavyanka, Luchegorsk, Terney and Vladivostok - During the reported period, the Phoenix Fund continued assisting the educators working in administrative districts of Primorye, namely Pozharsky, Khasansky, and Terneisky, and in Vladivostok city. Experienced educators held eco-lessons, exhibitions, art contests and other events/actions related to tiger and leopard conservation. In addition, they visited remote villages to give lectures, show slide-presentations and video on animals and organize various ecological contests, games, quizzes, and exhibitions. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic, from April 2 through May 12 all schools were closed in Primorsky krai and our educators had to use online learning to continue their lessons. Our educators used Zoom software to deliver their lessons and to connect with schoolchildren remotely. Due to these difficulties, the teachers gave 181 lessons and nature-oriented events for 2,155 children. In addition to eco-classes at schools and eco-centres, 23 drama lessons were given at the Eco-Theatre in Vladivostok and 11 theatrical eco-performances were showed.



Give details of any obstacles to success that the project has encountered over the last 6 months.

(Please provide detailed examples, explain what impact these will have on the project results and the changes to the budget and timetable of project activities)

The outbreak of COVID-19 and lockdown made changes in our plans and project activities. For example, in April-May, our educators had to shift to online education and remote classes. As a result the number of lessons decreased to some extent, and less than half of schoolchildren attended remote classes. We hope that with the start of school year (September 1, 2020) and with government restrictions easing up, the environmental education activities will slowly resume and children will be able to return to school and attend eco-classes at eco-centres. Speaking about

Tiger Day Festival, we have prepared to celebrate it in many settlements in Primorsky krai, as well as in Birobidzhan (Jewish Autonomous Province), but there is no guarantee that Russia can avoid a second wave of coronavirus. Non-compliance with social distancing rules means the country may have to re-introduce Covid-19 restrictions, including the prohibition on mass gatherings. In this case, we will have to hold Tiger Day Festival in online format, and some gifts purchased and produced with WildCats Conservation Alliance's funds will be preserved for next year Tiger Day.

Budget: Is the spend on target? If not, please give details and provide an updated budget sheet.

The spend is on target.

Media: Please provide a list of recent publications and media both local and national which mentions the work funded by this project and/or mentions WildCats Conservation Alliance

<https://fundphoenix.org/15-art-contest-results-announced/>

<https://fundphoenix.org/smart-in-ussuriisky-nature-reserve/>

<https://fundphoenix.org/who-lives-in-ussuriiskaya-taiga/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CC48ofVAj6l/>

WildCats Conservation Alliance asks for at least 5 relevant high-resolution jpeg files of images of the project activities during this time period.