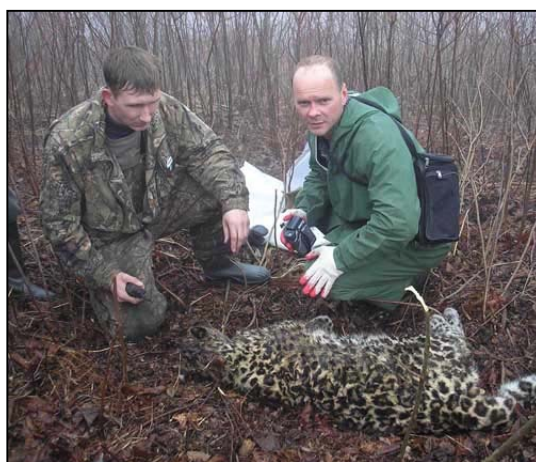




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# Phoenix Fund

Conservation projects in Primorye,  
Russian Far East – 2007  
January 01 – December 01, 2007



## Phoenix Fund

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## **Acknowledgement**

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## 1. Introduction

The rich biodiversity of south of the Russian Far East is reflected in its number of protected areas and rare and endangered species. One of the endangered animals that is found today only in Southwest Primorsky krai is the Amur, or Far Eastern leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) leopard. With a total population of 25-34 individuals (census 2007), the Amur leopard is one of the most -if not *the* most- endangered large felid on the earth. Primorye in the south of the Russian Far East also represents the only area in the world where the Amur/ Siberian tiger (*Panthera tigris altaica*) still exists in the wild. The results of Tiger Count 2005 indicate that tiger numbers have been stable in Russia over the last 10 years (the 1996 count estimated the population at 415-472 tigers and the 2005 count at 428-502). But the Amur tiger as well as Amur leopard populations are still vulnerable due to poaching, habitat destruction, prey depletion and many other factors.

Since the year of its establishment in 1998, Phoenix Fund has been carrying out nature conservation projects in the south of the Russian Far East and grew into one of the leading NGOs in Primorye. The projects are aimed at conserving endangered wildlife of the region and wild habitats through combination of anti-poaching, environmental education and community outreach in close collaboration with local NGOs, authorities, scientists, mass media, and local people.

Phoenix Fund is a member of the Amur Leopard and Tiger Alliance (ALTA). We, together with Wildlife Conservation Society, Zoological Society of London, are the main implementing organizations of ALTA. WCS and ZSL implement ecological research, wildlife health projects, population monitoring and other scientific work in the Amur leopard's range. Phoenix is engaged in anti-poaching and environmental education and outreach projects. As a result, ALTA covers a full spectrum of conservation activities and

addresses all main threats to the survival of the Amur leopard and tiger.

The year 2007 was rich in events to think about and to work on. In 2007 four tiger skins, over 350 tiger bones, eight tiger paws, 783 bear paws, 531 saiga antelope horns were confiscated; two adult tigers and two cubs were killed or found dead, one female leopard was found killed in April 2007 and four tiger cubs were found exhausted and underwent rehabilitation to be sent to zoos as they were unable to survive in the wild on their own; 47 conflict tiger cases were resolved during the year. The confiscated wildlife products must have been on their way to China, as there is no demand/use for them inside Russia. The large number of confiscated bear paws shows that legal bear farming and trade in China has not reduced poaching of bears in Russia and illegal export to China. It proves our opinion that tiger farming will not reduce tiger poaching.

The Amur leopard/tiger conservation projects described in this report are implemented in Primorye and south of Khabarovsky krai, the Russian Far East. We continue to focus on law enforcement as the short-term key to survival of the species, but recognize that it is education of the community that will ensure the survival of the tiger and leopard in the long-term. Many of the damaging human activities often result from ecological ignorance of the local people. Great part of people are still unaware of the threats to tigers and leopards and other ecological problems of the region or choose not to think about that.

We strongly believe that combined efforts of the environmental law enforcement teams and continuous education and outreach will ensure protection of big wild cats, their habitat and prey. We present here for your consideration our final report on our activities in 2007.

In this report we describe the main conservation activities by Phoenix Fund related to the Amur tiger/ leopard and their range:

1. Anti-poaching;
2. Conflict tiger cases resolution;
3. Ecological Education;
4. Fire-fighting;
5. Livestock kills compensation payments.

