

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: Monitoring Amur Leopards and Tigers in Southwest Primorye, Russia	
Grantee Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Russia	
Location of project: Southwest Primorskii Krai, Russian Far East. Land of the Leopard National Park (LLNP) is approximately 43.100 N, 131.200 E.	
<p>Size of project area (if appropriate): The area where WCS conducts independent camera trapping is 957.58 square kilometres. Land of the Leopard National Park (LLNP) where we help conduct park-wide estimates of leopard and tiger numbers is 2,800 square kilometres.</p>	<p>No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source: Our 2018 publication estimated a stable global population of Amur leopards at 84 adults/subadults in 2014 - 2015. The official estimate of Amur tiger numbers is 523 - 540 adults and cubs; however, this is based on expert assessments of unknown accuracy and precision.</p> <p>During the same time period, there were an estimated 18 Amur tigers in Southwest Primorye in 2014, and 24 in 2015. Total population estimates, including tigers partially or fully within China, were 19 and 32, respectively.</p>
<p>Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i></p> <p>WCS has a formal agreement with LLNP to work within its borders. We also inform the Nezhinoe Naval Hunting Lease of our camera trapping activities on their land (adjacent to LLNP), although legally we are not required to have formal approval to work there. To best orchestrate a transboundary camera trap database, we coordinate activities in China through WCS China and their contacts with Hunchun Nature Reserve (HNR) and the larger Northeast Tiger Leopard National Park (TLNP).</p>	
<p>Project Contact Name: <i>(main contact via email)</i></p> <p>Dr. Dale Miquelle</p>	
<p>Email: dmiquelle@wcs.org</p>	
<p>Actual start date of project: <i>(if different from 1st February)</i></p>	
<p>Reporting period: February 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020</p>	

Section II. Project Progress

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

This project is proceeding on schedule based on our proposed activities and outcomes. In early 2020, WCS Russia deployed 120 camera traps, and collected most of them in spring 2020. We tallied 4,933 images total, of which 1,416 photographs were of leopards (in 324 capture events), and 793 photographs were of tigers (in 172 capture events). The process of individual identification of tigers and leopards is now ongoing.

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.)*

Objective 1. Continue monitoring in Nezhino and the Northern Sectors of LLNP

Activity 1.1. Deploy cameras

This activity was completed at the start of the reporting period, when we deployed cameras on schedule, setting 120 cameras at 60 locations.

Activity 1.2. Collect cameras

This activity has also been completed. From May 9 to May 27, 2020, we collected 111 cameras from 55 locations as planned. The remainder (8 percent of the original 120) were stolen.

Activity 1.3. Analyse data

After compiling all data, we tallied 4,933 images total, of which 1,416 photographs were of leopards (in 324 trap events), and 793 photographs were of tigers (in 172 trap events). Of other species appearing in our camera traps, the most common were sika deer, Eurasian badger, and hare. Our team has downloaded all photos into the CPW PhotoWarehouse database, and identified species and group size of animals on each photo. The process of individual identification of tigers and leopards is now ongoing as part of our data analysis. For our next steps under this project, we plan to use Extract/Compare to identify individual tigers and leopards.

Objective 2. Assist LLNP staff to produce park-wide population estimates of leopards and tigers

Activity 2.1. Produce park-wide leopard populations estimates

As noted above, data analysis is now ongoing. We are working closely with LLNP scientists on appropriate approaches for estimating abundance and density of species in the region. We look forward to presenting our results in the final report.

Objective 3. Facilitate Russia-China data sharing

Activity 3.1. Work with Russian and Chinese governments to share data

Since data analysis in Russia remains ongoing, progress under this objective and related activity will take place in the upcoming months of the grant period. We look forward to presenting details and results in the final report.

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 main obstacles related to this work are the complicated logistics due to the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19), and the regular theft of camera traps. Regarding camera traps, our masking efforts have become quite sophisticated, with moss and wood glued to the trap cases, and cameras hidden in hollowed-out trees or in crevasses. Some traps are so well hidden that they are only re-discovered by our team thanks to GPS marking. However, traps are still being discovered and stolen. This leads to large losses not only financially, but also more importantly irreparable data loss. We are working with LLNP staff to attempt to identify and capture the person or people who are stealing cameras. One individual was already apprehended in the park with stolen cameras by National Park inspectors this spring.

