



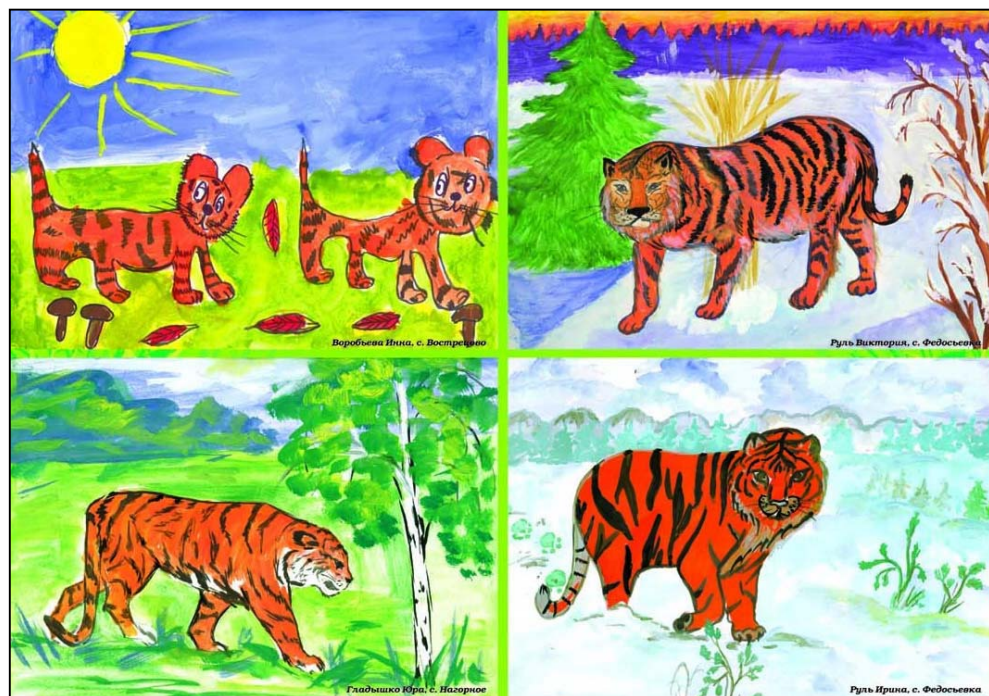
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TIGER  
giving wild tigers a future



# Phoenix Fund

## “Fighting for the Minds II”: strengthening tiger conservation in Primorye, Russian Far East in 2007

Interim report  
January – June 2007



Vladivostok  
2007



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## I. Project Overview

Since the year of its establishment in 1998, the Phoenix Fund has been carrying out nature conservation projects in the south of the Russian Far East, including anti-poaching, forest protection, ecological education and outreach projects. Many of the damaging human activities result from ecological ignorance of the local people sharing an uneasy coexistence with large predators. With less than 500 Amur tigers left in the wild, environmental education and outreach can play an important role in tiger conservation and preventing the species extinction by mobilizing support to tiger conservation projects from the local people and raising nature-oriented generation in the region. That is why many of our project activities are focused on local people and younger generations.

Phoenix thinks that the best way to reach the adults is through the children. Besides, it is today's children who will decide the future of endangered wildlife of the region; if we want to ensure the future for the endangered wildlife of the region, the education, re-education and community outreach should be done today. Keeping all that in mind we developed a new approach, a new environmental education and outreach project that started in 2005 with support from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger and approval of the state education institutions. The project is aimed at conservation of the endangered wildlife of the region under the umbrella of the Amur tiger.

This project is focused on two districts of Primorye: Pozharsky and Partizansky, main Amur tiger habitat. The goal of the project is to strengthen Amur tiger conservation in the Russian Far East through conservation education and outreach activities.

