

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): 1,864,209 hectares (18,642 km ² or 7,197 square miles) Size of protected areas: Land of the Leopard National Park (261,868 ha) Ussuriisky Nature Reserve (40,432 ha) Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve (401,440 ha, including sea area of 2,900 ha) Bikin National Park (1,160,469 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 with 10 cubs (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. Wildlife Conservation Society 	
Project Contact Name: <i>(main contact via email)</i> Sergei Bereznuk	
Email: office@fundphoenix.org	
Reporting period: 1st February, 2020 – 31st January, 2021	

Please ensure that your report relates to the objectives and activities detailed in your proposal and logframe. Please include results data in Section II and Section III.

Section II. Project Results

Long Term Impact: *(How has this work contributed to the vision and long term impact that your project aims to achieve?)*

Our work has contributed significantly to achieving our project aims. By educating local community about the importance of tiger/leopard conservation, taking children outside and connecting them with nature, we fostered positive attitude among children and adults towards rare predators, and increased individuals' willingness to act environmentally protecting habitat of the Amur tiger and Amur leopard. Improved law enforcement efforts in five protected areas ensured nonthreatening living of rare and endangered big cats. As a direct result of mentioned above changes, resident Amur tigers/Amur leopards were secured and their populations are stable.

Conservation Outcome: *(What are the actual changes that this project has achieved?)*

Incidence of tiger/leopard poaching in 5 PAs is at zero value by the end of the project. Incidence of unauthorized presence of people in 5 PAs sees an increase by 66 % due inclusion new territories into the Land of the Leopard National Park. Numbers of Amur tigers and Amur leopards remain stable in 5 PAs. About 103 Amur tigers and 107 Amur leopards reside in 5 SMART sites. About 5,442 children have increased their level of environmental awareness, including knowledge of Amur tigers and leopards (by 10.2%).

Summary of first year activities and achievements: *(Please provide a narrative summary for use in our communication materials Max 300 words)*

During the reported period, we continued providing our assistance to five (5) protected areas in Primorsky krai to work with SMART, held feedback meetings with rangers, discussed patrol performance and options for improvement and provided new patrol targets for the next period. Despite coronavirus outbreak, rangers continued patrolling the assigned areas and prevented/revealed wildlife crimes.

COVID-19 has left a lot of people unemployed, and there was a threat that low income in the communities living in Amur tiger/Amur leopard habitat will push poachers to the forest for easy prey. In this regard, rangers in all PAs continued to patrol the subordinate territories in an enhanced mode. During the first year activities, 309 violations of the protected area regime, including trespassing and illegal hunting, were revealed at five project sites. Thanks to support from the WildCats Conservation Alliance, Kolmarden Foundation, and Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation, we could provide PAs with funds necessary to maintain anti-poaching activities and to monitor and improve law enforcement efforts. Intense patrols by law enforcement teams discouraged poachers from illegal access to national parks and nature reserves, and that has prevented a spike in illegal hunting.

Whilst law enforcement in the field remains unaffected by the pandemic, our educational activities had to slow down in 2020. Luckily, we were able to hold our annual workshop for 50 educators and outreach specialists at the end of March, just before all group gatherings were prohibited. In April-June, all the schools and kindergartens were closed. Closing of schools meant our educators had to use online learning to continue their lessons. Some of our educators have been using Zoom to deliver their lessons and to connect with schoolchildren remotely. Unfortunately, in some villages, the Internet is very slow and sometimes even unavailable. This fact reflected on the number of children reached out by our educators. During the reported period, 5,442 children attended eco-lessons (last year, the educators gave lessons to more than 18 thousand children).

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to hold the 15th art contest with publication of wall calendars and children's drawings and Tiger Day Festival (distant) in Primorye and Jewish Autonomous Province.

Details of activities and results in first year: *(Please give detailed narrative of the results of each objective & output. Please include measures for example patrol numbers and distances covered, #people trained or #people attending meetings/workshops or refer to figures in your tables below)*

- SMART in five protected areas

During the reported period, the 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 in April – May 2020, rangers continued patrolling the assigned territories taking precaution measures.

Recently, SMART Mobile - an excellent new app

for data collection with smartphones - was released. In 2020, together with our partners we continued to introduce Cyber Tracking with SMART. The use of Cyber Tracker permits the rangers

and PAs managers to progressively assess activities against land management goals and entering new problems as they are identified. At this stage our assistance and feedback meetings are important for tracking the progress of patrols, ensuring follow-up and allowing for adjustments to be made to the protection strategies. SMART enabled the rangers to get instant feedback for the work they undertake on a daily basis and also receive incentives that foster a sense of pride and satisfaction for all members of the teams.

