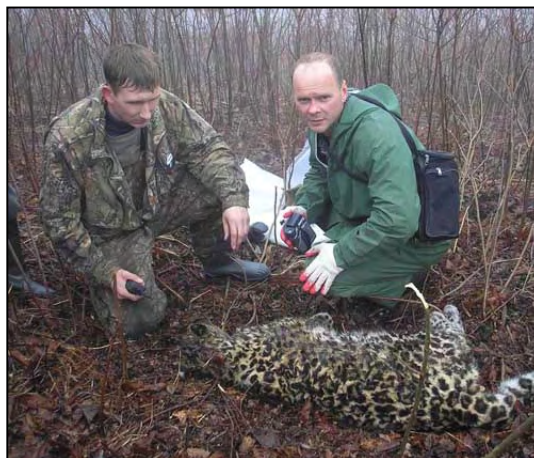




21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future



Phoenix Fund 2007 Report on Conservation Projects in Primorye, Russian Far East



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Acknowledgement

Phoenix Fund expresses our warm thanks to Tiger Island/Dreamworld and 21Century Tiger for continued financial support and making the conservation and environmental protection activities listed in this report more effective and efficient.

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1. Introduction

The rich biodiversity of the Southern Russian Far East is reflected in its number of protected areas and rare and endangered species. One of the endangered animals found only in Southwest Primorsky Krai is the Amur leopard, or Far Eastern leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*). With a total population of 25-34 individuals (2007), the Amur leopard is one of the most – if *the most* – endangered large cats on Earth. Primorye 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 ten 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 other factors.

Since the year of its establishment in 1998, Phoenix Fund has been carrying out nature conservation projects in the Southern Russian Far East. With the help of international and Russian donors and supporters, Phoenix has grown into one of the leading NGOs in Primorye. Its projects are aimed at conserving endangered wildlife and wild habitats of the region through the 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 founding member of the Amur Leopard and Tiger Alliance (ALTA). We, together with Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London, are ALTA's main implementing organizations. 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 the main threats to the survival of the Amur leopard and tiger.

The year 2007 was rich in noteworthy events and activities. We experienced great successes, and experienced sobering moments that underscore the persistent threats to the Russian Far East's fragile ecosystem and wildlife. Poaching and trafficking are particular ongoing concerns. For example, in 2007 four tiger skins, over 350 tiger bones, eight tiger paws, 783 bear paws, and 531 saiga antelope horns were confiscated from poachers or traffickers. 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.

We believe the confiscated wildlife products were on their way to China, as there is no demand 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, just as bear farming has not reduced bear poaching or trafficking. On the positive side, 47 conflict tiger cases were resolved during the year.

The Amur leopard/tiger conservation projects described in this report are implemented in Primorye and Southern Khabarovsk Krai. We continue to focus on law enforcement as the short-term key to survival of these species, but recognize that only education of the community will ensure the survival of the tiger and leopard in the long-term. Many damaging human activities result from ecological ignorance of local people, who are generally 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 for your consideration a final report on our 2007 activities.

This year we enhanced our anti-poaching activities, which was not an easy thing to do taking into account all reorganization processes and continuing transmission of powers from federal level to regional one. We had to be flexible and adjust quickly to changing circumstances. We have also expanded our educational and outreach project and managed to get more cooperative and win more enthusiastic supporters among educators. Though the situation with Amur tigers and leopards remain alarming, certain progress began to show concerning the latter species. A number of research institutions, foundations and NGOs (Zoological Society of London, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF, Phoenix and many others) are now elaborating a joint program for reintroduction of the second wild leopard population in Lazovsky district (southeast Primorye) from captive-bred animals and one or to wild individuals removed from the first one. It is a very long-time project. In case Russian central authorities approve of the program, in a decade we may be lucky to see a first leopard released into the wild. Phoenix is partly responsible for educational and outreach constituent of the program.

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

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

In addition to the aforementioned spheres, in 2006 we launched a new project – public monitoring of large oil, gas and other industrial initiatives, with the goal of making these enterprises adhere to environment-friendly policies, and preventing or decreasing adverse ecological effects.

