



# AHEC CONSERVATION NEWSBITES

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## Shantar Islands National Park established in the Russian Far East Russia

The Decree of the Russian Federation Government on establishing of the Shantar Islands National Park in Khabarovsk Province was signed on the New Year's Eve. It covers 515,500 hectares encompassing 241 thousand hectares of forest lands and 274 thousand hectares of adjacent waters of the Sea of Okhotsk. It took more than 15 years of hard work and efforts with an active participation of WWF experts. Full version of the news is here: <http://wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/11984>



## Russian-German partnership saves unique forests of the Bikin River Basin Russia

The indigenous peoples' enterprise "Tiger" has received about 400 000 euro from the sale of the first batch of Emission Reduction Units resulting from the conservation of the Bikin river valley forests from industrial logging. This is the major result of Bikin Climate Project, implemented since 2009 by the WWF-Russia and WWF-Germany funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the German Development Bank (KfW) in the framework of the Russian-German Climate Initiative. The funds will be used by Udege and Nanai, the indigenous people for paying the annual lease fee for the Bikinskaya Nut Harvesting Zone; for anti-poaching brigades and control of resource use; for forest fire protection; and social development of Krasny Yar village. Full version: <http://wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/11892>



## Key document for the Amur leopard conservation approved Russia

The Amur Leopard Conservation Strategy in the Russian Federation was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on November 19, 2013. Thus, one of the most important orders of the Presidential List of Orders on conservation of Amur tigers and leopards, signed on November 7, 2013 has been fulfilled. To implement the Strategy the leading scientists and experts with WWF support elaborated an Action Plan and Leopard Reintroduction Program. The Action Plan envisioning activities up to 2022 was approved on December 13, 2013 by working group on rare large mammals of Primorye. As for the Leopard Reintroduction Program WWF Russia hopes that will be soon approved by Moscow. Full version: <http://wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/11914>

## Timber transportation routes become transparent in Primorye Russia

On December 19, 2013, a new Primorsky Province Law "On timber trade regulation in Primorsky Province" aimed to bring to order the forestry management in Primorye was adopted by deputies of Primorsky Province Parliament. WWF experts took an active part in the development of mechanisms for its implementation. WWF regards it as a breakthrough in a struggle against illegal forest management and believes that from now on the possibility "to steal" the wood is reduced to zero. Full version: <http://wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/11928>



## Amur tiger and Amur leopard save nature of entire Russia Russia

Vladimir Putin signed a List of Orders on conservation of the Amur tiger and the Amur leopard. Almost all suggestions made by WWF-Russia are taken into account in this document. The given orders are the development of the course pursued by Russia at the International Tiger Conservation Forum held in St. Petersburg in 2010. The fulfillment of many orders can improve the whole situation with wildlife conservation in Russia. Full version of the news is here: <http://wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/11782>

## Leopard population survey in Wangqing and Hunchun area China

On December 20-30, 2013, SFA feline centre conducted winter survey of the Amur leopard with WWF's technical and financial supports. It is the second year in a row when WWF supports the survey both of Jilin and Heilongjiang authorities. All results will be integrated by SFA-FRC. An Action Plan on the Leopard protection will be drafted the next fiscal year based on the survey results.



## Study of population and migration of the Mongolian gazelle carried out Mongolia

The study observed 1161 individuals of the Mongolian gazelle out of which 200 graze permanently around Agats area. Depending on season and weather conditions small number of animals migrate to the territory of the National Park over the frozen Onon river. <http://www.mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?214294/Study-of-population-and-migration-of-the-Mongolian-gazelle-is-carried-out>



## Wangqing, Jinlin — SMART training and digital patrolling work conducted China

On 23-29 November 2013, all field rangers from forest bureaus and nature reserves were trained again with SMART system and digital patrolling method. Many rangers are involved in anti-poaching work in Northeast China for several years, however, due to their insufficient education a part of data processing work should be completed by WWF. All trainees learned how to handle the overall system by themselves. SMART system was piloted in 5 forest farms of Wangqing forest bureau alongside with the original MIST system as a comparison. After the coaching and testing, Wangqing Forest Bureau already holds the capacity to run SMART system and do the basic data analysis by itself. In addition, other forestry bureau like Suiyang NR started to pilot applied SMART system after the training.



