



21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future



Phoenix Fund

Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2004

Final report
January – December 2004



Vladivostok
2004



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**FINAL REPORT
January 01 – December 31, 2004**

Grantor: 21st Century Tiger
Project Name: Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2004
Grantee: The Phoenix Fund
Report Period: January 01 – December 31, 2004
Grant Period: January 01 – December 31, 2004

I. Project Overview

The objective of this project is to ensure Amur tiger habitat protection and population survival in Primorsky region, including:

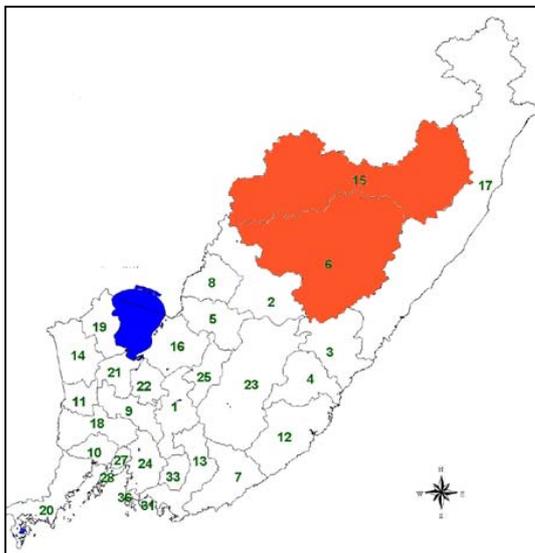
- Strengthening protection activities in tiger habitat by carrying out joint patrols consisting of state law enforcement officers and public environmental investigation teams
- Educating the public and engaging local communities to actively participate in conservation
- Gaining in support from the local people

The mission of the project is to protect the region’s biodiversity by:

- Conducting regular patrols and arresting poachers
- Working with local communities through environmental lectures at schools, environmental Festivals, and a new Eco-centre

II. Environmental Law Enforcement Activities

Public environmental investigation teams



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Map of Primorye
Territory highlighted in red represents the districts where the public rangers operate

Two public environmental investigation teams were established in March 2001 to enhance the protection work of the state agencies. Both teams’ leaders are experienced rangers who had previously worked with Inspection Tiger. The teams consist of volunteers, mainly from nature-oriented youth organizations and university and college environmental clubs. Considering the current state of Amur tiger population, both teams have been operating mainly in the north of Primorye (Pozharsky, Krasnoarmeisky, Dalnerechensky districts) from January through June, in order to provide more efficiency to tiger conservation activities.

From January 01 through December 31, 2004 two public environmental investigation teams, in cooperation with wildlife managers, police officers, forest service staff and Inspection Tiger rangers conducted patrols in Pozharsky, Krasnoarmeisky, Dalnegorsky and Dalnerechensky districts of Primorye. The raids were focused on conservation of

the ungulates habitat as hunting was allowed only during the first month of the year. March and April are the months of a thawing season that leads to occurrence of thin crust of ice on the



ground, and as a result, animals often hurt their legs and cannot elude pursuit by dogs and poachers. All patrols were documented and recorded on video camera. For the reported period the team drew up 155 reports, including 136 reports on violations of hunting regulations, confiscated 92 illegal rifles and 2 tiger skins, 300 meters of fishing nets and 30 traps (see Table 1. in Attachment).

January



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The public ranger with confiscated poached animal

On January 07, 2004 while patrolling in hunting lands, the joint team stopped a policeman with a rifle near Verkhny Pereval – Sobolinoye road without any permit. On January 17 the rangers arrested a man for illegal hunting with traps near the Kapshanza stream of the Bikin River. The violator had no permit papers for hunting. On the same day another poacher was arrested for illegal hunting during closed hunting season near the Veiluka stream. The rangers drew up a report, confiscated a rifle and forwarded all documents to Pozharsky police department.

On January 19, the public rangers arrested a man for illegal hunting with 4 traps near the Kustanai stream. The poacher paid a fine in the amount of 500 rubles (\$17). On the same day the team arrested a man from Dalnerechensk city who was hunting without permits. The rangers confiscated his rifle and imposed a fine in the amount of 700 rubles (\$25). On January 20, a poacher was arrested for illegal hunting with 5 traps. He paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17). On January 25 one more poacher was hunting with 6 traps. The rangers confiscated poaching devices and imposed a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

On January 25, the joint team found a loaded rifle in the snow near the Bolshoi Sintun stream. The owner of the rifle was not determined. On the same day, near the Chanza stream, the team rangers noticed bear tracks going away into the forest and clear footsteps of three people above them. Having examined the surroundings, the rangers found a skin of Asiatic black bear 200 meters far from the hunting path. Bear meat and fat were hidden in the snow. Unfortunately, the public rangers could not determine a person who had killed the bear.

On January 26 while patrolling in hunting lands, the team rangers arrested a man for illegal hunting with traps and without any permit.