In addition to the afore-mentioned spheres, in 2006 we launched a new project – public monitoring of large oil, gas and other large-scale industrial initiatives with a view to make the enterprises adhere to environment-friendly policy, prevent negative ecological effects from happening or decrease them. Currently we keep an attentive eye on proceedings with an oil terminal construction at Kozmino Bay, south Primorye. For this, we conduct regular trips to the site, involve young ecologists from an adjacent town to take water and soil samples, and cooperate with scientists.

## 2. Anti-poaching

Poaching of leopards and tigers, though it seems to have decreased in comparison with 90<sup>th</sup> of the last century, is still a serious threat. Poaching of prey base (ungulates) thus far is the greatest problem. A young female Amur leopard was found dead on 22 April 2007 in the central part of the Amur leopard's range in SW Primorye in Russia near the village Bamburovo. In 2007, two adult tigers and two cubs were killed or found dead, and four tiger cubs were found exhausted in the wild. All these sad examples are caused by illegal hunting. Poachers include relatively rich Russians (both locals and people from nearby cities) as well as poor local villagers.

The main goal of our anti-poaching activities is to reduce poaching of Amur tigers and leopards and their prey on protected areas, hunting leases and other lands important for these big cats. However, the anti-poaching teams act against all forms of poaching as well as against illegal trade in animal parts and medicinal plants such as ginseng. Hence, our teams help to protect the whole terrestrial ecosystem.

In 2007, Phoenix Fund continued supporting:

- two anti-poaching teams that operate in the Amur leopard range (the Khasan team and the "Red Wolf" team);
- an anti-poaching team that operates in the south of Khabarovsk Krai and the north of Primorye (the Khabarovsk team);
- an anti-poaching team that operates in Terneisky district (state wildlife managers' team);
- an anti-poaching team of Lazovsky nature reserve;
- a "Forest" team that operates in Northern Primorye;
- a public environmental investigation team that operates in Northern Primorye;
- an anti-poaching team of wildlife managers (Western wildlife managers' team) that operates in central and northern Primorye;
- a joint interdepartmental anti-poaching team, which consists of three wildlife managers, one public ranger, volunteers, and sometimes a police officer; they conduct regular patrols on the entire territory of Krasnoarmeysky district, Northern Primorye in tiger habitat

### 2.1. Khasan anti-poaching team

Since January 2007 the team staff has changed. The team consists of 5 members: a private citizen, two inspectors from the local Hunting Department, a dog handler and an Inspection Tiger officer. The team rangers operate mainly in the Khasan district in the central part of the Amur leopard range.





© Phoenix Fund

**The Khasan team**

Phoenix Fund has financed the Khasan team since it was established in 1998. It has developed into one of the most successful anti-poaching teams in this part of Russia. The team co-operates with local police, hunting lease staff, border guards and volunteers and often organizes joint patrols with them. The Khasan team is well equipped with a jeep, an old off-road army truck, stationary radio sets, "walkie-talkie" and hand-held GPS units. The team patrols in the forests and sets up roadblocks and searches cars. It has developed an extensive local information network that produces frequent useful tips about poaching and illegal trade activities. Two team members are authorized to carry weapons during patrols.

It is desirable to purchase a jeep in exchange of old UAZ vehicle and to replace the snowmobile with a new one because they go out often and it takes much time and money to repair them.

The team has been using two German shepherd dogs, which proved effective for tracing poachers.

In 2007 the Khasan team conducted 155 patrols, drew up 116 citations on violations of environmental legislation, confiscated 52 rifles, 6 traps, 28 snares, 53 fishing nets and much illegal prey (meat, fish, sea cucumbers). This year it was the first time when the team encountered a case of leopard poaching in

Barsovy wildlife refuge. However, we are not sure it was really poaching proper, as the hunter did not take the dead animal away. A criminal case was initiated and now it is under thorough investigation. The team members participated in 13 lectures for



© Nina Petrukhina

**Rangers examine a vehicle**

children at secondary schools. The team has shown good results for the reported period compared to results of the previous years. But taking into account good equipment of poachers and constant reorganization of environmental law enforcement agencies, the results can reduce.

