



21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future



Amur tiger conservation in 2010

Interim report
January-June 2010



Vladivostok
Russian Far East
2010

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The goal of the project is to ensure Amur tiger population survival in Primorsky region, including:

- Saving injured, orphaned or sick wild tigers by providing food, housing and medical care;
- Gaining in support from the local people through ecological education and outreach activities for children and adults as well as Tiger Day festivals in Terney, Lazo and Kirovka towns.

To ensure long-term survival of Amur tiger Phoenix proposed a program comprising tiger rescue operations and educational activities in Primorye, Russian Far East. Primorye represents the only area in the world where the Amur/Siberian tiger still exists in the wild. The species is listed Endangered by the IUCN and is on CITES Appendix I for protection status. Protected under the Russian and international laws and regulations, the Amur tiger population is still threatened by poaching, habitat destruction, prey depletion and conflicts with people. Till nowadays the incessant and insatiable demand for tiger parts in the South - East Asia appears to be the main driving force behind poaching and traffic.



Landscape in Primorye

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Amur tiger

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Official estimates of Amur tiger numbers in Russia come from full range surveys conducted only once every 10 years. The last survey conducted in 2005 revealed that 431-529 tigers resided in Russia (compared to the 1995 survey, when 415-476 tigers were reported). These results suggested that tiger numbers were stable during that 10-year period. However, in October 2009, the Siberian Tiger Monitoring Program released results indicating that Amur tiger numbers were falling in the Russian Far East, primarily due to poaching and habitat degradation. According to their data, there is a 40% decrease. In view of the foregoing, the

anti-poaching brigades had to strengthen their efforts to suppress poaching.

In 2009-2010 Phoenix enhanced anti-poaching efforts in Primorye, keeping in mind that saving the Amur tiger depends mostly on 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. The main long-term objective of our education and outreach efforts in Primorsky krai is to reduce poaching, habitat destruction and human-induced fires in the Amur tiger range. Our main target groups are local villagers and

especially schoolchildren, because it is easier to influence children's mentality than that of adults. Since 1998 Phoenix has been supporting a number of eco-centres in the region and initiated their creation in some cities. Experienced educators conduct ecological classes and lectures, give slide presentations and organize other activities for children and adults.

Below we present our results achieved from January through June 2010 in terms of the Amur tiger conservation project that combines conservation-oriented ecological education and outreach activities for children and adults of the region.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

I. Rehabilitation of rescued tigers

The four Amur tigers were rehabilitated during the reported period. We are glad to report that the Russian Government, namely Severtsev Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, covered the costs of rehabilitation of those tigers. The Institute is running an Amur tiger research program in the Ussuriisky Nature Reserve and has a support from Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Thus, we reserved the funds (£1,000) allocated from the 21 Century Tiger for the second half of the 2010, in case some financial assistance from NGOs would be required for medical treatment, care, feeding or transportation of rescued tigers.

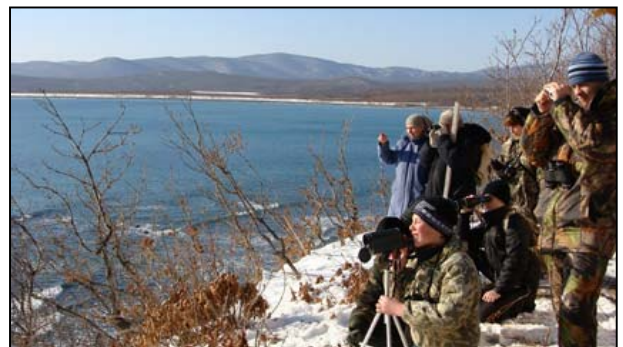
II. Ecological Education and Outreach Activities

Environmental education in the North of Primorye

Experienced educators conducted regular classes devoted to the Amur tiger at local schools. These classes included videos, slide presentations, lectures, games, quizzes and contests.

a) Eco-classes in Terney

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 Reserve is located in the district. The Russian-American Amur tiger conservation project has been running there for 15 years. Since very beginning, *Uragus* started collaborating with scientists in education and outreach among the youth, inviting them to lessons and holidays, such as Tiger Day. Schoolchildren take care of a wonderful garden in the club's yard, go hiking to picturesque corners and have visits with performances by their peers from villages, at times very remote ones. A tiger poster on the wall of Terney school appeals for people to save it.



