



21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future



Phoenix Fund

Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2006

**Interim report
January – June 2006**



**Vladivostok
2006**



INTERIM REPORT January 01 – June 30, 2006

Grantor: 21st Century Tiger
Project Name: Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2006
Grantee: The Phoenix Fund
Report Period: January 01 – June 30, 2006
Grant Period: January 01 – December 31, 2006

I. Project Overview

The objective 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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Checking documents

Two public environmental investigation teams were established in March 2001 to enhance the protection work of the state agencies. The teams work mainly in Northern Primorye, important tiger habitat, together with police officers, wildlife managers and fishing inspectors. The heads of the teams are experienced rangers that have been working in environmental law enforcement for more than 15 years. The teams carry out three- or four-day long patrols one or two times a week. For the reported period the teams conducted 59 patrols in Pozharsky, Krasnoarmeisky and Dalnerechensky districts of Primorye, drew up 66 reports on violations of hunting regulations,

confiscated 43 illegal rifles, 31 traps and other poaching devices and poached wildlife, and participated in eight meetings with schoolchildren (see Table 1).

In January and February the team conducted 14 patrols, including three patrols with police officers, one patrol with forest manager and ten patrols with wildlife managers. For the reported period the public rangers checked 37 vehicles, four logging settlements, 12 hunting huts, and 47 hunters.



In January 2006 while patrolling in Krasnoarmeisky district near the Sinacha River the public rangers found a tiger track and faced a unique case. Examining the tracks left on the snow, the rangers determined that they belonged to a big male (12 cm paw width) and noticed that the track of the right foreleg did not correspond with direction of tiger movement (its paw has 180 ° turn). The rangers came to a conclusion that the predator might have been injured or trapped by people. There was no blood on tiger tracks; therefore the rangers decided that it was an old injury. One hundred eighty degrees turn testified wrong knitting. The team questioned the hunters on that territory and learnt that tiger numbers had risen. According to their data, about seven Amur tigers have been living there. It might have been connected with concentration of wild boars in the bottomland of the river.

In Pozharsky district the public rangers patrolled in cooperation with Mr. Ageev, gamekeeper of the voluntary association. On January 12, Mr. Gorshunov was arrested for illegal hunting on wild boars in the bottomland of the Kungalaza spring. The rangers drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations, confiscated his rifle *Saiga*, 7.62/39 gauge. On January 13, Mr. Tuntsov was stopped near the Chanza stream for illegal hunting from his car.

On January 20, near the Kedrovka river the team arrested Mr. Fisenko for setting snares for hare. The rangers imposed a fine of 500 roubles (\$17) and confiscated one snare. On the same day the team detained Mr. Stolet for trapping. The public rangers confiscated three traps and imposed a fine of 500 roubles (\$17).

On January 21, Mr. Vereschagin was transporting wild boar meat (5 kg) without any document. The violator paid a fine of 500 roubles. The rangers confiscated the meat. On the same day the team arrested Mr. Kuralov for visiting hunting grounds without a permit. The violator paid a fine of 500 roubles (\$17). Later on, near the Checheveza stream during checking a logging site the rangers found rifle TOZ-BM, gauge 20. The rangers did not determine the rifle's owner and handed it over to the local police department.



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Ranger found poached Siberian stag

On January 24, the team patrolled farm fields and arrested Mr. Brizhaty for illegal hunting on pheasant during closed hunting season. The rangers imposed a fine of 500 roubles (\$17) and confiscated his rifle IZH-27. Later on, the team arrested Mr. Zimenok for illegal hunting on ungulates. The violator paid a fine in the amount of 500 roubles (\$17). On the same day Mr. Smolyarchuk was arrested near the Ketovaya river for poaching. The public rangers confiscated his rifle MTZ 21-12 and made violator pay a fine of 500 roubles (\$17). Near the Luginka river the team arrested Mr. Lavrukhin with poached hare. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34). In the evening on the same day the public rangers checked a hut near the Sinaly stream and found head of Siberian stag. The hut's owner paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$17).

From January 24 through January 26 the team conducted a joint patrol with a wildlife manager and a police officer. On January 24, during checking a logging base the rangers found a head of Siberian stag in a carriage with foodstuff. Mr. Sheikin, chief of the logging site, could not explain how wild products had turned out to be in the carriage. The public rangers drew up a report on Mr. Sheikin. On the same day while patrolling hunting lands near Melnichnoye village, the rangers arrested Mr. Zimenok in white camouflage cloak and with a rifle. The arrested man was hunting during closed hunting season. Besides, he had overdue hunting license. The public



rangers drew up a report, confiscated a rifle and ten cartridges and forwarded all documents to Krasnoarmeisky police department to initiate criminal proceedings. Later on, on January 24, Mr. Smolenchuk was detained for poaching in the bottomland of the Ketovaya river. The rangers drew up a report, confiscated a rifle with five cartridges, two poached Siberian weasels (kolinski) and one poached squirrel.



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Checking of a logging site

On January 25, the joint team checked a winter house near the Osinovy spring and found two illegal rifles and 18 cartridges. One of the rifles was found in a sack hanging 5-6 meters high on the tree. No people were found in the winter house. The rangers drew up a report and confiscated the rifles. On the same day Mr. Butkeev was arrested for illegal hunting with two dogs during closed hunting season. The public rangers confiscated meat of poached wild boar, rifle IZH- 27 and imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34) and 3,000 roubles (\$102) for poached wild boar. Later on, while the team was checking a hunting house the rangers

found rifle IZH –17. The rifle's owner was not determined. One the same day near the Osinovy spring the team checked a winter house and found carabine KO – 44. As its owner was not determined the rifle was handed over to the local police department.

On January 30 the public rangers carried out a joint patrol in Poharsky district with Mr. Furman, wildlife manager, and a police officer. While patrolling hunting lands near the Bolshaya Zalonnaya spring they checked a winter house belonging to Mr. Schava. As a result, the rangers drew up a report on Mr. Schava for being in the forest with a rifle during closed hunting season, and confiscated his rifle. On the same day on the road Verkhny Pereval – Krasny Yar the joint team stopped a car (Toyota Corolla) driven by Mr. Leonov. While checking the car, the rangers found meat of wild boar in the trunk. Mr. Leonov did not have papers on wild products. The public rangers confiscated wild meat and drew up a report.

On February 01, Mr. Klimenko was arrested for illegal hunting near the Alexandovsky spring. The violator paid a fine of 500 roubles (\$17).

On February 02, the public rangers took part in court session in Dalnerechensk city on criminal proceedings against the Krikuns arrested for illegal logging.

On February 03, the public rangers, together with the forest managers of Burlitovsky forestry, conducted a joint patrol and revealed unauthorized logging area near Alchan village. All materials on the violation were handed over to Luchegorsk police department for further investigation.

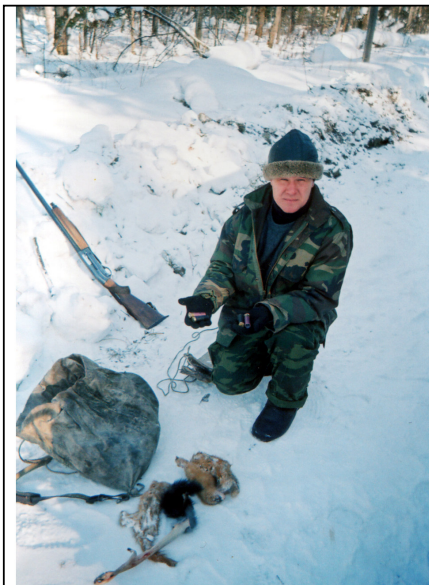


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Drawing up a report

In Krasnoarmeisky district the public rangers conducted patrols together with wildlife managers. On February 07, the joint team arrested two military men for illegal hunting on ungulates near the Maly Barybkin spring. The rangers confiscated two rifles and 40 cartridges. On the same



day the team arrested Mr. Lutaenko and Mr. Sholokh for illegal hunting near the Barybkin stream. Each violator paid a fine of 500 roubles (\$17).



