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Phoenix Fund

“Wildlife conservation in the Russian Far East in 2007”

Final report
January – December 2007



Vladivostok
2007



I. Project Overview

Primorye in the south of the Russian Far East represents the only area in the world where the Siberian tiger still exists in the wild. However, this magnificent species has become threatened in recent years. The insatiable demand for tiger parts is the major driving force behind this trend, but the erosion of habitats, increasing human-tiger conflicts and the illegal hunting of tiger prey are all having a terrible impact. Only an estimated 10% of the tiger population is living in protected areas, this is clearly not enough to sustain the population.

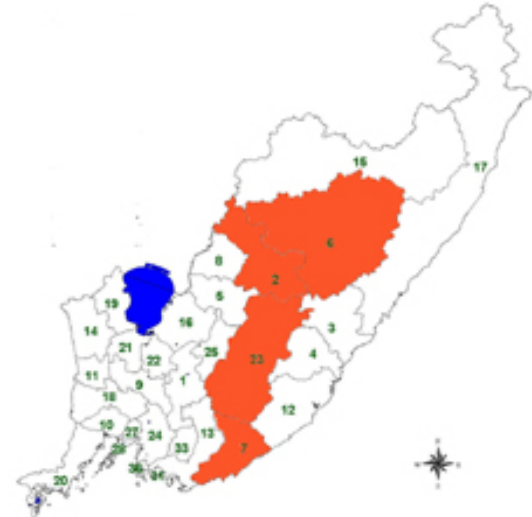
Since the year of its establishment in 1998, the Phoenix Fund has been carrying out nature conservation projects in the south of the Russian Far East, including anti-poaching, forest protection, ecological education and outreach projects. To struggle with poaching and strengthen protection activities 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 Krasnoarmeisky district, the North of Primorye, still rich in wildlife and cedar forests. Recently, the area has become a hotbed for setting up logging practices and trade due to its proximity to the Chinese border. Besides, the team conducts joint patrols with police officers and public volunteers along the borders of Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge. This project has been made possible in 2007 with the support of the KOLMÅRDEN FUND RAISING FOUNDATION, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and 21st Century Tiger.

The project is aimed at strengthening protection activities in tiger habitat by carrying out regular anti-poaching patrols and gaining in support from the local people.

We strongly believe that the continuous anti-poaching activities will help ensure sound protection for the tiger habitat and populations.

II. Project Implementation

Support for Western wildlife managers' team



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Area in red colour is patrolled by the Western wildlife managers' team

The Wildlife managers' team operates in Krasnoarmeisky district, the North of Primorye, still rich in wildlife and cedar forests. Recently, the area has become a hotbed for setting up logging practices and trade due to its proximity to the Chinese border. Besides, the team conducts joint patrols with police officers and private volunteers along the borders of Verkhnebikinsky wildlife refuge. Numerical strength is not strictly fixed. Team leader is Alexander Samoilenko, senior state officer of Hunting Management Department of Rosselkhoznadzor (Primorsky Department of Federal Service for Veterinarian and Vegetation Sanitary Supervision). In June 2007, Udege Legend National Park of federal level was established in the north of Primorye and the Western team was empowered to patrol the Park's borders.

From January 01 to June 30, 2007 the team conducted regular many days patrols in Dalnerechensky, Krasnoarmeisky and Pozharsky districts.

On January 28, 2007 while patrolling Dalnerechensky district near Lobanovka village, the team stopped two trucks loaded



with oak logs. The vehicles' drivers showed felling tickets, official documents that give the right to cut a certain amount of wood on a certain area of forest. After comparing information written in the tickets and given by the drivers, the wildlife managers found out that the wood had been cut illegally because the felling had been carried out in unauthorized area. The wildlife managers confiscated the wood and initiated criminal proceedings on the case.

On January 30, the team patrolled hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district 14 km far from Zimniki village and found a 16-



© Phoenix Fund
Wildlife managers found an abandoned tractor

gauge IZH-18 rifle hidden in a garret of a winter cabin. The wildlife managers also managed to arrest Mr. Davydov, local of Rakitnoye village, who attempted a suicide with his knife during the arrest. He turned out to be a fugitive criminal.

