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You Say Big Cats

A Secret of Cinderella’s Second Litter Is Out

Camera trap monitoring carried out in the Bastak Nature Reserve in Evreiskaya Province with WWF’s support allowed to determine the gender of two tiger cubs born by Zolushka (Cinderella in English) in 2017 – they are a boy and a girl. Zolushka was rescued from death at the age of 5-6 months in the southwestern Primorye in 2012. After the course of rehabilitation at the Rehab Center in Alekseevka she was released into the wild in the Bastak Nature Reserve in 2013 to mate a local tiger male.

In autumn 2015 she delivered the first litter – two boys, and in summer 2017 two more cubs were born. In winter 2018-2019 one cub was defined as a boy, but the second one’s gender was unknown for quite a long time. The analysis of camera trap images allowed identifying the second tiger cub as a girl! The appearance of one more female has a great importance. The females do not compete for the territory. Mother-tigress can share a part of her hunting plot with her daughter. The young tigress will not have to look for a new territory to settle and will not face additional risks thus increasing the reproductive success.


Two Grown Tiger Cubs Are Moving to the Northwest of Tiger Range

On May 14, two cubs Pavlik and Elena from the Rehabilitation Centre “Tigr” started their journey from Primorsky to Amurskaya Province to be released into the wild. Tiger cubs were kept in the Rehab Centre in Alekseevka village for more than a year.

At first, the priority task after rescuing was the cubs’ recovery to physiologically normal state as they were too exhausted. Then a long and hard work on their rehabilitation in the enclosures followed. The cubs were accustomed to carnivorous diet and were trained on primary hunting skills and adequate reaction towards various disturbances and humans.

According to experts predators successfully settle down in a new habitat and actively hunt. Specialists checked the accumulation of "points" at a short distance (clusters), determined by analyzing data from GPS collars. Elena killed a large boar and a badger: experts found their remains in the place where the tigress stayed for a long period of time. Pavlik’s preys are: two
badgers, a roe deer and, most likely, a wolf. Both tigers are still in the territory of Amur region, where they had been released. Elena is still in the center of the Khingansky Reserve, and Pavlik is currently moving along its southwestern border.

WWF Russia backs the Rehabilitation Centre “Tigr” based in Alekseevka providing money for it general support and for secure upkeep of the enclosures.

Together for Conservation Effectiveness

Global Tiger Day Student Painting Competition Calls for Tiger Protection

To help the children and teenagers understand the threat of the Amur tigers, arouse the enthusiasm of students to love and protect tigers, pass the energy to protect the tigers among students, and encourage them to become the future backbone of the tigers conservation works, WWF and its partners launched the Global Tiger Day National Student Painting Competition.

From June 10th to 30th, more than 400 excellent paintings from all over the country were received in just 20 days; and we felt the students' love for the tiger and their concern for endangered species. Children sprinkle their pens and ink, display their creativity, express their hearts, and depict the harmonious coexistence of tigers and human beings, which affects more people to join Amur tiger conservation. The painting works will be exhibited during the global tiger day event.

The Parliament of Mongolia Has Approved 22 Areas for National Protected Areas

In recent years, environmental degradation and natural resource depletion have been increasing as a result of climate change and adverse human impacts. Therefore, it is necessary to extend the network of protected areas to preserve natural state, ecological balance, and restore natural resources. For that reason, Parliament of Mongolia has approved 22 areas for national protected areas on 2 May 2019.

The described areas cover 3.4 million hectares of 9 provinces throughout the nation and 11 areas out of them are located in the Amur-Heilong Ecoregion which include an important areas for Mongolian gazelle (7 areas) and freshwater ecosystems (4 areas); 2 areas out of them are located in the Altai-Sayan Ecoregion which include an important areas for snow leopard. According to the survey, by taking these areas under protection the unique natural sites, pristine nature, historical and cultural heritage, about 350 species of rare animal and plant will be preserved. Moreover, the protection will cover 3.7 percent of spring sources and 3.2 percent of forest resources. In addition, the territory of protected areas will increase by 2.1 percent, reaching 3.4 million hectares, which accounts for 19.8 percent of the total land of Mongolia.

