



21ST CENTURY TIGER
giving wild tigers a future

Phoenix Fund

Joint Anti-Poaching Activities

in the South of Khabarovsk Krai

Final report
January 01 – December 31, 2008



Vladivostok
Russian Far East
2008

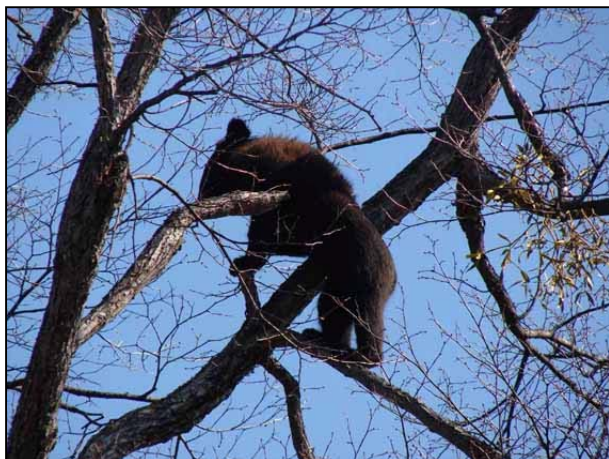
FINAL REPORT FROM PHOENIX FUND

Grantor:	The Dreamworld Conservation Fund
Project Name:	Joint Anti-Poaching Activities in the South of Khabarovsk Krai
Grantee:	The Phoenix Fund
Report Period:	January 01 – December 31, 2008
Grant Period:	January 01 – December 31, 2008

I. Project overview

The objective of the project is to ensure Amur tiger habitat protection and population survival in Primorsky and Khabarovsk regions, including:

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



Bear cub

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The Russian Far East is the only area in the world where both the Amur tiger – more commonly known as the Siberian tiger – and Amur leopard still exist in the wild. In spite of worldwide publicity, these big cats still face many threats – illegal poaching, human encroachment, deforestation, and a lack of natural prey species. An estimated 450 mature Amur tigers and 35 Amur leopards are left in the wild, and of the surviving tigers, only approximately 10% are found within protected areas. The numbers protected are not enough to sustain the population, and thus the future of the tiger is still at stake and depends on the attitude of the local people towards them. Tigers are still being poached for their skins, bones and other parts that are valued for their

medical purposes in Asia. The insatiable demand for tiger ingredients appears to be the main driving force behind this poaching and traffic.

Inspection Tiger was formed in 1994 within State Ecological Committee of Primorsky krai. Creation of Inspection Tiger was more of necessity: in the beginning of the 90th, after opening the borders and dissolution of the federal nature conservation system, everything that could have been sold in Ussury taiga was pillaged and smuggled to neighbouring China. The catastrophic situation affected endangered population of Amur tigers. Thanks to anti-poaching activities of Inspection Tiger in Primorsky krai and south of Khabarovsk krai, tiger numbers have crept back to between 431 – 529. Three-man



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Immobilized tiger

Khabarovsk team is part of Inspection Tiger. Edward Yanovsky, the leader of the team, possesses large personal experience in wildlife conservation and has been leading the project throughout years. The team is specially trained and equipped to conduct anti-poaching patrols and to investigate human-tiger conflicts.

II. Project description

Team members

The team consists of two Inspection Tiger officers and a wildlife manager who have been working within the team for seven years. The officers graduated from Irkutsky Agricultural Academy with a degree in Biology and Hunting Management. Before starting their work as Inspection Tiger officers, they worked for four years in Khabarovsk State Committee on Environmental Protection.

Cooperation

The team cooperated with the police of Lazo and Vyazemsky districts of the Khabarovsk region (initiating criminal procedures, joint patrols), Fish Inspection (joint patrols, collection of operative data, use of their vehicles), gamekeepers, protected areas, Protected Areas Management Department of Khabarovsk region and the media.