© Phoenix Fund
A public ranger found an Asiatic black bear skin



February

On February 01 the public rangers arrested two people for illegal hunting and confiscated one rifle. On the same day the team detained a man destroying musk-rats' burrows on Savichy island. The violator paid a fine in the amount of 500 rubles (\$17). On February 03 the team arrested a man for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. In February the public rangers arrested 5 poachers with illegal rifles. Each violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

March



© Phoenix Fund
A public ranger with two confiscated tiger skins

In the beginning of March the rangers stopped 4 men hunting illegally during closed hunting season. On March 10, 2004 wildlife managers of Primorsky Hunting Management Department, in cooperation with public ranger and representative of NGO, confiscated two Amur tiger skins from Andrei Rekunov, a policeman in Chuguevsky district, central Primorye. One of the wildlife managers, together with a public ranger, posed as a buyer and arranged a meeting with the seller. The others made an ambush around the place of meeting. The 'deal' was arranged in the car of the skins' owner. When the 'buyers' received the skins, the wildlife managers and public rangers blocked up the car of illegal trader. First, Andrei Rekunov, the police officer, locked on the inside and did not get out of his car, and denied that the skins belonged to him. Fortunately, the public rangers noticed a car approaching to them, in which there was Vasily Tabolov, police colonel. Thanks to his assistance more police officers were sent to arrest the offender. Two hours later, the arrested policeman resigned his position. The confiscated skins and all documents were forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office of Chuguevsky district for further investigation.

On March 15 the joint team arrested two villagers for poaching during closed hunting season. As a result, the rangers drew up a report and confiscated rifles. On March 20 the team rangers arrested a man for illegal hunting with dogs. The poacher was hunting on the thin crust of ice, which appeared in the beginning of March and allowed people hunt ungulates with minimal efforts as animals fell in the snow, hurt their legs and could not elude pursuit by dogs and people.



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Rangers found poached wild meat

On March 16 the public rangers arrested a man with poached wildlife products, including an otter skin. On the same day the team arrested two men in hunting leases with illegal rifles. On March 19 the public rangers arrested a man with a rifle and a poached Siberian stag, drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations, confiscated illegal rifle and imposed a fine of 6,000 rubles (\$200).



On March 21 the public rangers detained a woman for illegal hunting on the thin crust of ice with two dogs. She explained that she had to go hunting because of poverty.

On March 25 the rangers arrested 5 people with rifles without permits. One violator had meat of roe deer.

April

On April 02 while patrolling along the logging road 18 km far from Strelnikovo village, the public rangers intercepted two men hunting illegally with dogs and illegal rifles. The rangers confiscated two rifles and 17 cartridges, wrote up two violations of hunting regulations. Later on, the team stopped a jeep near the Situkha River, 22 km far from Strelnikovo village. As a result of car examination, meat of a poached wild boar was found. The jeep's owner did not have a permit for hunting and transporting hunting products. The rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations and confiscated poached meat. On the same day the public control team stopped a motorbike without federal number plate 11 km far from Strelnikovo village. That man was hunting with three dogs during closed hunting season. The rangers did not find a rifle but only 6 cartridges. The fact of illegal hunting was recorded in a report.



© Phoenix Fund
A poacher skinning a wild boar



© Phoenix Fund
Checking the documents

On April 03, 2004 near the Logovlyan stream the public rangers intercepted a man who was hunting with rifle and without permits. The violator paid a fine in the amount of 500 rubles (\$17). The rifle was confiscated. On the same day while patrolling on hunting grounds near the July stream, the rangers heard three shots. Immediately afterwards, the team went to find out the reasons of shooting. They found ski traces on the snow and decided to track them down. As a result, the team saw a man cutting a carcass of a killed wild boar. Two dogs were walking around. The public rangers arrested a poacher, confiscated illegal rifle and 12 cartridges and poached meat, and drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations. Later on, the team arrested one more poacher near the Bolshoye Takhalo River for illegal hunting with two dogs. The rangers confiscated rifle, 2

cartridges, and documents and drew up a report.

On April 04 the public rangers were patrolling the flood-lands of the Bikin River 30 km far from Krasny Yar village, when they intercepted a poacher for hunting during closed hunting season. Later on, in flood-lands of the Amba River the rangers arrested a man with two dogs for illegal hunting on the ice. On the same day while examining a hunting path, the rangers found a rifle hanging on a tree 2 m above the ground. The rifle's owner was not found. When patrolling in flood-lands of the Dudunga stream, the team found traces of "Buran" snowmobile. As a result of



tracking the traces, they found a rifle and 20 cartridges hidden in a hollow tree. The owner of ammunition was not found.

On April 05 while patrolling the hunting grounds in flood-lands of the Panchilaza stream, the rangers found a rifle and a cartridge hidden in a hollow tree. The rifle's owner was not determined.

On April 09 the team arrested a poacher for killing a Siberian stag. Meat of poached stag (20 kg) was confiscated and handed over to the local orphan's home. The rangers imposed a fine of 10,050 rubles (\$346). All recorded materials were forwarded to the local police department. On the same day the public rangers arrested one more poacher for illegal hunting with dogs. As a result, the team confiscated meat of poached roe deer, imposed a fine in the amount of 4,000 rubles (\$137). On April 11 a man was intercepted for illegal hunting with 5 traps. The violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

From April 16 to April 19 the public rangers' team, together with hunting managers, conducted a raid by boat on the Bikin River. As a result, on April 17 the joint team stopped a boat with four people with three dogs. All four people had rifles. Two arrested men were gamekeepers of a hunting society. They showed their IDs and privilege hunting ticket that allowed hunting ducks, hazel hen and hare, although the Government of the Russian Federation had enacted to put a ban on waterfall hunting. So, that hunting ticket was a counterfeited document. After examination of the boat, the rangers found two sacks with meat of Siberian stag, a plastic bag with heart, liver, lungs and tail of Siberian stag. When the rangers asked arrested men where they had got meat, the gamekeepers explained that they had found it. Then, the rangers offered to go to the place where the gamekeepers found meat, but arrested men refused to lead to that place. Later on, one of arrested men confessed poaching. The rangers drew up reports, imposed a fine in the amount of 1,000 rubles (\$ 34) for each violator and confiscated rifles.



