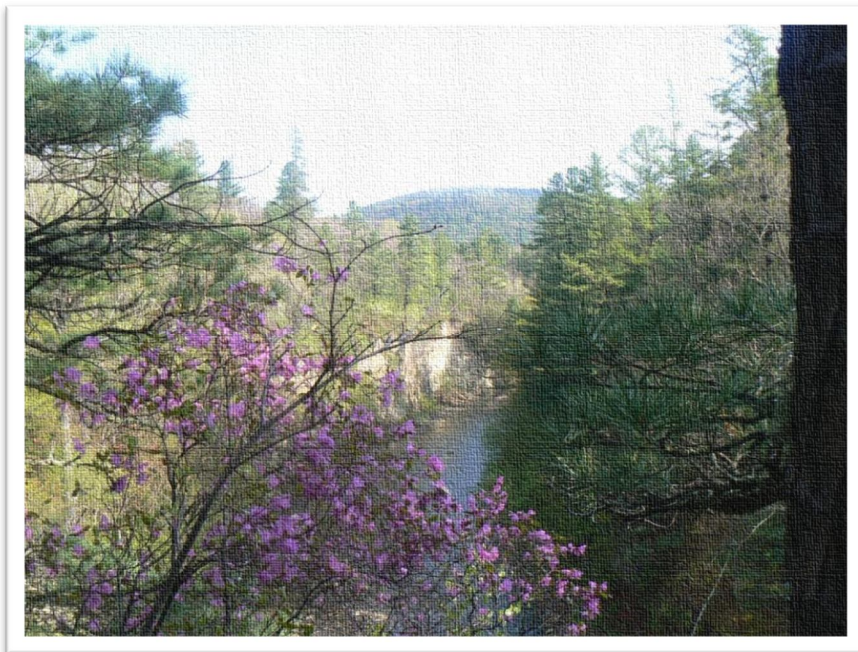




AMUR TIGER CONSERVATION IN ZOV TIGRA NATIONAL PARK IN 2011, RUSSIAN FAR EAST

*Anti-poaching activities and habitat protection in Zov
Tigra National Park*

Interim report (January 1st – June 30th 2011)



Phoenix Fund
July 29, 2011

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Anti-poaching activities and habitat protection in Zov Tigra National Park

I. Project Overview



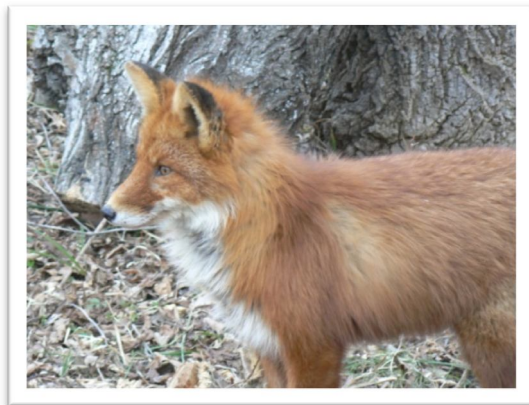
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**Picturesque scenery,
Zov Tigra National Park**

The Zov tигра ("Tiger's Call" or "Roar of the Tiger") National Park was established in Primorsky krai¹, Russian Far East, in 2007 and officially registered in 2008. The 200,000-acre park protects the big cat's habitat while simultaneously allowing for nature tourism. The Park includes a watershed part of the Sikhote-Alin Mountains and the upper reaches of the Ussurka,

¹ Primorsky Krai, informally known as Primorye, is a federal subject of Russia. Primorsky means "maritime" in Russian, hence the region is sometimes referred to as Maritime Province or Maritime Territory. Primorsky Krai, bordered by China, North Korea, and waters of the Sea of Japan, is the southeasternmost region of Russia, located between 42° and 48° north latitude and 130° and 139° east longitude.

Milogradovka, and Kievka rivers. Geographically it is a juncture of three districts: Olginsky, Lazovsky and Chuguevsky with the highest point of Primorsky krai – Oblachnaya Mountain – in the centre. Nature complexes concentrated in the park have no analogues in any other protected area of the Russian Far East: as many as 57 rare and endangered plant species and six mammals, listed in the Red Book, inhabit the protected area. The Park plays a vital role in Amur tiger protection. It is known that over the past



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A fox

century wild tiger numbers dropped from 100,000 to 3,500 today due to adverse human activities. Two years ago a decline tendency was also observed in Amur tiger population. Since then,

improvement of protection measures in tiger source sites was taken as high priority. The Phoenix Fund as well as some its partners paid special attention to 'young' protected areas that were established two or three years ago.

