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Phoenix Fund

"Wildlife Conservation in the Russian Far East in 2009"

Final report
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I. Project Overview

Primorye in the south of the Russian Far East represents the only area in the world where the Amur / Siberian tiger still exists in the wild. Tiger census in 2005 revealed numbers crept back up to 431-529, but the Amur tiger population is still vulnerable due to poaching, habitat destruction, prey depletion and many other factors. In October 2009, the Wildlife Conservation Society reported about Amur tiger's decline by 40% compared to 2005 estimates due to poaching. It is an alarming signal urging conservationists and decision-makers of all tiger range countries to strengthen tiger conservation efforts through anti-poaching



© Phoenix Fund
Western team's inspectors check hunters

activities as well as environmental education. Thus, the Phoenix Fund continues supporting work of state environmental law enforcement officers, public inspectors and staff members of protected areas who conduct anti-poaching activities in Primorye.

Since the year of its establishment in 1998, the Phoenix Fund has been carrying out nature conservation projects in the south of the Russian Far East, including anti-poaching, forest protection, ecological education and outreach projects. The Phoenix Fund is a member of the Amur Leopard and Tiger Alliance (ALTA). We, together with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Zoological Society of London (ZSL), are the main implementing organizations of

ALTA in Russia. WCS and ZSL implement ecological research, wildlife health projects, population monitoring and other scientific work in the Amur leopard's range. To struggle with poaching and strengthen protection activities in tiger habitat Phoenix supports anti-poaching activities of various state environmental law enforcement agencies, including the Western wildlife managers' team of Primorsky Hunting Management Department. The team operates in the north of Primorye (Krasnoarmeisky, Dalnerechensky, Pozharsky, Kirovsky and Terneisky districts), still rich in wildlife and cedar forests. Thanks to support from the Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and 21st Century Tiger the Western team operated in full and conducted its anti-poaching activities in 2009. After a prolonged administrative reform in nature conservation system in Russia, Alexander Samoilenko, leader of the team, was offered to join the provincial Game and Rare Species Department and become in charge of one of its anti-poaching team. Since February 2009 he has been operating in the field, mostly in three-four northern districts of Primorye.

This report also contains information about the anti-poaching project in Udege Legend National Park. Thanks to timely support from the Kolmarden Fund Raising



© Phoenix Fund
Female red deer in Udege Legend National Park

Foundation, the Park's staff managed to

protect wildlife in severe winter conditions this year. According to 2004 tiger census (WCS-WWF), there are at least seven tigers (including three females, one of them with two cubs) more or less permanently residing in the Park itself or migrating to and from the adjacent areas. Thus, the Park is located in the core area of tiger habitat, and has a big potential for increasing both tiger and tiger prey populations for the whole region. In 2009, two anti-poaching brigades have been operating in the Park and adjacent areas. The inspectors conducted patrols on a regular basis to prevent poaching and fires and to react promptly to any related information. They also helped to resolve predator-human conflicts and emergencies (people disappeared in taiga, first aid etc) and had explanatory talks with the local communities. The inspectors patrolled the Park by vehicle, boat and on foot, checked visitors and stopped illegal woodcutting. The rangers stop for the night at the fixed ranger stations.

We strongly believe that the continuous anti-poaching activities in the north of Primorye will help ensure sound protection for the Amur tiger population, its habitat and prey.

II. Project Implementation

Support for Western wildlife managers' team

The Western wildlife managers' team was headed by Rosselkhoznadzor¹ and was responsible for preventing and revealing poaching and illegal logging. Unfortunately, since the 1st of January 2008, as a result of an administrative reform in Russia, Rosselkhoznadzor partly lost its law enforcement rights. The local Primorsky Krai government became responsible for protection of both forests and fauna within the province. And Rosselkhoznadzor was empowered to control the new Game and Rare Species Department (GRSD) and check how inspectors protect forest and wildlife resources. When the GRSD was

¹ Rosselkhoznadzor – Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Monitoring Service

established in January 2008, it had only 19 staff members, but later it became possible to recruit more officers (up to 43) with



© Phoenix Fund

Poachers skin deer

money from regional budget. Alexander Samoilenko, leader of the Western team, applied to be included as a staff member of the new fauna protection department. And due to bureaucratic procedure for getting approval of his candidacy for leader of GRSD' anti-poaching unit, Alexander was included in the department and received law enforcement rights only in the beginning of the year 2009 and could start working in February. From February 1 through December 31 the team showed good results: conducted 88 anti-poaching patrols, issued 129 citations on violations of nature conservation laws, and seized 50 illegal firearms (See table 1 in the attachment. For description of team's results from February 1 to June 30 please read our Interim report).

In July, the team patrolled hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky, Krasnoarmeisky and Pozharsky districts of Primorye. Abundant rains hindered the inspectors in their efforts to control compliance with nature conservation laws. Heavy rainfalls occurred in the upper Bikin, Ussurka and Malinovka rivers. A lot of bridges were destroyed with strong water flows and many roads were washed away. Huge areas of hunting grounds appeared to be flooded. Under such weather conditions and without special equipment the team found it difficult to check some of the grounds. However, the anti-poaching work was in progress. In July

the Western team conducted four many-day patrols, drew up nine reports on violations of hunting regulations, seized six illegal rifles and handed them over to local police offices, revealed three illegal logging sites, confiscated meat of poached roe and red



© Phoenix Fund

Violator with smoked red deer meat

deer and initiated three criminal proceedings regarding illegal logging.