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. We motivated rangers to work with SMART and improve their efforts. For excellent performance the rangers were provided with incentives.

Analysis of SMART data showed that overall patrol quality at existing SMART sites remains good. It is worth mentioning that in 2020 the rangers of the Land of the Leopard National Park had to pay more attention to recently affiliated new territories of the Far Eastern Marine Reserve where protection of sea area and land protection zone significantly weakened in the last few years. Additionally, the anti-poaching teams patrolled the territory of Gamov Peninsula that is to become a part of the national park in the nearest future. Thus, due to these extra territories the number of revealed violations doubled. An economic factor is another reason of the increased number of violations. Locals turned their focus on fishing as source of livelihood and headed to rivers running across the national park.

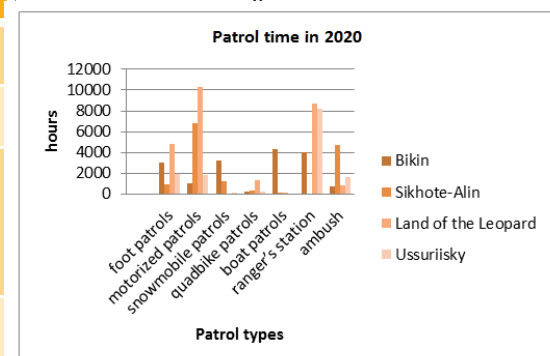
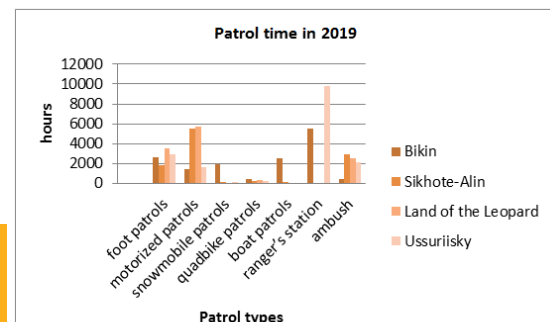
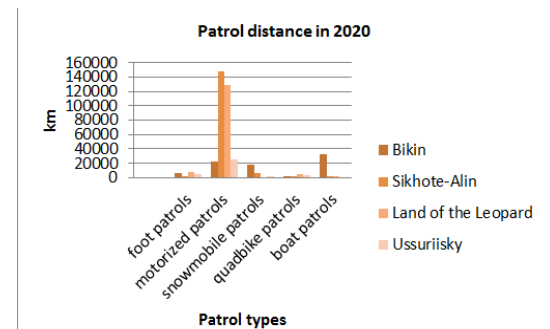
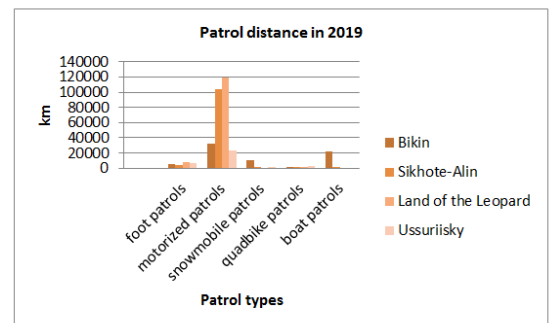


Speaking about the Bikin National Park, during the reported period the rangers spent more time patrolling in the park and managed to reveal more violations than in 2019 thanks to the wildlife cameras installed in the park to detect violators. The intruders captured by wildlife cameras were identified and brought to responsibility.

Analysis of SMART data showed significant growth in

patrol efforts in protected areas. During the reported period, the anti-poaching teams of 5 PAs revealed 309 violations (174 violations were revealed in 2019). The majority of violations were associated with illegal entry to the protected areas. In 2020, a total distance patrolled during all patrol types was 411,905 km compared to 344,616 km covered in 2019. Also, during the reported period the rangers spent far more time in patrols than last year (compare: 54,254 hours in 2019 and 70,548 hours in 2020). During the reported period 260 cases of unauthorized presence were registered (156 cases of illegal entry were recorded by rangers during the same period last year). The reasons for the increase of such violations were explained above.