## **2.2 Red wolf anti-poaching team**

Since January 2002 the Red Wolf anti-poaching team has been patrolling the perimeter and the core of the Borisovskoye Plateau refuge to reveal ecological violations. Borisovskoye Plateau wildlife refuge has always been considered one of the best remaining tracts of the leopard habitat.

Since April 2006 the team consisting of nine wildlife managers, together with public rangers and police officers, has been patrolling in Khasansky, Nadezhdinsky, Ussuriysky, and Oktyabrsky districts (see map in the attachment). They use a snow mobile, a Russian jeep and horses for transport.

In 2007, the rangers conducted 68 anti-poaching patrols, 85 violations of hunting regulations and reserved regime, extinguished two forest fires, initiated six criminal procedures. Confiscated prey was

significant: six deer, a raccoon dog, and pheasants. In addition, the team established feeding grounds and salt licks for ungulates.

### 2.3. Khabarovsk anti-poaching team

The team consists of three Inspection Tiger officers who have been working within the team for six years.

The team is sufficiently equipped though there is a need to purchase a new UAZ vehicle (a minibus) next year.

For the last several years Rosselkhoznadzor and Inspection Tiger agencies have undergone multiple changes in their structures, status and power. At present, the main objective of Inspection Tiger rangers is to conduct activities to conserve wildlife listed in the Red Book of Endangered Species of the Russian Federation.

For the reported period the team conducted 36 many-day patrols, filed 34 charges on violations of hunting regulations, revealed 19 violations of fishing regulations, illegal logging in large quantities, seized 22 illegal rifles, 7



© Inspection Tiger  
Khabarovsk team officer measures the diameter of felled logs

fishing nets and investigated 4 conflict tiger cases.

### 2.4. State wildlife managers' team

A four-man wildlife managers' team of Hunting Management Department conducts regular patrols in Terneisky district, northern Primorye. This biggest district of Primorye presents an important habitat for Amur tiger; its territory holds the largest nature reserve in the region. The team cooperates with other environmental law enforcement agencies, such as Federal Service for Veterinarian and Vegetation Sanitary Supervision, Federal Service for Use of Natural Resources, and the Police. In 2007 the team conducted 12 many-day patrols, revealed 39 violations of hunting regulations, 5 violations of fishing regulations, seized 10 illegal rifles, 3 poached roe deer and a red deer.



© Lazovsky nature reserve  
Confiscation of fishing net

### 2.5. Anti-poaching team of Lazovsky nature reserve

Located in the in the south-east of Primorsky region, Lazovsky nature reserve is the second biggest one in the region (121,000 ha). Nowadays there are about 10-12 resident or constantly visiting tigers. Since 1995, the Lazovsky nature reserve is considered one of the best in Russia on the basis of their protection, education and outreach activities.

Being a state organization, the reserve does not get sufficient federal funding for its guard.



Since 2005 the Phoenix Fund has been raising funds to support anti-poaching activities of one of the Lazovsky nature reserve teams.

From January 01 to December 01, 2007 the team revealed 14 hunting violations on the reserved territory, 57 cases of illegal intrusion into the reserve, and confiscated seven illegal rifles. Among withdrawn prey there was a red



© Phoenix Fund  
Rangers check hunting permits

deer, a Himalayan bear. Several ginseng diggers were caught. Its roots have strong healing properties.

## 2.6. Forest team

The Forest team of the Federal Nature Use Service is responsible for protection of the forest resources; it is also involved in anti-poaching patrols in northern Primorye.

For the reported period the team conducted over 57 patrols to reveal and investigate violations of logging regulations as well as violations of hunting regulations. In 2007, logging was taken under strict administrative control. For the reported period the team revealed 157 violations of timber transportation (the drivers had no license by them), 68 unwarranted logging cases, withdrew 10 tractors and confiscated about 2,500 m<sup>3</sup> of illegal wood (oak, ash-tree, nut-

tree, Amur cork tree, Korean pine, spruce and linden).

The team paid special attention to patrolling along the boundaries and within the newly established "Udege Legend" national park where the Udege people, Primorye's aborigines, lead their traditional way of life. Numerous cases of illegal unauthorized woodcutting and hunting were registered there.