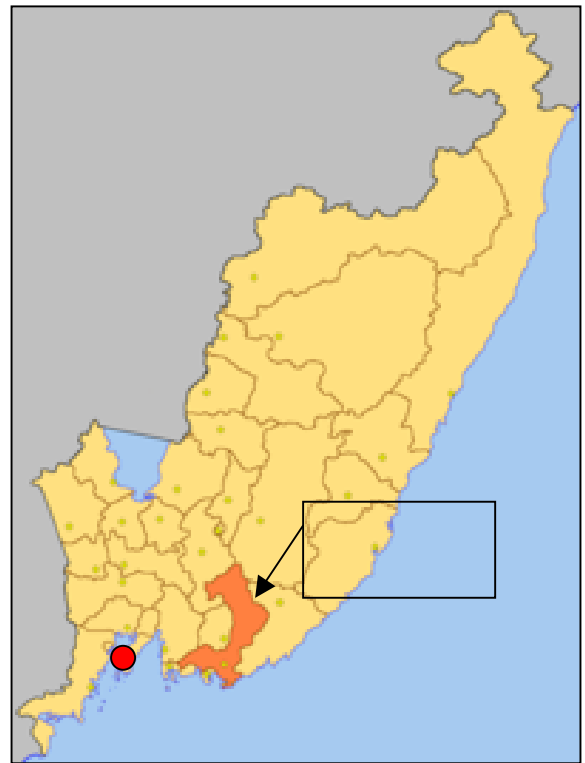
We strongly believe that the continuous education and outreach will help ensure sound protection for the tiger habitat and populations.

## II. Project Implementation

### 2.1. Education and outreach activities

#### Eco-centre in Partizansk city and environmental education in Partizansky district

“Rostok” (*Sprout*) eco-centre was founded in Partizansk city, Southern Primorye in 1994 with the main purpose of gathering the youth of Partizansky district to discuss local ecological issues and find solutions. Since 2001, Rostok eco-centre has been ranked



as a legal entity, supporting and developing youth movement of Southern Primorye and operating as a resource centre on ecological education and outreach programs. It closely cooperates with 38 NGOs of Partizansky, Shkotovsky, and Lazovsky districts of Primorye. More than 6,000 children from 14 schools of Partizansk city, over 5,000 pupils from 15 schools of Partizansky district, and about 1,000 children from kindergartens visit the eco-centre annually. “Rostok” develops, publishes and distributes diverse educational materials, such as ecological



newsletters, newspapers, leaflets and guidebooks on animals and plants.

Thanks to support from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger, “Rostok” eco-centre managed to continue its work in 2007, expanded its



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Meeting at “Rostok” eco-centre

educational programs by including lectures on Amur tiger and leopard conservation, and established close relations with other eco-centres of Primorye.

Rostok education program with focus on Amur tiger conservation has been designed to target students from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> forms, generally ranging between 6 and 17 years old. For the reported period the educator delivered lectures highlighting the current plight faced by a number of endangered and charismatic species in the Russian Far East, especially Amur tiger and leopard, Asiatic black and brown bears and other. The education program has been designed to make young people understand that without a reduction in deforestation, poaching, forest fires, numerous endangered species may become extinct. The educators sent an important message to the children: “When a species is lost from the forest, it affects all other species... including us”.

During the reported period the educators of Rostok eco-centre conducted eco-classes on the following themes: “Tiger family”, “Getting acquainted with Amur tiger”, and “Human behaviour in tiger habitat” etc.

The eco-movie classes “Ussury taiga is a home of Amur tiger” included the following

films: “Who’s the main in taiga”, “Tigrovaya Pad nature reserve”, “Tiger hunt” and “Nature monument “Waterfall on the Kamenka”.

The educators conducted the interregional art contest “Wildlife of the region”. Over 289 children from Partizansky and Lazovsky districts of Primorye took an active part in the contest; 69 best paintings were sent to the Interregional Children’s Art Contest in Novosibirsk city.

Over the course of six months the educators successfully delivered 36 ecological lessons to more than 860 schoolchildren.

