



21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TIGER  
giving wild tigers a future

# ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN PRIMORYE, RUSSIAN FAR EAST

*Final Report*

*2011*

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# ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN PRIMORYE, RUSSIAN FAR EAST

## *Final Report*

### PROJECT SUMMARY

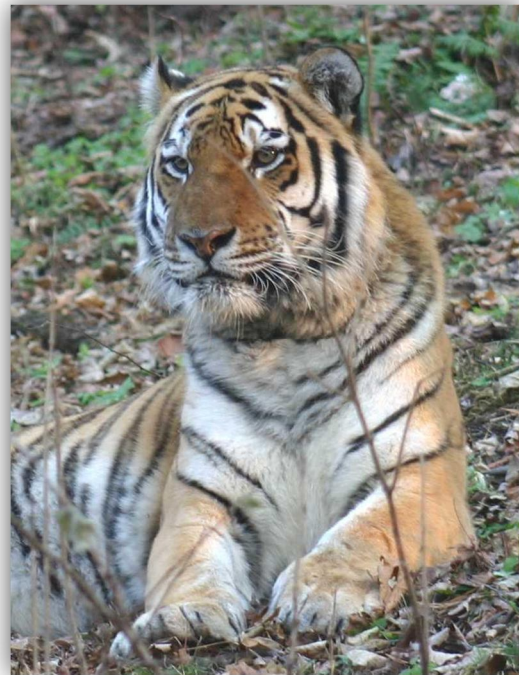
The goal of the project was to ensure the long-term protection of the Amur / Siberian tiger population, its prey and habitat in Northern Primorye<sup>1</sup>, Russian Far East. The project's objectives were:

- To strengthen capacity of four protected areas (PAs) by providing funds for fuel, spare and repair parts, and field equipment;
- To improve protection activities in four PAs through introducing MIST;
- To raise people's awareness about the state of Amur tiger population through holding nature-oriented events, such as eco-lessons, exhibitions, contests, environmental Tiger Day Festivals and other.

Support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund and 21st Century Tiger helped us implement the project activities in four protected areas of Primorye.

Primorye includes the most biologically diverse and unique

ecosystems in all of Russia, retaining the last populations of wild Amur (Siberian) tigers and Amur leopards (only approximately 30 remain in the wild). Tiger census in 2005 revealed that tiger numbers crept back up to between 431-529, but recent survey data show that the formerly stable Amur tiger population is now declining



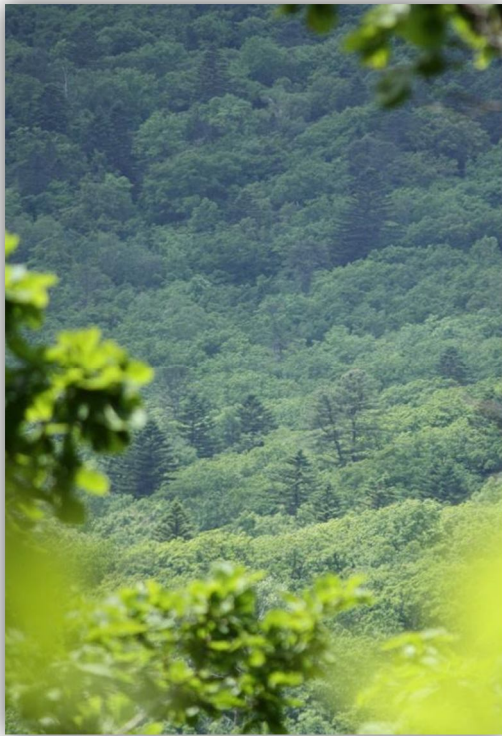
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Amur tiger

as a result of increased poaching of both tigers and its prey species. Given that tigers reflect the health of the ecosystems in which they live and on which people depend, it is obvious that we must take immediate and urgent actions, otherwise wild tigers will disappear forever causing irreversible process in ecosystem.

