



# Phoenix Fund

## Wildlife Conservation in the Russian Far East in 2010: Udege Legend National Park

Final report  
January – December 2010



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## I. Project Overview

Over the past century, wild tiger numbers dropped from 100,000 to about 3,500 today due to adverse human activities. Primorsky region 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, people must take immediate and urgent actions, otherwise wild tigers will disappear forever.

In 2009, we started a new project - support for the federal-level Udege Legend National Park. The 88,600 ha national park was created in June 2007 in the north-east of Primorye with the purpose of conserving the practically virgin taiga forests, and the unique lifestyle and culture of the Udege people, local aborigines few in number. According to 2004 tiger census (WCS-WWF), there is a high density of 50 tigers in Krasnoarmeisky district. The census conducted in the Udege Legend National Park showed that 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.

The purpose of the project is to strengthen anti-poaching and habitat protection activities in Udege Legend National Park through conducting regular patrols and supplying rangers with fuel and spare parts. The new Park desperately needs support from NGOs as the Federal Government has not yet allocated enough funds for the Park to work in full force and in the most efficient way. Since the park's creation, Phoenix has been supporting anti-poaching activities in the protected area. The inspectors conducted regular patrols to prevent poaching and fires and reacted promptly to any related information. They also helped resolve predator-human conflicts and emergencies (people disappeared in taiga, first aid etc) and have explanatory talks with the local communities. The teams patrolled

the Park on a daily basis by vehicle, boat and on foot. They checked visitors and stopped illegal woodcutting. In 2010, with the help from the Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger, a snowmobile was purchased for law enforcement inspectors to patrol the area after major snowfalls, conduct winter animal surveys and organize rescue operations to save ungulates stuck in snowdrifts. Within the framework of the project, the anti-poaching brigades of the Park were provided with fuel for patrols and spare parts for their vehicles.



© Phoenix Fund  
Laulinsky prizhim famous rock  
at the Udege Legend Park

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. This report contains information about the anti-poaching activities in Udege Legend National Park from January 1 through December 31, 2010.

## II. Project Implementation

### Support for anti-poaching team of Udege Legend National Park

In the course of the project we managed to approach the goals, which are: to enhance protection of the tiger prey populations and habitat in Northern Primorye, and to decrease the number of poachers and wildlife traders. Below, we present the description of the major anti-poaching activities for the reported period. Anti-poaching data for 2010 show that there has been a reduction in violations revealed in

the Park compared with last year (see Graph 1). How can we explain this change? The point is that when the Park's guardians began patrol the areas in 2008 they met a lot of local people who disobeyed laws, went hunting or fishing illegally in the Park, and most of them even never heard about establishment of this new protected area. Thus, law enforcement officers spent a lot of time explaining holidaymakers and tourists the rules of human behavior during their stay in the national park and issued warning notices for trespassing or wearing firearms. After awhile, local people became aware about the Park and protection division that ensures strict protection of natural resources there. To summarize, a reduction in violations revealed in the Park in 2010 is a result of anti-poaching efforts in the previous year.

### January

In January, the law enforcement personnel of the Park conducted five many-day patrols and revealed two violations (trespass and illegal possession of weapon). Protecting wildlife habitat and revealing new-built winter huts/hunter's lodge was a priority for the guardians. All in all, they checked existing winter huts twelve times and visited recreation centres six times for inspection.



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Guardians issue an administrative citation

On December 30, 2009 the team consisting of three people patrolled the area up to the Frolov stream and in the evening returned to the ranger's station at Dalny Kut village. The next three days were spent patrolling the area by snowmobiles on the following routes: Dersu village – mouth of the Armu river, mouth of the Armu river – the

Lesovoznaya river, mouth of the Armu river – the Krasnoarmeisky stream. On January 3, the Park's guardians broke a trail from Dersu village to the Kondratov stream through the Bolshaya Ussurka distributaries. That trail was important for further wildlife census to be held in the Park later on. On January 4, the team members did patrol car maintenance and harvested firewood to heat the ranger's station. On January 5, the team returned to the Park's headquarters in Roschino village.