Equipment

The team is well equipped with an "UAZ" off-road vehicle, a radio station, video- and photo cameras, a GPS unit, a rubber boat, a boat engine, a PC, a laptop and pistols for self-defence. However, the effectiveness of the team could be increased by providing it with a diesel-driven jeep, an off-road vehicle with a cabin for autonomous living when investigation a conflict case and cages for tigers.

Legal situation; Law enforcement rights revoked

At present the primary goals of Inspection Tiger is keeping the Red Book (list of the endangered species) of the Russian Federation and control of observance the Strategy of Conservation of Rare and Disappearing Animals, Plants and Mushrooms, approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 2004.

Anti-poaching methods

The main anti-poaching methods are as follows:

- Patrolling hunting grounds by car. The rangers, together with police officers, stop and check vehicles moving out of the forest;
- Patrolling on rivers by motorboat. Fishermen often have rifles in their boats and they visit hunter's cabins located near riverbanks;
- Checking logging camps and sites in winter. The rangers often find illegal rifles hidden in a cab of logging vehicles;



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Checking hunting license

- Checking apiaries at night and making night ambushes on logging roads;
- Checking winter cabins after hunting season is closed;
- Tracking hunters in spring when there is thin crust of ice over snow;
- Alluring poachers by imitating stag's mating call that attracts female of the species in autumn. Usually, when a poacher hears such a roar, he took his gun and began hunting.

Additional activities

In summer the rangers paid special attention to apiaries and their owners, who often did not miss the chance to hunt illegally. They also laid ambushes on forest roads at night and in the early morning.

In summer and autumn, the team spent much times patrolling at night close to crop fields, where animals came to feed, followed by hunters who stopped by the road, blinded them with the headlights and then shoot.

In autumn, many poachers used a kind of hunter whistle that imitated roar of a male deer in mating season. That's why the officers used the same thing to attract the hunters and then apprehend them.

In case of conflict situations between tigers and people, the team was involved in its investigation. With support from Phoenix, the team organized joint patrols with gamekeepers, the police and journalists, and this helped to discourage poachers from coming until the team is gone.

Results

Among the main events of the team's activities in 2008 we can call rescue of an exhausted tiger cub and its transportation to the rehabilitation centre, investigation of a bear attack on a poacher in Mataisky Wildlife Refuge, confiscation of 13 illegal shotguns, finding a dead Far Eastern wildcat and forced shooting of a dangerous badly wounded tiger.

Plans for the future

In 2009 the team intends to continue cooperation with the Phoenix Fund, the police, Wildlife and Protected Areas Department of Khabarovskiy krai, Fish Inspection, gamekeepers of hunting leases and civilians.

III. Anti-poaching activities

This project has been made possible in 2008 with the support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and 21st Century Tiger. In the course of the year the team carried out 30 patrols, drew 31 citations, initiated five criminal procedures, confiscated 13 illegal guns and 11 legal guns, 100 kg of wild boar meat, 50 kg of red deer meat. The rangers had to shoot a conflict tiger, passed two tiger cubs for rehabilitation, investigated a case of a Far Eastern wild cat killed by a trap, and resolved five tiger-human conflicts.

January



Conflict tiger case

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In January the team held five patrols, withdrew three guns, made up five protocols on hunting violations. On two of them criminal proceedings were started. The team was occupied with rescue of two orphaned tiger cubs, one of them died of emaciation. A conflict tiger was shot off in self-defence. A bus knocked down a tiger that led to its death.

On January 09, the team leader got a message from Eduard Kruglov, Director of “Utyos” rehabilitation centre for wild animals by Khabarovsk city, that a man had been attacked by a tiger and was hospitalized. E. Yanovsky

went to the hospital to check the information. The victim had numerous abrasions on his body, broken ribs and forearms. He explained that in the morning on January 01, a tiger jumped at him 15 km far from Solontsovy village of Lazo district in Khabarovsk region, 200 km far from the road. The wounded managed to walk to the car where his brother was supposed to wait for him. Presumably, the two men went poaching, as the hunting season ended on December 31.

