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Phoenix Fund

"Wildlife Conservation in the Russian Far East in 2009"

Interim 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. The results of Tiger Count 2005 indicate that tiger numbers have been stable in Russia over the last 10 years (the 1996 count estimated the population at 415-472 tigers and the 2005 count at 428-502). But the Amur tiger population is very vulnerable due to poaching, habitat destruction, prey depletion and many other factors. Only an estimated 10% of the tiger population is living in protected areas, this is clearly not enough to sustain the population.

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 operated in Krasnoarmeisky district, the North of Primorye, 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 continued 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 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 Foundation, the Park's staff managed to protect wildlife in severe winter conditions. 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

¹ Rosselkhoznadzor – Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Monitoring Service



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 established in January 2008, it had only 19 staff members, but later it became possible to recruit more officers (up to 43) with 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 June 30 the team showed good results: conducted 34 anti-poaching patrols and issued 74 citations on violations of nature conservation laws (see table 1 in the attachment).

In February, the three-men team led by Alexander Samoilenko worked in Dalnerechensky, Pozharsky and Krasnoarmeisky district. The inspectors patrolled under severe weather conditions with 1-meter depth of snow or even more. All in all, seven patrols were made, 11 reports on hunting violations were drawn, four guns and 35 cartridges confiscated. Among the confiscated poached animals



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Inspectors check a hunter's sack

there were seven roe deer, two red deer, and a musk deer. The inspectors

discovered three illegal logging sites and initiated a criminal procedure on one of those facts.

On February 22, the team revealed illegal logging of cedar and Manchurian nut tree in the total volume of 500 m³. There were no people on the site. The inspectors reported to the police station in the nearest village.



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Poachers skin deer

On March 13, when returning from a patrol in Pozharsky district the inspectors saw a GAZ-66 all-terrain military vehicle loaded with timber. With the knowledge of the fact that there were no legal forestry or logging sites in the area, they called the road police and asked them to intercept the violators. Having arrived at the place of detention the inspectors saw three men: a gamekeeper who, according to his words, was on a patrol in the hunting grounds; his son, also a gamekeeper; and a stranger whom they picked up on the way. The father had a carbine and a Huskvarna petrol-powered saw in their vehicle. The two relatives explained that they had seen a broken Kamaz all-terrain vehicle loaded with timber by the roadside. Its driver asked them to give him a lift and bring the timber to the place of destination, so they transshipped it to their vehicle. As nobody of the detainees had ID cards, they were all accompanied to Dalnerechensky police station. The next day the inspectors took an investigator and two witnesses and started searching for an illegal logging site. Following the track left by Kamaz, they found it in Pozharsky



district. A criminal proceeding was initiated.

The next day the team noted the tracks of *Kamaz* all-terrain vehicle and followed them. It was clear that people were searching for animals to hunt, as the tracks led along the hills and in floodplains. Having covered 15 km, the environmental inspectors had to leave their patrol car and continue pursuit of the violators on foot, as there was deep snow. Finally, they found a vehicle and three people by it: two foresters of Dalnerechensky forestry and their driver. In response to a question what they were doing in the hunting lease and why they had a carbine with telescopic sight with them,



© Phoenix Fund
Illegal logging site

one of the foresters said the gun was his and showed a hunting license with the date corrected by hand. All the three said they had no other gun, however the team members found another one by the car, and there were also cartridges inside the vehicle. The second forester said he was the owner of it, but he had no gun license. In the result, an administrative report was made, two guns were seized, and a fine of 1,500 roubles (\$40) was paid by the violators.

On March 14, during a patrol in Dalnerechensky district the inspectors saw an armed young man in a camouflage cloak. Having noticed that inspectors followed him, the juvenile dropped the gun and cartridges and tried to run away. When caught, he took an assumed name and said he had found the gun and went up the hill to

practice shooting. The team wrote an administrative report and passed the gun and the cartridges to Dalnerechensky police station. As the young violator was under-age, the team also reported to Juvenile Delinquent Commission.

On March 14, the team spotted an illegal logging site with 30 logs of Korean pine tree. About 700 m away the inspectors heard a sound of a tractor that was moving off. They tried to chase it, but it turned to be impossible due to deep snow.

On March 20, in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district the team discovered an illegal logging site where a minivan was parked, from which ski tracks went into the forest. Judging by tracks, the man was accompanied by two dogs. The inspectors laid an ambush. Once they heard gunshots. Finally, the hunter appeared. Immediately, the man was arrested by the inspectors. He said he was just walking around, but after the team followed his tracks back into the forest, he confessed he was indeed hunting. A backpack with two poached roe deer and his skis were hidden under the snow under a tree 200 meters away. The dead animals had dog bites on their bodies. It was clear that the deer were very emaciated. Their total weight was 18 kg. The inspectors burnt the carcasses and made an administrative report on the poacher.



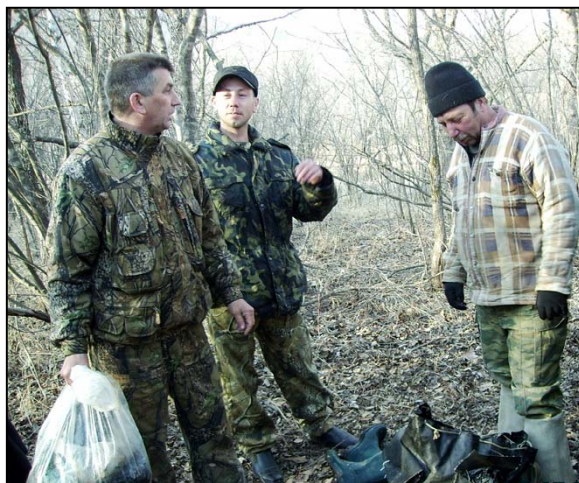
© Phoenix Fund
Inspector seizes a poached duck

On March 21, the team patrolled the hunting grounds and apprehended two brothers who



had poached a musk deer. Proper enforcement action was made. On March 25, the inspectors stopped a vehicle for a routine search and found a loaded gun and eight cartridges. A driver, who worked at a logging site, had no gun license, so an administrative proceeding was initiated against him. On March 26, in the hunting grounds of Terneisky district the team stopped an armed fisherman who had no gun license. The violator was subjected to administrative punishment.

