



21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future



Phoenix Fund

Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2004

Interim report
January – June 2004



Vladivostok
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**INTERIM REPORT
January 01 – June 30, 2004**

Grantor: 21st Century Tiger
Project Name: Protection and Outreach activities in tiger habitat in 2004
Grantee: The Phoenix Fund
Report Period: January 01 – June 30, 2004
Grant Period: January 01 – December 31, 2004

I. Project Overview

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

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

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

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

II. Environmental Law Enforcement Activities

Public environmental investigation teams



© Phoenix Fund
Public rangers are conducting raid by off-highway vehicle

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

From January 01 through June 30, 2004 two public environmental investigation teams in cooperation with wildlife managers, police officers, forest service staff and Inspection Tiger rangers conducted over 70 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. Thanks to a new purchased "Buran" snow mobile, patrolling territory increased and rangers could achieve good results. All



patrols were documented and recorded on video camera. For the reported period the team drew up 73 reports on violations of hunting regulations, confiscated 51 illegal rifles and 20 traps (see Table 1. in Attachment).

January



© Phoenix Fund / Andrei Golobokov
Confiscated illegal rifles

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

On January 19 the public rangers arrested a man for illegal hunting with 4 traps near the Kustanai stream. The poacher paid a fine in the amount of 500 rubles (\$17). On the same day the team arrested a man from Dalnerechensk city who was hunting without permits. The rangers confiscated

his rifle and imposed a fine in the amount of 700 rubles (\$25). On January 20 a poacher was arrested for illegal hunting with 5 traps. He paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17). On January 25 one more poacher was hunting with 6 traps. The rangers confiscated poaching devices and imposed a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

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



© Phoenix Fund
A public ranger found a skin of Asiatic black bear

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

February

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



arrested a man for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. In February the public rangers arrested 5 poachers with illegal rifles. Each violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

March



© Phoenix Fund
A public ranger with two confiscated tiger skins

In the beginning of March the rangers stopped 4 men hunting illegally during closed hunting season. On March 10, 2004 wildlife managers of Primorsky Hunting Management Department, in cooperation with public ranger and representative of NGO, confiscated two Amur tiger skins from a policeman in Chuguevsky district, central Primorye, Russian Far East. The skins of two tiger cubs were confiscated from Andrei Rekunov, police officer of Chuguevsky district. One of the wildlife managers, together with a public ranger, posed as buyer and arranged a meeting with a seller. The others made an ambush around the place of meeting. The 'deal' was arranged in the car of the skins' owner. When the 'buyers' received the skins, the wildlife managers and public rangers blocked up the car of illegal trader. First, Andrei Rekunov, the police officer, locked

on the inside and did not get out of his car, and denied that the skins belonged to him. Fortunately, the public rangers noticed a car approaching to them, in which there was Vasily Tabolov, police colonel. Thanks to his assistance more police officers were sent to arrest the offender. Two hours later, the arrested policeman resigned his position. The confiscated skins and all documents were forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office of Chuguevsky district for further investigation.



© Phoenix Fund / Andrei Golobokov
Legs of poached Siberian stag

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

On March 16 the public rangers arrested a man with poached wildlife products, including an otter skin. On the same day the team arrested two men in hunting leases with illegal rifles. On March 19 the public rangers arrested a man with a rifle and a poached Siberian stag, drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations,

confiscated illegal rifle and imposed a fine of 6,000 rubles (\$200).

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



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

April

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



© Phoenix Fund /Yuri Trush
A poacher skinning a wild boar

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



© Phoenix Fund /Yuri Trush
The public ranger with confiscated illegal rifles

On April 04 the public rangers were patrolling the flood-lands of the Bikin River 30 km far from Krasny Yar village, when they intercepted a poacher for hunting during closed hunting season. Later on, in flood-lands of the Amba River the rangers arrested a man with two dogs for illegal hunting on the ice. On the same day while examining a hunting path, the rangers found a rifle hanging on a tree 2 m above the ground. The rifle's owner was not found. When patrolling in flood-lands of the Dudunga stream, the team found traces of "Buran" snowmobile. As a result of tracking the traces, they found a rifle and 20 cartridges hidden in a hollow tree. The owner of ammunition was not determined.



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

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

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



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

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

May

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

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

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

On May 27 near the Gorny stream the public rangers arrested a man with two dogs for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. The rangers confiscated rifle and 12 cartridges, drew up



a report on violation of hunting regulations and handed over all documents to the police department to initiate criminal proceedings.

June

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



© Phoenix Fund /Yuri Trush
Two salted bear skins found near the winter house,
June 09 2004

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

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



© Phoenix Fund /Yuri Trush
Poached roe deer

On June 19 when the team was patrolling the Bikin River, they stopped a man on a rubber float. As a result of checking the float, the rangers found one rifle and 7 cartridges.

Arrested man did not have a permit for rifle and hunting license. The rangers confiscated rifle with cartridges and drew up a report. On the



same day near Dubravushka stream the rangers arrested a hunter with illegal rifle. The rifle was confiscated, the violator paid a fine of 500 rubles (\$17).

On June 24 the team carried out a night patrol on the Bikin River. As a result, the rangers stopped a wooden boat with 50 kg of smoked meat of Siberian stag. The poacher gave a hunting permit that allowed him to hunt ducks, hare and hazel hen. A document permitting to hunt Siberian stag was missing. The rangers confiscated meat and drew up a report.

On June 25 the rangers stopped and arrested a man for illegal hunting with rifle and without any permits.