## 2.7. Public environmental investigation team

A two-men public environmental investigation team was established in March 2001 to enhance the protection work of the state agencies. The team works mainly in Northern Primorye, important tiger habitat, together with police officers, wildlife managers and fishing inspectors

For the reported period the team conducted 38 patrols in Pozharsky, Krasnoarmeisky and Dalnerechensky districts of Primorye, drew up 41 reports on violations of hunting regulations and passed them to Hunting Department, confiscated 18 illegal rifles and 103 cartridges, 22 traps and other poaching devices and poached wildlife (more than 30 squirrels, hazel grouse, deer), initiated one criminal procedure.



© Phoenix Fund  
Confiscated roe deer heads

## 2.8. Western wildlife managers' team



The Western wildlife managers' team operates in Krasnoarmeisky district, the North of Primorye, still rich in wildlife and cedar forests. Team leader is Alexander Samoilenko, senior state officer of Hunting Management Department of Rosselkhoz nadzor (Primorsky Department of Federal Service for Veterinarian and Vegetation Sanitary Supervision).

From January 01 to December 01 the team led regular many days patrols in Dalnerechensky, Krasnoarmeisky and Pozharsky districts. For the reported period the team conducted 26 many days patrols, drew up 63 reports on violations of hunting regulations, imposed fines in the total amount of 38,500 roubles (\$ 1,509), confiscated 19 shotguns, withdrew 2 illegally killed ungulates and their derivatives, and initiated 15 criminal proceedings. They also drew citations on 7 cases of illegal logging. Damage brought to nature by violators was estimated to 66,800 roubles (\$2,619). The sum was paid in full.

### 2.9. Joint interdepartmental anti-poaching team



© Phoenix Fund  
Apprehended rifles and hazel grouses

The joint interdepartmental anti-poaching team consists of three wildlife managers, one public ranger, volunteers, and sometimes a police officer; they conduct regular patrols on the entire territory of Krasnoarmeisky district,

Northern Primorye in tiger habitat. For the reported period the joint anti-poaching team revealed 97 violations of hunting regulations, confiscated 26 illegal rifles, registered 7 illegal logging cases. Among confiscated illegal bag there are: red deer, rue deer, red deer, badger, raccoon dog, squirrels, hazel grouses, minks.



© Phoenix Fund  
Conflict Tiger team scare a tiger away  
with nvrotechnics

### 3. Conflict tiger cases resolution

In order to systemise the work on preventing and resolving human-tiger conflict situations, a specialised Emergency Response team was established in 1999 in Primorsky krai within Inspection Tiger. The rangers explain to people the reasons of the past conflict situations with tigers and tell them about possible ways of how to prevent and gradually decrease the number of such situations in the future. Depending of the situation, the officers scare a tiger off from the place of incident; trap and immobilise it for examination and putting either into captivity or reintroduction into the wild (remote areas with no access to humans). Very rarely they have to shoot off a pathologically aggressive tiger or resort to euthanasia.

Winter 2006 – 2007 in the Russian Far East was characterized by a large number of lonely tiger cubs found in taiga and a comparatively numerous cases of conflicts between tigers and people. There may be

different reasons for this: lack of ungulates in the area due to over-hunting by people, weakness of certain tiger individuals, who are



© Phoenix Fund  
Little Lapka (Little Paw) tigress found in the forest with its paw trapped

unable to provide themselves with food, and heavy snowfalls.

For the reported period 47 conflict tiger cases were registered in Primorsky and Khabarovsk krais. Four tiger cubs were found emaciated in the forest. They were freezing and unable to move. One of the little tigresses had her paw trapped and seriously wounded. Veterinarians had to remove two fingers from her paw. After rehabilitation period they were sent to Russian zoos, one cub was sent abroad. It is a pity but there was no way to release them into the wild: the cubs were too small when left orphaned and could not learn how to hunt themselves. Snowy winter aggravated the situation. Phoenix together with its partners came up with the idea of a specialized rehabilitation centre for such cubs and ill tigers on the basis of the already existing centre for bears near Khabarovsk. Hopefully the authorities will approve of it in the next few years.

#### 4. Education

The main goals of our education and communication efforts in Primorsky krai are to

reduce poaching, habitat destruction and human-induced fires in the Amur leopard/tiger range. We focus our efforts on people that live, work or hunt in Primorye. Our main target groups are local villagers and especially schoolchildren, because it is easier to influence children than adults.