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Revealed case of poaching

On February 08, while patrolling along the Bolshaya Ussurka river the public rangers found fresh tracks of a vehicle. They followed the tracks and found a winter hut 600 meters far from the river. Inside the hut they saw Mr. Fisenko with a rifle. The man was arrested for being present with the rifle during closed hunting season. The rangers drew up a report on violation, confiscated his rifle "Vepr", gauge 7,62 mm and cartridges. On the same day the rangers checked a logging base and found an illegal rifle in one of the trailers. Mr. Strukov, the owner of the rifle, told that he had found the rifle in the forest. The rangers confiscated the rifles and 19 cartridges and drew up a report on violation.

On February 09, the team arrested Mr. Shmidt 60 km far from Glubinnoye village for illegal hunting. The violator was setting snares for musk deer that is prohibited to hunt in that hunting season. Later on the rangers found a hide with snares and poached musk deer. They drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations and confiscated 63 snares and the poached animal. On the same day while checking a logging base near the Tumanny river the

rangers arrested Mr. Belan for illegal hunting. The violator had a rifle TOZ-34E gauge 28. About 11 meters far from the site the rangers found a poached roe deer. They drew up a report on violation and confiscated the poached animal, the rifle and 12 cartridges.

On February 16, Mr. Shestopal was arrested for poaching sable with traps near the Kamenisty spring in Krasnoarmeisky district. The rangers found two poached sables in the violator's backpack. On February 17, the team patrolled in Pozharsky district and revealed a violation of hunting regulations. Mr. Ilinchuk was arrested for illegal hunting at night with use of vehicle lights. On February 18, Mr. Grom was arrested for transporting poached roe deer (20 kg). The public rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34).



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Checking of logging site

On February 23, the public rangers drew up two reports on violations of hunting regulations. Near the Shumny stream they stopped a tractor T-40 and found a poached wild boar and illegal rifle in it. The violator paid a fine. Later on, 8 km far from Strelnikovo village, the rangers stopped a car with two men. After checking their car, the rangers found two rifles and poached Siberian stag (40 kg).

In March the teams of public rangers conducted eight many-day patrols in cooperation with the local police officers, forest and wildlife managers. They



patrolled the public hunting lands of Pozharsky and Krasnoarmeisky districts and “Taezhny” wildlife refuge.

On March 6-9, the public rangers, together with the police officers, conducted a joint patrol to the north of Pozharsky district along the administrative border of Khabarovsk region. The goal was to reveal illegal logging sites and check the legality and use of headrigs at the logging enterprises.

On March 09, 2006 near the Zalomny spring, the rangers arrested Mr. Sholokh with poached Siberian stag meat. The public rangers imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$37) and sued the violator for 5,000 roubles (\$185).



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Patrol in Krasnoarmeisky district

On March 13-16, the team, together with the Federal Nature Use Service officers, participated in a patrol to reveal illegal logging sites along the northwestern border between Pozharsky and Krasnoarmeisky districts. During the patrol the inspectors, using navigation equipment, marked the sites of unauthorized fellings on the forest map. In Pozharsky district, in sections 33-34 of Verkhneperevalinsky forestry unit near the Sergeevsky spring, the team detected two sites of unauthorized logging, with the volume of felled logs totalling 16-18 m³.

On March 17, 2006 in the public hunting grounds the team members stopped a “Buran” snowmobile and detained Mr. Peshkov, who was hunting during closed season using a prohibited method – hunting on a snowmobile. The violator was carrying a “Tiger” carbine without license, and a poached roe deer. The rangers drew up a report on violation and handed it over to the local police department. The gun, the poached roe deer with a gunshot wound and a knife with bloody marks and animal’s hair were confiscated. All the materials on the violation were forwarded to the local police department to initiate criminal proceedings. The poacher was sued for 3,000 roubles (\$110).

On March 18, 2006 near the Naumov spring the public rangers detained Mr. Stepanov, who was carrying a boar poached with the use of illegal snare. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$37 USD), and was sued for 3,000 roubles (\$110).

On March 18-20, the police officers of Luchegorsk city arrived to the detected places of illegal woodcutting to check the legality and use of headrigs on the territory of the logging companies. During examination, the officers drew up three reports on logging without accompanying documents. While checking “Bikin” Ltd. and “Vasilenko” logging enterprises situated along the federal road Khabarovsk – Nakhodka, the police officers proved the unauthorized use of headrigs that functioned without concessions for exploitation.

On March 22, while checking Goncharovsky field system, the rangers noticed a man running away with a rifle. During the pursuit he dropped his weapon off. Unfortunately, the violator managed to escape. On examination the gun turned out to be assembled of parts with different serial numbers, which showed that it was illegal. A report was drawn up on that fact. The rifle TOZ-BM, 16 gauge was handed over to the local police department.

On March 23, the rangers arrested Mr. Shurupov for hunting with rifle Izh-27, 2x12 gauge during closed hunting season. The rifle and 22 cartridges were confiscated, and report was drawn up.



On March 24, while patrolling the flood-lands of the Rudny spring, the rangers detained Mr. Naumov, who was illegally hunting with dogs, using a rifled carbine OP SKS. The gun and 12 cartridges were confiscated and a report was drawn up. During that patrol the public officers also found two poached roe deer.

This year the cases of hunting for wild ungulates with dogs became more frequent because of a very thick crust on the snow. On March 22-25, during a joint patrol with the wildlife managers, the public rangers revealed a number of violations of hunting regulations.



Checking documents

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In April 2006 the public rangers team worked in Krasnoarmeisky and Pozharsky districts to reveal and stop violations of hunting regulations, poaching and illegal logging. In their work the officers closely collaborated with Primorsky Hunting Management department and wildlife managers of hunting societies.

In April, two teams of the public officers conducted eight many-day patrols, drew up 15 reports on violations of hunting regulations and destruction of wild animals' habitat, confiscated six rifles, 27 cartridges, 100 kg (50 pounds) of poached meat, a man-made knife and won a trial. During their work the inspectors checked over 20 vehicles, two logging camps, three hunters' huts and 16 hunters and fishermen.

The end of March – the beginning of April were really tough for wild ungulates. As a result of plentiful snowfalls, followed by thaws and morning frosts, the snow turned in to a very thick crust. The poachers from Krasnoarmeisky and Pozharsky districts took immediate advantage of the situation and started an uncontrolled onslaught on ungulates using dogs. Early afternoon, while the sun is not strong enough to warm up the forest, dogs can easily catch emaciated animals, which are not able to escape because of the thick snow crust. Dogs literally tear the weak animals into pieces. Rifles are not even necessary for poachers under these conditions.

The first to be killed are pregnant females with two or rarely one fetus in the womb. The Chinese, which come for seasonal works to the Russian Far East, pay good money for the ungulates' embryos and wombs that are used in traditional Chinese medicine. Most popular are derivatives of Siberian stag and roe deer.

On March 31, on the border with Tayezhny wildlife refuge in Krasnoarmeisky district, the public environmental investigation team apprehended Mr. Golovin with a carbine and two dogs. The violator was hunting ungulates during closed hunting season. The rangers drew up a report and confiscated the gun, the license and 13 cartridges.

On April 01, in the hunting lands of Krasnoarmeisky district the officers detained Mr. Ilyin, who was carrying a rifle Izh - 18 without license. The inspectors imposed a fine of 500 roubles and confiscated the gun. On the same day near Gogolevka village the team arrested Mr. Melikhov, who was in the hunting grounds with a dog during closed hunting season. The violator received a notice.

On April 06, while patrolling the fields near Gogolevka village in Krasnoarmeisky district, the rangers detained Mr. Konovalov, a resident of Novopokrovka village, who was hunting Siberian stag and roe deer with three dogs. The violator had a rifle Izh-18, 20 gauge and 14 cartridges



filled with bullets and case shot. A report was drawn up on that case; the rifle and cartridges were confiscated.