Besides anti-poaching activity, the public rangers continued working on educational project. For example, for the reported period the team gave 14 (25 hours) lectures for schoolchildren and students on the following themes: "How we can save the Amur tiger – unique cat species", "CITES and trade in rare and endangered wildlife", "Problems of human/tiger co-existence", "Prevention human / tiger conflict situations", "Prevention and elimination of poaching" and "Revealing and blocking illegal wildlife trade channels". At the meetings with children the team rangers showed video films and photos made during patrols. On April 28 the public rangers participated in a round table "Attracting local people to nature conservation".

Moreover, the rangers cooperated with local NGOs, such as "Flowerspring", "Ship" Children's ecological TV Company, provided local TV hot materials from anti-poaching raids and were broadcasted by radio.

Western wildlife managers' team



© Phoenix Fund/Alexander Samoilenko
Poacher with wild meat and rifle

Western wildlife managers' team is part of the Hunting Management Department. The team operates in the North of Primorye, still rich in wildlife and cedar forests. Recently, the area has become a hotbed for setting up logging practices and trade due to its proximity to the Chinese border. Table 2 shows anti-poaching results of the wildlife managers' team (see Attachment).

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

In February the team revealed 5 poaching cases. One of them was illegal bear hunting. The wildlife managers arrested violators with two bodies of Asiatic black bear, confiscated 4 illegal rifles and drew up a report. Besides anti-poaching activity, the team took part in a wildlife survey in Dalnerechensky district.

On March 10, 2004 the western wildlife managers' team took part in confiscation of two tiger skins (see "Public environmental investigation teams"). On March 31 the wildlife managers confiscated a bear cub and took it to Primorsky Hunting Management Department.

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



© Phoenix Fund
The head of the team
with bear cub



For the reported period the western wildlife managers' team arrested 23 poachers and confiscated 11 rifles, including 3 rifles confiscated according court decision.

III. Environmental Education and Outreach

Creation of a Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka Town



In January 2004 the Phoenix Fund, together with local administration and Elena Golobokova, experienced educator, started creation of Tiger eco-centre in Novopokrovka Town, Northern Primorye. Novopokrovka Town is an administrative and business centre of Krasnoarmeisky district of Northern Primorye, which population exceeds 25,000 people. The city administration fully supports the idea to create an eco-centre and in the beginning of January it provided a building for it. The building needed in renewal, therefore some reconstruction work is still continuing. The Eco-centre will occupy a classroom (45 m²) in the building of secondary school. For the reported period the main repairs were finished: the tubing of central heating was replaced, the room was re-floored and windows were repaired. Now, designers are making design of a room for Eco-centre. It will have been developed by the middle of July. During the reported period the centre under construction received a number of exhibits for its future displays and exhibitions. For example, local villagers presented a meteorite of 1 kg by weight. Local mass media is very interested in observing the progress and has already published two articles on Tiger eco-centre.

Ecological education in the North of Primorye



Eco-class on the Amur tiger

© Phoenix Fund

From January to June 2004 the Phoenix Fund continued carrying out ecological education and outreach projects in the North of Primorye. Phoenix worked closely with an experienced educator in Krasnoarmeisky district, provided educational video films on nature and wildlife, CDs, transparencies, paints and papers. Most of environmental materials were purchased thanks to support from the 21st Century Tiger. The educator gave slide presentations at "School forestry" club and local schools of Krasnoarmeisky district. In total, 786 children attended 40 eco-classes and obtained ecological knowledge on rare and endangered species in Primorye.

Besides, during the reported period the Phoenix Fund supported work of two teachers in Pozharsky district. In January – June 2004 over 800 schoolchildren attended the "Tiger and



leopard” classes at local schools and eco-center in Pozharsky district. The teachers carried out classes as interactive training. Thanks to support from the 21st Century Tiger, the Phoenix Fund organized subscription for “Zov Taigi” ecological magazine that teachers could use at eco-classes.



IV. Appendixes

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

Activity	Northern team	Southern team	Total
I. Violations documented:	40	33	73
1.1. Hunting			
1.2. Fishing	-	1	1
1.3. Forest resources	-	-	-
1.4. Protected areas	-	-	-
1.5. Other	-	-	-
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	32 rifles (204 cartridges)	19	51 rifles (204 cartridges)
3. Confiscated poaching devices:			
a) Traps	-	20	20
b) Electric fishing rod	-	1	1
4. Wildlife confiscated :	2 items	-	2 items
4.1. Tiger skin			
4.2. Bear meat	56 kg	-	56 kg
4.3. Wild boar meat	2 species	-	2 species
4.4. Roe deer meat	-	10 kg	10 kg
4.5. Siberian stag meat	-	20 kg	20 kg
4.6. Otter skin	-	1 item	1 item
4.7. Badger skin	-	1 item	1 item
4.8. Muskrat skin	-	3 items	3 items
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	2	-	2
6. Meetings with schoolchildren	12	-	12
7. Mass media coverage	10		10
7.1. TV reports			
7.2. Radio reports	1	-	1
7.3. Articles	3	-	3
8. Participation in round tables, conferences, trainings	2	2	4

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

Activity	January – June 2004
I. Violations documented :	
1.1. Hunting	22
1.2. Fishing	

* Results of joint patrols



1.3. Other	1
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	11
3. Wildlife confiscated :	
3.1. Tiger skin	2 items
3.2. Poached bear	2 items
3.3. Duck	2 items
3.4. Alive bear cub	1 cub
4. Arrested violators	23 people
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	2 items
6. Condemned people	1 people