In terms of increasing territory of protected areas, WWF-Mongolia and other stakeholders have jointly conducted a broader set of preparation activities such as developing the justification for the proposed protected area, organizing discussions and consultations at local level, and conducting public awareness
activities. This has been the largest decision ever made in last 10 years after a long diligence of the stakeholders including government and non-government organizations, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Protected area administrations, and TNC, UNDP, as well as local citizens.

The UN recognizes positive experience of the Bikin National Park
On April 23 in NY, the indigenous people of Russia, Indonesia, and Latin America organized a session on Traditional Knowledge and Sustainable Use of Forest Resources as part of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Rodion Sulyandziga, head of the Centre for Indigenous People Assistance, shared the positive experience of the Bikin NP as one of the first in Russia where a new model of co-managing nature resources in partnership with governmental agencies, ecologists, and indigenous people is being applied. The Park’s administration worked hard to find solutions which consider the aboriginal communities interests and to avoid possible conflicts. As a result, the Regulations on the Bikin National Park were developed which give the indigenous people the right to maintain their traditional lifestyle and economic activity in the park, and to participate in its management. Over 70% of the Park’s territory is called Zone for Traditional Nature Use meaning that the local people have the right to hunt, to fish, to harvest herbs and mushrooms, to be involved into ecotourism activities. For the native people to participate in the Park’s management a Council of Indigenous People was formed, whose leader holds the position of the Park’s deputy head. These knowledge and skills should be studied, put into practice, and replicated in other protected areas; they should be codified by laws. WWF Russia and the Amur Tiger Centre are among pioneers of the Park’s establishing.


Nature Protection Legislation Seminar in Ussuriisk
100 representatives of forestry units, Police and law students studied the basics of nature protection legislation at the seminar organized with the support of WWF at the Forestry Innovation Centre in Ussuriisk on May 22-24. The attendees were taught how to control the compliance with the environmental laws on logging plots and how to calculate the damage, how to prevent infringements against fauna species. But not only theoretical knowledge was given to the “students”. They did drill investigation on one of the illegal sites. Got acquainted with measuring instruments of a forest manager, were trained how to identify illegal logging site etc.

Establishment of Zhangguangcai Mountain Anti-poaching Alliance
On May 27, 2019, WWF held the Zhangguangcai Mountain Southern anti-poaching
alliance seminar in Dunhua, Jilin Province. 9 protection units in the south of Zhangguangcai mountain and local forest public security and market supervision departments attended the event. This seminar aims to build a platform for effective cooperation with mutual trust. Establishing anti-poaching alliances is able reduce the difficulties of poaching cases across Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces, and effectively improve the anti-poaching work effectiveness. With forest public security and the market supervision department joining, the anti-poaching alliance could reinforce law enforcement and jointly break poaching cases.

**Heilongjiang Large Scale Ranger Training**

On June 24-26th, WWF, Heilongjiang Forestry and Grassland Bureau and Longjiang Forest Industry Group jointly organised a large-scale training for the rangers in Heilongjiang Province. More than 110 rangers from 35 protected areas participated the training.

This training offered 8 courses for rangers, including SMART patrol, PPT and presentations, monitoring and photography techs, laws and regulations, field survival skills, etc. Rangers can choose the course according to their own interests and needs. WWF also designed questionnaires to understand the demands of the rangers.

**Forest Service Mobile Brigades Reveal Illegal Loggings in the Southern Far East**

In 2018, four Forest Service mobile brigades revealed 10 cases of illegal logging in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Provinces using the KEDR System. The overall damage was estimated at apx. USD 816K. The brigades were formed with the support of WWF as well as the remote-sensing forest monitoring system KEDR which has been active in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Provinces since 2017.