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<sup>1</sup> Primorsky Krai, informally known as Primorye, is a federal subject of Russia. Primorsky means "maritime" in Russian, hence the region is sometimes referred to as Maritime Province or Maritime Territory. Primorsky Krai, bordered by China, North Korea, and waters of the Sea of Japan, is the southeasternmost region of Russia, located between 42° and 48° north latitude and 130° and 139° east longitude.



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#### Amur tiger habitat

This year we continued supporting anti-poaching (AP) activities in four PAs of Primorye, namely Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve, Lazovsky Nature Reserve, Zov Tigra (Roar of Tiger) National Park and Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Nature Reserve. PAs in the Russian Far East are “source sites” for tigers (places with breeding females are concentrated), and therefore protection of such areas is vital for tiger conservation in Russia. To improve anti-poaching efforts in these PAs, the Phoenix Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Zoological Society of London (ZSL) have developed a joint project. We proposed an integrated approach that included increased support to AP teams, training to improve effectiveness and the law enforcement monitoring system MIST (Management Information System) to assess effectiveness and adapt to

changing threats. MIST is a GIS (Geographic Information System) database that makes it possible to compare standardized performance indicators between patrol teams, conservation sites and time periods and to view patrol efforts and results on conservation site maps. Although such law enforcement monitoring has become a standard practice in many parts of the world, these systems have not yet been used in Russia.

Another integral component of the project was environmental education. Saving the Amur tiger depends mostly on the Russian people, especially those living within the tiger habitat. This requires involvement of the public, which can be achieved through continuous ecological education and outreach activities in the region. To our thinking, it is not possible to conserve tigers only by reinforcing anti-poaching efforts. It is necessary to cover the whole spectrum of activities and address people of various ages.

Below we are pleased to present our final report to summarize activities conducted from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup> 2011.

## PROGRESS

### Anti-poaching and MIST

With the support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund and the 21st Century Tiger, in 2011 the Phoenix



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**Tony Lynam teaches how to use GPS units.  
Training session at Sikhote-Alin Nature  
Reserve**

Fund has continued introducing MIST in four PAs of Primorye. Since January 2011, two PAs (Kedrovaya Pad-Leopardovy and Lazovsky NR) have been implementing MIST. Then, in June, the first training was held for the other two PAs - Zov Tigra NP and Sikhote-Alin NR.

During the reported period the inspectors used specially designed for Russia MIST forms for collecting data. For each reserve, the data from GPS units and the data collection forms were downloaded and stored in a computerized MIST database. This database makes it possible to easily produce patrol reports with tables, charts and maps showing routes and results (Please see below examples of maps with patrol routes in 4 PAs).

Anti-poaching teams not only filled out the data collection forms, but also used hand-held GPS (Global Positioning)

units to record their patrol routes, violations and other information in the GPS. Thanks to support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund and the 21st Century Tiger, the Phoenix Fund purchased additional GPS units, batteries and battery chargers, printer with cartridges and scanner in order to facilitate the work of the protected area



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**Inspector records a waypoint using a GPS unit**

staff with MIST. In addition, the funds were spent for fuel, spare and repair parts for AP patrols in these PAs.

As part of an initial training effort, the inspectors of Sikhote-Alin NR and Zov Tigra NP received instruction in law enforcement monitoring techniques at Sikhote-Alin NR on 9 – 13th June. The training covered practical field navigation techniques that inspectors need for implementing law enforcement monitoring, use of GPS, MIST patrol data collection methods, patrol strategy and techniques. Each involved 2 – 3 days of lectures, practical demonstrations and interactive discussion sessions, and a half-day practical field exercise and debrief that tested skills learned in a



simulated patrol situation with a defined mission. Participants from Sikhote-Alin NR and Zov Tigra NP readily grasped GPS and MIST patrol reporting.