© Phoenix

Watching larga seals

During the reported period the educator led 73 classes and other events of the Amur tiger and nature-related topics.

In January the educator held 21 classes and an excursion for 115 children aged 6-17.

In early January the educator worked to prepare six children for the regional Biology competition. Six classes were devoted to large seal, also known as spotted seal (*phoca largha*). Using field-guides and videos the children learnt about sea mammals of the Japan Sea and ecological and biological peculiarities of that group of animals. Then, the children made a day-long excursion to Blagodatnoye lodgement of the Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve where they watched large seals on the reefs for several hours. During two following classes the pupils were encouraged to express their feelings towards sea mammals with the help of drawings, photos and modelling.



© Phoenix
Paper folding craft lesson devoted to Amur tiger

The children were much excited about the excursion because they had never seen live large seals before though they lived at the seaside. On the way to the reserve they saw many tracks of ungulates, raccoon dog, and fox in the snow and saw a cormorant, sea eagle and harlequin ducks.

In January the educator also gave two classes to the first-graders (7 years old) on the themes: how do animals live and how do plants live.

In February – March the educator held 21 lessons for 130 children of Terney town, aged 6-17.

On February 4 and 5, the educator gave a lesson to two groups of children aged 7 about wild and domestic animals. On February 6, Galina Maksimova organized two seminars for high school students “Motives for Poaching” and “How Is It Going, Tiger?” At the first seminar the participants discussed legal and moral aspects of poaching. At the second one they talked about factors that accounted for the current tiger numbers.

On March 15, the educator gave a lesson “Making Acquaintance with Tiger” for pupils of the first grade children (7 years old).

On March 24, there was a conference on comparison of different methods of tiger count in Terney, and members of “Uragus” eco-club were invited to attend it. Despite complicated style of speakers, they were able to follow the reports and even asked questions.



© Phoenix
Amur tiger lesson for senior schoolchildren

On May 16, ten members of “Uragus” eco-club of Terney town and three educators went to Serzhantovo village for three days for a meeting with their peers from the local tourist club and a discussion of Amur tiger issues. The hosts showed them a master class on rock climbing and took on an excursion to Nikolaevsky cave in the vicinity of the town of Dalnegorsk. Heaps

of garbage hampered the participants from admiring the scenery, so they decided spontaneously to clean it. As they had no space in the bus to take the garbage, they left 20 bags with it on the roadside in the hope that some conscientious person would bring it to the dump.

All in all, the educator and her helpers gave four classes for 280 children of Serzhantovo school. First, the leaders asked questions to see what the children already knew and what they did not know about the Amur tiger. Then, with the help of a slide presentation they spoke about the Russian-American Amur tiger project in the Primorsky region of Russia and the history of Terney town. The lessons ended with a theatre performance about the Tigress and her cub.

For the middle classes the educator organized a game-competition “Following tiger tracks”. For elder children (16-17 years old) she demonstrated and discussed the film “Tigers of the third century”. The trip was a success, and the pupils from Terney who took part in it, showed good organizational skills.

b) Eco-classes in Lazo

Since 2007 Phoenix has been supporting ecological education in Lazo town. The specialists of Ecological Education Department of Lazovsky Nature Reserve 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 Galina Dikalyuk and Olga Degtyarenko developed a large number of ecological games, holiday scenarios, training programs for preschoolers and children of primary school. “Ecological teams” consisting of teachers and club members are sent to district schools. With the help of traveling exhibitions, discussions, theatre performances, film screenings and games, schoolchildren and teaching staff of village schools become familiar with ecological education. Not only theoretical knowledge is involved; pupils also plant trees, make and set up birdfeeders, and collect rubbish. There is a Nature Museum at the Reserve, where thematic excursions are organized.



“Amur Tiger” lesson

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From January through June 2010 the specialists of Ecological Education Department of Lazovsky Nature Reserve conducted 122 eco-classes and events.

In January the educators gave 13 eco-classes for 268 children.