On July 4, the team met a local from Verboye village with a gun. The inspectors questioned the man and found out that he had come to hunt at salt licks. The violator had neither gun license nor hunting permit. The inspectors documented the violation, seized the illegal gun and forwarded it to local police office.

On July 9, the inspectors headed towards hunting grounds in Tazhny and Molodezhny villages. At 22:35 the team arrived at a bee-garden and asked a beekeeper whether he had a weapon or illegally harvested wildlife products. The answer was 'no', but when the inspectors examined his tent they found an illegal hunting rifle and ammunition. A proper law enforcement action was taken.

The team continued their patrol and at midnight the inspectors spotted a truck that was parked on the edge of the forest. There was a path running from the truck. It was

clear that a truck's owner went to hunt at salt licks. It was decided to make an ambush and wait until the violator appeared. At 3:00 a.m. the inspectors saw a light of a vehicle approaching to them. They stopped the vehicle with two people inside. A driver turned out to be a local of Lesozavodsk town, and a passenger appeared to be a chairperson of Okhotnichye hunting lease, with uncased gun in his hand. None of detainees had a permit to hunt on public hunting lands. The inspectors issued a citation. After a while a man who was suspected of hunting at salt licks appeared. He had an illegal hunting rifle and ammunition. The man confessed to hunting at salt licks. He had neither hunting permit nor gun license. The inspectors drew up a report and seized the illegal weapon to forward it to local police office.

Then, the team moved forward towards the Valenku river and spotted a vehicle on the river bank. The inspectors decided to wait until the vehicle's owner appeared. After a while, a man went out of the forest. During an interview he confessed to hunting for ungulates and fishing. The man had an unregistered gun and cartridges. No hunting permit and gun license were on him. The inspectors drew up a report, seized the illegal gun and forwarded it to local police office in Novopokrovka town. After that, they returned to Melnichnoye village to check hunting grounds of Sedatun hunting lease. They examined three winter huts and six vehicles and noticed nothing unlawful. At night, the team arrived in Izmailikha village, Pozharsky district. In the morning July 12 the team stopped a vehicle to search it inside and revealed smoked red deer meat. A driver did not have a hunting permit. The inspectors drew up a report, seized meat (8 kg) and burnt it.

At 14:50, while patrolling hunting grounds in Pozharsky district, the team saw a motorbike 20 km from Krasny Yar village. There was a path running from the motorbike towards the forest. The inspectors decided to find out where the path led. Following the path they spotted a winter hut. When entering the hut, they saw two young people from Krasny Yar village.



© Phoenix Fund
Two violators (background)
and head of roe deer (foreground)

After a short search inside, the inspectors found a hunting rifle and cartridges. When examining the area around the winter hunt, they also found meat and a head of male roe deer weighing 4 kg in total that had been put in the Tsambe spring for cooling. The young men confessed to having a rifle without a gun license, but told that it was their uncle who had killed the roe deer and that he had a hunting permit. The inspector issued a citation on the owner of the unregistered rifle and seized the firearm. And the inspectors decided to wait until the guy's uncle appeared. After a while, the senior person entered the hut. He turned out to have a legal hunting rifle and a hunting permit to kill one bear and one male red deer. Thus, he appeared to have killed the roe deer illegally. The inspectors drew up a report regarding the violation of hunting regulations, seized the meat and burnt it. After that, the team continued patrolling, but heavy rain started and the patrol was stopped.

Between July 21 and July 23 the team performed a routine patrol on hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district. During the first day the inspectors checked two winter huts and two vehicles. Nothing unlawful was noticed. After spending a night in a winter hunt, the team continued the patrol and met a KAMAZ vehicle loaded with ash-tree logs near Melnichnoye village. There were three people in the vehicle. None of them had a logging permit. The inspectors documented the violation and took the detainees to local police office for further investigation. A criminal proceeding

was initiated. On July 23 the team had to suspend due to heavy rains that lasted till July 25.

When patrolling at night, July 27, the team stopped a car 35 km far from Ariadnoye village. A search inside resulted in an illegal hand-made rifle. A car's driver confessed to hunting at salt licks. He had no hunting permit. The inspectors documented the violation, seized the rifle and handed it over to local police office. At the same night later, the team found fresh tracks left by a tractor. Having followed the tractor's tracks the inspectors found a DT-75 tractor and a lot of logs harvested illegally, mostly oak and ash-tree. Local police office was informed about the illegal logging. The tractor and timber were transported to a special place for storage. A criminal proceeding was initiated.

Later on, the team stopped a DT-75 tractor operating at illegal logging site. Also, the inspectors found densely packed piles of logs. The tractor and timber were transported to a special place for storage and a proper law enforcement action was taken.

In August, hunters were not very active. There were a lot of people searching for and gathering ginseng roots in the forest. Also, numerous illegal logging were revealed this month. During unauthorized logging oak and ash-tree species, food source for many animals, birds and insects, were harvested mainly. Uncontrolled logging may significantly reduce wild populations, namely wild boar and Asiatic black bear populations. In August the team carried out five patrols, revealed three violations of hunting regulations, seized two illegal rifles, and discovered six illegal logging sites.

Between August 2 and August 8 the team patrolled hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky, Krasnoarmesiky and Kirovsky districts. From August 2 to August 3 the inspectors checked eight vehicles and four winter huts and revealed no violations. On August 4, the team entered Tazhny Wildlife Refuge and revealed an unauthorized logging and piles of oak and ash-tree logs. When examining the area,

the inspectors found tractor's tracks and decided to follow them. After a while, they saw a tractor and called the police. The police officers arrived at the scene, transported the tractor to a special parking area and launched an investigation. Later in the evening the inspectors were approaching Pozhiga village when they saw a car standing on the forest roadside, with a driver inside. They decided to search the car and as a result found a hand-made rifle.