Though the Park was officially registered two years ago, the Federal Government has not been allocating funds for the Park to operate in full force. It is important to provide adequate protection from logging, forest fires, and prevent poaching of ungulates there. Thus, we will be able to ensure well-being for the tigers, their prey and habitat.

The Phoenix Fund has been supporting the Park since its establishment. And thanks to financial support from the Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation and 21st Century Tiger in 2011 we continued providing the Park's anti-poaching teams with fuel and spare and repair parts for patrol vehicles.

The goal of this project is to strengthen anti-poaching and habitat protection activities in Zov Tigra National Park through conducting regular patrols, creating feeding stations for ungulates, preventing forest fires, etc.

Over the past century, wild tiger numbers dropped from 100,000 to about 3,500 today due to adverse human activities. Primorsky krai of

the Russian Far East is the only area in the world where Amur tigers and leopards still exist in the wild. In October 2009, the Wildlife Conservation Society reported about Amur tiger's decline by 40% compared to 2005 estimates. Given that tigers reflect the health of the ecosystems in which they live and on which people depend, we must take immediate and urgent actions, otherwise wild tigers will disappear forever.



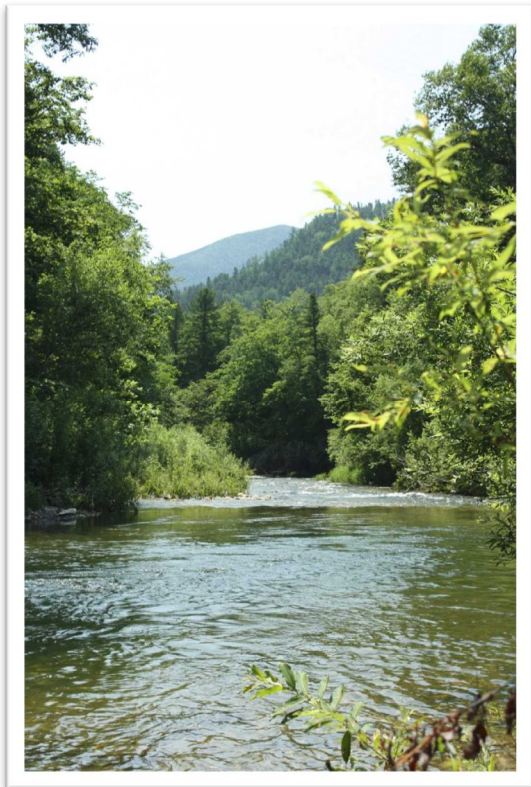
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Amur tiger tracks

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.

Below, we present our interim report with brief description of the anti-poaching efforts and main achievements.

I. Project Activities



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The Milogradovka River

From January 1st through June 30th 2011 the inspectors of Zov Tigra National Park achieved the following results: 173 patrols conducted, six fires put out, and three trespassers detained and fined.

During the first quarter of 2011 the protected area was patrolled by a mobile anti-poaching team and inspectors who were on duty at the inspectors' stations. All in all, the mobile team of Zov Tigra National Park conducted 22 anti-poaching patrols (505 km was covered during foot patrols and 855 km during

vehicle patrols) and the inspectors on duty carried out 53 patrols.

In January, the mobile team carried out seven patrols (90 km – foot patrols, 300 km – vehicle patrols). The inspectors who were on duty at Milogradovsky and Ussury inspectors' stations conducted 18 patrols. Due to deep snow and remoteness of the national park from human habitations, there was no violation revealed in the protected area. In order to increase chances for survival of ungulates during high snow cover conditions the team cleaned 22 km of roads from snow in the Park and 18 km outside its boundaries. It let deer to browse on roadside shrubs. Also, 23 km of roads were cleaned from snow along the Milogradovka River.



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The inspectors put out a forest fire on the adjacent area

In January, the inspectors participated in wildlife census and spotted many gorals.

In February, the mobile team conducted eight patrols (225 km – foot patrols, 255 km – vehicle

patrols). The inspectors who were on duty at Milogradovsky and Ussury inspectors' stations conducted 17 patrols. There was no violation documented in the northern part of the protected area, however the inspectors revealed illegal intrusion by two people into

the southern part of the national park. After following the footprints left by trespassers, the inspectors deduced that they had not come to hunt. In February, the inspector continued counting resident wildlife.