On January 10, two team members with a police officer went to Solontsovy village to make inquiries among locals. On January 11, in the environs of Kidiminsky mountain crossing at 6 km distance from the road they discovered the place of the conflict. On the area of about 5 m² there were bloodspots and flakes of tiger hair. No tracks of large predators or wild boar remnants were found. The police officers drew up a report. The team established that the wounded tiger had crossed the road and retired deep into the forest. The rangers followed the tracks; saw five tiger beds with blood in both front and hind part of the animal. The tiger was lying in the last bed for 7-8 days. The team leader reported the situation to the village administration, to the forestry and to the Conflict Tiger team of Inspection Tiger. They made a trip to the closest logging site to warn people against possible dangerous encounter. There they discovered an illegal shotgun and withdrew it.

On January 12, the Khabarovsk team jointly with Conflict Tiger rangers patrolled the territory in search for tiger tracks. On January 13, tiger specialists of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) arrived from their base in the north of the region and they all went on patrolling. Returning back to the village, the environmental officers noticed a fresh track of a motorcycle, followed it and discovered an illegal 16-gauge gun inside the vehicle. Its owner who appeared some minutes later explained that he had found the gun. The officers made up an administrative report on him.

On January 14, the rangers used a truck DT-75 to track the tiger but due to steep slopes and the forest being clogged with fallen trees it did not turn productive. WCS specialists held the opinion that it would be impossible to trap the wounded animal under such circumstances.

On January 15, at 3 p.m. the team of six rangers suddenly came across that very tiger, which made an attempt to attack them. People had to shoot in self-defence. The dead tiger was examined. It had wounds inflicted approximately two weeks before (presumably, made with a bullet and case shot. Its carcass was transported to Ussuriysky Agricultural Academy for an expertise.

On January 18, there came information on a young tiger in Vyazemsky village. The rangers arrived at the place and concluded that the tiger had come from the direction of Otradnoye village, entered one of the backyards, killed four dogs and finally hid itself in a kennel. The rangers passed the tiger to Oleg Grinenko, Inspection Tiger ranger, who lives in his farm in Razdolnoye village and had some experience with nursing wild tiger cubs (For more details read Attachment I).



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Transportation of an orphaned tiger cub

On January 18, a bus injured a tiger in Bikinsky district of Khabarovsk region. The young tigress died on the place.

On January 25-26, the Khabarovsk team patrolled Mataisky wildlife refuge with their wardens. Two illegal lumbermen were stopped. They were cutting down oak and ash trees. The rangers forwarded the documents to the local precinct to start a criminal case.

On January 26, the officers apprehended a poacher in the refuge. Documents for further check and criminal procedure were drawn up and passed to the police.

On January 30, lumbermen discovered another orphaned tiger cub in the forest 40 km far from Vyazemsky village of Khabarovsk region. They brought it to an asphalt plant located nearby. The female tiger cub aged 6-7 months was very much emaciated, with broken canines, frostbitten tail and troubled intestines.



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Checking hunters

The Khabarovsk team of Inspection Tiger transported the cub to a warm garage in Khor village, and invited a veterinary, who made intravenous fluids and vitamin shots to it. Central authorities of Rosprirodnadzor (Moscow) gave a permission to move the cub to "Utyos" rehabilitation centre near Khabarovsk city. Its specialists used to nurse bear cubs for future release, but also had some successful cases with tigers. Unhappily, despite all efforts the cub died the following day after arrival.

February

In February, the Inspection Tiger's rangers carried out two many-day joint patrols with police officers, revealed three violations of hunting regulations, drew up eight reports on administrative violations and seized five rifles.