#### 4.1. Education activities

##### 4.1.1. Workshop for educators

On March 26-29, 2007 Phoenix Fund held a seminar "Conservation of biodiversity of Primorsky region" for teachers and tutors of the ecological centers who are engaged in ecological education and outreach in the region. All of 15 participants are already working or plan to start so within the framework of Phoenix's educational project. Eight administrative districts of the region were represented.

##### 4.1.2. Ecological education in Khasan district, Southwestern Primorye

In 2007 Natalia Drobysheva, a professional teacher with whom we have been working for many years, carried out 56 ecological lessons for 2,032 schoolchildren aged 7-17 in Khasansky district in SW Primorye, in Slavyanka town and nearby villages. During the lessons, issues related to the conservation of rare and endangered local species, such as leopards, tigers and Asiatic black bears, were discussed. While telling about the habitat of those animals, the teacher touched upon the subject of large-scale forest fires and illegal logging. Besides, for already 11 years Natalia runs "Rodnichok" youth eco-team of 10 teenagers, which gives theatre performances about Amur leopard in villages, frontier posts and "Leopard's Land" annual festival.





© Phoenix Fund  
Eco-lesson in Novopokrovka town

#### **4.1.3. Ecological education in Pozharsky district, Northern Primorye**

Since 2002, interactive classes have been held in local schools of Northern Primorye. Two experienced educators conduct regular classes devoted to Amur tiger and endangered wildlife of the region at local schools. It is imperative that these activities in local schools are continued and become sustainable. In addition, Phoenix continued supporting "Pervotsvet" (*Spring flower*) ecological centre in Luchegorsk city, Pozharsky district of Primorye. Children gain computer skills there, learn to make short TV programs/news on local ecological issues and write articles.

For the reported period over 1,300 schoolchildren 7-17 years old attended eco-classes and games in local schools, visited the eco-centre and attended slide presentations.

#### **4.1.4. Ecological education in Krasnoarmeisky district, Northern Primorye**

Two educators conduct ecological education and outreach program at local schools of Krasnoarmeisky district. The classes focus on fostering positive attitudes of children towards tigers, strengthening ecological knowledge

and raising awareness on threats to tiger and nature in general. In 2007, over 2,300 children attended 121 eco-classes and participated in various ecological actions.

In 2004, the Tiger eco-centre was created in Novopokrovka town, administrative and business centre of Krasnoarmeisky District in Northern Primorye. It has permanent and temporary exhibitions on tiger, its habitat and prey there. Local press is very interested in eco-centre's work and allotted a page to cover the centre's activities once in month. The eco-centre's work went at full drive this year: 176 events of different kind were organized and 3,797 children took part in them. Some of them are constant members of the club, others are just getting familiar with environmental issues. Students come there to ask for information for their research papers and school assignments. Biology teachers also come for consultations.



© Phoenix Fund  
Young ecologists plant Korean pine,  
May 2007

#### **4.1.5. Ecological education in Partizansky district, Southeastern Primorye**

"Rostok" (*Sprout*) eco-centre was founded in Partizansk town, Southern Primorye in 1994 with the main purpose of gathering the youth of Partizansky district to discuss local ecological issues and find solutions. Phoenix started its cooperation with Lubov Samchinskaya, the club's leader, in 2006.

Thus, "Rostok" expanded its educational programs by including lectures on Amur tiger and leopard conservation, and established close relations with other eco-centres of Primorye. The education program has been designed to make young people understand that without a reduction in deforestation,

- "Eco-system",
- "Forest habitats",
- "Biodiversity", and other.

The educators try to have many activities outdoors: monitoring of pollution at the seaside, cleaning a spring, etc.

poaching, forest fires, numerous endangered species may become extinct. 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.

Over the course of 2007 the educators successfully delivered 62 ecological lessons to more than 860 schoolchildren.