Primorsky Province. In 2018, operative mobile brigades revealed four facts with 65,54 m3 of illegally cut timber, the damage was estimated at USD 134K. Four criminal and two administrative cases were initiated. During the first quarter of 2019, five facts with 265,12 m3 of illicit timber and estimated damage of USD 22K were revealed by the KEDR system. Five criminal and two administrative cases were initiated. Putting KEDR in operation on a regular basis got prescribed in the agreement on cooperation between the Primorsky Province Administration and WWF Russia in 2016 to conserve biodiversity and the Amur tiger habitat.

Khabarovsky Province. In 2018, jointly with the state forest inspectors and law enforcement officials WWF staff took part in a special operation “Forest-2018”. During the raids, five facts of illegal logging were revealed with the volume of 533,31 m3 and the damage estimated at more than USD684K. Five criminal and four administrative cases were commenced. Over the first quarter of 2019, the brigades
revealed two facts of illegal logging with 71,66 m3 of illegal timber, the amount of damage was calculated at USD5000, criminal cases were initiated. Since the beginning of 2019, one administrative case has been commenced for violation of logging regulations.


**CA|TS Training for Nature Reserve in Suifenhe**

WWF promoted CA|TS standards for nature reserves in Heilongjiang province from 24-26th June in Suifenhe, Heilongjiang Province. 20 people including senior leadership from Taipinggou National Nature Reserve, Dajiahe Provincial Nature Reserve, Laoyeling Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve and Tianqiaoling Amur Tiger Nature Reserve participated the CA|TS training.

At the training, the latest CA|TS assessment management software was introduced to the attendees. This software will greatly increase the speed of adding and searching for relevant evidence in the future, and effectively display of the scores of those conservation areas, ultimately to help the NRs to meet the CA|TS standard.

**Protecting the Onon River Basin Forest with Active Stakeholder Participation**

WWF-Mongolia focuses on forest protection, reducing degradation and community-based natural resource management in Onon River Basin. Within this framework, the Forest Party's meeting was held in Bayan-Adraga soum, Khentii province on May 13, 2019, in order to identify the results of forest protection in Onon River Basin. The meeting was attended by 46 members that included Nature, Environment and Tourism department of Khentii province, representatives of the 7 soums of Onon River Basin, forest unit, forest user groups, Onon River community based organizations and local residents. During the meeting, the parties presented their work on forest protection over the past year and exchanged their experiences. Also, discussed difficulties, challenges and achievements.

WWF-Mongolia initiated the "Tree for water, water for life" campaign, in cooperation with the parties since 2017. The goal is to increase the livelihoods of local residents through the protection of forests in the Onon River Basin and eco-friendly green businesses and to develop a green development model. Organizers said that over the past two years, trees have been planted for 60 hectares and have been growing well.
Under the campaign, actions are carried out by the parties to decrease steppe fire and illegal logging. As a result of the active involvement of the parties, forest fires at the basin level decreased by 72.4 percent and illegal logging decreased by 37.7 percent. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the results of the campaign and emphasized the need to increase public and private participation.

In addition, by WWF-Mongolia’s initiation the community organizations capacity has been assessed. Evaluation involves membership participation, legal knowledge, governance capacity, mutual funds, income and cooperation. Effective management effectiveness was assessed at 69.1 percent, up by 11.5 percent in comparison with 2016. Although there is a certain amount of growth, there are many issues that need to be addressed and improved, the participants emphasized and offered suggestions. At the end of the meeting, recommendations were made to stakeholders on forest protection and forest management. The purpose of the Recommendation is to improve stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

Specialists of Wildlife Management Departments of Primorsky, Khabarovsky and Evreiskaya Provinces learn how to mitigate conflicts with tigers

A seminar was conducted on March 28-29 at the Severnaya Hunting Lease’s lodge. This was the fifth in a row prescheduled seminar on mitigations conflicts. The seminar was attended by the staff of special groups on conflicts minimization. 25 experts and employees of the three Russian provinces shared their knowledge and were trained in theoretical issues and practical skills. Over the first quarter of this year, 20 conflicts with large predators were registered in Primorye. Much attention was paid to the spread of dangerous bot for humans and animals diseases like the African swine fever, hog plague, rabies. Concrete conflict cases were analyzed, strong and weak points of each case were discussed.
When the Belt Is Green