While patrolling the inspectors saw at least five spots where animals were previously killed and removed from the forest by dragging. Hunters often use dogs to kill exhausted ungulates. For example, once the inspectors paid attention to the fact that the dogs that were accompanying fishermen had bloodstains on them. After some search in the area, they discovered a young dead red deer and a roe deer hidden under the snow, and obviously killed by the dogs. The two fishermen admitted their guilt, and administrative reports were made on them.



© Phoenix Fund
Inspectors check hunters

On March 28, an ambush resulted in arrest of two men with a snowmobile, to which a sledge fraught with four poached roe deer and a red deer were attached. One of the detainees confessed to having killed the hoofed animals a day before. He also arranged with a friend of him (who has a snowmobile and a truck) that he would help

him get animals home. The inspectors made an administrative report on each of the violators, and the dead animals were burnt.

In April the team held 16 patrols, made 25 reports on hunting violations, four on fishing violations, two on illegal logging, withdrew nine smoothbore guns, 21 cartridges, five wild ducks, a pheasant, and imposed fines in the amount of 33,000 roubles (US 1,000). The team discovered five unauthorized logging sites and provided police officers with the materials for initiating a criminal procedure on one of them.

In April it was hard to move on the roads as log trucks destroyed them heavily. Rivers and streams overflowed their banks, and the team had to patrol mostly on foot. It is worth mentioning that poachers have advantage over the inspectors. They use motorboats, from which they hunt, but the Western team does not have a boat at its disposal, which makes it impossible to check and detain hunters going up and down the river.

From April 1st to April 5th the inspectors in cooperation with state forest protection division and WWF representatives patrolled the hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district. On April 2nd, they found an illegal logging site with several logs of Korean pine, from which caterpillar tracks went up the hill. The inspectors laid an ambush and waited until a tractor with two people inside arrived, dragging three Korean pine logs. The inspectors stopped the vehicle for a check. The violators had two radio stations without a permit to use them. The inspectors noticed that there was no plate on the tractor. They filed the violation, withdrew the equipment and the logs, and passed the materials to Dalnerechensky police station for initiating criminal proceedings.

On April 4, the team discovered numerous unauthorized logging sites and storehouses, from which timber, mostly Korean pine, was taken out. The volume of illegally harvested timber is 2,940 m³ (Korean pine, oak, nutwood, linden). The inspectors reported to



Dalnerechensky police station.

On April 9, the team detained a poacher without a hunting license in the hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district. The inspectors drew up an administrative report and seized the hunter's gun.

On April 10, while working in the hunting grounds, the team heard numerous gunshots. Upon arrival at the place from where the sounds presumably came, the inspectors saw two men by a car. They confessed to having two unregistered (illegal) guns. The inspectors seized and forwarded the weapon to the district police station.

On April 11, after following car tracks, the inspectors found three all-terrain vehicles and a group of ten people. The visitors came to the hunting lease with three motorboats, guns and hunting licenses. They said they had drowned the third boat with two guns inside. Two men of the group were charged with hunting female ducks: one killed six and the other - two birds. The team filed charges and made the violators burn the poached products.



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The team reveal fishing violation by Chinese people

Several times the team saw hunters going on motorboats, but could not do anything to detain them.

On April 15, the rangers detained a man for poaching a duck.

On April 16, the team stopped a cyclist with a disassembled gun and two cartridges in his backpack. He had neither hunting



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Alexander Samoilenko measures tiger tracks

license nor a gun permit. The team drew an administrative report on the violator and seized his gun.

On April 18-19, the team worked in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky and Dalnerechensky districts. When they saw a truck and asked a driver to let them examine it, the vehicle suddenly started and nearly knocked down one of the inspectors. A loaded gun was seen on a passenger seat. The inspectors immediately blocked the way to stop the vehicle. After a long argument the vehicle was examined, and a smoothbore loaded gun was found. Near the car a half-dead drake was discovered, but the driver said he had nothing to do with it. The inspectors drew an administrative report under which the violator refused to sign, and forwarded it to justice of the peace of Dalnerechensk town and to the police.

On April 19, in Polyani hunting grounds the inspectors drew two reports on illegal fishing and removed 13 fishing nets. Two Chinese and a Russian were brought to responsibility for similar violations.

On April 20-22, there were no patrols due to bad weather conditions. The team was busy with drawing reports on messages received from gamekeepers of Dalnerechensky hunting and fishing society.



In May the inspectors held seven patrols, made ten reports, seized six guns and 26 cartridges, and imposed fines totalling 11,000 roubles (\$354).

In May the team was occupied with elimination of illegal salt licks and prevention of poaching. Four salt licks were found in Sedatun hunting grounds. They were registered with GPS units in order to keep control in future.

On May 7, the team patrolled the hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district and found a motorcycle track. After following it for some time, they came to a hut, near which two people were standing. They were equipped with warm clothes, food and an illegal hunting gun with 21 cartridges to it. The detainees said they were going to hunt red deer and wild goats. The inspectors drew reports on the violators and passed the arms to Dalnerechensky district police station.

On May 9, the team got information from a gamekeeper of Polyani hunting grounds that he had seen two jeeps coming out of the forest that ignored his signs to stop. The team stopped the vehicles later. Inside there were four men with guns. One of them confessed that he was hunting, but had not managed to kill any animal. Another man turned to have an illegal gun. The inspectors issued citations on all the four people and forwarded the guns to the town police station for examination.

On May 10-11, the team patrolled the hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district. A man was apprehended for hunting ungulates with homemade snares.

