



21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future



Phoenix Fund

Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2005

Interim report
January – June 2005



Vladivostok
2005



**INTERIM REPORT
January 01 – June 30, 2005**

Grantor: 21st Century Tiger
Project Name: Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2005
Grantee: The Phoenix Fund
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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



© Phoenix Fund
The public rangers arrested a man with illegal rifle

In 2005 two public environmental investigation teams continued anti-poaching activities in the north of Primorye. From January 01 through June 30, 2005 public rangers in cooperation with wildlife managers, police officers, forest service staff and Inspection Tiger rangers conducted over 50 patrols in Pozharsky, Krasnoarmeisky 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 29 reports on violations of hunting regulations, confiscated 20 illegal rifles, 10 traps and other poaching devices (see Table 1 in the Attachment).

January

On January 11, 2005 on the road Roschino - Vostok the public rangers arrested a man transporting bear meat without proper documents. The rangers confiscated 52 kg of wild meat and imposed a fine of 500 roubles (\$18).



February

On February 07, near the Pravaya Primanka stream the team checked a winter house and found a rifle. The owner of the rifle was not determined.

On February 10, on Melnichnoye site a man was arrested for illegal hunting. The rangers confiscated his rifle and imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$36).

On February 13, the joint team was patrolling near the Perevalny stream when the rangers found two rifles hidden in a hollow tree. Unfortunately, the owners could not be determined. The rifles were handed over to the police department.



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The team is checking a winter house

For the period February 18 – 20 the joint team of the public rangers, wildlife managers, foresters and policemen carried out a patrol to reveal illegal logging sites and violations of hunting regulations in Dalnerechensky district. The team revealed and confiscated two illegal depots with hardwood logs of about 27 m³, 3 radio stations without permits, one saw, one hand-made rifled gun and five cartridges. For example, on February 19, at 1 a.m. in the flood-lands of the Kolozina Pad spring in Pozhiginsky forestry the team detained brothers Sergei and Vladimir Krikun and Vladimir’s son Valery for illegal logging. Sergei watched the forest road 2 km far from the illegal logging site with the task to inform his brother nephew about all cars going in their direction. Vitaly was cutting and bucking trees and his father was loading them onto a truck and drove to the buyer. In case of emergency (when law enforcement officers appear), the “sentry” sends a message and his brother with son leaves the logging site and it is impossible to run them down in the forest.



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A police officer found poached meat

When the rangers saw fresh tractor tracks and heard sawing sound, two of them decided to move along the road so that the “sentry” did not see them. Having heard the rustle and crunch in the forest at night, the “sentry” thought that it was an animal and started climbing a tree. The rangers heard the noise of breaking branches and having come to the tree and lit up the “sentry” they saw pale and scared Sergei who had forgotten about his radio station and task to warn his brother and nephew and in his 54 years climbed 3 m up a thin larch. The rangers decided to wait for the tractor to come and detain the family with the goods. During examination of the tractor, the team confiscated a radio station, homemade rifle, saw, five cartridges, 12 m³ of ash-tree and tractor and

drew up a report on violation, which led to initiation of criminal proceedings.

On February 19, in the upper reaches of the Vorozhbity spring the team revealed an illegal logging site with 15 m³ of felled logs. Having heard the sounds of working tractor and saw, the rangers walked through the forest to that place, but then heard shouts and sound of retreating



tractor. It was impossible to detain the loggers and catch up with the vehicle in the forest. A “sentry” must have worked well. The logs were confiscated.



© Phoenix Fund
The rangers found poached meat during patrol in Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge

On February 20, the team stopped a jeep that belonged to the guard of “Dalnerechensk Forest” Co. The guard did not have a driver’s license and permits for radio stations. The police officers in the rangers’ team knew the guards in face, so the team did not confiscate the equipment, but drew up a report on administrative violation. Later that day the team stopped a truck, whose driver had a radio station without permit. The radio station was sealed up and confiscated.

For the period February 22 – 26 a joint team of public control rangers, wildlife managers and “Eco-patrol” NGO was formed to conduct a patrol on snowmobiles in Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge, Northern Primorye. The goal of the patrol was to reveal logging and hunting violations, get acquainted with the western part

of the refuge and conduct nature conservation lectures-discussions with local people.

On February 23, the public rangers arrested two poachers with Siberian stag meat (55 kg) at the Situkha stream. Meat and rifles were confiscated. Each violator paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$36).

March

On March 03, while patrolling the hunting grounds the joint team stopped a man carrying bear meat (25 kg). The rangers confiscated the poached meat and made the violator pay a fine of 500 roubles (\$18).

On March 11, near the Sanatory stream the public rangers arrested two poachers with Siberian stag meat and without a permit. Each violator paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$36).