© Phoenix Fund
An illegal logging site

The driver confessed to having an unregistered gun and told that he went hunting at salt lick, but did not kill any game. The inspectors drew up a report, seized the rifle and handed it over to local police office. On August 5, the team checked three vehicles and a winter hut and did not reveal any violations.

On August 6, when patrolling hunting grounds in Kirovsky district near Maryanovka village, the inspectors discovered an illegal logging site. There were people working there, a KAMAZ with a logging trailer full of timber and a tractor. After a short interview it became clear that the people were harvesting oak and ash-tree illegally. The inspectors called the police for further investigation.

On August 7, the inspectors went on patrolling. After driving 6 km forwards from the illegal logging site discovered the day before, the team found another unauthorized logging of oak and ash-tree.

The inspectors followed the tracks left by a tractor, and after covering 200 meters they saw a tractor. The team called the police to investigate the case.

Later on, the team spotted a group of four people in the forest. They turned out to have been harvesting wood illegally. Police officers were sent for to investigate the case.

On August 16, the team in cooperation with gamekeepers of Sedatun hunting lease went to patrol in Krasnoarmeisky district. On August 17, the joint team saw a truck and four men. The people were searched and one of them turned out to have a hunting rifle and cartridges. He told that he had taken the rifle to hunt, however he had no a hunting permit. The inspectors drew up a report.

On August 21, the team saw a car and a man nearby. The man, resident of Malinovka village, had an illegal rifle and ammunition. The inspectors drew up a report and seized the illegal gun. Then, it rained heavily three days on end and the team was busy repairing its patrol vehicle.

From August 25 to August 30 the inspectors patrolled hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky district and discovered numerous illegal logging, mainly oak, ash-tree and cedar species. The police was informed about those facts and locations of illegal logging sites. No violations of hunting rules were revealed.

In September the team patrolled hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky, Krasnoarmeisky, Pozharsky and Terneisky districts of Primorye. September is the red deer rutting season and is likely the hunters' favourite time of year. A lot of people take holiday in September and go to taiga to hunt, fish or have a good time. Many of those holidaymakers come from big cities such as Vladivostok, Nakhodka, Ussuriisk, Dalnerechensk, Kavalerovo, Khabarovsk, etc. and take hunting rifles along with them for the purpose of self-defence. Usually they are travelling by off-road jeeps and get on the Upper Bikin river and north of Terneisky

district (the Samarga, Edinka, Svetlaya and Peretychikha rivers). The team was not able to patrol those areas due to lack of cross-country vehicle. However, the team managed to conduct six anti-poaching patrols and reveal 40 violations of hunting regulations, seized six illegal rifles and 29 cartridges, and discovered two illegal logging sites.

The inspectors did not get enough sleep because the rut hunt occurred in the evening, at night and in early morning. During a patrol they walked on foot over 1,500 kilometers (932 miles). Given the bad condition of roads, running gear of the patrol car often broke down.



© Phoenix Fund
A can with poached roe deer meet
cooling in the stream

Between September 1 and September 6 the team patrolled hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts. On September 1-2, the inspectors checked seven camps, 14 vehicles and four hunter's lodges. No violations were revealed. On September 3, the team spotted a group of geologists who pitched camp near the Bezrukov stream, 30 kilometers away from Melnichnoye village. When examining the area around the camp, the inspectors found cans with roe deer meat cooling in the stream. One of the geologists told that he had found the dead hoofed animal in the forest and decided to feed it to their dogs. The inspectors drew up

a report, seized and burnt the meat. Later on, the team checked four vehicles, three camps and two hunter's winter lodges. No violations were detected. During the following day the inspectors checked five vehicles and three camps. No violations were revealed. On September 5, the team stopped a car with two people inside for a routine search. The men told that they were driving to a winter lodge on the Primaka river. They had a rifle along with them. None of them had hunting license or permit. The inspectors issued a citation. After several minutes, the team stopped another vehicle. A search inside uncovered a loaded uncased rifle. A rifle's owner explained that he took it to protect himself from bandits. The man did not have a hunting permit and hunting license. The inspectors drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations. The patrol was continued early morning of the following day. When patrolling along the bank of the Bolshaya Ussurka river, the inspectors spotted a jeep. After coming up to it, they saw a hunting rifle on the front seat. As the jeep was locked and nobody was around it, the inspectors decided to wait when a rifle's owner appeared. In a few hours' time two men appeared on a motorboat. The inspectors met the people and asked about the rifle in the vehicle. One of the fishermen confessed to possessing the rifle. According to the man, he took it just for self-defense. The inspectors drew up a report. Later on the same day, when crossing by Lukyanovka village, the inspectors saw two men with a gun coming across a bog. The men turned out to be residents of Novopokrovka town. They came there for waterfowl hunting, however they had no hunting permit. The inspectors issued administrative citations.

On September 7, the team was patrolling hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky district, when the inspectors heard gunshots coming from moorland. When coming closer to the marshland, they saw a man with a gun. The man confessed to coming there for waterfowl hunting. As he had no hunting permit, the inspectors issued a citation on him. Later on, the team members checked eight vehicles. No violations were revealed.



