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: Developing an Effective Human-Tiger Conflict Resolution Strategy for Northeast China
Grantee Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) China
Location of project: Hunchun County, Jilin Province, China

Size of project area (if appropriate): About 5,000 square kilometres	**No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source:** Based on our other projects, we have identified 23 Amur tigers (March - July 2019 in HNR), a number derived following a meeting of all camera trap partners.

Partners: *(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.*   We worked closely with the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park (TLNP) Administration and the Hunchun Municipal Branch of TLNP. In this project, TLNP Administration officers collaborate with us in conducting conflict training, and they coordinate the participation of branches in training. We also worked with Hunchun Municipal Branch of TLNP and Hunchun Municipal Forestry Bureau to conduct education campaigns to help local communities better understand animal conflict.
Project Contact Name: (*main contact via email*)   Mr. Wang Aimin
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Reporting period: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 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?*)

As the number of tigers and leopards in Hunchun continues to increase, so does the number of human-tiger conflicts, and the government of China recognizes the role that human-tiger conflict mitigation plays in the successful restoration of these big cats to northeast China. After TLNP was established, conflict mitigation efforts were added to the park's management agenda. This program aims to prevent and mitigate conflict incidents by providing skills training to conflict teams to enhance their expertise in dealing with conflict incidents, and by enhancing community awareness of wildlife protection and self-protection through community education. At present, this is the most effective way to de-escalate the conflict, and it must be a long-term effort.

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

Ultimately, the conservation outcome of this project is an improved relationship between residents of northeast China and big cats. This outcome will reduce ill-will toward tigers and leopards and result in fewer of them being removed from the wild (or dying from retribution killings). A positive relationship is essential for the restoration of tiger and leopard populations in the region.

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

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) China Program is devoted to protecting the wildlife and natural landscapes of China, and plays an important role in Amur tiger and leopard conservation in the northeastern part of the country. As the number of tigers and leopards increases in China, the number of conflict situations with humans increases in tandem. To better understand the needs and issues of local residents, in 2018, we conducted a questionnaire survey on wildlife, conflict, the depredation compensation policy, and other aspects. We used this information to develop a booklet on how to prevent and mitigate tiger/leopard conflicts, using source material from Russia as a guide. In August and November 2018, we cooperated with the Hunchun Municipal Branch to carry out relevant community publicity, and distributed our booklets to help communities understand the sources of conflict and how to keep themselves (and tigers and leopards) safe. In 2020, we organised a conflict training for 6 branches of TLNP in Jilin Province. The training session provided reserve staff with both theoretical (e.g., emergency plan strategy) and technical methods (e.g., anaesthesia techniques), both of which are of important for safe resolution of conflicts.

Details of activities and results: (*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*)

Objective 1. Hold technical training session.

Our original plan was to organize and co-host a technical training session in Russia, where the conflict response team would gain practical experience and learn more about conflict mitigation. Due to the impact of COVID-19, however, we could not go to Russia, so we changed the location of the activity to Hunchun, Jilin Province.

On December 24, 2020, we and TLNP jointly held the "Human-Tiger Conflict Resolution Training Conference" in Hunchun, Jilin Province (Image 1). The training was conducted for 6 branches of TLNP in Jilin Province (4 branches in Heilongjiang Province were unable to participate in the training due to covid-19 travel restrictions).

The first part of the training course was conducted by TLNP Administration, and explained the "Emergency Plan for Amur Tiger and Leopard Incidents" issued in January 2020. This plan includes an overview of how incidents are classified, which responses are appropriate, and how to handle a timely flow of information (Image 2). Next, WCS summarized anaesthesia methods used by the Wildlife Rescue Center, and related experiences of field anesthesia from WCS Russia. We also gave a presentation of Amur tiger and leopard field anaesthesia experiences and related precautions. Finally, an expert from the Feline Research Center of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration gave a detailed explanation on his own experiences in handling conflicts in recent years, wild animal rescue, and how to effectively carry out wild animal rescue work. Importantly, this meeting also included ample time for discussion, where members of different park branches were able to discuss varying problems unique to their branches, and troubleshoot (Image 3).

Objective 2. Conduct public education campaign in local communities.

Public education of local communities is very important for tiger and wildlife conservation. Through these activities, we promote local awareness of wildlife so that both tigers and humans are safe, and the prospects of serious human-tiger conflicts are reduced. In April 2018, we visited local communities in Hunchun County, and learned how villagers engage in cattle husbandry, gauged their level of knowledge about the wildlife depredation compensation policy, and gathered other relevant information via a questionnaire survey. This effort included feedback from 49 villages within the boundaries of the TLNP and adjacent areas (7 towns and villages including Chunhua, Hadamen, Jingxin, Yangpao, Ying'an, Mijiang, and Machuanzi). Our strategy was to conduct a few surveys in each settlement across this broad area, rather than many surveys in one settlement, to better understand broad patterns of opinions within the region as a whole (Images 4 and 5). We collected 175 questionnaires, of which 172 were completed. The results show that most villagers have high awareness of wildlife protection, while some people have a negative view of wildlife, especially wild boars and tigers. Most villagers were familiar with the compensation policy for damages to property caused by wildlife, but they knew little about how to avoid conflict or reduce the threat to themselves or their property. With this information we developed a booklet on conflict resolution, based on source material from a conflict mitigation booklet created in Russia (including how to correctly understand conflict situations, how to avoid unnecessary conflict, and how to stay safe). We consulted with relevant local government offices prior to publication to discuss and revise the booklet's content.