Additionally, refresher training for the inspectors at Lazovsky and KPL was held in June to ensure correct and accurate data entry by the protected area staff. During the meeting at Lazovsky NR and KPL, their managers were satisfied with the MIST database collected the inspectors and found it very useful to analyse anti-poaching



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Meeting with Sergei Khokhryakov (right), KPL director

efforts, results and to plan further activities. Such regular meeting with the inspectors provide the opportunity to discuss results and set new patrol targets.

As a result of MIST training sessions and follow-up meetings, the inspectors of four PAs in Amur tiger habitat were trained to record their patrol routes with GPS units and collect anti-poaching data. After a field-testing in July, on August 1st MIST was officially launched in Zov Tigra

National Park and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve.



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Discussion of MIST results during refresher training at Kedrovaya Pad – Leopardov Protected Area

To encourage good performance in the ranger teams, an incentive system linked to MIST was developed. The point is that many inspectors in PAs lack motivation due to extremely low salaries, and it is hard to ensure them to work with MIST without incentives. However, some of them are interested in improving protection, but hesitant to use new procedures that substantially increase the workload of inspectors. We agreed with the protected area management to finance an incentive system that will be based on quality of MIST work, patrol efforts and patrol results. After the first incentive payments being paid, we noticed more enthusiasm and willingness among the inspectors to carry on the work with MIST.

We understand that the introduction of MIST is a slow process, and it may take several years before the full benefits of MIST are visible. This is in part due to the very human characteristic of “resistance to

change” , but also to the time required to build a strong data-base upon which actual improvements in patrol work can be measured and compared over time. It will be possible to draw conclusions about the impact on patrol quality only in 2012 when we can compare the patrol performance in 2011 with the performance in 2012. However, at the moment we are glad to report that the KPL and Lazovsky NR have made impressive progress with the implementation of MIST. The system already operates well and has produced good quality data. The overall quality of data collection by inspectors was satisfactory. Although, some inspectors had problems producing any data at all. The quality of the data entry by the protected area staff has been excellent. The data entry persons very quickly learned how to work with the MIST software (see examples of maps and tables based on MIST database in the attachment).

In 2012, Phoenix, WCS and ZSL will continue assisting the protected area staff in implementing MIST, providing essential equipment for data collection, processing and storage (GPS units, computers, software, cameras), providing patrol support (fuel, vehicle maintenance, ranger clothing) and the funds for a performance based incentive scheme for each protected area.

### **Ecological education**

During the reported period the educators visited remote villages in Lazovsky and Terneisky districts to give lectures, showed slide-presentations and video on animals and

organized various ecological contests, games, quizzes, and exhibitions. Below, we present brief description of their activities.

#### *1. Lazovsky district*

Since 2007 Phoenix has been supporting ecological education at Lazovsky Nature Reserve. Specialists of the Ecological Education Department established systematic work with schools, kindergartens, and people of the district. Among their innovations are binary lessons, where teachers of two adjoining disciplines lead the lesson together. Educators



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A child attaches images of wildlife to a map of Lazovsky Nature Reserve

Galina Dikalyuk and Olga Degtyarenko developed a large number of ecological games, holiday scenarios, training programs for pre-schoolers and children of primary school. The Reserve has two visit centres and Nature Museum where professional

educators organize exhibitions, discussions, theatre performances, film screenings and games for children and adults.

At the visit centres the educators hold lessons, talks, lectures and other events aimed at raising people's awareness for the need to protect species and their habitat. There is a library and video



© Phoenix

#### A lesson on Amur tiger

archive, didactic materials and various wall-charts and pictorial materials at the visit centers. In 2011, over 9,431 people (7,341 children and 2,090 adults) attended 326 nature-oriented events. In summer, the schoolchildren usually attend summer camp, a supervised program specially designed by the reserve staff. The primary purpose of the summer camp is to foster positive and careful attitude of children towards nature. In 2011, the summer camp with ecological education focus was held on the seashore.

At the eco centres there were a series of travelling exhibitions of children's artwork on the following themes: "Forest Life in Focus", "Visiting Protected Areas", "Lazovsky Nature

Reserve" and others. As many as 1,510 people visited the exhibits.

