The 2011-2012 Amur tiger monitoring has been completed. Being for a long time an initiative of non-governmental organizations monitoring has now obtained its governmental status and partial financing from the state budget. The field work was conducted by the Hunting Department of Primorsky Province, Khabarovsky Province Directorate for Wildlife Protection and Protected Areas, the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences with participation of Kedrovaya Pad Federal Nature Reserve, Anyuisky National Park and WWF experts. Therefore, data from 16 plots will reveal true and fare view of rare predator’s population dynamics.

All the routs within the monitoring plots have been tracked, and in spite of unfavorable weather conditions all methodological recommendations were taken into account. Within one month the data obtained will be combined with those of Khabarovsky Province and of federal protected areas in Primorsky Province. In total, for the two monitoring stages, 34 tigers were registered on 8 plots in Primorye.

“For the first time the results have been summarized very quickly, so that the Hunting Department of Primorsky Province will use this data while fixing limits for ungulate extraction in those areas where there is an alarming trend in population dynamics,” comments Sergei Aramilev, species program coordinator of WWF Russia Amur branch. – In general, the second stage of monitoring confirmed the results of the first stage and demonstrated the stability of tiger population on the level of 5 recent years. On the other hand, the situation is not smooth everywhere, some areas require taking operative measures. Namely, northern regions of Primorsky Province, where direct tiger poaching is noted, as well as intense logging and ungulates extraction for the purpose of selling meat.”

© WWF Russia. GPS coordinates of all encountered tiger prints are registered in the field diaries.
1. Khabarovsky Province. Early January 30, a young Amur tiger female approached a bee-yard close to the Tumin River (to find this place on a map one should find the 51st parallel and step 60 kilometers inward from the Tatar Strait coastline). Most likely, tiger was attracted by barking of dogs living near the bee-yard. The tiger blocked the watchman in a utility room, but later was scared away with gunshots. Next morning the animal reappeared and attacked a watchdog. Having heard dogs’ barking a hunter came out and seeing the rushing towards him tiger had to shoot the animal...

The hunter reported the accident to the head of the Khabarovsky Province Directorate for Wildlife Protection and Protected Areas who, in his turn, has formed an expert group including Pavel Fomenko, one of WWF staff. He came to the area, inspected the site and examined the dead animal. Extremely undernourished animal had traces of an old gunshot wound under its skin. Full story here: http://www.wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/9154

2. Primorsky Province. On February 25, an exhausted tiger cub with symptoms of hypothermia was found in the forest not far from Borisovka village by hunters of Ussuriiskoye military hunting society during a planned winter game survey. The cub was so weak that he could have been easily taken with bare hands. The exhausted animal approached the winter hut as if begging for help. Due to direct threat to the cub’s life rangers of Primorsky Province Hunting Department decided to take the tiger for recovery and put him into a warm place for temporary care. Qualified veterinary care was immediately provided by specialists of Primorskaya Agricultural Academy. Now, the cub is being kept at the rehab center not far from Vladivostok and its is stable. Fill story here: http://www.wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/9190

3. Primorsky Province. On 17 march, rangers of Primorsky Province Hunting Department found in taiga a 5-6 month old tiger cub – a brother of the little tigress rescued not long ago in February. Compare to its sister who decided not to waste her energy on fighting people, the boy tried to escape, roared and did not let himself into people’s hands. The wild animal’s nature prevailed over, taking away the last strength so necessary for other important thing - to fight to live.

The cub was placed into the warm enclosure and provided with all necessary medical aid. Unfortunately, in spite of all the efforts to save the tiger boy’s life next day the animal died. Watch video here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNFVXRtL0o&feature=plcp&context=C4695151VdVjVQa1PpcFM70LyeYmZoGb4iYVYD MNCwSjhrdFWwvK=

Autopsy results showed that due to hypothermia and exhaustion the unconvertible process started in his organism causing tiger’s death. Full story here: http://www.wwf.ru/resources/news/article/eng/9315

To solve conflict situations between humans and large predators special groups have been formed at the Primorsky Province Hunting Department and Khabarovsky Province Directorate for Wildlife Protection and Protected Areas. According to the federal law “On wildlife objects” the two agencies are in charge of the conflicts. As the governmental funds are not enough, WWF provides financial and technical support to the groups, train rangers in perfecting their skills and knowledge. Russia
SUPPLEMENTARY BREEDING PILOT PROJECT LAUNCHED IN NORTHEAST CHINA

Low density of big ungulate, such as red deer, the main food of Amur tiger, is one of the key problems to restore the tiger population in Northeast China. In order to increase the wild ungulate population, WWF launched pioneering portfolio of tiger prey restoration projects in January 2012, including construction of supplementary breeding site for the ungulates to help them pass winter.