© Phoenix Fund
During checking a boat the ranger found poached meat of Siberian stag, April 2004

On April 30 while patrolling the team arrested a man for hunting at salt lick. The poacher paid a fine in the amount of 1,000 rubles (\$34). The rangers confiscated a rifle.

May

On May 01 the team intercepted a man for entering the hunting grounds during closed hunting season. The rifle was confiscated and violator paid a fine.

On May 21 the rangers were patrolling flood-lands of the Chimchuguza stream 5 km far from Sobolinoye village. As a result, they arrested a man for illegal hunting without permits. Later on, on the same place the team intercepted a man with illegal rifle and 11 cartridges. Near Sobolinoye village one more violator was arrested for illegal hunting with rifle and 5 cartridges.

On May 24 near the Dubovaya Sopka stream the rangers stopped a car. As a result of checking the car, one poached muskrat was found. The car owner paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17). Later on, not far from the Dubovaya Sopka stream the team stopped another vehicle with two poached muskrats. The driver paid a fin of 1,000 rubles (\$34).



On May 27 near the Gorny stream the public rangers arrested a man with two dogs for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. The rangers confiscated rifle and 12 cartridges, drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations and handed over all documents to the police department to initiate criminal proceedings.

June

In the beginning of June the public rangers assisted wildlife managers in checking local enterprises. As a result, two enterprises were fined for violation of wildlife use regulations. On June 07 the rangers arrested a man with rifle and without any permit for entering into the hunting grounds. The violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17) and his rifle was confiscated.



© Phoenix Fund
Two salted bear skins found near a winter house,
June 09 2004

On June 09 while patrolling near Shumny village the rangers stopped a motorbike with two men. One of them appeared to be a gamekeeper who, according to his words, was coming back after a patrol in hunting grounds. After checking the motorbike, the rangers found two sacks with meat of roe deer and Siberian stag. Arrested people explained that they had heard shots and found the sacks with meat near their winter house. Some doubts were cast upon it and rangers decided to check the place where gamekeeper and his fellow had found poached meat. Immediately upon arrival to the place, the rangers found two salted bear skins 15 m far from the winter house. The gamekeeper could not explain why those skins had been lying near the winter house. While checking the winter house, the

rangers found an 8- mm rope. Apparently, it was used to make snares for trapping big predators, like bears and tigers. The gamekeeper could not show the place where they had found meat. After examining the surroundings, the rangers found a man-made salt lick and 20-meter high “lobaz” (a hiding construction for hunting) 800-900 m far from the winter house. The foot-prints left on the loam of salt lick was identical to gamekeeper’s boots. But the gamekeeper told that he had never seen that salt lick. Further scene examination allowed finding two skins of killed roe deer (male and female) 30 m far from the salt lick. The rangers came to conclusion that the gamekeeper had killed two roe deer using his official position and had drawn up a fictitious report in order to take the meat out of the hunting lands. As a result, the rangers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations and forwarded the document to the local police department. On the same day the team intercepted a man on the Big Ussurka River with prohibited fishing device – electric fishing rod. On June 10 a man with badger skin was arrested and made pay a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).



© Phoenix Fund
Poached roe deer

On June 19 when the team was patrolling the Bikin River, they stopped a man on a rubber float. As a result of checking the float, the rangers found one rifle and 7 cartridges. Arrested man did not have a permit for rifle and



hunting license. The rangers confiscated rifle with cartridges and drew up a report. On the same day near the Dubravushka stream the rangers arrested a hunter with illegal rifle. The rifle was confiscated; the violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

On June 24 the team carried out a night patrol on the Bikin River. As a result, the rangers stopped a wooden boat with 50 kg of smoked meat of Siberian stag. The poacher gave a hunting permit that allowed him to hunt ducks, hare and hazel hen. A document permitting to hunt Siberian stag was missing. The rangers confiscated meat and drew up a report. On June 25 the rangers stopped and arrested a man for illegal hunting with rifle and without any permits.

July



© Phoenix Fund
Rangers are checking the license and number of fish

From July 01 to September 30 the main attention was paid to conservation of the habitat of the ungulates, as it was a period when hunting on ungulates was closed completely. Nevertheless, poachers like hunting on man-made salt licks, natural mineral feeding grounds and during breeding season. On July 26 a man was arrested for illegal hunting without permit. The public rangers confiscated a rifle and imposed a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

On July 28 near the Situkha River the rangers apprehended a man for violations of hunting regulations. The violator had a rifle and was hunting without license and any documents for his weapon. As a result, the rifle was confiscated and the violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17). On the same day near the Big

Sibichi river the team arrested a man who was hunting on bear with homemade poaching devices (2 items). The rangers confiscated the devices and imposed a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

August

During an August 13 patrol on a logging road 27 km far from Lermontovka village in the flood lands of the Alchan River, the team detained two men on a motorcycle in “Alchan” hunting lease with rifles without permits during the closed hunting season. The team filmed the case, confiscated the weapon and drew up a report on violation.