For the period March 11 – 13 the team were in the patrol together with the wildlife manager in Pozharsky district, Northern Primorye, and confiscated 3 guns.



© Phoenix Fund
Poached meat

On March 11, in the flood-land of the Shpalny spring during examination of a logging camp the team found a telescopic rifle with and 10 cartridges in a hollow tree 150 meters far from the trailer. The numbers on the rifle were erased. The owner of the rifle was not found. The team drew up a report and confiscated the rifle.

On March 12, during examination of a logging camp the team detained the camp watchman hunting with a homemade rifle. The team compiled a report on hunting during a closed hunting



season without license. The gun and cartridges were confiscated. Criminal proceedings were initiated.



© Phoenix Fund
Ranger found a lynx caught in a snare

On March 14, the team joined the fishery inspection team and made a joint patrol to the logging camps in order to reveal pollution of rivers and springs. In one of the camps on the Poteryanny spring the team found 3 snares and a foot trap on the trail 1 km far from the camp. The snares were set up for lynx. Going up the trail the team found a lynx dead in snare. The rangers tried to find a person who set up the snares but in vain.

On March 15, the rangers arrested a poacher with traps and poached mink without a permit in hunting grounds of "Krasnoarmeisky RZOP". The violator paid a fine of 500 roubles (\$18).

wildlife managers and police officers in order to reveal illegal logging sites. On March 17 the joint team stopped four logging trucks with about 30 m³ each, a check-up of the documents revealed that all the documents had been forged. All trucks were conveyed to the police office in Rekitnoye village. On March 18, while patrolling in Malinovsky forestry, the rangers found fresh tractor tracks. The team followed the tracks on foot, heard the sound of working tractor and saw, made an ambush and arrested the loggers. Two of them made an attempt to flee, but ranger fired two shots in the air and one of them stopped, but the team found out the name of the other one. They happened to be brothers from Malinovo village. The arrested were conveyed to the police office in Rakitnoye village, the tractor and saw was sealed up and confiscated. The team drew up a report and initiated criminal proceedings on the case.

For the period March 17 – 19 the team patrolled Dalnerechensky district together with



© Phoenix Fund
Forged documents

April

On April 03, the joint team arrested a man for illegal hunting near the Muziza spring in Pozharsky district. The rangers confiscated illegal rifle and drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations.

On April 06, near the Solnechny stream the team noticed two men with three dogs. The public rangers managed to detain only one of the violators. The rangers drew up a report on illegal hunting with dogs during the closed hunting season.

On April 09, the team arrested a man for illegal hunting in Krasnoarmeisky district. The rangers drew up a report on violation, confiscated a rifle and imposed a fine of 500 roubles. On April 11, a poacher was arrested for hunting during closed hunting season.



© Phoenix Fund

The team found poached wild meat

On April 12, while patrolling in Pozharsky district near the Prostrelny spring the team arrested three men building a hut without a permit from Pozharsky forestry. The public rangers informed the director of Pozharsky forestry about the fact of illegal logging and construction. It turned out that the violators had been already arrested for poaching.

On April 20 and 24 the public rangers and fishing managers carried out two joint patrols on the water in Pozharsky district. As a result, the rangers revealed violation of fishing regulations, confiscated 8 fishing nets 350 m long.

May

On May 10, 2005 Mr. Zhevnovatenko was detained for transporting deer meat (30 kg) without proper hunting permits. The violator paid a fine in the amount 500 roubles (about \$18). The meat was confiscated and destroyed after a positive result on measles had been received from the veterinary laboratory.

On May 22 the rangers were patrolling the Dalnaya River drainage and found a rifle in a hunting hut. The owner of the rifle was not identified.

On May 23 the team detained Mr. Vegera at Melnichnoye site for hunting without documents. His rifle was confiscated and he paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (about \$36).

On May 30 in the drainage of the Svetly stream the rangers detained Mr. Likhachev with rifle without proper permits. The rifle was confiscated and forwarded to local police. The violator paid a fine of 500 roubles (about \$18).

June



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Team ranger with confiscated moose meat

On June 02, 2005 near the Imagan stream drainage the rangers arrested Mr. Satev for poaching an elk. The rifle and 65 kg of elk meet were confiscated. The poacher paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (about \$36). He will also have to pay for the damage in the amount of 2,500 roubles (about \$90).

On June 14 during a patrol in “Sable” hunting lease the team detained Mr. Ignatiev with rifle during closed hunting season. His rifle was confiscated and he paid a fine in the amount of 500 roubles (about \$18).

On June 23 the rangers detained Mr. Velichko who was transporting moose meat (40 kg) in bags. The violator paid a fine in the amount of 1,000 roubles (about \$36). The moose meat was confiscated and donated to the children’s home /asylum in Roschino village.