Below, we present the data collected during this winter census:

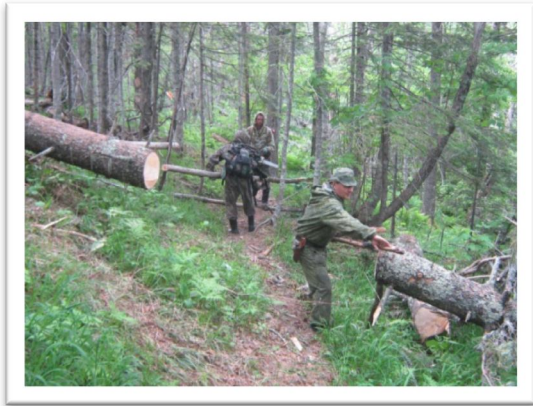
Quantity and range of wildlife in Zov Tigra National Park						
Species	Underwood	Dark coniferous forest	Coniferous –deciduous forest	Swamps, march	Open woodland	Total
Red deer	132	680	357	21	11	1201
Sika deer	14	28	57	-	-	99
Wild boar	20	57	13	-	-	189
Roe deer	11	348	441	-	-	800
Musk deer	7	73		-	-	80
Sable		408	91	8	14	521
White hare	34	630	210	8	32	914
Manchurian hare	13	-	-	-	-	13

According to the census, there are 4 resident Amur tigers in the national park. Also, 4 more tigers visit the protected area on a regular basis.

In March, the mobile team carried out seven patrols (160 km – foot patrols, 300 km – vehicle patrols). Additionally, 18 anti-poaching

patrols were conducted by inspectors on duty at Milogradovsky and Ussury inspectors' stations. Also, the Park's staff conducted 21 patrols (840 km) aimed at preventing forest fires. During the patrols the inspectors put out two agricultural burnings (5 ha) occurred close to the Park's border. Thanks to timely measures and assiduous

efforts by the inspectors no fire reached the Park.



© Phoenix

The inspectors clear forest roads from fallen trees

From April to June, the inspectors, who were on duty at the inspectors' stations, worked 10-day shifts and conducted 36 foot patrols per month. The inspectors of the mobile team conducted 10 patrols.

The Park currently has two motorcycles in its arsenal which allow the inspectors to patrol areas of backcountry. The inspectors on motorcycles conducted off-road patrols through the Park's brushy wilderness areas looking for people engaged in illegal activity. As a result, a number of revealed violations increased significantly. For example, six citations were issued during a patrol.

During the second quarter of 2011 the inspectors put out four forest fires in areas adjacent to

the Park. The most intensive forest fire occurred on May 12. Thanks to timely measures the inspectors managed to prevent the fire from spreading into the national park.

Additionally, during the reported period the following actions were taken:

1. An extra fire water tank was dug out.
2. Forest roads were improved and four wooden bridges were built.
3. An additional feeding station for ungulates was set.
4. Eco-trails and paths used by the inspectors were cleared from fallen trees.
5. Eco-trails were marked with scarlet ribbons which help tourists to find their way and reach destinations.

In order to improve anti-poaching efforts in the Park, in June 2011 the inspectors were trained to work with Monitoring Information System (MIST). MIST software is a tool for support and strengthening of anti-poaching work. It is based on GIS (geographic information system) and allows to analyze patrol work and evaluate it with the help of indicators such as: efforts spent (ex. length of foot or vehicle patrol routes) and results obtained (confiscated guns, that were being used without permit, withdrawn skins, and fines imposed). MIST

has been already introduced in two protected areas of Primorye, namely Kedrovaya Pad-Leopardovy protected area and Lazovsky Nature Reserve. This initiative is a joint project implemented by the Phoenix Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society-Russia Program and Zoological Society of London.

During the training session in June the inspectors of Zov Tigra National Park learned how to work with GPS units, collect MIST data and enter the data into the MIST database. We hope that MIST will be an instrumental tool and help the Park's staff to improve their protection efforts.

Results of protection efforts in Zov Tigra National Park (January – June 2011)

Activity	Quantity
Anti-poaching patrols	173
Trespassers detained	3
Forest fires put out	6
Fines paid	\$220