On August 14 the team found a rifle in a hollow tree near the Beshennaya stream. The owner was not identified and the rifle was confiscated. On the same day the team detained 6 drunken men in a cross-country vehicle 16 km far from Lermontovka village in the flood-lands of the Ulitka River in “Alchan” hunting lease with rifles during closed hunting season. The blind drunk men were shooting at the vehicle to check the strength of the armor. Four rifles were



© Phoenix Fund
Public ranger found a poached Siberian stag during examination of a truck



confiscated. Physical strength had to be used for confiscation. The team drew up reports on violation.



© Phoenix Fund
Poachers killed a Siberian stag and left its meat in the forest

On August 28 during a raid 11 km far from Lermontovka village the team detained a man in a car with red deer meat. The deer meat was packed in six bags; the head, internal organs and tail were also in a bag. The man had neither hunting permit, nor rifle. The team concluded a report on administrative violation, confiscated the poached meat (70-80 kg), which was later donated to an orphanage in Svetlogorye village. On the same day the team detained two men 28 km far from Lermontovka village in “Alchan” hunting lease with rifles during closed hunting season. The rifles and cartridges were confiscated. The team drew up reports on violation.

On August 29 the team detained three men in “Alchan” hunting lease in a winter cabin on the man-made salt lick 32 km far from Lermontovka village. The men were in the hunting lease with rifles during closed hunting season. On the place of poaching the rangers found skin, internal organs, and head of the red deer. Three rifles and cartridges were confiscated. The rangers drew up reports on violations.

On August 29 the team detained three men in “Alchan” hunting lease in a winter cabin on the man-made salt lick 32 km far from Lermontovka village. The men were in the hunting lease with

September

On September 03 during a raid near Limonniki village the team detained two men in a hunting lease of Krasnoarmeisky district with rifles during closed hunting season. The report on violation was drawn up, the rifles were confiscated.



© Phoenix Fund
Jeeps of “Shatoon” auto-club entering Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge

On September 17 the director of Verkhne-Perevalninsky forestry informed that cross-country vehicles of auto-club “Shatoon” had entered Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge in the North of Primorye. The joint team of wildlife managers, fishery and forestry inspectors, state law enforcement officers and public rangers went to check the information. During the raid from September 20 to September 27 the team checked 16 vehicles and one motorcycle and drew up 2 reports on violations of fire-fighting regulations, 11 reports on violations of hunting regulations, 4 reports on violations of fishing regulations, and 1 report on confiscation of narcotics. During patrols along the Armu River the public rangers, together with fishing inspectors, confiscated 300 meters of fishing nets and drew up 10 reports on violations of fishing regulations.

October

In October – December the patrols were carried out in Pozharsky district and on hunting grounds for general use, Tazhny wildlife refuge, Sidatun hunting lease and contiguous areas in



Krasnoarmeisky district. The public rangers and wildlife managers set up 5 warning signs along the border of Tazhny wildlife refuge. The team continued checking vehicles, logging settlements and winter houses. On October 01 a villager was detained for hunting with 5 traps without a permit near Boguslavets village in Krasnoarmeisky district. The violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$18). Next day on the same place another man was detained with 3 traps and without a hunting permit. The rangers made him pay a fine of 500 rubles (\$18). On October 09 two men with a dog were arrested for illegal hunting on badger near the Goncharovskiye sopki stream. Each poacher paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$18). On October 13 one more poacher with 2 traps was arrested near the Nazarovsky stream. On October 20 while patrolling the hunting grounds the rangers found a rifle hidden in a hollow tree. The owner of the rifle was not determined.



© Phoenix Fund
Forged hunting licenses

On October 20 a man was detained for illegal hunting without a permit near the Chetverty spring of the Bikin River in Pozharsky district. The public rangers drew up a report and confiscated illegal rifle with cartridges. On October 18-29 the public rangers, together with wildlife managers and “Eco-patrol” public team, conducted a joint patrol in the medium stream of the Bikin River to reveal violations on hunting grounds of indigenous people. The patrol resulted in 5 reports on violations of hunting regulations. Four arrested people had false hunting licenses with forged hunting period. The licenses were seized and handed over to

the Pozharsky wildlife management department for further investigation.

On October 24 the public ranger detained a man for hunting without a permit in Krasnoarmeisky district. The team confiscated a rifle and a poached hazel hen. On October 30 a poacher with 3 poached squirrels was arrested for illegal hunting.

November

On November 01-13 the joint team conducted patrols in Krasnoarmeisky district, Northern Primorye. The patrols resulted in arrest of 4 men for illegal hunting. The rangers confiscated poached hazel hen and squirrel. Each violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$18). On November 20 the public rangers arrested a man for violation of hunting regulations. He hid a sack with meat of poached roe deer (11 kg) near the winter house on the Naumov stream. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 rubles (\$36).



© Phoenix Fund
Poached wild boar

On November 23 the rangers arrested a poacher in the forest near the Maloye Takhol River for hunting on a non-vested territory in Pozharsky district. On November 24 and December 16 the joint team found two illegal rifles in Pozharsky district. One rifle was found under a fallen tree near the Alchan River. The rifle’s owner was not found. Another one was found in a hollow tree. The rifle was made of parts of three different guns.