On February 04, near the Lesovoy stream the team arrested two locals of Dalnerechensk town for illegal woodcutting. The violators appeared to be policemen. They had rifles, but no permits to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report, confiscated GAZ-66 truck with oak wood, chainsaw and two rifles, initiated criminal proceedings and brought administrative

action against the violators. Later on, the team stopped a truck loaded with oak and ash wood. The driver did not have any permit. A report was drawn up on illegal logging and criminal proceedings were initiated.

On February 24, a local of Ariadnoye village was arrested for felling 25 Korean pines in the forest close to the village. The wildlife managers drew up a report, confiscated a chainsaw and a tractor DT-75, and initiated criminal proceedings. On February 25, the team patrolled hunting grounds 15 km far from Lubimovka village and stopped a Kamaz truck loaded with 20 logs of precious wood (ash, elm and Manchurian walnut). The driver did not have permits. The driver and the truck were accompanied to the police station of Rakitnoye village for further investigation. Criminal proceedings were initiated.

On February 28, the team arrested three men for illegal logging in water protection zone of Malinovka village. The wildlife managers drew up a report on the fact that the loggers had violated wildlife habitat protection regulations, and made each violator pay a fine.

On March 15, the team patrolled Krasnoarmeisky district and arrested Mr. Egorov for transporting a 7.62-gauge carbine "Tiger" during closed hunting season. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations and imposed a fine on the violator.

On March 22, the team returned in Dalnerechensky district and arrested a local of Solovievka village for illegal hunting with his 7.62-gauge carbine during closed hunting season. The violator was made to pay a fine.



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Wildlife managers' team checks hunters

On March 23, while patrolling in Krasnoarmeisky district near Gogolevka village, the wildlife managers found five heads of roe deer, entrails and a shoulder blade. The wildlife managers followed the tracks left by two cross-country vehicles and found five roe deer skins and cartridge cases. Later, the team members found two cross-country vehicles in Dalnerechensk town at one of maintenance stations. The vehicles were seized and criminal proceedings were initiated according to Article 258 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

On April 04, the team patrolled the hunting grounds of Khorolsky hunting and fishing society and arrested Mr. Dotsenko for illegal hunting with a 16-gauge IZH-58 rifle and 13 cartridges. The man did not have gun license or permit to hunt. The wildlife managers confiscated the rifle and handed it over to Khorolsky police department, and imposed a fine on the violator. On the same day two locals of Khorol village were arrested in the hunting grounds of Khorolsky hunting and fishing society for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. The violators paid a fine.

On April 05, the wildlife managers patrolled hunting grounds in Krasnoarmeisky district near Limonniki village and arrested Mr. Pilipchuk, owner of Limonniki Ltd., with a rifle and meat of roe deer killed during closed hunting season. The violator paid a fine for violations of hunting regulations. Several hours later the team found meat of two poached red deer 8 meters far from a

logging camp. There was a local of Boguslavets village inside who worked as a security guard at Limonniki Ltd. A report was drawn up on administrative violation. On the same day, 200 meters far from Limonniki village the team members found a 20-gauge Izh-18 gun hidden in the snow. The wildlife managers initiated an administrative investigation.

On April 06, at 3 p.m. while patrolling hunting grounds in Khankaisky district, the team arrested a group of four men on the bank of the Melgunovka river. The arrested people turned out to have come from Sakhalin island. The violators had rifles, but no permits to hunt. Then, three men were arrested for unauthorized logging near Vostok village. The wildlife managers drew up a report on the fact that Mr. Naumov, Mr. Vasiliev and Mr. Zubal had violated wildlife habitat protection regulations, and made each violator pay a fine. At 5 p.m. the team arrested more three hunters from Khabarovsk city for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. The wildlife managers drew up reports and imposed a fine on each violator.



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Illegal logging storage yard

On April 07, the team found red deer meat at log stockyard 70 kilometers from Glubinnoye village. The wildlife managers brought administrative action against Mr. Syromolot. On the same day, the team arrested Mr. Sedyakin for illegal hunting during closed hunting season. Hunting on thin crust of ice over snow and using a dog, the violator had killed a roe deer. The wildlife managers drew up a report and imposed a fine in him.



