A special IUCN Commission visited Primorye to complete a long-term process of incorporating the Bikin River Basin into the existing UNESCO World Natural Heritage site “Central Sikhote-Alin” which represents a system of clusters of PAs consisting of the Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve and the Goral Wildlife Refuge. Since it was approved by the UNESCO Commission in 2004, the Russian ecologists have made a lot of efforts to give the Bikin River Basin an honorable international status. This complicated work was launched in order to preserve old growth forests of Bikin River basin as an area threatened by commercial forestry ambitions and poaching.

Experts also noted that they intend to expand the nomination “Central Sikhote-Alin” by including in it “Udege Legend” National Park and in the perspective two more northern neighbors of the Bikin National Park – the “Chukensky” and “Mataisky” Wildlife Refuges of Khabarovsky Province, as it was planned initially. Only after the formation of such network of protected areas with a unified management plan the international community will feel safe that the heart of Ussury taiga, the home of the Amur tiger, ensures the stability of its population and at the same time guarantees the protection of the traditional needs and interests of Udege indigenous people.


Establishment of Nature School in Jilin Province

Nature school is a platform between protection areas and the public. It can provide environmental, outdoor and ecological civilization education for students from primary school to college. The aims of establishing nature school are to make the public understand and love nature conservation, and become willing to support specific protection works.

On September 4th and 5th, Xianghai Wetland School and Momoge Wetland School were established respectively with the support of Jilin Wetland Conservation Association and WWF. About 550 people witnessed the ceremony, and dozens of media, including TV and newspaper journalists came to report the ceremony. Li Yingjun, secretary general of Jilin Wetland Conservation Association, presided the establishment ceremony.
The presidents of the two schools gave high praise to the contributions of Jilin Wetland Conservation Association and WWF NE China to wetland protection, also, they expressed their attitudes for long-term cooperation. Liu Peiqi, head of WWF NE office, unveil the nameplate of “Wetland nature school”, which means the environment protection in Jilin Province enter a new period. In the ceremony, 7 experts were appointed as teachers of environment education by Jilin Wetland Conservation Association, Nature Reserve Bureau and WWF.

After the event, 3 officers of WWF NE office gave the first lesson to the students, and told them the significant value of wetland. Through this activity, the students have a deeper understanding of wetland and would like to become environmental guards to build a beautiful homeland.

“Community Development-2017” has been successfully held

The “Community Development Festival”, first organized in 2010 is considered as the main promotional and experience sharing gathering for the community based organizations (CBOs) dealing with sustainable natural resource use. This year’s festival was organized under the motto “Together for Green Development” in Chinggis town, the center of Khentii aimag on 20-22 September, 2017.

The festival was attended by over 200 representatives from CBOs in soums of Khentii and Sukhbaatar aimags in Eastern Mongolia. Previously, the festival was attended only by those from Onon River Basin. This year, over 100 representatives from the central aimags of Mongolia also attended the festival for learning and experience sharing.

During the festival, the CBOs and their Associations, a fishing club for Onon River, and WWF Mongolia presented their activities and achievements to the audiences. The festival agenda included, among others, the traditional activities such as selection of the Best CBO Association and the Best Local Brand Products and a contest “Devjee”. An open discussion was organized around a theme “Priority Concerns of Local CBOs and their Solutions” to provide its participants with a chance to openly exchange their views. From the discussion, the participants issued a call [joint communiqué] for collaborative efforts to overcome and solve their priority concerns. At the end of the festival, the Federation of CBOs in Onon River Basin and Khentii Aimag’s Chamber for Trade and Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation to assist local CBOs in selling their products at the markets.

It was a very practical and useful event that allowed CBOs to share their experiences and local communities to obtain better understanding on improvement of their livelihoods through sustainable natural resource use, said by the participants of the festival “Community Development”.
A sub-council for anti-poaching has its first meeting

Arrest or discovery of incidents of illegal hunting and trade of wildlife is an uneasy task, because this type of crime is often networked and well organized by the culprits. However, it is possible to reduce and eliminate this type of crime through close cooperation between the law enforcement agencies (the police) and local communities.