In summer, the reserve staff organized



Planting Korean pine

41 tours for 341 people to show pug marks left by tiger and other wildlife.

The educators organized interesting tours through Reserve's Nature Museum that features some fascinating exhibits of various stuffed animals, birds and reptiles, and where the reserve staff will inform you about the history of the protected area, scientific work in the reserve and conservation measures. Besides the tours, the reserve staff also gives Fine Art, Biology and Ecology lessons, as well as binary lessons, where teachers of two adjoining disciplines lead the lesson together. Nature Museum is visited not only by the schoolchildren of Lazovsky district, but also by people from Nakhodka, Partizansk, Vladivostok and other cities. In 2011, as many as 2,945 people attended 283 events held in the Museum.

The schoolchildren together with the educators planted 750 Korean pine younglings and set up 11 warning signs with nature conservation slogans. Also,



the teenagers helped the reserve staff to clean the area from garbage: 4 ha of coastline were cleaned and 185 large plastic bags of garbage were collected. In addition, the young children planted 93 seedlings of various tree species



© Phoenix

A group photo with Adam Pollard and schoolchildren

which roots help to bind the soil and stop stream bank erosion, distributed 667 leaflets with an appeal against water and land pollution, restored two subterranean springs and set up 43 posters with nature conservation slogans. A contest “Let’s Make Like-Minded Group Bigger” was held for 187 adults. A family contest called “Fresh Water” attracted 117 people (29 families). As many as 48 birdfeeders were made by the schoolchildren in order to help birds to survive winter.

On September 29, a meeting on the theme “Tigers on Our Planet” was carried out at the eco-center of Lazovsky Nature Reserve, during which twenty-eight children aged 12-15 met with Adam Pollard, a senior tiger handler from Australian Tiger Island, Dreamworld’s wildest attraction. Adam told the children about his work with tigers born in

captivity and how such work helps raise funds to conserve tigers in the wild.

## 2. Terneisky district

In 2005, Phoenix established ties with the “Uragus” ecological NGO of Terney town, led by Galina Maksimova who devoted the greater of her life to teaching children Biology and Ecology. Terney is a strategically important place for tiger education. Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Nature Reserve is located in the district.



© Phoenix

Kindergarten children watch a puppet show about wild animals

In 2011, the educator carried out 519 events for 6,574 children aged 3-18 and 839 adults. The educator carried on working with three age groups at Uragus eco-centre (Ages 7-9, Ages 10-12, Ages 13-17) and gave lessons on rare and endangered species of local flora and fauna. For second year in succession, the educator conducted regular lessons “World Around Us” with 2nd-graders.



Lessons about tigers were given for kindergarten children. The most favourite lesson among the children was a lesson based on a well-known Russian cartoon “Tiger Cub on Sunflower”. After viewing the cartoon, the kids discussed the plot and main cartoon characters. They imitated dialogues and movements of the cartoon characters which was a very good proof that they easily enjoyed watching the cartoon and learnt a lot of new things.

Senior schoolchildren performed a puppet show to juniors in order to educate them about the necessity to protect and conserve nature, plant trees, and keep forest and water bodies clean.

After a massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake occurred near the northeastern coast of Japan and destructive tsunami in March 2011, the



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“Tiger” and children pay visits to residents of Terney town

educator held two lessons on this topic. The children were very scared with the disaster and asked many questions, including those about protection against radiation.

Four senior schoolchildren were working on their own projects, two of

which were presented at a conference “Man and Biosphere”. A project about a water body in Zamanikha Park was awarded for the best design. An author of another project on coniferous species in Zamanikha Park won a third place and a free voucher to Okean, a year-round children’s camp considered to be an honourable award for children.