Besides, the public rangers together with state law enforcement officers patrolled in Bikin river watershed. The joint team checked 11 boats, 4 vehicles and 30-35 people. No violations were revealed.

Other

Besides anti-poaching activity, the public rangers continued working on educational project. The team took an active part in conservation-oriented seminars and round tables: 1) Round table “Conservation of the Bikin River as condition for sustainable development of the Udege” organized by Primorsky Minorities Association on February 16 in Vladivostok; 2) seminar “Less words, more work” organized by the youth organization “Green team” on March 21; and 3) seminars and hands-on experience “Ecological education and outreach” organized by the Phoenix Fund on March 25-26 in Luchegorsk City.

The head of the team has carried out 5 lectures (11 hours) at secondary schools of Ignatievka, Fedoseevka, Pozharskoye, Verkhny Pereval and Nagornoye villages of Pozharsky district. The lectures covered such themes as radio tracking, conflict tiger cases, human behaviour in tiger habitat, Far Eastern leopard and its population, CITES etc, and included games, video-films, and photos.

In April-May the team continued meeting with schoolchildren. The rangers visited schools in Ignatievka, Nagornoye, Pozharskoye villages and gave lectures on the following themes: “Amur tiger at home”, “Guidelines for human behaviour in tiger habitat”, etc. At the lectures the rangers showed video made by the team in the field. The team’s activities were covered by local TV channel.

Western wildlife managers’ team



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Wildlife manager drawing a report

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).

During the reported period the Western wildlife managers’ team cooperated with Federal Security Bureau and police officers, public rangers and journalists in anti-poaching activities in Dalnerechensky district of

Primorye.

On January 03, the joint team patrolled in hunting grounds near Stakhanovets stream and arrested two men for illegal hunting with 6 dogs. The wildlife managers drew up the report on violation, confiscated illegal rifle and imposed a fine. At the same day the team found footprints on the snow and decided to check them. As a result, they found a hand-made rifle in the snow. The owner was not determined.



On January 05, a rifle was found near Kalinych stream, 25 km far from Malinovo village. The owner could not be determined. The rifle was handed over to the local police department.

On January 20, the team arrested two people 3 km far from Mezhdurechie village. Violators were poaching with illegal rifles. Two rifles and 9 cartridges were confiscated. One poacher incurred administrative liability and the other was charged with possession of weapon without holding a permit.



© Phoenix Fund
Illegal logging in Dalnerechinsky district

On January 25, the wildlife managers were patrolling 8 km far from Salskoye village, when they arrested two men for poaching. On January 29, in the upper River Malinovka, 40 km far from Ariadnoye village the team arrested a local with 2 poached sables and 4 squirrel skins. The poacher did not have a game-license.

On February 06, while patrolling near Zimniki village, the team arrested 3 men for illegal logging of ash-tree. The wildlife managers drew up the report and handed over all documents to Delnerechensky police department to initiate criminal proceedings.



© Phoenix Fund
Arrested illegal logger (right)

On February 15, a man with poached pheasant was arrested for illegal hunting. The wildlife managers drew up the report, imposed a fine and confiscated illegal rifle.

For the period February 18 – 20 the joint team of the public rangers, wildlife managers, foresters and policemen carried out a patrol to reveal illegal logging sites and violations of hunting regulations in Dalnerechensky district. The team revealed and confiscated two illegal depots with hardwood logs of about 27 m³, 3 radio stations without permits, one saw, one hand-made rifled gun and five cartridges (see Public environmental investigation teams).

On March 13, three men were arrested for illegal logging near Kholodny spring 8 km far from Zimniki village. The violators fell 8 oaks and 4 ash-tree. The wildlife managers drew up the report and handed over all materials to the local police department to initiate criminal proceedings.

For the period March 17 – 19 the team patrolled together with public rangers in Dalnerechensky district. On March 18 the joint team arrested two people for illegal logging 20 km far from Malinovo village. The violators fell 5 oaks. The wildlife managers confiscated a tractor and chain saw, and initiated criminal proceedings.



© Phoenix Fund
Arrested log truck



On March 24, two people were arrested for illegal logging near Malinovo village. Five oaks and two cedars were fallen. The team confiscated a chain saw and forwarded all documents to the local police department.

On March 25, two illegal loggers were arrested who fell 18 oaks 25 km far from Zimniki village. At the same day the wildlife managers found a rifle hidden in the snow 4 meters far from the loggers' hut. Later on, the team checked apiary near Kabarga spring and found 960 cartridges. The owner was no determined.

Besides anti-poaching activities, in January and February the Western wildlife managers' team participated in Amur tiger census. In March-April the team members questioned the hunters on the status of Asiatic black bear population.