Eco-centre in Luchegorsk city



Thanks to support from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger, the Phoenix Fund continued supporting “Pervotsvet” (*Spring flower*) ecological centre in Luchegorsk city, Northern Primorye in 2007. The eco-centre delivers classes for eco-groups “Vesnyanka” (“Caddis fly”) and “Robinsons”, organizes excursions for residents of Luchegorsk city, and issues of “SHIP’ovnik” newspaper with young journalists’ articles on the Green page section. Attending special classes



(“Ship” youth television and newspaper club) at “Pervotsvet” eco-centre, the schoolchildren gain computer skills and



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**Children give a slide presentation devoted to Lazovsky nature reserve**

learn to make short TV programs/news on local ecological issues. There are many pets at the eco-centre and children enjoy taking care of the animals there. During the lessons the teachers told about negative influence of woodcutting, forest fires and poaching on Amur tiger habitat. Sometimes, during the lesson the children gave slide-presentations devoted to rare and endangered species. Such lessons are very important to raise nature-friendly generation. While preparing for slide presentations, children extend their knowledge and influence on children’s level of comprehension during the lesson.

From January 01 to June 30, 2007 the educators carried out eco-classes on the following themes:

- “Cedar is a tree of life”,
- “Human behaviour in tiger habitat”,
- “Lazovsky nature reserve”,
- “Forest fires”,
- “Amur tiger”,
- “Who needs a leopard?”
- “First spring flowers”,
- “Large felines of Primorye”.

Children of “Robinsons” and “Path of life” eco-groups, active participants of ecological lessons in the eco-centre, often hike and participate in camping trips in Amur tiger habitat. That is why they must learn to co-exist with the predator and prevent tiger

attack. During the lesson the children watched a film “Hunters” by Zov Taigi and discussed main rules of human behaviour in tiger habitat, studied rules of eco-tourism and learnt to treat the nature with care. In January the children participated in “Lesnaya olimpiada” (Forest Olympiad) and International Research Contest “Junior-2007” and were awarded with prizes and diplomas.

On March 26-28, 2007, the members of “Vesnyanka” eco-group spoke in support of their research papers and got diplomas and prizes at the 6<sup>th</sup> ecological school-seminar “Man and biosphere” in Vladivostok. Mrs.Akatkina, the teacher, was awarded with a Certificate of Merit for good training of



© Phoenix Fund

**“Amur tiger” eco-lesson**

her pupils. Ms.Tyurenkova, member of “Ship” youth television and newspaper club, became a winner in the category “Propaganda of ecological knowledge” at that school-seminar in Vladivostok.

In April the teacher ran five ecological lessons for 94 children and three excursions for 69 pupils. During the whole month a teacher conducted regular lessons for “Vesnyanka” and “Robinsons” teams of “Pervotsvet” club.

In May the teacher gave seven eco-lessons for 291 children and organized an ecological conference titled “Live, the planet!” with 50 active participants. On May 03 and 24, the



teacher conducted a lesson “Visit to Amur tiger” for small children of “Teremok” and “Rodnichok” kindergartens. The teenagers of “Robinsons” ecological team assisted the teacher by acting in tiger costumes. The younger children “went by train” from one station to another and the “tigers” asked them questions about tiger, its characteristics, habitat and prey base. The children enjoyed the “Protection” station most of all because they could put on a tiger skin and fit together the pieces of a “tiger portrait” puzzle. At the end of the traveling the children met a “tiger cub” and told him about their exciting adventures.



© Phoenix Fund

“Visit to Amur tiger” lesson

In June the educator conducted six eco-lessons for 131 pupils and six excursions for 131 pupils. On June 04, thirty-nine children from school summer camp “Red carnation” from a secondary school of Luchegorsk town came to an ecological lesson “Far Eastern leopard” and “Korean pine is a tree of life”. The aim of it was to acquaint children with this predator and to pay their attention to its habits, way of life and the problem of conservation. Traditionally the lesson was held in a form of a slide presentation that club members from “Vesnyanka” team prepared and presented. In accessible from they spoke on leopard habitat and peculiarities. They got to know what it eats, where it lives and how brings up its cubs. Children were surprised to learn about leopard’s forces when it drags its prey up a tree. After watching slides pupils answered quiz questions on leopard.

On June 25, the teacher delivered a lesson “the Ussuri taiga is home for Amur tiger” for 52 children of the school summer camp in Luchegorsk town. They watched a cartoon “Tiger cub on a sunflower”. It is noteworthy that junior pupils know pretty much about tigers, especially that “ they are few”, “one must protect them” and “they are good for people”. After watching a film the children formulated themselves what was home for Amur tigers and discussed the contents with the educator; she talked about treasures of the Ussuri taiga and that all is interrelated in nature.