On April 13, while patrolling hunting grounds of Khorolsky hunting and fishing society, the team arrested two men for illegal presence with rifles in protection zone of state nature reserve at 8 p.m. The violators paid a fine.



© Phoenix Fund
Confiscated roe deer heads

On April 14, Mr. Lesovoy was arrested for illegal hunting. The violator had poached a duck. The wildlife managers drew up a report and imposed a fine on him. Later on, the team arrested a local of Kamen-Rybolov town for illegal hunting near the Melgunovka river. The violator did not have a gun license and a permit to hunt. On the same day the wildlife managers arrested a man with fishing nets near Khanka lake and imposed a fine on him for violations of fishing regulations.



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Wildlife managers found poached deer

On April 15, the wildlife managers arrested Mr. Yatsenko with a 12-gauge Toz-34 EP

rifle for hunting waterfowl in hunting grounds of Ivanovsky hunting and fishing society without permits.

On May 06, the team worked in the vicinity if Glubinnoye village in Krasnoarmeisky district and stopped a man who roamed with a gun in hunting grounds during closed hunting period. He paid a fine. On May 07, the officers detained Mr. Besedin who fished with nets during spawning season, which is illegal. The nets were destroyed and a report drawn up against the violator.

On May 08, by the Bezimyanny spring in Krasnoarmeisky district the rangers imposed a fine on a man who cut trees illegally. The same day they made up an administrative report on a man who killed three lenok fishes with a harpoon during spawning season. He paid a fine and compensated damages.

On May 10, the patrolmen went down the



© Phoenix Fund
Confiscated snow mobiles

Bikin river in Pozharsky district. In the neighborhood of Krasny Yar village they stopped Mr. Saronov who fished with nets during spawning season. They confiscated the nets and made up a report on the man.

On May 11, in the same area in a hunting hut the team detained a Vladivostok resident for being armed during closed hunting season. He had to pay a fine.

On May 12, while descending the Bikin river close to the Okhotnichy spring the rangers



found a shotgun and started investigation. They identified the owner – Mr. Titov, resident of Dalnerechensk town.

On June 14, on a patrol in the hunting grounds of Dalnerechensky district 40 km far from Ariadnoye village near a camp where several people temporarily live the officers revealed rather a large lot of arms: a man-made rifled gun, two smoothbore guns, a stock for a smoothbore gun and “Kenwood” radio set. They handed the things to a police station of Dalnerechensky district, identified an owner and initiated a criminal procedure against him.

On June 22, the team followed the tracks of a heavy truck and discovered at 10 km from Lyubitovka village an illegal logging site with a storehouse of Korean pines and nut wood in the amount of 24 assortments. The officers forwarded a report to Dalnerechensky district police station where they opened a criminal case.



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Checking a logging site

On June 24, not far from the previous illegal logging site the rangers found another one, in the flood of Lyubitovka village. They saw 22 fallen and cut Korean pine and ash trees, passed them to a district police station and made up documents for starting a criminal investigation.

On June 28, the wildlife officers headed on a patrol around Dalnerechensky district and 20 km far from Ariadnoye village they took notice of unwarranted logging site with oak and ash trees cut and decked in the forest.

Following the tracks they discovered a tractor DT-35 and a portacabin. Inside were some lumbermen who explained that Mr. Kalinovskiy, villager from Malinovka, had hired them. 17 full-length logs were forwarded to Dalnerechensky district police station. Criminal case was instituted on the fact. The same day the team discovered a hidden in the forest truck DT-75. The rangers drove it to Dalnerechensky district police station. The police identified the owner of the vehicle and established that it had made substantial harm to nature (destruction of undergrowth). The violator compensated damages.

The team served as witnesses in court hearings of the criminal case on theft of timber from Dalnerechensky forestry that took place on February 04, 2007. Mr. Dubitskiy, the accused, got a conditional sentence of a year with a probation period of 6 months. He also has to pay \$6,990 to the state.

