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# Phoenix Fund

## Wildlife Conservation in the Russian Far East in 2010: Western anti-poaching team

Interim report  
January – June 2010



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## I. Project Overview

Over the past century, wild tiger numbers dropped from 100,000 to about 3,500 today due to adverse human activities. Primorsky region is the only area in the world where Amur tigers and leopards still exist in the wild. In October 2009, the Wildlife Conservation Society reported about Amur tiger's decline by 40% compared to 2005 estimates. Given that tigers reflect the health of the ecosystems in which they live and on which people depend, people must take immediate and urgent actions, otherwise wild tigers will disappear forever. In this regard, thanks to timely support kindly provided in 2010 by Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger, we took measures to reinforce capacity of Western anti-poaching team of regional Game and Rare Species Department (also known as Primorsky Hunting Management Department).

The team has been operating in three northern districts of Primorye, still rich in wildlife and cedar forests.

## II. Project Implementation

### Support for Western wildlife managers' team

Initially, the Western wildlife managers' team was headed by Rosselkhoznadzor<sup>1</sup> and was responsible for preventing and revealing poaching and illegal logging. Unfortunately, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008, as a result of an administrative reform in Russia, Rosselkhoznadzor partly lost its law enforcement rights. The local Primorsky Krai government became responsible for protection of both forests and fauna within the province. And Rosselkhoznadzor was empowered to control the new Game and Rare Species Department (GRSD) and check how inspectors protect forest and wildlife resources. When the GRSD was

established in January 2008, it had only 19 staff members, but later it became possible to recruit more officers (up to 43) with money from regional budget. Alexander Samoilenko, leader of the Western team, applied to be included as a staff member of the new fauna protection department. And due to bureaucratic procedure for getting approval of his candidacy for leader of GRSD' anti-poaching unit, Alexander was included in the department and received law enforcement rights only in the beginning of the year 2009 and could start working in February 2009.

From January 1st through June 30th 2010, the team showed good results: it has revealed 23 violations of nature protection regulations: 19 hunting violations and 4 illegal logging sites; confiscated three poached roe deer, two red deer and two Himalayan bears. Four criminal proceedings were initiated on illegal logging, and one – on bear poaching (see table 1 in the appendix).



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Checking hunter's documents

From January through April the Western team in cooperation with police officers patrolled in Dalnerechensky, Pozharsky and Krasnoarmeisky administrative districts of Primorye, conducted 18 many-day patrols, revealed 23 violations, including 19 hunting violations and four unauthorized logging, seized three illegal rifles, and initiated five criminal proceedings. Sometimes representatives of local media joined the

<sup>1</sup> Rosselkhoznadzor – Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Monitoring Service



team to cover its anti-poaching work.

On January 3, while patrolling hunting grounds near Salskoye village, Dalnerechensky district, the team detained a man with a 16-gauge smoothbore firearm for hunting without a hunt permit, hunt license and gun license. The inspectors issued an administrative citation, seized the shotgun to hand it over to Dalnerechensky police station and imposed a fine of 2,000 roubles (\$68).



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Team found poached prey in a car

During a patrol on January 22, in Dalnerechensky district the team apprehended a man with a 12-gauge shotgun for hunting without a hunt permit and license. The violator was made to pay a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34).

On February 10, when patrolling along the boundaries between Dalnerechensky and Kirovsky districts, the team revealed an unauthorized cutting of oak. Violators tried to disappear from the scene by DT-74 tractor, which was shortly found 8 km away from the logging site. Later, a tractor's owner and organizer of the illicit logging was apprehended and taken to Kirovsky police station for further investigation.

On February 20, a man with a rifle was detained on hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district, 30 km away from Tayozhnoye village, for deer hunting during a closed season. The inspectors issued an administrative citation and made the violator pay a fine of 2,000 roubles (\$68).

