



Kolmårdens  
*Insamlingsstiftelse*  
www.kolmarden.com



# Phoenix Fund

## **“Wildlife conservation in the Russian Far East in 2007”**

Interim report  
January – June 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.

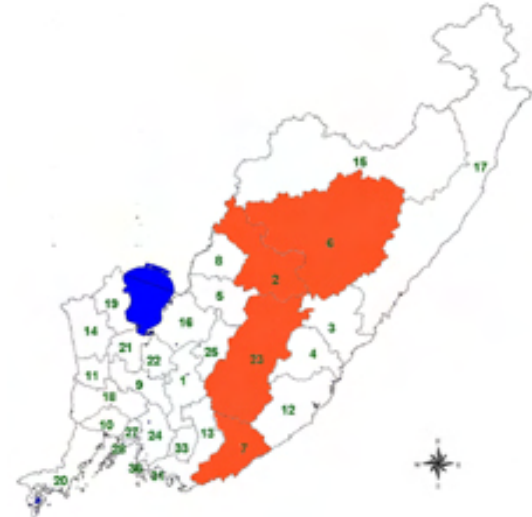
Since the year of its establishment in 1998, the Phoenix Fund has been carrying out nature conservation projects in the south of the Russian Far East, including anti-poaching, forest protection, ecological education and outreach projects. To struggle with poaching and strengthen protection activities 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



© Phoenix Fund  
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 public 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).

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.

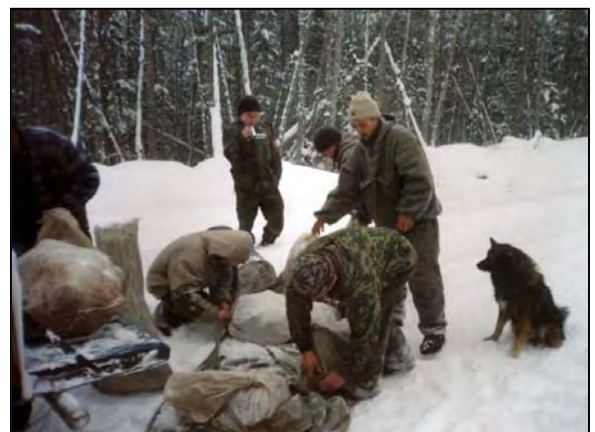
On February 24, a local of Ariadnoye village was arrested for felling 25 Korean pines in the forest close to the village. The wildlife managers drew up a report, confiscated a chainsaw and a tractor DT-75, and initiated

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.



© Phoenix Fund  
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.



© Phoenix Fund  
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.



© Phoenix Fund  
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 of 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.



© Phoenix Fund

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.

Kalinovsky, 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. Dubitsky, 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.

### III. Measurable objectives delivered

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

- 19 many days patrols were conducted;
- 44 reports on violations of hunting regulations were drawn up;
- Fines in the total amount of 38,500 roubles (\$ 1,509) were imposed and paid;
- Damage brought to nature by violators was estimated to 66,800 roubles (\$2,619). The sum was paid in full;
- 6 shotguns were confiscated;
- 15 illegally killed ungulates and their derivatives were withdrawn;
- 13 criminal proceedings initiated.



## ATTACHMENT

**Quantitative results of the Western wildlife managers' team for the first six months of 2007**

Violations registered	44
Violators detained	41
Among them:	
- Hunters with licenses	2
- Hunters without licenses	31
- Members of hunting societies	8
Illegal guns withdrawn	6
Out of them rifled	1
Poached ungulate animals	18 (7 musk deer, 5 red deer, 2 wild boar, 1 roe deer)
Poached fir animals	2
Poached feather game	1
Criminal proceedings initiated	13
Violators already convicted	2