Under the cooperation framework, WWF-Mongolia facilitated a meeting among law enforcement organizations in last May. As a result of the meeting, a sub-council was set up with the responsibility to manage and supervise preventive activities for anti-environmental crimes. The sub-council was established by the Mongolian Justice and Internal Affair Minister’s Order of 18 August, 2017 and its members include representatives from the law enforcement agencies and WWF-Mongolia. On 21 September, they held the first meeting. During the meeting the sub-council members presented ongoing activities dealing with arrest, discovery, reduction, and elimination of illegal wildlife hunting and trade, constraints encountered, and proposed activities in the nearest future. Meantime, they exchanged data and incidents and proposed and discussed about the opportunities for cooperation in the fields. The sub-council members have agreed on preparation of annual work plan based on the discussed issues and proposals and having semi-annual meetings for presentation and evaluation of its performances.

Wildlife conservation was one of the key topics at the 3rd Eastern Economic Forum

hosted by Vladivostok on 7 September. WWF Russia joined the sessions “Protected areas – Opportunities for Government and Business”. WWF Russia is concerned that at present the same approach to tourism is being applied to PAs as well as to tourism outside of PAs. The emphasis is on the development of resort and sports tourism. This approach causes conflicts with the objectives of PAs which are aimed to preserve natural complexes and ecological processes.

The discussion was attended by Sergey Donskoy, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Konstantin Chuychenko, Assistant to the President of the Russian Federation, Chief of the Control Directorate of the Presidential Administration, Dmitriy Gorshkov, Director of Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve, Igor Chestin, Director of WWF Russia.
As Igor Chestin, head of WWF Russia, noted, federal PAs occupy only 3% of the country’s territory, and develop the same types of recreation there as for the remaining 97% is fatal for nature and unprofitable economically. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly define at the legislation level what kinds of tourism and recreation are allowed on federal protected areas, keeping in mind that only ecological tourism is possible in nature reserves, the development of which does not require the construction of facilities and capital construction projects.

Peter Osipov, head of WWF Russia Amur branch, participated in the session of the Public Council of the Ministry for Development of the Russian Far East.


**Patrol clothing were donated to rangers**

An agreement of Amur tiger conservation between WWF and “SASELOMO”, a famous cosmetics company in China, was signed on 29th, July. Product ideas of this partner is protecting well complexion of the Earth and all materials of their products are FSC. SASELOMO provided some funds to increase the capacity and equipment of rangers and sustainable livelihood of local communities. More than 20 patrol clothing were donated to rangers of Tianqiaoling Forestry Bureau, Jilin Province by SASELOMO on 21th, September. Through this activity, WWF NE office hope that the rangers will better patrol the tiger habitat under tough environment and more and more companies would like to join the tiger conservation work.

**RUSHYDRO cancels construction of a new dam on Zeya,**
one of the largest tributaries of the Amur River.

The Board of directors of RusHydro decided to close up Nizhne-Zeyskaya HPP Company which was established to construct a hydroelectric power plant on Zeya River. Nizhne-Zeyskaya HPP (planned capacity 400 MW) should have become one out of four flood protection stations on the Amur River and its tributaries. As a result, no dams will disturb water ecosystems in the Amur basin. WWF Russia welcomes this decision.
Alternative decisions that WWF Russia insists on include regulatory activities in flooded areas of river valleys, gradual emptying of flooded floodplain from unsecured housing constructions and enterprises, adaptation of remained constructions to floods, resettlement of people to safe areas and the development of the insurance system in case of natural disasters. Construction of dams cannot solve the problem of catastrophic floods. That’s why WWF experts suggest changing the farming policy on the areas of high risk of flooding.