For the reported period over 1,171 schoolchildren visited the eco-centre and attended 50 eco-classes.

### Children’s art contest devoted to tigers

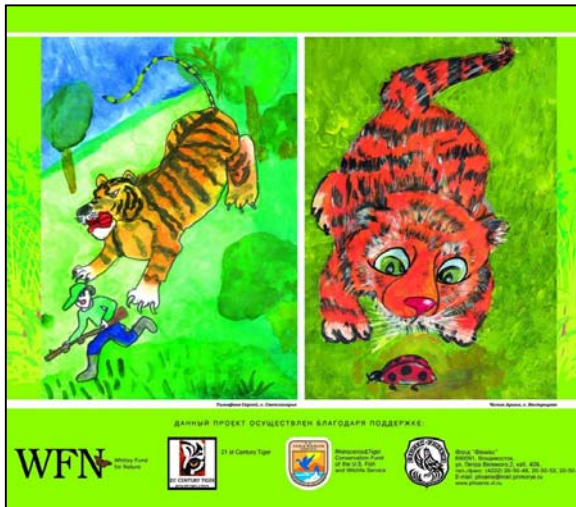
Art contest devoted to Amur tiger and its conservation was carried out at the target schools in winter 2007 in Northern Primorye. Children were asked to paint life of a tiger, its prey base, and habitat. Phoenix staff received 214 tiger paintings from Terneisky, Krasnoarmeisky, Lazovsky, Partizansky and Pozharsky districts of Primorye and chose 16 best tiger paintings for the calendar.



“Amur Tiger” by Anna Chichik



Design and publication of the calendar with children's paintings of tiger



© Phoenix Fund  
Back cover of the calendar

In January 2007, the Phoenix Fund announced a children's art contest devoted to Amur tiger and its conservation at target schools of Northern Primorye. As a result, Phoenix received 214 tiger paintings from Terneisky, Krasnoarmeisky, Lazovsky, Partizansky and Pozharsky districts. It was very hard to choose the best works. Though Phoenix chose 16 paintings for the calendar. The calendar (1,500 copies) was published in April 2007. It contains tiger paintings by schoolchildren and information on Amur tiger, threats to survival and conservation efforts. The Phoenix Fund will distribute the calendars among schools and eco-centres of Primorye and use the calendars as memorable prizes for young activists and winners of ecological contests.

Journalists' Award



Symbol of Journalists' Award

In 2006, the Phoenix Fund and WWF-Russia announced the Journalist Awards in order to attract more attention to Amur tiger conservation. As a result, the journalists covered this conservation issue broadly and attracted local people's attention to problems Amur tiger faces nowadays. Incidentally, numerous human-tiger conflict cases occurred in autumn 2006 – winter 2007. The cases were covered broadly to raise people's awareness about the state of Amur tiger population, its habitat and prey, to teach people how to behave in the forest to prevent tiger attacks, etc. Phoenix, together with other local environmental NGOs, evaluated the articles and news stories and organized the award ceremony on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007. A special award for winners, a cut-glass ginseng, was designed and produced. As a result, thirty-three journalists and twenty-two mass media agencies of Primorsky and Khabarovsk



© Phoenix Fund  
Award ceremony

krais, Amurskoy and Jewish Autonomous oblasts took part into the contest. The Jury reviewed 42 TV features and radio-materials and 84 articles in newspapers and magazines. The best articles and TV features on Amur tiger conservation were awarded with memorable prizes.