On February 4-7, a joint patrol with police officers was carried out in the area of Matai hunting society. On February 4, the rangers of Inspection Tiger served as witnesses of a wildlife crime, when a man with a Vepr carbine #6966 was detained by police officers for illegal hunting near the Kolomy stream. The carbine was seized and handed over to a local police department. On February 5, near the Katen river the joint team detained a violator with a rifle IZH-27 №0427328 for hunting without a permit. The rifle was confiscated and handed over to a local police department. Later on, near the Katen river, the joint team examined the area around a loggers' camp of "Asia-Les" Ltd. The loggers told that the area had already been examined by gamekeepers of Matai hunting society the day before and they had not found any violation. The loggers tried to convince the rangers that they had no rifle. Ten minutes later they were very surprised when an Inspection Tiger's ranger found an illegal rifle IZH-18 №590077 one hundred meters from their camp. The loggers were sure that nobody could find it.

On the same day the team checked a loggers' camp of "Istok" Ltd. The rangers found out that a logger went to hunt several hours before their arrival. One of Inspection Tiger's rangers went to catch the logger and the other one stayed at the camp to wait the violator. When the ranger was following the logger's footprints he noticed that the logger took measures to confuse inspectors by mixing up his footprints. The logger went backwards, but the rangers managed to puzzle out his tracks and shortly found a logger's rifle TOZ BM № 10063 hidden in the snow. When the logger returned to the camp, he met one ranger of Inspection Tiger and began to explain that he had left the camp just to find a rod of magnolia-vine and showed the rod, which he had specially cut to show proofs of his story. But he did not see another ranger with the found rifle standing behind him. When the poacher saw another ranger he was very upset with the fact that he would not be able to shoot with that rifle anymore. The police officers handed over both seized rifles to a local police department.

One more violator with an illegal rifle TOZ BM № 24181 was detained on the same day for illegal hunting near the Katen river. When the rangers found the violator's footprints going away from the Katen river and examined them, they concluded that it would be impossible to come up with him. Thus, they decided to continue their patrol near the river and catch that violator on his return in the evening. The man was very surprised to see the rangers and he was very tired to run away from them. The poacher confessed that it was for the first time when he had been detained with the illegal rifle. The rifle was seized and handed over to a local police department.

On February 11-15, the team repaired the patrol vehicle.

On February 19-20, Inspection Tiger's rangers checked information on disappearance of two cows as a result of tiger attack in outskirts of Kotikovo village, Vyazemsky district, Khabarovsk krai. The information turned to be false. The cows were found pasturing in the field. No tiger tracks were found in the adjoining areas.

On February 26-28, the team repaired the patrol vehicle.

On February 29, the Khabarovsk team members testified in the court of Lazo district (Khabarovsk krai) against Mr. Dankan (see case of January 26, 2008). In March the team conducted two many-day patrols, confiscated an illegal shotgun and checked a message on a conflict tiger.

March

On March 05-07, the team with the police officers of Lazo district patrolled Lazovsky state industrial farm enterprise. They asked local people if they often saw tigers. A hunter said that he had seen tiger tracks 7-8 days old in the vicinity of Katen village.



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Inspector with an illegal rifle found in a hollow tree

On March 05, the officers checked a logging site of Khorskoye forestry and found an illegal gun in the hollow of a tree. It was confiscated and forwarded to the police station.

On March 12-13, the team appeared as witnesses in medical examination of a man who claimed he had been injured by a bear in Mataisky wildlife refuge.

On March 12, the team interrogated people of Yuzhny village on their encounters with tigers. No one saw them that month.

On March 13, the team examined the place in Mataisky wildlife refuge where the man was wounded by a bear. They saw a den and bloodspots on the adjacent tree, on which the victim climbed. There was no sign that the bear was hunting in the refuge. The team established that the man had frightened the animal from the den.

April

In April the team conducted 4 patrols by vehicle, revealed one violation of hunting regulations and three violations of fishing regulations, and seized two illegal rifles.

On April 1-4 and 7-11 the patrol car was repaired and serviced.

On April 12, the team visited Utyos rehabilitation centre in Kutuzovka village to check physical conditions of a young tigress that had been transported there before.