Local communities have had better understanding on decision making process with regard to mining projects

As the mining is booming in Mongolia, this development process has been showing both the positive and negative impacts. The lack of information among different stakeholders is considered as one of the bottlenecks that country is facing. In other words, the stakeholders are not well aware of their obligations and rights with regard to implementation of a mining project. To raise better understanding on their rights and obligations related to decision making process of a mining project among stakeholders and develop responsible mining in the country, the WWF Mongolia is implementing EU supported project in the country. Under this project, two areas are designated and one of them lies in Onon River basin.

WWF Mongolia organized serial trainings for local stakeholders including governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) CBOs, local residents, herders, and mining companies to ensure the successful implementation of the project. On September 19, 2017, training was organized in Chinggis town of Khentii aimag to present the results assessment of legal and regulatory framework and a proposed model of collaborative approach for equal stakeholder engagement in decision making in mining projects. It was attended by over 100 representatives including specialists, officers, rangers, State environmental inspectors, and senior officials (Governors and Heads of Citizen’s Representative Khurals) from the local (aimag and soum) Governor’s Offices and the Police.

Training was conducted by professional trainers in forms of lecture and participatory exercises. At the end of training, the materials including manuals and brochures prepared under the project were distributed to the participants. They all have found these materials as useful references for them. At the end of training, representatives from the soums sought individual meetings with the trainers for additional inquiries. The project managers underlined that this type of training has proven what local communities needed was the right or correct information.

Bikin Days celebrated in Primorye

Early in August, the village of Krasny Yar celebrated the international Day of Indigenous People, the Bikin Days and the 60th anniversary of the village. WWF was among the organizers of the festive activities. The idea to celebrate the Bikin River Days and to raise public awareness in the Bikin valley conservation was born several years ago long before the Bikin National Park was established. Today, when the Park is already declared its administration decided to convert the Bikin Days into an environmental festival. According to Pyotr Osipov, head of WWF Russia Amur branch, “We are witnessing that
the local people recognize the importance of the Park and its growing role in their lives. We are meeting people who see their input into nature conservation and are proud of it.”

The Bikin National Park has been working for three years. Among the Park’s successes is its HR policy. Today, in there are 120 employees out of which 65 live in Krasny Yar. Almost every person who hunts in the Park’s territory is its staff working either full time or half time or even 0.3 fte (the Park’s zone for extensive nature use is divided into 26 hunting plots). All hunters help the Park administration to protect their hunting plots.


**State Council announced an Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve**

The State Council announced Heilongjiang Qixinglazi Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve on July 12th, 2017. It is one of those 17 national nature reserves in this session, only one nature reserve specifically to the Amur tiger. Currently, there are a total of 463 national nature reserves across China.

WWF has technically and financially supported the planning of this Amur tiger national nature reserve during its scientific investigation, master plan development, and governmental application. The total area of this national nature reserve is 55,740 ha. It is located in Western Wandashan landscape. There have been tiger encounters in this nature reserve since 2014. The data indicated that a tiger dispersed from western Wandashan landscape to final settlement in Southern Zhangguangcailing landscape (Huangnihe area), while crossing the nature reserve area. Therefore, this
national nature reserve has played an important role in connecting the eastern and western Wandashan landscapes with Zhangguangcailing landscape.

The government announcement available at [http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2017-07/12/content_5209765.htm](http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2017-07/12/content_5209765.htm)

**Research and monitoring is underway in Khar Yamaat Nature Reserve**

WWF Mongolia is delegated with main responsibilities of the Administration for Khar Yamaat Nature Reserve (NR) in accordance with the agreement made with the Ministry of Environment and Green Development and the authorities of Khentii and Sukhbaatar Aimags. Under this delegation, the WWF Mongolia carries out conservation activities in the NR.

Research and monitoring is an important part for environmental conservation, because comprehensive understanding on the area’s natural features, wildlife populations, and interrelationships within biodiversity usually provide for a basis for optimal conservation management. The WWF Mongolia jointly with researchers from the National University of Mongolia (NUM) has carried out studies on wildlife (fauna and flora) species including small mammals and insects in Khar Yamaat NR. Researchers did partial studies, through which they collected baseline data on small mammals and insects in last July. They recorded striped hamster (Cricetulus barabensis) in the mountain steppe habitat. The species is recorded in the steppe and forest and desert steppe in Mongolia. They also studied nocturnal rodent species by using spot lights and catched and identified Korean field mouse (Apodemus peninsulae) in the area. They collected and sent samples of Orthoptera to a laboratory.