On January 15 and 22, the specialists of Ecological Education Department of Lazovsky Nature Reserve carried out an ecological class “Feed Birds” for 39 first-graders. The main objective of the class was to familiarize the children with wintering birds of the region and tell about methods to help birds survive through the winter. The educators used a multimedia projector to show slide presentation on wintering birds. During the lesson the children

learnt to determine bullfinch, redpoll, waxwing, tomtit, nutcracker and others, understood relation between bird food supply and starting time for migration, learnt how to make bird

feeders and types of bird food. Some of the children could identify bird species that frequently visited their backyard bird feeders.

On January 11 and 18, thirty-one kindergarten children attended a lesson “Amur Tiger”. During the lesson the teachers used photographs of wild tigers to describe Amur tiger. The children compared tigers with domestic cats. Then, they were asked to name other wild cats living in the forest, tell what they like to eat, and share their knowledge about endangered species of their region. The teachers told about Red Data Book and rules of human behavior in the forest. Most of all the children liked playing a game “Tiger and Hunter”. In the end of the lesson the children were given templates of tiger and asked to paint them the way they liked.



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“Animals Are Roaming in the Forest” lesson

On January 12 and 22, the educators visited a local kindergarten to conduct a lesson “Cats of Our Forest” for 28 children aged 5-6. The main goals of the lesson were to familiarize the children with tigers, leopards, lynxes and Far Eastern wild cats and explain the notion of Red Data Book. The lesson began with a riddle about wild cat species. Then, the children discussed similarities and differences among tiger, lynx and Far Eastern cat. The educator read a story about Amur tiger cub that lost its mother. In the end of the lesson the teachers told about the Amur leopard, the most critically endangered species in Primorye.



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“Distinguished Specialists of Nature Reserves” lesson

On January 14, the educators visited a local kindergarten to deliver a lesson “Tigers and Leopards” for 71 children aged 4-6. The goal of the lesson was to show the beauty and dexterity of wild cats. The children were divided into two groups “Tigers” and “Leopards” to compete in various tasks. They jumped as wild cats, hunted prey species, and followed cat tracks, etc. During the breaks between tasks they read poems and sang songs about tigers and leopards.

In February the educators held 26 events for 812 children 5-17 years old.

On February 1, the educators gave a lesson on biodiversity. Twenty-six children took part in it. They visited Nature Museum of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve, watched video episodes from life of different animals and answered the educator’s questions. On February 2, the specialists of Ecological Education Department gave a similar lesson for 31 children, but that time the children compared how animals were represented in Russian fairy-tales and proverbs (their appearance, habits, character), and how they looked in real life (judging by stuffed animals in Reserve’s Nature Museum).

On February 5 and 18, the educators gave a lesson devoted to 57th anniversary of Lazovsky Nature Reserve. Forty-one children took part in it and learnt about the history of the protected area, activities and broadened their knowledge of fauna and flora. The pupils themselves acted as if they were guides in the Nature Museum of the reserve. Their speeches showed their good knowledge.



“Deer and Tiger” game

© Phoenix

On February 15, the educator showed a slide presentation “Let’s Feed Birds” for 14 children. At the lesson the pupils learnt to distinguish a bullfinch, waxwing, redpoll, scarlet grosbeak, tit and a nutcracker, learnt that those birds migrated depending on presence of food, and were taught to make birdfeeders. Some of the children after the presentation could identify bird species that frequently visited their backyard bird feeders.

On February 16, 17, 18, and 26, the educators gave a lesson “Distinguished Specialists of Nature Reserves” for a total amount of 120 children. The children divided into two teams, chose “an inspirer” (some celebrated worker of Lazovsky Nature Reserve) and competed with each other in different tasks: to pack a backpack quickly, to select necessary/unnecessary things for a hike etc.



Eco-lesson for kindergarten children

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On February 19, the educator with the eco-club members organized a mini-quiz “What I know about Amur tiger” for 160 children and adults of Lazo town. They stopped people in the streets to ask them some questions. The participants demonstrated good knowledge on Amur tiger state but were surprised to know some facts, e.g. that many young tigers died before reaching adult age, that tiger density was low in the reserve etc. If the people found difficulty in replying, the activists shared information with them.

In March the specialists of Lazovsky Nature Reserve gave 38 lessons for 942 children aged 4-14 from kindergartens and secondary schools

of Lazo town and villages of Lazovsky district.