The same day later the team apprehended a man from Spassky district who came to hunt near Tayozhnoye village by van. A search inside revealed fresh meat of red and roe deer and a rifle. It was obvious that hunting had taken place during a closed season. The violator paid a 2,000-rouble (\$68) fine for illegal hunting and 8,000-rouble (\$272) restitution value for wildlife.

In the evening one more violation was revealed close to Tayozhnoye village. A local was detained for illegal hunting. When searching his car the inspectors found red deer meat. The man did not have a hunt license. The inspectors issued an administrative citation and imposed a fine of 2,000 roubles (\$68).

Besides anti-poaching activities, the team members also participated in wildlife census that took place in January – February on hunting grounds of Polyana and Dalnerechensky hunting leases.

On March 15, during a routine patrol in Dalnerechensky district the team revealed an authorized cutting of Korean pine and oak trees. Four loggers were apprehended and taken to Dalnerechensky police station for further investigation. A criminal proceeding was initiated.



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An illegal logging site discovered

On March 20, when patrolling near Malinovo village, Dalnerechensky district, the team discovered an illegal logging site. Following footprints left on the snow the inspectors managed to detain a man with a wireless



station. The man was taken to Dalnerechensky police station for further investigation. A criminal proceeding was initiated.

On March 24, an unauthorized cutting of Korean pine was revealed near Glubinnoye village. People involved in illegal woodcutting scattered in all directions as they saw the inspectors approaching them. The inspectors informed Krasnoarmeisky police station about the fact.

On March 29, a resident of Dalnerechensk town was detained with a 12-gauge shotgun for hunting during a closed season. The inspectors issued an administrative citation and imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34) on him.

On March 30, the team together with employees of Krasnoarmeisky Prosecutor's Office conducted a joint patrol and apprehended two groups of people for unauthorized cutting of Korean pine, oak and ash tree. There were two Husquarna chain saws and two dragging tractors found on the scene. Additionally, two skins and meat of roe deer was discovered there. A task force of Krasnoarmeisky police station was sent to the scene for further investigation. An executive director of logging enterprise was brought to court for illegal wildlife harvesting. He was charged a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34) for illegal hunting and sentenced to restitution in the amount of 6,000 roubles (\$204).

On April 3, while patrolling along the Bolshaya Ussurka river the team detained a resident of Dalnerechensk town for waterfowl hunting without a hunt permit and gun license. The man had already killed three drakes. The inspectors imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34) and restitution.

On April 9, a man was apprehended on hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district for illegal waterfowl hunting. He had neither a hunt permit nor gun license. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34).



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Two roe deer skins found near a logging site on March 30, 2010

On April 12, the team patrolled hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky district and apprehended a man for illegal waterfowl hunting near Golubovka village. The violator did not have a hunt permit and was imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34). The same day later another man was detained for illegal waterfowl hunting. The man had no hunt permit. The inspectors issued an administrative citation and impose a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34). Several hours later, a man was apprehended for illegal waterfowl hunting near Lazo village. The violator had no hunt permit and gun license. He was made to pay a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34). A 16-gauge firearm was seized and handed over to Dalnerechensky police station.

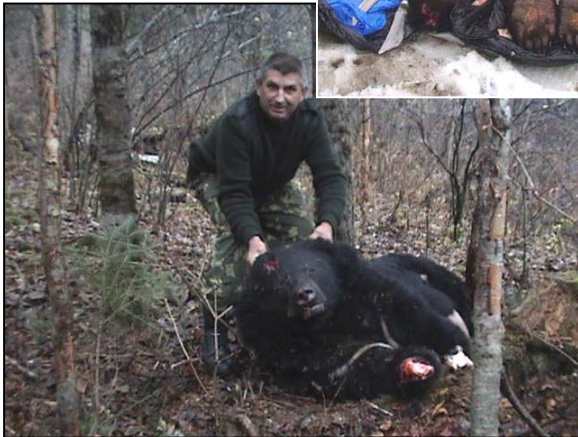
On April 17, the team detained a man with a 16-gauge gun for illegal waterfowl hunting. He was subjected to administrative punishment.