On September 8, the team conducted a patrol in Pozharsky district. Near the upper Izubrinny stream the inspectors discovered two illegal logging of oak tree. Also, they found two stockpiles with 32 logs of oak. The team informed Pozharsky police office about the discovery.

Between September 9 and September 13 the team patrolled Krasnoarmeisky and Dalnerechensy districts. On September 9, the inspectors heard gunshots near Dalnerechensk town. Shortly, they saw two men with a rifle. The inspectors found out that the men were waterfowl hunting without hunting permits. The violators were subjected to administrative penalty. Later on, a man from Vladivostok was also subjected to administrative penalty for illegal presence in hunting grounds with an uncased rifle. On September 10, the inspectors found tire tracks along the bank of the Primanka river, The tracks led into the forest. After waiting a while, the inspectors saw a car coming out of the forest. They stopped the car with three people inside for a search. The search inside discovered a 7.62-gauge hand-made smoothed rifle and five cartridges. The men turned out to be forest managers. They confessed to hunting, but told that they did not kill any game species. The violators had no hunting permit, hunting and gun licenses. The inspectors drew up reports on violators and seized the illegal rifle with the cartridges to hand it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office.

On September 11 the team was patrolling along the Valenku river when the inspectors spotted three vehicles and a camp and decided to check what people were doing there. The people turned out to be residents of Nakhodka city. They came there to have a good time. One of the "vacationers" had a gun, however no gun license and hunting permit were on him. The inspectors issued an administrative citation on the violator. After leaving the camp, they saw a tent and a car and decided to search them. When entering the tent, the inspector saw a resident of Vladivostok with a gun. The man did not have a gun license, hunting permit and license. He was subjected to administrative penalty.

On the following day the team members set off for a boat patrol on the Bolshaya Ussurka river between Melnichnoye and Krutoy Yar villages. When checking next anglers in turn, they found out that a man, resident of Artyom town, had a hunting rifle, which he had left in his car before going to fish. The inspectors asked the man to return to his camping site and allow them checking his documents. It turned out that the angler had no gun and hunting licenses. He was subjected to administrative penalty. Later in the evening, the inspectors spotted a vehicle on the riverbank and people by it. One of the men had a rifle. He confessed to coming there to hunt red deer. The violator had no hunting permit, hunting and gun licenses. The inspectors drew up a report, seized the rifle and cartridges and handed it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office.

On September 14, the inspectors conducted a patrol near Dalnerechensk town and checked five groups of fishermen. No violations were revealed. At 10 p.m. the team stopped a hunter and found out that he did not have a hunting permit and was hunting in safety zone. The violator was fined.

On September 19, the team patrolled hunting grounds in Dalnerechensky district. At 9:30 a.m. the inspectors saw a jeep driving off the road into the wood and decided to check what people intended to do there. When coming up to the jeep they saw three men. A search inside the jeep revealed a gun and a bugle. The men confessed to coming there for red deer bugle hunt during the rutting season. As none of them had hunting permits, the inspectors issued an administrative citation. On the same day later the team checked six vehicles and three camps with anglers. No more violations of hunting regulations were revealed.

On the following day the team members were patrolling hunting grounds near the Namov stream, when they saw a vehicle and two men by it. They checked the documents of the men and found a bugle and a hunting rifle. As the men had no



hunting license and permit, they were subjected to administrative penalty.

From September 23 through September 30 the team carried out a many-day patrol in Dalnerechensky, Krasnoarmeisky and Terneisky districts. On September 23 the team stopped a car near the Namov stream and a search inside the car revealed a loaded uncased hunting rifle. A driver told that he had been hunting without any proper documents. The inspectors drew up a report and seized the rifle and ammunition to hand it over to Terneisky police office.

On September 26 the team conducted a patrol together with a wildlife manager of Terneisky district. During a patrol the inspectors checked 18 vehicles and four camps, and revealed ten violations of hunting regulations. On September 27, the team stopped a jeep for a routine search and found a bugle, a registered rifle and a carbine with seven cartridges without proper documents. As a jeep's driver explained, he gave a ride to a stranger who forgot his carbine in the car. The inspectors supposed him to have lied them, but could not do anything. They seized the carbine and ammunition and handed it over to Terneisky police office.

On September 30, the inspectors were patrolling hunting grounds in Krasnoarmeisky district when spotted a group of people. They checked them and discovered a hunting rifle. A rifle's owner did not have hunting permit or license. He was subjected to an administrative penalty. Later on, the team stopped a jeep for a routine search and found out that three residents of Vladivostok were transporting meat of red deer. They had a hunting license, but did not mark it with a tick that they had harvested the deer. The inspectors drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations.

In October-December the inspectors strengthened anti-poaching efforts and habitat protection taking into account the recent results of tiger monitoring program announced by the Wildlife Conservation Society in October 2009. According to Russian and American scientists involved in

tiger census in 2008-2009, the Amur tiger population decreased by 40% due to poaching of tigers and prey species, namely roe deer and wild boar. During the fourth quarter of the year the team revealed over 30 violations of hunting regulations, removed 13 snares and five deer harvested illegally.

Support for anti-poaching team of Udege Legend National Park

At present, according to the Park's organizational chart, the law enforcement staff is consisted of 20 people. During the reported period the inspectors conducted patrols to prevent poaching and fires and react promptly to any related information. They also were on the alert to resolve any predator-human conflicts and emergencies (people disappeared in taiga, first aid etc). In the beginning of the year a second mobile team was established to strengthen anti-poaching activities within the Park, and



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Roe deer

during a couple of months two teams worked in shifts. Then, it was decided to change the way of work. Two teams, with permanent team leaders in each, continued working in shifts, with rangers rotating in teams on a regular basis.

