

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>) – 110 individuals (2020 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> 1st February	
Reporting period: 1st February, 2021 – 31st July, 2021	

Section II. Project Progress

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

Despite the third wave of coronavirus pandemic in 2021, 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. The rangers carried on patrolling the assigned areas and successfully prevented wildlife crimes.

We have also implemented educational activities on schedule, namely the 16th 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. Preparatory work has been done for celebration of Tiger Day Festival in Primorsky Krai and Jewish Autonomous Province.

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, we continued supporting SMART sites, namely Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve, Bikin National Park, and the United direction of Land of the Leopard National Park, Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve, Ussuriisky Nature Reserve and Far Eastern Marine Reserve. The anti-poaching teams protected the wildlife and the habitat through regular patrols (on foot, by motorized vehicles, boats, etc.) on the assigned territories. Phoenix in close cooperation with WCS continued holding feedback meetings between protected area management staff and rangers in order to discuss patrol efforts and results and options for improvement. Overall patrol quality at existing SMART sites remains good.

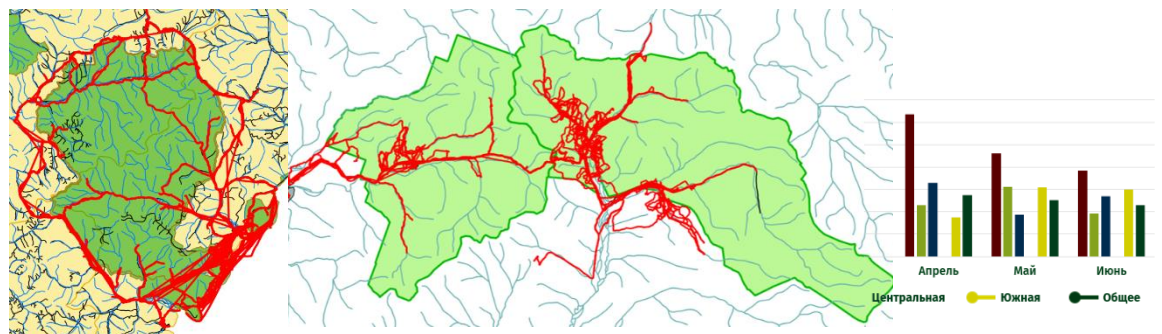
SMART allows effectively use human and material resources for patrolling PAs and combating poaching. However, when such resources have become increasingly scarce, the number and quality of patrols decreases despite the fact that the rangers continued to work with SMART. This is happening now in the south-west of Primorye where two protected areas – Ussuriisky Nature Reserve and Far Eastern Marine Reserve- joined the United Direction of Land of the Leopard National Park and Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve. The territories merged administratively. Thus, the total water and land area under the management of the Land of the Leopard National Park has significantly increased, but the federal funding as well as the number of law enforcement rangers declined. Given that, patrol density in Ussuriisky Nature Reserve has decreased. As for the Marine Reserve, SMART has not been introduced there yet, but we have it in our plans.

During the first half of 2021, the anti-poaching teams of five PAs revealed 106 violations (Compare: 82 violations were revealed during the 1st half of 2020, and 165 violations were revealed during the 1st half of 2019). Four illegal hunting incidents were revealed. The majority of violations were associated with illegal entry to the protected areas. During the reported period 93 cases of unauthorized presence were registered (Compare: 68 cases of illegal entry were recorded by rangers during the same period last year, and 60 cases in 2019). Five legal cases were filed. 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 2021	Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve	Land of the Leopard National Park (including Kedrovaya Pad NR)	Bikin National Park
VIOLATIONS REVEALED	23	71	12
CITATIONS ISSUED FOR:			
illegal hunting		4	
illegal logging			
illegal fishing			
illegal entry	22	66	5
Illegal gathering of wild plants		1	
fire safety violations			4
pollution			3
other violations	1		
WEAPONS SEIZED:			
rifled firearms			
smooth-bore guns			
other poaching devices			
FINES IMPOSED (RUB):	66000	206000	17000
MATERIALS HANDED OVER TO POLICE		5	1
CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS INITIATED		5	



Patrol efforts in PAs during 1 st half of 2021	Foot patrols, km	Motorized patrols, km	Snowmobile patrols, km	Quadbike patrols, km	Boat patrols, km
Bikin NP	3529	12955	12964	0	20940
Sikhote-Alin NR	1560	84399	2937	1444	1542
Land of the Leopard NP (including Kedrovaya Pad NR, Ussuriisky NR and Far Eastern Marine Reserve)	1355	37943	0	0	0



- Tiger Day Festival in Primorye and Jewish Autonomous Province – In May 2021, we registered the name День Тигра® (Tiger Day) with a country's trademark office, and now it is legally protected. During the reported period, we were busy preparing for the Tiger Day: we have produced and purchased additional gifts and prizes (T-shirts, bags, wrist straps, etc.).