© Phoenix Fund  
Lesson on tiger in primary school

#### **4.1.7. Ecological education in Lazovsky district, Northern Primorye**

Since September 2006 Phoenix has been supporting eco-centre in Lazo town, Lazovsky district of Primorye. In 2007, over 1,720 children attended 142 lessons, lectures, played ecological games and visited exhibitions at eco-centre in Lazo town. The educator developed many lessons on the following themes:

- "Following tiger tracks",
- "Forest floors",
- "Phyto-race",
- "Conifers",
- "Tiger's home"

#### **4.1.8. Ecological education in Terneisky district, Northern Primorye**

The "Uragus" eco-centre in Terney conducts regular ecological education and outreach activities for children since 1970. Galina Maksimova, a devoted teacher, was glad to start cooperating with Phoenix on ecological education and outreach. She has been working on the subject before. The schoolchildren continued taking care of the dendrological garden / arboretum at the eco-centre. Together with the educator they planted new trees and shrubs and were taking care of the existing ones. The educator conducted excursions there. For the reported period the educator carried out 205 ecological lessons for over 2,000 children.

#### **4.1.9. Eco-centre in Kirovka town**

The educator started working on our ecological project this year. She has her own method of work: she involves students of a local vocational school to deliver lessons to junior schoolchildren. About 10 teenagers willingly elaborate and held lessons. Thus, we resolve both social (the town is rather poor with unfavorable environment, large number of problem families) and outreach questions.

During the year the educator developed and gave 16 ecological events (lessons, actions, games etc.) for students 17-19 years old. She also came up with an initiative to join to our supporters who celebrate Tiger Day. Thus, a new town holiday appeared in Kirovka this year. It already attracted much attention from villagers and was approved by local administration.





© Phoenix Fund  
Students of Kirovka vocational school held  
an ecological quiz for children

## **4.2. 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.

## **4.3. Educational materials**

### **4.3.1. Tiger booklet for children and calendar**

Phoenix published a booklet "Home of the Amur Tiger" for children. In an accessible form it touched upon the topics of the tiger, its biology, habitat, history and conservation. photographs and children's paintings of this The booklet will be distributed among the young people in the schools, libraries, summer camps all over the region.

In January 2007, the Phoenix Fund announced a children's art contest devoted to Amur tiger, and the best paintings were included into our annual tiger calendar for 2008. We distributed calendars among

schools and eco-centres of Primorye and use them as memorable prizes for young activists and winners of ecological contests.

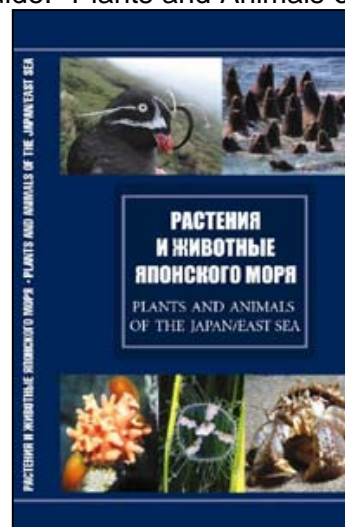


© Phoenix Fund  
December page of the calendar

## **4.3.2. Design and publication of "Plants and animals of the Japan/East Sea" field guide**

In 2007, Phoenix jointly with the Far Eastern National University (Vladivostok) released a Eastern National University (Vladivostok) released a field guide: "Plants and Animals of the Japan/East Sea".

The edition with a run of 4,000 copies comprises information in Russian and English on 405 species of the Russian part of the Japan/East Sea. Color photograph and a map of distribution



accompany each description. Written within everybody's grasp it will be of interest to tourists, students and all nature enthusiasts.

Thus, trilogy on wildlife of our part of the Russian Far East is complete: earlier Phoenix produced "Green Book of Sikhote-Alin" and "Fauna of the Ussuri taiga".

### 4.3.3. Translation and design of English version of Amur tiger Book for children.

Thanks to support from the Tamaki Foundation Phoenix and Wildlife Alliance produced an English electronic version of "Amur tiger" book that originally was designed for Russian children. Now English-speaking readers can enjoy it.