On April 13, team in cooperation with fishing inspection officers patrolled along the Khor river. During the patrol they noticed a man hiding in the bushes on an island. The team rangers crossed the river in a boat and started to search for the man. It took 30 minutes to find him lying on the ground and covered with a raincoat. The man turned out to be a jobless local from Svyatogoriye village. The villager told that he had come there for fishing. After a while, the rangers found an illegal firearm IZH-18 № 03438 in the shrubs. The man objected that it was his property. The rifle was handed over to a police department of Lazo district. In Svyatogoriye village the team rangers talked with local people on safety rules in tiger habitat.



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Inspector checks a gun license

On April 16, the Khabarovsky team, together with Khorsky fishing inspection and police officers, conducted a joint patrol in water protection zone of the Kiya river. During the patrol the rangers stopped a vehicle for searching. An inside search resulted in a loaded unsheathed hunting rifle. A report on violation of hunting regulations was drawn up by police officers, with Khabarovsky team rangers serving as witnesses. The rifle TOZ-34 №62121 was seized. The rangers visited Kiinsk village and gave lectures for local people on safety rules in tiger habitat.



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Unauthorized logging site

On April 17-18 and 21-25, the patrol vehicle was repaired.

On April 26-27, the team rangers and Khorsky fishing inspection officers patrolled water protection zone of the Kiya river and drew up three reports on violations of fishing regulations. The team also visited Georgievka village and instructed villagers on rules of human behavior in tiger habitat.

On April 28-30, the patrol vehicle was repaired.

May

In May the team conducted two patrols by vehicle, revealed two violations of hunting regulations, and seized two rifles.

On May 1-3, the Khabarovsky team, together with the head of Khorsky fishing inspection, and police officer patrolled the area of Lazovsky commercial industry. On May 1, the team visited Solontsovy village to talk with local people on safety rules in Amur tiger habitat. On May 2, on their way from Solontsovy village to the Upper Kafen river the rangers found a Toyota Carib without people inside. While examining the road and the roadside the team found footprints of two men and dog tracks leading directly into the forest. As there were no brooks for fishing, the people were supposed to have gone to hunt. It was decided to find them. The Khabarovsky team members and the police officer followed the footprints leading to the creek valley and disappearing among many animals' tracks. The examining of the creek valley did not prove to be a success, and the rangers decided to check the slope of the nearest hill. They noticed that the grass was trampled there and found tracks made by boots. After covering 300 meters the rangers heard a muted rattle and realized that the men were making a *lobaz*, a raised hide for hunting, close to a salt lick. The rangers approached gently to the hunters engaged in making *lobaz*. The dog also was too preoccupied to notice the rangers. It was an unpleasant surprise for the hunters when they saw the inspectors. One of them, the dog's owner, was deeply disappointed because he was sure that they had taken all measure to prevent from being discovered by law enforcement officers. It turned out that the men deliberately had left their car far away from their site and tried to left as less as possible tracks near the salt lick. The rangers examined



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Checking fishermen

the area and found a rifle TOZ-34 № 062192. The detained men did not have a permit to hunt. The police officer drew up a report and seized the rifle.

On May 12-14, the team and police officers patrolled Matai military hunting society. On May 13 they detained a man with a rifle IZH -27 № 012189 near the Dolminka river and close to a salt lick. The detainee did not have permission to hunt. The police officers drew up a report and seized the rifle.

On May 19-23 and 26-30, the team had the patrol vehicle repaired.

June

In June the team conducted three patrols and revealed one case of illegal fishing.

On June 2-3, the team patrolled Vyazemsky state industrial farm enterprise. On June 3, the patrol was suspended due to back axle breakage on the patrol vehicle. The vehicle was repaired from June 5 to June 19.