On the same day in the hunting lease of “Sable” hunting society near the Posledny spring, the rangers apprehended Mr. Ronsky for poaching a roe deer during closed hunting season, employing a forbidden method – pursuing the animal on the snow crust. The meat (30 kg = 15 pounds) was confiscated. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 roubles and was sued for 4,500 roubles (\$167). On the same day the rangers stopped two more violators. Mr. Bozhkov was arrested for poaching a roe deer with dogs. The public officers imposed a fine of 500 roubles and sued the poacher for 4,500 roubles (\$167). Mr. Konovalov was also detained for poaching a roe deer with dogs during closed season. The poached meat was confiscated; the violator paid a fine of 500 roubles and was sued for 3,000 roubles (\$111).

On April 07, in the hunting ground of “Sable” hunting society near the Izlutchenska spring, Mr. Uliskov and Mr. Sedikh were arrested for shooting illegally a Siberian stag. The poached meat, two rifles, as well as 14 cartridges were confiscated. One of the violators paid a fine of 500 roubles; another one paid 1,000 roubles of fine and was sued for 5,000 roubles (\$185). On April 08, near Dalny Kut village the public rangers arrested Mr. Stepanov leaving the forest. On his backpack examination, the team found meat of poached roe deer, two embryos and a womb. The rangers drew up a report and confiscated illegal products and a man-made knife.



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Ranger found a rifle hidden in the forest

On April 10, in the hunting grounds near the Chantafa spring of Pozharsky district, the officers detained Mr. Surmin, who was illegally hunting with dogs. A report was drawn up on the violation.

On April 18, Mr. Shakhvatov was apprehended for destroying a set of badger dens while transporting wood on tractor near “Goncharovskye sopky” tract. The inspectors imposed a fine of 500 roubles. On the same day another violator, who was illegally hunting near “Goncharovskye sopky” tract, also destroyed a badger’s shelter in a hollow tree. He paid a fine in the amount of 500 roubles as well.

On April 20, near the Voronovka river the team arrested two violators - Mr. Savitsky, carrying a rifle and Mr. Shilo with two unleashed dogs during closed hunting season. The violators paid fines of 1,000 roubles and 500 roubles, respectively.

On April 27, in Dalnerechensk city a court session on the administrative case against one of the public officers took place. The court declared the report invalid due to violations of judicial procedure. The administrative case was closed.

In May the team conducted twelve patrols by motorcar, by boat, and on foot, including three in cooperation with representatives of Hunting Management Department, one with an officer of Primorsky Department of Federal Nature Use Service and one with an employee of the Fish Protection Department. Control patrols were held in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district, in Tayozhny (Taiga) wildlife refuge. In May female ungulates such as roe, Siberian stag fawn, males renew horns. Animals come willingly to the salt licks made by poachers. Horns grow bigger, new sprouts add to them and coating that resembles chamois covers them. They will not ossify till late June. The horns are filled with blood and acquire healing properties. This matter is known in medicine as pantocrine and that is why during this season they are called



antlers. Hunting ungulates for antlers is permitted but limited. In some areas it is even forbidden because of little quantity of the animals. The majority of the hunting licenses enabling to shoot Siberian stag males are issued for not numerous natives for boiler food. The inspectors appealed continually to the authorities of the region as well as to Hunting Management Department asking for transfer of the hunting season for later dates and adding to the hunting regulations a paragraph on hunting only males with presenting antlers or penis (which is also used in medicine) as proofs. The reason for this is that many cases of hunting Siberian stag females are revealed in the past years.

On May 03, while inspecting the logging activities of “Primorsky mining and beneficiation” joint stock company on the hunting lot No. 33 the rangers revealed violations of forestry legislation. The logging team cut down the boundary stakes of the cutting area and fell trees below the exploitable diameter, which is not allowed. The rangers, in cooperation with an officer of Primorsky Department of Federal Nature Use Service, drew up a report on Mr. V. Voronyuk, the head of the logging lot, and imposed a fine of 2,000 roubles (\$74) on him. On the same day on the logging lot No. 23 of the same company the violations of the forestry legislation were discovered, namely littering with household garbage and waste of fuels and lubricants. The latter breaks anti-fire regulations. The foreman of the logging site Mr. D. Cherepkov had to pay a fine in the amount of 2,000 roubles (\$74).

On May 03, on the logging lot No. 2 the rangers drew up a report on a violation for leaving logs on the plot and not cleaning the logging area, which violates the fire-fighting regulations in the forests of the Russian Federation. The head of the logging site Mr. E. Timoshenko was made to pay a fine in the amount of 3,000 roubles (\$111). On May 05, on the public hunting grounds the rangers stopped Mr. S. Bugaev for carrying arms during close hunting period. The shotgun Izh-18 was confiscated. The violator paid a fine in the amount of 500 roubles (\$18). On May 06, the inspectors detained Mr. D. Svistunov for hunting near a salt lick. During the detention the man attempted to escape and hide a gun. A report was drawn up, a 12-gauge gun Izh-81 was confiscated. The violator paid a fine of 500 roubles (\$18).

On May 07, on the public hunting grounds Mr. A. Toeskin was stopped with an illegal gun Izh-18. It was confiscated and the violator paid 500 roubles (\$18) as a fine.

Public ecological control on wildlife protection was held in cooperation with Hunting Management Department and wildlife managers of the voluntary hunting societies of Pozharsky district. Thus, on May 10-12 during the patrol in the hunting lease of the society together with Mr. Ageev, gamekeeper of the hunting and fishing society, three illegal salt licks were discovered and eliminated. Special hiding constructions (*lobaz*) were sawn down with a chain saw.

On May 14, in the vicinity of the Muzima spring on a blind road the car tracks were found. The rangers followed them for 2 km from the main road and found a “Toyota Carib”. Human footprints were discovered near it leading into the forest. The rangers traced them and found a man sitting on a branch of an old linden tree with a shotgun and light appliance installed on it at 25 meters’ distance from the salt lick.

Instead of descending the man started climbing up the tree. He was identified as Mr. Myachin, inhabitant of Verkhny Pereval village. The rangers drew up a report on the violator.

On May 23, the inspectors spotted Mr. Kusal when hunting on a salt lick and imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$37) on him. Mr. Kusal threw the gun into the river and it was not found. On May 25, the team members in cooperation with Fish Protection Department detained Mr. Glushkov and Mr. Sherbina, dwellers of the settlement of Vostok. As the result of the examination of their car 40 kg of fish caught with illegal fishing nets were found. Ten nets were destroyed on the



place of the accident. The fish was handed over free of charge to the orphanage of Roshino village. Mr. Sherbina took all the blame upon him and paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$37).

On May 27, while checking a logging truck the rangers detained Mr. Pashin with a 16-gauge gun Izh-18. A report was drawn up on violation of hunting regulations.

On May 30, near the Zolotoy (Golden) spring the rangers examined a hunter's hut and revealed illegal hunting gear – 32 rope snares, five of which destined to catch large animals, such as bear or tiger. Ranger of Hunting Management Department drew up a report on confiscation of the snares.



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Rangers found a field planted with hemp

On May 31, the rangers received a message that a group of armed people had been seen on the 72nd km of the Alchan river. Together with the ranger of Hunting Management Department the officers found the men.

Among them they recognized Mr. Pashin detained a week ago. On examining the bank in the bushes two sacks containing 23 fishing nets belonging to Mr. Muzhichenko were revealed. In a hunter's hut the ranger found a gun of Mr. Pashin already known to him. The man was offered to give out the arms on his own free will but he replied that it was at his home. Having examined thoroughly the bank and the bushes the ranger discovered a 12-gauge gun IZH-43E-1C. The inspector did not manage to draw up a report on detention as Mr. Pashin escaped from the place of the accident though he made a report on confiscation of the gun and eight cartridges. Some time later Mr. Pashin came to senior ranger Tarasenko and pleaded guilty.

On the same day on the logging site of "Standart" Ltd. while examining the housings, the rangers found 17 loaded 12-gauge cartridges under Mr. Smolin's mattress. There were 11 snares No. 00 and 9 snares No.1 under his bed. The man had no hunting permit and documents proving the objects belonged to him. The rangers confiscated the evidence for further investigation.