© Phoenix  
Inspector Roman Kozhichev makes a report on poacher



On April 19, near Salskoye village the team detained a man for illegal waterfowl hunting and made him pay a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34).



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Alexander Samoilenko found a female bear without paws and with gall bladder removed

On April 20, while patrolling Krasnoarmeisky district the team detained a local from Roschino village who had killed two bears. A research inside his vehicle revealed bear paws, gall and fat. Also, following the footprints leading from the vehicle to a place where a female bear had been killed, the inspectors discovered two bear cubs in a hollow of a tree trunk. The cubs were taken and given to a local of Novopokrovka town for temporary keeping. The inspectors took action against the poacher and initiated criminal proceeding for bear poaching.



© Phoenix  
Rescued bear cub

On April 22, a man was apprehended for illegal waterfowl hunting. The violator had no hunt license and was subjected to administrative penalty.

On April 23, the team detained a man for illegal waterfowl hunting on the Malinovka river. The violator had no hunt permit and was imposed a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34). The same day later the team apprehended one more violator near Vedenka village. The man was subjected to administrative penalty for illegal waterfowl hunting on the Malinovka river.

On April 26, while patrolling hunting grounds of Polyana hunting lease, the team members detained a man with a 16-gauge firearm for illegal waterfowl hunting. The violator did not have proper documents to hunt and was made to pay a fine of 1,000 roubles (\$34). The inspectors seized his illegal rifle to hand it over to Dalnerechensky police station.

In May the team made three several-day patrols in the hunting grounds of the north (Kirovsky, Dalnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky administrative district). No serious violations were revealed.

In June, the team members left for an annual holiday, and will resume their work in early July.



## ATTACHMENT

**Quantitative results of anti-poaching activities  
by Western team in January-June 2010**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>January – June 2010</b>
<b>1. Number of patrols</b>	27
<b>2. Violations documented:</b>	
2.1. Hunting	19
2.2. Fishing	
2.3. Logging	4
2.4. Pollution	
<b>3. Illegal weapons seized and handed over to the police</b>	3
<b>4. Wildlife confiscated:</b>	
4.1. Black bear	2
4.2. Duck	
4.3. Roe deer	3
4.4. Musk deer	
4.5. Red deer	2
<b>5. Initiated criminal proceedings</b>	5
<b>6. Fines imposed, US\$</b>	655
<b>7. Fines paid, US\$</b>	655
<b>8. Compensations imposed, US\$</b>	480
<b>9. Compensations paid, US\$</b>	480