The International Year for the Salmon

WWF Russia has joined the International Year for the Salmon. 23 PAs, six student nature conservation brigades, and five NGOs have teamed up with WWF to protect wild salmon. To support action in salmon conservation WWF has conducted a broad variety of events in all five Far Eastern provinces of the Amur ecoregion:


In the end of April, an international large-scale environmental campaign “March for Parks” took place. Traditionally, clean-ups were organized on these days, competitions of propaganda teams and contests of drawings on environmental topics were held (More details are here: https://wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/marsh-parkov-v-basseyne-amura-prokhodit-pod-flagom-goda-lososya/)

A mobile photo exhibition “Salmon which we can lose” opened in Vladivostok. The exposition consisting of 40 pictures is travelling across the Amur Ecoregion. On May 15, on a Day for the Salmon, different actions took place with the support of WWF.

On May 17, a Day without Nets was held. WWF’s partners went to the rivers and lakes to withdraw illegal fishing gears.

In the International Year of Salmon, a new environmental holiday — the Day of Salmon — was organized in the Amur basin by the initiative of WWF Russia. During a week starting since May 15, more than 2 000 people took part in the number of events dedicated to salmon conservation: a regional festival, a theatrical performance with the interactive program “Salmon Boy”, the demonstration of the new video documentary “Salmon in muddy water”, a staged play about salmon, performances of propaganda teams, a game “Marathon of Salmon”, a Clean Coast action, an environmental quest, a game “The Amazing Underwater World of Zabaikalye” for schoolchildren, an intellectual game and a quest “Young Ranger” for the schoolchildren (more details are here: https://wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/den-lososya-vpervye-otmetili-v-basseyne-amura/)

Crane Festival Is Celebrated for the Seventh Year in the Headwaters of Amur
On the occasion of Migratory Bird Day, the Crane Festival is being celebrated for the seventh year since 2013 in Binder soum of Khentii province in order to raise awareness on the white-naped crane, an endangered crane species. WWF-Mongolia collaborates with a wide range of other organizations including the Wildlife Conservation and Science Society, Administration of the Onon-Balj National Park, Administration of the Khan Khentii Strictly Protected Area, and local government office.

This year many interesting activities were held during the event, including the exhibition of children’s drawings, performance by the children’s eco clubs, traditional games and Q & A competition. The organizers were happy that many children could give correct answers to all of the questions about cranes. Also, children were taught how to make origami of the crane, color the drawings and do drawing. More than 500 participants attended the event from Dadal, Batshireet, Bayan-Uul and Binder soums, including the children from eco-clubs, students from Khurkh village, tourists, as well as local residents.

The Number of Stork Nests Is on the Rise in the Amur River Basin
The Oriental stork survey is reaching its peak in the Russian part of its home range. With the support of WWF Russia the researchers from Amurskaya, Evreiskaya and Khabarovsky Provinces are examining the previously known stork nests and looking for new ones reaching them by ATVs, boats, unmanned aerial vehicles and on foot.

The survey was already carried out in Amurskaya Province in the areas traditionally inhabited by storks. Moreover, intermediate results demonstrate a considerable increase in the number of breeding pairs compared to the previous year.

During the Oriental stork survey in Sheremetyevsky Nature Park of Khabarovsky province, specialists of Zapovedny Priamurye were amazed at the number of nests on this relatively small protected area.

The work on the recording of breeding pairs has already been completed in Evreiskaya province. In total, except for the territories of federal protected areas, 115 inhabited nests of the Oriental stork were counted, 85 of them are built on trees and 30 on power transmission towers. Each nest has about 2-3 chicks. During the monitoring activities, 8 new nests were discovered. The survey in Evreiskaya province was carried out by the experts of NGO “Bagulnik”, by volunteers and by the state inspectors of the Directorate for the Wildlife and Protected Areas Management of Evreiskaya province. The information about the
presence and condition of breeding sites was also provided by fire brigade of the Birobidzhan airbase, as well as by the electric power company “DRSK”. Since 1998, the number of breeding pairs of Oriental storks in the Amur region has increased by 1.85 times.