On Jun 20-22, the Khabarovsky team conducted a joint patrol with gamekeepers on the territory of Matai Military Hunting Society. On June 20, the rangers found a Nissan-Safari jeep near the Metsa river. Two gun cases were lying in the passenger compartment. No person was noticed around. As Matai Military Hunting Society had no permit to hunt red deer, the rangers decided to make an ambush around the vehicle and wait until poachers appeared. On June 21, at the afternoon two hunters with rifles came up to the jeep. They turned out to have gun licenses and a permit to hunt red deer for scientific purposes.

On June 22, the team members talked with residents of Dolmi village about safety rules in tiger habitat.

On June 27-29, the Khabarovsky team and fishing inspection carried out a joint patrol on the Khor river. On June 29, they met local people of Gvasyugi village and told about rules on human behaviour in tiger habitat. Later the same day the rangers revealed an illegal fishing case.

July

In July the Khabarovsky team held two patrols by vehicle, revealed five hunting violations, registered two fishing violations, and withdrew five guns (four smoothbores, one of which is illegal, and a rifle).

In mid-July the team spent four days in the field patrolling Lazovsky state industrial farm and Mataisky wildlife refuge. The team in cooperation with police stopped vehicles for checking hunting and gun licenses. One of the drivers said he had no gun in the car, though he behaved nervously. The rangers examined the interior of the car and discovered a gun under the back seat. The police drew up a report and confiscated the gun.

On July 12, in Mataisky wildlife refuge on a logger road the team stopped a car and asked the driver and two passengers if they had any guns or hunting products, to which the latter replied negatively. However, the rangers found two hunting guns, a carbine, 74 cartridges, and a poached red deer in the body of the vehicle. The police with Inspection Tiger rangers as witnesses drew a citation and confiscated the arms and the meat. A criminal procedure was initiated.

During a joint patrol with Fish Inspection the team patrolled the water protection zone of the Kiy river and apprehended two violators who fished illegally with set nets.

August

In August the Khabarovsk team of Inspection Tiger went on three patrols by car, drew up an administrative report, and confiscated a smoothbore gun.

On August 08-09, the team patrolled Lazovsky state industrial enterprise in cooperation with Fish Inspection. They found an illegal hunting gun on a logging site and passed it to the district police station, after drawing a citation on the logging company.

On August 13, the rangers went to “Utyos” rehabilitation centre near Khabarovsk City to investigate the tiger escape there. Angara, a tiger cub that was being rehabilitated in the centre, ran away from the enclosure on August 05. There was a storm that day, and fallen trees damaged the fence. The team left some meat in the vicinity of the enclosure, and the day found it eaten, presumably by a tiger. They decided to continue feeding to attract the tiger and trap it back into a cage.

On August 26, the team went to “Utyos” again to search for tiger tracks in the neighbourhood, but did not find any.

September

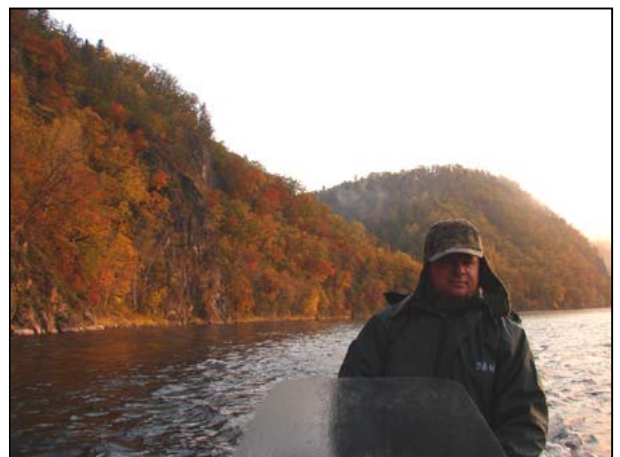
In September the team conducted one vehicle and one boat patrol and revealed a case of illegal fishing.

On September 12, the officers went to “Utyos” rehabilitation centre near Khabarovsk City to question the local residents and examine the territory around the enclosure to find the tracks of missing tigress Angara. Rangers did not manage to find the tracks of the tiger, neither the locals indicated any signs of its presence near the Kutuzovka village.