From January to March, WWF has constructed 15 fixed supplementary breeding sites respectively in Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau of Wanda Mountain, and Wangqing and Suiyang Forestry Bureaus of Changbai Mountain. WWF selected the sites according to the data obtained from Amur tiger/leopard monitoring and the ungulate winter survey of last years.

After completing the construction, the local partners periodically send rangers to put some milled corncob and other feeding stuff if the snow is too big for ungulate to find food. The breeding site can help the ungulate, especially the fawn, pass the harsh season. Therefore, the population of the ungulate would be gradually increased.

According to the experiences of similar method in the game land in Far East Russia, supplementary breeding is very effective in maintaining the ungulates as well as makes the game land a good habitat for Amur tiger. Meanwhile, with proper controlling the quantity of the food and timing, it does not change wild animals’ behavior, namely, making them more dependable on human’s feeding, which is an undesired result for wildlife conservation.

Pilot project always accompanies risk. So far, poaching is still the biggest threat to wild animal in Northeast China. Without effective anti-poaching capacity of the local partner, the supplementary breeding site would be a trap. Therefore, WWF carefully selected its partners for doing this project. All the three forestry bureaus positively carry out anti-poaching action in winter every year. And Wangqing Forestry Bureau was awarded by WWF for its outstanding work of anti-poaching last November. China
The year of 2012 is a whole new beginning of Amur tiger conservation in China for WWF. A package of plan is being or to be conducted. In the past, data collecting and analysis of Amur tiger in China were not recognized by foreign counterparts.

In order to reverse the situation, WWF supported International National Feline Research Center of Northeast Forestry University(INFRC-NEFU), WildTrack, Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau, Yinchun Forestry Bureau and Hunchun Nature Reserve to Amur tiger winter monitoring with Tracking Movement Path (TMP) from early January to mid February 2012. It was the first time to use this method to investigate wild tiger in China. The monitoring area covers about one third of the tiger habitat in Wandashan and a small part of Changbaishan from January to March, 2012.

The monitoring activity aimed to identify the individual of Amur tiger to obtain the number of its population, understand tiger’s needs for its habitat, such as the place it prefers to have a rest, the path it prefers to crunch, the sites it prefers to predate as well as the impact of human activity.

A lot of valuable information and data of Amur tiger were collected. More than 30 bedding sites of tiger were found in the monitoring areas including 7 forest farms in Wandashan mountains. The clear footprint images were collected with digital camera and will be analyzed by both Wildtrack experts and INFRC-NEFU using FIT (Footprint Identification Technology). In addition, some tiger hair and feces were also collected in field and would be as sample of DNA identification. All the data and samples would be used to clarify the number of tigers and their habitat quality in the monitoring areas.

The field team also found predating sites of the tiger. It is worth to mention that the preys were not big ungulate, red deer or wild boar, for example, as we imagine but varying hare and squirrel. Dr. Jiang Guangshun, the senior tiger conservation officer of WWF, explained that the big cats, including Amur tiger, do not limit their food menu within big ungulates. If they got a chance to catch a small prey, such as a rabbit, Amur tiger or leopard would not refuse to get them as a “snacks”.

So far, some primary conclusions were obtained. For example, the tiger likes to bed at the top of the ridge because it provides wide vision for tiger. About the path, the tiger would like to choose the path of human or other big animals. However, the conclusive result still needs further analysis, especially the DNA sample of the tiger’s hair or feces, and differential results of FIT from digital footprint images.
Huangnihe Nature Reserve saved a male red deer on December 27, 2012. The red deer went to a local community and was trapped by several dogs when the staff of nature reserve arrived. After a couple of hours’ confrontation, the reserve staff made the deer a way and release it back to the nature. According to the nature reserve staff, they often saw red deer in groups in recent years. As a kind of big ungulate, red deer is the main food of Amur tiger. China
AN OBSERVATION AND MONITORING ON EURASIAN OTTER CONDUCTED

Onon Balj NP administration staff members including the park director, researchers, and rangers in participation of a volunteer Orio Jamar conducted an observation-monitoring on Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), nationally and globally endangered species and listed in the Mammals’ Red List of Mongolia, along Balj and Khoyrkhon Rivers’ banks within a territory of Dadal Soum of Khentii Aimag on February 4-5, 2012. During the observation-monitoring, Onon Balj NP administration researchers and rangers identified the species locations and distribution areas with its traces and food and waste remains and collected data on its habitat status.