**The Breeding Season of Oriental Storks Is Captured on Film**

Six online cameras were fixed by NGO AmurSEU in 4 nests of the Oriental storks in Amurskaya Province with the support of WWF. The cameras were streaming a reality show with episodes of the birds’ arrival from their “winter apartments”, laying eggs, raising chicks, and the chicks’ first flight.

The first egg was delivered right for the International Bird Day. According to expert observations, this pair of storks has been nesting and successfully breeding here since 2009. It keeps successfully breeding every year. By the way, this nest was found in 2004 and it is one of the oldest nests in the province. Altogether, by May 27, 14 storks hatched out.

Online cameras in Amurskaya Province will be streaming in open access till the moment of migration. Enjoy watching the show online.


**“The Salmon in Muddy Waters” Documentary Released by the Taiga Planet Grassroots and WWF**

In the International Year of Salmon-2019, the internet premier of the documentary was broadcasted on the Youtube channel of the Taiga Planet. The film tells about the fisheries and the status of the Pacific salmon that comes into the Amur River for spawning. The film production was supported by WWF and EU as a part of small grants projects “Amur Coalition of Environmental NGOs”.

Among other issues, the film confirmed that the situation with the stocks of summer-run chum is catastrophic and that there is another threat for salmon - the reducing spawning forest belts. The Russian government adopted new amendments to the Forest Code of the Russian Federation, which will come in force on July 1, 2019 and may aggravate the already difficult situation with salmon in the Amur River.

The video in Russian here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-
The Third Working Meeting for the Chinese Members of China-Russia Reserve Network in the Heilongjiang River Basin

On April 16th, the third working meeting for Chinese members of China-Russia reserve network in Heilongjiang river basin was held in Raohe County, Heilongjiang with three new members joined the China-Russia reserve network, namely, Honghe, Zhongyangzhan and Dongfanghong Nature Reserve.

This meeting jointly organized by the WWF, Heilongjiang Forestry and Grassland Department, aimed to strengthen the communication between network members, understand each member's progress, as well as improve the management capacity of members.

Mongolian Gazelle Migration Must Not Be Stopped

WWF-Mongolia initiated wildlife friendly passage national standard (MNS 6515:2015), which was approved in 2015. In order to mitigate a threat from fragmentation and proper implementation of the standard, WWF-Mongolia aimed to scientifically designate potential locations of wildlife crossings along the railroad to be built through Eastern Mongolia that would cut the main habitat of Mongolian gazelle, the long-distance migrating ungulate, into 4 fragments.

Under this effort, WWF-Mongolia specialists put satellite tracking collars on 24 individuals of Mongolian gazelle in 2017 and 2018. Moreover, specialists conducting monthly monitoring along the proposed railroad line for last 12 months to identify the overlapped important sites for Mongolian gazelle with
proposed railroad, such as calving sites, connectivity areas that facilitates migration of the large herd. Our next step is to develop recommendation for the government that provided exactly where and how many wildlife friendly passage should be built according to the standard along the proposed railroad. We already provided local administration with our recommendation from last 8-month results of monitoring in April 2019.

Also WWF-Mongolia experts analyzed 3.5 years of data and found that our 24 collared gazelles are within the range of 247,380.23 km2 in Khentii, Dornod, Sukhbaatar and Dornogobi provinces. Average monthly migration of Mongolian gazelle covers a long distance during fall season, and the distance is shorter during the winter. The experts say that it is associated with choosing the wintering place.

Experts compiled and analyzed all the tracking data for a period from January 2017 to December 2018. According to the reports, migration of Mongolian gazelle in trans-boundary areas has been confirmed. Over the course of this period, three collared Mongolian gazelle migrated across Russia and one to China, and two returned to Mongolia after a certain period of time. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce and implement optimal management of trans-boundary migratory routes.