Currently we keep an attentive eye on the construction of an oil terminal 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 1990s, 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 April 22, 2007 in the central part of the leopard's range in Southwest Primorye, near the village of Bamburovo. In 2007, two adult tigers and two cubs were killed or found dead, and four tiger cubs were found exhausted in the wild. On December 17, two more tiger cubs were found: one dead, the other died soon of exhaustion. Most probably the tigress was killed. 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 within 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 Southern Khabarovsky Krai and Northern Primorye (the Khabarovsky 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, consisting of three wildlife managers, one public ranger, volunteers, and sometimes a police officer. This team conduct regular patrols throughout the tiger habitat in the entire territory of Krasnoarmeisky district, Northern Primorye.



© Phoenix Fund
The Khasan team

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 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 cooperates 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 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 network of informers that produces frequent useful tips about poaching and illegal trade activities. Two team members are authorized to carry weapons during patrols.

Because the team spends most of its time in the field, they intend to purchase a Jeep or off-road vehicle in exchange of its old UAZ vehicle, and to replace the snowmobile with a new one. The current vehicles require regular repairs and expensive maintenance.

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 was the first time that the team encountered a case of leopard poaching in Barsovy wildlife refuge. However, we are not sure it was really poaching, 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 also in 13 lectures for children at secondary schools. The team has shown good results for the reported period compared to results of the previous years. But the results can also take into account the good equipment of poachers and constant reorganization of environmental law enforcement agencies, which reduces the team's overall effectiveness.

2.2 Red wolf anti-poaching team

Since January 2002, the Red Wolf anti-poaching team has been patrolling the perimeter and core of the Borisovskoye Plateau Wildlife Refuge to uncover and prevent violations of nature protection and environmental regulations. Borisovskoye Plateau has been considered one of the best remaining tracts of Amur leopard habitat.



© Nina Petrukhina
Rangers examine a vehicle

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 snowmobile, a Russian jeep and horses for transport.

In 2007, the rangers conducted 68 anti-poaching patrols, where they recorded 85 violations of hunting regulations, extinguished two forest fires, and initiated six criminal procedures against violators. The team established feeding grounds and salt licks for ungulates – to maintain a prey base for predators like tigers and leopards. Confiscated prey was significant: six deer, a raccoon dog, and pheasants.

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, although they need to purchase a new UAZ minibus next year.

For the last several years Rosselkhoznadzor and Inspection Tiger agencies have undergone multiple changes in their structures, status, and power. These regulatory and administrative changes pose a challenge to continuing effectiveness and require extensive liaison and discussion with federal and provincial authorities. 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.



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

Over the year 2007, the Khabarovsk team conducted 33 multiple-day patrols, filed 34 charges on violations of hunting regulations, revealed 20 violations of fishing regulations, illegal logging in large quantities, seized 22 illegal rifles, 7 fishing nets and investigated four conflict tiger cases. Five criminal procedures were started. Among the greatest achievements of the team is exposure of illegal logging in large volumes of yew tree and Amur cork tree listed as precious and not eligible for logging, and poaching several endangered mandarin ducks.

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 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.



© Lazovsky nature reserve
Confiscation of fishing net

In 2007 the team conducted 12 multiple-day patrols, revealed 39 violations of hunting regulations, 5 violations of fishing regulations, seized 10 illegal rifles, and confiscated three poached roe deer and a red deer.

2.5. Anti-poaching team of Lazovsky nature reserve

Located in Southeast Primorye, the Lazovsky nature reserve is the second biggest in the region (121,000 ha). The reserve has a population of about 10-12 resident or constantly visiting tigers. Since 1995, the Lazovsky nature reserve has been considered one of the best-managed in Russia on the basis of their protection, education and outreach activities.

Although it is a government reserve, the reserve does not receive sufficient federal funding for its protection and guard activities. To respond to these shortfalls, since 2005 the Phoenix Fund has been raising funds to support anti-poaching activities of one of the Lazovsky nature reserve teams.

From January to December 2007 the team revealed 14 hunting violations on the reserve territory and 57 cases of illegal intrusion into the reserve. They confiscated seven illegal rifles and recovered a poached red deer and a Himalayan bear. Several ginseng diggers – who prize the root for its healing properties – were caught illegally harvesting the plant within the reserve.



© Phoenix Fund
Rangers check hunting permits

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.

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) and 68 unwarranted logging cases. The team removed ten tractors and confiscated about 2,500 m³ of illegally harvested 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 indigenous native people, 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.

In 2007 the team conducted 38 multiple-day patrols in the 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, 103 cartridges, 22 traps and other poaching devices, and recovered poached wildlife including than 30 squirrels, grouse, and deer. They initiated one criminal procedure against a poacher.