On June 02, the team arrested Mr. Kho for illegal hunting with a rifle IZH, 20 gauge, near the Schedrinka stream. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 rubles (\$37). On the same day the public rangers detained Mr. Massyk with a carbine KO-44 near the Kulinkina Pad stream. During the arrest the violator tried to escape, but failed. The rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine of 1,000 rubles (\$37).

On June 13, while checking "Gefest" Ltd. logging company, the public rangers found a head of Siberian stag near a house. They found out that Mr. Kuznetsov, foreman of the logging site, had killed the animal. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 rubles (\$37) and 5,000 rubles (\$185) as a compensation for caused damage.

For the period June 15 - 22 the public rangers in cooperation with the officers of Rosprirodnadzor and Special Police Force carried out a joint patrol in Chuguevsky, Kavalerovsky and Dalnegorsky districts in order to check Koksharsky forestry and "Nota" hunting society. The examination in Koksharsky forestry revealed three unauthorized logging areas with about 42 m³ of felled oak and ash-tree. The rangers made a list of discovered wood, drew up a report on violation and confiscated the felled trees. In the flood-lands of Zhuravlevka river the Koksharsky forestry caused huge damage to forest resources, specifically they made



final harvesting. According to the logging tickets they should have made only sanitary cuts there.

During the examination of “Nota” (Note) hunting society the joint team found out that the director of the hunting society had occupied about 3.5 ha of land without permission and started building dwellings and an office. The construction caused considerable damage to forest resources. The rangers forwarded all documents to Primorsky Prosecutor’s Office to initiate criminal proceedings (article No. 260, Criminal Code of the Russian Federation).

On June 17, while patrolling Pozhiga-Uborka road the public rangers stopped Ural vehicle with 27 m³ of yellow birch (*Betula lutea*). The driver did not have any permission to transport the wood. The vehicle was arrested and taken to the police department of Chuguevka village for further investigation.

On June 18, during the patrol in Tazhny wildlife refuge the team examined four feeding grounds (salt licks) to reveal illegal hunting. No poaching case was registered. Besides, the team checked five vehicles in the refuge. All owners of the vehicles turned out to be fishermen. Fishing meets the requirements of the regime of Tazhny wildlife refuge.



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A head of a Siberian stag found on the logging site

On June 18, during a patrol in Dalnerechensky district the team stopped Ural motorcycle without a plate. Examination inside the motorcycle revealed a rifle TOZ-34, 2/28 gauge. A driver and a passenger told that they had found the rifle in the forest in an abandoned base. Two men were taken to the police department of Dalnegorsk city where it was determined that the motorcycle had been stolen. The rifle and 19 cartridges were confiscated and handed over to the police officers for further investigation.

On June 19, while checking a logging area of “Vasyotr” Ltd. in Koksharovka village the public rangers revealed huge land pollution with fuel. The rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine.

On June 25, the public rangers patrolled Tazhny wildlife refuge and did not reveal any violation.

From June 26, through June 30 the public rangers, together with wildlife managers patrolled along the north-western border of Pozharsky district, checked winter houses near the Priemny stream and the upper Alchan river (where the wildlife managers detained the chairman of Alchan hunting society with tiger skin on June 15, 2006). No human presence was registered.

On June 27, in the flood-lands of the Trety stream the team arrested Mr. Borisov for illegal hunting with two dogs. On June 28 Mr. Ryzhikh was detained for hunting with traps near Sobolinoye village. Each violator paid a fine.

On June 29, while patrolling the forest near Verkhny Pereval village the public rangers found fresh tracks of a motorcycle. The team members decided to follow the tracks and found a motorcycle IZH Yupiter-3 hidden in the bush. There was a rifle’s case on the right side of the



motorcycle. The rangers also found human footprints leading to a man-made salt lick. It was decided to make a night ambush. Only at 8 a.m. a hunter appeared without any prey. The rangers arrested the violator who turned out to be a police officer of Pozharsky police department. The team members seized a rifle and 16 cartridges and drew up a report on violation of hunting regulation.

On June 30, during examination of a winter house near the Severny stream the public rangers found a big area planted with hemp. The rangers also found a rifle IZH-12, 2/12 gauge and 14 cartridges. Last year, in October, a joint patrol with the officers of Special Police Force at the same place resulted in an arrest of several people and burning four sacks of hemp. After that case human presence was not observed there for a long time.

Other

In January the public rangers continued cooperating with non-governmental organizations, such as “Flowerspring”, “Ship” children’s ecological media and tourism club. In January the team read one lecture at school in Fedoseevka village.

In February the team gave one eco-lecture at school in Nagornoye village. The team’s activities were covered by local TV channel twice in February.

In April the rangers participated in a district brain-ring, as well as in various education and outreach activities in “Flowerspring” eco- centre, worked with the youth tourism club and “Ship” (Thorn) ecological television. Video materials on the team’s activities were handed over to the local television in Luchegorsk city.

The inspectors kept working with children’s public organizations such as “Flowerspring”, ecological TV company “Ship” (Thorn) and tourism club. During regular meetings they discussed the emerging ecological problems and were looking for possible solutions. The public team continued collaborating with the local television in Luchegorsk city having provided video materials on the team’s joint work with the local police officers to the local TV channel.

In May the rangers conducted several trips to a secondary school of Ignatyevka village and school No. 4 of Luchegorsk city together with the educators Ms. Tsvetkova and Ms. Litvinova. Thus, on May 19, at school No. 4 an open ecological day was organized with slide presentations and schoolchildren’s reports on various spheres of ecology. The inspectors spent 11 hours in total on delivering lectures within the framework of the ecological education project.

Western wildlife managers’ team



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. Table 2 shows anti-poaching results of the wildlife managers’ team (see Attachment).

In January 2006 the team bought a “Land Cruiser” jeep to substitute the burnt field vehicle. In that month the inspectors were

Arrested poacher



patrolling in the hunting grounds of Ussuriyskiy district.

On January 14, 2006 in Nezhinskoye hunting lease the rangers detained Mr. Artyukhov with expired hunting permit. A report on administrative violation was drawn up on that fact.

On January 15, 2006 in Borisovskoye hunting lease at the military forestry cordon the team officers arrested a number of violators: Mr. Zemlianko, Mr. Puteev, Mr. Kharitonov, Mr. Tishenko, Mr. Shiriaev, and Mr. Simizhenov. The detained men poached eight boars, four roe deer and one sika deer. They also took one sika deer and one boar with a hunting license, but at the moment of checking the license was not filled up. The inspectors drew up a report on administrative violation and imposed a fine in the amount of 1,000 roubles (\$34) on each violator and sued them for 72,000 roubles (\$2,500).



Poached wild animals

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In February, besides the works on protection of wild species and their habitat, the team conducted animals' population census. The patrols were conducted together with the local police officers, public rangers and the mass

media.

On February 10, 2006 near Rozhdestvenka village in Dalnerechenskiy district, the rangers stopped four vehicles, loaded with oak and ash-tree timber. The team suspected that the timber had been logged illegally. As a result the team members followed the vehicles' tracks and found an unauthorized woodcutting site. The cars were brought to Dalneretchensk city, and the wood was taken for storing to a protected ground. A report was drawn up and handed over to Dalnerechenskiy police department.

On February 19, 2006 near Tserkovny spring in the hunting lands of Rakitnoye village, the inspectors detained Mr. Drozdov who had a single-barrelled gun, which had been converted into rifled barrel. The arrested man was brought to the police department of Rakitnoye village, and a criminal case on illegal keeping and bearing of rifled weapon was initiated according to the 222 clause of the Russian Federation Criminal Code.



Revealed illegal logging site

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On March 19, 2006 in the hunting lands of Dalnerechenskiy district near Rozhdestvenka village, the team arrested Mr. Furs with a rifle. An administrative report on hunting regulations violation was drawn up on this fact. On the same day, a group of three men was detained during illegal felling and logging of oak trees. An administrative report was as well drawn up.