The law enforcement service is well equipped. It has four patrol vehicles (Toyota Hilux jeep, UAZ, GAZ-66 and ZIL-131 off-road vehicles) at its disposal. In addition,

there are three snowmobiles and three motorboats (one is equipped with a water-jet). Also, the law enforcement service is equipped with eleven hand-carried radio stations, six car radio transmitters, four GPS units, and a satellite phone. To record revealed violations the inspectors use two digital photo cameras and a video camera. All inspectors are equipped with summer and winter outfit, backpacks, raincoats and sleeping bags. Each mobile team has a tent. As the inspectors do not have duty weapons, they use signal flares to deter predators and give signals about any threats or danger.

During the reported period special training sessions were organized for law enforcement staff members to improve the recognition, reporting and investigating of wildlife crimes and conflict cases between predators and human. The tiger safety training session covered the information necessary for living, working and recreating in tiger habitat. Other training session was devoted to reporting procedures for tiger-human interactions, interview procedures, incident scene investigation, incident response scenarios and procedures, firearms handling and use of deterrent devices.



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Inspectors clear roads in the Park

This winter Udege Legend National Park has witnessed snows of over 1-2 metres (39-75 inches) after abundant snowfalls in December 2008 and January 2009. The mass death of ungulates could have taken place if no urgent measures were taken.

Thanks to prompt support from the 21st Century Tiger and Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation, the law enforcement staff managed to solve the problem in proper time. All in all, 50 km (31 miles) of roads were cleared and 15 km (9 miles) of feeding grounds were arranged. While clearing snowy roads the Park's inspectors put rabies vaccine (400 doses) for carnivorous on the ground.

June and August 2009 witnessed abundant rainfalls that caused floods in the national park and adjacent human settlements. A very large amount of water on the Park's roads hindered the inspectors in their efforts to conduct anti-poaching activities. The rise in water level due to heavy rains cut off the most area of the Park. The checkpoint at the entrance of the park half-submerged in the water. Some bridges and passes over the rivers in the Park were destroyed. Instead of taking fire preventive measures during the two months, the law enforcement staff had to carry out relief operations in the flood-affected villages. In the fall months the inspectors conducted several patrols focused on fire-prevention and held meetings with residents of Dalny Kut to educate them on fire safety rules.

While patrolling the protected area, the inspectors spoke to anglers, hikers and holidaymakers to raise their knowledge of correct human behavior during their stay in the national park. Also, there were several training sessions for the Park's personnel to teach the employees to communicate with local people and interpret information about the park's natural and cultural resources, and increase public awareness and understanding of the values of the park.

It is worth mentioning that as the Park develops its infrastructure and extends its range of services, the law enforcement staff becomes more and more involved in activities not relating directly to anti-poaching work but equally important for the development of the protected area. The extra activities are as follows:

1. Escorting individuals or groups of visitors;
2. Protecting the safety of the participants of

Young Inspector's Summer Camp and giving lectures on law enforcement work if requested (For instance, this year the inspectors delivered two lectures during the summer camp);

3. Escorting and protecting scientists during scientific survey and fieldwork in the Park (In 2009, the inspectors escorted specialists of the Botanic Garden, land management specialists, etc.);

4. Improving conditions at camping sites and providing them with firewood and garbage bins.

- *Anti-Poaching Activities*

All in all, the law enforcement staff conducted over 54 many-day patrols, issued 92 citations (40 - illegal fishing, 11 - trespassing, 41 - illegal presence with firearms and violation of hunting regulations), visited four recreation centers forty-one times and six hunter's lodges seventy-one times to ensure law obedience,



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Anglers on the Armu river

and seized 43 fishing nets (the results in Table 2 below. For description of anti-poaching activities from January through June please read our interim report).

On June 3- 9 the team of five inspectors carried out a many-day patrol. When going down the Bolshaya Ussurka river for the

Park's border to set warning signs, they found abandoned three fishing nets. The owners of the nets were not determined. The inspector removed the nets and set about six warning signs along the riverbank. Also, the inspectors patrolled by UAZ vehicle, checked 12 rubbers boats with anglers, a minibus and two motorcycles. No violations were revealed. On June 7 the inspectors hear a rumor that a group of poachers were catching fish with fishing nets and electric fishing rode (prohibited fishing devices). The team went to check the obtained information, but did not spot any violator.

Between June 10 and June 16 the mobile team patrolled on a motorboat to insure compliance with nature conservation laws and protected areas law. On June 10, the inspectors detained a fisherman with a catch of 11 lenoks and 1 taimen in a restricted size range, issued a citation upon him and seized two fishing nets. The next day the team members checked four vehicles and met eight anglers and gave talks on fishing rules. Also, two motorboats with fishermen were stopped in the Park. They turned out not to have got a park entrance permit and had to pay a fine for violating protected area regime. It is worth mentioning that there were significantly fewer visitors as it expected, probably due to rainy days and high water in rivers. On June 14, an angler was detained for catching fish in restricted size range.

From June 17 through June 23 the team patrolled by UAZ vehicle. No violations were revealed. Many-day rains caused rivers to burst their banks and tourists could not get into the Park. The checkpoint at the entrance of the Park was flooded.

On June 22-July 1 the team members restored the checkpoint and took flood prevention measures.