In May there was an accident in Dalnerechensky district. Some criminals burnt a jeep of Mr. Samoilenko, head of the Western wildlife managers' team. He is famous for his irreconcilability with poaching and illegal logging. The team cooperates with police and Federal Security Bureau officers, fishing and forest managers. In 2005 Mr.Samoilenko has been patrolling with "Bars" forest team of Rosprirodnadzor (Federal Nature Use Service). For the first half of 2005 six criminal proceedings were initiated on the facts of forest violations.

III. Environmental Education and Outreach

Support for Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka Town



© Phoenix Fund
Eco-class at Tiger eco-centre

In January 2004 the Phoenix Fund, together with local administration and Elena Golobokova, experienced educator, and with support from 21st Century Tiger and David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation 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 supported the idea to create an eco-centre and provided a building for it. Eco-centre occupied a classroom (45 m²) in the building of secondary school. On October 08, 2004 the eco-centre was officially opened. Krasnoarmeisky Department of Education

presented 10 new school desks to the eco-centre. Since the educator has been giving eco-classes for the children. The centre is opened seven days a week.

In January 2005 the teacher gave 5 lessons for preschoolers and pupils of elementary school. On January 18, 20, 25 three lessons on the theme "Nature reserves of Primorye" were carried out at the eco-centre for 60 pupils (11-12 age) of the 5th form. During the lesson the children worked with cards. The card contained a table with 6 cells according to a number of nature reserves in Primorye. The names of nature reserves were written on the cards and some letters were missing. The children had to guess the name of the reserves and put down the missing letters. Then teacher discussed with the children why the reserves had got such names. After that the pupils watched "Asiatic black bear" and "Amur goral" video films.

On January 21 and 28 the teacher carried out the lessons on the theme "Fir-tree and cedar" for 40 children of 5-6 years old at the eco-centre. During the lesson the children examined fir and



cedar cones and branches, compared them and explained why those tree are useful. Then, the teacher gave out cedar and fir needles to the children and asked them to compare length and colour. After that, the children played the game. They tried to imitate the trees and show how their leaves and needles changed during the seasons. At the end of the lesson the teacher showed the film about sable “Who lives under cedar?”

In April 2005 10 eco-classes were carried out in the Tiger ecological education and outreach centre in Novopokrovka town:

On April 09, the lecture covered the theme “City as human habitat and pollutant”. Children discussed why it is convenient to live in the city and how the city pollutes the environment around it. They also learned about ways to recycle trash and why noise is considered a pollutant.



© Phoenix Fund
The children play game

On April 11, the educator conducted a class on lichen, the plants – sphinx. Children learned the basic information on lichen and how to identify the level of pollution of the territory. Children were offered to draw a fairy-tale forest and tell about it, after the discussion the children noticed main distinction of the fairy-tale forest – there was no trash in it.

On April 12 – a discussion of air pollution and possible ways to prevent it. Children answered questions: Why acid rain is dangerous? How one can make the air cleaner? What is the danger of carbonic acid if its concentration increases?

On April 13 – a discussion of water pollution and conservation of reservoirs. What bogs are for? Why it is necessary to save water? The meaning of water for man. After the discussion children made a conclusion: “A day is tough if spent without water”.

On April 18 the lecture covered forest fires and fire fighting activities. How to start a fire safely. After the lecture the children drew posters “No fires in the forest!”

On April 19 – a discussion of the importance of the nature reserves and their conservation. Children told about the reserves of our region and animals that inhabited the reserves and tried to develop the best protection system for the reserves.

On April 20 – Influence of the nature on man. Children divided into two teams and played games, for example one team told how man influences nature, while the other told how the nature influences man.

On April 23 – a field trip to the riverbank to collect trash left behind by the tourists. After the clean-up the children started a fire (and told



© Phoenix Fund
The children take a quiz



how to start a fire safely in the forest), drank tea and discussed the conservation activities.



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The children have a look at the displays at the eco-centre

On April 25, the educator held a discussion on guidelines for human behaviour and livestock management in tiger habitat and why people may want to shoot a tiger and what happens if a tiger is wounded. On April 26, the children drew paintings for the information boards “Trash should be in a dump and not on the beach”. On April 27, the educator helped children create leaflets for the eco-patrol.

Since April the Tiger ecological education and outreach centre has been working every day, an educator conducts regular classes for children there.

In May 2005 the educator carried out 14 lessons at eco-centre and 18 children of 10-11

years old attended classes regularly.

On May 04 the educator told about the Amur / Siberian tiger, its features, habits and behavior. During the lesson the children played a game, in which one player held a card with an animal image and asked if tiger could eat it. The other player answered “yes” or “no”, and the pupils discussed if tiger hunted that animal. On May 05 the children continued listening to a lecture on Amur tiger and its habits, participated in a quiz and answered the questions on nature of Primorsky region.