On March 25, 2006 near Stepaniukov spring within five kilometres from Lubitovka village of Dalnerechensky district, the rangers apprehended a group of six people, who were illegally cutting and logging wood. The violators had cut 14 items of oak and ash-tree. The inspectors confiscated a tractor, a chainsaw and two radio-sets. A report was drawn up and forwarded to Dalnerechensky police department. A criminal case was initiated on the fact of illegal logging.



© Phoenix Fund
Poached roe deer

On March 22, at a distance of six kilometres from Rozhdestvenka village of Dalnerechensky district, the officers stopped two vehicles, loaded with oak and ash-tree wood. The drivers did not have any documents authorizing timber transportation. One of the violators explained to the officers that he had found the timber a month ago, and decided to take it home that time. The vehicles with wood were brought to Dalnerechensky police department. A criminal case on State property theft was initiated.

In April the team conducted four patrols in cooperation with police officers, representatives of the media and public organizations engaged

in wildlife protection.

On April 15, in the hunting lease in the vicinity of the Bolshaya Ussurka river near Graftsky garrison Mr. Bagaevsky, Mr. Rossadnev, Mr. Smirnov, and Mr. Glushenko were detained for hunting outside the hunting period with 12-gauge guns Izh 27M, Izh 27EM, Izh 43, Izh 27M and poaching two wild duck. The rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$37) on each violator.

On April 17, while patrolling in cooperation with the guard of "Timber-Export" Ltd. the grounds adjacent to the television tower of Dalnerechensk town near the road Khabarovsk-Vladivostok the team stopped an off-road vehicle driven loaded by 29 aspen logs. Mr. Zamyatkin, the driver had no license for timber transportation. In the course of examination of the car the rangers discovered a chain saw. The vehicle was transported to the police department of Dalnerechensk city for further examination.



© Phoenix Fund
Arrested violator

On April 19, in the area of the third bay close to the railway bridge of Dalnerechensk city the rangers stopped Mr. Korneichuk and Mr. Egorov with 12-gauge guns "Saiga" and MP-153. The rangers did not find poached animals, but the actions of the men violate article 8.37 of hunting regulations of Administrative Code of Russian Federation. Each violator paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$37).



On April 27, while patrolling the territory around Zimniki village on Keshlinsky road near the Kolkin spring in Dalnerechensky district an off-road vehicle without state numbers and loaded with 13 oak logs was stopped. The driver had neither driving license, no permit for timber transportation. The violator and his car were delivered to the police department of Rakitnoye village for further inquiries.

III. Environmental Education and Outreach

Eco-centre in Novopokrovka city, Northern Primorye



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Eco-class in Tiger eco-centre

In January 2004 the Phoenix Fund offset up the Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka town, Northern Primorye. The city authorities provided a classroom for the centre at a local school and an experienced educator conducts ecological classes, lectures, slide presentations and other activities for children and adults. The classes have been hugely successful and have attracted 2,500 children from around this vast region. In 2006 the teacher carried out over 87 eco-classes and over 1,572 children visited the eco-centre.

In January 2006 the educator conducted 11 eco-lessons and six meetings with the total of 315 children.

On January 11, 18 and 20 the educator carried out “Tiger arithmetic” lessons in form of conversation. The pupils discussed the reasons of tiger cubs’ death, talked about the difference between hunters and poachers, and learnt the size, weight and other characteristics of the tiger. At the end of the lesson the teacher asked questions to test how the children learnt new material. After each lesson the teacher organized an excursion at the eco-centre and told about animals living there. The children could see exhibition of handicrafts made for Tiger Day Festival last September and visit display “Ancient history of Krasnoarmeisky district”.

On January 14, 23, 25, 26, and 27 the teacher carried out lessons “There are only 30 leopards left in the wild”. In the beginning of the lesson the educator asked how many Amur tigers left in the wild. The children answered and the teacher asked the same question about the Amur / Far Eastern leopards. After receiving the right answer the teacher named the title of the lesson and started telling a story of the leopard family described in the “Far Eastern leopard” book for children. When the teacher read the book, the children told that man is the main threat to the leopard survival. The teacher prepared two schemes on the blackboard showing how many leopards must be in the fourth generation. Using the first scheme the teacher explained how to count population. As a result, the children counted 33 cats. Based on the story from the book the pupils counted only three leopards left in the wild. The teacher asked children’s



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Lesson on Amur leopard



opinion when the leopard could become extinct. They answered that it could happen in 50, 300 and 100 years. The teacher told that the scientists considered that it could become extinct in 35 years and if we did not help the leopard population, our children would not see this unique animal in the wild.



© Phoenix Fund
Tiger puzzle

On January 12, 16, 23 and 30 the children learnt how to look after animals living at the eco-centre. They cleaned the cages, washed aquariums and changed water in them, etc.

In February the educator conducted 16 eco-classes at the eco-centre. Over 80 children of 6-11 years old visited the eco-centre during the month.

On February 02, the educator conducted a “Tiger arithmetic” eco-class in form of discussion for a group of 6-year old kids. With assistance from the educator the children learnt about life of Amur tiger, its length and weight and discussed threats to its survival, such as hunger, poaching, injuries, and other predators. The eco-class also covered such themes as tiger population dynamics and differences between hunters and poachers. Then the girls and boys were offered to measure a life-size tiger toy. They were amazed to find out that the tiger was as long as two boys or girls, and weighed as much as four big boys, or two fathers. Then they learned about tiger claws and how they retract during walk.

After each eco-class children walked around the eco-centre, learned the stories and habits of the animals living at there. They also watched the exhibition of crafts made by children for the Tiger Day Festival. They got accustomed with the birds at the eco-centre, learned their names and songs. The older children that had visited the “Utyos” rehabilitation centre told the kids about tiger Lyuti, tigress Volya, bears, sika deer, fox and other animals and their stories.

On February 06, 13, 20, and 27 the children learned how to look after the animals and birds living at the eco-centre. They cleaned their cages and gathered grass, seeds and branches for the animals and birds.

On February 03 and 10, the eco-class “There are only 30 leopards left” was held for the children. They learned about leopard numbers and how to distinguish a tiger from a leopard. They listened to a story of a leopard family given in “Far Eastern leopard” book for kids. Some members of the leopard family died wounded by hunters. The children noted that the hunter had become a poacher and therefore a criminal. Having come back home children tell the stories to their parents that one shot can eliminate the most endangered cat species and ask them not to become criminals.



On February 08 and 15, there were eco-classes on tiger reproduction and dispersal. The educator told about tiger biology. One male tiger had several tigresses on his territory. The tigress is pregnant for 100-105 days and gives birth to 2-4 blind and helpless cubs. Children



were interested in comparing tiger biology and reproduction facts with what they know about dogs and domestic cats.

On February 17 and 26, the educator devoted her eco-classes to tiger subspecies and explained where they lived and what subspecies had become extinct. Children were interested to learn that the Amur tiger was not the only tiger subspecies, that it had its “brothers” in other countries and that they lived in hot and humid climate. Children also learned about conservation problems in other countries and tried to find general threats to tiger survival and ways out. White tigers also captured children’s minds; they were excited to learn that it was not a different tiger subspecies, but a genetic mutation.



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Eco-class devoted to Amur tiger and its habitat

In March 2006 the educator conducted 14 classes for 218 schoolchildren at the Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka village. One eco-tour to the forest was organized for the schoolchildren.

Eight eco-classes were devoted to tiger reproduction and dispersal. The educator told a story about tiger family, how many cubs were born and how many of them survived and told about the treats to tiger. The children played ecological game “Be friendly”, the children were divided into teams and each team could choose a “useless” animal (owl, snake, mouse etc) and the other team should prove the importance of that animal in the nature.

Five eco-classes with the children’s’ eco – club were devoted to the animals living at the eco-centre. The children took care of the animals, cleaned their cages, fed them and learned about their biology and behaviour.



