

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 populations of Amur leopards and tigers in northeast China	
Grantee Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society	
Location of project: Hunchun Nature Reserve (HNR) and adjacent lands within Northeast China Tiger Leopard National Park (NCTLNP), Hunchun County, Jilin Province, China, at approximately 42.41972 N, 129.86416 E	
Size of project area (if appropriate): About 5,000 square kilometres	No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source: During the reporting period, WCS has photographed 4 Amur tigers and 1 Amur leopards in Dahuanggou.
Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i> The Hunchun Bureau Branch and Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of the Northeast China Tiger Leopard National Park (NCTLNP) are our primary partners. We have been conducting tiger and leopard monitoring projects prior to the creation of the national park (2016), and are a trusted partner. For this project, we will work collaboratively with their staff to better understand the status of tiger and leopard populations.	
Project Contact Name: <i>(main contact via email)</i> Aimin Wang, Jonathan Slaght	
Email: awang@wcs.org; jslaght@wcs.org	
Actual start date of project: <i>(if different from 1st February)</i>	
Reporting period: February 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022	

Section II. Project Progress

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

During the reporting period, WCS China continued camera monitoring in HNR and in the nearby Dahuanggou region. We checked cameras once during the reporting period to switch out memory cards and replace batteries. Monitoring results in Dahuanggou from November 2021 to June 2022 showed the presence of four tigers and one leopard. Additional monitoring data from HNR will be presented in our final report.

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: Monitoring populations of Amur leopards and tigers in Hunchun.

Activity 1.1. Continue camera trap monitoring in HNR.

The original plan was to conduct camera maintenance and data collection in spring 2022, but due to the impact of COVID-19 and the weather, our plans were postponed. We agreed upon a workplan with the Hunchun Bureau Branch of NCTLNP and completed monitoring work by mid-July. Together, we collected data and replaced batteries from 50 camera trap sites, and deployed additional cameras at 65 sites within the jurisdiction of the Hunchun Bureau Branch (Figure 1). WCS is responsible for monitoring in the southern half of HNR, while Hunchun Bureau Branch is responsible for the northern half of the HNR. Data from the total 115 sites will be shared throughout the monitoring period. Dates for final data collection to be determined, and results will be included in the final report.

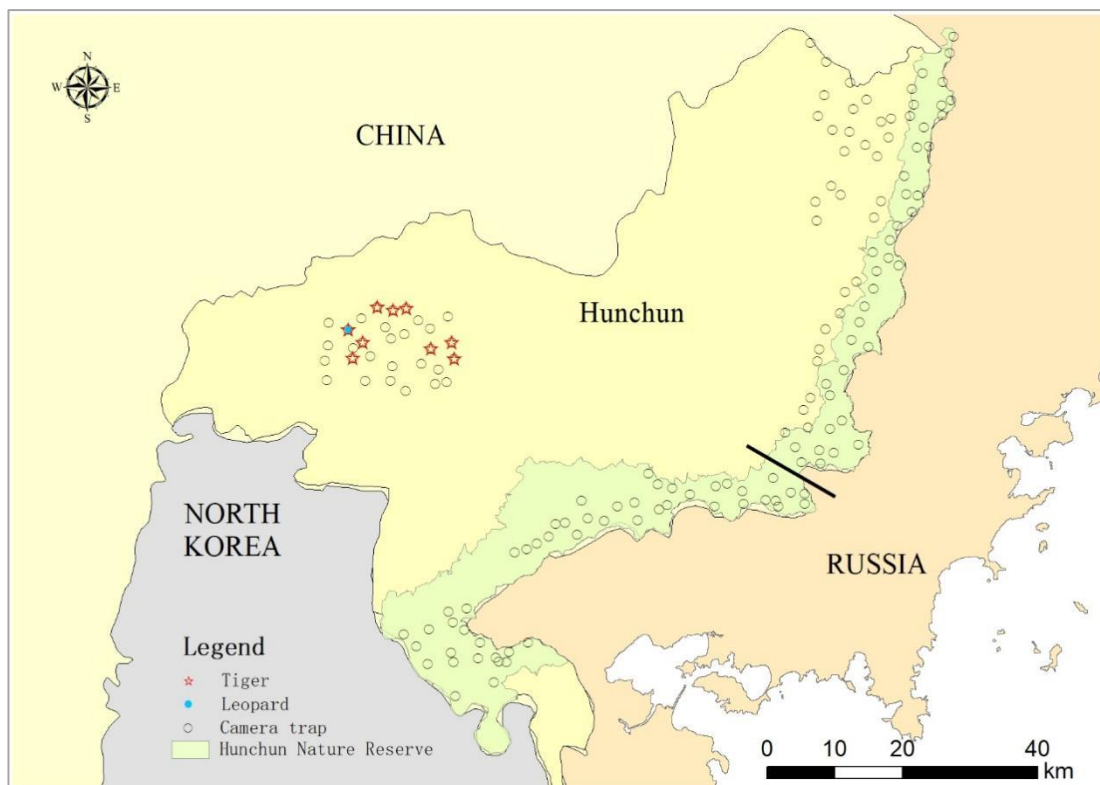


Figure 1. Map of camera trap locations in Hunchun.