The observers were divided into two teams and conducted the observation as per their established route and plan. During the observation, no individuals of the species were seen, but the observers have identified and recorded 11 traces and some wastes left on snow. Among the traces recorded, there were 2 traces were of young or bay individuals.

In other parts of the areas, where the Eurasian otter was recorded, its traces were recorded in high numbers, but they were mixed with other species’ traces. So, this time they were not analyzed in detail.

During the observation, it was found there were high outside impacts and pressures on the Eurasian otter habitats. For instance, there were quite many traces of human, dogs, and wild species e.g. wolf and fox recorded. Thus, it needs to conduct the Eurasian otter studies in Onon Balj NP along with other mammals’ studies by using advanced research methods and technologies as per the observers’ conclusion. Moreover, national researchers recommend conducting comprehensive studies on Eurasian otter within Khoyrkhon River basin in cooperation with Sohond Biosphere Protected Area in Russia and exchanging research data & information on the species and its habitats. They also recommended university and college students studying for their bachelor and master degrees in biological science doing studies on the species for their degrees. *Mongolia*
THE SWEDES PROCEED SUPPORT TIGER CONSERVATION IN RUSSIA

WWF and Nordens Ark Zoo presented Anyuisky National Park and Khabarovsky Province Directorate for Wildlife Protection and Protected Areas with three off-roads, Motorola subscriber terminal, snow-mobile, outboard and other equipment necessary to patrol PAs and hunting lands in Nanaisky district more effectively.

Nanaisky district in Khabarovsky Province is the northernmost border of the Amur tiger habitat protection of which is one of the goals of the new joint project of WWF and Nordens Ark Zoo called Northern Tiger. Among other project goals are conservation of the northernmost tiger population in Russia; decreasing poaching on tiger and its prey, wild ungulates; saving key tiger habitats from illegal logging.

"Northern Tiger focuses, on the one hand, on the predator number stabilization and perspective growth while, on the other hand, deals with people living side by side with the tiger and thus influencing its wellbeing, - comments Pavel Fomenko, biodiversity conservation program coordinator at WWF-Russia Amur branch. - The project area is home to indigenous tribes of the nearAmur region, the Nanai and Udege. Anti-poaching measures and actions on raising number of ungulates which are both prey for tiger and aboriginals will help to avoid conflicts between predator and humans." Russia

© E. Starostina / WWF Russia. The vehicles will be irreplaceable when patrolling the territory

© E. Starostina / WWF Russia. Sergei Beldy comes of a family of hunters. He is one of inspectors of the Anyuisky National Park anti-poaching groups. His contribution into raising wild ungulates number is significant

© E. Starostina / WWF Russia. Local press on the feeding ground

© E. Starostina / WWF Russia. Anyuisky Park head (second left) with rangers
Onon Balj National Park covers 415752 hectares of territories of Dadal, Binder, Norovlin, & Bayan-adraga Soums of Khentii Aimag and Bayan-ulu Soum of Dornod Aimag. The area was designated for protection to protect biodiversity particularly Asian endemic species and their genetic funds and populations, and develop tourism based on natural and historical monuments. This area lies in Amur River eco-regon that is one of 35 internationally important eco-regions to be conserved for the 21st century announced by the WWF.

Since 2009, the park administration has been cooperating with the WWF Mongolia in terms of the NP conservation and improved management. Under this cooperation, the first steps have been made in terms of sustainable tourism development, research and monitoring, establishment of database, and development of trans-boundary cooperation. Moreover, they have completed the park boundary demarcation (signs and columns) and posting bulletin boards.

Onon Balj NP administration performance of 2011 was 99% and was at the third place among other Protected Area administrations and awarded with Leadership organization of Nature, Environment, & Tourism sector.

WWF presented the Primorsky Province Directorate for Protected Areas with off-roaders, snow mobiles, radio stations, fuel and other necessary stuff to more effectively protect eleven regional wildlife refuges with special attention on the Verkhne-Bikinsky Refuge which is in the Bikin River basin, Vasilkovsky, and Poltavsky bordering with Leopardovy Refuge.