**Indigenous people are ready to continue public monitoring the salmon resources in the tributaries of the Amur River**

In the Year of Salmon, the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North of Khabarovsky province jointly with WWF-Russia, organized two workshops on “Public monitoring over the Pacific salmon spawning grounds” and “The involvement of citizens in fishery protection activities in Khabarovsky province” for more than 40 representatives of indigenous people of the north of Khabarovsky Province from 8 municipal districts. Most of them are the leaders of indigenous peoples’ communities living near the spawning rivers. The more experiences participants presented the newcomers the survey methodology and told about the work that was done. Special attention was paid to the problematic issues and difficulties that volunteers had when counting fish and identifying spawning grounds on the river. The results of surveys that were carried out in the autumn of 2018 were shared and discussed. The representatives of the governmental authorities explained to the participants how they can be involved in public control over the exploitation of fish resources. The cases of most common violations were considered, the prohibited fishing gear was described, as well as the elements of violation related to illegal fishing.
Korean Pine Day Celebrated in Support of Salmon

On May 15, Korean pine Day was celebrated in the forest nursery of Primorsky State Agricultural Academy. In the International Year of Salmon, the holiday was organized with support of WWF Russia and the Amur Tiger Center. It was focused on the preservation of forests for people and salmon. WWF Russia draws the public’s attention to the problem of preserving spawning forest belts. On July 1, 2019, the Federal Law comes into force. Under the new law, the size of spawning forest zones is reduced from 1 km to 50-200 meters.

The schoolchildren, the winners and participants of the online forestry competition from five villages, took part in the celebration. On Korean pine Day, together with students and teachers of the Academy, the schoolchildren worked in the sowing section of the nursery and laid their rows with the seeds of the “bread” tree of Ussury taiga. After work, the students from “TIS” brigade prepared games and contests about the forest, its inhabitants and salmon fish. In general, more than 1000 kg of Korean pine seeds will be sown this spring in the forest nursery of the Primorsky State Agricultural Academy.


AHEC Ambassador Shapes Eco-education for Protecting Migratory Fish

From April 21st to 26th, collaborated with the Forestry and Grassland Department of Heilongjiang Province and Jilin Province, WWF held “AHEC Ambassador Campaign” event. This year’s theme was “protecting migratory fish”. The team have driven 3000km to 5 nature reserves, including Dajiahe, Hunchun, Suifenhe etc. And volunteers offered wetland and fish conservation courses for the primary and middle schools in the areas.

In addition, ambassadors visited the Mijiang and Dongning Salmon Breeding and Release Station and took part in the activities of salmon release. They knew the daily work of staff in the Release Station and difficulty in protecting the salmon. WWF has also initiated the online migratory fish education video clips to attract the attention of the public through WWF Douyin and Weibo, 1000 thousand people were
reached via WWF social media.

Through giving out leaflets and developing eco-education, the public awareness of migratory fish conservation were enhanced.

**The Wetland Network of Heilongjiang River Basin Established**

From May 9th to 10th, the wetland network of Heilongjiang River Basin was established in Changchun, Jilin Province. This meeting held by the WWF, Heilongjiang Forestry and Grassland Department, Jilin Forestry and Grassland Department, Jilin Wetland Conservation Association and Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. It aims to build a communication platform for wetland protection in Heilongjiang River Basin.

More than 110 representatives from 52 nature reserves, universities and research institutions attended the meeting. The Wetland Network of Yangtze River Basin experience was introduced. The best practice of water bird monitoring, habitat restoration, skill and development of wetland park were exchanged at the conference.

The Dialogue session of “Responsibility, Duty, Mission-Building a community of Wetland Conservation” was arranged. The representatives from government, research institutions, non-government organizations and enterprise shared their opinions and ideas on wetland conservation.