In August and November 2018, we cooperated with staff from Hunchun Municipal Branch to organize 10 community education campaigns, involving 4 villages and 6 township schools in the key habitat of Amur tigers and Amur leopards. Approximately 400 people attended these conflict education sessions. In 4 villages (Xitumenzi, Zhongtumenzi, Heshan, and Tazigou) we explained sources of human-big cat conflicts, distributed our booklets, and showed inspiring video footage of tigers to allow villagers to better appreciate tigers and wildlife conservation (Images 6 and 7). These events greatly increased local understanding of conflicts and how to prevent and avoid human-tiger conflicts. Feedback showed that villagers were appreciative of this effort to increase their knowledge and safety. The general consensus was that previous public awareness campaigns had only focused on the protection of tigers and leopards, and not on the safety of people. At 6 township schools (Hadamen middle and primary school, Madida primary school, Yangpao primary school, Chunhua middle and primary school), we developed materials for students that introduced knowledge about Amur tigers, including their habits, habitats, cultural value, and endangered status. Most importantly, we discussed why children should be proud that Amur tigers live among them. We also played games that deepened student understanding of habitat loss (Images 8 and 9). Following these activities, staff from Hunchun Municipal Branch distributed diaries to the children as souvenirs and asked them to write down their impressions from the program and their dreams for the future (Image 10). We hope that, via school's campaigns, we can increase knowledge of wildlife among youth, and instill love and appreciation for tigers and leopards.

In November 2018, we also cooperated with the administration of Hunchun branch to hold a training meeting about anti-poaching patrols and snare removals. A component of this training was ranger safety in tiger habitat, and we introduced the problem of human-tiger encounters, explained how to prevent and avoid human-tiger conflict, and how rangers should behave if they encounter a tiger. Approximately 600 workers from the forest farm community participated in this training and received conflict mitigation booklets (Images 11 and 12).

Key achievements of this project: (*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 km^2*)

- 1 workshop on conflict technical training
- Surveys sent to 49 villages
- 10 community education campaigns reaching 400 people
- 1 training meeting about anti-poaching patrols and snare removals reaching 600 people

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*)

At present, both activities have been completed. For the conflict training, it was initially postponed because TLNP was unable to determine the participants. Later, due to the impact of COVID-19, the workshop was not held in Russia as planned, but it was held in China. One benefit of this change was that many more people were able to attend.

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

For conflict training, our indicator of success is the number of people who attended the meeting, and our ability to influence TLNP management on conflict resolution.

For community education, our indicator of success is the number of education campaigns we carried out and the number of people who participate in education.

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

We share results with the TLNP and the branch offices. The conflict pamphlets were distributed to villagers in the community, and the proofs of the pamphlet was also shared with the Hunchun Municipal Branch for their use in subsequent education campaigns. After the conflict training, we also compiled a Tiger and Leopard Field Anaesthesia Procedure Manual.

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*)

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

Yes. English versions are attached to this report, and links to Chinese versions are below.

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/YAIHxYwkl6G5UDQfeKqPDA

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/l7-9NOk7mw-44PbVzZhydQ

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

Yes.

Section III. Appendix (Please populate this section with details from section II)	
Did you carry out camera trapping as part of this project? Y/N No	
If yes: **Total camera trap nights/days:**	**Total area surveyed:**
Numbers of tiger/leopard/prey recorded	**Please include data on other species recorded**
Are numbers of tigers/leopards/prey increasing or decreasing in your project area? Please show trends	
Did you carry out other surveys? Y/N No	
If yes: **Please give details**	
Did you carry out patrolling as part of this project? Y/N No	
If yes: **Total distance patrolled:** **(please give figures for different methods, vehicle/foot/boat etc)**	**Total area patrolled:**

Do you use Patrol Monitoring software such as SMART? Y/N No	
If yes: **Total distance patrolled using patrol monitoring software?**	**How do you collect data? Handheld devices/paper/other? Please give details?**
Please provide comparison data on from your patrolling over time	
Please provide data on violations recorded/arrests/successful prosecutions	

Does your project work with local communities? Y/N Yes		
If yes: (please be as specific as possible and include gender split) **Who?** The community villagers.	**What did you do? Was it successful?** We work with Hunchun Municipal Branch, they connect with the community, and we work together to educate the villagers in the community. It was successful.	**How many people did you reach?** About 400 people.
How do you measure the success of this activity? The number of education campaigns and the number of people receiving education.		

Did you carry out educational activities with adults or children? Y/N Yes		
If yes: (please be as specific as possible and include gender and numbers)		

Who?	What did you do?	How many people reached?
Villagers and students.	Gave presentation, distributed booklets, showed video and play games.	About 400 people.

Have you seen behaviour change from these activities? (Please give details of your results and of how this is measured)
They take an active part in our educational activities.

Did you carry out training activities for any staff/community member on the project? Y/N Yes

If yes: (please be as specific as possible and include gender split) Who? TLNP staff.	What did you do? Was it effective? We worked with TLNP and provide training for the branches. It was effective.	How many staff trained? How many others trained? About 40 staff trained.

How do you measure the effectiveness of this training?
Everyone recognized and expressed the need for training content.

Did you carry out conflict mitigation activities with community members? Y/N Yes

If yes: Who?	What?	How main people did this include?

Community members, children, farmers.	Education campaigns and anti-poaching patrols and snare removals.	1,000
Have you seen behaviour change from these activities? (Please give details of your results and how this is measured). Based on our post-education campaign discussions, residents have clearly been thankful or our efforts to engage them and their safety directly and not just focus on the wellbeing of tigers and leopards.		
Were any scientific papers/articles published because of your project? Y/N No		
If so, please give details or provide copies.		