© Phoenix Fund
Confiscated roe deer heads

2.8. Western wildlife managers' team

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

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

2.9. Joint interdepartmental anti-poaching team



© Phoenix Fund
Apprehended rifles and hazel grouse

The joint interdepartmental anti-poaching team consists of three wildlife managers, one public ranger, volunteers, and sometimes a police officer; they conduct regular patrols in

tiger habitat throughout Krasnoarmeisky district, Northern Primorye. For the reported period the joint anti-poaching team revealed 97 violations of hunting regulations, confiscated 26 illegal rifles, and registered seven illegal logging cases. Among the illegal wildlife confiscated there were red deer, rue deer, badger, raccoon dog, squirrels, hazel grouses, and mink.

3. Conflict tiger cases resolution

In order to systemize the work on preventing and resolving human-tiger conflict situations, a specialized Emergency Response team was established in 1999 in Primorsky Krai within Inspection Tiger. The rangers explain to people the reasons of past conflict situations with tigers, and teach them about possible ways of preventing and gradually decreasing the number of such situations in the future. Depending of the situation, the officers may scare a tiger off from the place of incident; trap and immobilize it for examination, and/or reintroduce the tiger into a remote area with no access to humans or capture the tiger if it needs to put into captivity. Very rarely, they have to shoot off a pathologically aggressive tiger or resort to euthanasia.



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

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: reduced populations of ungulates in the area due to overhunting, heavy snowfall, or the weakness of certain tiger individuals, who are unable to provide themselves with food.



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

47 conflict tiger cases were registered in Priomorye and Khabarovsk in 2007. Six tiger cubs were found emaciated in the forest. They were freezing and unable to move. Two were soon dead. One of the little tigresses had her paw trapped and seriously wounded. Veterinarians had to remove two fingers from her paw. After a rehabilitation period these cubs 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. The severe winter aggravated the situation. Phoenix together with its partners came up with the idea of a specialized rehabilitation center for cubs and ill tigers on the basis of the existing center for bears near Khabarovsk. We hope that the authorities will approve of such a center in coming years.

4.1.2. Ecological education in Khasan district, Southwestern Primorye

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 and tiger range. We focus our efforts on people who 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.



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-lesson in Novopokrovka town

4.1. Education activities

4.1.1. Workshop for educators

On March 26-29, 2007 Phoenix Fund held a seminar on "Conservation of Biodiversity of Primorsky Region" for teachers and tutors of ecological centers who conduct ecological education and outreach in the region. Eight administrative districts of the region were represented. Fifteen teachers participated in the seminar, and all the participants are working or plan to start ecological outreach within the framework of Phoenix's educational project.

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 Southwest Primorye, in Slavyanka town and nearby villages.

During the lessons, she and the pupils discussed issues related to the conservation of rare and endangered local species, such as leopards, tigers and Asiatic black bears. While telling about the habitat of those animals, the teacher touched upon the subject of large-scale forest fires and illegal logging. For the past eleven years, Natalia has run the "Rodnichok" youth ecoteam of ten teenagers, which gives theater performances about Amur leopard in villages, frontier posts and "Leopard's Land" annual festival.

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 tigers and other endangered wildlife of the region. It is imperative that these activities in local schools are continued and become sustainable. In addition, Phoenix continued supporting the "Pervotsvet" (*Spring flower*) ecological center in the city of Luchegorsk. There, children gain computer skills, 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-center, 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-center was created in Novopokrovka town, the administrative and business center of Krasnoarmeisky District in Northern Primorye. The center has permanent and temporary exhibitions on tigers and their habitat and prey. The local media has been very interested in the eco-center's work and allotted a page to cover the center's activities once per month.



© Phoenix Fund
Young ecologists plant Korean pine,
May 2007

The eco-center's work went at full speed this year: The center organized 176 events of different kinds, and 3,797 children took part. 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.

4.1.5. Ecological education in Partizansky district, Southeastern Primorye



© Phoenix Fund
Lesson on tiger in primary school

The "Rostok" (*Sprout*) eco-center was founded in Partizansk town 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. With Phoenix's help, "Rostok" expanded its educational programs by including lectures on Amur tiger and leopard conservation, and established close relations with other eco-centers in Primorye. The education program has been designed to make young people understand that without a reduction in deforestation, poaching, and forest fires, numerous endangered species may become extinct. During the reported period the educators of Rostok eco-center conducted classes on the following themes: "Tiger family", "Getting acquainted with Amur tiger", "Human behavior in tiger habitat" etc.