### **Tiger Day**

Phoenix has been very successful at holding wildlife festivals. In September-October every year, one of the biggest environmental festivals takes place in Primorye - the Tiger Day Festival. The tradition of dedicating the day in honour of the Amur tiger began in Vladivostok in 2000 when the Phoenix Fund, WWF-Russia, WCS and the City Administration brought local poet and photographer Vladimir Troinin’s idea to life by creating a city-wide holiday. The holiday reminds people about the uniqueness and beauty of the territory they live in. The Amur tiger is a symbol of Vladivostok and Primorsky krai; it is the most respected animal in the Russian Far East. The main goal of the holiday is to help save the Amur tiger in the wild for future generations - not just on logos and coats of arms - and to draw international attention to the plight of this endangered species. Gradually the festival gained popularity, its status was elevated to a “regional holiday” which means that it may be celebrated officially in every corner of Primorsky krai, and today Tiger Day is enthusiastically celebrated in many countries.

The festival is a particularly powerful tool in transmitting messages for the values of environment and thoughts about the environmental problems, in forming a different, more ecological, type of consciousness and inspiring to live in harmony with the environment



© Phoenix

Festive march during Tiger Day in Lazo

through a festive atmosphere. Annual Tiger Day festival in Vladivostok and other regional centres has become a popular event devoted to the Amur tiger and other natural treasures of the Russian Far East. The festival usually begins with a carnival procession, and is followed by various theatrical performances. Games and quizzes are essential part of this event. Phoenix organizes Tiger Day Festivals in Vladivostok, Luchegorsk, Novopokrovka, Partizansk, Lazo, Kirovka and Terney towns. In 2010, the Dreamworld Conservation Fund generously provided funds for Tiger Day in Luchegorsk town (northern Primorye).

In May 2011, thanks to support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund, 21st Century Tiger and other sponsors, Phoenix began preparations for the

festivals in Primorye. The educators of Lazo and Terney were actively involved in preparations for Tiger Day, drew a budget estimate for Phoenix consideration, ordered costumes and launched information campaigns to attract as many people as possible.

Tiger Day in Lazo was organized jointly by specialists of Lazovsky Nature Reserve and Phoenix Fund on the seashore in August. As many as 310 participants of the summer camp took an active part in holiday events. First, they followed a tiger path, accomplishing different tasks, after which the families were converted into “tiger connoisseurs” and accepted



© Phoenix

Tiger Day in Lazo

into Tiger team. The educators held talks and quizzes about Amur tiger. As always, all the participants were delighted and very active.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> Terney celebrated the Tiger Day. Every year this popular

holiday extends its borders and attracts more and more participants. This year the holiday traditionally began with a festive parade with 360 marchers, and then followed by a series of entertainments in the central park where children could participate in various contests and games. In the evening, there was a film screening in the park. The audience of 150 people watched a documentary filmed by IFAW. The holiday ended with a loud explosion of fireworks.

### **Art contest**

In December 2010, the Phoenix Fund announced an art contest devoted to the Amur tiger for the fifth year in succession. The main goal of such contests is to attract more children and adults towards tiger conservation issue. The point is that when participating in such contests, children often try with much pleasure and interest to find out about a lifestyle of animals, what problems animals face to survive in the wild and how people affect animals' state. Moreover, often parents join their kids during their preparations for the contest, and together they learn more interesting and unknown facts about wildlife.

From January to March 2011 Phoenix staff received many parcels with children's entries. In March the best paintings were chosen to be published in a wall calendar, and in May, 2,000 copies were published.

We are pleased to report that more children compared to previous years took part in art contests and other quizzes and competitions devoted to

big cats. Amur tiger and leopard conservation has become a popular topic nowadays in Primorye. For example, in 2010, over 802 children from Khabarovsky and Primorsky



© Phoenix

Cover of the 2012 calendar

regions of Russian and Hunchun town of China sent their entries. In 2011, as many as 840 Amur tiger drawings were received by Phoenix from 11 districts of Primorye and Novosibirskaya Oblast. Increase in the number of entries indicates a huge increase in awareness and interest in big cat conservation issues among schoolchildren. We hope that it is also indicates positive results of our educational programs.

