

Amur region

Amur Leopards & Tigers



WCS MERGED CAMERA TRAP IMAGES OF AN AMUR LEOPARD AND TIGER

OVERVIEW

The Amur tiger and leopard are both native to the forests of the Russian Far East and Northeast China. The Amur tiger, also known as the Siberian tiger, is the largest tiger subspecies, while the Amur leopard is renowned for being the rarest big cat in the world. Both species face severe threats, including habitat loss due to logging, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure development. Poaching remains a critical issue, targeting both the animals and their prey species.

PROJECTS

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Since 2000 WildCats has funded projects in the Amur region through the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to the cost of £2,755,363. The projects cover a range of activities including; community engagement, monitoring wildlife populations, strengthening law enforcement and mitigating human-wildlife conflict (HWC).

As the Amur tiger and leopard population extends beyond geopolitical borders this project demands collaboration with local and national governments to ensure successful conservation actions.

The main conservation actions include:

- SMART patrols alongside poacher cams with rapid response systems improve the detection and apprehension of illegal forest activities.
- Population monitoring with cross-border sharing of data informs unified policies.
- Community patrols assist with snare removal and raise conservation knowledge among their peers.
- Community teams run education to promote support for tiger and leopard protection, and teach villagers how to coexist safely with these species.

KEY FACTS

Population: <500 (tiger) <120 (leopard)

Breeding program*: Yes

Remaining distribution: Russia / China

IUCN Red List Status:

Amur tiger Amur leopard



*A zoo breeding programme creates a pool of genetically healthy animals, ensuring a safe backup population that could be used to help restock the wild in case of an extinction event.