On May 15-16, the inspectors checked ten cars, and revealed no violations.

On May 17, the inspectors detained an under-age villager with an illegal gun that he tried to throw away when seeing the pursuit. The man said he was going hunting on salt licks. The team forwarded the report to Juvenile Delinquency Commission.

On May 20-24, the team worked in Dalnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts, in the result of which two men were stopped with two guns, one of them illegal.

On May 25-29, the inspectors concentrated on Sedatun hunting grounds. Once they saw a parked car, and after following human footprints met a man without any gun. Obviously, he went to check if there were animals on a salt lick. Another two men were charged with a hunting violation – keeping loaded unregistered (illegal) guns in their car.

When the inspectors saw burnings in the forest during the patrols, they reported immediately to the forestry organizations.

In June the inspectors held seven patrols, drew up twelve reports on hunting regulations and imposed fines totalling 17,000 roubles (\$548).

In June red stag hunting opened. During this hunting season people usually go hunting for red stag at salt licks. Sometimes, after killing a stag, hunters do not register what the game was taken and continue hunting illegally.

From June 3 to June 5 the team patrolled Pozharsky district, checked nine vehicles and four salt licks. On June 4 the inspectors stopped a motorcycle with two men. Both of them had loaded carbines with telescopic sight. The detainees told that they wanted to hunt any big game. However they did not have hunting permits. The inspectors issued citations and imposed a fine on them.

Between June 6 and June 9 the Western team patrolled hunting grounds of Alchan Hunters' and Fishermen Society. In the morning of June 6 the inspectors heard sounds of moving vehicle and decided to head for the place the sound came out. After several minutes they saw a GAZ-66 off-road vehicle and a man by it. The man told that he was a gamekeeper of the Alchan Society but he did not have a document confirming his statement. The inspectors noticed that the man was very nervous. When examining the vehicle they



found a loaded rifle with a telescopic sight. The “gamekeeper” did not have a permit to hunt. After a while, another man with a loaded gun and a torch appeared. The inspectors questioned him and found out that the two men had come there to hunt at salt licks. The inspectors seized guns and issued citations. Then, the team members and violators headed to a hunting lodge where they met the director of Alchan Hunters’ and Fishermen Society and six people. A search inside the lodge revealed cuts of red stag meat. The inspectors asked the director to show a hunting license. When he gave them the requested document they noticed that the game taken had not been registered there. In view of the revealed violation the inspectors drew up reports and imposed a fine on the director.

On June 8 the team patrolled the area around Krasny Yar village and checked four winter huts. Heavy rain hindered the inspectors in their efforts to go on patrolling and made them return to the inspectors’ station.

On June 13-14 the inspectors conducted a patrol in Dalnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts. In the morning of June 14 the team stopped a jeep moving out of Tazhny wildlife refuge. Inside the car, there were three men with three loaded guns. They confessed to hunting at salt licks without a hunting permit.

Between June 18 and June 22, the team, together with a journalist and WWF specialists, patrolled hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts, checked six salt licks and five vehicles. No violations were revealed.

On June 20, a man with an illegal hunting rifle was detained near Keshkin stream. The violator had no gun license neither a hunting permit. The inspectors seized his rifle and issued a citation. On the same day later the team revealed two illegal logging sites. Oak, cedar and ash tree logs were stored there. The inspectors informed about the fact to the police and Dalnerechensky forestry.

Support for anti-poaching team of Udege Legend National Park

The Udege Legend National Park, established on June 9, 2007, with 88,600 ha of taiga. The Park is located in rich coniferous-deciduous forests of the western slope of the Sikhote-Alin Mountains (Krasnoarmeisky district of Primorye) and includes partly the Bolshaya Ussurka and the Armu river basins in the vicinity of Dalny Kut and Dersu villages, as well as the lowland of the Perevalnaya river. A total of 31 species of rare tracheophytes and those in need for protection (*dioscorea nipponica*, *calypso bulbosa*) and 12 Red Book lichens grow here; about 70 bird species nest, including 9 rare and disappearing (fish owl, Siberian grouse, scaly-sided merganser); more than 25 species of mammals live, Amur tiger and Himalayan bear among them, up to 10,000 insect species, 28 of them declining (*Carabus schrenkii*, Apollo butterfly and others). 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.

- *Equipment of the Park’s law enforcement service*

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. These cross-country vehicles allow the inspectors to patrol almost the whole protected area. In addition, there are three snowmobiles and three motorboats (one is equipped with a water-jet). The snowmobiles allowed the inspectors not only to patrol over the high snow, but also conduct animal surveys and organize rescue operations to save ungulates stuck in snowdrifts. In summer, the water level is very high in water bodies due to heavy rains. After the rainy days the roads in the Park are impassable and the



rivers become a zone where poaching thrives. In this connection motorboats were widely used to pursue violators on water bodies. Besides, due to state of emergency caused by floods, the inspectors delivered by boats food products to people of inundated villages abutting the Park's borders.

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 photos 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.

Though the law enforcement service is well equipped, there is a need to purchase a vehicle specially designed to cross the marshland, voltage transformer, notebooks, printer, copier and scanner in the nearest future. Also, propeller sleigh could improve significantly anti-poaching efforts during a period of the freezing of lakes, rivers, and topsoil in autumn or early spring. In summer, poachers often use old overgrown logging roads where the inspectors cannot get access to. The problem of impassibility can be solved through the purchase of quad bikes (quadrocycles).