Tiger Day Festival

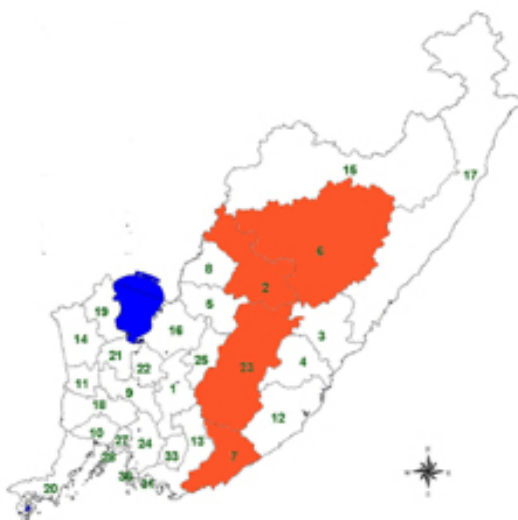
In January 2007 the Phoenix Fund started preparations for Tiger Day Festival in Primorye that is to take place in September



–October 2007. A Tiger Day Steering Committee was established to help develop a holiday statute, inform all school authorities about the terms of participation in Tiger Day celebration, organize preliminary contests and choose the winners, etc. The Committee members are representatives of the local and international non-governmental conservation organizations such as Phoenix, WWF-Russia, and Far Eastern fund of culture support and development of educational and social programs «AzArt», active schoolteachers and volunteers. For the reported period the Committee held three meetings resulted in the developed holiday statute and approved holiday program. All school authorities in Primorye announced various tiger-oriented contests at schools. The schoolchildren started preparing costumes, posters, mottos, as well as decorations of the school columns for the Tiger Day procession. The Tiger Day Steering Committee had a meeting with the Head of Culture and Education Department of Vladivostok administration and discussed the date for the holiday celebration. This year Tiger Day in Vladivostok is to be celebrated on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**2.2. Anti-poaching activities**

Support for Western wildlife managers' team



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Area in red colour is patrolled by the Western wildlife managers' team

The Wildlife managers' team operates in Krasnoarmeisky district, the North of Primorye, still rich in wildlife and cedar forests. Recently, the area has become a hotbed for setting up logging practices and



trade due to its proximity to the Chinese border. Besides, the team conducts joint patrols with police officers and public volunteers along the borders of Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge. Numerical strenght is not strictly fixed. Team leader is Alexander Samoilenko, senior state officer of Hunting Management Department of Rosselkhoznadzor (Primorsky Department of Federal Service for Veterinarian and Vegetation Sanitary Supervision).

From January 01 to June 30 the team led regular many days patrols in Dalnerechensky, Krasnoarmeisky and Pozharsky districts.

On January 28, 2007 while patrolling Dalnerechensky district near Lobanovka village, the team stopped two trucks loaded with oak logs. The vehicles' drivers showed felling tickets, official documents that give the right to cut a certain amount of wood on a certain area of forest. After comparing information written in the tickets and given by the drivers, the wildlife managers found out that the wood had been cut illegally because the felling had been carried out in unauthorized area. The wildlife managers confiscated the wood and initiated criminal proceedings on the case.

On January 30, the team patrolled hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district 14 km far from Zimniki village and found a 16-gauge IZH-18 rifle hidden in a garret of a winter cabin. The wildlife managers also





managed to arrest Mr. Davydov, local of Rakitnoye village, who attempted a suicide with his knife during the arrest. He turned out to be a fugitive criminal.

On February 04, near the Lesovoy stream the team arrested two locals of Dalnerechensk town for illegal woodcutting. The violators appeared to be policemen. They had rifles, but no permits to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report, confiscated GAZ-66 truck with oak wood, chainsaw and two rifles, initiated criminal proceedings and brought administrative action against the violators. Later on, the team stopped a truck loaded with oak and ash wood. The driver did not have any permit. A report was drawn up on illegal logging and criminal proceedings were initiated.

On February 24, a local of Ariadnoye village was arrested for felling 25 Korean pines in the forest close to the village. The wildlife managers drew up a report, confiscated a chainsaw and a tractor DT-75, and initiated criminal proceedings. On February 25, the team patrolled hunting grounds 15 km far from Lubimovka village and stopped a Kamaz truck loaded with 20 logs of precious wood (ash, elm and Manchurian walnut). The driver did not have permits. The driver and the truck were accompanied to the police station of Rakitnoye village for further investigation. Criminal proceedings were initiated.

On February 28, the team arrested three men for illegal logging in water protection zone of Malinovka village. The wildlife managers drew up a report on the fact that the loggers had violated wildlife habitat protection regulations, and made each violator pay a fine.