On September 26-28, the joint Khabarovsk team of Inspection Tiger in cooperation with the police and Fish Inspection conducted a patrol on the Khor River.

To give us the vivid picture and carry us away to the action spot sometimes the inspectors write their reports in a fiction manner. So we decided to translate it as it was received.

On September 28, in the early morning the fog was cloaking the river when five members of the team got onto a motorboat. Water jet uttered a roar and the boat skimmed along the upper stream of the river, forwarding the waves to a steep rocky bank. The month of September is a mating season for Manchurian deer and a spawning time for chum salmon, when shoals driven by the homing instinct overcome muddy waters of Amur and rush to the breeding grounds, and the call of male deer buck wafts over the diversicolored hills. People try to get profit of nature, following their grasping impulse. Countless reorganizations in the structure of nature conservation services had



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Motorboat patrol

undermined the imperfect wildlife protection system down to the limit. Poachers are very well informed about all the confrontations amongst the authorities, that is why they do their crook business with no fear, believing in their impunity. Therefore the necessity of cooperation of various services with different powers arises.

The joint team came by boat to the nearest bay known as Spawning Creek, and found it entirely blocked with fishing nets. After removing the nets inspectors heard the sound of starting motor. The team started pursuing the suspicious boat. Shortly the violators noticed the chase and realized that there was no sense in trying to escape, so they had to pull in to the shore and



Checking fishermen

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started to hide the fishing nets and the catch in the bushes but this time the punishment was inevitable. A sack of nets and five chum salmons were found. Besides, there was a gun in the boat – the invariable attribute of all poachers. In spite of having the hunting permits and license for duck shooting, the bandolier was full with bullets and buckshot cartridges (allegedly just for self protection in case of an angry beast, like bear or tiger). But it was not clear how the “hunters” planned to shoot ducks without a shot. During further questioning it turned out that those people got there by car. After the examination of the vehicle by the police officer another gun was discovered – a Berkut carbine. On a question about the hunting license the owner said he

had no intentions to hunt in the hunting grounds, the thing was he did not want to leave the gun at home with his wife because she knew where the lock box keys were and for here own sake it was better not to leave the gun at home. The rangers confiscated the carbine and handed it over to the police together with a report on revealed violations.

October

In October the Khabarovsky team of Inspection Tiger held two patrols by a motorboat in cooperation with Fish Inspection and the Police, registered two violations of hunting regulations, and confiscated two guns, one of them a rifle and another a smoothbore.

In October the spawning of grayling, goldilock and taimen fishes continued on the Khor river and its tributaries, which attracted legal and illegal fishermen. On October 01, the team went upwards the Khor river by a flat-bottomed boat and spotted a man who was checking out his fishing nets. He kept a loaded carbine, a bag with nets and fish in his wooden boat. The team drew a citation and withdrew the gun from the violator.

During the patrols the officers removed many fishing nets.

On October 07-09, the team went down the Matay river with a police officer from the Lazo district police department. They detained a man for hunting without license.

November

In November the Khabarovsky team conducted one many-day patrol and confiscated one rifle and poached meat of wild boar.

On November 5-7, the Khabarovsk team of Inspection Tiger in cooperation with the Fish Inspection and the police conducted a joint patrol in hunting grounds of “Matai” and “Lazovsky” hunting leases and Mataisky Wildlife Refuge.



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The rifle found in a hollow tree

On November 6, while checking the work of Chuin Ltd. logging company in the Mataisky Wildlife Refuge the inspectors noticed that someone was tracking wild ungulates regularly. After examining the area adjacent to loggers’ trailers, an illegal double-barrelled rifle was found in the hollow of a dead tree. The police officer questioned the workers, but the owner of the gun was not identified. The inspectors drew up a report and handed the rifle over to the police.