- *Breaking roads and feeding undulates*

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 take place if no urgent measures were taken. Sika deer, roe deer and wild boar being the food resource for the Amur tiger, would die in the first place. It is also worth mentioning that after snowfalls local hunters rushed to the forest where it was easy to find animals by their tracks on the snow or kill deer stuck in

snowdrifts. Therefore, it was necessary to take urgent measures to save ungulates: to clear the woodlands to let the hoofed



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Inspectors clear roads in the Park

animals get food and deliver forage to feeding grounds. Poor financial status of the Park complicated the situation. Since January 2008 there had been delays in transferring funds from federal budget to all federal-level protected areas. Such delays were caused by the Government's decision to get all federal protected areas (PAs) subordinated to the Ministry of Natural Resources. It was supposed that in early 2009 all the nature reserves that were administered by Rosprirodnadzor (Federal



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Roe deer

Natural Resources Supervision Agency) would become part of the Ministry of Natural Resources. This sudden change resulted in a protracted transition period from one body

to another.

Under such circumstances Udege Legend National Park did not have available funds for fuel to use special technical equipment to break roads and deliver additional fodder to the feeding grounds. The Park's administration had to appeal to local and international communities asking to help raise funds for taking emergency measures in the Park. Thanks to prompt support from the 21st Century Tiger and Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation the Park's 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.

Snow clearing let ungulates (sika deer, roe deer and wild boar) reach forage delivered by the inspectors and survive the baneful situation in taiga. During a scheduled census held by the Park's guards in February large groups of hoofed animals (red deer and wild boar) were spotted at cleared roads. The animals were readily browsing plants that remained within their reach and branches that were undercut specially by the Park's staff. Also, the inspectors in two groups patrolled the area on regular basis to prevent poaching.

- *Wildlife Population Survey*



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Inspectors examine animals' tracks

In February the Park's inspectors participated in a wildlife population survey at

three monitoring sites and on four trails where animals usually travel.

- *Training*

During the reported period the inspectors attended a series of training. Topics covered ranged from a review of Primorsky krai Biodiversity, Birds and Mammals, Observation and Record-keeping, Resolution of Tiger-Human Conflicts and some inputs on rehabilitation and release back into the wild.

In January the law enforcement service of the Udege Legend elaborated and approved the regulations on work with conflict tigers. Also, the safety rules for park's staff were elaborated. In this connection a special training course was given to the inspectors to teach them to use deterrent measures, such as pyrotechnics. In March, a decree project was elaborated to ban fishing on spawning rivers in spring. On April 15 – May 31, no boats were allowed in the Park. Locals could fish from the bank on specially determined sites. In June, the law enforcement service staff attended a



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"Use of Deterrent Measures" training

comprehensive course designed to teach the armed inspectors how to safely handle guns, the laws regarding use of guns, and the laws regarding carrying and possessing firearms.

- *Russian Old Believers Settle Down near the Udege Legend*



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Old Believers

In March 2009 the first family of Old Believers from Brazil arrived in Krasnoarmeisky region of Primorye to live near Udege Legend National Park. The Old Believers (*Starovery* in Russian) split from the Russian Orthodox Church in the 17th century when the institution enacted reforms to reconcile differences between Russian religious texts and Greek originals. The Old Believers chose instead to adhere to traditional rituals. And they fled Primorye in the 1920s after the Communist Party violently suppressed religion. They settled in cloistered villages in South America that they turned into Little Russias, as if by preserving the ways of the past, they would somehow, someday, be able to return.

Nowadays, Russian Government is trying to head off the country's severe population decline by luring back Russians who live abroad and their descendants. Moscow spent \$300 million in the past two years to get the repatriation program started, and officials estimated that more than 25 million people were eligible, many of them ethnic Russians who found themselves living in former Soviet republics after the Soviet collapse in 1991.

Charmed by the beauty of Primorye's nature the descendants are returning now with intent to settle down here for ever. The Old Believers is known to be proficient farmers who live relatively peaceful lives. They have preserved their traditions that are deeply rooted in the history of medieval Russia. The Old Believers lead a family-oriented, self-sufficient lifestyle. They get food sources from gardening, small livestock, fishing and hunting. And they promote the sustainable use of natural resources. We are hopeful that the neighbourhood with Old Believers will be for the Park's benefit.

- *Anti-Poaching Activities*

It is sad to note that the Russian Government provides insufficient funds for Udege Legend National Park to operate in full and in the most efficient way. In 2008, thanks to our supporters (Whitley Fund for Nature, Save the Tiger Fund, Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation), we provided the mobile team with two military all-terrain vehicles GAZ and ZIL, two GPS-navigators and a satellite phone. Also, Phoenix supplied the team with winter outfits and provided funds for fuel. We are deeply grateful to Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation for its continuous financial support of anti-poaching activities in the Park in 2009.



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Patrol on snowmobiles

For the reported period the team conducted over 24 many-day patrols to ensure compliance with nature conservation laws. Each patrol lasted 5-6 days. All in all, the inspectors revealed 23 violations of hunting regulations and eight fishing violations (See



the results in Table 2 below).

From December 25, 2008 through January 31, 2009 the law enforcement team of the Udege Legend National Park conducted three patrols, drew up three reports on violations and seized 28 traps and meat of a poached wild boar.

On December 25, 2008 on the territory of Dalnekutsky forestry at about 5.30 p.m. during a patrol the anti-poaching brigade of the Udege Legend National Park detained Mr. Grigoriev who was illegally hunting in the area and by that time had already shot a Manchurian deer with a smooth-bore rifle. Grigoriev had neither a gun license nor a hunting permit. His reasoning was that he needed the deer as food to stay alive. The inspector wrote an administrative report and seized the rifle and unlawfully taken deer as the evidence. A fine of 1,000 roubles (\$33) and a 5,000 roubles restitution (\$166) were imposed on the violator.

On January 11-13, 2009 the inspectors went on a patrol in the area of the Beglyanka river after receiving the information that the residents of Glubinnoe village were illegally hunting there. The information was not confirmed. The team could not get to Gromov spring because of the deep snow and stayed overnight at Dalny Kut village. The next day the inspectors noticed a fire at the top of the hill and caught five schoolchildren who were kindling the fire in the national park. The inspectors conducted an explanatory work.

