



21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TIGER  
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## Anti-poaching activities in Lazovsky Nature Reserve in 2012



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### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Lazovsky Nature Reserve in the southeast of Primorsky krai (about 250 km far from Vladivostok city) was established in 1935. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 it celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This second biggest nature reserve in the region covers 121,000 hectares; its protected buffer zone is 15,000 hectares. Due to its peculiar relief and location, the reserve is home to 2,000 plant species of various geographical zones (e.g. taiga, tundra and even subtropical zone), 57 animal species and 319 birds. The protected area (PA) is famous for such rare animals as Amur tiger (also known as Siberian, Manchurian, Ussuri, North-Eastern Chinese tiger), goral and sika deer, as well as relict yew trees. The general extension of the reserve is 240 km, where included 36 km along the coast of the East Sea /Sea of Japan. The southeastern borders of the reserve are spread along the coast. The Lazovsky Reserve is composed of continental area and two islands in the East Sea / Sea of Japan, namely Petrov and Beltsov ones. The Lazovsky Nature Reserve is one of the most beautiful places in Primorye with its mountains, taiga forest and islands.

This nature reserve is the most important area for Amur tiger conservation in the southern Sikhote-Alin mountain range. For the last 20 years the reserve has maintained the highest tiger density in southern Primorye and one of the highest in the whole tiger habitat. Nowadays, there are about 10-12 resident or constantly visiting tigers. One to three litters are born to resident tigresses annually. High prey densities and efficient anti-poaching and fire-fighting activities of

the reserve promote high density of endangered Amur tigers.

Major and small roads surround the nature reserve. Besides, there are two big villages (Preobrazhenye village – 12,000 people and Lazo village – 2,500 people) close to it. Difficult economic situation and unemployment, especially in remote areas of the region, represent the biggest problems for conservation. Besides, the reserve borders upon numerous hunting leases, and it often happens that animals migrate and fall prey to hunters. The Lazovsky Nature Reserve still manages to hold back poaching in its territory and adjacent areas, but in order to improve its activities and strengthen protection of endangered wildlife of the reserve it is crucial to support the anti-poaching teams and improve their field equipment. This will allow to decrease the number of poachers/intruders and maintain high densities of the Amur tigers and other animals, as well as conserving the important habitat.

Nature reserves (zapovedniks) in Russia are perhaps the most important conservation areas. In Russia, the status of the nature reserve means that nobody can enter the reserve except for the wildlife, scientists, and rangers. All human activities are prohibited. It does not have a fence along its borders, but there are warning boards around it. Since 1995, the Lazovsky Nature Reserve is considered one of the best in Russia on the basis of their protection, education and outreach activities. But it is a state organization and the federal funding is not sufficient for efficient protection of the unique biodiversity there.

Since 2005, the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation has been supporting anti-poaching activities of one of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve's teams. Thanks to continued support from the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger, the anti-poaching team was provided with fuel, field clothes and necessary equipment. The inspectors who reveal the greatest number of violations were awarded with incentives (supplement to monthly salary).

We present here for your consideration a final report on the activities carried out from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 30<sup>th</sup> 2012.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES

There are four anti-poaching teams in NR and each consists of three to nine experienced rangers. They conduct regular anti-poaching patrols in the protected area and its buffer zone, work with MIST (fill out forms and record patrol routes with GPS, record revealed violations, citations, confiscations and fines) and extinguish forest fires. The



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#### **Sergei Bereznuik (in the middle) with inspectors of Lazovsky Nature Reserve**

rangers carry out patrols on foot and by car, make ambushes in the places of probable poaching and follow the poachers' tracks. The rangers spend 20 days per month in the field. During the

patrols they spend nights at ranger stations or tents. The anti-poaching teams of LNR work in cooperation with each other in order to prevent and stop violations in the reserve. They also participate in tiger census. During the reported period the inspectors used UAZ all-terrain vehicle, motor boats, photo cameras, authorized arms and other necessary equipment. Mostly, they patrolled the territory on foot. A rapid



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#### **Boat patrol**

response team worked in shifts, namely the inspectors worked their allotted hours within 10 days, after which they were given time off. The other patrol teams normally went for a patrol in the morning and returned in the evening. Sometimes the officers made longer patrols of 2-3 days.