## 4.4. Ecological holidays and festivals

### 4.4.1. Tiger Day Festival

This year Tiger Day holiday in Primorye started with celebration in Novopokrovka, Kirovka and Luchegorsk towns on September 15. The eighth anniversary of the Tiger Day Festival in Vladivostok was celebrated on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As usual, the festival began with a carnival procession. The march included children and their parents, groups of schools and children's clubs, all in costumes of forest dwellers (animals, birds, insects, and plants). The carnival march was followed by various theatrical performances. The main idea of the carnival procession was as follows: Amur tiger invites tigers from other countries, such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma etc. to participate in the holiday celebration. Thus, many tigers from different countries, with national flags in their hands, marched with



© Phoenix Fund  
Tiger Day in Vladivostok 2007

citizens and guests. When a carnival



© Phoenix Fund  
Little tigress

procession reached the central square of the city, school, children's club or a group gave a

small performance and the Jury of holiday organisers chose the winner in "the best column" competition. Games and educational quizzes were an essential part of the event. The festival attracted people's attention to the most burning issues of wildlife conservation in the region, as well as giving them an opportunity to express their concern. Children were pleased to paint their face and body with yellow, orange and black colours. One of the most favourite contests was drawings on asphalt.

In addition to support from the international community, this year we have managed to attract local businesses, news agencies, and other small sponsors that provided support and prizes.

On September 23, the Tiger Day was also celebrated in the Far Eastern Zoological Garden in the city of Khabarovsk. The Tiger Day festival, the second in Terney town history, was organized on September 24, 2007. In October, the Tiger Day was celebrated in Partizansk and Lazo cities. In 2007, the range of Tiger Day holiday as well as number of participants has increased in comparison with the previous years. Such positive changes result from effective work of



our educators in seven districts of Primorye. We hope that thanks to such nature-oriented events the people will be proud of Amur tiger and unique nature of the Russian Far East and help conserve it for the future generations.

#### **4.4.2. Land of the Leopard” Festival**

In 2003, Phoenix Fund and the Far Eastern Branch of WWF-Russia initiated Leopard Land Festival. The main aim of the festival is to draw the attention of local people, to make them consider leopard the symbol of their region and be proud of it. On September 23, 2007 was the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leopard Land Festival. And this year it became international holiday, with Chinese schoolchildren arrived from Hunchung city. The other feature of the Festival-2007 is that it was celebrated not only in schools, but also in villages.



© Phoenix Fund  
Festive column marched along the main street of  
Slavyanka

#### **5. Fire-fighting**

Phoenix purchased a set of blast-engines for “Kedrovaya Pad” nature reserve, situated in Khasan, southwest of the region, part of Amur leopard habitat. It suffers much during fire dangerous seasons. Fires destroyed

great territories and there the reserve staff is poorly equipped with fire safety engineering.

#### **6. Compensation of livestock kills**

One reason why Amur leopards remained in Khasan while they disappeared elsewhere in the Russian Far East is probably the availability of several thousand deer at deer farms in this district. At the deer farms, sika deer are raised for their antlers. Domestic deer at the farms have become an important additional food source for Amur leopards and Siberian tigers, because sufficient natural prey is not always available. Food shortage can occur due various factors, including poaching and exceptional snowfall. Another development that reduced natural prey availability is that winter migration of roe deer from neighboring China to Russia has stopped, mainly due to a collapse of the roe deer population in China.



© Phoenix Fund  
Ranger examined a deer killed by leopard

In the summer of 1999 a compensation project was started with a hope that the compensation payments would discourage farmers and villagers from taking revenge on predators and contribute to their peaceful coexistence. The Phoenix Fund and the Khasan anti-poaching team implement the compensation scheme; a team member inspects each reported livestock kill before Phoenix pays the compensation. The presence of leopards and tigers is

