

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 Southwest Primorye, Russia: 2022	
Grantee Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society	
Location of project: Southwest Primorskii Krai, Russian Far East. Land of the Leopard National Park (LLNP) is approximately 43.100 N 131.200 E.	
Size of project area (if appropriate): 957.58 km ²	No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source: Amur leopard (protected in the Red Books of Primorskii Krai and Russian Federation; listed as “Critically Endangered” by IUCN) and Amur tiger (protected in the Red Books of Primorskii Krai and Russian Federation; listed as “Endangered” by IUCN). Our 2018 publication estimated a stable global population of Amur leopards at 84 adults/subadults in 2014-2015. Surveys since then in Russia suggest the population has continued to increase. The official estimate of Amur tiger numbers in Russia is 523-540 (adults and cubs) but is based on expert assessments of unknown accuracy and precision.
Partners: (Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.) We work closely with staff of Land of the Leopard National Park to work within its borders. We also inform the Nezhinoe Naval Hunting Lease of our camera trapping activities on their land (adjacent to LLNP), although legally we do not require formal approval to work there. To better coordinate a transboundary camera trap database, we coordinate activities in China through WCS China and their contacts with Hunchun Bureau Branch, which is part of the larger Northeast Tiger Leopard National Park.	
Project Contact Name: (main contact via email): Dale Miquelle, Jonathan Slaght	
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Actual start date of project: (if different from 1 st February)	
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*)

We deployed and collected 64 pairs of camera traps on schedule to monitor the Amur leopard population, and have begun the process of analysing data. We also continued deployment of six anti-poaching camera traps in Land of the Leopard National Park and trained staff in their use. Results have been very positive to date. Twenty-five percent of triggers resulted in the deployment of a patrol to intercept (20 patrols from 79 images), which in turn resulted in a 30% capture rate (six detentions and citations from these 20 patrols). We also collaborated on the publication of a book on Amur leopard population monitoring protocol.

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: Continue monitoring in Nezhino and Northern Sectors of LLNP.

Activity 1.1. Deploy cameras. During 18 days (from January 12 to 29, 2022) a team of four field workers set 64 pairs of camera traps within and adjacent to LLNP. During this period, ~3,500 km were covered by vehicle and snowmobile, and ~100 km covered on foot. Logframe target: 60 pairs set in early winter [achieved]

Activity 1.2. Collect cameras. Over a 21-day period (May 1 to May 21, 2022) our team of four staff members collected camera traps from 64 locations within and adjacent to LLNP (one camera had been stolen). Camera collection resulted in ~4,000 km covered by vehicle and ATV, and ~100 km on foot. Logframe target: cameras collected by mid-June [achieved]

Activity 1.3. Analyse data and develop report. The process of curating photos and entering them into our database began in early June 2022. Approximately 450,000 photos were collected, including 2,076 images of leopards and 2,676 images of tigers. The process of individual identification of tigers and leopards is ongoing. Logframe target: data analysis commences in June 2022 [achieved]

Objective 3. Support Amur Leopard Management

Activity 3.1. Assist in development of government-approved methodology for leopard surveys.

In early 2022, we saw the release of an 88-page book titled “Camera trap monitoring of Amur leopards in Southwest Primorye 2014-2020,” from Apelsin Publishers in Vladivostok. Three of our staff (Dale Miquelle, Aleksandr Rybin, Katya Nikolaeva), as well as numerous long-term collaborators, are listed as authors. We are very proud of this book, which provides a clear explanation of the methodology of monitoring leopards using camera traps, and documents the increase in leopard numbers during this period. This document has been presented to the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation. We attach a pdf version to this report. An English-language edition is currently being prepared, which will be available in digital format. Logframe target: Proposed methodology submitted to Ministry in 2022 [achieved]

Activity 3.2. Assist in development of government-approved methodology for addressing conflicts with leopards

A methodology document for mitigating human-leopard conflicts has not yet been developed. This activity is part of a “roadmap” for leopard conservation developed by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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)

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

We attach the Russian-language version of the Amur leopard monitoring manual here. An English-language edition is currently in development.

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

Five photos of tigers taken by our camera traps will be sent separately as high-resolution jpeg files.