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Inspector issues an administrative citation

In July-August the law enforcement inspectors carried out eight many-day patrols, checked 42 people, four recreation centers (seven times) and six hunter's lodges (eight times), issued six citations on violations of fishing regulations, and seized three fishing nets.

On July 1 – 3, two inspectors together with a police officer conducted a patrol by a motorboat up the Bolshaya Ussurka river to get Tuenga recreation centre. On their way they met four people rafting down the river. No prohibited fishing or devices were observed on their floating structure. The river was in full spate. It started raining in the evening. The team continued patrolling on the river the next day. No violations were revealed. Within two days the water level raised by 20 centimeters (0.6 feet) above its current level.

Between July 15 and July 21 the team of three inspectors went on a patrol. On July 15 the team conducted river patrolling from Dalny Kut village till the Park's borders. No violations were revealed. From morning till noon of the following day the team patrolled up the river checking backwaters. No fisherman or hunter was encountered during the patrol. On July 18, the team stopped a motorboat with three men. The anglers had park entry permits. The inspectors examined their boat and the catch. No violations were revealed. Patrolling during the next two days revealed no illegal actions.

From July 28 to August 5 the team of three inspectors set off on a nine-day patrol. On July 28, the inspectors attended a special training course. Between July 29 and July 31 the team went up the Bolshaya Ussurka river, visited Tuenga recreation centre, and checked winter huts. No fisherman or hunter was encountered during those days. On their way down the river the team members sighted six roe deer and two Asiatic black bears. On August 1, the team stopped a motorboat with five fishermen. The anglers told that they were law-abiding people and caught fish only complying with the fishing regulations. The inspectors examined their boat and revealed no violations. From August 2 to August 5 the team checked all potential places where



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Camping sites developed by the inspectors

violators could catch a fish in a net. No violation was detected.

A 7-day patrol was conducted by a team of three inspectors between August 5 and August 11. During the patrol the team members checked anglers, their catch and park entry permits and gave explanatory talks with people regarding fishing regulations and rules on human behavior in the national park. Besides patrolling, the team members also improved camping sites, areas on which holidaymakers or fishermen may pitch a tent, light a campfire, etc. The inspectors mowed down the long grass, delivered firewood and equipped the areas with garbage bins. On August 8, a



fisherman was ticketed for catching fish smaller than permitted minimum size limits. On August 9, the team found an abandoned fishing net in the river. The inspectors decided to make an ambush and waited a fisherman for several hours. As nobody appeared there they decided to remove the net. On the following day the inspectors found another abandoned fishing net and took it out of the river. On August 11, the team members transported children, who participated in Young Inspector Summer Camp, from the Park to Roschino village and took other children to the Park for the second summer camp session.

Between August 12 and August 19 the team of three inspectors patrolled the Park's area. On August 13, the team met five anglers. All of them complied fishing regulations and had park entry permits. While patrolling the inspectors placed information newsletters on information boards at camping sites. Near Sukhaya stream the team stopped two fishermen on boats. Both of them had park entry permits, but their fish was smaller than permitted minimum size limit. Two reports were drawn. On August 15, the inspectors visited Young Inspector Summer Camp and gave talks about their field work. During the following two days no violations were revealed.

From August 19 to August 25 the team of three inspectors set off for a patrol. On August 24, the inspectors spotted a group of three men resting on the riverbank. There was a motorboat and fishing net right near the people. As the fishermen denied possessing the net, the inspectors took it away.

Another team patrolled the area from August 18 till August 24. It was raining for three days on end. The inspectors checked winter huts, fishermen and their park entrance permits and a catch. No violation was revealed.

Between August 27 and August 31 the team of four inspectors patrolled the Park's area. During a patrol the team members checked 12 motorboats with anglers. No violation was detected.

During a patrol between September 1 and September 9 the inspectors patrolled down the Bolshaya Ussurka river. No violations were revealed. Also, they assisted land managers who came there to demarcate the Park's boundaries.

On September 2, the second team of four inspectors started a routine patrol near Ust-Armu recreation center. Then, the inspectors divided into two groups: one group of two inspectors continued their patrol by a vehicle and the other two team members set off for a patrol by a boat up the Armu river. All in all, the inspectors checked four groups of holidaymakers, two vehicles with tourists from Nakhodka, and one wooden hunter's lodge. When searching inside the lodge, the inspectors saw three fishermen from Artyom with fish in a restricted size range. Three citations were issued on the violators. Later on, the inspectors revealed one violation of fishing regulations and two cases of illegal presence with firearms.

From September 9 to September 15 the team of three inspectors patrolled up the Armu river on a jet boat. On their way the wardens met three boats with tourists. No violations were revealed. During a patrol the team stopped two groups of anglers who had already been fined by Dalnerechensky Fish Inspection. On September 13, the team take a ride up the Bolshaya Ussurka river and stopped four rubber boats. People turned out not to have entrance permits. The inspector issued an administrative citation.

The team of four inspectors patrolled the Park's area by a jet boat between September 16 and September 22, 2009. On September 17, the team took a ride up the Bolshaya Ussurka river, checked eleven water crafts, and issued three citations for illegal presence with firearms. On the following day the inspectors checked six boats and eleven people. No violation was revealed. On September 20, the team checked eight water crafts (13 people) and issued a citation for illegal presence with firearms and a citation for violation of fishing



regulations. On September 21, the inspectors checked four boats and revealed a violation of fishing regulations (one fishing net was seized). During a patrol between September 23 and September 29 the team of four inspectors checked four boats and issued three citations for violations of fishing regulations. On September 24, a team consisted of a senior inspector and district police officer set off for a patrol up the Bolshaya Ussurka river by a jet boat. They patrolled the area till September 26. No violations were revealed.