On March 15, the team patrolled Krasnoarmeisky district and arrested Mr. Egorov for transporting a 7.62-gauge carbine "Tiger" during closed hunting season. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations and imposed a fine on the violator.

On March 22, the team returned in Dalnerechensky district and arrested a local

of Solovievka village for illegal hunting with his 7.62-gauge carbine during closed hunting season. The violator was made to pay a fine.

On March 23, while patrolling in Krasnoarmeisky district near Gogolevka village, the wildlife managers found five heads of roe deer, entrails and a shoulder blade. The wildlife managers followed the tracks left by two cross-country vehicles and found five roe deer skins and cartridge cases. Later, the team members found two cross-country vehicles in Dalnerechensk town at one of maintenance stations. The vehicles were seized and criminal proceedings were initiated according to Article 258 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.



© Phoenix Fund  
Wildlife managers' team checks hunters

On April 04, the team patrolled the hunting grounds of Khorolsky hunting and fishing society and arrested Mr. Dotsenko for illegal hunting with a 16-gauge IZH-58 rifle and 13 cartridges. The man did not have gun license or permit to hunt. The wildlife managers confiscated the rifle and handed it over to Khorolsky police department, and imposed a fine on the violator. On the same day two locals of Khorol village were arrested in the hunting grounds of Khorolsky hunting and fishing society for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. The violators paid a fine.

On April 05, the wildlife managers patrolled hunting grounds in Krasnoarmeisky district near Limonniki village and arrested Mr.



Pilipchuk, owner of Limonniki Ltd., with a rifle and meat of roe deer killed during closed hunting season. The violator paid a fine for violations of hunting regulations. Several hours later the team found meat of two poached red deer 8 meters far from a logging camp. There was a local of Boguslavets village inside who worked as a security guard at Limonniki Ltd. A report was drawn up on administrative violation. On the same day, 200 meters far from Limonniki village the team members found a 20-gauge Izh-18 gun hidden in the snow. The wildlife managers initiated an administrative investigation.

On April 06, at 3 p.m. while patrolling hunting grounds in Khankaisky district, the team arrested a group of four men on the bank of the Melgunovka river. The arrested people turned out to have come from Sakhalin island. The violators had rifles, but no permits to hunt. Then, three men were arrested for unauthorized logging near Vostok village. The wildlife managers drew up a report on the fact that Mr. Naumov, Mr. Vasiliev and Mr. Zubal had violated wildlife habitat protection regulations, and made each violator pay a fine. At 5 p.m. the team arrested more three hunters from Khabarovsk city for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. The wildlife managers drew up reports and imposed a fine on each violator.



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Illegal logging storage yard

On April 07, the team found red deer meat at log stockyard 70 kilometers from Glubinnoye village. The wildlife managers brought administrative action against Mr. Syromolot. On the same day, the team

arrested Mr. Sedyakin for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. Hunting on thin crust of ice over snow and using a dog, the violator had killed a roe deer. The wildlife managers drew up a report and imposed a fine in him.

On April 13, while patrolling hunting grounds of Khorolsky hunting and fishing society, the team arrested two men for illegal presence with rifles in protection zone of state nature reserve at 8 p.m. The violators paid a fine.



© Phoenix Fund  
Confiscated roe deer heads

On April 14, Mr. Lesovoy was arrested for illegal hunting. The violator had poached a duck. The wildlife managers drew up a report and imposed a fine on him. Later on, the team arrested a local of Kamen-Rybolov town for illegal hunting near the Melgunovka river. The violator did not have a gun license and a permit to hunt. On the same day the wildlife managers arrested a man with fishing nets near Khanka lake and imposed a fine on him for violations of fishing regulations.

On April 15, the wildlife managers arrested Mr. Yatsenko with a 12-gauge Toz-34 EP rifle for hunting waterfowl in hunting grounds of Ivanovsky hunting and fishing society without permits.

On May 06, the team worked in the vicinity of Glubinnoye village in Krasnoarmeisky district and stopped a man who roamed with a gun in hunting grounds during closed hunting period. He paid a fine.