**“Plastic Free Kherlen River” Campaign Was A Success**

In 2018, WWF Mongolia initiated “Rivers without plastic” campaign launching first in Kherlen River Basin. At the inception phase, the local stakeholders sat down together and discussed how to involve the initiatives for whole basin. Based on the shared plan the stakeholders kick off campaign for the entire length of Kherlen floodplain in July 2018 under the motto "Plastic free Kherlen river ". As a part of the campaign the over 259 tons of persistent polluting wastes were collected from the floodplain of entire Kherlen River by over 3000 local residents. An analysis of waste collected in Kherlen soum of Dornod province showed that 71% of the waste were made of plastic bags and bottles.

The evaluation meeting was held in June 2019. More than 170 people attended the meeting to present what they have done. Parties have accomplished much work in the past year. WWF-Mongolia organized a training on the use of plastics and parties have highlighted the active involvement of local residents and eco-
club children. It is important to change the attitude of decision makers as well as of the public. Khentii and Dornod provinces’ Governor Offices played leading role to change their behavior to reduce waste especially plastic waste. Starting January 2019, they have sorted out all the waste they are producing, and measured ways to reduce plastic. The Kherlen River Basin Administration and the Province Environmental Department monitored and gave advice. During this period, government officials’ understanding of waste sorting has been improved, and local garbage amount dropped at certain point. They called on other organizations to abandon the use of plastic products.

At the evaluation meeting the Ministry of Environment and Tourism applauded the campaign initiative and all River Basin Administrations of Mongolia have agreed to carry out the same initiative in their respective river basins – thus turning the WWF-Mongolia “Rivers without plastic” initiative into a nationwide campaign.

**Students Successfully Participated in Summer Camps**

WWF-Mongolia focuses on involving children in conservation and promotes eco-clubs for environmental protection. One of these forms is a summer camp and is organized in cooperation with the Onon Balj National Park since 2011 in the Eastern region.

The purpose of the gathering is to exchange experiences with other eco-club students, to discover natural beauty of the Onon River Basin, to practice simple methods of studying the environment, and to motivate the eco-clubs activity. This year the summer camp was held on June 20-23 at the Khurkh river bank and 90 students and teachers from 10 soums of the Onon River Basin and Khar Yamaat Nature Reserve gathered together. Eco-club students introduced their work on environmental protection over the past year and exchanged their experiences. They also discussed difficulties, challenges and achievements. They have implemented number of initiatives in the past. Among them, Mongolian gazelle related initiative has attracted the participants. Students have clearly suggested that decision makers need to pay attention to the difficulties encountered in gazelle conservation, especially in eliminating illegal hunting. It was a success where local administrators received students’ request and assured to focus on Mongolian gazelle conservation.

There were many interesting events organized during the summer camp. The students were delighted that ecology education was taught in a way of collective and fun games. Particularly, students were actively involved in the training on business writing and a successful implementation of the project. It was one of a valuable gathering, where the eco-club students have been able to introduce
and share their work done for the past year, to share their experiences and to improve their ecological knowledge.

**Sustainable Agriculture Technology Training for Farmers in Qian’an**

On June 25th, WWF and Jilin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Old Science and Technology Association of Qian An County, Yili Group offered environmentally-friendly agriculture technology for the farmers in Qian’an. The training contents theoretical inductions and field practice. More than 50 farmers participated this training. This training has not only helped farmers understand the importance of environmental-friendly technology, but also supported them to master comprehensive, scientific and systematic production technology. And the farmers were encouraged to practice environmental-friendly production mode in maize planting, which could minimize the impact of farming on the environment, in order to achieve sustainable development between agriculture and environment.

Through the application of efficient and sustainable agricultural production technology, the cost of agricultural production could be reduced, the efficiency of resource utilization is improved, ecological environment of the farmland is protected, the cost saving and efficiency of agriculture is realized, the income of farmers is promoted, and the harmonious development of man and nature is realized.

Since 2016, WWF and partners have been implementing the sustainable agriculture and wetland conservation project under the strong support of Yili Satine (Jindian). Wetland conservation has been strengthened by the sustainable maize-planting demonstration project. The mode of sustainable maize planting and production has been established. The awareness and application ability of public have been improved on environmental-friendly sustainable agriculture.