On March 23, twelve children attended a lesson “Who Woke up in the Forest?”, at which they broadened their knowledge on life of wild animals, especially on their behaviour in spring. They discussed magpies, crows, bears and tigers, learnt which animals went into hibernation and which not. At the end of the lesson the educators played with the children a game “Complete My Phrase”.

On March 25, the educators gave a lesson “Spring in the Forest” for twelve children. During the lesson the children guessed riddles about animals, described first spring flowers, reasoned why it was not good to pick them and to ruin birds’ nests. At the end of the lesson the educators suggested the children formulating rules of behaviour: “In the forest you can/cannot...”

On March 10, twenty-four children participated in a lesson “Protected Areas of Russia”, in the course of which they got general information about nature reserves, learnt in more detail about local ones, and compared nature reserves (Lazovsky as an example) and national parks (Zov Tigra National Park as an example). One of the tasks the educator gave was to give a presentation of any protected area on the pupil’s choice.



© Phoenix
Visit to Reserve’s Nature Museum

On March 15, 17, 18 and 19, the specialists of Ecological Education Department of Lazovsky Nature Reserve gave a series of lessons “Following Tiger Path” for 154 children. First, the educator told them about tiger characteristics, habitat and density, then about organizations that worked to protect tigers. At the end of the lesson the children played a game, the winner of which had a right to make a phone call “to a tiger”.

On March 18 and 26, the educator showed a slide presentation “Tigers of Our District” and held a discussion for a total number of 102 children. She spoke about methods used to study tigers in Lazovsky Nature Reserve, showed pictures made by photo-traps and discussed different factors that influenced tiger numbers.

On March 16, thirty-four children conducted an opinion poll and explanatory talk on Amur tiger with adults of Lazo town. The participants found the meeting very instructive.

On March 19, sixteen children had a lesson “Visit to a Tiger”, at which 16 children participated. The main character – a tiger cub – told about his life, his mother, and neighbors.

In April the educator of the Educational Department of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve held 25 classes for 632 pupils 4-17 years old.

On April 15, they gave a lesson on first spring flowers for 13 kindergarten children, during which they guessed riddles, described a picture of a fading flower, learned why it was bad to pick up wild flowers, used images of dandelions and of a meadow to “make” a flowered and flowerless landscapes and told kind words to the flowers.

On April 6 and 13, the educator gave a similar lesson for 34 children. They learned to distinguish different plant species with the help of pictures, painted and “planted” different flowers on a meadow. At the end of the lesson they made a conclusion about why flowers were important.

On April 23, twenty-five children attended a lesson “How do trees wake up?”, at which they learnt such notions as flow of sap and played a game “Me, a tree” on imitation of changes in trees in spring.



© Phoenix
At the lesson educator uses
Amur Tiger Book for Children by Phoenix

On April 23, the educator with 59 pupils celebrated Earth Day. It was in the form of a theatre performance: two forest fairies, a deer, a tiger and a bear read poems, checked how well the children knew rules of behavior in the forest and asked riddles.

On April 5 and 7, the educator gave a lesson on first spring flowers for 38 children. First, the children watched a video “Seasons of the year. Spring” and discussed it. Then, the educator spoke in more detail about each flowers and showed their images. After an action game the children solved a crossword, and made a conclusion on why first spring flowers needed to be protected. The educator was surprised to

learn that the children knew very few names of the flowers.

On April 21 and 26, the educator showed a slide presentation “Safety in the forest” to 32 children. They learnt what to do in case of a snakes or insects bite, fire, loss of orientation, encounters with predators. The educator explained to them how to minimize risks in those situations. The children shared their own experience.

On April 16 and 23, the educator gave a lesson on the protected areas of Primorye, in the course of which they played a game “Animals – Man”, dramatized the history of relationship between animals and men and came to a conclusion about the necessity of nature reserves. The educator gave information about the nature reserves of the Primorsky region and held a quiz in which the pupils filled the cards with information on them.

On April 14, the educator gave a lesson “Complaints book” for 24 pupils. They defined problems that faced plant and animals and for which people were to blame. Each child spoke for this or that animal.

On April 8, 9, 16, 17, and 26, the educator gave a lesson “They resemble us” for a total amount of 164 children. They searched for likenesses and differences in ethology of animals and man, and learnt a notion of a totem.