In July 2021, Russia endured a devastating third wave of the coronavirus pandemic, registering record numbers of daily virus deaths. Given the above, we were more than confident that traditional celebration of Tiger Day Festival with a carnival procession could be cancelled again. With this in mind, we began preparations for online format (various contests and tasks for children and adults). In August, Vladivostok city administration confirmed that Tiger Day would be celebrated in Vladivostok on September 26 without carnival procession. However, various entertainments such as master classes and sports competitions devoted to Amur tigers are allowed and planned on different city locations. In Primorye, Tiger Day will be celebrated in Luchegorsk and Terney on September 11, and in Novopokrovka on September 18. Information about celebration in other cities has not been confirmed yet due to coronavirus-related restrictions. All our partners who are in charge of

Tiger Day celebration in Arseniev, and Birobidzhan are ready to hold the festival and are waiting impatiently the decision of local administrations.

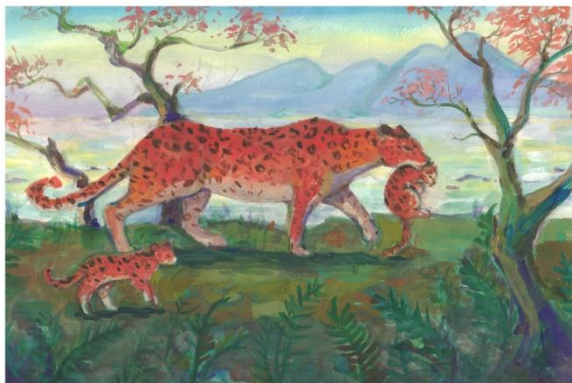
In July, in the run-up to International Tiger Day that is celebrated annually on July 29, the Phoenix Fund together with the WildCats Conservation Alliance and David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation run an international chalk art contest with wonderful gifts and prizes for participants and winners. The contest generated great interest among children aged 3-14.



The participants represented Russia (Primorsky, Khabarovsk and Krasnodarsky kraia, Amurskaya and Jewish Autonomous provinces, and Moscow) and Donetsk People's Republic. Over 100 beautiful colourful chalk drawings were submitted for the contest. The winners' names were announced on August 10, 2021.

In addition to the chalk art contest, the Phoenix Fund together with [WORLD RUN.ONLINE](https://www.worldrun.online) held a charity run race for Amur tigers. Over 430 people registered in the race online. The participants could run 1 km, 3 km, 5 km, 10 km, 21.1 or any distance at their discretion. Each participant donated 50 rubles (0.6 USD) for Amur tiger conservation projects.

- Art contest for children to promote conservation of Amur tigers and Amur leopards - In 2021, Phoenix held the 16th 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 “The Year of the Tiger-2022” and “The Amur Leopard-2022”. We received 1,608 drawings from children between 5 and 18 years of age from Primorsky, Khabarovsk and Stavropol'sky krais, Chelyabinskaya, Voronezhskaya, Amurskaya and Jewish Autonomous provinces, Saint Petersburg, Donetsk People's Republic, Mongolia 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 2022 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 - Annually during the spring school holidays, the Phoenix Fund conducts seminars for educators, teachers and outreach specialists that serve as a platform for all participants to exchange experience, gain knowledge and meet new people involved in ecological outreach. This year, the workshop has brought together participants from nature reserves, national parks, and eco-centres of the south of the Russian Far East and allowed leading experts to present their best practices. On March 25-26, 2021, thanks to financial support from the WildCats Conservation Alliance, Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation, Kolmarden Foundation, and David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, the Phoenix Fund organised an educational eco-workshop for 50 people. The event's topic was "Application of sociological research to assess the effectiveness of environmental education".