On January 6, the team of four men set off for a patrol and examined the area up to the Beglyanka River. No violations were revealed. The next day the guardians conducted a snowmobile patrol near the mouth of the Armu River, checked Ust-Arminskaya recreation centre and hunters lodges at the mouth of the Malaya Pikhtovka river. No violations were revealed. On January 8, the team divided into two groups to conduct snowmobile patrols in two places. One group started to break a trail towards the Bolshaya Ussurka River. The other one moved towards Orochensky bog, place of worship and famous tourist attraction site. The next day the law enforcement personnel continued breaking trails. Over the next two days the team patrolled along Dalny Kut - the Frolov stream - the Agapov stream route. No violations were revealed. On January 12, the guardians checked potential violation spots near the Koreisky stream. No signs of illegal hunting or human presence were observed.

On January 13-14, the team made up of four law enforcement officers patrolled along Dersu village-the Agapov stream- the Frolov stream route. No violations were revealed. On January 15, the team conducted a snowmobile patrol from Dersu village to the Mikhailovsky stream, visited Mr. Shevkin, local beekeeper and made a warning notice to keep his dog on a leash. While on snowmobile patrol on January 16, the team stopped a snowmobile with two people, one of which had a gun. The law enforcement officers issued two citations on the violators for trespass and illegal possession of weapon. Patrolling during the next three days did not reveal any violations.



**Wildlife census**

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On January 20, the team of six people, including specialist on eco-tourism set off for a patrol. On January 21, the team divided into two groups. One group of three law enforcement officers helped a tractor driver to prepare a tractor and use it to clear roads. Then the three officers patrolled the road running inside the Park. In the evening they saw spotlight and blocked the road. When they stopped a car, they saw journalists from regional TV channel who came there to shoot a film about Old Believers. As for the second group, which consisted of two guardians and the specialist of eco-tourism, it arrived at the Bolotny stream and stayed in a winter hut. During the next four days the first group patrolled the area along Dalny Kut village – the Agapov stream – the Frolov stream. The members of the second team cleaned trails following the stream upwards. No violations were revealed.

From January 25 to February 1, the team of four law enforcement officers patrolled the area. During the patrol a big number of wild animals were observed. No violations were revealed.

## February

In February, the law enforcement staff carried out five many-day anti-poaching patrols and revealed no violations. Prevention of any violations, collection of biological samples and participation in wildlife census and tiger monitoring program took top priority over all other activities. On the whole, the law enforcement service coped with the task. A lack of violations in February could be explained by several reasons, such as: 1) the Park's roads were

still covered with snow which made northern, eastern and southern Park's boundaries inaccessible for poachers; 2) the law enforcement personnel patrolled the areas on a regular basis on the whole Park's area because of wildlife census and other scientific work taking place in the Park.

On February 1, the law enforcement personnel of the Park went to pass "qualifying exams" in order to continue conducting anti-poaching patrols. From February 2 through February 5 the team of four officers patrolled the Park's area to prevent trespass or illegal hunting. While moving along the Park's road the guardians observed numerous tracks of wild animals, mostly roe deer and red deer. No violations were revealed. On February 6, during the daytime the team members repaired their snowmobiles and in the evening patrolled on the road till 8 p.m. No movement was recorded. On the following day the law enforcement officers patrolled by two groups. One of the groups detained a trespasser and made a warning notice that presence on the protected area without entry permit is strictly prohibited.



**Hard winter conditions**

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From February 8 through February 11, the team of four men patrolled inside and along the perimeter of the Park. No violations were revealed.

On February 12, the team set off for a night patrol and discovered a place where a sika deer had been supposedly killed. Judging by tracks, the violators were hunting on the road while operating a vehicle. The poachers allegedly put the dead animal in their car, without skinning it. When the

officers returned to the scene on the following day, they ascertained that there were several people involved in poaching. The guardians took photos of tire tracks and footprints to identify violators. They followed vehicle tracks leading to Ostrovnoye village, however could not find the vehicle in the human settlement. A villager told that he had seen a man driving that vehicle but the suspect disappeared since February 12. The anti-poaching team split up into two groups. One group patrolled on the road, the other one made an ambush at the spot where the deer had been killed. Unfortunately, the violator was not noticed anywhere.



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**Immobilization of tigress for transportation and further release into the wild**

On February 15, the team of three officers set off for a patrol. No violations were revealed. On the following day the law enforcement officers found fresh tiger tracks (pad width of 8 cm) and collected tiger scats for further analysis by scientists according to an agreement signed between the Udege Legend National Park and Severtsev's Ecology and Evolution Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. During the next two days no violations were revealed. On February 18, the Park staff assisted a group of scientists in transporting and

releasing a tigress. Earlier, she was captured because of her frequent comings to human settlements and examined by veterinarians. As she was concluded to be rather healthy, she was released near the Park's boundaries deep in the forest with no access to villages.

