

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: Strengthening community involvement in anti-poaching efforts to protect tigers and leopards	
Grantee Organisation: Wildlife Conservation Society	
Location of project: Hunchun Nature Reserve (HNR) and adjacent lands within Northeast China Tiger and 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: Hunchun Nature Reserve: 42 and 28 Amur tigers and leopards, based on our camera trap analysis of 2022 (see final report to WCCA, February 2022 – January 2023). Dahuanggou: 9 and 2 Amur tigers and leopards, based on the analysis of our latest camera trapping data (see interim report to WCCA, February 2023 – January 2024).
Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i> The NCTLNP administration is our primary partner, especially the Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch (also called the 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, we will cooperate with them to carry out community patrol work and community education activities.	
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Actual start date of project: <i>(if different from 1st February)</i> April 1, 2023	
Reporting period: April 1, 2023 - August 30, 2023	

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, in cooperation with Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of NCTLNP, coordinated community patrol teams to carry out 96 daily patrols and remove 19 snares placed by poachers. We conducted an education campaign in one community on July 27, two days

before Tiger Day. In addition, at the beginning of the project, we conducted a community survey of 28 administrative villages in Hunchun to understand the community's awareness of protection.

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: Promote Community Participation in Wildlife Conservation

Activity 1.1 Organize patrol teams to carry out daily patrol work.

In 2023, we continue to work with the Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of NCTLNP to support community teams in their daily patrols. During the reporting period, the four communities conducted a total of 96 daily patrols, covering a total of 488 km, with an average of 5.1 km per patrol. During their patrols, community teams removed a total of 19 large snares from the forest. Patrol teams encountered many wildlife species – both the animals themselves, such as Amur leopards, roe deer, wild boar, black bears, and badgers and their signs. Roe deer were the most recorded species with 73 encounters, followed by wild boar with 20 encounters, badgers with 6 encounters, Amur leopards with 2 encounters, and a single black bear encounter.

We plan to conduct joint inspections in September and next January for each community patrol area to assess the patrol work of each community team and the number of snares present in their patrol area. Then a summary and evaluation of results will be presented to the community. These will be described in the final report.



Figure 1. Photos taken during community patrols. Left: community members record data while on patrol; center: a poacher's snare is removed from a tree; right: a live badger is captured by a patrol member's mobile phone.

Activity 1.2. Conduct public education campaigns.

In early to mid-May 2023, WCS and Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of NCTLNP conducted a survey on Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) in 28 administrative villages in Hunchun. The purpose of the survey was to understand the level of community awareness of conservation work within NCTLNP. We designed three kinds of questions to understand local people's knowledge about conservation work (Knowledge), their attitude towards conservation work (Attitude) and the degree to which they participate in conservation work (Practice). We assigned scores to each answer, with the higher the score, the stronger the tendency towards conservation (more knowledge of conservation, better attitude towards conservation, more participation in conservation work). These three scores were then summarized into a single KAP index to summarize a community's

relationship with conservation efforts. Among the 322 respondents, Attitude scored highest, followed by Knowledge and finally Practice. Total KAP scores ranged from excellent and good (24% of respondents), moderate (23%), and poor (53%).

People from villages with a community patrol team scored higher than those from villages without a community patrol team (total KAP score of 67.35 ± 19.54 SE versus 55.20 ± 16.12 SE). Therefore, on the whole, conservation awareness in villages with patrol teams was higher than those without community patrol teams, suggesting that our community-based project has played a role in promoting the conservation awareness and support for conservation within communities where it has been deployed. At the end of the project, we will conduct the KAP survey again to compare the changes in the conservation awareness of the same communities to assess the project impact.



Figure 2. Our staff are getting information about community awareness of conservation work.

On July 27, 2023, WCS and Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of NCTLNP jointly held a publicity event in Hunchun Paoziyan Village. The theme of our outreach effort was protection of individuals' safety and livelihood. About 40 people participated in the activity.

During the event, Mr. Aimin Wang, director of the WCS China program, interacted with and listened to the community residents. He encouraged them to participate in wildlife protection and emphasized he hoped the residents could solve their problems through community projects, even if they start with small projects. Then, the staff of Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of NCTLNP gave a wonderful lesson on wildlife protection. He explained NCTLNP's basic situation, helping the villagers more clearly understand the importance of their home village for broader conservation efforts, such as the recovery of Amur tigers and leopards in Northeast China. He then summarized the working model and effectiveness of the community anti-poaching program before providing key information on human-tiger conflict prevention. The activity ended with an interactive Q&A, and the staff handed out souvenirs and took photos for the villagers present.

This publicity event was very positively received by villagers, allowing them the opportunity to give their perspectives on conservation and local livelihood issues.



Figure 3. The community delegates receiving education.

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 plan was to work with Hunchun Municipal Bureau Branch of NCTLNP to continue patrolling in five communities. We support daily patrols in one village, while the other four are supported by matching funds from NCTLNP. During the reporting period, only one community did not carry out its patrol activities as planned due to the failure of NCTLNP to issue labour subsidies on time. In the future, we will communicate with our partners and expect to complete the planned workload within the project period.

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

The bulk of the grant funds will be spent during the second half of the project. From April to August 2023, the work mainly focused on activity preparation and communication, although the community attitude survey was also carried out during this time period. Staff costs were mostly supported by other WCS funding sources. Community patrols were started in June 2023, but most of the community patrolling activities will be carried out beginning in September 2023, and the personnel cost will be charged to this grant from WCCA. We will have joint patrol activities in September and December 2023, and the travel cost will be charged to this WCCA grant accordingly.

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://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/7dwJ9bKdl_xXQTR4IwcxCA

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 the photos attached to the same email as this report.