On April 22, junior children of Lazo (136) celebrated Earth Day. First a group of children showed a theatre performance “Travelling on forest paths”, then each classes went through all the stations while completing different tasks.

Earth Day was also organized for 68 middle and senior schoolchildren.

In May the educators of Lazo Nature Reserve held 11 classes for 742 pupils 5-16 years old.

On May 18, the educator gave a lesson “Why lives on our territory?”, the purpose of which was to acquaint the children with different living organisms and show their interconnection with the surrounding world, to foster the feeling of closeness and empathy to nature. The children learnt

what “presents” different trees gave to people, why flowerbeds were necessary, what was the use of birds in gardens, why it was forbidden to destroy anthills and other rules of behaviour in the forest.

On May 20, the educator gave a lesson “We are young researchers” for 22 children. They learnt how to use a magnifying glass and sticks for examination of soils, to differentiate trees species, bushes and flowers.

On May 19, there was a lesson “Big dangers for small animals”, at which the children learnt about wild animals whom they saw every day: a beetle, a caterpillar, a grasshopper, an ant, a spider, and an earthworm. The small children were glad to guess riddles on those creatures.

On May 17 and 18, the educator led a game in the arboretum of the nature reserve. They played games, in which they learnt the peculiar features of different tree species.

On May 21, the educator gave a lesson “Animals of the Ussuri taiga”, at which they recollected information on the most typical local animals and their habits. Several teams competed with one another completing different tasks.

In May, two groups of the eco-club planted 1,200 Korean pine seedlings around the Nature Reserve, removed garbage from the recreation area in Lazo village, and distributed 526 leaflets with an appeal not to leave garbage after oneself.

The results of the family competition were summed up. 20 families took part in it, made birdhouses, cleaned recreational zones and competed in different nature-related tasks.

In June the educators conducted 9 classes for 238 pupils 7-10 years old.

On June 7, a lesson on the Indian marten gathered 54 children. They watched a film on that animal, searched for it and its relatives in the Nature Museum of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve, and described the animals with their own words.

On June 18, the educator gave a lesson on sable. The participants watched a video “13 minutes from a sable life”, took part in a quiz “Recognize me” and studied food chains (what animals ate).

On June 21, the educator gave a lesson on plants, which represented a competition of four teams. The pupils tried to recognize a certain tree with their eyes shut, corrected mistakes in the information on some trees, worked a crossword puzzle, named as many leaved/coniferous trees as they knew, and searched alive trees outdoors taking their herbaria as an example.

On June 28, the educators conducted a game “All about Him”, the purpose of which was to enlarge the schoolchildren’s knowledge on the Amur tiger. Different tasks were prepared, related to mathematics, geography, ethnology, cookery and rules of behavior in the forest.

On June 23-25, the educators of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve hosted a seminar for educators of the Lazovsky district, devoted to succession in ecological education between kindergartens and secondary schools. Twenty teachers took part in it. The participants worked to find a way to avoid a gap between those two stages, discussed how to make the process coherent and not



© Phoenix
Planting Korean pine in the vicinity
of Lazovsky Nature Reserve

sporadic, watched films that could be used at the lessons and presented their self-written ecological fairy-tales in groups.

c) Eco-classes in Kirovka

Since 2007 Phoenix has been supporting the educational activity of Galina Goy, a teacher from technical school No. 55 in Kirovsky town. Students of 16-17 years old visit the *Ussury* Eco-club, where under the teacher's guidance, elaborate lessons about the nature of the Primorsky region are created and presented for school and kindergarten children of the town. Such method enables them to accomplish two goals: organize teenagers' leisure and foster respect and love for nature. Schoolchildren are more receptive to information delivered to them by people a little older than themselves. In addition to lessons, students are involved in practical work: they clean their town, plant trees and feed birds in winter.

During the reported period the educator initiated and led 13 events and lessons, many of them joint with the elder members of "Ussuri" eco-club of the technical school of Kirovka town.

In January the educator held three classes for 55 children aged 4-11 and six adults (teachers).

On January 22, the educator gave a lesson "Meeting with Wild Animals of the Ussuri Taiga" for 39 children aged 4-6. The purpose of the lesson was to acquaint the children with inhabitants of the Ussuri taiga, their role in the eco-system, factors that regulate their density and peculiarities, especially those of tigers and leopards. Senior students of Kirovka technical school, who are active members of the *Ussury* Eco-club, helped the teacher during the lesson.