On February 15, while patrolling the area near the Bolotny stream the team of four officers spotted fresh tracks of two red deer and two tigers (with pad width of 11 cm and 8 cm). On the following day the team members found fresh tracks of lynx and noted bear claw scratches on the trees. On February 17-19, they found tracks of tigresses (pad width of 8 cm) and tiger tracks (pad width of 1 cm) and many marks of bear presence (dens and claw marks). On February 23, the team split up into two groups. One group collected biological samples and participated in wildlife counts. The other group discovered a den where a tigress with a one-year cub lived. The officers recorded coordinates using the GPS unit and took photos of the den.

On February 22 – March 1, the team of three law enforcement officers patrolled the Park, stopped two vehicles for inspection, and revealed no violations. The guardians noticed that thin crust of snow hinders ungulates in their efforts to move. Searching for forage, the hoofed animals were driven to flood plains. During the many day patrol, the team members observed many wild boar and roe deer herds (4-6 individuals in each herd) moving towards farmers' fields.

### March

In March-April, the law enforcement staff carried out nine many-day anti-poaching patrols, checked 39 park visitors, revealed two violations, withdrawn one illegal rifle. Existing winter huts/hunter's lodges were inspected 23 times during the reported period.

On March 1-8, 2010 the team made up of four law enforcement officers patrolled along Dalny Kut – Agapov spring – Levomikhailovsky spring - Dersu village route. On March 2, while the team was repairing a snowmobile a vehicle passed by. The inspectors caught up the car but the driver had no park visit permit therefore an

administrative report was written. Later the two inspectors went on a patrol to a tourist recreation site and noticed unleashed dogs. The first warning was made to a camp's guards who put the dogs on chains immediately. During the rest of the patrol the team was inspecting the territory of the national park on a snowmobile or on skis.



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**Hanging information signs  
along the Park boundaries**

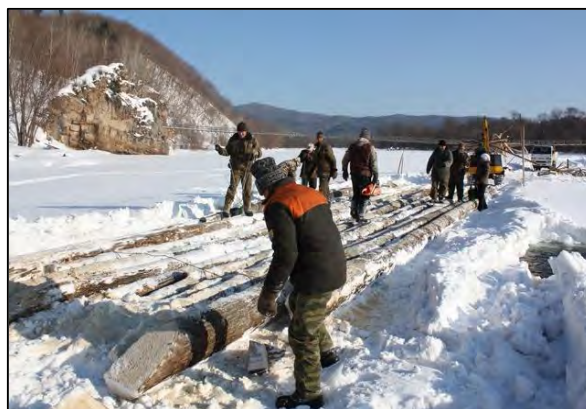
No violations were revealed.

On March 8-15, 2010 another groups of inspectors relieved the previous shift. For the first three days of the patrol no violations were registered. On March 11, the inspectors stopped a truck with a snowmobile in a trailer. After a check the inspectors found out that a truck was delivering a snowmobile and building materials to a tourist station. The driver had a park entrance permit. On March 12, the team noticed the tracks of a snow mobile leading to the park. The inspectors followed the tracks but the trespassers had already left the territory of the park.

On a patrol March 15-22, the team revealed no violations of protected area regime. On March 22, the four inspectors carried out a patrol along Dersu village and found the traces of two poached ungulates dragged along the ground that were slightly powdered with snow. On March 23, the five inspectors headed towards "Sebuchari" camp for the patrol while two other inspectors were conducting the investigation of traces found the day before. For the rest of the many-days patrol no infringements were registered.

On March 29, the mobile team made up of three inspectors started the anti-poaching patrol in Dalny Kut village heading towards Dersu village. On their way the inspectors met Mr. Kyalunziga who carried an illegal smoothbore rifle. The violator handed it over to the inspectors voluntarily and said he had just found it in the forest. An administrative citation was issued and the rifle was apprehended. On March 30, the team conducted a check at Mikhailovsky spring to make sure there were no illegal infringements.

## April



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**Park staff makes crossing over  
the Bolshaya Ussurka river**

On April 1, the team patrolled along the Dalny Kut village – Ostrovnoe village route and noticed the track of a vehicle. Having followed the tracks the inspectors revealed no violations. On April 2, the team was on duty at Bolshaya Ussurka River crossing.<sup>1</sup> During the last three days of the patrol no violations were revealed.