In September the team conducted seven patrols, revealed two cases of illegal woodcutting and 12 cases of illegal hunting, seized four “Husqvarna” chainsaws, five DT-75 tractors, eight “Kenwood” radio stations and seven rifles. Two criminal proceedings were initiated against illegal loggers.

On September 01, while patrolling Dalnerechensky district the Western wildlife managers’ team arrested two logging teams (14 people of Vedenka village and Dalnerechensk city) for illegal logging 20 km far from Vedenka village. The team seized three “Husqvarna” chainsaws, three DT-75 tractors and five “Kenwood” radio stations. The total damage of felled trees (oak, linden, ash tree) was 1,200,000 rubles (\$47,060). Criminal proceedings were initiated on the case.

On September 12, at 18:00 the team apprehended six locals of Malinovo village for illegal logging near the Verkhnyaya kontora stream. The wildlife managers confiscated two DT-75 tractors, one “Husqvarna” chainsaw and two “Kenwood” radio stations. In addition, several log stockyards were found close to the place of



apprehension. Based on these facts criminal proceedings were initiated.

For the period September 14 - 21 the team was repairing its car (front axle and fuel system).

On September 23, the wildlife managers stopped a jeep near the Dikarka stream in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district. The jeep's owner turned out to be a local of Glubinnoye village. He had a rifle IZH-27, 12-gauge without a license and a permit to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report on administrative violation, seized the rifle and handed it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office for further investigation.



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Seized illegal firearms

On September 24, at 11:25 a.m. Mr. Tregub was arrested with a carbine for illegal hunting near the Berezovy stream in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district. A report on administrative violation was drawn. On the same day later two men were arrested for illegal hunting near the Taborny stream. They had two rifles, but no gun licenses and permits to hunt. The rangers drew up two reports on violations of hunting regulations. Several minutes later the team apprehended Mr. Rykovsky with a rifle TOZ-106, 20-gauge and Mr. Manislov with a rifle "Vepr-308" near the Berezovy stream. The violator did not have a permit to hunt. In the evening, at 8:00 p.m. a jeep was stopped near the Velinku River. There was an unsheathed "Saiga" shotgun inside the vehicle. The jeep's owner did not have a permit to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report on administrative violation.

On September 25, while patrolling the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district the team arrested Mr. Nezhdanov with IZH-58 rifle (with erased manufacturing number) near the Armu river. The violator did not have a gun license and a permit to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations, seized the rifle and handed it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office for further investigation. On the same day, at 4:50 p.m. near the Podtverzhdnie stream the team arrested Mr. Kuligin, local of Molodezhnoye village, game-keeper of "Kerry Trade Service" hunting lease, with a dog, a 16-gauge TOZ rifle and poached squirrel. The man did not have a permit to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations, seized his rifle and handed it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office for further investigation. One hour later on the same place the team stopped a car. The car's owner had a rifle, but no permit to hunt. A report on violation of hunting regulations was drawn.

On September 26, the wildlife managers were patrolling the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district when they met Mr. Vologtanin in the upper Valenky river who was hunting illegally. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations and seized a rifle.

On September 29, at 7:30 a.m. the team arrested Mr. Garbuz with a 12-gauge IZH-27 rifle for illegal hunting near Shiroky stream. The rifle was confiscated and forwarded to Krasnoarmeisky police office.

In October the Western wildlife managers' team conducted patrols in Dalnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts of Primorye, revealed 10 violations of hunting regulations, seized 6 illegal rifles, 10 poached squirrels and 2 hazel grouses. In addition, the team's members revealed one violation of fishing regulation, seized two fishing nets and 5 fish (lenok species). While patrolling in Dalnerechensky district, the team revealed five unauthorized logging, seized 2 tractors and 2 chainsaws. In Krasnoarmeisky district the wildlife managers arrested illegal loggers 500



meters far from Tazhny wildlife refuge, seized a tractor and a chainsaw.

In October 01-November 10 the Western wildlife managers' team in cooperation with public rangers and police officers operated in Dalnerechenskyh, Pozharsky and Krasnoarmeisky regions of Primorye.