In the future, the researchers are planning to conduct studies on small mammals in different parts of Khar Yamaat NR habitats and to define what major factors influencing their population distributions according to the researchers.

**Hunt in Primorye to be follow new regulations**

Primorye became one of the first in Russia where changes of the regional hunting regulations were developed considering the principles of sustainable hunt and biodiversity conservation. The new rules were developed by the Primorsky Province Hunting Department in cooperation with hunter, game users, WWF Russia and the Amur Tiger Center.
For example, according to the new rules, a wild boar hunt will be allowed on June 1-October 1 and only on the crop fields or supplementary feeding stations from the towers. A collective hunt for red deer, sika deer and wild boar from a tower or a hide has to be done in presence of a game warden, a leader of the hunters’ team, or a game biologist and only at a daytime. When a hunter clearly sees he can choose a right animal – a male instead of female, an old one instead of a young. This will ensure the safety of the population and minimize the number of wounded game.

**Mini-grants award program announced its second round in the Amur River basin**

WWF Russia Amur branch holds the second round of the “The Amur Coalition” mini-grants award program to provide financial assistance to environmental initiatives with the support of the European Union.

During the first round of the program 18 environmental organizations and civil society groups. In the second round WWF plan to provide funds primarily to the initiatives on forest conservation and developing of non-timber forest use, anti-poaching activities, public control over mining operations, and over the state of rivers and lakes of the Amur Ecoregion.” The main goal of the mini-grants award program is to provide assistance to the grassroots involved in nature conservation in the Russian Far East and to give them a chance to set public control over environmental legislation compliance.

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

At initiative of WWF Mongolia a campaign for Taimen conservation has been successfully implemented in the soums in Onon River Basin since 2010. Under the campaign the WWF Mongolia in cooperation with Fishing Club of Onon River and the Administration of Onon-Balj National Park (OBNP) had successfully organized “Taimen Day” in Bayan-Adraga soum of Khentii Aimag on July 23, 2017. Purpose of the campaign was to raise better understanding on value and importance of Taimen (Hucho taimen) and proper techniques of fly-fishing among local residents and fishing club members in Onon River Basin. The event was attended by over 100 individuals from the fishing club in Onon River Basin, the Administration of OBNP, and locals of Bayan-Adraga soum of Khentii aimag.

On the event, the audiences were presented with details on Taimen and its value and the activities of the park administration and a contest “Questions & Answers” on Taimen and game fishes. There was also a fishing contest “Spinning”, where volunteer locals and fishermen took place. Fly-fishing techniques were taught on the river bank in combination of theoretical parts and practical demonstrations.
One of the informative presentations during the event was the WWF Mongolia’s pilot project on e-fishing permits that allows obtaining permissions through www.e-zagas.mn, and overall content of the website and how to get fishing permissions in Onon-Balj River Basin.

The organizers are planning to have “Taimen Day” in 2018 in Norovlin soum of Khentii aimag with a more comprehensive activity programme (agenda) for extensive involvement of local community based organizations (CBOs).

The WWF Mongolia helps the locals, especially those of potential poachers, to join the 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.

Co-management committee for Khurkh-Khuiten Ramsar site to be set up

Khurkh Khuiten valley – an area listed in Ramsar Convention is an important bird area where large numbers of waterfowl seasonally gather. However, the valley requires a special attention to its conservation because lately, numbers of domestic livestock have been dramatically increasing and cropland has been extended in the valley. Although the valley is under local protection, its conservation is still inadequate.