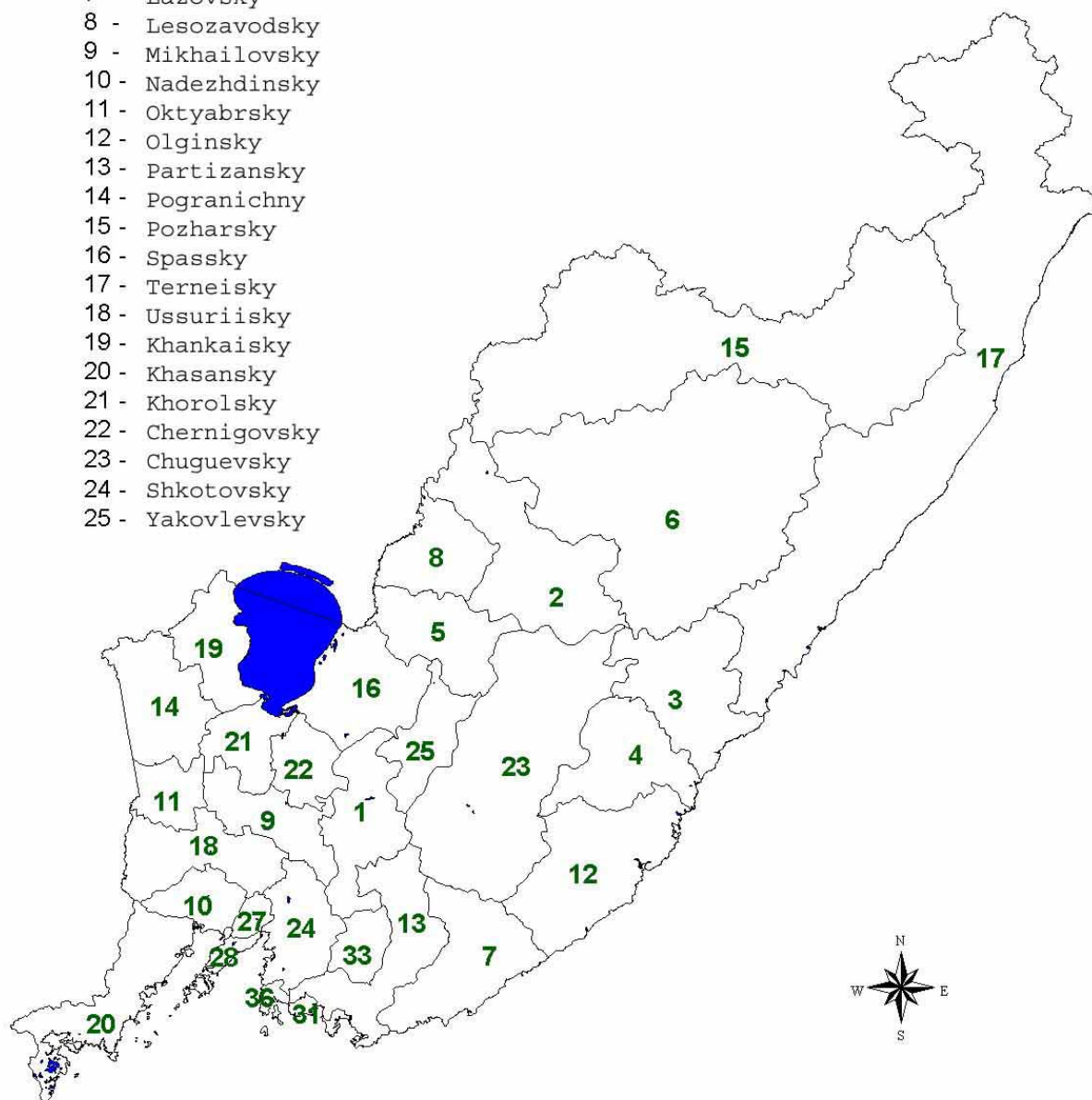
established by tracing tracks in snow or mud, and character of wound on the prey.

In 2007 three depredation cases were registered and compensations totaling \$2,005 were paid to the farm owners, for three deer.



Primorsky krai  
Administrative districts

- 1 - Anuchinsky
- 27 - Artyom City
- 36 - Bolshoy Kamen City
- 28 - Vladivostok City
- 31 - Nakhodka City
- 33 - Partizansk City
- 3 - Dalnegorsky
- 2 - Dalnerechensky
- 4 - Kavalеровsky
- 5 - Kirovsky
- 6 - Krasnoarmeisky
- 7 - Lazovsky
- 8 - Lesozavodsky
- 9 - Mikhailovsky
- 10 - Nadezhdinsky
- 11 - Oktyabrsky
- 12 - Olginsky
- 13 - Partizansky
- 14 - Pogranichny
- 15 - Pozharsky
- 16 - Spassky
- 17 - Terneisky
- 18 - Ussuriysky
- 19 - Khankaisky
- 20 - Khasansky
- 21 - Khorolsky
- 22 - Chernigovsky
- 23 - Chuguevsky
- 24 - Shkotovsky
- 25 - Yakovlevsky



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