On January 12, the team carried out a patrol to check human's tracks leading from the village towards the national park. There proved to be a hunter who placed 28 traps for Siberian sable. Unfortunately, the poacher was not detained, although all the traps were removed. An administrative report was drawn on the violation.

On January 13, due to the deep snow the anti-poaching brigade did not manage to get to Ust'-Armou tourist recreation centre, but they saw six roe deer that had difficulties to move across the field because of the snow.

The next patrol was conducted on January 22-25. The team decided to go on a ZIL-131 off-road vehicle that allowed to travel even through the deep snow. At the Pologii spring near a winter hut a snowmobile track and one pine tree cut for firewood were noticed. Following the human's footprints the inspectors found meat and skin of a killed wild boar. The poacher was not identified.

On January 24, state inspector Yuri Trush went on a patrol on ski to check the area around Kondratov spring. No violations were detected.

On January 25, the team inspected another winter hut at the Bolshaya Kosogorka river. At the creek valley there were lots of wild boars and Manchurian deer. On the way back to Dalny Kut village Mr. Pavlov was detained for rabbit hunting with a trap. A report was drawn.

On January 25, the team checked tracks leading from Dalny Kut village to the Udege Legend National Park. After a short search the inspectors found two roe deer skins. The animals were shot probably about 2-3 days ago. Judging by the tracks, the poachers left the national park and it was impossible to identify the violators.

In February the guards held two anti-poaching patrols, drew up two reports on wildlife crimes, and seized eight traps.

During a patrol on February 4-8 the inspectors checked two winter hunts and patrolled the area around Vtoroy Ostrovnoy spring and near Dalny Kut village. They saw human tracks that led from the forest to the village. When following the tracks the inspectors found a skin of roe deer and two traps set by a poacher to catch more game. The violator was not determined. The inspector drew up a report on the fact of illegal hunting and seized traps.

A patrol on February 18-22 turned to be a challenge for the inspectors due to deep snow in the Park. Nevertheless, they conducted three patrols on foot, checked three recreation centres and seized 6 traps. On February 19 the inspectors found three

traps and a dead wild boar. As a half of the animal's body had been eaten by tiger it was hard to determine whether the boar was killed by a poacher or by a predator. The inspectors removed traps and continued their patrol. Having arrived at a recreation centre they saw ski tracks leading from the centre to the right bank of the Armu river. Following the tracks the inspectors found a trap placed in a trail where hare travels. Also, 20 km from the recreation centre they found two more traps. A watchman of the centre confessed that he had set the traps. The inspectors drew up a report, imposed a fine on violator and seized the traps.

While patrolling the guards spotted an emaciated red deer that could not move even when people came close by. It was decided to transport the weak animal to some facility where the deer could be treated properly. Unfortunately, the animal did not survive. Probably, the death was due to cold weather conditions and lack of food because of deep snow.

In March the inspectors conducted three many-day patrols, drew up nine reports on violations of nature conservation regulations, seized nine snares and 32 traps, one chainsaw and two illegal rifles

From March 3 to March 7 the Park's anti-poaching team of five inspectors conducted a many-day patrol in Udege Legend. On March 3, when performing a patrol near



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Tiger parts discovered at Ust-Armu recreation centre

Dalny Kut village the inspectors found a roe deer skin and a snowmobile trail. They returned to the inspectors' station and took the team's snowmobile to check the area where the snowmobile trail had been found. The trail disappeared one kilometre far from the village. The team met a farmer who told that a local had gone on a snowmobile but come back shortly due to some minor damage to his snowmobile. Unfortunately, all attempts to identify the violator who had killed the deer failed.



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Thirty traps found by the inspectors

On March 4, the team examined the area near Dalny Kut village to observe any marks of trespassing. No illegal entry was revealed. Two inspectors participated in wildlife survey and covered 2 kilometres on skis. Upon returning from patrol and nearly at the inspector's station the rest of the team stopped a jeep. A jeep's driver confessed to transporting a rifle that is strictly prohibited within the Park. The inspectors drew up a report on the violation. The detained person told that he wanted to go fishing and did not have intention to hunt; nevertheless he could not explain why he had taken his rifle.

On March 5, early morning the team headed towards Ust-Armu recreation centre by UAZ off-road vehicle with a team's snowmobile attached to it. Near the Koreisky stream the inspectors cleared roads, which were blocked by the avalanche. Upon arrival at the inspectors' station the team divided into two groups. Two inspectors stayed at the



station, and the rest conducted a snowmobile ride towards the Lesovoznaya river where Tuenga recreation centre was located. Several minutes after the second group detained two men 700 meters short of the centre. One detainee with a rifle made an attempt to elude but failed. During a short interview the apprehended individuals told that they worked as watchmen at the recreation centre. They had neither a gun license nor identification documents. The inspectors drew up a report and seized a rifle. Then, while examining the centre's territory the inspectors found an aluminium can with parts of tiger body and skin. According to the watchmen they had discovered the dead tiger in the forest and took it along to feed their guard dogs. After preliminary investigation the inspectors seized tiger parts and the watchmen's snowmobile and forwarded all the documents to Krasnoarmeisky police department for follow-up. The day after the inspectors visited Tuenga recreation centre again and found there a sack with 30 traps. A report was drawn.

On March 6, while checking a road from Dalny Kut village to the Beglyanka river the team found and removed four traps set in a hare's trail. Later, the team members received training in filing documents. On March 7, the inspectors went on a patrol heading towards Ust-Armu recreation centre but had to return home due to deep snow hampering access.

From March 11 to March 15 the mobile team of four inspectors carried out a patrol. On March 11, the team patrolled the area near the post control of the national park and around Dalny Kut village. The inspectors intended to get to Ust-Armu recreation centre by vehicle, but it was impossible due to extremely deep snow. It was decided to conduct a snowmobile patrol. During a snowmobile raid the inspectors found several snowmobile and ski trails leading to the river. No violations were revealed. On March 14, a group of four inspectors took a ride on two snowmobiles. Meanwhile, the rest went to patrol the Park's area near Dalny Kut, Dersu and Ostrovnoye villages. It started snowing

and an accident happened with one inspector. His snowmobile left the trail and broke through the ice. Luckily, the inspectors managed to take the snowmobile out of the river and continue the patrol. Having arrived at Tuenga recreation centre they discovered a place where unauthorized logging had taken place, with a heap of rubbish. The inspectors drew up a report, seized a motor saw and returned to the inspection station.

