

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: To date, WCS has photographed a total of 45 Amur tigers and 46 Amur leopards in Hunchun
<p>Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i></p> <p>The Northeast China Tiger Leopard National Park (NCTLNP) administration is our primary partner, in particular the Hunchun Bureau Branch (also called HNR Administration) and Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch (also called Hunchun Municipal Forestry Bureau). We've been working on monitoring projects with them since before they became park branches, and are a trusted partner. For this project, all partners share monitoring data and their staff participate in our camera trap data collection to better understand tiger and leopard population information.</p>	
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Actual start date of project: <i>(if different from 1st February)</i> February 1, 2021	
Reporting period: February 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021	

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 at 48 sites in HNR and 20 sites in nearby Dahuanggou. We checked cameras twice at Dahuanggou to switch out memory cards and replace batteries. Monitoring results from November, 2020 to April, 2021 there showed four tigers and two leopards. Additional monitoring data from Dahuanggou and all 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: Monitor populations of Amur leopards and tigers in Hunchun.

Activity 1.1 Continue camera trap monitoring in HNR.

We continue to carry out camera trap monitoring at 48 sites within HNR in cooperation with Hunchun Bureau Branch of NCTLNP in this period. We originally planned to collect data and change batteries here in April, but could not due to scheduling problems with HNR management. Consequently, this work was postponed until July. Results will be described in our final report.

Activity 1.2 Continue camera trap monitoring in Dahuanggou.

We continue to carry out camera monitoring in 20 sites in Dahuanggou in cooperation with Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of NCTLNP, which covers approximately 180 square kilometres of key habitat for Amur tigers and leopards to the west of HNR. From November 2020 to June 2021, we swapped out memory cards and changed batteries twice. To date we have entered images through April. Traps were active for 2,676 trap nights and resulted in 4,621 images and videos of wildlife and human activity. The raw data of leopards and tigers received from these camera traps are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Information on Amur leopards and tigers from camera trap in Dahuanggou monitoring by WCS China from November 2020 to April 2021.

Common Name	Encounters	Sites Represented	Images/Videos	Individuals
Amur leopard	6	6	16	2
Amur tiger	12	6	40	4

During the monitoring period, tigers were captured at 6 sites (30 percent of sites), and leopards were captured at 6 sites as well (30 percent of sites); for big cat detections at a total of 9 of the 20 camera trap locations (45 percent of sites). Three sites had both tigers and leopards (15 percent of sites).

We identified 4 individual tigers (2 males, 1 female and 1 unknown sex) and 2 leopards (2 males) by comparing stripe and spot patterns, respectively (see Figure 1 for a representative example). Of the 4 tigers, 3 individuals had been seen in the past and 1 was a new individual. Of the 2 leopards photographed, both had been recorded in the past.



Figure 1. Examples of how our team compares stripe and spot patterns to identify individual Amur tigers and leopards.

In addition to Amur leopards and tigers, we also recorded other animals (Figures 2), including wild boar, roe deer, sika deer, Asian badger, Manchurian hare, Asiatic black bear, red fox, leopard cat, raccoon dog, yellow-throated marten, Siberian weasel, and hazel grouse. Our analysis of the data found that human activity accounted for 51% of all camera trap captures (Figures 3). Humans were on foot or in vehicles; mostly on foot. It is legal for people to be in the forest as long as they are not engaged in otherwise illegal activities such as poaching, and we saw no evidence of anything illegal. Wildlife accounted for 49% of all captures, about half of these were ungulates (48% of all animals). Roe deer, an important leopard prey species, accounted for about 74% of ungulates.



Figure 2. Examples of wild animals

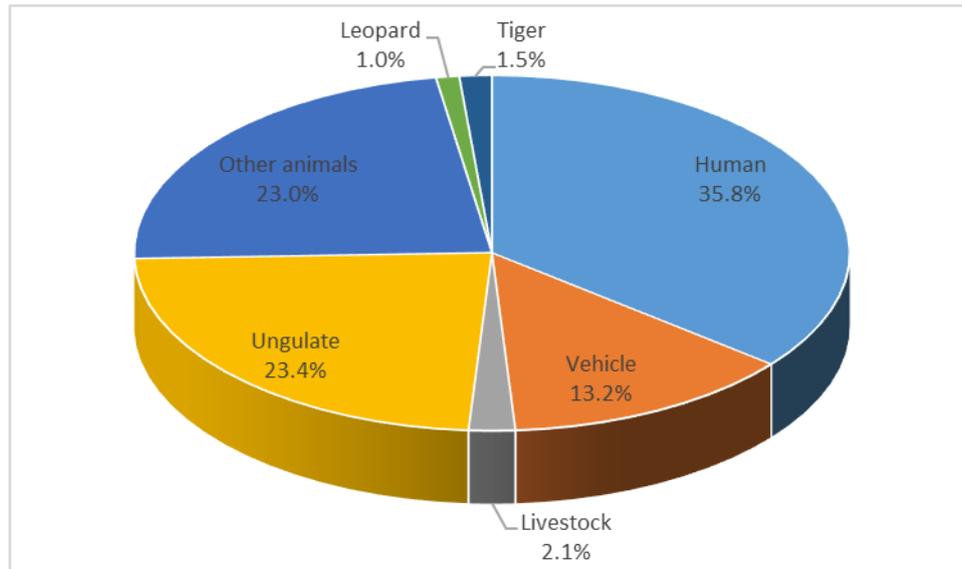


Figure 3. The proportion of human activities and wild animals.

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 staff of Hunchun Bureau Branch of NCTLNP were unable to coordinate with us on camera data recovery in April, this will occur in July and will not impact our final monitoring results.

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

Yes, spending is on the 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

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.

[Please see attachments]