On May 15 the educator organized an walk into the forest where the children gathered plants for herbarium. During the walk the children discussed a problem of forest pollution with waste products. On May 16-18 the children watched video films about nature of Primorsky region, ecological problems and conservation efforts.

On May 21 and May 28 the educator organized a clean-up on the bank of the Bolshaya Ussurka river. The children collected the waste along the riverside and put it into trash bags. On May 24 the children listened to a lecture on attitude of the indigenous peoples towards tiger and discussed why they worshiped tiger as a god. Then, the educator asked the children to write several sentences about Amur tiger.

On May 30 the children read stories, articles about Amur tiger, retold them and answered the questions about tiger habits.

In June the educator carried out 17 lessons at the eco-centre and 25 children of 6-11 years old attended the classes regularly.

On June 01 the children celebrated the Wildlife Protection Day at the eco-centre. Each child chose a wild animal and contrived ways of protecting it. Then children discussed the most acceptable ways with the educator.

June 02 lesson was devoted to the Amur / Siberian tiger. The children read the books, articles and discussed their attitude towards tiger.

On June 09 the educator told about the rules of human behavior in tiger habitat. The children imagined that they were lost in the forest. The educator explained how to avoid unwanted encounters with wild animals and asked them to write 5 rules.



On June 10, 14, 18, and 28 the educator organized a clean-up on the bank of the Bolshaya Ussurka river. The children collected the waste along the riverside and put it into trash bags.

On June 13 the lesson covered the theme “The biggest cats in the world”. The educator told about the habitat of the Amur tiger and leopard and their habits. During the lesson the children watch photo albums and consulted encyclopedias.

On June 15 the children played a game “Guess tracks”. The cards with animals’ tracks were set in the class and the children tried to guess the tracks. On June 16 the educator told about the nature reserves of the region and conservation methods used in the reserves.

On June 23 the children listened to a lecture on anti-poaching activities. The educator explained why illegal hunting posed a danger for animals.

Ecological education in the North of Primorye



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The teacher gives a presentation on Amur tiger

From January 01 to May 31, 2005 the Phoenix Fund continued carrying out ecological education and outreach projects in the North of Primorye. Phoenix worked closely with experienced educators in Krasnoarmeisky and Pozharsky districts, 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.

Krasnoarmeisky district

The educator gave slide presentations at “School forestry” club and local schools of Krasnoarmeisky district. For the reported period 935 children attended 79 eco-classes and obtained ecological

knowledge on rare and endangered species.

On January 21 and 28 the teacher carried out the lessons on the theme “Fir-tree and cedar” for 40 children of 5-6 years old at the eco-centre. During the lesson the children examined fir and cedar cones and branches, compared them and explained why those tree are useful. Then, the teacher gave out cedar and fir needles to the children and asked them to compare length and colour. After that, the children played the game. They tried to imitate the trees and show how their leaves and needles changed during the seasons. At the end of the lesson the teacher showed the film about sable “Who lives under cedar?”

The teacher continued working with ecological club “Namba” and conducted 3 classes for the children of 11-14 years old (on January 10, 15, 29). During the first class the children learnt to watch the weather, make notes in dairy (put down temperature, precipitation etc) and discussed signs of changing seasons. The second class was a walk in the forest. The children sought for animal tracks on the snow and tried to identify the animal that had left them. Besides, the



children observed the birds. During the third class the children drew animal tracks on the paper and watched the film “Microcosmos”



© Phoenix Fund
The children watch a film

On February 11, the educator visited remote village Vostretsovo and held three classes on nature reserves of the region for 11-16 year old schoolchildren there. During the classes the children played games, solved riddles with the names of the local nature reserves and endangered animals there, consulted the map, and watched colourful slide presentations. The children worked with cards with information on types of ecological systems of each reserve and animal populations there. Children watched several short video films on animals that had been unknown to the children and discussed during the class (triton, goral). At the end of the class the children repeated and summarized the information. 85 schoolchildren took an active part in the classes.

4 meetings of the ecological youth club “Namba” (Novopokrovka town) were conducted in February. During the meetings the 10-12 year old club members discussed the peculiarities of six nature reserves of Primorye, endangered flora and fauna in them, problems and conservation efforts. The children watched movies on endangered animals: “Kill a striped beast”, “Lynx”, “Daurian crane”, “Far Eastern stork” etc.

In March the ecological youth club members met three times. They rehearsed the talk-show “Save biodiversity of the planet” from the scenario by B. Mirkina and L. Naumova. They plan to play the talk show and conduct eco-classes for other groups of Novopokrovka School.