On March 21, the inspectors received information that a group of three people was



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Inspectors choose the patrol route

forwarding towards Tuenga recreation centre on a snowmobile. The purpose of their ride was unknown. Three inspectors went to the place to check the obtained information. Only the next day they met three men near the Lesovoznaya river. The people explained they had visited a recreation centre to deliver the food and change a guard there.

Between March 24 and March 28 the mobile team of eight inspectors carried out a regular patrol. While patrolling along the Bolshaya Ussurka river on March 24 the



inspectors met four anglers. No violations were revealed. On March 25, the team conducted a snowmobile patrol towards the Mikula river. During the patrol the inspectors noted a high number of ungulates, mainly red and roe deer. Near the Sukhaya stream a wild boar attacked unexpectedly one of the inspectors, turned his snowmobile upside down and bolted. Fortunately, the inspector was not injured. The team continued the patrol and reached the Mikula river. No infraction was noted. Further movement was considered unreasonable due to melting snow. On March 26, when patrolling from the Levy Mikhailovsky stream to the Agapov stream the inspectors found a carcass of young male red deer. No gunshots were found on the body. The cause of death was not determined. Probably, the animal was not able to find food due to deep snow and died of emaciation and starvation. Later on, the inspectors met two men who were hunting illegally with traps (2 items) and snares (5 items). The inspectors issued two citations on revealed violation and seized the poaching devices. Then, when examining the area near a winter hut, the inspectors found a rifle hidden under the snow. The owner was not identified. The inspector drew up a report and took the rifle to hand it over to the local police office. On March 27, the team members patrolled the Park's border adjoining Dalny Kut village. During a patrol the inspectors checked three winter huts. No violations were revealed. On their way back to the inspectors' station they found a carcass of owl without gunshots. The exact cause of death could not be determined. Upon returning to Dalny Kut village the inspectors hold talks with local people informing them about prohibition of hunting during a period of thin crust of ice over snow.

In April the anti-poaching mobile team of Udege Legend National Park spent 26 days patrolling the territory, issued two citations, and withdrew seven fishing devices and a carbine. Fines totalling 1,000 roubles (\$30) were imposed.

Between April 1 and April 3 the Udege Legend National Park's anti-poaching team

of five inspectors patrolled the park's territory. On April 1, the inspectors visited Dalny Kut village to screen "Conflict Tiger" film for villagers and gave a talk encouraging local people to help the national park and promoting a respect for nature.

On April 2, the inspectors went to the area adjacent to Koreisky spring after receiving the information about a probable violation



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Inspector talk with a local who dumped garbage in the Park

within the protected area. At Dalnecutsky inspector's station four people with two Yamaha snowmobiles were detained. Among the apprehended persons were the owners of "Ust-Armu" recreation centre. They went to the site with the purpose of ice fishing. When checking the men the team found illegal fishing gear along with a licensed and covered rifled barrel. The inspectors issued a citation for violating protected area regime. The gun was not confiscated. The owner left it at his friend's house at Dalny Kut village and the anglers headed for "Ust-Armu" recreation centre on their snowmobiles. Before letting them go the inspectors gave a talk about the necessity of obtaining permits for passing the national park.

On April 3, the team went to "Ust-Armu" recreation centre on snowmobiles to check the group of fishermen that came the day before and revealed no violations. Once again the inspectors reminded the visitors the rules of behaviour in the national park. On their way back the team members



noticed two wild boars and six roe deer on the southern flank of a hill. Later that day, after returning to Dalny Kut the inspectors went on a foot patrol to check the trail leading to Pasechny spring. No violations were registered.

During a patrol from April 3 through April 5 the team of three inspectors worked in the field. On April 4, at 8.30 a.m. the team went to Dersu village. They had a talk with Mr. Bolotin, who was accompanying a group of fishermen. No violations were revealed. The anglers had no haul. Also, the inspectors examined another group of fishermen leaving the recreation site through Dalnekutsky inspectors' station. No violations were revealed. Then, the AP team patrolled the territory around Klunya hill.

On April 5, the team patrolled the area nearby Dalny Kut village up to Koreisky spring. They revealed no violations and set off to Roshino.

A four-day patrol (April 10-April 14) conducted by the team of three inspectors resulted only in several minor violations.

On April 10, the team arrived at Dalny Kut late in the afternoon and went up to Pasechny spring to see if there were any signs of people's presence. On the border of the national park the inspectors checked the area where a prescribed fire had been conducted to remove accumulated fuels and therefore the risk of intense fires in close proximity to the park.

On April 11, in the morning the team went on a foot patrol along the right shore of the Bolshaya Ussurka river to Dalny Kut village. Not far from the village a fishing net was found and the inspectors decided to lay an ambush. But nobody showed up till the evening and the inspectors removed the net. The team got going and soon noticed a car moving towards them. Suddenly a driver rapidly changed the direction and turned his car to the right. There were three people in the vehicle. The team inspected the site where the car had stopped, but found nothing. Judging by the tracks of the car the inspectors deduced that the three men had

approached to the place where the fishing net was set.

On April 12, the team did fire brakes and conducted a prescribed burn (about 120 meters) near Dersu village. In the afternoon a man was detained for walking his dog in the park. The inspectors checked his car and discovered eight cartridges. No weapon was found inside the car. They gave a talk to the man explaining that it was prohibited to take a dog for a walk during that period of time when the forest abounds with pregnant and young animals. Later in the evening the team went to check the territory along Bolshaya Ussurka riverside. No violations were revealed. Near the village the inspectors removed another fishing net set in the water.