Every contestant received a calendar. Also, our educators used the calendars as small gifts/awards for winners or participants of other quizzes, contests and ecological events.

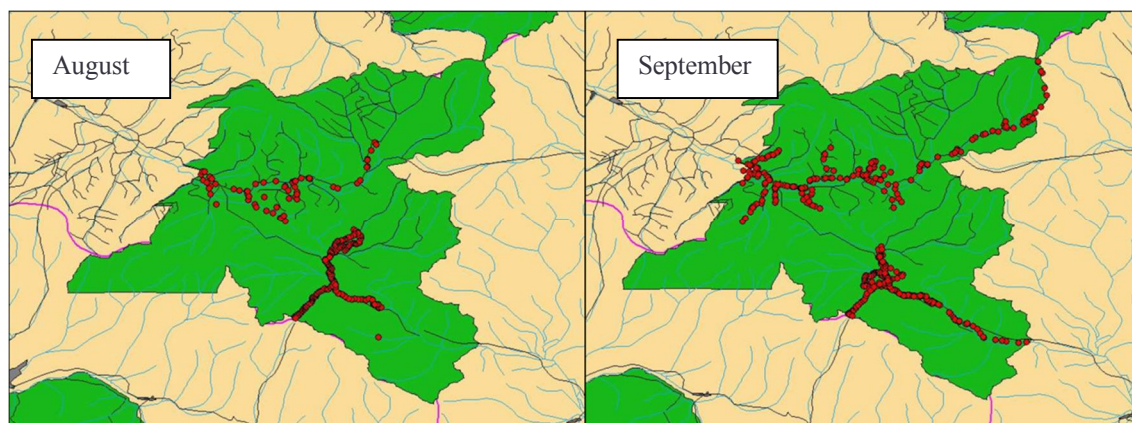
### **Our main achievements:**

- Patrol monitoring system MIST has been launched in 4 Pas;
- Over 845 eco-lessons and events carried out for over



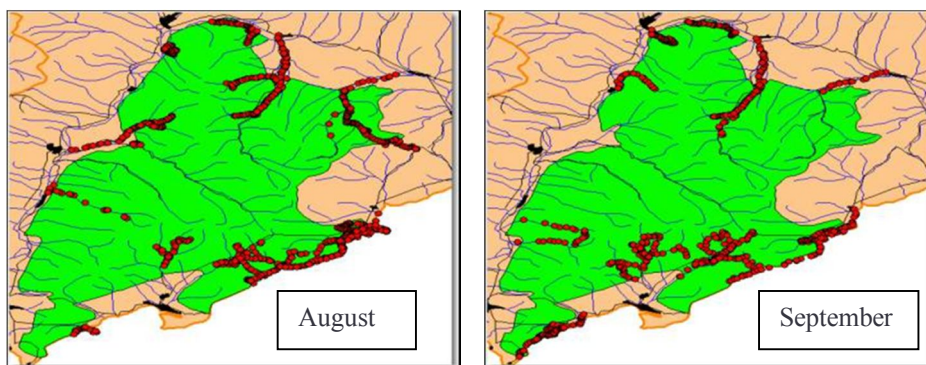
- sixteen thousand children in Lazovsky and Terneisky district;
- 2,000 copies of the wall calendar with tiger paintings published;
- Tiger Day celebration organized in Lazo and Terney which attracted 670 people;
- Law enforcement efforts in 4 PAs improved;
- Children's knowledge on tigers increased;
- A mobile team of Zov Tigra National Park conducted 68 anti-poaching patrols and the inspectors on duty carried out 508 patrols; 43 citations were issued; 6 forest fires were put out;
- Four AP teams of the KPL revealed 16 cases of illegal hunting and 147 misdemeanours (illegal presence, gathering wild plants, and other), imposed fines totalling 419,000 roubles (\$13,970), seized 7 illegal rifles and initiated 6 criminal proceedings;
- Law Enforcement Service of Lazovsky Nature Reserve revealed 50 violations (illegal hunting, trespassing and gathering wild plants), caught 8 poachers, seized 8 rifles, put out 27 forest fires, imposed fines for 53,000 roubles (\$1,770) and initiated 8 criminal proceedings;
- Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve Protection Department conducted 113 anti-poaching patrols, revealed 10 cases of illegal hunting and seized one rifle.