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“Life of tiger cub” game

The educator organized a hike to the Ussurka riverbank for the children. The river was still covered with ice. During the hike the children were looking at the trees and notices that some of the buds became bigger and that pussy willow was already blooming. They spotted tracks of different animals on the snow and learned the tracks of hare and roe deer. During the snack-time on the riverbank the children noticed some rubbish on the bank and planned to organize a clean-up action soon.

In April the teacher conducted 14 lessons on the topic “Forest as an eco-system” for 461 children aged 6-13 in total at the eco-centre, secondary schools of Novopokrovka and Lukyanovka villages and a settlement of

Vostok. The children were offered to discuss what a forest is. They were explained primary notions: eco-system, food chain, and four kingdoms. In a game form the children got to know that each unit is important, there is no superfluous ones. Predators represent the top of any eco-system and tiger tops the ecological pyramid of the south of Russian Far East. They came

to a conclusion that forest is an eco-system and the slightest violation of it is destructive. The principal idea of the lesson that a man can't exist separately from forests as he is also a part of nature. Protecting tigers from extinction people protect themselves. Without Amur tiger there will be no Ussuri taiga and consequently no people inhabiting the territory.

The teacher talked with the children of primary school about tiger and asked them to remember its size, weight, colour, and peculiar features. Afterwards they summarized the rules of sensible behaviour in the forest.

An ecological week was held at a secondary school of Novopokrovka village. The children used materials from the eco-centre to make reports on tiger, far-eastern leopard and other species under protection. In the course of the week the pupils handed over a stuffed squirrel to the eco-centre. A local paper published an article about cooperation between the school and the centre.

In May the educator gave 14 lessons on the topic "Forest ecosystem" at the eco-centre, secondary schools of Boguslavets and Vostretsovo villages and two kindergartens of Novopokrovka village. In total, 264 children aged 6-13 attended the lesson. They discussed what forest was and were given principle notions: eco-system, food chain, and four kingdoms. Through games they grasped the idea of significance of every unit of an eco-system. Predators are on top of any eco-system. In the Russian Far East it is the Amur tiger.



© Phoenix Fund

"Tiger cubs"

Little children at the kindergartens listened to the teacher's story and then they were asked whether they loved butterflies. They replied unanimously that they did and even caught them the day before to see better but the teachers punished them for that. The teacher asked them whether tiger would suffer if butterflies had disappeared. Everybody replied that birds and flowers would suffer but tiger would not care, as it does not eat them. Then the teacher took away all the butterflies, birds, flowers and grass from the playground. The girls whispered that the forest got boring and not good-looking. The boys added that the roe deer should be taken away as they had no grass to eat and they would go away or just die. Someone said that one must also remove mushrooms as they grow in the grass. Roots of the trees would dry up. Suddenly the kids broke off. While they were discussing vivaciously how animals would get accustomed to new conditions the educator hid the picture of a tiger. They all noticed its absence. They said they knew it was bad to catch butterflies but had no idea it was so dangerous and promised not to do it any more.

The pupils came to a conclusion that forest is an eco-system and a slightest violation of it is destructive. The principal idea of the lesson is that man cannot exist separately from forests as he is also a part of nature. Protecting tigers from extinction people protect themselves. Without Amur tiger there will be no Ussuri taiga and consequently no people inhabiting the territory.

The educator conducted an excursion for 20 children in the park where trees had been planted three years ago.

In June the educator conducted two lessons at the Tiger eco-centre, six ecological games and "Clean river bank" clean-up action. In total, 167 children participated in ecological activities.



© Phoenix Fund
"Clean riverbank" clean-up

On June 01 during the celebration of the Children's Day on the central square of Novopokrovka town the educator carried out an outdoor game "Life of tiger cub". The idea of the game was taken from the "Amur tiger" kids' book. The table-game map was enlarged up to 1.5 m x 2.5 m. There were several sections on the map, such as "First prey", "Encounter with a bear", "Mom is hunting, stay still", "You are in a trap", "Bad weather, miss move", "A poacher killed you, you are leaving the field", "Mom died", "Mom killed a wild boar", "People came into the forest to cut wood". Three girls dressed in tiger suits were playing as game pieces. Three children played with game pieces to overcome all obstacles that a tiger cub met with. While playing the game, the children

became acquainted with tiger life and learnt about threats to tiger survival. In total, 60 children played the game, with 20 winners awarded. The children from two kindergartens also played this game with great pleasure.

In June the children, active visitors of eco-centre, took part in "Clean riverbank" clean-up action. They gathered garbage along the Bolshaya Ussurka river and took it to the town's scrap-heap.

Ecological education in the North of Primorye



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-lesson in Pozharsky district

In 2006 the eco-classes started in the mid-January because of winter holidays (January 01 through January 15). From January 15 to June 30 over 2,666 children attended 68 ecological lessons, performances, round tables, conferences and festivals.

In January 2006 the educator developed a lesson "People, be friends of the nature!" The main goal of the lesson is to get children acquainted with the rules of human behaviour outdoors, to bring them up to love nature and teach them to treat it with care. On January 18 and 19 such lesson was given for "Vesnyanka" and "Nezabudka" ecological groups of kindergarten. During the lesson the children

played interactive games "Children in the forest" and "Little horses", read and discussed poems about nature and gathered a picture from separate parts (puzzle). When the picture was ready the children had to find ecological violations on it.

On January 16, 25 pupils of the 8th form of a secondary school No.1 in Luchegorsk city attended a lesson on the theme "Nature Reserves of Primorye". They got to know that our planet loses from 50 to 150 species of flora and fauna daily. Since 1950 about 600 species have already disappeared. If this process goes on, in 50 years half of the species living now on the Earth will



die out. The main reason of extinction is habitat destruction that will produce a disastrous influence on humanity. So aiming at preserving biodiversity of the Earth people found nature reserves. The children were told about the nature reserves of Primorye and their miserable state due to lack of financing. That's why poaching and pollution flourish in the Far Eastern State Marine Reserve. The teacher told about reservoir Solyonaya Pad Lake, a precious natural resource of Pozharsky district. Lotus (*Nelumbium Komarovii*) is herbaceous plant that grows in lake. It is listed in the Russian Red Book of rare and endangered species. Its habitat is decreasing because of people's uncivilized attitude towards the Lake and plants. The teacher also told about Russian government's plan to build a pipeline "Eastern Siberia – Pacific Ocean" on the reserved territories of the Khasan district paying no attention to probable oil spills and great damages that it might bring to the unique nature of the Amur Bay, Kedrovaya Pad nature reserve, Borisovskoye Plateau, Poltavsky and Barsovy wildlife refuges where Amur leopard the rarest wild cat lives.

Besides, the teacher touched the problem of Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge. Primorsky Krai administration signed a new decree that allowed conducting exploration work and mining, house and road building and research work in Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge. Pozharsky district administration signed a resolution on inadmissibility of granting the lots for building aims and necessity of taking prompt measures for preserving biodiversity of the refuge. On January 25, a lesson on the same topic was given to 22 pupils of the 8th form of the same school.

On January 27 and 30 the teacher carried out two lessons "Ecological problems in the U.S." for pupils of the 8th and 7th forms.

On January 29, the children from "Vesnyanka" group were initiated into young ecologists at the eco-centre. The children had to answer questions about nature conservation, participated in different competitions and passed artist tests.

On January 30, at school No. 2 of Luchegorsk city the educator carried out a lesson on the theme "Ecological systems and their protection" for 20 schoolchildren of the 9th form. Ecosystem is a combination of interconnected animals and abiotic components. If one of the components is taken out from the chain, the system will fall apart. Our planet's fate depends on the well being of ecosystems. At the end of the lesson the children were shown a video on this theme.

On January 30, the teacher gave a lesson on the topic "Ecological problems of the Pozharsky district" for 9 pupils of the 7th form at secondary school in Fedoseevka village. The children discussed air and water pollution in their region.

On February 03, the educator conducted an eco-class "Be a Friend to Nature!" for 34 children of a secondary school in Fedoseevka village. It was interesting to note that the village kids were more excited to learn about ecological issues than the city children. With assistance from the educator, the children discussed the future of the planet and what they can do today to help prevent ecological catastrophe. The eco-classes on the same theme were carried out at school No. 4 of Luchegorsk city for the 3rd form schoolchildren on February 22 and 23.