The eco-workshop took place on the territory of the Amursky Bay Holiday Centre. Teachers, heads of eco-centres, specialists from the Ecological Outreach Departments of the protected areas from the Primorsky and Khabarovsk krais, the Jewish Autonomous and Amur Regions were among the participants. On the first day, the attendees got acquainted with the basic rules of conducting a sociological survey. Specialists of Primorsky Research Centre of Sociology Lyubov Parkhomchuk and Alexey Moskvina spoke about the data collection methods, methods of sampling, about the rules to create questionnaires, and

other issues related to sociological surveys. This information turned out to be very relevant, because educators regularly need to analyse the effectiveness of their educational activities and assess the level of their students' knowledge. Inna Kaufman, Chief Specialist of the Education Department of the Primorsky Oceanarium, shared her experience of using the content analysis of reflexive questionnaires to assess the effectiveness of environmental education classes and events.

Within the framework of the meeting, the workshop participants got acquainted with the project "Man and Others – Interactions with Wild Animals". Employees of the National Scientific Centre for Marine Biology Lilia Kondrashova, Anna Dobrzhanskaya and Natalia Bulkina spoke about the goal and objectives of the project. "Man and Others" is a project aimed at creating a culture of interactions between people and wild animals: observing them, safe neighbouring with and proper behaviour when meeting animals in need of help.

During the second day, the workshop participants visited the Botanical Garden-Institute, made a tour of the open area and in the greenhouse. Nadezhda Kirshova, a specialist in ecological and botanical education of the Institute, held a master class "Art Herbarium".

"It is friends who gather here for the workshop. There is such a thing as intellectual property, when a person has invented something and then will not show anyone and will allow nobody to use the result of his/her labour until he/she is paid for it. This is as it should be. But here at the workshop, each participant is ready to share his/her best practices for free, so long as they are used somewhere for environmental education of children and adults," says Natalya Drobysheva, head of the Rodnichok environmental club, Slavyanka town.

"At each eco-seminar held by Phoenix, we absorb new information like a sponge, and then we go home and apply it in our work with children. Here you do not feel like a black sheep, but on the contrary, you understand that there are so many of us, friends of nature, who work with children and adults and instil in them a love for their homeland," Valeria Nazarova, teacher of additional education at the House of Children's Creativity, head of Namba eco-centre in Novopokrovka, shares her impressions.

"Every year we try to select topics for the workshop that would be interesting and in demand by the participants. According to a survey among the attendees, this year everyone was satisfied with both the organisation and the program, and is already looking forward to meeting next year," comments Alexander Vrisch, coordinator of educational projects of the Phoenix Fund.



СЕМИНАР

ПРИМЕНЕНИЕ СОЦИОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ ДЛЯ ОЦЕНКИ ЭФФЕКТИВНОСТИ ЭКОЛОГО-ПРОСВЕТИТЕЛЬСКИХ ЗАНЯТИЙ И МЕРОПРИЯТИЙ

25-26 марта 2021 г.
г. Владивосток



- 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. In winter 2021, the coronavirus continued to spread in Russia at a slow burn, and our educators managed to resume eco-lessons in remote villages, but in mid-spring coronavirus situation was getting worse and the teachers had to focus only on activities at the eco-centres. Despite this, the teachers were able to achieve better results compared to the results obtained during the same period last year. They gave 588 lessons and nature-oriented events for 5,999 children (Compare, in 2020, the teachers gave 181 lessons for 2,155 children). In addition to eco-classes at schools and eco-centres, 27 drama lessons were given at the Eco-Theatre in Vladivostok and 14 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)

As in previous year, there is no guarantee that Tiger Day will be celebrated offline in Birobidzhan (Jewish Autonomous Province) due to coronavirus-related restrictions, including the prohibition on mass gatherings. We are ready to hold Tiger Day Festival in online format, and some gifts purchased and produced with WildCats Conservation Alliance's funds will be used to award winners of various contests and quizzes arranged for citizens of Birobidzhan.

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/en/international-tiger-day-chalk-art-2021/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fund.phoenix/posts/2401466069985316>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CRhzRe9h2RC/>

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

<https://fundphoenix.org/en/results-of-16-international-art-contest-announced/>

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

https://vk.com/fundphoenix?w=wall203593445_101

<https://www.facebook.com/fund.phoenix/posts/2388924551239468>

<https://www.facebook.com/fund.phoenix/posts/2364041717061085>

<https://fundphoenix.org/en/workshop-for-educators-2021/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fund.phoenix/posts/2313392155459375>

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