In April the educator developed a lecture on spring flowers (on the basis of the lecture showed during the seminar) and conducted six classes on the theme. The 9 –13 year old schoolchildren of Novopokrovka town school learned about spring flowers, their importance for the nature and man. The educator also told about their connection with the insects and adaptation to harsh spring conditions. The classes also covered the factors that lead to extinction of plant species. Children watched “Springflower” movie and played games with the names of the flowers, their photos, descriptions etc. At the end of the lecture they summarize the information and discussed what they could do to save spring flowers.

The “Namba” eco-youth club members met four times in April and the educator held one of them together with the children’s parents. During the meeting with the parents the educator discussed the outdoor plans for the summer, told about a summer camp in Sikhote-Alin nature reserve and showed a slide presentation about the “Young foresters” summer camp that had been organized a year before. The parents were instructed to vaccinate children against tick encephalitis, so that they could go the camp.

On the 3rd of April the club members attended the “Spring flower” lecture, on April 24 the children were taken into the forest to search for spring flowers. They also collected garbage on the riverbank and found a bag with trash from a town shore; they identified the store by the checks and applied to the commission of the town authorities to investigate the case.

To fight with unauthorized scrap-heaps around Novopokrovka town, the schoolchildren plan to make big boards and have already started making paintings for the boards. The city



administration announced a contest of the paintings for the boards and promised to provide funds for installation of the boards.

In May the educator carried out 8 lessons on spring flowers for preschoolers (5-6 years old) and pupils of elementary school (7-10 years old) in Novopokrovka town. During the lesson the children watched “Spring Flower” movie and played games with the names of the flowers, their photos, and descriptions. The educator drew flowers and trees on Whatman paper and discussed with the pupils why forests need flowers. The children worked with herbarium.

4 meetings of the ecological youth club “Namba” (Novopokrovka town) were held at the eco-centre in May. The educator organized hikes for 10-12- year old children in the forest where they collected herbarium of different spring flowers. Besides, the children made informational boards on spring flowers and set them up in recreation zones. They also prepared leaflets with appeal to tourists to save rare plants. During the hikes in the forest the schoolchildren carried out an action to clean up forest from garbage, gave out the leaflets and garbage bags to holidaymakers and tourists.

In June the educators wrote a conservation –oriented play “Visiting Primorye”, which tells about the unique nature of Primorsky region. During the play two Muscovites visit a remote area in Primorye and get acquainted with local people and learn about wild plants and animals – tigers, vines etc as well as learn the guidelines of human behaviour in the forest. During the classes at the eco-club the children took the roles and rehearsed the play in order to act at children’s summer camps and the Tiger Day Festival in September.

The design and work on the interior of the eco-centre has almost finished. Nowadays there are two aquaria, turtle Sonya donated to the eco-centre by a nature-lover. Children love to watch and take care of the animals. To attract children to the eco-centre we showed cartoons with a 5-minute “ecological digest” for children in form of short stories from the movies “Garbage”, “Ussury taiga”, “While it is not late” etc.

Summer is a traditional fishing season. But during this season the Far Eastern turtles often get caught in the nets. Children discussed the problem and told that they or their neighbours had turtles at home. After the discussion they decided to set the turtles free and persuade the neighbours to follow their example.

Pozharsky district

Besides, during the reported period the Phoenix Fund supported work of two teachers in Pozharsky district. In January 01 – May 31, 2005 over 1,077 schoolchildren attended 48 ecological classes at local schools and eco-centre in Pozharsky district.

In January 2005 the educator in Pozharsky district developed a lesson “Ussury taiga” on the basis of the Russian movie with the same name that was filmed in 1979. During discussion of the movie, children compared the nature in those days with the one that we have in our days. For example, children were surprised to see how much fish there had been in the Bikin River and how many animals had been roaming in the forest 25



© Phoenix Fund
Lesson “Ussury taiga”



years ago and what had happened to the environment. Children understand that this process needs to be stopped. After watching the movie and its discussion, children made conclusion and expressed their concerns about biodiversity conservation in the region.

On the 12th of January, 25 pupils of the 7th form attended a lesson on the theme “Animals of our forest” in Ignatievka village of Pozharsky district, Northern Primorye. The teacher told about unique biological diversity in Primorye. The children saw colourful posters with photos and information on Amur tigers and leopards and listened to a lecture on the threats for survival of big cats and ungulates in the Russian Far East.



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Lesson “Big cats of Primorye”

On January 14, the teacher gave a lesson on the local environment for 25 pupils of the 9th form in Luchegorsk city. The children learned that over 76 thousand tons of contaminants had been discharged in the air and 14 million tons of sewage were poured into the rivers last year. Environmental pollution constitutes a menace not only for that region, but also for the whole country. The pupils took an active part in the discussion of the theme. On January 18 and 27, the same lesson was conducted for the pupils of the 9th form at the other school in

Luchegorsk city. The children watched a video on the consequences of careless attitude towards environment.