On October 11, while patrolling Dalnerechensky district the team stopped an URAL vehicle 3 km from Lubimovka village. The vehicle was loaded with oak wood. The vehicle's owner confessed to an illegal logging.

On October 12, the team was patrolling in Krasnoarmeisky district, when the wildlife managers detained a local from Roschino village who was woodcutting illegally 50 km far from Tazhny wildlife refuge. The violator fell oak trees without a proper permit. The wildlife managers seized a *Husqvarna* chainsaw, a tractor DT-75 and a loaded rifle MTS 21, 12-gauge. The man did not have a gun license. The team transported the perpetrator to Krasnoarmeisky police office for further investigation.

On October 13, the team conducted a patrol in Dalnerechensky district and spotted an illegal logging 10 km far from Savinovka village. The loggers fell 50 cubic meters of lime-tree and walnut tree. A tractor DT-75 was found close to a logging site. The team rangers forwarded information on illegal logging to Dalnerechensky police department.

On October 22, ten kilometers close to Lubimovka village two men were detained for illegal woodcutting. One violator was a resident of Zimniki village, the other was from Malinovo village. The perpetrators harvested 100 cubic meters of lime-tree, walnut tree and oak. The wildlife managers seized a tractor DT-75 and a *Husqvarna* chainsaw, and forwarded all materials to Dalnerechensky police office.

On October 25, while patrolling the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district, the team apprehended a resident of Roschino village with a rifle IZH-94, 12 gauge. As the

man did not have a gun license and a permit to hunt, the wildlife managers seized the rifle and handed it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office.

On October 16, a local of Boguslavets village with a rifle was arrested 15 km far from Limonniki village. His gun license was overdue. The violator was charged with an administrative violation. On the same day, while patrolling the hunting grounds of Pozharsky district, the team detained three men for illegal hunting. The men were hunting during closed hunting season and killed 10 squirrels and two hazel grouse. Two illegal rifles were seized and forwarded to a local police office. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violations of hunting regulations on each poacher.



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Team leader checks a gun license

On October 27, the team carried out a patrol in Krasnoarmeisky district and 30 km far from Limonniki village apprehended a man with a rifle IZH-18, 20-gauge. The violator did not have a permit to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations. Several hours later, 5km far from Limonniki village the team apprehended a man with a rifle and dogs for illegal ungulate hunting. The violator did not have a permit to hunt, and a serial number of the rifle was removed. The wildlife managers seized the rifle and charged the poacher with an administrative violation. On the same day, a resident of Limonniki village was arrested in the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district for illegal hunting with dogs and a rifle. The violator did not have a permit to hunt and a gun license.



On October 28, the wildlife managers patrolled the hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district and apprehended a man for illegal hunting near the Amazonka stream. No proper permits were on him. The violator was charged with an administrative violation. On the same day, a resident of Lesozavodsk town was detained with two fishing nets and five fish species. The wildlife managers seized the nets, drew up a report on violation of fishing regulations and forward all materials to local fishing inspection.

On November 02, while patrolling Pozharsky district, at 4:55 p.m. the team found a rifle TOZ-BM hidden in a tree hollow, 30 km far from a cabin of logging camp. The rifles was seized and handed over to Krasnoarmeisky police office for further investigation.



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Confiscated traps

On November 04, near the Udachny stream a group of three hunters was detained. One violator had a rifle “Belka”, 5.6-gauge, without a gun license. The men also had a fake hunting ticket. The wildlife managers drew up a report on each violator, seized the rifle and forwarded all documents to local police department for further investigation. Some hours later, near the Vankin stream the team apprehended a local of Limonniki village with a rifle TOZ-17,

32-gauge. The violator killed two squirrels without a permit to hunt and a gun license. He was charged with an administrative violation. The wildlife managers seized the rifle and forwarded all materials to Krasnoarmeisky police office. In the evening of the same day the team found meat of poached roe deer in woodcutting area of Gerasimenko Ltd. The employees told that it was the director who had killed roe deer. The team drew up a report, confiscated poached meat and forwarded all documents to local police office for further investigation.