Patrol efforts by AP teams of Zov Tigra National Park (August-September 2011)



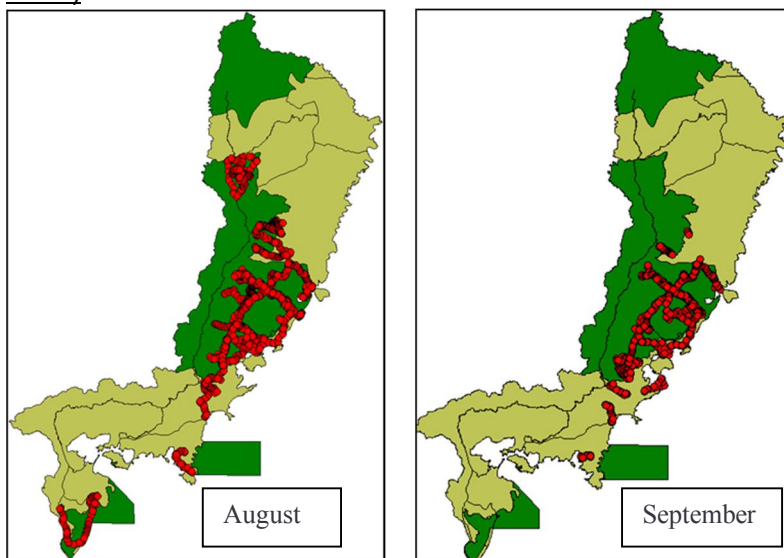
All patrol routes (all teams and all transport types)

Patrol efforts by AP teams of Lazovsky Nature Reserve (August-September 2011)



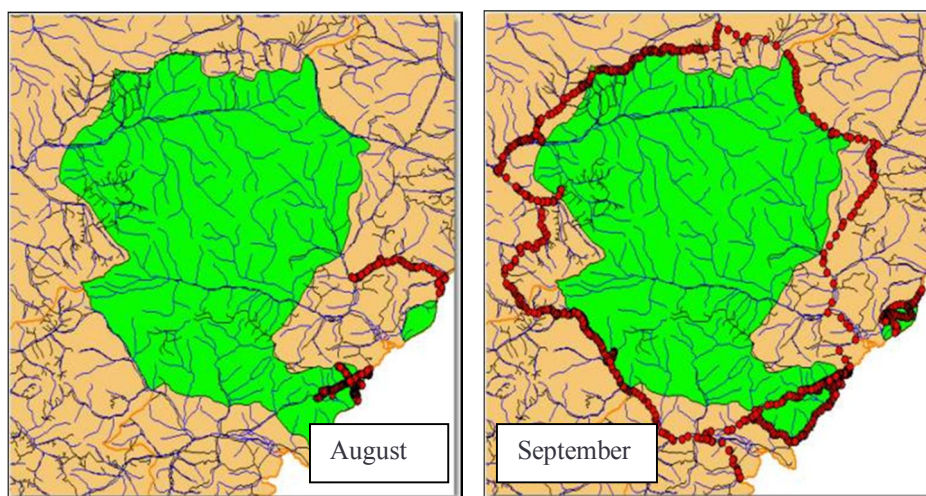
All patrol routes (all teams and all transport types)

Patrol efforts by AP teams of Kedrovaya Pad NR and Leopardovy (August-September 2011)



All patrol routes (all teams and all transport types)

Patrol efforts by AP teams Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Nature Reserve (August-September 2011)



All patrol routes (all teams and all transport types)