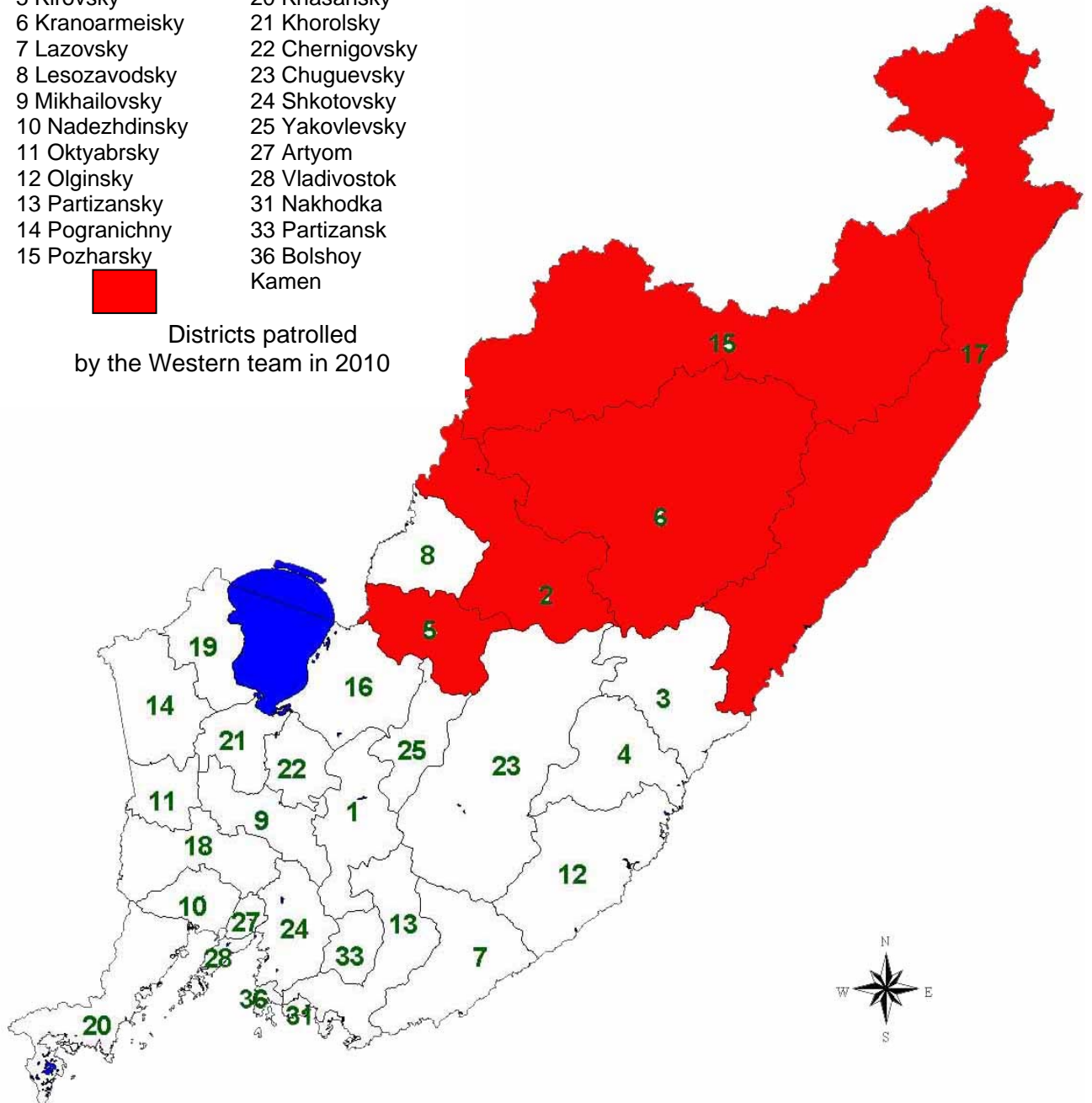


### Administrative division of Primorsky krai

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Anuchinsky     | 16 Spassky          |
| 2 Dalnerechensky | 17 Terneisky        |
| 3 Dalnegorsky    | 18 Ussuriisky       |
| 4 Kavalerovskiy  | 19 Khankaisky       |
| 5 Kirovsky       | 20 Khasansky        |
| 6 Kranoarmeisky  | 21 Khorolsky        |
| 7 Lazovskiy      | 22 Chernigovskiy    |
| 8 Lesozavodskiy  | 23 Chuguevskiy      |
| 9 Mikhailovskiy  | 24 Shkotovskiy      |
| 10 Nadezhdinskiy | 25 Yakovlevskiy     |
| 11 Oktyabrskiy   | 27 Artyom           |
| 12 Olginskiy     | 28 Vladivostok      |
| 13 Partizansk    | 31 Nakhodka         |
| 14 Pogranichny   | 33 Partizansk       |
| 15 Pozharsky     | 36 Bolshoy<br>Kamen |



Districts patrolled  
by the Western team in 2010





## **Acknowledgements**

Phoenix Fund expresses warm thanks to Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation for providing support for the Western anti-poaching team that operates in the north of Primorye.

Thanks to your support, we helped increase capacity of the team to reduce poaching, enhance wildlife and habitat protection, and increase awareness within the local communities about the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation through information work.