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

4.1.7. Ecological education in Lazovsky district, Northern Primorye

Since September 2006 Phoenix has been supporting an eco-center 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, among many others:

- Following tiger tracks
- Forest floors
- Phyto-race
- Conifers
- Tiger's home
- Ecosystems
- Forest habitats
- Biodiversity

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

4.1.8. Ecological education in Terneisky district, Northern Primorye

The "Uragus" eco-center in Terney has conducted 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-center. Together with the educator, they planted new trees and shrubs and were taking care of the existing ones. For the reported period the educator carried out 205 ecological lessons for over 2,000 children.



© Phoenix Fund

Students of Kirovka vocational school held an ecological quiz for children



© Phoenix Fund

December page of the calendar

4.1.9. Eco-center in Kirovka town

A Kirovka 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. The town is rather poor with an unfavorable environment, and a large number of problem families. About 10 teenagers willingly participate and hold lessons, thus we address both social and environmental outreach questions.

During the year the educator developed and gave 16 ecological events for students 17-19 years old. She also came up with an initiative to join 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.

4.2. Children's art contest devoted to tigers

An art contest devoted to the Amur tiger and its conservation was carried out at the target schools in winter 2007 in Northern Primorye. Children were asked to paint the 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

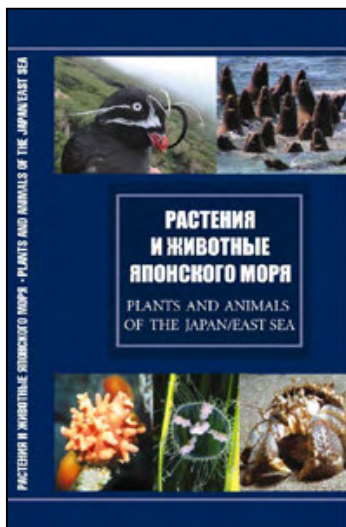
Phoenix published a booklet “Home of the Amur Tiger” for children. In an accessible format, it touched upon the topics of the tiger, its biology, habitat, history and conservation. Photographs and children’s paintings of this The booklet will be distributed among the young people in the schools, libraries, 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-centers of Primorye and used them as prizes for young activists and winners of ecological contests.

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 field guide to *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 photographs and a map of distribution, accompany each description. The guide will be of interest to tourists, students and all nature enthusiasts.



Thus, our trilogy on wildlife of our part of the Russian Far East is complete: Earlier,

Phoenix produced two volumes on the *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 Fund and Wildlife Alliance produced an English-language version of the Amur tiger book that originally was designed for Russian children. Now English-speaking readers can enjoy it. The book will also serve as a useful outreach vehicle for potential supporters in the United States, England, and other English-speaking regions.

4.4. Ecological holidays and festivals

4.4.1. Tiger Day Festival



© Phoenix Fund

Little tigress

This year’s Tiger Day holiday in Primorye started with celebrations in Novopokrovka, Kirovka and Luchegorsk towns on September 15th. The eighth anniversary of the Tiger Day Festival in Vladivostok was celebrated on Sunday, September 23rd.

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, tigers from different countries, with national flags in their hands, marched with citizens and guests. When a carnival procession reached the central square of the city, school, children's club or a group gave a small performance and the Jury of holiday organizers chose the winner in "the best column" competition. Games and educational quizzes were an essential part of the event.



© Phoenix Fund
Tiger Day in Vladivostok 2007

The festival attracted people's attention to the most burning issues of wildlife conservation in the region, and gave them an opportunity to express their concern.

Children were pleased to paint their face and body with yellow, orange and black, in the manner of a tiger. One of the favorite contests was drawing tiger designs on the 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 23rd, 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, Tiger Day was celebrated in Partizansk and Lazo cities. In 2007, the range of Tiger Day holiday as well as the number of participants increased in comparison with previous years. This positive change results 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 the 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 the Amur leopard the symbol of their region and be proud of it.

September 23, 2007 was the 5th anniversary of Leopard Land Festival. This year it became an international holiday, with Chinese schoolchildren arriving from Hunchung city.