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Inspectors discovered abandoned fishing nets

On April 13, during a routine patrol no violations were revealed. The inspectors removed two fishing nets from the backwater. Violators were not identified.

On April 14, the team patrolled along the Park's border up to Dalny Kut village and the territory along Ostrovnoi spring. No violations were revealed. At the apiary of Mr. Gergel the inspectors noticed a tiger track (9 cm paw width). The animal came close to a lodge and a bee house and then retraced its steps.

On April 15-17, the anti-poaching team of three inspectors carried out a many-day



patrol. On April 15, the inspectors headed towards Koreisky spring from Dalny Kut on a patrol vehicle. During the patrol no violations were noted. In the morning of April 16 the team examined the area up to Klunya hill. No marks of trespassing were noticed. The next day the inspectors went to Mr. Gergel's apiary where a bear ravaged five beehives.

On April 21-23, the three inspectors conducted a boat-raid on the Bolshaya Ussurka river for the purpose of marking Park's border. Around Malaya Kosogorka spring the team removed two fishing nets. The violators were not detected.

On April 23-27, the team of four inspectors carried out regular patrols. On April 23, they found three man-made salt licks. The next morning inspectors conducted a prescribed burning of dry grass as a preventive measure to reduce fuel build-up and decrease the likelihood of serious fires. The inspectors gave a warning to a man who was unloading garbage from his vehicle inside the park what is strictly prohibited. On April 25, the team patrolled the flood plain of Chisty and Gryazny springs. No violations were revealed. On April 26, the inspectors headed towards Orochonsky Bog tract. Two recreation sites were observed. No remarks were made. On the way back the team met a forester who reported about a fire he spotted around Pasechny spring. The grassland fire started near Dalny Kut village and shortly spread over Udege Legend territory. The team extinguished the fire rapidly. When patrolling earlier that day the inspectors noticed no fire there, therefore probably one of the villagers committed arson after the team left the territory. On April 27, in the morning the team came back to the place where they had put the fire out. No new hotbeds of fire were revealed.

On April 27 – May 1, the anti-poaching team of three inspectors conducted a controlled filed burn near Dersu village. A strong wind had risen suddenly causing rapid fire spread over the park's area. Local residents joined the park's staff to extinguish the fire. It took two days to ensure the fire was completely put out. On April 29 and 30, the inspectors

conducted a fire-site check near Koreisky spring. No burnings were detected.

In May the anti-poaching mobile team of Udege Legend National Park conducted five many-day patrols, issued eight citations, and withdrew 16 fishing nets, a gear and a carbine.

On May 1 – 6, the team of four inspectors conducted a routine patrol in the Park. On May 1, they headed on a motorboat from the inspectors' station in Dalny Kut village along the Bolshaya Ussurka river. Upon arriving at a recreation centre the inspectors met two groups of people: one was from Khabarovsk city and the other one from Ussuriisk town. The team members gave an explanatory talk on rules of fishing. Then, the inspectors continued their patrol and discovered two fishing nets set on Kondratov stream. Near the scene there were two men, but they objected to the possession of the illegal fishing devices. Then, going upwards the river the inspectors removed four more fishing nets. When reaching Three Sisters Island they stopped a boat with four people aboard. A boat check revealed illegal fishing devices and two empty sacks. The inspectors supposed that it was these people who set the fishing nets that the team had removed earlier. However, it was impossible to prove it. The team forwarded towards Ust-Armu recreation centre to spend a night there.

Next morning they followed Nikolaev stream downward, and then moved towards Arminsky brook. No anglers were spotted. Obviously, they knew that the water was too high and there was no chance to catch anything. The team returned to Ust-Armu recreation centre. On May 3 the team checked one boat with tourists. No violations were revealed. The next day the team divided into two groups. One group conducted a patrol on foot and the other one patrolled along the Beglyanka river outfall where the inspectors removed two fishing nets.

A patrol on foot on May 5 did not reveal any violations. The inspectors checked a winter hut and a salt lick. On May 6 the team



patrolled around Dalny Kut village and met two villagers with fishing net. The inspectors gave a talk on fishing regulations and human behaviour in tiger habitat.

Between May 6 and May 12 the team of four inspectors patrolled on a motorboat. On May 7, the inspectors assisted police officers to investigate illegal logging case. The next day, when patrolling along the Beglyanka river, they discovered four fishing nets, that were set in the river long ago, with rotten fish. The nets were removed and burnt. Then, the inspectors set two warning signs on the Park's border. The stayed overnight in an old log cabin located on the Malaya Kosogorka river bank. Early morning the inspectors went on a patrol to check a cabin near the Bolshaya Kosogorka river. The cabin turned out to have been burnt down. No people were noticed around. On May 10, the team followed the Bolshaya Ussurka river upwards. No violations were revealed. An overnight stay was in a cabin on the Malaya Pikhtovka river bank. During two next days the team checked five salt licks, and removed and burnt one fishing net.

From May 13 through May 20 the team performed a routine patrol concentrating on areas where there were hunting violations filed before. On May 13, the inspectors checked man-made salt licks located in traditional nature use zone. No violations were revealed. On the following day they stopped a man who was fishing from his rubber boat out of season. As the angler did not have a haul, the inspectors issued a warning. On May 15, the team patrolled by two groups. The first one moved by vehicle to reveal violations in the Park, the second went by boat towards Ust-Armu recreation centre. When going upwards the river the inspectors discovered an abandoned fishing net. The net's owner was not determined. The inspectors removed the net and forwarded toward the centre to spend a night there. During the following days they checked two log cabins and removed fishing net.