On May 07, the officers detained Mr. Besedin who fished with nets during spawning season, which is illegal. The nets were destroyed and a report drawn up against the violator.

On May 08, by the Bezimyanny spring in Krasnoarmeisky district the rangers imposed a fine on a man who cut trees illegally. The same day they made up an administrative report on a man who killed three lenok fishes with a harpoon during spawning season. He paid a fine and compensated damages.

On May 10, the patrolmen went down the Bikin river in Pozharsky district. In the neighborhood of Krasny Yar village they stopped Mr. Saronov who fished with nets during spawning season. They confiscated the nets and made up a report on the man.



© Phoenix Fund  
Confiscated snow mobiles

On May 11, in the same area in a hunting hut the team detained a Vladivostok resident for being armed during closed hunting season. He had to pay a fine.

On May 12, while descending the Bikin river close to the Okhotnichy spring the rangers found a shotgun and started investigation. They identified the owner – Mr. Titov, resident of Dalnerechensk town.

On June 14, on a patrol in the hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district 40 km far from Ariadnoye village near a camp where several people temporarily live the officers revealed rather a large lot of arms: a man-made rifled gun, two smoothbore guns, a stock for a smoothbore gun and “Kenwood” radio set. They handed the things to a police station of Dalnerechensky district, identified an owner and initiated a criminal procedure against him.

On June 22, the team followed the tracks of a heavy truck and discovered at 10 km from Lyubitovka village an illegal logging site with a storehouse of Korean pines and nut wood in the amount of 24 assortments. The officers forwarded a report to Dalnerechensky district police station where they opened a criminal case.

On June 24, not far from the previous illegal logging site the rangers found another one, in the flood of Lyubitovka village. They saw 22 fallen and cut Korean pine and ash trees, passed them to a district police station and made up documents for starting a criminal investigation.

On June 28, the wildlife officers headed on a patrol around Dalnerechensky district and 20 km far from Ariadnoye village they took notice of unwarranted logging site with oak and ash trees cut and decked in the forest.

Following the tracks they discovered a tractor DT-35 and a portacabin. Inside were some lumbermen who explained that Mr. Kalinovsky, villager from Malinovka, had hired them. 17 full-length logs were forwarded to Dalnerechensky district police station. Criminal case was instituted on the fact. The same day the team discovered a hidden in the forest truck DT-75. The rangers drove it to Dalnerechensky district police station. The police identified the owner of the vehicle and established that it had made substantial harm to nature (destruction of undergrowth). The violator compensated damages.

The team served as witnesses in court hearings of the criminal case on theft of timber from Dalnerechensky forestry that



took place on February 04, 2007. Mr. Dubitsky, the accused, got a conditional sentence of a year with a probation period of 6 months. He also has to pay \$6,990 to the state.

### **III. Measurable objectives delivered**

For the reported period, the project has successfully delivered the following measurable objectives:

- 2,031 children received 86 lessons on wildlife and the natural environment;
- 1,500 copies of the calendar with children's tiger paintings were published and are being distributed;
- 84 articles and 42 TV features and radio-materials on Amur tiger conservation took part in journalists' contest and the best ones were awarded with prizes;
- 19 many days patrols were conducted;
- 44 reports on violations of hunting regulations were drawn up;
- Fines in the total amount of 38,500 roubles (\$ 1,509) were imposed and paid;
- Damage brought to nature by violators was estimated to 66,800 roubles (\$2,619). The sum was paid in full;
- 6 shotguns were confiscated;
- 15 illegally killed ungulates and their derivatives were withdrawn;
- 13 criminal proceedings initiated.



## ATTACHMENT

**Quantitative results of Western team for the first six months 2007**

Violations registered	44
Violators detained	41
Among them:	
- Hunters with licenses	2
- Hunters without licenses	31
- Members of hunting societies	8
Illegal guns withdrawn	6
Out of them rifled	1
Poached ungulate animals	18 (7 musk deer, 5 red deer, 2 wild boar, 1 roe deer)
Poached fir animals	2
Poached feather game	1
Criminal proceedings initiated	13
Violators already convicted	2