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The children read the task at eco-lesson

On February 05, the educator conducted a lecture "Ecological issues in the U.S." for the youth club "Thorn" (young journalists and



ecologists). Children asked many questions and watched video-materials filmed by the educator in the United States. The eco-class was featured on local TV.

On February 9, 25 schoolchildren at school No. 1 of Luchegorsk city attended a lesson on the topic "Animals of our forest". They were told about unique fauna of Primorye and shown colourful posters of the most beautiful felines of the planet – tigers and leopards. The Amur leopard is included into Appendix I of Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Endangered Species List of the Russian Federation and Primorsky Krai Red Book. Nowadays, only 28 Amur leopards are left in the wild. Russian Far East is the only home of the Amur leopard. To preserve leopards, it's necessary to breed them in captivity and to adapt to living in natural conditions. At the end of the lesson the children watched a video film "Tiger Odyssey". On February 17 a similar lesson was conducted for 22 children of the 6th form at school No. 1 of Luchegorsk city.

In February the educator was developing an eco-class "Nature reserves of Primorye" and collected all necessary materials, including video. The eco-class was planned to be given in March.

On March 01, the educator gave a lesson on the theme "Ecological problems of the Pozharsky district" for 21 pupils of the 10th form at school No.1 of Luchegorsk city. At the end of the lesson they watched a video film "Environment. Protection and monitoring".



© Phoenix Fund
The children answer the questions about Amur tiger

The instructor conducted two lessons "Nature reserves of Primorye" for pupils of the 7-8th grades, which gathered 44 children. During the lessons the children were shown video fragments from the films about "Sikhote-Alinsky", "Lazovsky" and "Kedrovaya Pad" reserves. Pupils shared the information that they already knew about the reserves and tried to find distinctive features of each protected territory.

Two excursions for 40 schoolchildren of the 4th form were organized in eco-centre.

In March the teacher was preparing for the seminar designed for education programs coordinators, held by the Phoenix Fund in Luchegorsk city on March 27-29, 2006 in the premises of eco-centre "Pervotsvet" (Flower spring). The teacher presented a report on "Innovative approach to ecological education: education for sustainable development". Besides, she performed a slide presentation on "Ecological education in Pozharsky district".

On March 06, a lesson on the topic "Laws and nature protecting normative documents" was given for 23 pupils of the 11th form at Luchegorsk secondary school No.2.

On March 15, the educator gave a lesson on the topic "Felines of Primorye included into the Endangered Species List" for 23 pupils of the 11th form at Luchegorsk secondary school No.2. According to the latest estimate there are about 350 tigers on the territory of Primorye. 24 individuals die annually. The main treats to wild cats are poaching and illegal logging. At the end of the lesson the children watched a video film "Tiger Odyssey".

On March 23, a lesson on the theme "Ecological problems of the Pozharsky district" was conducted for 23 pupils of the 11th form at Luchegorsk secondary school No.2.



On March 29-30, 2006 children of the ecological group “Vesnyanka” participated in the third ecological seminar “Man and Biosphere” and took the first place for their report “Purification of reservoirs in the suburbs of Luchegorsk city with the help of electro-magnetic technologies”. Apart from this, three pupils got diplomas for the best reports on fresh waters biological monitoring.

In April twenty four ecological lessons, two “Conflict tiger” film presentations, as well as other educational activities such as an ecological brain-ring, a festival, a conference and a round-table discussion for the total number of 1050 people were held in the district.



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-lesson in Ignatyevka village

On April 03, 2006 in the school of Verkhny Pereval village, the educator held a presentation of the “Conflict tiger” film that gathered 90 schoolchildren. On the same day, a lesson on “Sustainable management and protection of fauna” with the “Conflict tiger” film showing was conducted for 27 senior pupils in the “Flowerspring” ecological centre.

On April 05, the educator conducted a lecture on the felines for the 8th grade schoolchildren of school No. 2 of Luchegorsk city. Twenty-three pupils were present. They were shown picturesque posters of the most beautiful felines of the world – tigers and leopards. As a result of human intrusion into the leopard habitat, the number of the latter dwindled to 30

individuals. They are on the verge of extinction through people’s fault. Forest fires, poaching, logging, road construction, etc make the territory where Amur leopard lives catastrophically limited. This year is announced as the year of ecological safety in the region. But effective measures have not been taken yet. At the end of the lesson the children were shown a video about nature reserves of Russia.

On April 11, the educator carried out a lecture for 23 pupils of the 11th form at school No. 4 of Luchegorsk city on the topic “Nature reserves of Primorye”. They learnt that our planet loses from 50 to 150 species of flora and fauna daily. Since 1950 about 600 species have already disappeared. If this process goes on, in 50 years half of the species living now on the Earth will die out. The main reason of extinction is habitat destruction that will produce a disastrous influence on humanity. Thus, to preserve the unique biodiversity of the Earth people found nature reserves. The children



© Phoenix Fund
“Sanctuaries in Primorye” brain-ring

were told about the nature reserves of Primorye and their problems due to lack of funding. It is one of the reasons why poaching and pollution flourish in the Far Eastern State

Marine Reserve. The educator told about Solyonaya Pad Lake, a precious natural monument of Pozharsky district. The number of lotus on the lake is decreasing because of people’s uncivilized attitude. The teacher also told about Russian government’s plan to build an oil



pipeline “Eastern Siberia – Pacific Ocean” through the reserves in Khasan district paying no attention to the danger of oil spills and great damage that it may bring to the unique nature of the Amur Bay, Kedrovaya Pad nature reserve, Borisovskoye Plateau, Poltavsky and Barsovy wildlife refuges where Amur leopard, the rarest wild cat, lives.

On April 14, 2006 a district brain-ring on “Sanctuaries in Primorye”, among the participants of which were five teams of young nature-lovers from the schools of Luchegorsk city, Guberovo and Pozharskoye villages, as well as two wildlife inspectors, took place in the ecological and informational centre. The brain-ring gathered 66 children.



© Phoenix Fund
The children play a game

On April 17, children of the 5th grade of school No. 2 in Luchegorsk city attended a lesson on the topic “Animals of our forests”. Twenty-five pupils were present. They were told about unique fauna of Primorye. Such rare animals as Amur tiger, Amur leopard, goral, sika deer, Indian marten, as well as endangered birds (Siberian grouse, fish owl and others) live here. The children were shown colourful posters of the most beautiful felines of the planet – tigers and leopards. The Amur leopard is included into Appendix I of CITES, Endangered Species List of the Russian Federation and Primorsky Krai Red Book. Out of 370,000 ha suitable for leopard habitat 188,000 ha (51%) is occupied by protected areas. Nowadays, only 30 Amur leopards are left in the wild. The Russian Far East, more precisely its extreme southwest, is the only home of the Amur leopard. At the end

of the lesson the children watched a video “Tiger Odyssey”.

On April 19, 2006 a festival “Be nature-friendly, people!” which gathered 180 participants from the schools of Luchegorsk city, Ignatyevka, Nagornoye and Pozharskoye villages, was held in the children’s club “Energetyk”. The festival consisted of two parts: a creative assignment in support of nature conservation, and a display of models made of garbage. On the same day, in the district library the educators organized a round-table discussion “Be nature-friendly, people!” with 30 schoolchildren.

On the same day in the central district library a panel discussion “Be a friend to Nature” devoted to the Day of the Earth was organized. Forty students of Luchegorsk city evening school assisted. They were interested in the ecological situation in the district and the ways to improve it. The teacher gave corresponding statistics, told about the work on prevention of ecological violations and how to behave in order not to become a violator. The students were surprised, for example, to learn that one cannot wash a car in undefined places let alone protected water zones.



© Phoenix Fund
The teacher gave a lesson in Fedoseevka village

On April 25, the educator held a lesson on ecological systems and their protection for 25 pupils of the 11th grade in school No.2 of



Luchegorsk city. Eco-system is a combination of interconnected animals and abiotic components. If one of the components is taken out from the chain, the system will fall apart. The fate of our planet depends on the well-being of the ecosystems. At the end of the lesson the children watched a video on this theme.