On November 05, a man was apprehended with a rifle IZH-58, 12-gauge near the Nezametny stream. The violator did not have a gun license and a permit to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report on violation of hunting regulations, seized the rifle and handed it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office. Later on, a hunter was detained near the Malinovsky stream for illegal hunting. The poacher had entrails, hinder, hide and legs of red deer, and traps for hunting musk deer. The perpetrator did not have a gun license and a permit to hunt. The wildlife managers drew up a report, seized the rifle and handed it over to Krasnoarmeisky police office.

On November 06, a man was apprehended for hunting without a permit. A rifle TOZ-BM, 16-gauge was seized and forwarded to a local police office. On November 07, a local of Kavalerovo village was detained with a 16-gauge smoothbore in hunted grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district. The violator did not have a permit to hunt and a gun license. He was charged with an administrative violation. On the same day a man with two rifles was arrested for illegal hunting near Melnichnoye village.

In December, the Western wildlife managers' team in cooperation with the staff of hunting leases and private inspectors conducted joint patrols in Pozharsky and Krasnoarmeisky districts, Northern Primorye to reveal violations of hunting regulations. In total, the team revealed 12 violations of hunting regulations and seized seven rifles and poached wildlife.



On December 12, the combined team detained a man who was hunting with dogs without proper permits near Krasny Yar village. The team members imposed an administrative penalty on the violator. After a couple of hours, the team apprehended a man near the Sidatun stream who was hunting ungulates with dogs without permit.

On December 13, at 11:00 a.m. a resident of Sobolinoye village with a 16-gauged rifle IZH-17 was detained near the Zvonky stream (Pozharsky district). The violator had no gun license and permit to hunt. On December 13, while patrolling hunting grounds of Pozharsky district the combined team detained Mr. Volynkin near Yasenevoye village. The violator was hunting ungulates with a rifle IZH-17, 16-gauge without proper permits. In the same area the team arrested one more violator for hunting without permits. Then, near Soboliny village the team rangers arrested a man with meat of poached wild boar. When the team patrolled the Tokhalo stream, they arrested a man who had killed an Asiatic black bear and red deer. The perpetrator had no gun license and permit to hunt. The team rangers drew up a report and imposed a fine on the violator. On the same day at 3:00 p.m. the Western team apprehended a local of Bolshoy Kamen town. The perpetrator was hunting with a 16-gauged double-barrel rifle near the Serenevy stream. Later, at 5:00 p.m. the team was patrolling the hunting grounds of Pozharsky district, when the team members noticed a man with a rifle. The man turned out to be a local of Yasenevoye village who was hunting with a rifle IZH-18 without a permit.

On December 17, at the afternoon, the team rangers seized a rifle IZH-18, 12-gauge from Mr. Anisimov near Svetlogorye village. The detained man had no gun license and a permit to hunt. On December 27, while patrolling hunting grounds of Krasnoarmeisky district, the combined team detained a local of Dalny Kut village with 10 safes and 2 illegal rifles. On December 29, the rangers apprehended a man who had killed a roe deer with an illegal rifle.

III. Measurable objectives delivered

For the reported period, the project has successfully delivered the following measurable objectives:

- 36 many days patrols were conducted;
- 81 reports on violations of hunting regulations were drawn up;
- 28 shotguns were confiscated;
- 15 criminal proceedings initiated.

IV. Acknowledgement

This project is the result of joint efforts of many people and organizations. Thanks to support from the Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation, we expanded the borders of the protection work in the Amur tiger habitat and helped keep the Amur tiger population stable in 2007. This project desperately needs continued support. We show our appreciation to Mr. Thomas Lind for all patience and assistance and hope for our fruitful co-operation in the future.



ATTACHMENT

Results of Western team for 2007

Activity	January-December 2007
Patrols conducted	36
Violations documented:	
- Hunting	81
- Fishing	6
- Forest resources	22
Illegal guns withdrawn	28
Poached animals	
Musk deer	7
Red deer	6
Wild boar	2
Roe deer	2
Fir animals (squirrel, sable)	21
Feather game	3
Bear	1
Fish	5
Poaching devices seized	
Tractor	11
Chainsaw	9
Fishing nets	2
Radio stations	7
Criminal proceedings initiated	15
Violators already convicted	2