More than 700 farmers have benefited from the training of environmental-friendly maize-planting technology since 2016. It has effectively enhanced the understanding of local government and farmers on environmental-friendly sustainable agriculture; application ability of farmers have been improved significantly. And they have become beneficiaries and promoters of sustainable agricultural technology.

**Taimen Day was much informative for local communities**

At initiative of WWF-Mongolia a campaign for Taimen conservation has been successfully implemented in Onon River Basin since 2010. The purpose of this event is to increase the involvement of local communities in conservation activities through increasing awareness and significance of taimen (Hucho
taimen) in the basin, which is a headwater of the Amur River.
This year’s event was organized in June 2019 in collaboration with WWF-Mongolia, Onon River Fishing Club, Onon Ulz River Basin Administration and Onon Balj National Park, and more than 300 people participated. In the previous years, the event used to be held in only one soum, but this year it was organized in five soums of Onon river basin. During the “Taimen day”, promotional materials about taimen value and significance were presented for the participants and was much appreciated. The participants also actively participated in the Q&A competition on taimen and fisheries. Also, the Onon River Fishing Club reported on their work on taimen conservation and illegal fishing, and received citizens’ opinions for further work that need to be done. The WWF-Mongolia helps the locals, who used to illegally fish, join a club, where they take part in conservation measures. This effort has been showing good results and the locals are keen to cooperate in conservation activities.
Brief News

Remote sensing of placer gold miners started in the Russian Far East

Rivers without Borders, the environmental coalition, and the Centre for Remote Sensing and Civil Control opened a new season of “hunt” for those miners who contaminate the Far Eastern rivers. The water polluted with sand and mud gets different colors on satellite images which helps inspectors to plan trips to the site. This year the geography of remote monitoring has been expanded – besides gold miners from Zabaikalsky and Amurskaya Provinces, the ones from Evreiskaya, Khabarovsky and Primorsky Provinces will be monitored from space. This work is supported by WWF as part of the Small Grants Program “The Amurskaya Conservation Coalition”.

Tayozhnoye Hunting Lease

On June 19-20, at the lodge of the Tayozhnoye Hunting Lease, a seminar for the model hunting leases of Khabarovsky Province took place with the support of WWF. Heads of seven hunting clubs covering nearly 70% of tiger habitats in the region participated in the meeting as well as the representatives of the Wildlife Management Department. The meeting participants discussed how to raise the ungulates numbers if the African Swine Fewer comes, how to supplementary feed the animals, how to protect the leases territory in a right way. And what is not least important - was in which direction a hunting club should develop under present economic conditions. A very important suggestion was made while discussing all the issues – to joint forces of the bordering clubs in their anti-poaching efforts and restoration of game resources. Among other suggestions was the idea to form the inner law support hot line for the clubs.

50 fire areas liquidated

Over 50 fire areas were liquidated over the year in Nezhinskoe hunting lease that borders on the land of the Leopard NP. The lease is one of the key WWF’s partners in the southwestern Primorye. To combat forest fires, a brigade of volunteer fire men was formed at the lease, all of them were trained and got appropriate certificates. The brigade is permanently on alert ready to react on any signal from the fire site. In early 2018,
WWF bought an excavator SUMITOMO 75 U to do new and renovate over 80 kilometers of mineralizes belts. Also, air pumps, motor pumps, field clothes, firefighting instruments, fuel were purchased and handed over to the hunting lease.

**WWF awarded the students of the Far Eastern Law Institute** who participated in the essay competition on environmental crimes investigation. The event was part of the Agreement signed in 2018 between WWF and the Law Institute aimed at training of skilled personnel of the internal affairs bodies to conserve the nature. The first price got the paper “Inspection of the illegal logging site: a source of proof of a way to rehabilitate the criminals”. Among other winners there was the essay on the investigation of crimes related to illicit turnover of protected flora species, animals and their derivates. The winners of the contest supported by WWF were awarded with the Letters of Gratitude and branded souvenirs.

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