For seven days (April 5-12) the team of three inspectors was conducting a patrol on the Dalny Kut village - Agapov spring – Zabolotnoe hole – Dersu village route. The detected no cases of infringement.

On April 12-19, the team spent eight days patrolling the Udege Legend national park and on the adjacent territories. On April 13, the team participated in training on controlled burning and fire-safety. In the

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<sup>1</sup> In order to get to the Park one must cross the Bolshaya Ussurka River. In winter, when the river freezes over, the Park's inspectors make crossing over the river using logs, so that local villagers and visitors to the Park could cross the ice in their vehicles.

morning, on April 18, the team conducted a talk with the residents of Dersu village on fire-safety rules and was on duty at Koreisky hole the rest of the day. During the patrol no violations were registered.

On April 19-26, the mobile team of four inspectors carried out a regular patrol and during the seven days registered no infringements. On April 27, after a one day of anti-poaching patrol the inspectors worked on creation of fire-breaks. The rest of the patrol (till April 30) the team were either on duty or conducted the controlled burnings to prevent fires from penetrating into the Park from the adjacent areas.

### May

On May 3-10, a team of three rangers went on a patrol in the vicinity of Dersu village on the Park territory, made a check-point at the



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**Inspectors conduct controlled burn**

only road to stop violators from bringing poached animals from the forest. Due to rainy weather there were no people entering the Park or leaving it. On May 7-9 the team went down the Bolshaya Ussuryka River by boat, discovered 12 illegal guns, and issued a citation on two violators. The fishermen claimed that only two nets belonged to them, and that they did not know who had fixed the other nets.

On May 10-17, a group of two inspectors made a motorboat patrol. They destroyed three fishing nets and an illegal salt lick made by poachers to attract animals. They checked two authorized salt licks and found no violations. One of the inspectors heard a

gunshot in the vicinity of a salt lick, but no people were seen.

On May 17-24, a group of four men went on a patrol, the two of them by boat along the Armu river and the other two by vehicle. On May 20, they made a day-long check-point by the road Dalny Kut – Dersu. All the people that were stopped had documents in order and carried no guns. On May 24-31, a group of two men patrolled by boat along the Armu and the Malaya Pikhtovka river. The vehicle stuck in mud and the rangers spent five hours dragging it out. During the rest of the patrols no violations were found. On May 29 and 30 they transported a group of tourists to Ust-Armu base.

### June

A many-day patrol from May 31 to June 6 was conducted by the team of four law enforcement officers. On June 1, the team patrolled by boat and found six abandoned fishing nets. On June 2-3 the team set warning signs near the streams. During a patrol the officers checked five tourists, and removed 10 fishing nets.

From June 8 to June 15 the team of three law enforcement officers carried out a patrol to set up warning signs, deliver forage to feeding grounds and check how visitors obey laws. All in all, the team members checked five hunters' huts, eight visitors and issued two citations for illegal presence in the protected area.



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**Mobile check-point at main road**

During a patrol from June 15 to June 22 the law enforcement officers conducted boat

and foot patrols and checked two hunters' lodges and 18 people. No violations were revealed.

A patrol between June 22 and June 29 patrolled the Park, restored feeding grounds, and checked two hunters' lodges and four holidaymakers. No violations were revealed.

## July

In July the law enforcement personnel of the Park conducted five many-day anti-poaching patrols, during which the officers checked 17 winter huts/hunter's lodges and issued two administrative citations for violations of fishing regulations.



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Rangers discovered illegal salt lick

On June 29, the team consisting of three people set off for a patrol. Two law enforcement officers patrolled by vehicle, and one officer conducted a water patrol. On their way the officers checked three rubber boats with tourists and a wooden boat. No violations were revealed. All in all, the team checked two hunter's lodges and revealed two violations of fishing regulations.

On July 6, the team made up of five law enforcement officers started a routine patrol. No violations were revealed. On the following two days the team patrolled the national park near the Malaya Pikhtovka stream, set up name plates and road signs warning about forest fires, and revealed no violations. Then, the officers continued patrols on the motor-boat. On July 10, they stopped two rubber boats to check documents of holidaymakers. No violations

were revealed. On July 11, the officers made two trays and shed to install them on feeding grounds for wild boars near the Shiroky stream. All in all, while patrolling the team carried out two foot patrols, checked five winter huts, and nine people.