Activity 1.2. Continue and expand camera trap monitoring in Dahuanggou.

In 2022, we continued camera trapping in Dahuanggou (Figure 1). In addition to the original 20 sites, we added 10 more for a total of 30 sites that cover approximately 270 km² of habitat for Amur tigers and leopards. We completed camera maintenance once, and collected all images from November 2021 to June 2022. This first monitoring period included 6,708 trap nights in Dahuanggou, during which we obtained 13,910 images and videos of wildlife and human activity. The raw data for tigers and leopards from Dahuanggou are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Information on Amur leopards and tigers from camera trap in Dahuanaggou monitoring by WCS China from November 2021 to June 2022.

Common Name	Encounters	Sites Represented	Images/Videos	Individuals
Amur leopard	1	1	1	1
Amur tiger	24	9	68	4

During the monitoring period, tigers were captured at nine sites (45% of sites), and a single leopard was captured at one site (5% of sites). Only one site had both tigers and leopards.

We identified four individual tigers (one male and three females, Figure 2) by comparing stripe patterns; all individuals had been captured in past monitoring efforts, suggesting site stability. The identity and sex of the lone leopard could not be determined, because only a tail was photographed (Figure 3).

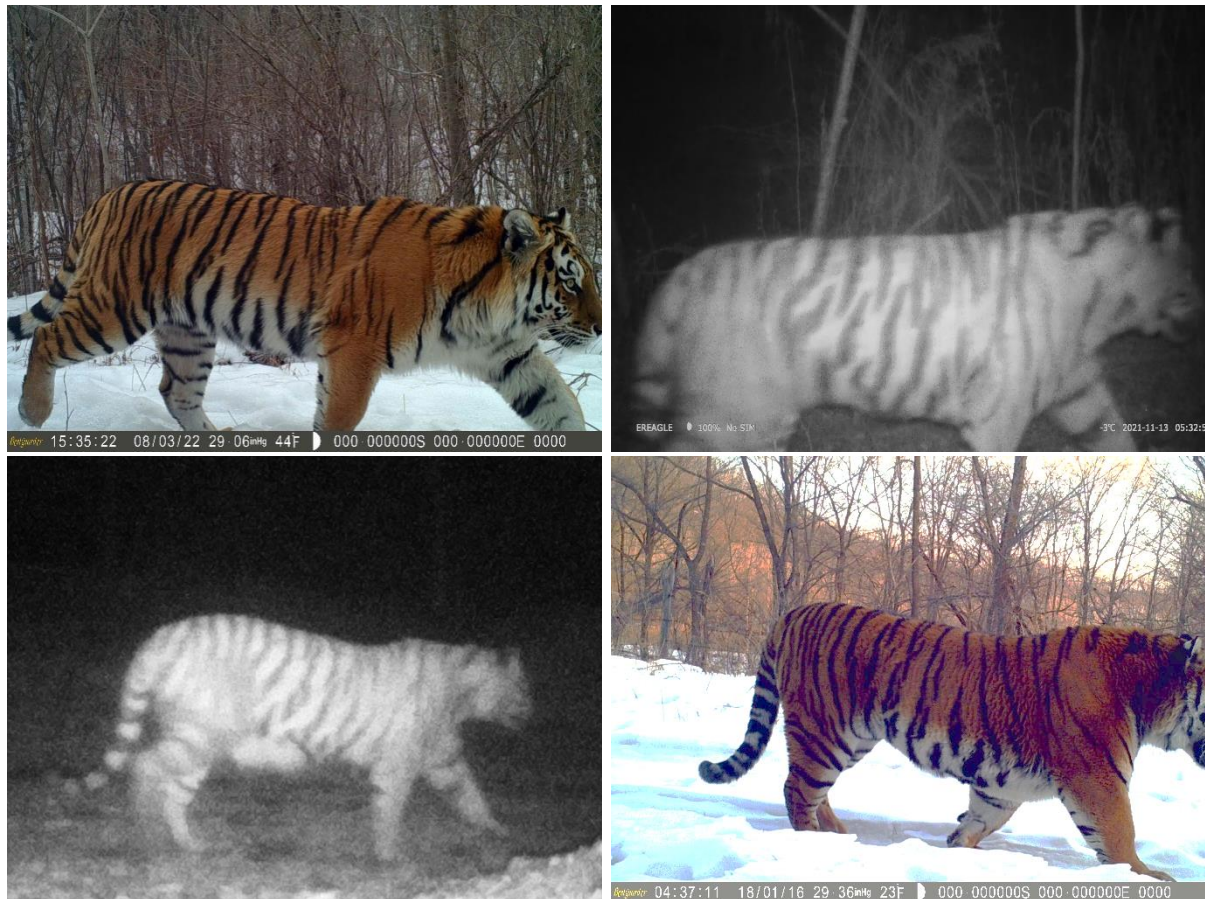


Figure 2. Four individual tigers photographed during this survey period in Dahuanggou study area



Figure 3. Photo of just the tail of a single leopard captured during this survey period in Dahuanggou study area.

In addition to Amur leopards and tigers, we also recorded other wildlife (Figure 4), including wild boar, roe deer, Asian badger, Manchurian hare, red fox, leopard cat, raccoon dog, yellow-throated marten, Siberian weasel, and Ring-necked Pheasant. Human activity accounted for 52% of all camera trap triggers (Figure 5), with livestock accounting for more than half of human-related activity; humans captured were mainly engaged in the collection of non-timber forest products. Wild animals