On April 26, 2006 within the “Flowerspring” ecological centre, the instructors held a conference, named “Live the Planet!”, that united 68 children and teachers. During the conference, the participants shared their experience in nature conservation activities and ecological research, giving slide presentations and reports on the following subjects: “Luchegorsk city – the present and the future”, “How various factors influence birth rate”, “Water reservoirs purification with the use of electromagnetic technologies», etc. Pupils from Svetlogorye village gave an artistic performance “Protect the nature!”. All the participants were rewarded with memorable souvenirs and certificates.

In April in the out-of-school activities centre the teacher organized a panel game “Reserved Primorye” devoted to fauna and flora of Primorsky taiga. The children of the 4th grades were offered tasks difficult enough but they coped quite well with them. The team “Friends of nature” won with one point up.



© Phoenix Fund
“Garbage is resources” presentation

In May 757 schoolchildren attended 19 lessons and 11 theatrical performances. On May 05, 2006 in Ignatyevka village the teacher carried out for junior pupils from the 1st to the 4th grades a lesson “Let us save the nature of our native region”, that gathered 40 children. The pupils took an active part in the discussion, especially regarding the question of forest fires. Many of them were sharing their personal observations and ways of behaviour during forest fires. During the lesson the educator was assisted by a public anti-poaching ranger, who vividly described to the children encounters with tiger in taiga.

On May 10, at school in Ignatyevka village a lesson was held for 13 pupils of the 8-9th grades on the theme “Ecological problems of Pozharsky district”. The children discussed air and water pollution, got to know how much poisonous substance leaks into water and atmosphere. At the end of the lesson they were shown a film “Tiger Odyssey”.

On May 11, in the out-of-school activities centre the teacher conducted two ecological lessons on the topic “Nature reserves and specially protected areas of Primorsky region” for 25 pupils of the 11th grade. The students made reports on concrete nature reserves of the region; the report on the unique local Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge was the most interesting. After that they watched a video on this refuge. The teacher gave the pupils detailed information about each nature reserve of Primorye based on State Ecological Committee data. On May 18, a similar lesson was given to 8- 10th grade students of Ignatyevka village.

On the same day in the premises of “Flowerspring” eco - centre the teacher conducted a lesson “Forests protection” for 27 senior schoolchildren. During the lesson the educator presented fragments from several films about Bikin (“The Ussuri taiga”, “Russian Amazon”). The pupils showed great interest in the subject of the lesson and said that the information that had been covered appeared to be to a large extent new and useful for them.



On May 19, 2006 the educator in collaboration with other schoolteachers organized for pupils from the 2nd to the 6th grades a day of ecology in school № 4 of Pozharsky district. In the frameworks of the day nine lessons were conducted and 12 slide presentations were made. The number of participants made up 234 people.

The children of “Robinsons” and “Vesnyanka” ecological groups presented several slide presentations on various subjects, such as “Garbage is resources!”, “Paper Boom”, “Cells killer”, “Metal invasion”, etc. The value of that experience was really great, because children prepared all the materials themselves, they were inspired and shared their knowledge with their friends.



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The children dressed in suits made of garbage

Besides, during the day the educators organized a number of contests: the pupils were competing in garbage sorting and plastic bottles and aluminium cans compression. Children got a real pleasure from squeezing air out of tetra packs, stepping and jumping on plastic bottles.

On May 23-26, 2006 in Guberovo village and “Flowerspring” eco – centre, the junior pupils under the guidance of the educator, showed 10 theatrical performances “The Little Dragon and the Progress”. The performance told about a Little Dragon who lived in a cave deep in the forest and did not know anything about the surrounding world. The Little Dragon had been drinking the purest string water, bathing in the

purest lake and feeding on wild plants, until a Progress and his friends came to visit and started tempting the Dragon with modern products in beautiful wrappings. The Little Dragon liked the new products and started using them everyday. As a result his cave became full of garbage. He even tried to burn it, but started feeling ill, breathing in spoilt air. The end of the story would have been dramatic but for the children, who helped the Dragon clean, sort and utilize the garbage. The audience for the performance embraced the total number of 235 spectators.

On May 29, 2006 in Guberovo village the educators organized for pupils from the 2nd to the 8th grades another day of ecology, during which four ecological lessons and eight slide presentations were conducted. The program of the day comprised the same activities as on the day of ecology that had taken place on May 19. The number of participants made up 80 children. For 15 junior pupils “The Little Dragon and the Progress” performance was showed.

In June in the premises of “Flowerspring” eco-centre the educator carried out four lessons on the theme “Animals of Primorye” for 96 children aged 7-10 from “Iskorka” (Sparkle), “Krasnaya Gvozdika” (Red carnation), “Cheburashka” and “Buratino” kindergartens. Before the lessons the children watched the birds living at the eco-centre, such as budgerigars and canaries, and fed them. Then, the teacher asked them to call animals inhabiting the forests of Primorsky krai, including rare and endangered species listed in the Red Book of the Russian Federation. The children unanimously named Amur tiger and leopard, mandarin duck and other. The educator showed “Asiatic black bear”, “Far-Eastern cat” and “Mandarin duck” video films. The children watched the films with pleasure and discussed with the teacher new interesting things they had learnt about those animals.



Outdoor education activities

On May 20 the educator and 50 schoolchildren from “Vesnyanka”, “Nezabudka” and “Robinsons” ecological clubs carried out “Clean ponds” action. The main purpose of that action was to gather garbage and clean the territory around the ponds in Luchegorsk city. While cleaning the ponds’ shores the children discussed with the educator negative impact of the garbage on the environment. As a result, the children gathered 300 kg of garbage that was later taken to the city’s scrap heap. Besides, they took out a lot of bulky rubbish from the ponds.



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“Clean ponds” action



IV. Appendixes

Table 1. Summary of enforcement and outreach activities of two public environmental investigation teams, January – June 2006*

| Activity | Northern team | Southern team | Total |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| I. Violations documented: | | | |
| 1.1. Hunting | 29 | 37 | 66 |
| 1.2. Fishing | - | - | - |
| 1.3. Forest resources | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| 1.4. Protected areas | - | - | - |
| 1.5. Other | - | - | - |
| 2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police | 24 rifles (236 cartridges) | 19 | 43 rifles (236 cartridges) |
| 3. Confiscated poaching devices: | | | |
| a) Traps | 28 | 3 | 31 |
| b) Snares | 38 | 2 | 40 |
| c) Fishing nets | 23 items (805 meters) | - | 23 items (805 meters) |
| d) Knife | 1 | - | 1 |
| 4. Wildlife confiscated : | | | |
| 4.1. Musk deer | 1 | - | 1 |
| 4.2. Bear meat | - | - | - |
| 4.3. Wild boar | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 4.4. Roe deer | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4.5. Siberian stag meat | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4.6. Sable skin | 1 | - | 1 |
| 5. Initiated criminal proceedings | 6 | - | 6 |
| 6. Meetings with schoolchildren | 8 | - | 8 |
| 7. Mass media coverage | | | |
| 7.1. TV reports | 6 | - | 6 |
| 7.2. Radio reports | - | - | - |
| 7.3. Articles | - | - | - |
| 8. Participation in round tables, conferences, trainings | 3 | - | 3 |



Table 2. Summary of anti-poaching activities of the western wildlife managers' team, January – April 2006*¹

| Activity | January – April 2006 |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Violations documented : | |
| 1.1. Hunting | 27 |
| 1.2. Fishing | - |
| 1.3. Other | - |
| 2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police | 1 |
| 3. Wildlife confiscated : | |
| 3.1. wild boar | 8 |
| 3.2. roe deer | 4 |
| 3.3. deer | 1 |
| 3.4. duck | 2 |
| 4. Arrested violators | 27 people |
| 5. Initiated criminal proceedings | 2 |
| 6. Condemned people | - |

* Results of joint patrols