



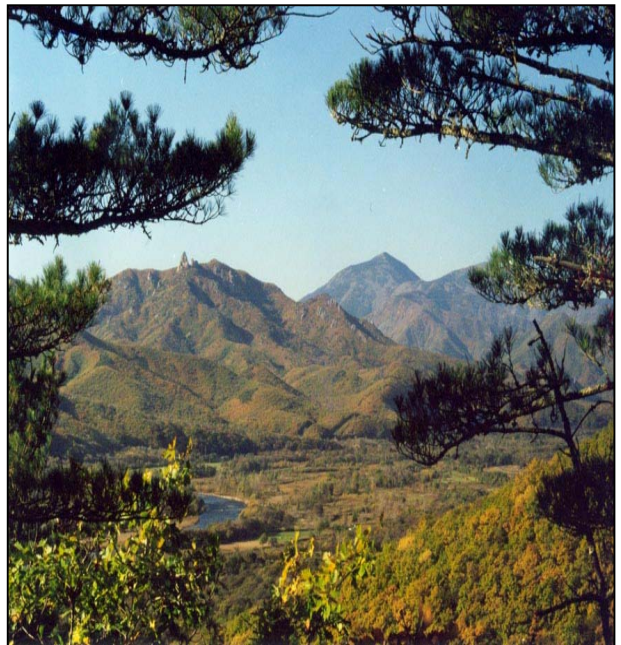
INTERIM REPORT

Grantor: The Dreamworld Conservation Fund / 21 Century Tiger
Project Name: Anti-poaching activities in Lazovsky nature reserve in 2008/2009
Grantee: The Phoenix Fund
Report Period: September 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009
Grant Period: September 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009

The goal of the project is to create conditions to ensure the long-term protection of the Amur / Siberian tiger population, its prey and habitat in Lazovsky Nature Reserve / zapovednik, Primorye, Russian Far East.

Background

The Lazovsky Nature Reserve in the southeast of Primorsky region (about 250 km far from Vladivostok city) was established in 1935. 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. Lazovsky Nature Reserve is one of the most beautiful places in Primorye with its mountains and waterfalls, taiga forest and islands.



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Mountain scenery in the reserve

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. 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 an important habitat.



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Coastal area of the reserve

Nature reserves (*zapovedniks*) 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 Conservation Fund has been supporting anti-poaching activities of one of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve's teams. Thanks to continued support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund and 21st Century Tiger in 2008-2009, the anti-

poaching team of Lazovsky Nature Reserve was provided with fuel and necessary equipment.

We present here for your consideration an interim report on the activities carried out from the 1st of September 2008 to the 28th of February 2009.

Project activities

With the support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund and 21st Century Tiger the anti-poaching team of Lazovsky Nature Reserve continued implementing its activities in 2008-2009. From September 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009 the inspectors revealed 32 violations. Table in the Attachment I shows their results for the reported period.



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Patrol on boat

In September – November 2008 the inspectors of Lazovsky Nature Reserve conducted the anti-poaching activities in five groups of 4 people each and drew up 26 reports on illegal human presence in the PA. The groups were fully provided with proper equipment for their fieldwork such as communication facilities, firearm, four UAZ off-road vehicles and fuel.

Every group worked for 20-22 days. Foot patrols were conducted along the borders of the nature reserve as well as in the depth of its territory. The near-shore zone was patrolled on the motorboats. Several ambushes were made in the spots of the most probable illegal intrusions by violators. The forestry's patrol teams together with the inspectors of the Lazovsky Nature Reserve took protection measures against the local residents involved in illegal harvesting of



the pine nuts. No mass intrusions into the reserve for pine nuts gathering were detected. However, the inspectors suppressed several attempts made by locals to harvest wild herbs there.



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**Two seized sacks
with meat of poached Himalayan / Asiatic Black bear**

In November, the court hearings of the Prigodsky's case as of July 2008 took place in Lazo. Prigodsky was detained on July 24-25 with meat of a sika deer (listed in Russia's Red Book as endangered species) in the reserve. He was found guilty of illegal hunting, was imposed a fine of 10,000 roubles (260 AUD) and had to pay reparation of damages in the amount of 20,000 roubles (520 AUD).

In December there was a sitting of the court on Mr. Bogach's case who had been charged with killing a sika deer inside Lazovsky Nature Reserve back in 2007, but had been avoiding the court all that time. Finally, he was sentenced to six months of community work with 10% income going to the State. All in all, he had to pay 20,000 roubles (520 AUD) restitution.