accounted for 48% of all captures, more than half of these were ungulates (82% of all wildlife). Roe deer, a preferred prey of leopards but not tigers, accounted for about 90% of ungulates.



Figure 4. Examples of wildlife photographed during the monitoring period

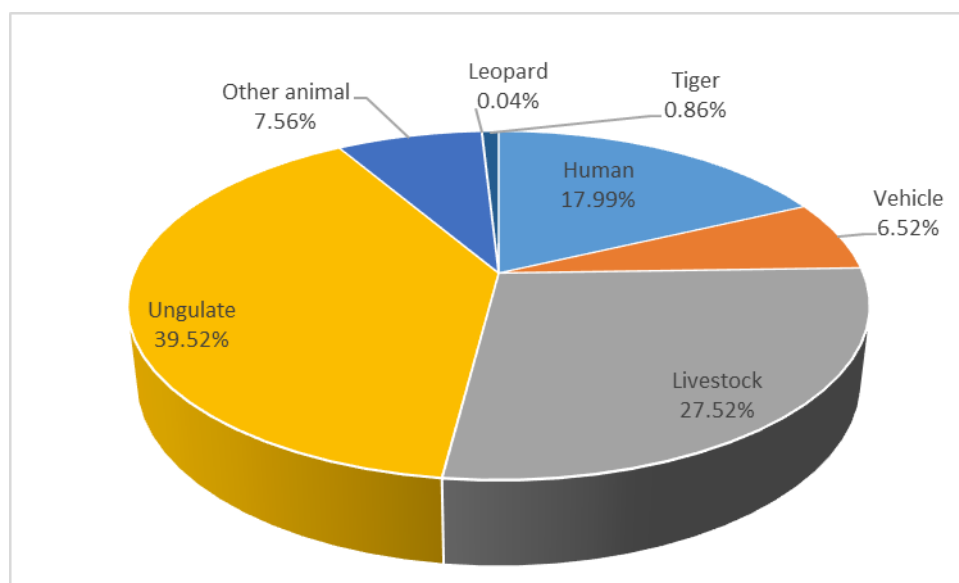


Figure 5. The percentage of photographic captures in each category: wildlife, humans, livestock and vehicles.

Activity 1.3. Data shared with partners to develop comprehensive report.

We have an agreement with Hunchun Bureau to exchange photographic data over the entire management unit so that we both have the full data set for the Hunchun Bureau Branch of NCTLNP. This activity will be conducted during the next reporting period, and will allow us to summarize data over the entire area.

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 project experienced no significant obstacles during the reporting period. Although our camera maintenance in HNR was delayed due to COVID-19 and poor weather, which reduced the number of trips we could take, our project is still on schedule.

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

During this interim reporting period (February-June 2022), we had comparatively low expenses on salaries and proposed travel due to an outbreak of COVID-19 in Hunchun City in early March 2022, which suspended our usual activities in March and delayed field trips until May 2022. Our monitoring activity for Hunchun Nature Reserve (HNR) began on May 31, but heavy rains made it impossible to complete fieldwork until the middle of July 2022. Furthermore, while camera monitoring activities were completed in Dahuanggou in June 2022, expenditures were not posted in our system until after the reporting period, in July 2022. Meanwhile, we used other funding sources to support WCS staff. We envision no problems spending remaining funds on schedule.

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

N/A

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

A zip file with photos will be sent along with this report.