In February the educator developed a lesson called “Big cats of Primorye” devoted to Amur tigers and leopards. Children worked in groups and looked for the similarity and distinction patterns in tigers and leopards. Each group appointed a child-expert who worked with informative posters and supplemented information found by the rest of the group. After that the children looked for the reasons of the population decline in Primorye and the ways to conserve the big cats in the wild.

On February 03, a lesson “Cat family” was carried out for 27 pupils of the 7th form in Luchegorsk city. The teacher showed colourful posters with photos and information on Amur leopards and tigers and told about the world’s rarest cat, the Amur leopard, of which only 30 remain in the wild. The main threats for leopard survival were called: forest fires, poaching, illegal logging, road construction etc. At the end of the lesson the children watched a video on Russian nature reserves. The same lesson was given on February 10.



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Lesson “Look after the birds!”

On February 18, the pupils of the 10th form attended a lesson on the theme “Ecological problems of Pozharsky district”. The children discussed air and water pollution in their region.

On February 21, the teacher carried out a lesson “Eco-systems and their protection” for 26 pupils of the 10th form in Luchegorsk city. During the lesson the children were told about the dependence of our planet’s future on well being of eco-systems.



In March the educator developed a lesson “Look after the birds!” that covered information on diversity of bird species, reasons for population decline and migrant birds, as well as games and quizzes. During the lesson the children watched a short movie “While it’s not too late” and discussed ecological problems and reasons for death of birds. The children named spring hunting as one of the main reasons of the birds’ death and they think that spring hunting should be banned as in European countries. At the end of the lesson the educator organized a contest “Bird matters” which helped children make conclusions on the theme. The children also played games “Sparrows”, “Crows”, and “Who will fly and who is already at home?” At the end of the lesson children drew leaflets on birds conservation.



Interactive game

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On March 03, a lesson “Cat family” was conducted for the pupils of the 8th form in Fedosievka village. During the lesson the teacher used colourful posters with Amur tigers and leopards.

On March 10, in Ignatievka village the pupils of the 7th form attended a lesson “Animals of our forest”.

On March 17, the “Pervotsvet” eco-centre held an excursion for schoolchildren of Novostroika village. When the children got acquainted with the exhibits at the centre (birds, fishes, guinea-pig), the educator organized a discussion on nature conservation and showed and ecological short movies “Coloured windows” and “How

children saved a woodpecker”.

On March 21, the children’s NGO “Green ecological brigade” organized a seminar on the theme “Less gab - more action”. During the seminar the children reported about their nature –oriented activities in 2004, results and prospects.

On March 25-26, the Phoenix Fund organized training for the teachers in Ecological centre in Luchegorsk city. The schoolteachers from Krasnoarmeisky, Khasansky and Pozharsky districts took an active part in it and shared experience.

For the reported period the educators made digital copies of the movies: “To kill a striped beast”, “Ussury taiga”, “Sorrow for the Bikin River”, “Descendants of the Chzhurgens”, “Indian tigers”, “Worrier in high grass”, “Tiger odyssey”, “Hunter” etc for future lessons at schools.



Colorful posters attract children’s attention

© Phoenix Fund

On April 05, the teacher carried out a lesson “Nature reserves in Russia and Primorsky krai” for 25 pupils of the 6th form in Luachegorsk. During the lesson the children discussed the reason of wildlife extinction. The teacher told that according to scientific estimates we have already lost about 600 species since 1950 and every minute 5.5 ha of the forest are disappearing from the Earth’s face. It such a tendency



continues, half of Earth's biodiversity will become extinct. After the discussion, the schoolchildren watch a film about Russian nature reserves.

On April 10, the children of the 6th form attended the lesson "Animals of our forest" in Ignatievka village. The teacher told about the unique diversity of fauna in Primorye, threats to animals' survival, especially Amur tigers, leopards, and gorals. The schoolchildren saw the colourful posters about the most beautiful wild cats – tigers and leopards. The teacher told that only 28 species of Amur leopards remained in the wild and habited in the southwest Primorye, and discussed with the pupils an anthropogenic factor, the main negative influence on the leopard population. The same lesson was given for the pupils of the 9th form on April 14 in Nagornoye village. At the end of the lesson the schoolchildren watched a film "Taiga's Odyssey".



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Eco-class in Ignatievka village

On April 20 in Luchegorsk the teacher conducted a lesson about the garbage for the pupils of the 9th form. During the lesson the schoolchildren discussed a problem of dumps in Pozharsky district. The teacher gave the pupils contact data in case they saw places of illegal dumps.

On April 27 the teacher carried out two lessons on Amur tiger for students of vocational school in Pozharskoye village. After an interesting lecture the students watched films about tigers.