In December 2008 – January 2009 the anti-poaching team of Lazovsky Nature Reserve revealed two poaching cases, stopped three trespassers and confiscated meat of two poached Himalayan / Asiatic Black bears (classified as endangered species and listed on Appendix I of CITES). The team passed the reports to the police for initiating two criminal procedures. The trespassers paid a fine of 20 AUD each.

From the beginning of the year 2009 the Reserve was in urgent need of funds to carry on its protection activities. It is sad to note that financing from the federal budget was postponed due to aftermath of the global financial crisis and the reserve's staff have not received their salary for the first quarter of the year. At this juncture, the support from the Dreamworld Conservation Fund and 21st Century Tiger was highly significant for the Reserve.

On January 22, the inspectors apprehended two brothers, who were going out of the reserve with meat of two poached Himalayan / Asiatic Black bears. The reserve guards called for police officers to register the revealed violation and initiate criminal proceedings.

The anti-poaching team worked effectively in the reserve and in the adjacent Preobrazhensky forestry. As a result, unauthorized entries into the reserve were reduced to minimum. In February protection activities was implemented by the Reserve's team of 4 people and two teams of Lazovsky forestry. The teams patrolled on foot and patrol vehicle on the periphery of the PA. After heavy snowfalls the teams used snowmobile to patrol the territory. Regular patrols proved to be effective. Only once the guards detained a man for trespassing. The violator paid a fine of 1,000 rubles (26 AUD).



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**Galina Salkina,
Lazovsky Nature Reserve specialist,
uses flares to deter the tigers away**



The reserve's inspectors also took part in a tiger count and participated in resolution of conflict tiger cases. They tried to scare three 7-9-month-old tiger cubs away from Preobrazhenye village that is located close to the reserve. The cubs were preying on dogs on the outskirts of Preobrazhenye village. All in all, ten dogs disappeared from the villagers' yards in January. Local people were scared of the tigers and kept their dogs on a leash. The reserve's staff used 12 rocket signal flares to deter the predators.

During the first week of February Preobrazhenye village was still beset by three tiger cubs. As luck would have it, the tigers presented no threat to human life. On February 4, tiger tracks were found around local water supply point. Also, tiger tracks were discovered on the opposite side of the village near the houses. In February, the striped predators killed one more dog at one of the yards, dragged it away and ate it up in taiga. The specialists of Lazovsky Nature Reserve tried to find out why the cubs were wandering within a month without their mother. When tracking the young predators the scientists sometimes found tracks that belonged to an adult tigress. Although, it was not clear whether it was their mother or just a tigress that was roaming alone. It was obvious that the cubs would survive in taiga on their own. They managed to kill a sika deer and ate it. But it was quite clear that dogs were the easiest prey for them. Therefore, the specialists of Lazovsky Nature Reserve drove around the village on a regular basis and used flares to scare the tigers away deep into the forest where ungulates abound.

In winter, the inspectors participated several times in search of people who got lost in the taiga. Also, the anti-poaching team paid much attention to the protection of Korean pine forests. On December 20, 2008 – January 10, 2009 they worked in two groups of nine people in Kievsky and Preobrazhensky forestry areas. Eighteen times during two months they laid ambushes at night in the places where poachers were often met before. No violations were revealed.

**ATTACHMENT I**

Results of anti-poaching activities in Lazovsky nature reserve, September 2008 – February 2009.

Activity	September 2008 – February 2009
I. Violations documented:	
1.1. Hunting	2
1.2. Fishing	-
1.3. Intrusion	20
1.4. Gathering wild plants	10
1.5. Logging	-
2. Illegal weapons confiscated and handed over to the police	-
3. Wildlife products confiscated/discovered:	
3.1. Dead sika deer	
3.2. Himalayan black bear	2
3.3. Dead musk deer	
3.4. Wild boar	
4. Initiated criminal proceedings	2
5. Protocols forwarded to the police and Prosecutor's office for criminal procedure	2
6. Poaching devices confiscated:	
6.1. Traps	
6.2. Fishing devices	
6.3. Snare	
7. Extinguished fires	-
8. Convicted persons	3
9. Fines imposed	30,500 rubles (802 AUD)
10. Restitution imposed	140,000 rubles (3,684 AUD)



ATTACHMENT II