Violations revealed in 2020	Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve	Ussuriisky Nature Reserve	Land of the Leopard National Park (including Kedrovaya Pad NR)	Bikin National Park
Violations revealed	41	4	222	42
Citations issued for:				
illegal hunting	1		3	2
illegal logging			2	
illegal fishing	2	2	8	
Illegal gathering of wild plants	24			
illegal entry	14	2	209	39
Weapons seized:				
rifled firearms	1		2	
smooth-bore guns			1	2
Fines imposed (Rub):	131000	14000	667000	115000
Materials handed over to police				
Criminal proceedings initiated			17	3



Patrol efforts in PAs in 2020	Foot patrols km	Motorized patrols, km	Snowmobile patrols, km	Quadbike patrols, km	Boat patrols km
Bikin NP	6648	22020	18086	378	31962
Sikhote-Alin NR	1883	148293	5564	2022	1427
Land of the Leopard NP (including Kedrovaya Pad NR)	7147	129328		4407	120
Ussuriisky NR	4253	24585	919	2863	

- Tiger Day Festival in Primorye and Jewish Autonomous Province

During the first six months of the project period we prepared for the Tiger Day hoping it could take place in September as usual. We 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. 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 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 adore 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) 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.



To our deep regret, the traditional carnival procession and a gala concert were cancelled due to the epidemiological situation in Russia. Tiger Day parades did not march the streets of Vladivostok and other regional centres of the Primorsky krai, for which the holiday has become the most spectacular, mass and favourite event of the fall. However, we, together with colleagues, partners and friends, managed to hold many festive events dedicated to the Tiger Day. Events in the form of eco-lessons, games and competitions were held in the

Primorsky and Khabarovsk territories, in the Amur and Jewish Autonomous Regions. About 5 thousand children and adults have shown their active position in defence of the Amur tigers. By spreading information about the holiday, as well as organizing several contests in our accounts in Instagram and Facebook, we managed to maintain the festive mood of our followers, motivate them to gain new knowledge on tigers and be creative.



We announced three contests on Instagram. The first one was a video contest in which participants should make a video (max 2 min) and tell about basic rules of human behaviour in Amur tiger habitat. In the contests "Tiger Family" we asked participants to post a photo of their family dressed as tigers and with tiger makeup look. And the contest "Find tigers" asked participants to find all tiger images, sculptures, monuments, etc. in Vladivostok city, get a selfie with them and post on Instagram. Winners got various gifts and prizes. Our educators in Terneisky,

Krasnoarmeisky, Pozharsky districts and Arseniev also joined us and announced these contests for local people. Additionally, Phoenix together with Bastak Nature Reserve announced three contests in Jewish Autonomous Province: best video contest, best photo contest and best lesson devoted to the Amur tiger.

Feedback showed us how important Tiger Day is to people; over the years of its existence, the Primorye locals became bonded and involved in the conservation of the Amur tigers on deep level. The circumstances that forced us to look for the new ways of interacting with people, adjust to objective constraints, use new forms of work, gave us an important impetus. In the future, we plan to develop methodological materials for environmental education that teachers can use to work remotely with children and other target groups.

- 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 and other events/actions related to tiger and leopard conservation. 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.

The educators used Zoom software to deliver their lessons and to connect with schoolchildren remotely. The mass gathering restrictions did not allow the teachers to travel to neighbouring settlements to work with the locals. In addition to eco-classes at schools and eco-centres, 32 drama lessons were given at the Eco-Theatre in Vladivostok and 11 theatrical eco-performances were showed.



The number of children and adults educated by our educators has decreased by 3 times since the beginning of the pandemic. For comparison: in 2019, the teachers held 968 events for 18,733 people. In 2020, only 465 events were held for 5,442 people.



According to the results of two opinion polls, an average level of schoolchildren's awareness has increased by 10.2% after a series of eco-lessons in 2020. About 71% of respondents gave correct answers to questions about the Amur tiger, Amur leopard, their habitat and prey, etc.