On July 13, three law enforcement officers went to patrol the park. Due to heavy rain there were no tourists or anglers in the protected area. During a patrol the team checked four hunter's lodges. No violations were revealed. From July 20 to July 27, 2010, the team made up of three people set off for a water patrol. During a patrol, the officers checked seven fishermen and six hunter's lodges. No violations were revealed.

From July 27 to August 3, 2010, three team members conducted a patrol in the park, lighting of trees along the main roads. No violations were revealed.

## August

In August the law enforcement guardians carried out three many-day patrols, checked eight winter huts/hunter's lodges, issued two administrative citations on violations of fishing regulations, and seized two fishing nets.

From August 3 through August 10, the team consisting of five people conducted foot and water patrols in the park. The officers checked one winter hut and three holidaymakers. No violations were revealed. From August 10 to August 17 the team had its patrol vehicle repaired.

On August 17, the team made up of four people set off for a patrol. The law enforcement officers checked four winter huts and eight people. On August 22, when patrolling along the Armu River the guardians stopped a boat to inspect it. A search inside resulted in an illegal fishing net. The law enforcement officers seized the net and issued an administrative citation. During a patrol from August 24 to August 31 the team of four people checked three winter huts and 12 people. No violations were revealed.

## September-October

In September-October the law enforcement officer conducted nine many-day patrols in the Park, checked 20 winter huts, seized three fishing nets, issued 15 administrative citations for violations of fishing regulations and one citation for trespassing.

A many-day anti-poaching patrol from August 31 through September 7 was carried out by a team of three park guardians. On the first day of the patrol no violations were revealed on the route Dalny Kut-Koreisky. During the following day the team patrolled by boat. The law enforcement officers went down the river and met a boat with tourists. They checked the documents of the holidaymakers. No violations were revealed. On September 2, the team went up the river by boat and met two boats with tourists. No violations were revealed. The next morning started with a trip to the upper streams of the Bolshaya Ussurka River. Then, the guardians got to the Zabyty stream and mended a roof of a winter hut there. From September 4 to September 7 the team continued boat patrol. No wildlife crimes were revealed. All in all, during the patrol the team checked five winter huts and eight people.

Between September 7 and September 14, six law enforcement officers set off for a patrol in the park. They were divided into two groups. The first one conducted a boat patrol, and the second one – a vehicle patrol. All in all, the team checked 23 boats, three winter huts and 62 people. No violations were revealed.

A team of five guardians patrolled the park from September 14 to September 21. On September 15, the team stopped a man with no ID. The law enforcement officers issued a citation on the man for illegal presence. Also, same day the team issued an administrative citation on a man for violations of fishing regulation within the national park. On the following day the team checked three boats with tourists. No violations were revealed. On September 18, the guardians stopped five boats, gave explanatory talks and issued an administrative citation for presence in the park without proper permits. On September 19, while patrolling along the Bolshaya

Ussurka River the team stopped two rubber boats and found fishing nets in one of them. The guardians seized the net and issued an administrative citation. Later that day the team fined people for going down the river by boat without proper permits. All in all, during the many-day patrol, the team checked three winter huts and 16 people, revealed four violations and seized three fishing nets.



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**Checking anglers**

From September 21 through September 28 a team of five law enforcement officers conducted a many-day anti-poaching patrol. During the patrol the team checked 72 people and revealed one violation of fishing regulations.

A many-day patrol from September 28 through October 5 was conducted by three park guardians. While working on September 29, the team checked nine vehicles and boats and issued four citations for illegal entry without proper permits. On September 30, the guardians were busy with improvement of the site where the Park's Visit Centre is built. They sawed wood and collected garbage. Then, they continued their anti-poaching patrol. All in all, the team checked three winter huts and 15 boats. No wildlife crimes were revealed.

Between October 5 and October 12 five law enforcement officers carried out a many-day patrol in the Park. During the patrol they checked three winter huts, 32 people and 23 vehicles. On October 11, when going down the Armu River by boat, the guardians stopped a boat with anglers and revealed violations of fishing regulations. An administrative citation was issued.