On the same day, on the territory of “Lazovsky” commercial hunting enterprise a car was stopped. A look inside a Mitsubishi Pajero jeep revealed

meat and skin of a wild boar without a permit to transport wildlife products. According to driver, the permit was left at home. The meat was confiscated and information on the case was handed over to a district wildlife manager for further investigation.

On November 7, the inspectors had a talk with residents of Yuzhny village on safety precautions in tiger habitat.

On November 10-14, the team was gathering in Khor village information on people involved in

buying up tiger, bear and musk deer skins and their derivatives.



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Confiscating wild boar meat

December

In December the team held two patrols, made two citations on hunting violations, and withdrew two illegal guns, 50 kg of wild boar meat, Far Eastern wildcat and two Siberian weasels.

On December 11-14, the team was on a patrol in Lazovsky state industrial farm, in cooperation with the police and Fish Inspection. On December 11, while patrolling a logging site they found meat of two poached wild boars, made a report on loggers and passed it to the Hunting Management Department of Khabarovsk krai.

On December 12, the team confiscated a shotgun, meat of a poached wild boar, two musk deer and two Siberian weasels. 100 km far from a logging camp the rangers found another shotgun and passed all the objects to the district police station. On the same day the team discovered a dead Far Eastern wildcat (endangered species) in a snare. The inspectors interrogated loggers who worked in close proximity to the place, put down their testimonies and forwarded them to the police department. The carcass was passed to a museum for making a stuffed animal.

On December 18, Director of a state industrial farm reported about tiger tracks on their territory. The team examined the place and concluded that a tiger with 8 cm (3 inches) paw width had passed there three days earlier and went into the forest, without attacking the cattle.

IV. Education activities

Thanks to support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and 21st Century Tiger, in addition to anti-poaching activities in 2008 the Khabarovsk team implemented an educational project in southern Khabarovsk krai. For the reported period the team leader arranged established good relationship with the director and teachers of a secondary school in Bichevaya village. The inspectors gave ten lectures on anti-poaching activities, rare and endangered species conservation and assisted the



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Lecture at local school in Bichevaya village.
Children's paintings

educators to organize art contests devoted to the Amur tiger and other rare species. The schoolchildren were always very attentive during the meetings with the inspectors and asked many questions regarding nature conservation in Russia, and in their region particularly. Over 70 children from Khabarovsk krai participated in the art contest. The best tiger paintings were selected by Phoenix's staff to publish a calendar for 2009. The calendars were distributed among schools and eco-centres of Primorye and south of Khabarovsk krai and were used as memorable prizes for young activists and winners of ecological contests.

The inspectors suggested the teachers celebrating Tiger Day holiday in 2009 as people in Primorye have been doing for nine years. By means of the festive ecological holiday more local people would be involved in nature conservation actions. The idea was accepted readily and the teachers have started to prepare a scenario.

V. Acknowledgement

We would like to thank the Dreamworld Conservation Fund, Zoological Society of London and 21st Century Tiger for continuous interest in wildlife conservation in the Far East of Russia and invaluable financial support that enables us to make our anti-poaching activities realizable and more efficient. We hope for fruitful cooperation in future.

ATTACHMENT

Results of anti-poaching activities of Khabarovsk team, January – December

Activity	January - December
I. Violations documented:	
1.1. Hunting	17
1.2. Fishing	5
1.3. Forest resources	-
1.4. Protected areas	-
1.5. Other	9
2. Weapons seized and handed over to the police	
Illegal rifles	13
Legal rifles	11
3. Confiscated poaching devices:	
a) Fishing nets	-
b) Boats	1
4. Poached wildlife confiscated:	
4.1. Meat of Siberian stag	-
4.2. Sable	-
4.3. Squirrel	-
4.4. Roe deer meat	-
4.5. Wild cat	1
4.6. Meat of Wild boar	100 kg
4.7. Meat of Manchurian deer	50 kg
5. Investigated conflict tiger cases	5
6. Initiated criminal proceedings	5
7. Work with mass media	
TV features	6
Newspapers	6