On October 2, while patrolling near Ostrovnoye village the team of four inspectors checked six boats (eleven people). No violations were revealed. Then, the team took a ride up the river and detained people for illegal presence in the park. A proper law enforcement action was taken. Also, the inspectors assisted in maintaining camping sites by delivering firewood for holidaymakers. On October 3, the team met two men without an entrance permit and issued two citations on them. On October 4-5, the team escorted a group of foreign tourists.

Between October 2 and October 6, 2009 a team consisted of a senior inspector and a district police officer patrolled the Prak's area by a vehicle and by a jet boat. The vehicle patrol did not reveal any violations. During a boat patrol, the team checked seven watercrafts and revealed one violation of fishing regulations. Also, the team participated in a rescue operation. Tourists sank their vehicle when crossing a river and needed help to transport them out of the Park.

The team of four inspectors conducted a patrol between October 7 and October 14. When going down the river Bolshaya Ussurka, the team stopped two boats for checking their entrance permits and spotted an uncased hunting rifle. The rifle turned out to be loaded with case-shot. The inspectors issued a citation. On October 9 the team used a mobile checkpoint (a military cross-country vehicle GAS-66) at places where it was possible to control the situation on the road and the river simultaneously. When

tourists passed by the checkpoint, the inspectors interpreted the rules of human behavior in the protected area. No violations were revealed.



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Checking tourists

A senior law enforcement inspector and an officer of Rosprirodnadzor visited the Park between October 9 and October 11 to check anti-poaching activities by the two Park's teams. All in all, they checked nine vehicles, four winter lodges and 14 people and revealed no violations. Thus, they got evidence that the inspectors handle their job well.

A team of three inspectors conducted a many-day patrol between October 15 and October 21. On October 16, when patrolling up the river, the inspectors issued three citations (two for illegal presence and one



© Phoenix Fund
Checking holidaymakers

for illegal transportation of firearms). On

October 17, they checked six water crafts and nine people and revealed a violations of fishing regulations. On the following day, October 18, the team members arrived at Tuenga recreation center where four anglers from Vladivostok had a rest. The men told the inspectors that they heard gunshots near the hunter's lodge. The inspectors went to examine the area around the lodge, checked three boats and five people. No violations were revealed. On October 19, two police officers joined the team to patrol the area near Ust-Armu recreation center. Together they checked four boats and seven people and issued three citations on violations of fishing regulations. When checking a winter hut on the Armu river, the joint team detained a resident of Vladivostok for illegal presence with firearms. The rifle was seized to hand it over to local police office. On their way back, the inspectors apprehended a man for illegal fishing with use of fishing net. The net was seized.

A team consisted of a senior law enforcement inspector and a district police officer patrolled the area by a jet boat between October 19 and October 23. No violations were revealed. The team of three inspectors carried out a many-day patrol between October 19 and October 23. During the patrol the inspectors checked two groups of anglers, two vehicles with tourists and a winter hut. No violations were revealed. When meeting visitors, the inspectors gave explanatory talks on safety rules.

The team consisted of four inspectors conducted a many-day patrol on a jet boat between October 29 and November 4. During a patrol the wardens checked a boat with three anglers, a hunter's lodge, and a vehicle with anglers. No violations were revealed.

The team of three inspectors carried out a many-day patrol between November 5 and November 12. From November 5 to November 9, the wardens escorted a group of three scientists from Botanic Garden of Vladivostok who came there to gather

materials near the Beglyanka river for scientific research.

On November 9 the team checked a winter hunter's lodge in case hunters were there. The lodge was unmanned. On November 11, the team took a ride by a vehicle towards the Koreisky stream. When passing by Ostrovnoye village, the inspectors saw two villagers harvesting firewood. The wardens stopped and gave an explanatory talk on rules of harvesting. Then, the team patrolled along the river and found a fishing net abandoned by unknown person. The net was removed from the river.

Three inspectors conducted a many-day patrol between November 12 and November 19. No violations were revealed. The team of three inspectors patrolled the area between November 19 and November 26 and revealed no violations.

- *Fire-fighting and prevention activities*

Luckily, there was low risk of catching wildfires in the Park this autumn, mostly thanks to rainy summer and high humidity levels. Also, simple precautions helped prevent easily ignited and potentially devastating forest fires.

- *Education and outreach activities*



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Inspector gives explanatory talk

In addition to regular checks of law obedience, the team also carried out outreach activities at the local community



and with the owners of the adjacent hunting grounds in order to give them objective information about the benefits of the Park's creation and its positive impact on their lives and work.

During the reported period, while patrolling the protected area, the inspectors spoke to anglers, hikers and holidaymakers to raise their knowledge of correct human behavior during their stay in the national park. Any patrol could serve as an occasion to outreach work.

Also, there were several training sessions for the Park's personnel to teach the employees to communicate with local people and interpret information about the park's natural and cultural resources, and increase public awareness and understanding of the values of the park.

Acknowledgements

We express our sincere thanks to the Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation and 21st Century Tiger for having interest in protection of Russian wildlife. Thanks to your continuous financial support we were able to implement the anti-poaching project described in this report to improve Amur tiger conservation in the Russian Far East.

