



21st CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future



Amur Tiger Conservation through Education

Interim Report
February 1st – July 31st 2012



Phoenix Fund
Office 409,
2 Petra Velikogo Street
Vladivostok, Russia
690091
Tel: + 7 (423)220-50-53
Fax: +7 (423) 220-50-48
E-mail: fund@phoenix.vl.ru
Web-site: www.phoenix.vl.ru

Contents


Contents	1
Project Summary	2
Project Progress	4
Environmental Education in Krasnoarmeisky District	4
Opinion Poll	4
Workshop for Educators	5
Tiger Day Festival	6



Project summary

Just a century ago, there were an estimated 100,000 tigers in the wild; today only about 3,500 survive and occupy 7% of their historic range. Three tiger subspecies – the Bali, Javan and Caspian – have become extinct in the past 70 years. The six remaining subspecies – Amur, Bengal, Indochinese, Malayan, South China and Sumatran – live only in Asia, and all are threatened by poaching and habitat loss.

The Amur tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) has come perilously close to disappearing from Russia's Primorsky province in the 1940s, when the tiger population dwindled to a mere 30. The numbers fell again in the 1990s, but are now stable at 428 to 502, thanks to the assiduous efforts of local and international scientific, law enforcement and non-governmental organisations. Since 1998, the Phoenix Fund, Russian environmental NGO, in cooperation with its partners, get involved in Amur tiger conservation actions by providing rangers with fuel, equipment and per diems to fight poaching, supporting tiger specialists handling human-tiger conflicts, paying compensations to farmers suffering tiger attacks on their livestock, monitoring infrastructure development projects in tiger habitat, etc. As well as battling poachers, the Phoenix Fund has been also fighting negative attitudes towards tigers. Devising imaginative material for kindergartens and schools, along with supporting



The Amur tiger (Panthera tigris altaica), also known as the Siberian tiger, the subspecies is the biggest living felid on Earth, weighing an average 200kg and measuring about 2 metres in length – 3 metres if the tail is added. Russia's Far East is home to 95 per cent of the remaining global population of this subspecies.

ОКОЛО
200

50-70

the annual Tiger Day, Phoenix staff is determined to ensure that future generations will value the tiger and care about it. And the approach is bearing fruit. “The children here love tigers, and adults now see the tiger as a symbol of Primorsky province. The province and the tiger are inseparably linked”, says Sergei Bereznuk, Director of the Phoenix Fund.

It is very essential to support local educators committed to nature conservation through providing them with educational materials, organizing training courses, and improving their working conditions. And, thanks to on-going support from the 21st Century Tiger, Phoenix staff are able to work with the experienced educators who held regular eco-classes devoted to tigers and endangered wildlife and habitat, show slide-presentations and video clips on animals and organize various ecological contests, games, quizzes, and exhibitions at Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka town as well as schools in remote villages of Krasnoarmeisky district. Moreover, with the 21st CT’ funds Phoenix is going to hold a Tiger Day Festival in Novopokrovka, the ecological holiday that has become a powerful tool in transmitting messages for the values of environment and thoughts about the environmental problems, and inspiring to live in harmony with the environment through a festive atmosphere.

Below, we are glad to present our interim report illustrating the project results achieved from February 1st through July 31st 2012.



Project Progress

Environmental Education in Krasnoarmeisky District

During the reported period the experienced educators conducted regular eco-classes at local schools in



Krasnoarmeisky district, home to the Amur tiger. The classes included video demonstrations, slide presentations, lectures, games, quizzes and contests and were focused on fostering positive attitude of children towards tigers, strengthening ecological knowledge and raising awareness on threats to tiger and nature in general. Valeria Nazarova, the educator, who has been running the Tiger eco-centre since 2007, cooperated with other schoolteachers and the staff of Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education Department of the Udege Legend National Park and organised joint eco-lessons and various nature-oriented events for children and adults.