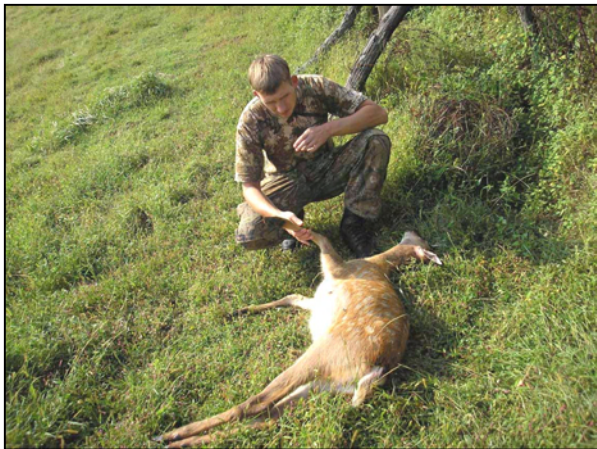
© Phoenix Fund
Festive column marched along the main street of
Slavyanka

The other feature of the Festival-2007 is that it was celebrated not only in schools, but also in villages.

5. Fire-fighting

Phoenix purchased a set of blast-engines for Nezhinsky hunting lease, situated in Khasan, an important part of Amur leopard and tiger habitat. The area suffers much during fire seasons. In the past, fires have destroyed large amounts of territory, and the staff are poorly equipped with fire safety training and engineering. In the autumn and early winter 2007 the blast-engines were used to extinguish 12 small forest fires. All of them were caused by arsons and negligent fire handling by fishermen. Three large burnings were put out. They covered more than 9,000 ha. What is discouraging is that fires are going on. Gamekeepers, even well equipped, cannot extinguish them themselves. Ministry of Emergencies refused to render help, either did Ministry of Defense. The burning territories do not belong to any forestry. In general, in comparison to 2006, this year fire-fighting effectiveness increased by 30-40%. The hunting lease's workers were able to put out 65% of all fires by their own forces. Engine-blasters and creation of a specialized fire-fighting unit contributed greatly to this.

6. Compensation of livestock kills



© Phoenix Fund
Ranger examined a deer killed by leopard

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.

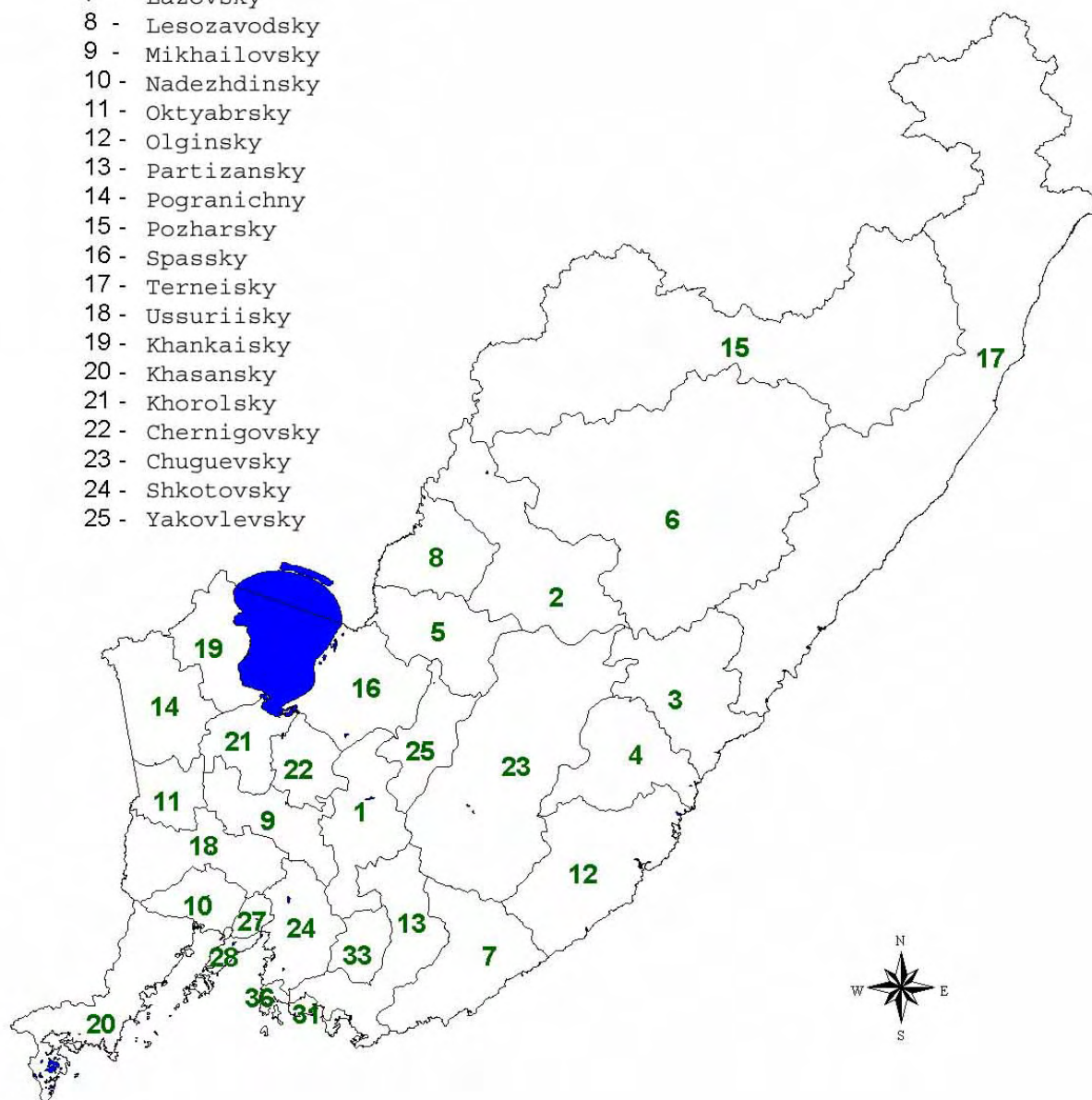
At the deer farms, sika deer are raised for their antlers. Domestic deer at the farms have become an important additional food source for Amur leopards and Siberian tigers, because sufficient natural prey is not always available. Food shortages can occur due to various factors, including poaching and exceptional snowfall. Another development that reduced natural prey availability for leopards 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.