For the period from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 the team revealed 11 violations (two cases of illegal hunting and nine cases of trespassing), seized two illegal guns, and initiated two criminal proceedings. A Table 1 below shows the results for the reported period.

### Description of the field work

In September-October, the inspectors mostly patrolled worked by groups of 4-5 people. They conducted foot patrols and



made ambushes in order to prevent trespassing. Special attention was paid to coastal area where violators were more likely to appear. All in all, the teams revealed one case of illegal hunting and seven cases of illegal entry into the reserve.



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#### Foot patrol

On September 8, a poacher with wild meat was arrested in the reserve. The inspectors documented the violation and forwarded all materials to local police station in order to initiate criminal proceeding in accordance of article 258 (Illegal Hunting) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. The case is still under investigation.



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#### Marking Reserve's border

On October 2, while patrolling the core area of the Reserve, the inspectors

stopped two men. One man of detainees had been arrested inside the protected area several times earlier for various violations, including illegal hunting. Given that, the inspectors searched the men, but did not find any sing indicating that the detainees had been hunting. The inspectors issued administrative citations on them for unauthorized presence.

In November-December, the inspectors continued to work by groups of 4-5 people. During these two months foot patrols, ambushes and patrols by vehicle were the main anti-poaching methods. As a result, one case of illegal hunting was revealed.



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#### Inspectors examine scene where illegal hunting took place

In November, the inspectors discovered two skins and two heads of sika deer near the Sukhoy stream, 100 meters deep in the reserve. A criminal proceeding was initiated.

On December 15, while patrolling near the Reserve's border, the inspectors noticed an armed man. They decided to chase the suspicious man. After a short pursuit, the violator threw down his hand-made rifle, got in this car and disappeared. The rifle was handed over to local police for further investigation.

On December 18, a man with wild meat was detained in the protected area. Although, he had a hunting permit to kill a wild boar, the inspectors suspected that it was meat of sika deer, not boar. The meat was forwarded for expertise. A rifle was seized and handed over to the police.

### Work with MIST

During the reported period the inspectors continued working with MIST. The Phoenix Fund and Wildlife Conservation Society held two feedback meetings with manager and inspectors in order to discuss anti-poaching results and efforts and give recommendations for improvement if necessary.



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### **MIST meeting in Lazo**

We are glad to report that the law enforcement staff of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve grasped new knowledge very quickly and have already demonstrated good results. The overall quality of data collection by inspectors was satisfactory. The quality of the data entry by the protected area staff has been excellent (see examples of maps patrol routes created based on MIST database in the attachment). After analyzing MIST data collected by the teams and comparing their results and efforts, once per three months we paid incentives according to

the incentive system approved previously by the protected area administration.

In general, MIST program implementation in Lazovsky Nature Reserve was quite successful. Both



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### **Igor Kolodin gives PowerPoint presentation on MIST results**

managers and inspectors saw the advantages of this program that helped analyze and improve anti-poaching efforts. Although at the first stage regular review and feedback meetings with our participation were an essential part of the operational framework for MIST, we believe that in future the Lazovsky Nature Reserve administration will run this project on their own. The incentive

The MIST (Management Information System), specially designed management tool for measuring and monitoring AP patrol efforts and results, have been launched in Lazovsky Nature Reserve jointly by the Phoenix Fund, WCS and ZSL in 2010. The analysis of MIST data used in this report was prepared and kindly

scheme is a vital component of the MIST patrol model of enhanced law enforcement. However, in future we plan

that the incentives will be paid from Reserve's budget funds.

We would like to continue this work in 2013, and we are hopeful that in the nearest future MIST will be expanded to all protected areas in Primorsky krai as a federal government funded initiative.

### Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to the Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger for continuous support of our project aimed at Amur tiger conservation in Lazovsky Nature Reserve, Russian Far East. With their support we managed to increase capacity of the anti-poaching teams to reduce poaching activities and enhance wildlife and habitat protection in the protected area.

**Table1. Results of anti-poaching activities, September 2011 - August 2012**

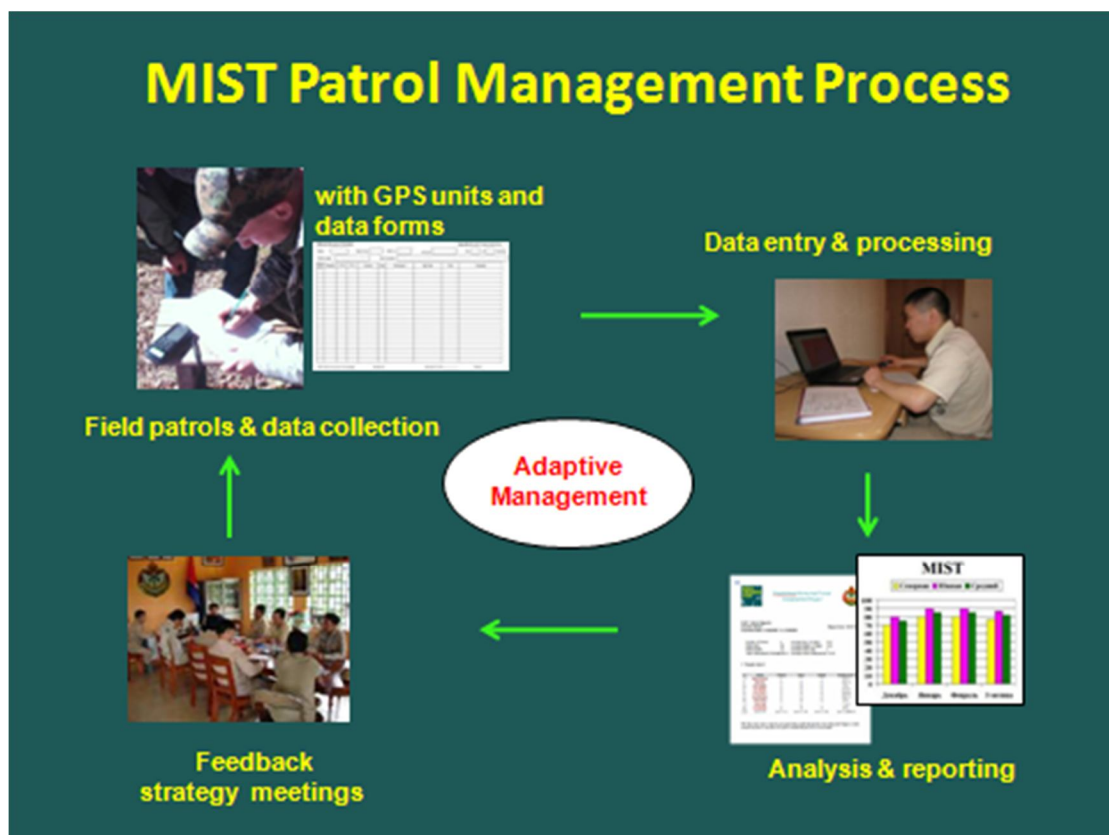
	Quantity
Illegal hunting revealed	2
Illegal fishing revealed	0
Illegal gathering of non-timber products revealed	0
Trespassing/illegal presence	9
Seized rifles	2
Imposed fines	7,000 Rub (217 AUD)
Initiated criminal cases	2

**Table 2. Comparative analysis of anti-poaching results in Lazovsky Nature Reserve (2008-2011)**

	2008	2009	2010	3-year total	3-year average	2011	increase
Confiscated arms	5	3	2	10	3,33	8	2,40
Protocols :poaching	4	7	2	13	4,33	8	1,85
Protocols: other violations	55	29	34	118	39,33	45	1,14
Fines (poaching and others)	96,5	57,5	54,5	208,5	69,50	89,5	1,29