Therefore, a meeting was held in Khurkh village of Umnudelger soum of Khentii aimag on August 24, 2017 to set up a co-management committee at initiative of the WWF Mongolia in order to improve stakeholder engagement in conservation management of the locally protected area. The meeting was attended by representatives from the aimag’s Environment and Tourism department, the International Fund for Cranes [International Crane Foundation?], and members of local community based organizations (CBOs) and rangers. The participants discussed about importance and value of Khurkh Khuiten valley and potential options for conservation management. To improve its conservation management, the co-management committee will play an important role and be launched and operational pretty soon said by the participants. They have agreed that key parties in the committee will be local authorities, who are to supervise and manage the conservation activities. The participants also highlight the importance of good planning for for successful co-management. After the meeting, they took a field trip for bird watching in Khurkh valley.
The 7th “Global Tiger Day” activity was held in Jilin province

This year, the “Global Tiger Day” activity was held in Jilin Provincial Natural History Museum, on July 29. “I protect tigers” was the topic of this event. It is hoped that everyone would protect the wild Amur tiger and build a harmonious society between the human and the tiger. During the activity, the review of the tiger conservation in the past 10 years in China, feature films of tiger and ranger, various drama and dance were displayed to introduce the knowledge and review the history of the Amur tiger conservation. 17 officers of Forestry Departments of Heilongjiang and Jilin, and more than 4000 public attended this activity. While mass media has focused, and reported the event. The public has further understood the threats and current situations of wild Amur tiger, and expressed their desire of joining the work of Amur tiger protection.

During this activity, together with Jilin Forestry Department, WWF donated a tiger sculpture named “Remodeling” to Jilin Provincial Natural History Museum. The sculpture will be exhibited permanently in Jilin Provincial Natural History Museum (nearly 200 thousand public visit the museum every year). The vivid image of the wild Amur tiger is rebuilt by a ratio of 1:1.2, which was made of two parts, welding metal and resin simulation model. The metal welding part was made by more than 3000 snares, removed from wild by the Amur tiger protection units of China. It is expected to show the protection work of wild Amur tiger to the public, and further arousing the awareness of protecting Amur tiger through the cold metal snares. WWF China will continually arouse the public awareness of wild tiger protection by such activity.

Khabarovsky Province follows the example of Primorye in digitizing forest management

WWF has handed over the KEDR forest monitoring system and “Avers” record keeping system to the Government of Khabarovsky. The two systems is the result of cooperation between the Khabarovsky Province Administration and WWF Russia in the sphere of innovative technologies. Introducing of KEDR system into the everyday practice of forestry staff will reduce the time of detecting and revealing illegal logging operations in the forest, and preserve Korean pine broadleaved forests, a home for the Amur tiger. Employing of new technologies will
significantly improve the supervision over the use of forest resources. To do this WWF is assisting forestry staff in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Provinces to introduce the innovative technologies of the KEDR system into their routine.

KEDR is designed to detect illegal logging by automatically comparing time sensitive satellite images of forest canopy. Data from the system goes to the dispatching stations of the Forestry Departments and to their subordinate forestry units in online mode, as well as to the mobile apps of forest inspectors thus speeding up the identification and response to violations of forestry legislation. KEDR is the first ever employment of modern high technologies tools to manage forest fund. The robotic intelligence system is using algorithm of automatic detection of changes in forest canopy basing on. The developed off line apps are based on multiuser mobile GIS. The Ministry for Development of the Russian Far East and the Administration of President in the Far Eastern Federal District supports this idea of WWF.

At the end of June, WWF handed over the KEDR forest monitoring system to the Primorsky Province Administration. Over two summer months KEDR helped to identify 17 cases of illegal logging, which caused more than three million rubles damage.