In the summer of 1999, Phoenix undertook a compensation project with a hope that 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. In it, 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



Phoenix Fund Financial Statement 2007

Grantor	Amount	Project
Save the Tiger Fund	\$60,000	Anti-poaching, conflict tiger team, education
Whitley Fund for Nature	\$60,000	Anti-poaching and education
Tiger Island/Dreamworld	\$ 31,768 \$12,168	Khabarovsky anti-poaching unit; General support
International Fund for Animal Welfare (FAW)	\$40,000	Khasan anti-poaching unit and Khasan educational project
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation	\$40,000	Forest team, education
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation	\$37,000	Anti-poaching and education
ZAT (Zoological Society of London, Amur and Tigris)	\$30,000	Anti-poaching and education
21Century Tiger	\$25,000	Anti-poaching and education
Pacific Environment	\$20,000	Monitoring of gas and oil projects
Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation	\$15,000	Anti-poaching
Alertis	\$7,000	Anti-poaching
Tamaki Foundation	\$6,000	Tiger and leopard conservation programs
Thomas Plant	\$5,000	Anti-poaching, fire-fighting activities, children summer camp
Milwaukee Zoo	\$2,000	Education
Total:	\$390,936	

Acknowledgements

These projects are the result of joint efforts of many organizations and collaborations, including the contributions of Inspection Tiger, the Federal Security Bureau, Federal Frontier Guard, Police, Customs and Marine Border Guard, Hunting Management Department, Russian Nature Conservation Society and others.

Thanks to support from our sponsors and donations from individuals around the world, we helped increase capacity of the anti-poaching teams to reduce poaching, enhance wildlife and habitat protection in the Southern Russian Far East, and increase awareness within the local communities about the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation through education and outreach programs.

Phoenix would very gratefully like to acknowledge the generosity of all our supporters, including:

Tiger Island/ Dreamworld/21st Century Tiger
Save The Tiger Fund
Tigris Foundation
Zoological Society of London
Whitley Fund for Nature
Wildlife Alliance
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Rhinceros & Tiger Conservation Fund of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Milwaukee County Zoo
Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
Tamaki Foundation
AMUR
David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation
Project AWARE
Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation
Thomas Plant
Alertis: Fund for Bear and Nature Conservation
Pacific Environment

We express our warm and sincere thanks to all the donors who have contributed to our work.