A team consisted of five law enforcement officers patrolled the protected area from October 12 to October 19. All in all, the team checked two winter huts, 17 people and 15 boats and issued five citations for trespassing. From October 19 through October 26 a team of three guardians set off for a patrol. No wildlife crimes were revealed. During a many-day patrol from October 26 to November 2 the law enforcement officers revealed no violations.

### November

In November the law enforcement service of the Park carried out four many-day patrols, checked 14 winter huts, and revealed one violation of fishing regulations.



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Preparing for a patrol

On 2-16 November 2010, the team of four people patrolled the Park, checked six winter huts, a vehicle and three men. During a patrol the officers detained a man for fishing out of season and issued an administrative citation on the violator.

From November 16 to November 23 two guardians patrolled the protected area, inspected five winter huts and checked six tourists. No violations were revealed. During a patrol from November 23 through November 30 the team of three law enforcement officers inspected three winter

huts and checked five tourists. No violation was revealed.

### December

In December, the protection division conducted five anti-poaching patrols. From November 30 to December 4 the team of three law enforcement officers set off for a many-day snowmobile patrol. The team checked two wooden lodges and one recreation centre. No violations were revealed. During four many-day snowmobile patrols from December 7 to December 28 the law enforcement officers revealed no violations.

### Education and outreach activities

In addition to regular checks of law obedience, the team also carried out outreach activities at the local community and with the owners of the adjacent hunting grounds in order to give them objective information about the benefits of the Park's creation and its positive impact on their lives and work. The inspectors spoke to anglers, hikers and holidaymakers to raise their knowledge of correct human behavior during their stay in the national park.

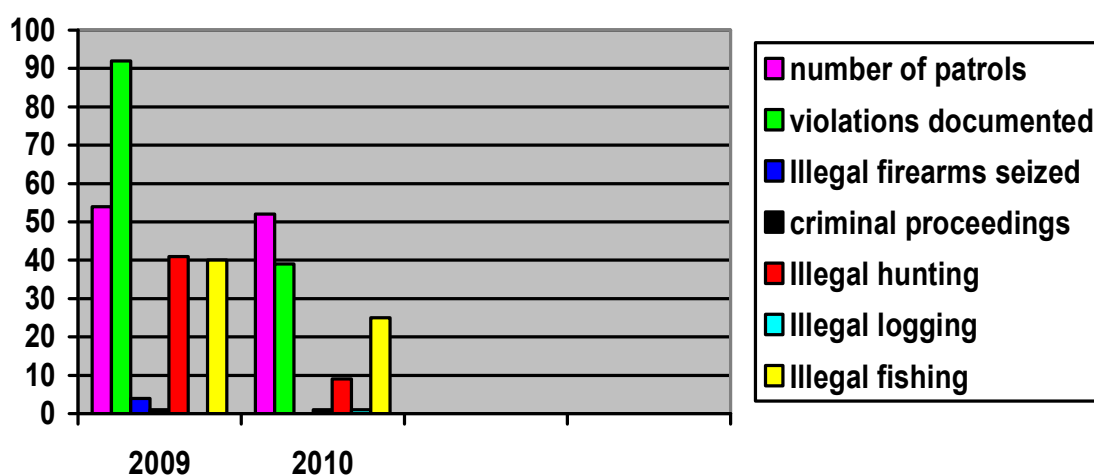
### **Acknowledgements**

The Phoenix Fund expresses warm thanks to Kolmarden Fund Raising Foundation and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger for providing support for the Udege Legend National Park during the first - the most difficult - years of its operation. Thanks to your support, we helped increase capacity of the anti-poaching teams to reduce poaching activities, enhance wildlife and habitat protection in the Park, and increase awareness within the local communities about the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation through information and outreach work.