In the fall of 2011, WWF and Pacific Institute of Geography prepared the feasibility study for creation of Leopardovy National Park. In December last year, WWF in cooperation with administration of the three leopard-range districts (Nadezhdinsky, Khasansky, and Ussuriisky) conducted public hearings on the park creation. This year, the documentation received positive environmental assessment done in Moscow by the Russian Government. Right now the decree on the Park establishing is being agreed upon.
Administrations of Onon Balj NP and Sohond Biosphere Administrations of Onon Balj NP and Sohond Biosphere Strictly Protected Area in Russia had a joint meeting, where they reported 2011 activity plan performance and developed 2012 cooperation plan. From Onon Balj NP administration, four staff members visited the Biosphere Protected Area administration for this meeting.

The park administrations produced their performance reports in Russian and Mongolian languages and revised the cooperation agreement with some additional tasks e.g. establish joint research and monitoring methodologies, implement small projects, and fund raising options.

They have planned the following joint actions for 2012:
- Jointly conduct studies on endangered wildlife species and birds of Onon Balj NP;
- Have a representative (E. I. Malkov, Deputy Director of the park administration) from Sohod Biosphere Strictly Protected Area in the “Scientific-Technical Council” under Onon Balj NP administration;
- Organize a contest “Forest value” for school children and send its winners from Mongolia to children’s summer camp in Russia;
- Send a team (five members of OBNP administration including the park researchers and rangers) to Sohond Biosphere Strictly Protected Area for experience sharing on fire prevention;
- Organize a scientific conference (for Russian and Mongolian researchers and scientists) in OBNP in Mongolia;
- Produce 2013 Calendar at the end of the year;
- Organize joint photo exhibition.
AMUR TIGER KILLER PUNISHED

Due to active participation of WWF in evidence collection, the court found the killer of the tiger guilty. The court of Krasnoarmeisky district of Primorsky Province handed out a verdict to V. Kulyabin finding him guilty for Amur tiger killing.

During long investigation, lasted from January 2010, not just once the poacher had managed to convince the judges that the tiger attacked him and he was shooting just only to protect his own life.

However, collected evidence, as well as three expertises conducted with consultations of WWF specialists on skin and remains of the animal, allowed both to determine the violent death of the animal and to reconstruct the scene of the incident.

When being shot the young tigress was trapped thus she could not be a real threat to the killer. He had deliberately killed the captured tiger relishing the thought of selling the tiger’s skin and bones and getting huge money.

As a result, the court found Kulyabin guilty. The criminal was sentenced to pay 14000 Euro which equals the price of two brand new cars.

«Investigations of criminal cases on wild animals illegal killing are always rather complicated, - comments Sergei Aramilev, biodiversity conservation program coordinator at WWF-Russia Amur branch. - It would be naive to think that all such cases result in punishment. Therefore, the case will be a memorable lesson for other criminals as the mentioned money is a huge sum for a Russian citizen.»

This is the third time over the past ten years when a tiger killer was punished. Russia
ANTI-POACHING. COEXISTENCE OF OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE

WWF has carried out winter patrolling in Northeast China for 3 years. As an effective counter-measure to poaching, the biggest threat to Amur tiger and the biodiversity of this region, WWF continuously cooperated with local partners to carry out winter patrolling from January to April, 2012.

Besides the traditional partners on anti-poaching, including Wangqing, Suiyang and Dongning Forestry Bureaus in Changbaishan, two bureaus including Dongfanghong and Yinchun, located in Wangdashan, another important Amur tiger habitat in China, joined the fellowship of anti-poaching action.

With 3 years cooperation with WWF, all the old partners’ capacity of anti-poaching are improved greatly. Particularly, Wangqing Forestry Bureau greatly strengthened its enforcement on anti-poaching, not only in patrolling and communications to local community, but also reformed anti-poaching management mechanism. The bureau signed new contract with all the forest frog farmers. The contract stipulates that the high penalty should be paid if the farmer commits poaching. They also issued a new policy of performance evaluation system to the forest farm manager on anti-poaching. Namely, the manager would not be promoted or awarded if poaching was found in his forest farm, not matter how outstanding he has performed in other aspects. With all these measures, anti-poaching in Wangqing Forest Bureau steps to a new stage.