**ATTACHMENT****Table 1. Quantitative results of anti-poaching activities by Western team in January-December 2009**

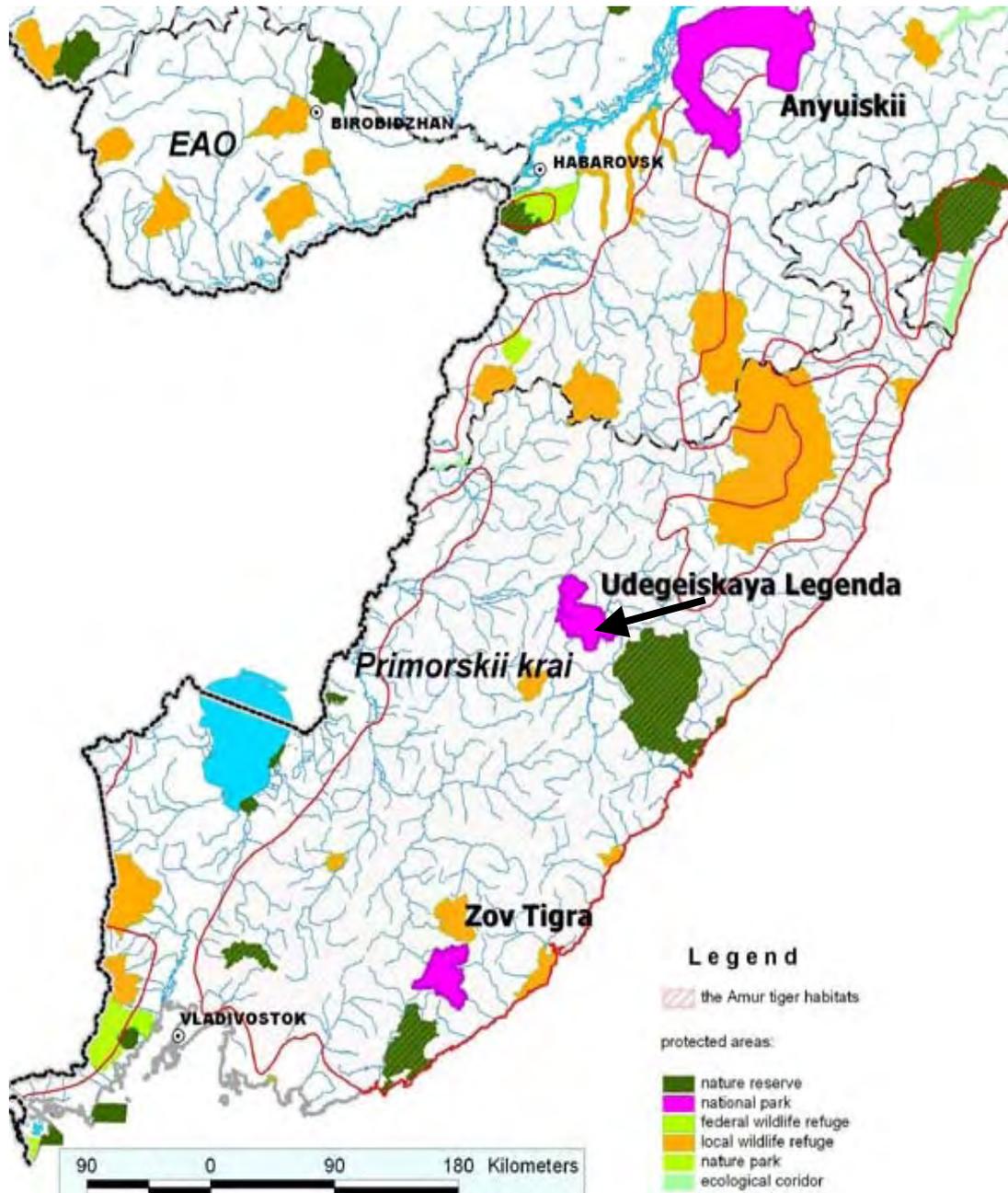
Activities	January – December 2009
1. Number of patrols	88
2. Violations documented:	129
2.1. Hunting	99
2.2. Fishing	8
2.3. Logging	20
2.4. Pollution	2
3. Illegal weapons seized and handed over to the police	50 weapons and 82 cartridges
4. Wildlife confiscated:	
4.1. Pheasant	1
4.2. Duck	5
4.3. Roe deer	6
4.4. Musk deer	1
4.5. Red deer	7
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	5
6. Fines imposed	\$4,603
7. Fines paid	\$3,050
8. Compensations imposed	\$1,920
9. Compensations paid	\$989

Table 2. Quantitative results of anti-poaching activities in Udege Legend National Park

Activities	January – December 2009
1. Number of patrols	54
2. Violations documented:	92
2.1. Hunting	41
2.2. Fishing	40
2.3. Logging	-
2.4. Illegal intrusion	11
3. Illegal weapons seized and handed over to the police	4
4. Wildlife confiscated:	
4.1. Wild boar	1
4.2. Fish	20
4.3. Tiger parts	1
4.4. Wild meat	50 kg
5. Seized poaching devices:	
5.1. Fishing net	43
5.2. Harpoon	1
5.3. Trap	68
5.4. Snare	9
6. Initiated criminal proceedings	1
7. Fines imposed	\$1,544
8. Fines paid	\$1,200
9. Compensations imposed	\$5,600
10. Compensations paid	\$5,000

Map 1. Protected Areas in Primorsky krai

Udege Legend (Udegeiskaya Legenda) Nature Reserve



Map 2. Udege Legend National Park