With respect to Covid-19, even during the government-mandated self-isolation period, we were still able to legally conduct activities, albeit in small pairs or even family groups, where each team member worked with a spouse or sibling in the field to avoid social contact with other individuals. Therefore, while somewhat challenging logistically, we have thus far been able to complete our work for this project on schedule.

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

Yes, most of WildCats supported expenses contributed to the monitoring and camera trap efforts under Objective 1, which has been largely completed.

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

- In a press release by LLNP, park biologists recognized a male leopard, named “Dunya,” who had first been photographed by WCS in 2003, making him at least 17 years old. Special Assistant to the President of the Russian Federation Sergey Ivanov has been a strong supporter of leopard conservation and named the leopard some years ago. (see more at <http://leopard-land.ru/news/10266>)

1. LLNP guards check our credentials as we enter the park to set camera traps. Photo © ANO WCS
2. WCS field biologist Aleksandr Rybin inspects leopard tracks along a ridge in southwest Primorye. Photo © ANO
3. An Amur leopard pauses in southwest Primorye, Russia. Photo © ANO WCS
4. An Amur leopard sprints past a camera trap in southwest Primorye, Russia. Photo © ANO WCS
5. An Amur tiger stretches in front of our camera trap in southwest Primorye, Russia. Photo © ANO WCS

Interim Financial Report to the WildCats Conservation Alliance
Monitoring Populations of Amur Leopards and Tigers in Southwest Primorye, Russia

Grant Period: February 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021
Report Period: February 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020
WCS Reference: 111696



Category/Budget Item	Cost Breakdown	Unit Description	Cost per Unit (GBP)	No. Units	Frequency	Total Cost	Year 1					
							WildCats Requested Funding (GBP)	Other Funding Applied (GBP)	Other Funding Secured (GBP)	Year 1 Costs	WildCats Supported Expenses (GBP)	
Personnel												
Team Leader	1 person/1.0FT/1 yr	Monthly salary + benefits for 1 FT member of staff for 1 year	1,743	1	5	8,713	8,713			8,713	5,963.01	
Senior Field Assistant	1 person/1.0FT/1 yr	Monthly salary + benefits for 1 FT member of staff for 1 year	1,090	1	3	3,269	3,269			3,269	1,808.88	
Data Management Specialist	1 person/1.0FT/1 yr	Monthly salary + benefits for 1 FT member of staff for 1 year	1,652	1	3	4,957	4,957			4,957	5,866.15	
Grant Manager	1 person/1.0FT/1 yr	Monthly salary + benefits for 1 FT member of staff for 1 year	7,745	1	0.2	1,549	1,549			1,549	1,376.08	
						Subtotal	18,488	18,488	0	0	18,488	15,014.13
Operating Expenses												
Office rent for field office	cost/month/1 month	Office rental cost for 1 month	984	1	1	984	590		394	984	748.10	
						Subtotal	984	590	0	394	984	748.10
Field & Local Travel Expenses/Rations												
Fuel for vehicles	Fuel for 4 months of fieldwork @ 400 liters/month and 1 L = \$1	Monthly fuel allotment (litre)	0.8	400	4	1,312	1,312			1,312	1,670.13	
Vehicle repair costs and purchase of tires	1 vehicle/year	Expenses based on previous years	6,160	1	1	6,160	3,080		3,080	6,160	2,013.81	
						Subtotal	7,472	4,392	0	3,080	7,472	3,683.95
Field Equipment/Rations												
Batteries for Camera Traps (12 needed per trap)	cost/128 traps/1 yr	AA lithium batteries	16	128	1	2,015	2,015		0	2,015	377.17	
Memory Cards (SD) for Camera Traps	cost/18 traps/1 yr	Supplemental card to replace lost or damaged units	7	18	1	126	126			126	42.74	
Camera Traps	cost/14 traps/1 yr	Supplemental cameratraps to replace lost or damaged units	155	14	1	2,170	0		2,170	2,170		
						Subtotal	4,311	2,141	0	2,170	4,311	419.91
Other Costs (Miscellaneous)												
Per diem for fieldworkers	4 workers/day/30 days	Daily rate (per diem) for four assistants to carry and set up camera traps for 30 days	9	30	4	1,080	1,080			1,080	1,324.41	
						Subtotal	1,080	1,080	0	0	1,080	1,324.41
						Grand Total	32,335	26,691	0	5,644	32,335	21,190.49

Approved by:

Gwendolyn Cleary
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Assistant Comptroller

7/23/2020
Date