This year, Wangqing Nature Reserve, under the jurisdiction of Wangqing Forest Bureau, is very hopefully to be promoted as national nature reserve. With the optimistic outlook, WWF is planning to help the bureau improve their capacity on a higher level, such as their capacity of implementing scientific survey and developing regional anti-poaching work plan, etc.

Meanwhile, problems are still just out there. Poaching is rampant in Dongfanghong Forest Bureau. The poachers not only use snare to hunt animals they also use poison. According to a local official, poison is much more effective than snare, which cause that the poachers prefer to use poison. As new partners of WWF, both Dongfanghong and Yinchun are faced with big challenge in many fields, such as low capacity, poor equipment and lack of effective management. This winter, Dongfanghong tried informant mechanism. They employed local old hunter as their informant to provide information of poaching.

CRIME WITHOUT PUNISHMENT

WWF has caught the opportunity of the visit to Vladivostok of Aleksander Gorovoy, the first deputy minister of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, and submitted to him materials on law enforcement agencies inactivity when investigating illegal logging.

The materials contain data proving the facts of delay of illegal logging cases, possible involvement of investigation officers in illegal logging operations, negligent investigation, handing back of confiscated crime instruments like tractors, chainsaws.

The necessity to hand these documents to the first deputy minister was dictated by numerous formal replies received by WWF in response to numerous issue oriented addresses to the local division of Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

These data are the results of the three-years-long (2009-2011) joint efforts of WWF and governmental Departments of supervision over game and forest use, and law enforcement bodies aimed at revealing and analyzing facts of forest regulations infringements in the south Primorye.

WWF hopes that personal involvement of Aleksander Gorovoy will help improve the process of illegal logging investigations in Primorye.
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION IN FOREST USE AND CONSERVATION WITHIN ONON RIVER BASIN

A methodological training was organized for Forest unit officers, who are working in Onon River basin, and a meeting, where 2012 annual work plan was developed, was organized for local stakeholders in Binder Soum of Khentii Aimag on February 1-2, 2012.

The meeting was participated by representatives of Khentii and Dornod Aimag Nature, Environment, and Tourism departments, rangers and environmental inspectors of Dadal, Binder, Tsenkhermandal, Umnudelger, and Jargaltkhaan Soums of Khentii Aimag and Bayan-uuul and Bayan-dun Soums of Dornod Aimag, Forest unit officers of Binder, Batshireet, and Umnudelger Soums of Khentii Aimag and Bayan-uuul Soum of Dornod Aimag, staff members of Onon Balj NP administration and WWF Mongolia Programme officers.

The participants presented their performances on forest conservation and management and developed and approved Khentii and Dornod Aimag policies and activity plans on forest management for 2012 as exchanged their views.

They identified the constraints to the basin forest use and conservation practices and the bottlenecks impaired the performances in 2011. As identified & considered the constraints & weaknesses at three levels: economic entities, community based organizations, and forest units, the parties jointly developed their cooperation plan based on their actual needs. It was a practical approach for improved planning and cooperation among the stakeholders as set responsibilities and expected results of the planned activities. The annual plan has included the actions addressed at capacity building of forest community based organizations, improved cooperation of stakeholders and OBNP forest management, & establishment of database. Mongolia
2011-2012 winter in the southwestern Primorye was snowless therefore spring season of forest fires has started in January, during the New Year’s holidays.

WWF repeatedly raised the issue in mass media and sent numerous signals to the responsible governmental agencies. At last, forest fires problem has reached the Ministry of Nature Resources whereupon all responsible bodies have been mobilized to combat the disaster. Fortunately, they managed to suppress mass fires but the issue is still on the agenda. This time on the agenda of the new Primorye Governor’s, Vladimir Miklushevsky who visited Khasansky district on March 24 and met representatives of the district administration, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Kedrovaya Pad Reserve, WWF, Forestry and Hunting Departments.

They discussed ways of interagency coordination, responsibility of different organizations, landowners and leasers. Vladimir Miklushevsky become acquainted with mobilization plans of governmental and public fire-fighting brigades, got informed with the system of fire detection and the scheme of mineralization fire breaks.

Special attention was paid to the successful experience in using a web-camera installed by WWF on the MTS cell phone transmission tower for early detection of fires. The information from the camera goes to the operator who can easily find hotbed of fire, monitor fire dynamics, and pass exact coordinates to mobile groups of fire fighters. At the meeting WWF has stressed that one camera in not enough and that there is a need to set more cameras in the vicinity of the villages of Kraskino and Barabash to cover priority leopard habitats.