During a patrol from May 20 through May 25 no violations were revealed. Between May

27 and May 31 the team checked four cabins and one recreation centre, revealed one fishing violation, detained seven people for illegal trespassing and seized four fishing nets and a gear. During a patrol the inspectors spent two days repairing the patrol car. On May 31, the team stopped three people with three metal detectors and a spade. The men told that they were geologists and came to the area to find gold and metal things. They did not have permits to conduct any activities in the national park, but showed a forged document for research work from the state geological committee. The next day the inspectors questioned locals from Dalny Kut village who told that the *geologists* had been digging there for two years hoping to find old archaeological sites. The team tried to detain the diggers again, but they managed to leave the area earlier.

In June the team conducted four many-day patrols, checked 21 people, eight hunter's lodges and seven recreation centres, revealed eight violations of fishing regulations, and seized five fishing nets.

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



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The team members extinguish a fire

owners of the nets were not determined. The inspector removed the nets and set over 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 rumour that a group of poachers were catching fish with fishing nets and electric fishing rods (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 entrance station was flooded. On June 22-July 1 the team members restores the entrance station and took flood prevention measures.

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

Activities	January – June 2009
1. Number of patrols	34
2. Violations documented:	74
2.1. Hunting	58
2.2. Fishing	4
2.3. Logging	10
2.4. Pollution	2
3. Illegal weapons seized and handed over to the police	20 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	2
5. Initiated criminal proceedings	2
6. Fines imposed	\$2,596
7. Fines paid	\$1,258
8. Compensations imposed	\$1,119
9. Compensations paid	\$280

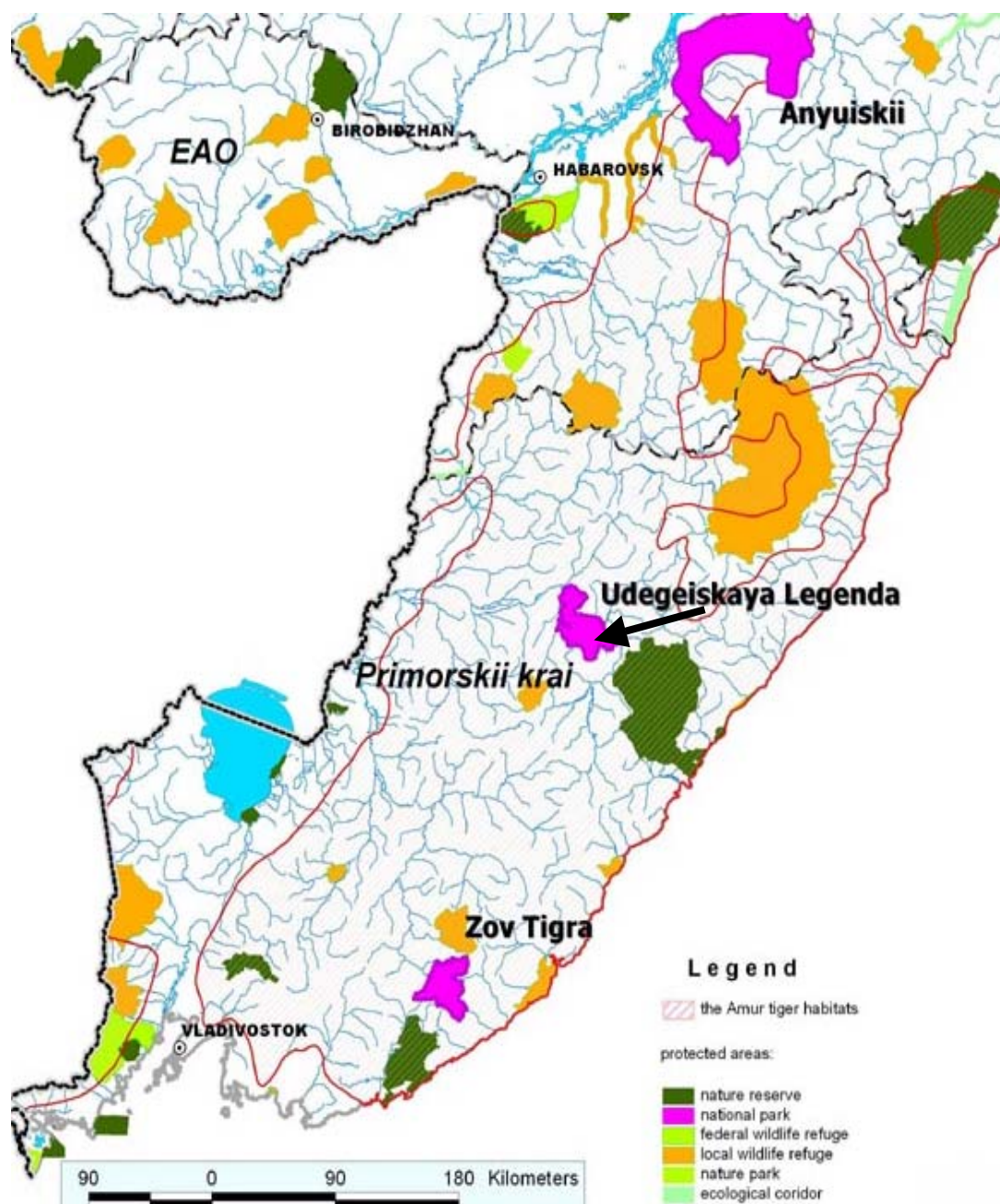
Table 2. Quantitative results of anti-poaching activities in Udege Legend National Park

Activities	January – June 2009
1. Number of patrols	24
2. Violations documented:	32
2.1. Hunting	23
2.2. Fishing	8
2.3. Logging	-
2.4. Illegal intrusion	1
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	31
5.2. Harpoon	1
5.3. Trap	68
5.4. Snare	9
6. Initiated criminal proceedings	1
7. Fines imposed	\$1,500
8. Fines paid	\$1,200
9. Compensations imposed	\$1,829
10. Compensations paid	\$500



Map 1. Protected Areas in Primorsky krai

Udege Legend (Udegeiskaya Legenda) Nature Reserve





Map 2. Udege Legend National Park