Opinion poll

The first stage of an opinion poll was conducted in February 2012 in order to gather information about the attitudes of

From February 1st through July 31st the educator held 140 eco-events for 3,313 children and 197 adults. Ecological lessons, field programs, contests, and short courses of lectures were offered to kindergarten and schoolchildren on topics such as Amur tiger biology and conservation, forest ecology and management, threatened and endangered species, landscape and biodiversity protection of Northern Primorye. The participants of the eco-lessons are often become winners of various local and regional contests, such as 'Forest Olympiad' Regional Ecological Contest, 'March of Parks' nature protection event, and others, which we believe indicates how well the teachers transmit conservation messages, foster positive attitude towards endangered wildlife and sensitize the children to nature conservation problems. Valeria Nazarova is very respected for her professionalism, passion and devotion to nature conservation. In July 2012, she was invited to take part in an exchange program and visit a number of environmental and educational NGOs in the US in order to gain knowledge and exchange experience with her foreign counterparts.

young generation regarding tiger conservation issue. The poll's objective is to represent how children feel about the

Amur tiger and define the level of their knowledge on the population of this rare and endangered species, its subspecies and threats to their survival.

When conducting the opinion poll, Valeria Nazarova, experienced tutor of the Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka, used a questionnaire with 10 questions about tiger elaborated jointly by the Phoenix Fund and Michiel Hötte of WCS-Russia Program. In February, Valeria conducted the first stage of the survey at classes where she never gave lessons devoted to Amur tiger before. Then, the

educator started her course of lessons addressing the following topics: the current state of Amur tiger population, Amur tiger conservation issues, tiger habitat and anthropogenic influence, protection of tiger prey species, and etc. It is planned to hold the second stage of the survey in December 2012, during which Valeria Nazarova will conduct an opinion poll among the schoolchildren who participated in the first stage in February. The results will be compared with the ones received in February in order to assess any changes in children's knowledge.

Workshop for educators

Since 2005 Phoenix has been organizing an annual workshop aimed at



increasing level of teachers' knowledge and professional skills, introducing new computer technologies and giving educators an opportunity to share their experience. This year we decided not to hold a workshop for educators as indoor activity with lectures. Instead, the educators and tutors were invited to participate in a summer camp for young

ecologists and conservationists and employ their skills and knowledge obtained during the previous workshops. The summer camp was held near Luchegorsk town on June 26th-July 3rd.

Over 40 schoolchildren aged 12-16 attended a wide range of classes and enjoyed outdoor activities. During seven days of the summer camp 20 educators from all over Primorye demonstrated their professional skills by giving lessons specially developed and devoted to various ecological problems. For example, Nadezhda Perevoschikova carried out a lesson devoted to eco-tourism, Alla Akatkina focused on fresh water problems, Valeria Nazarova touched Amur tiger conservation issue, and Elena Bespyataya told about the role of mass media in promoting nature conservation. All the participants confirmed the great value of such an event which was beneficial both to schoolchildren and educators.

We believe that such hands-on experience is vital to understanding theory and will help Phoenix further

assess how workshop materials are apprehended by the educators.

Tiger Day Festivals

In September-October every year, one of the biggest environmental festivals takes place in Primorye - the Tiger Day Festival. The tradition of dedicating the day in honour of the Amur tiger began in Vladivostok in 2000 when the Phoenix Fund, WWF-Russia, WCS and the City Administration brought local poet and photographer Vladimir Troinin's idea to life by creating a city-wide holiday. The holiday reminds people about the uniqueness and beauty of the territory they live in. The Amur tiger is a symbol of Vladivostok and Primorsky krai; it is the most respected animal in the Russian Far East.

The main goal of the holiday is to help save the Amur tiger in the wild for future generations - not just on logos and coats of arms - and to draw international attention to the plight of this endangered species. Gradually the festival gained popularity, its status was elevated to a regional holiday which means that it may be celebrated officially in every corner of Primorsky krai, and today Tiger Day is enthusiastically celebrated in many countries. In 2012, Phoenix will organize Tiger Day Festivals in Vladivostok, Luchegorsk, Novopokrovka, Partizansk, Lazo, Kirovka and Terney towns. Thanks to support from the 21st Century Tiger and other sponsors, Phoenix began preparations for the festivals in Novopokrovka town.



The festival usually begins with a carnival procession, and is followed by various theatrical performances. Games and quizzes are essential part of this event. Thus, the educators and tutors of the eco-centres have many things to do to be well prepared for the event. Discussions of new scenarios of the holiday have already started. Young activists of local eco-clubs are also assisting their tutors by devising various contests for the feast participants.