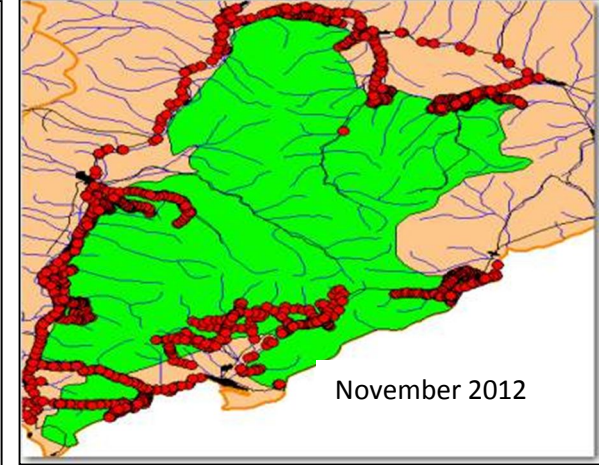
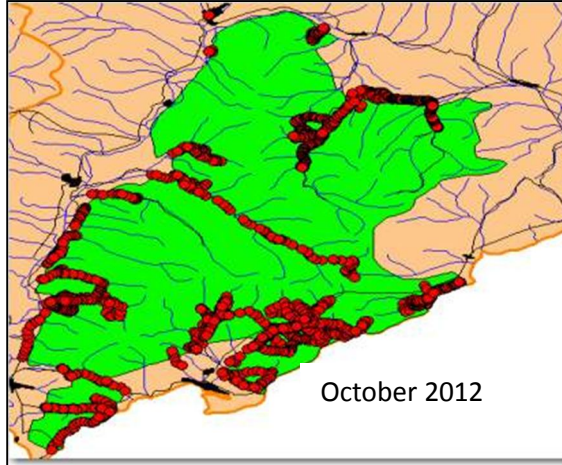
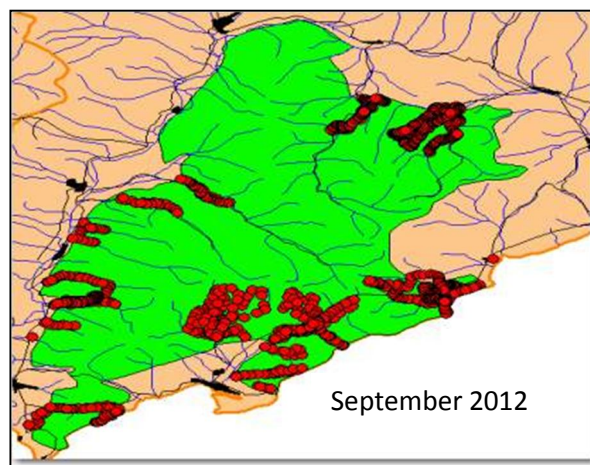
**Pic. 1. MIST patrol management process**

This picture shows the general process for use of MIST in the protected areas where we operate. The inspectors collect data during their patrols with use of specially designed data collection forms and they document the patrol routes with GPS unites. The data and patrol routes are stored with use of MIST software in a database on a computer. Data from the database are processed into bi-monthly patrol reports. We evaluate the patrol performance on the basis of these reports together with the management of the protected areas. Feedback to the inspectors is provided in the form of a PowerPoint presentation during a meeting in which all the inspectors of a protected area participate. During these meetings very lively discussions of the patrol efforts and results of various teams take place. During the meeting patrol targets for the next 2-month period are set for each of the patrol teams.





Pic. 2. Patrol routes by all teams in September-November 2012



These maps were created based on MIST data. Each map let the management staff to see where the protected area was patrolled well and where the protection efforts should be improved.



Pic.3 Map of Lazovsky Nature Reserve



Map showing location of Lazovsky Zapovednik