© Phoenix
Galina Goy gives eco-lesson in local kindergarten

First, the children guessed riddles about animals, and if somebody guessed right, he/she was to tell a few words about the animal. Then, everybody played a game "Spidery Lace" about interconnections between animals. For example, a squirrel collecting nuts and acorns dropped some of them, which later grew up, became trees and fed other animals. The children understood the idea well and gave a detailed answer to the teacher's question "What will happen to wild animals if Korean pine was cut out completely"?

On January 27, the educator gave two lessons "Flora and Fauna of the Primorsky Region" for 16 children 10-11 years old. The third-graders of Kirovka secondary school come often to the eco-club. First, they watched short videos on nature reserves of Primorye, after which played a game "Wheel of Fortune" with questions on animals and plants.

In February the educator held two classes for 31 children 10-16 years old.

On February 12, she gave a lesson "Primorsky Region Is My Native Home", in which 14 children 10-11 years old took part. At the lesson they learnt about the first explorers of the

region, typical local animals and birds, and played a “zoological lotto” game. It consisted of such questions as “Which animal of the Ussuri taiga is the biggest feline?” etc.



© Phoenix
“Primorsky Region Is My Native Home” lesson

On February 26, seventeen children 15-16 years old attended a lesson “Hard Times for Wild Animals”. They spoke about winter conditions and the thin crust of ice over snow, which made it hard for ungulates (and also birds who fly little, such as pheasant) to walk, and sometimes hurt their feet. This theme was chosen because some time before all local TV channels showed reportings about difficulties wild animals faced. On the educator’s question how people could help them, the pupils gave such suggestions: to create teams to make feeding grounds in the forest, to clear roads with vehicles and others. In the course of the discussion the educator concluded that the children cared much about wild animals and were interested in helping them.

In March the educator held two ecological lessons for 40 children aged 5-11 year-old and four teachers.

On March 17, the educator conducted an eco-lesson for 13 children of Kirovka secondary school. The purpose of the class was to continue to make the children acquainted with wild animals of the Ussuri taiga, to develop a sense of responsibility for the living creatures and the nature. These children did not come to the eco-center for the first time; they do like to be engaged in eco-center’s activities. The children themselves suggested to carry out a lesson in a form of a game called “Miracle Field”. In the beginning of the class the children watched a film “Who Is the Master in Taiga?” and then answered questions and solved riddles about tiger, its habitat and other dwellers of Primorsky forests. Then, they played another game called “Dominoes”. As a result, the lesson lasted longer than it was supposed to as the children enjoyed playing and learning new facts about the Amur tiger and other wild animals.

On March 25, the lesson “Protect Forest from Fire” was held for 37 kindergarten children. The goal of the class was to teach the children the fire safety rules, identify main causes of forest fires and its impact on wildlife. The members of ecological centre started the lesson with a quiz game. The preschoolers were divided into two teams that had to guess various riddles about nature. A card with a letter was given for each correct answer and when all the riddles were solved the children lined up and formed a phrase “FOREST FIRE”. Thereupon the educator asked questions regarding fire safety rules and the children showed satisfactory awareness. At the end of the class the most active participants were awarded with small prizes. The children from senior and preparatory groups handed their tiger drawings and craftworks over to the eco-centre members for a forthcoming exhibition “Long Live the Tiger” that was to be in May 2010.

In April the educator held two classes for 23 children aged 10-12.

On April 7, the educator gave a lesson “Enemies and Friends of the Amur tiger” for 12 children aged 10-11. The purpose of the lesson was to acquaint the children with factors, that limit tiger

numbers (enemies) and the system of tiger protection (friends); and to foster in children a sense of responsibility for nature.

The educator led the lesson with several senior members of the Kirovka eco-club. First she gave a short lecture on factors that ruined nature and disturbed forest inhabitants. Then she suggested each children describing some animal on their choice: how it reacted to danger, in what way changed in different seasons etc. They tried to explain how a tiger behaved when it felt a danger. Then each pupil in turn spoke about one of the tiger enemies, and ways to help tigers survive.