In April apart from general ecological lessons in eco-centre and schools in villages the teacher

carried out the following actions:

- Excursion to the ecological centre for the pupils of the 7th form. As usual, the children not only got acquainted with inhabitants in the ecological room, but also watched a video about Ussuriiskaya taiga. After that, the pupils discussed ecological problems presented in the film that was made 20 years ago and compare with the current ecological situation in Pozharsky district.
- In the beginning of April there was a round table "Environmental plight in Pozharsky district" in the ecological center "Flowerspring". Young ecologists and activists, representatives of environmental law enforcement organizations and state agencies took part in this meeting. The children from "Robinzones" team reported about the results of their research on fresh-water fish, invertebrate and lichen in suburbs of Luchegorsk town. The observation data arouse great participants' interest.
- On the Earth's Day an action against the dumps was carried out. On the same day the schoolchildren participated in the art contest on environmental theme and "Garbage carnival".
- A lesson "Save birds" was organized for the pupils of the 5th - 6th forms in Ignatevka and Nagornoye villages. The lesson included three units such as "Diversity of bird species", "Reasons for birds extinction", "Migratory birds" and games. The children took active part in discussing the problem of spring hunting.

In May the educator developed and carried out an ecological class "Goldfish tale" at schools of Luchegorsk city, Northern Primorye. Over 92 schoolchildren took an active part in the lesson. First, they answered questions about local environmental problems and named such problems as poaching, forest fires, dumps, air pollution and others. After that the educator showed a cartoon "Goldfish tale" that told about a greedy old woman who demanded treasure from her husband. Oil derricks became symbols of wealth and started growing from the sea as huge monsters. The sea and the land gradually turned black, and all life disappeared. After that the children discussed the cartoon and realized the problem of nature conservation and pollution.



Later, the schoolchildren watched the cartoon one more time and gave comments while watching it. During the second review they noticed details that they had missed during the first one, for example that the sky also turned black and the sea started looking more like an oil pool.



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The children at the eco-centre in Luchegorsk

Apart from the ecological classes, the educator conducted 8 excursions in the eco-centre for 180 children. Children got acquainted with the work of the eco-centre and animals that live around them.

On May 05, the teacher gave a lesson “Fire is the forest enemy” for 24 pupils of the 8th form at school in Luchegorsk city. The schoolchildren learnt that in spring-summer season a lot of forest fires occurred in the district and they damaged not only the forest, but also wild and domestic animals, harvested logs and human settlements. More than 95 % of the forest fires are started by human. The teacher asked the pupils about human behaviour in the forest.

The children gave correct answers. At the end of the lesson the teacher showed two video films “Characteristics of Primorsky

forests” and “How to behave in the forest”. The same lesson was given on May 12 for 27 pupils of the 8th form.

On May 20, 34 pupils of the 6th form attended the lesson on wild cats. The teacher told about cats that lived 5-10 million years ago and cats were the best “hunters” created through the evolution of animals. The schoolchildren saw colourful posters on Amur tigers and leopards and listened to the teacher’s story about threats and problems wild cats faced every day. At the end of the lesson the schoolchildren watched a film “Taiga’s Odyssey”. On May 24, the same lesson was given for 37 pupils of the 5th form.



IV. Appendixes

Table 1. Summary of enforcement and outreach activities of two public environmental investigation teams, January – June 2005*

Activity	Northern team	Southern team	Total
I. Violations documented:	7	22	29
1.1. Hunting			
1.2. Fishing	2	-	2
1.3. Forest resources	6	-	6
1.4. Protected areas	-	-	-
1.5. Other	-	-	-
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	6 rifles (11 cartridges)	14	20 rifles (11 cartridges)
3. Confiscated poaching devices:			
a) Traps	-	10	10
b) Snares	4	-	4
c) Fishing net	8		5
4. Wildlife confiscated :	1 item	-	1 item
4.1. Lynx			
4.2. Bear meat	-	52 kg	52 kg
4.3. Siberian stag meat	-	225 kg	225 kg
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	5	-	5
6. Meetings with schoolchildren	8	-	8
7. Mass media coverage	9		9
7.1. TV reports			
7.2. Radio reports	-	-	-
7.3. Articles	3	-	3
8. Participation in round tables, conferences, trainings	3	2	5

* Results of joint patrols



Table 2. Summary of anti-poaching activities of the western wildlife managers' team, January – June 2005*¹

Activity	January – June 2004
I. Violations documented :	
1.1. Hunting	22
1.2. Fishing	-
1.3. Other	-
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	7
3. Wildlife confiscated :	
3.1. Poached squirrel	4 items
4. Arrested violators	22 people
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	6 items
6. Condemned people	-
7. Mass media coverage	
7.1. Articles	1

* Results of joint patrols