December

On December 10 the public rangers revealed 4 violations of hunting regulations in Krasnoarmeisky district. Four poachers had illegal rifles, a poached squirrel and a wild boar (60 kg). The rangers confiscated poached wildlife and made violators to pay a fine. On December 17 the public rangers arrested a man hunting at night using the vehicle light in the forest of Pozharsky district. The rifle and lighting device were confiscated. On December 28 the joint team stopped two men hunting on the snowmobile. The rangers confiscated illegal rifle and roe deer meat. Each poacher paid a fine of 1,000 rubles (\$36).

Other activities



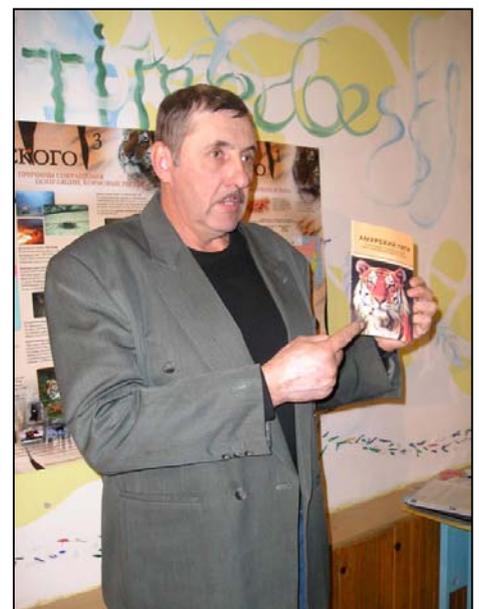
© Phoenix Fund
Public ranger works with children during an ecological class

Besides anti-poaching activity, the public rangers continued working on educational project. The team visited local schools and gave lectures for schoolchildren and students on the following themes: “How we can save the Amur tiger – unique cat species”, “CITES and trade in rare and endangered wildlife”, “Problems of human / tiger co-existence”, “Prevention human / tiger conflict situations”, “Prevention and elimination of poaching” and “Revealing and eliminating illegal wildlife trade channels”. At the meetings with children the team rangers showed video films and photos made during patrols. Moreover, the rangers cooperated with local NGOs, such as

“Flowerspring”, “Ship” Children’s ecological TV Company, provided local TV hot materials from anti-poaching raids and were broadcasted by radio.

On July 24 the team leader was on “Solyonaya Pad” lake to help organize children’s ecological summer camp, which was carried out together with “Pervotsvet” NGO during the period July 25 – August 08, 2004. During that period the children listened to the lectures “Human behavior in tiger habitat”, “Endangered animals of the region”, “Nature reserves of Primorsky krai” and many more, and actively participated in the hikes in the forest to learn practical skills of making a fire, orienting in the forest etc. The children also took part in actual patrols of police and fishery inspection. The eco-camp received a good coverage in local and regional press and was shown on TV.

On August 10 the team took part in a meeting devoted to conservation of relic forests of the Bikin River. The meeting attracted eminent scientists and environmental activists. During this meeting the team offered to collect signatures of all people that are not indifferent to this problem and send an appeal to President Putin. Such action was carried out on September 18 during the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the district.



© Phoenix Fund
The public ranger tells about Amur tiger



For the period September 06 – 17 the team participated in organizing Tiger Day Festival in Pozharsky district. The Festival was celebrated on September 18 in Luchegorsk city.

In December the public rangers gave 7 lectures (12 hours) at local schools and special educational institutions on the following themes: “ Living in neighborhood of tiger”, “Prevention of conflict tiger cases”, “Elimination of and fighting with poaching”, “ Fighting with smuggling”. During the meetings with children the public ranger showed video films demonstrating their work in the field.

Western wildlife managers’ team



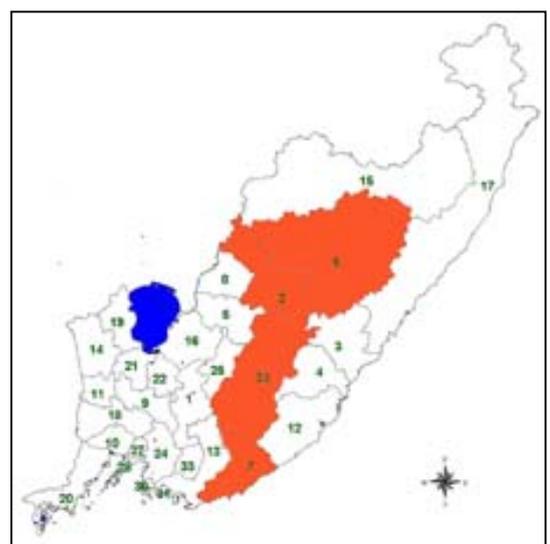
© Phoenix Fund
Poacher with wild meat and rifle

Western wildlife managers’ team is part of the Hunting Management Department. The team operates in 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. Thanks to support from the 21st Century Tiger, the western wildlife managers purchased a snow mobile. For the reported period the team revealed 43 violations, arrested 49 violators, confiscated 22 rifles, 2 tiger skins, 12 paws of Asiatic black bear and 1 bear cub alive. Two illegal loggers were condemned to prison. The wildlife managers patrolled in 4 districts: Dalnerechenky, Lesozavosky, Chuguevsky and Krasnoarmeisky. The team noticed that more Amur tigers appeared in the area. Last year there were

approximately 30-35 tigers and in 2004 the number of predators remained high. It caused reduction in ungulates population. Table 2 shows anti-poaching results of the wildlife managers’ team (see Attachment). In 2004 the team revealed less violations in comparison with the results of 2003. The poachers and loggers know about the team’s activities and became more cautious.