On April 21, the educator gave a lesson “The biggest feline on Earth” for 11 children 11-12 years old of Kirovka secondary school. The purpose of the lesson was to summarize and widen children’s knowledge on the Amur tiger. As it was not the first time for the children to come to the eco-centre, the educator prepared more difficult questions for them about tigers and their habitat. The lesson was organized as a game “Wheel of Fortune”. All the participants were involved in it.

In May the educator held 2 ecological events for 47 children aged 10-12.



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Eco-forum in Kirovka, May 2010

On May 19, she organized an ecological forum “Earth is our home” for 35 children 10-12 years old of the secondary school of Kirovka town. The pupils presented their reports on different animals and plants, and about their project on planting lotus in Lebedinoe lake. The educator Galina Goy told them about the Amur tiger and Amur leopard that live in our region, and why it was hard for them to survive. At the end of the lesson the pupils took part in a quiz “Proper behavior in the forest” that contained questions on how to start a campfire, what to do in case of a forest fire and encounters with wild animals, especially a tiger. The most active and well-informed children were awarded achievement certificates.

On May 27, the educator delivered a lesson “Where do forest dwellers hide?” for 12 children of “Ussuri” eco-club in Kirovka town. They got to know how wild animals chose a right place for them to live. Among the questions discussed there were the following: Where does the Amur tiger live? Why do Amur leopards live only in the south of the region? Why can starlings live in birdhouses, while swallows prefer to make houses of clay? Why do some animals live outdoors, while the others live in dens or holes?

In June, the educator gave two classes for 53 children 10-12 years old. On June 19, there was a lesson “Forest mosaic”, aimed at acquainting children with such animals as Amur tiger, Amur leopard and other local species, and to develop in children skills of collective work. The lesson consisted of two parts: a quiz “Forest experts” and a game “Tigers – leopards”. One of the teams was tigers, the other was leopards. They found similarities and differences of those animals, showed how they hunted, imitated their voice and describe where they lived. The winning team got small presents: bookmarks and pocket calendars.

On June 23, the educator led a lesson “Clean air – our health”. The idea of it was to determine the children’s knowledge on the environment, namely on the air and water, to foster a sense of personal responsibility for environmental protection, and to develop the ability of analyse, that is, to find links between human actions and what happened around in nature. The educator chose the theme on purpose, as practically all the children heard about the problem of air and water pollution. To start a discussion she asked a few questions, such as: Why does air gets dirty? Why does fish sometimes die in the rivers? etc. The children named reasons for pollution. The lesson continued with outdoors games “Guess who I am”, “Chasing prey”, and steeplechase. At the end of the lesson the educator asked the participants what should be done to breathe clean air, and the children gave their opinions, such as “remove garbage after themselves, not to cut trees and, which is even better, plant new ones, to feed birds” etc.

Tiger Day Festivals

Phoenix has been very successful at holding wildlife festivals. In September 2000, the Phoenix Fund organized the first Tiger Day Festival in Vladivostok and within a year it developed into a wonderful autumn festival that is celebrated across the country, from Moscow to Vladivostok. The festival usually begins with a carnival procession, and is followed by various theatrical performances. The festivals attract people’s attention to the most burning issues of wildlife conservation in the region, as well as give them an opportunity to participate in their resolution. Nowadays, Phoenix organizes Tiger Day Festivals in Vladivostok, Luchegorsk, Novopokrovka, Slavyanka, Partizansk, Terney, Kirovka and Lazo towns.



© Phoenix

Tiger Day in Lazo, October 2008

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year 2010 is the Year of the Tiger. Thus, many events devoted to tiger conservation were scheduled for 2010. The Global Tiger Initiative, launched by the World Bank and International Tiger Coalition in June 2008, called to convene in 2010 the “Year of the Tiger” Summit where leaders of 13 tiger-range countries and international organizations could announce their specific commitments to save these unique wild animals. The Tiger Summit is to be held in Vladivostok, and probably it will coincide with the Tiger Day-2010. Phoenix has already started preparations for festivals in cities of Primorye. At the moment, Phoenix staff members together with the educators and tutors

of the eco-centres are discussing the scenario of the holiday and making a list of contests that will be organized during the feast. The educators of Terney, Lazo and Kirovka are actively preparing for Tiger Day, drawing a budget estimate for Phoenix consideration, ordering costumes and starting information campaigns to attract as many people as possible.



ATTACHMENT