Key achievements of this year: *(Please give a bullet point list of key measurable outputs- for example xxx of staff trained in SMART monitoring techniques, xxx camera traps covering xxx km²)*

- Over 1100 ranger patrol distance (km) per month during motorized patrols
- 76-1342 ranger patrol hours per month
- 17-22 ranger patrol days per month
- 125 rangers are partly supported
- 12 feedback meetings between PA managers and rangers held
- 19,931 km patrolled on foot
- 324,226 km patrolled by motorized vehicles
- 24,569 km patrolled by snowmobile
- 9,670 km patrolled by quadbike
- 33,509 km patrolled by boat
- 309 violations revealed
- 20 legal cases filed

- 6 rifles seized
- 927,000 roubles (12,527 USD) in fines paid by violators
- 103 Amur tigers inhabit 5 protected areas (20 tigers in Sikhote Alin NR, 4 tigers in Ussuriisky NR, 39 tigers in Land of the Leopard NP, 40 tigers in Bikin NP) and 107 Amur leopards (97 adults and 10 cubs) live in Land of the Leopard National Park
- 1 workshop organised for educators and outreach specialists of protected areas
- 50 educators and outreach specialists trained
- 5,442 children reached
- 465 lessons and nature-oriented events held
- 11 theatrical eco-performances showed
- 10.2% level of children's knowledge increased
- 1,872 entries for art contests received (children's drawings of tigers and leopards) received
- 5,000 people involved in Tiger Day celebrations

Obstacles to success: Give details of any obstacles/challenges to success that the project has encountered. *(Any changes to the project that have affected the budget and timetable of project activities should have been discussed prior to the end of the project)*

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 government restrictions easing up in 2021, the environmental education activities will slowly resume and children will be able to 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 was a second wave of coronavirus in Russia and we had to hold Tiger Day Festival in online format, and some gifts purchased and produced with WildCats Conservation Alliance's funds were preserved for next year Tiger Day.

As a result, these changes affected the budget. Due to mass gathering prohibition, we spent less money than it was planned for Tiger Day Festival in Primorye and Birobidzhan. Thus, there is an underspend of £3,000. We have sent a written request to permit us use this amount for Tiger Day in 2021.

Monitoring and Evaluation: *(Describe the methods used to monitor and evaluate the progress of the project)*

Phoenix evaluated the success of the project by examining:

- The effectiveness of AP patrols: using SMART software we measured and compared both efforts (such as kilometres patrolled, patrol days) and results (such as citations, revealed violations) received during the reporting period and in previous years;
- Trends in the populations of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and their prey species using results of annual wildlife counts and camera trap monitoring provided by our partners.

- Public environmental awareness and change in behaviour (level of children's and adults' knowledge about tigers, leopards and other wildlife, level of their pro-environmental activism). The knowledge, and attitudes and change in behaviour were measured based on the results of two opinion polls conducted twice per year (before and after educational events). The measures in the questionnaires relative to attitudes/opinions and self-reported behaviour include behavioural items with environmental impact (e.g. adherence to the fire safety rules and rules of behaviour in tiger habitat) based on the General Ecological Behaviour scale (GEB) (Kaiser & Wilson, 2004), the Environmental Action Scale (EAS) (Alisat & Riemer, 2015), and Larson et al.'s (2015) multi-dimensional measure of behaviour. Data from opinion polls helped understand weaknesses and strength of our educational programme and led to improved educational activities.

According to our recent opinion polls, children who attend extra-curricular ecological classes and nature-conservation actions, have higher level of environmental awareness compared with the level of children who do not attend such events. It is important to continue providing children with environmental education and supporting teachers and caregivers as they engage their children in outdoor studies and environmental issues.

Shared learning: *(How will you share the outputs and learning from your project, in what format and with whom?)*

The project let us learn the lessons on how SMART is applicable to different protected areas, taking into account features of their landscape, climate conditions, types of patrols, data collection categories, skills of the park's managers and their staff, etc. The lessons are shared with PAs managers who are at the initial stage of introduction of SMART. The project also let us understand what educational methods/activities are most effective in raising public environmental awareness. The outputs are disseminated through our network of protected areas and educators (during annual workshops, feedback meetings, joint events, etc.). Phoenix will also share the outputs and learning from the project with our partners during annual meetings and workshops.

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

<https://fundphoenix.org/results-tiger-day-in-2020/>
<https://fundphoenix.org/21-anniversary-tiger-day/>
<https://fundphoenix.org/who-lives-in-ussuriiskaya-taiga/>
<https://fundphoenix.org/smart-in-ussuriisky-nature-reserve/>
<https://fundphoenix.org/15-art-contest-results-announced/>
<https://fundphoenix.org/teachers-guide-on-forest-fire-prevention-published/>

Have you provided at least 2 blogs? Y/N? yes

Have you provided at least 10 high quality images with details of the relevant credit? Y/N? yes