In January 2004 the western wildlife managers’ team conducted anti-poaching patrols in Dalnerechensky and Lesozavodsky districts of Northern Primorye and revealed 15 violations of the nature conservation legislation and confiscated 6 illegal rifles.

In February the team revealed 5 poaching cases. One of them was illegal bear hunting. On February 20, 2004 near the Semenov stream the wildlife managers arrested violators for hunting two Asiatic black bear cubs during closed hunting season and without a permit. The wildlife managers drew up a report and confiscated a rifle with 6 cartridges, meat, fat, two bear skulls and entrails. Besides anti-poaching activity, the team took part in the wildlife survey in Dalnerechensky district.



© Phoenix Fund
Map of Primorye
Territory highlighted in red represents
the districts where the Western team operates

On March 10,2004 the western wildlife managers’ team took part in confiscation of two tiger skins (see “Public environmental investigation teams”). On



March 31 the wildlife managers confiscated a bear cub from a woman in Dalnerechensk town and took it to Primorsky Hunting Management Department. According to the woman's explanation, she got the cub from loggers in February 2004. She did not ask where they had taken it and decided to give shelter to the orphan.

On April 07 the team arrested two people for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. The poachers were hunting on the Malinovka River by motorboat. The team rangers confiscated two ducks and a rifle.

On July 15, 2004 near Rakitnoye village the team arrested a man with 4 paws of Asiatic black bear. The arrested person did not have a permit on wildlife products. The wildlife managers drew up a report, confiscated the poached paws and made the violator pay a fine.



© Phoenix Fund
The head of the team
with bear cub

On September 2004 the wildlife managers arrested a man for illegal hunting near Tulyany village, Dalnerechensky district. As a result of checking his car, the managers found and confiscated 4 illegal rifles. On September 16 a poacher was arrested in the upper Malinovka River. He was illegally fishing with nets. The wildlife managers confiscated and burnt 26 fishing nets. On September 17 the team members stopped a vehicle with illegal logs. The driver did not have any documents on the logs. The wildlife managers drew up a report and forwarded all documents to the local police department.

From October 01 to December 31 the team did not arrest any violator for illegal hunting. In October the wildlife managers carried out 5 anti-poaching patrols, in November - 7 patrols and in December - 7 patrols. In the end of December the team stopped a man and found 8 Asiatic black bear paws in his bag. The man did not have any permit on wildlife products.

Besides, the western wildlife managers' team received information that a local had two tiger skins and would like to sell them. Now, the team is working on operation to confiscate the skins.

III. Environmental Education and Outreach

Tiger Day Festival

September 26, 2004 was the 5th anniversary of Tiger Day. In 2000 the Phoenix Fund carried out the Tiger Day Festival for the first time in Vladivostok with support from the Russian and international nature conservation NGOs. At that time it was a small procession of several dozens of enthusiasts that came in homemade costumes along the boardwalks of the streets to the central square and organized a joyful holiday for children. Since that year the holiday gained an official status, as the Amur tiger is pictured on the coats-of-arms of Vladivostok and Primorsky krai, as well as of many districts of Primorye, Russian Far East.



© Phoenix Fund
"The best tiger face painting" contest,
Tiger Day in Luchegorsk



Luchegorsk city

This year a series of public environmental events devoted to conservation of Amur tigers and leopards started on September 18 in Luchegorsk city, Pozharsky district of Primorye, and began with a march on the main street of the city. Despite the rain, a lot of schoolchildren and adults came to celebrate the festival. There was a theatrical performance in the Culture Palace. Professional actors in animal costumes staged a play and involved children in various games, contests, dances etc. About 300 children took part in “stripy” discotheque. Besides entertainment, there was collection of signatures to save the Bikin River valley. As a result, 1,700 signatures were collected during that day. Tiger Day is an extraordinary and unique event for young people in Luchegorsk city and there is no any similar holiday devoted to tiger conservation there. Therefore, schoolchildren had prepared for Tiger Day in advance and anxiously waited for its celebration. After Luchegorsk city, the festival moved to other cities of the Russian Far East.

Vladivostok



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Press conference on Tiger Day Festival

On September 25, the Tiger Day was celebrated in Khabarovsk zoological gardens. On the 26th of September, the Tiger and Leopard Day celebration was held in Vladivostok and zoos all over Russia, CIS and Europe. During the month prior to the holiday a specially designed street advertising was set up in Vladivostok streets to draw attention of local people to the event. The advertising board (3 m x 6 m) was placed on the main street of the city. A colorful photography of four tigers made by Dr. Yudin was used to attract people’s attention. A light-reflecting banner (1.1 m x 10 m) with information on Tiger Day was stretched out above the road. Besides, Phoenix designed and produced a lot of different awards for the winners in contests (special T-shirts, badges and medals with the Tiger Day logo,

etc.) and purchased amusing tiger toys. Two days before Tiger Day there was a press conference in the office of “Deita.ru” news agency where representatives of holiday organizers met with journalists, told about holiday idea, goals and expected results.