**Table 1. Results of Protection Division of the Udege Legend National Park, January – December 2010**

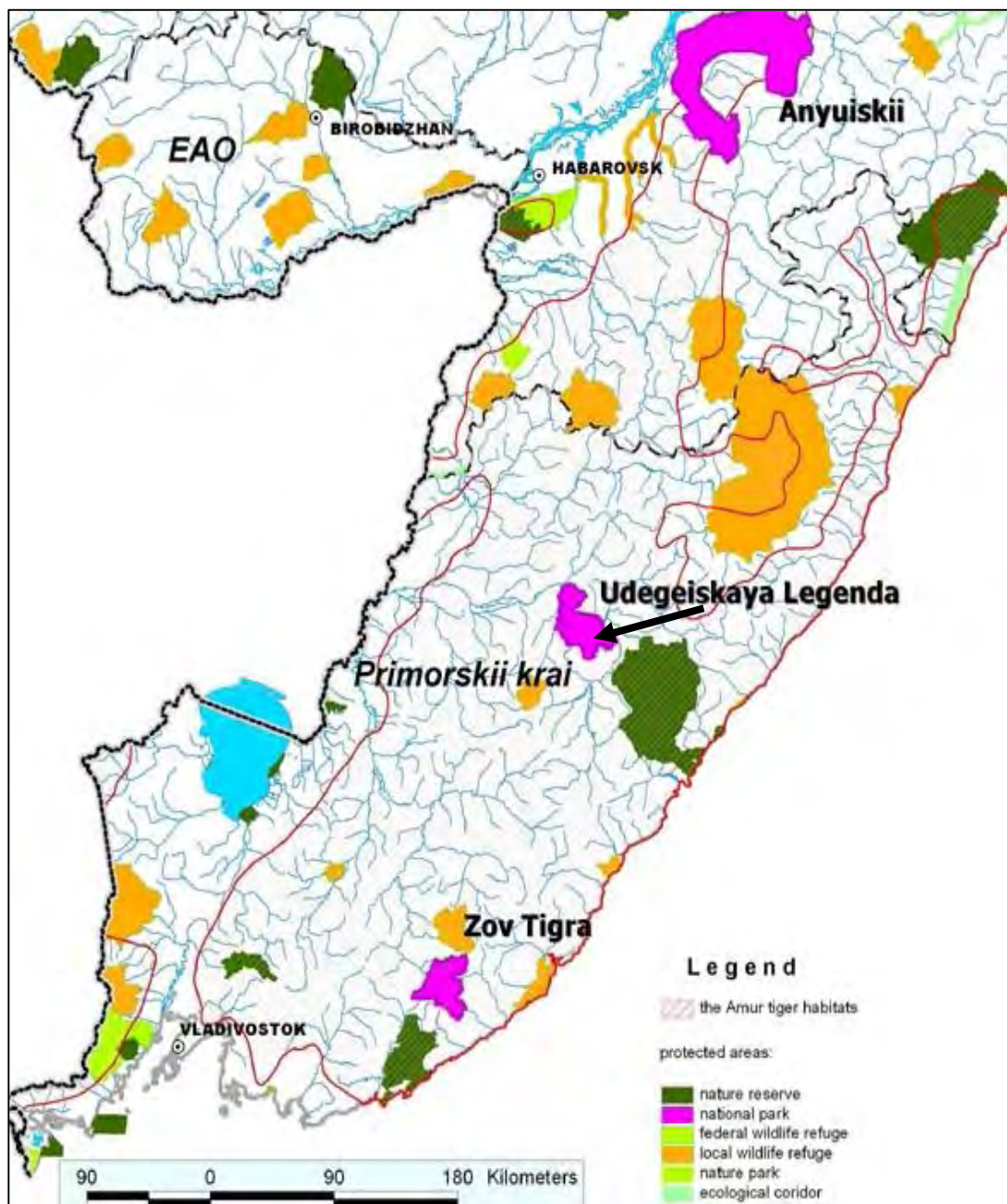
Activity	Results
Number of many-day patrols	52
Man-days spent on patrols, total	1,400
<b>Checked:</b>	
- people	119
- hunters' huts/winter lodges/tourist bases and camps (number of times)	136
<b>Reports/citations issued:</b>	
- fishing violations	39
- hunting violations (including illegal carriage of firearms)	25
- violation of protected area regime (moving on a motor boat during spawning season, trespassing and other)	9
- illegal logging	4
- illegal logging	1
<b>Confiscated:</b>	
- fishing nets	32
- harpoons	1
- guns	1
<b>Criminal proceedings initiated:</b>	1 (illegal logging)
<b>Fines imposed, \$:</b>	1,569
<b>Claims brought, \$</b>	625,322 including \$620,690 for an illegal logging site discovered

**Graph 1. Comparative analysis of anti-poaching results in 2009-2010**



Indicators	2009	2010
Number of patrols	54	52
Violations documented	92	39
Illegal firearms seized	4	1
Criminal proceedings initiated	1	1
Illegal hunting	41	9
Illegal logging	1	1
Illegal fishing	40	25

Map 1. Protected Areas in Primorsky krai



Map 2. Udege Legend National Park