On March 29, Primorsky Province Administration hold a meeting with leading mobile operators and a representation from WWF. Operators were proposed to seek opportunities to install web-cameras in the Land of Leopard and pay for the video signal traffic.

WWF hopes that mobile will follow MTS’s example and thus contribute to the saving the Amur leopard and its habitats. Russia
SNOW FESTIVAL IN ONON RIVER BASIN

For the 20th anniversary of WWF Mongolia Programme office, snow festivals were successfully organized in January 2012 in 5 soums underlying the Onon river basin. It was organized to improve public understanding on sustainable use of natural resources in local areas and natural ecological problems and threats and to efficiently spend free time of youths and residents.

The snow festival was organized with different slogans in the Soums in Onon River basin and has inspired & motivated the Soums residents to actively take part in conservation activities. The events were organized through joint efforts of local stakeholders e.g. the Soums' Governor’s offices, business entities, community based organizations, and staff members of project Poverty Reduction through Community based Natural Resource Management.

The snow festival organizers specifically invited sports people to make them more interesting & special based on their experiences gained from the last events organized in previous year. One of sports competitions was skiing, where people took part individually and in teams.

Participants of the snow festival took part not only in recreational activities but also they called local residents upon making their contributions & inputs into conservation. For instance, the event organizers of Dadal Soum of Khentii Aimag called up local residents to contribute in conservation of Dund Lake (located at Gurvan Nuur resort), whose water table has been lowered from year to year. As a result of the call-up, individuals and business entities carried and put 78.2 tons of ice to the lake.

“NOMADIC NATURE TRUNK” MOVING FROM PLACE TO PLACE

WWF Mongolia Programme office is running “Nomadic Nature Trunk” mobile awareness box for local residents to improve their knowledge on environmental conservation and attitude to the environment, motivate them to actively take part in conservation activities, provide school teachers and educators with methodological materials and local residents with awareness materials, and train children in loving & protecting nature.

This time, the mobile box has arrived at the secondary school of Bayan-ульт Soum of Dornod Aimag. The school children are learning the mobile materials as developed special programme which includes a variety of entertainments e.g. games, contests, and other training methods.

The mobile awareness box is invited by schools and kindergartens and children are learning about wildlife species.

Additionally, school children are learning about wildlife species and the environment through classroom and extracurricular activities e.g. observation of wildlife species in surrounding areas and drawing and comparing traces of different wild species to those on ground.

© WWF Mongolia. Ice festival commemorating WWF-Mongolia’s 20th anniversary

© WWF Mongolia. Nomadic Nature trunk welcomes new year celebration
“GOLDEN BELL” CONTEST

At initiative of “Green Island” eco-club members of secondary school in Dadal Soum of Khentii Aimag, an awareness raising contest “Golden Bell” was organized for all the school students on February 16, 2012. Purpose of this contest was to raise & improve environmental conservation awareness and motivate school students and teachers take part in conservation activities. It was one of the events organized for the 20th anniversary of WWF Mongolia Programme office. The event was attended by 119 individuals including 35 contest participants, over 70 their supporters/promoters and 14 teachers. All the participants actively took part in the contest and Gan-tulkhuur, a member of the eco-club, won the contest.

When prepared & participated in the contest, the children learned a lot about the local and international environment and wildlife conservation practices. Following the contest, number of children to be the eco-club members has greatly increased. Mongolia

WOMEN’S FORUM WITH “HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT – GREEN NATURE” MOTTO

The forum was organized by the Women’s Council of Bayan-ual Soum on March 3-4, 2012. It was attended by over 200 individuals represented Bayan-ual Soum Local Council, and Governor’s office with supports from WWF Mongolia Programme office and the project “Poverty Reduction through Community based Natural Resource Management. Majority or 75 per cent of funding was contributed by Bayan-ual Soum residents and economic entities.

Main purposes of the forum organizers were to call up local residents to protect & preserve nature and environment through learning about healthy living approaches and to support to production of local brand products. Under these purposes, the forum participants were presented with the Soum women’s council annual performances and approved its work plans. They were also provided with lectures “Potentiality to develop small and medium enterprises in rural areas”, “Importance of healthy living”, and “Healthy Eating”.

During the forum, artistic performances were held and the Soum’s best performers-women were selected & awarded. Selection of the best performers was one of motivations for women communities to learn from each other.