Tiger Day Festival in Vladivostok was organized by Phoenix, WWF-RFE, and Wildlife Conservation Society in conjunction with the city administration and was supported by 21st Century Tiger, the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, AMUR, Save the Tiger Fund and IFAW. Besides, this year we have managed to attract local businesses, news agencies, and other small sponsors that provided support and prizes. For example, a local travel agency gave children several tickets to health center/camp. The City administration showed more interest in the Tiger Day celebration and the newly elected mayor announced Grand Prix for the best column of schoolchildren. As a result of the contest, the schools with the best columns



© Phoenix Fund
The theatrical performance on the main square,
Tiger Day in Vladivostok,
September 26, 2004



were awarded with music equipment and computers. We think that it is a very good result, as initially the Phoenix Fund planned to interest the local administration, travel agencies, businesses etc. in Tiger Day celebration and persuade them that thanks to such a holiday would attract more investors, tourists and customers. Both wildlife and people can benefit from this festival.



© Phoenix Fund
Over 150 children took part in "the best tiger costume" contest

Tiger Day in Vladivostok started in the afternoon. Children and adults gathered and lined up into a festive column near the Youth Palace on a central street of the city – Okeansky Boulevard. A cannon shot above the city announced midday, and procession started down the streets to the central square near the shore of the Sea of Japan. The main character – Amur tiger was in the head of the procession. The other characters of the Ussuri taiga – Far Eastern leopard, fox, hare, and bear – marched in costumes together with it. Young drummers and youth teams in tiger cub costumes, schoolchildren and university students, adults – those who are not indifferent to the fate of Amur tiger – all marched in the column. There was a vehicle decorated with many balloons as a big tiger. This year about 10 thousand people came to the central square of Vladivostok to participate in unique ecological festival. At the end of the holiday the "Tiger" announced a contest for citizens and tourists and informed about a special award for a person who would bring the biggest bag with litter. As a result, a lot of children rushed to clean the square around the scene. It was a good idea as the square became clean in 30 minutes.



© Phoenix Fund
"Tiger cubs" are singing on the stage,
Tiger Day in Novopokrovka, October 02, 2004

Many contests and quizzes were carried out for kids on five special grounds called "Mowgli", "Forest Arbat", "Flower meadow", "Masks and costumes". Art contests and shows lasted all day long. The winners received prizes for the best painting, the best song, the best tiger costume and many others. The festival attracted people's attention to the most burning issues of nature conservation in the region, as well as gave them an opportunity to participate in resolving them. Local TV channels and newspapers featured the holiday celebration.

Novopokrovka

On October 02, 2004 the annual Tiger Day Festival was carried out in Novopokrovka town, administrative center of Krasnoarmeisky district, in Northern Primorye, Russian Far East. The fete grew into a holiday for the whole district – over 130 schoolchildren from 6 schools of the district from 5 different settlements (Vostok, Novopokrovka, Lukianovka, Boguslavets, Vostretsovo) took an active part in the festival. Over 70 children, who could not attend the festival, sent their paintings, crafts made of wood, plasticine and other materials, as well as 22 compositions and 10 reports from remote villages (Goncharovka, Izmailikha, Melnichnoye, Roschino). All works were devoted to Amur



tiger. Over 28 poems, 14 songs and 8 dances about tigers were presented at the district contest. The winners of the contests were awarded with memorable prizes. The holiday in Novopokrovka started with a festive procession on the main street of the district center; then it was followed by the concerts and contests on the central square. A “striped” discotheque was organized for the youth in the evening; the main condition of the event was striped detail in

clothes (earmarking the tiger tribe). There were contests and quizzes on tiger biology there; the best answers were awarded with prizes. The local press gave a good coverage of the festival.



© Phoenix Fund
The winners are receiving their prizes,
Tiger Day in Novopokrovka, October 02, 2004

We are happy that the holiday could attract attention of people that share an uneasy coexistence with large predators and help ensure safe future for both animals and men in taiga. There is a hope that Primorsky krai administration will pay attention to this wonderful, unique and beloved festival and will support it in nearest future.

Creation of a Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka Town



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-classes in Tiger eco-center, Novopokrovka

In January 2004 the Phoenix Fund, together with local administration and Elena Golobokova, experienced educator, started creation of Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka Town, Northern Primorye. Novopokrovka Town is an administrative and business centre of Krasnoarmeisky district of Northern Primorye, which population exceeds 25,000 people. The city administration fully supports the idea to create an eco-centre and in the beginning of January it provided a classroom at local school for it. The classroom needed renewal; therefore some reconstruction work was done. The Eco-centre occupies a classroom (45 m²) in the building of secondary school. For the reported period the main repairs were finished: the tubing of central heating was replaced, the

room was re-floored and windows were repaired. Now, designers are making design of a room for Eco-centre. It will have been developed by the middle of July. For the reported period the centre under construction received a number of exhibits for its future displays and exhibitions. For example, local villagers presented a meteorite of 1 kg by weight. Local mass media is very interested in observing the progress and has already published two articles on Tiger eco-centre.

On October 08 the eco-center was officially



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-center is decorated with children's paintings and 17
handicrafts



opened. Local administration, TV and press journalists attended the opening ceremony. Krasnoarmeisky Department of Education presented 10 new school desks to the eco-center. Since the educator has already carried out three classes at the eco-center for 25 pupils of the 4th form, for 20 pupils of the 2nd form, and a seminar for 15 educators from local kindergartens and school teachers.