A total of 623 white-naped crane individuals were recorded

Administration of Onon-Balj National Park (OBNP) pays its special attention to flora and fauna monitoring. There are four representative species of wildlife and two representative ecosystems selected for conservation according to the NP management plan. Research and monitoring has been started with the WWF Mongolia support since August, 2017. Under this, monitoring on Taimen and rare bird species have been carried out in 18 points within OBNP. According to the monitoring results, there were 623 individuals of white-naped crane, 690 individuals of Eurasian crane, and 32 individuals of great bustard recorded in duplicated numbers. In recent years, numbers of waterfowls coming to Onon-Balj are increasing. It is good on one side, but it requires much attention to their conservation on other hand. Therefore, research and monitoring is a basis for their conservation, said by the national researchers, who carried out the monitoring.
A first tiger claw camera trapped in the wild in northeast China

A lovely tiger was clawing on the tree, captured by the monitoring camera in Hunchun Municipal Forestry Bureau on May 21, 2017. The fantastic video of tiger marking territory was shared on the annual autumn data sharing seminar of the camera trap monitoring network in Jilin province during August 31st to September 1st, 2017. It is the first visualized tiger claw in the wild in China. As a regular seminar in spring and autumn intervals each year, the camera trap data in autumn 2016 was exchanged and analyzed among the six monitoring sectors.

“The tiger claw video is a great gift to our team in the camera monitoring initiative,” Jiang Jingsong, the leading facilitator of camera trap tiger monitoring network in Jilin province, said, “Such a behavior indicates the tiger lives quite well in this area.”

This tiger is registered as T24 in the individual identification-based camera trap monitoring database. It was firstly recorded in Hunchun Municipal Forestry Bureau area on November 17th, 2015. The tiger has dispersed across the Hunchun-Dongning road to the Sandaogou-Erdaogou-Heishan-Dahuanggou area in Hunchun and Wangqing, 40-60 kilometers away from the China-Russia border.

“Nearly two years settlement of this male tiger is very important for establishing a new breeding tiger population cohabitating 1-2 adult females with breeding signs in the Sandaogou-Erdaogou-Heishan-Dahuanggou area,” Chang Youde, Amur tiger population monitoring manager of WWF NE Office, added.

Since 2012, together with Jilin Forestry department and local forestry bureaus and nature reserves, WWF has promoted the camera monitoring network in Jilin province, including Jilin Hunchun Amur Tiger National Reserve, Hunchun Municipal Forestry Bureau, Wangqing Forestry Bureau, Wangqing County Forestry Bureau, Tianqiaoling Forestry Bureau, and Huangnihe Forestry Bureau. The monitoring network currently consists of 250 camera spots which covering 2,200-2,500 square kilometers of existing occupied habitat in Jilin province. It has about sixty camera trap monitoring staff specialists.

VTB Bank and WWF preserving rare cats

The two organizations continue a joint project to protect populations of big cats in Russia’s regions. VTB allocated 1 million USD. The funds will be used to restore the population of the Persian leopard and preserve the Amur tiger, Far Eastern leopard, and snow leopard.

Significant results have been achieved after the first year of joint work of the bank and the fund. Equipment to carry out anti-poaching activities and monitor animals has been
In total, VTB Bank will grant to WWF 5 million USD within five years. The project was developed by WWF Russia in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia. The project will be implemented in full accordance with the program originally approved. Within the framework of the project it is necessary to create new and to support the work of existing specially protected natural territories, to optimize territorial planning and programs of social and economic development of these regions. Much attention will be devoted to combating poaching, resolving conflict situations with predators and improving the living standards of people in these areas.

**First face to face talk between Sino-Russian tiger and leopard national parks**

With a facilitation of WWF China and WWF Russia-Amur Branch, the delegates of Leading Group Office of National Park Preparatory Work, State Forestry Administration, Principal of Amur Tiger and Leopard National Park, National Park Pilot Leading Group Offices in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces had a trip for the experiences of national parks in Russia during July 31st to August 4th, 2017. This is the first face to face talk between Sino-Russian tiger and leopard national parks.

Tang Xiaoping, head of the Leading Group Office of National Park Preparatory Work, State Forestry Administration, reported the progress and principles of National Park of Amur Tiger in China, in the meeting with Land of Leopard National Park. Both sides have discussed the future cooperation plan.

“We are really expressed by the field trip for Land of Leopard National Park, and we will take the valuable experiences into our tiger national park planning and management,” Tang Xiaoping said.