It has agreed by the forum participants to annually organize the women’s forum in different Baghs (the Soum’s sub-divisions) and organizer-Baghs of next annual forum will be selected at the end of previous forum. It shows one example of leadership performances of women in rural areas towards the development. Mongolia
MONTHLY CAMPAIGN “EACH TREE AND SEEDLING PLANTED IS UNDER OUR CARE”

“Green Island” eco-club members of Dadal Soum organized a monthly campaign “Each tree & seedling planted is under our care”. They removed garbage & waste around the trees, put tags on trees & seedlings planted, and spread over cones and covered the ground underneath trees & seedlings by snow. They organized the campaign to motivate local institutions and organizations to plant seedlings and have their gardens. Under the campaign, the eco-club members (28 members) along with their teachers removed garbage & wastes left around trees and seedlings planted next to the school building and covered the ground underneath trees & seedlings by snow.

Pine forest in the vicinity of Dadal Soum center provides for a part of major forest resource in Onon River basin. Called up other school students, the eco-club members have started taking care of the forest e.g. selected the oldest and thickest trees in the pine forest and covered the ground underneath the trees with snow every Friday. To expand and regularize the campaign interventions, the eco-club members lobbied the Soum Citizen’s Representative Khural to issue a decision to take care trees and seedlings planted by all local (the Soum) organizations and economic entities as put their tags on trees & seedlings. Mongolia

“NATURE WITHOUT BORDERS”

On 19-20 July 2012 in Vladivostok the VI International Ecological Forum “Nature Without Borders” will be held. At the initiative of WWF the Forum will be dedicated to the transboundary aspect in regional management of natural resources”.

Planned breakout sessions of the Forum are the following:
Session 1. Transboundary environmental issues and threats.
Session 2. Transboundary aspect in biodiversity conservation. Russia

“RIVERS OF SIBERIA”

On May 30-31, 2012 in Khabarovsk the VII International conference “Rivers of Siberia (and the Far East) will be held. It will be dedicated to the conservation of Siberian and Far Eastern rivers as well as other rivers of the Globe.

WWF is among the conference organizers. The following topics will be discussed at the conference: participation of grassroots organizations in solving rivers use issues; weaknesses of legislation on water resources use; problems in river and climate change; present day state of the Amur River basin; population and rivers; rivers contamination and ways of solution, etc. Russia
NEW PUBLIC AWARENESS MATERIALS

The book «Transboundary protected area «The Upper Reaches» was published on funds provided by WWF. The book about the planned PA contains a lot of maps and charts giving a profound information on its flora and fauna. It is illustrated by beautiful photos telling a vivid-story of the magnificent river.

The printed information is complemented by a documentary shot by Zov Taigi studio at the request of WWF.

Watch video here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilkFab3b39E

New booklet «Sino-Russian Resereve Khanka Lake» tells about cooperation of the transboundary PA, about joint achievements and problems. A newly made documentary «Khanka Lake» shot for the Reserve’s 20th anniversary adds bright emotions to the whole picture.

Watch documentary here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi3_SqTX8AE

Russia
En+ Group and WWF have agreed to carry out a joint complex research to estimate an environmental impact of hydro power plant construction on the ecosystem of the Amur River basin.

The goal of the research is the identification and balanced measurement of key ecological and socio-economic factors which should be considered while making decisions on further development of Amur basin hydro potential and possible construction of new hydro power plants.

To carry out the research WWF Russia and EN+ has formed a working group which will prepare the technical specifications for the integral assessment and will engage competent field oriented specialists and scientists as well. The research is planned to be completed by the end of 2012. Such strategic assessment of environmental risks will be carried out for the first time in the history of hydroenergetics of Russia and the USSR as well.

Before the assessment is completed, En+ and EuroSibEn- ergo, authors of the investment project will suspend the construction of Trans-Siberian hydro power plant on the Shilka River which is the source of Amur. The two companies will make decision on the plant future based on the conclusions of the complex ecological assessment.

Meanwhile, WWF Russia together with its partners have just finished public campaign A Week of Support to Shilka. Round table discussions, press conferences, educational events were conducted against the project of construction of Trans-Siberian hydropower plant on the Shilka River were held in the cities within the Amur River basin: Blagoveschensk, Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Chita, Birobidzhan with participation of more than 80 people. Students, members of nature protection brigades Bars and Nizhneamurskaya Ecological Inspection, collected signatures against possible construction of hydropower plant on Shilka. Russia