## Supplementary feeding under heavy snow conditions China

On November 22th, 2013, Wangqing area saw a big snowfall. It is really a challenge for survival of ungulates, especially the reintroduced deer. Having heard the news many volunteers showed their willing to participate in WWF's disaster relief activities including commercial companies and ordinary people. Since deer releasing on tiger day, more than 15 supplementary feeding stations (12 of them were already set up last year and were repaired) were set up in Wangqing and Suiyang Forest Bureaus, including 7 stations within 8 km of the deer release site. The monitoring results show that all the supplementary feeding stations are used by ungulates and no poaching was discovered around the stations. It means that public awareness on Amur tiger conservation has been strengthened in this area.



## Wangqing and Hunchun, Jilin — Amur tiger and Amur Leopard family appeared one after another China

On November 7, 2013, local forest farmers found footprints of a female Amur leopard with its 3 cubs in Sandaogou of Hunchun Forest Bureau, which is nearby Wangqing Nature Reserve. Next day, a short video of a female Amur leopard and its twin cubs was shot by a WWF camera trap in Wangqing Nature Reserve. Three of them were passing by the camera trap and seemed a happy family. Judged by their body size and walking gait, the twins Amur leopards were only 6 to 7 months old, and excitingly, it is the first direct evidence that the most endangered big cat reproduces in China. Amur tiger and Amur leopard reproduce successfully in inner China, which indicates that the conservation work in Changbaishan Area starts to show their great effects. Both discoveries are within WWF China working area.



## Human-wildlife conflicts will be resolved reasonably Russia

Intense economic development of the south of the Russian Far East inevitably gives rise to conflicts between humans and large carnivores such as Amur tiger, Amur leopard, brown and Himalayan bears. To quickly and efficiently react on such situations and take effective measures to resolve human-wildlife conflicts special groups were formed at the Wildlife and Hunting Management Departments of Primorsky and Khabarovsk provinces. Their task is to scare predators away, to catch, if necessary, and temporarily immobilize, then to provide veterinary care and deliver to the rehabilitation center. Through the efforts WWF Russia supporters the conflict groups are equipped with modern equipment for animal immobilization. Temporary sedation of predators is a necessary measure that helps to assess the physiological state of an animal and determine the reason of its approach to settlements. Having detailed information, specialists have a chance to save the predator and ensure the safety of the local people. Full version is here: <http://wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/11680>



## Income generation through sustainable use of natural resources Mongolia

To help Community based organizations (CBOs) in sustainably managing the natural resources and improving the livelihood of households «Association of Onon River CBO's» is established. In 2014 the association plans to carry out two major tasks, to set up community fund of 125 CBOs and to produce bottled drinking water titled «Onon» targeting at local market. <http://www.mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?214292/Income-generation-through-sustainable-use-of-natural-resources>



## Eco-club members plant trees Mongolia

Since the President of Mongolia declared the months of October and May each year as tree planting campaign period, the "Green island" eco club from Dadal soum's general secondary school actively participate in tree planting. They planted 3kg of monos seedlings contributing to the cause of creating a grove in their place. <http://www.mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?214291/Eco-club-member-plant-trees>



## The Amur Leopard. New documentary produced Russia

The nature documentary studio Zov Taigi with the support of WWF Russia shot a new documentary “Farewell to the Actor” about the fate of the famous Amur leopard, familiar to many viewers by the name Tolsty (Fatty). The production team sums up twenty years’ work in the Land of the Leopard. For the first time the team strayed from the studio’s guiding principle “if there is a person in the shot the movie is ruined” and made a film about the uneasy relationship between man and wild animal. English version of the film will be ready in February. Full version of the news is here: <http://wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/11846>

## CBOs held their festival on their own for the first time Mongolia

The annual CBOs festival titled “CBO – Development-2013” was again a platform for local communities to demonstrate their achievements and share lessons learned. The event overlapped with 4th annual Conference of Onon River Basin Women in October 11-13, 2013 in Batshireet soum of Khentii aimag. Over 170 locals attended from all 7 soums underlying the Onon River Basin. <http://www.mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?214293/CBOs-held-their-festival-on-their-own-for-the-first-time>



## Knowledge on protected areas increased as a result of a yearly campaign Mongolia

The Mobile Anti-Poaching Unit Irves-5 together with Onon-Balj National Park administration staff have carried out patrolling raids along with advocacy work on environmental laws. It was observed that local people’s knowledge on legal aspects of protected areas, demarcations is significantly increased. This demonstrates that the yearly campaign on communicating the values of protected areas delivers its results. <http://www.mongolia.panda.org/en/news/?214295/Knowledge-on-protected-areas-has-increased-the-result-of-yearly-campaign>