Yury Darman, the senior expert of WWF Russia-Amur Branch, introduced the general principles of national parks management in Russia, and presented the information...
database of Amur-Heilong Ecoregion Complex by WWF Russian, Mongolia, and China over the decades. The Chinese delegates had also discussed with the united directorate of federal protected area of Khabarovsky province for the frame of Amur network of Sino-Russian bordering protected areas.

Taking an advantage of the Amur tiger and leopard national park in China, WWF will facilitate the further transboundary cooperation between the two countries.

**China preserves rare cats together with the Land of the Leopard National Park**

The establishment of a future Tiger and Leopard National Park in China was discussed at the working meetings organized in Vladivostok at the offices of Land of the Leopard National Park and WWF Russia. The delegation from China was represented by the State Forestry Administration, Heilongjiang Forest Industry Bureau, Jilin Provincial Forestry Department, Xinkaihu Nature Reserve and WWF China. The leader of Chinese delegation reported on the progress of development of the new form of protected area in China. Though most of tigers and leopards roam the Russian forests, protection efforts taken by China side over the recent years had a positive impact on the ecosystem and today, leopards and tigers freely cross the Sino-Russian border.

Tiger and Leopard National Park in China will cover the area of more than 1.5 million hectares on the territory of two provinces Jilin and Heilongjiang. Though the establishment is planned by the year of 2020, right now local experts put a lot of efforts in anti-poaching work, raising awareness among local people and continue monitoring the population status of these rare cats. In July, a general plan of the territory was approved.
- **Tiger Day** was celebrated for the 18th time in Vladivostok on 24 September. WWF Russia is one of the founders of this holiday and one of its organizers in the Amur River basin. Besides the tiger parade and festive celebrations on the central square of Vladivostok, WWF Russia Amur branch looks back at the results of tiger conservation activities over the past year. The best rangers from Khabarovsky and Primorsky Provinces, a custom officer, one of the sniffer dogs service staff, the head of virological lab of the Russian Academy of Science and other heroes were rewarded by the Government, the Russian Geographical Society, and the Amur Tiger Center.

- **The annual Amur Leopard Day** was held in the village of Slavyanka in Primorye. It was organized with the support of WWF, the Khasansky District Educational Department, and the Marine Nature Reserve. This year the holiday was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the PAs network of Russia. Kids from 14 local schools were united by the Festival. There were lots of competitions, quizzes, role plays. Such activities help learning complicated issues of nature protection while having fun.

- **For the second time the Honey Festival Golden Bee** was held in Primorye. It was organized with the support of WWF as part of mini grants program draws public attention to the issue of linden conservation, the main taiga honey plant. In spite of lots of appeals to the Government linden is not yet included into the List or tree species banned for logging. One linden can produce 15 kg of nectar. The local bee-keepers who are concerned with the situation have formed the Association to meet the challenge and to promote the bee-farming products to the markets.

- **30 kids from Amurskaya Province** took part in the summer shift in the Zeisky Nature Reserve. These were the kids who actively cooperated with local PAs during the Year of Ecology. The shift was intended to thank the kids for their efforts and their positive attitude towards nature conservation. They spent a week in the field comparing developed and untouched areas, learning how to do water analyses, how to collect plants for herbarium, how to cooperate and to survive in the wild.

- **Kids from Russia and Mongolia met in Sokhondinsky Nature Reserve.** The tenth international eco rally The Sources of Amur took place in the Reserve with the support of WWF. Its main participants were the winners of the Russian-Mongolian kids’ creativity competition. For the five-days-long rally the kids got to know each other, learned lots of facts on the Sources of Amur transboundary territory, about the history and culture of the two countries. The Reserve’s staff conducted master classes, presentations, eco games, and lectures. It was a real fun!
AMUR-HEILONG ECOREGION IN NUMBERS

1. River Ecoregion Vision

2. Migratory species:
   - Mongolian gazelle
   - Taimen

3. Key species:
   - Tiger
   - Leopard
   - Oriental Stork