Ecological education in the North of Primorye



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-class on the Amur tiger

From January 01 through December 31, 2004 the Phoenix Fund continued carrying out ecological education and outreach projects in the North of Primorye. Phoenix worked closely with an experienced educator in Krasnoarmeisky district, provided educational video films on nature and wildlife, CDs, transparencies, paints and papers. Most of environmental materials were purchased thanks to support from the 21st Century Tiger. The educator gave slide presentations at “School forestry” club and local schools of Krasnoarmeisky district. In total, 810 children attended 200 eco-classes and obtained ecological knowledge on rare and endangered species in Primorye.

The teacher conducted an ecological quiz that comprised “Who knows more?” game, game with cards on “Poisonous and “Medicinal plants”, crossword “Trees”, and lessons on the theme “Cats living close to us” for the schoolchildren. At the beginning of such lessons the children watched a slide presentation on wild cats inhabiting the Russian Far East, learnt about their habitat, distribution, numbers, and conservation problems. The children were fascinated of the tiger roar they listened to as they like to conceive animals not only with their eyes. After the slide presentation the children watched a video film “Amur tiger” by Vasily Solkin. They



© Phoenix Fund
The schoolchildren get acquainted with Amur tiger posters

liked the film very much as all events had taken place in their district. The teacher also showed a slide presentation on the theme “Predators”, described the main classes of mammals and general features of predators. The pupils got knowledge on importance of predators in ecosystems and human life. Then the children discussed a problem: “Tiger and wolf – what predator is more dangerous for human life”. The teacher told about the Special Emergency Response Team of Inspection Tiger that solves and prevents conflict situations between predators and people, and gave information on Compensation project that offers compensations to livestock farm owners for damage caused by tigers and leopards.

There were also classes when the children learnt how to make household rubbish useful. For example, they used details of old toys, plastic bottles etc to make New Year masks, costumes and other things. The main idea of such lessons was to teach children to leave rubbish as less



as possible and to give “the second life” to unnecessary things. Other lessons covered the theme “The bouquet instead of a Christmas tree”. The children learnt to make Christmas bouquets of fir tree branches and decoration that could be used instead of whole Christmas trees.

Besides, during the reported period the Phoenix Fund supported work of two educators in Pozharsky district. In January – December 2004 over 1,820 schoolchildren attended the “Tiger and leopard” classes at local schools and eco-center in Pozharsky district. The teachers carried out classes as interactive training. Thanks to support from the 21st Century Tiger, the Phoenix Fund organized subscription for “Zov Taigi” ecological magazine that teachers could use at eco-classes.

IV. Acknowledgment

This project is the result of joint efforts of many people and organizations. Thanks to support from the 21st Century Tiger, we helped keep the Siberian tiger population stable in 2004, managed to increase the capacity of the anti-poaching teams to reduce poaching and enhance wildlife and habitat protection in Primorye, and increase awareness of the local communities about the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation through education and outreach activities. We show our appreciation to Ms. Sarah Christie and Ms. Naomi McClure for all patience and assistance and hope for our fruitful co-operation in future.



V. Appendices

Table 1. Summary of enforcement and outreach activities of two public environmental investigation teams, January – December 2004*

Activity	Northern team	Southern team	Total
I. Violations documented:	82	73	155
1.1. Hunting	74	62	136
1.2. Fishing	5	19	24
1.3. Forest resources	2	-	2
1.4. Protected areas	-	-	-
1.5. Other	3	-	3
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	52 rifles (299 cartridges)	40	92 rifles (299 cartridges)
3. Confiscated poaching devices:			
a) Traps	-	30	30
b) Electric fishing rod	-	1	1
c) Home-made poaching devices for bear hunting	-	2 items	2 items
d) Nets	-	300 meters	300 meters
4. Wildlife confiscated :			
4.1. Tiger skin	2 items	-	2 items
4.2. Bear meat	56 kg	-	56 kg
4.3. Wild boar meat	2 species	-	2 species
4.4. Roe deer meat	-	21 kg	21 kg
4.5. Siberian stag meat	80 kg	20 kg	100 kg
4.6. Otter skin	-	1 item	1 item
4.7. Badger skin	-	1 item	1 item
4.8. Muskrat skin	-	3 items	3 items
4.9. Squirrel	-	5 items	5 items
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	5	-	5
6. Meetings with schoolchildren	20	-	20
7. Mass media coverage			
7.1. TV reports	12	-	12
7.2. Radio reports	2	-	2
7.3. Articles	6	-	6
8. Participation in round tables, conferences, trainings	4	3	7

* Results of joint patrols



Table 2. Summary of anti-poaching activities of the western wildlife managers' team, January – December 2004*¹

Activities	January – December 2004
I. Violations documented :	43
1.1. Hunting	22
1.2. Fishing	-
1.3. Other	21
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	22
3. Wildlife confiscated:	
3.1. Tiger skin	2 items
3.2. Poached bear	2 items
3.3. Duck	2 items
3.4. Alive bear cub	1 cub
3.5. Bear paws	12 items
4. Arrested violators	49 people
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	2
6. Condemned people	2 people

* Results of joint patrols