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A WORD TO THE WORLD

World Heritage Committee inscribes Landscapes Of Dauria on UNESCO's World Heritage List

The World Heritage Committee inscribed Landscapes Of Dauria (transboundary site in Mongolia and the Russian Federation) on UNESCO's World Heritage List at the Session of UNESCO Commission in Krakov, Poland.

Shared between Mongolia and the Russian Federation, this site is an outstanding example of the Daurian Steppe eco-region, which extends from eastern Mongolia into



Russian Siberia and north-eastern China. The different types of steppe represented, such as grassland and forest, as well as lakes and wetlands serve as habitats for rare species of fauna, such as the white-naped crane and the great bustard, as well as millions of vulnerable, endangered or threatened migratory birds. It is also a critical site on the migration path for the Mongolian gazelle.

The Landscapes of Dauria was nominated in 2014 as a contiguous transnational property, shared between Mongolia and the Russian Federation. The nominated property was evaluated by IUCN and considered by the World Heritage Committee as its 39th session in 2015.

A Hero Brown Bear Mother

A brown bear mother with five lively cubs was camera trapped in Heilongjiang Laoyeling Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve on April 3, 2017. It deserved the "Hero Mother" to deliver as many as five cubs and bring up.

"It is very rare for a bear mother to deliver 5 cubs," Jiang Guangshun, director of Feline Research Center of State Forestry Administration, said, "The 1 to 1.5 year old bear cubs indicate a good habitat quality in the nature reserve."



Copyright: Administrative Bureau of Heilongjiang Laoyeling Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve

"The great family lives safely since there are not any households in the nature reserve", Liang Zhuo, vice director of Administrative Bureau of Heilongjiang Laoyeling National Nature Reserve, said, "The camera trap spot is several kilometers away from the China-Russian border. The area is connected with Land of Leopard National Park, for some broken border fences."

WWF has worked together with Administrative Bureau of Heilongjiang Laoyeling Amur National Nature Reserve to carry out camera trap monitoring programme since 2013. We have never found a bear family with so many cubs although there were some bear records in the past.

Let the migratory fish back home



Migration is a special form of fish movement, and it is an active, regular, directional, clustered and horizontal movement of some fish. As an indicator, migratory fish witnessed a smooth and healthy migratory channel. On May 26th, 2017, through uniting Heilongjiang Environmental Education and Protection Association, and Fuyuan Salmon Ecological Environmental Protection Association, WWF-NE office held an activity, “protecting the migratory fish and let the migratory fish back home”,

in Sanjiang National Nature Reserve. The experts and representatives from Northeast Forestry University, Northeast Agricultural University, aquaculture department of Fuyuan county, Sanjiang National Nature Reserve Administration and fisherman attended this seminar.

Yu Hongxian and Yin Haifu, the experts from Northeast Forestry University and the Northeast Agricultural University, respectively, explained the basic knowledge of migratory fish, species of migratory fish in Heilongjiang basin, current fisheries policy as well as why and how to protect migratory fish resources. Zhu Zhu, the head of the Salmon Breeding and Releasing Station, introduced the protection status of fishery resources and achievements at Fuyuan County. “WWF will strengthen the cooperation with the fishery related department of Fuyuan County in the future, and guide the nature reserve, migration fish conservation association and the public to protect the breeding environment of migratory fish”, said Liu Peiqi, director of WWF-NE office.

The Amur Leopard Reintroduction Program launched in Primorye

Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation Sergei Donskoy and director of WWF Russia Igor Chestin signed the Agreement on cooperation for implementing the Amur Leopard Reintroduction Program. The Agreement envisions collaboration in effective protection and reintroduction of Amur leopard including its habitat and prey base, in environment education and information support for the Strategy and Program implementation. The Reintroduction Center will be built in Lazovsky Nature Reserve, in Primorsky Province, and will consist of the pre-design works have been launched. The Center will include two main blocks of enclosures: a breeding one and rehabilitation enclosures for cubs’ adaptation for the future release. The new residents will be purebred leopards specially selected from world zoos. Their offspring will be going through a special adaptation program. Only those who demonstrate hunting skills and the capacity to avoid contact with humans and tigers will be released into the wild.”



The Amur Leopard Reintroduction Program was elaborated with the great input of WWF Russia experts. It covers at least 12 years. The first releases of leopards from the Reintroduction Center are planned after 3-4 years from the program’s beginning. It is assumed that leopards will freely settle down in the coastal areas of the south of Sikhote-Alin and will form the second reserve population of 50-60 individuals.

More details are here: <http://new.wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/startovala-programma-reintroduktsii-dalnevostochnogo-leoparda/>

Energy workers care about Oriental stork in Amurskaya Province



Four concrete poles for the birds to make nests on tops were erected in Muravievsky Wildlife Refuge by the Amurskie Power Grid Company, one of the new partners of WWF.

Several years ago the conservationists erected wooden poles but the local people destroyed them and used as firewood. Insufficient number of big trees suitable for natural stork nests limits the number of rare birds in the area. Young pairs of birds cannot find proper trees

and are forced to make nests on small ones. This leaves little chances for the nests to be secured and raises the level of birds' mortality. Last year, a nest made on a thin willow crashed down and two chicks died. This year, forest fire licked away a nest made on a not high enough tree. According to the expert examinations, the capacity of the Refuge allows 25-30 breeding pairs to accommodate but today only 13-15 pairs are registered. This cooperation is mutually beneficial. If there are no suitable trees the birds make their nests on electricity transmission towers causing power cuts and often the birds' death. So by erecting artificial poles both birds and the electric system are safe.

Nests of Oriental storks protected from bears

16 devices to protect trees with nests of Oriental stork from bears are installed in the Khingansky Nature Reserve and the Ganukan Wildlife Refuge with the support of WWF Russia and HSBC Bank. These are clamps of sheet iron fixed on the nesting trees trunks which prevent predators from climbing up the tree and ruining the nest. These protective measures were approved by the Regional Scientific Council of the Amur Region.



The first cases of bears' attacks of nesting trees were recorded here in autumn 2015, and in 2016 precedents repeated. To assess the situation, from January to March 2017, the staff of the Khingansky Nature Reserve conducted a large-scale survey of nests and found out that out of 71 nests of the rare bird, 45 (and this is 63%) were 'raided' by bears.

Due to the bearish tyranny the number of birds in the reserve are getting smaller: the offspring of this rare bird die, storks abandon ruined nests, trying to find new housing.

More details are here: <http://new.wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/gnezda-aistazashchishchayut-ot-razoreniya-medvedem/>

And the film festival prize goes to ... a hero-leopard

The highest award of the Meridian of Hope Environmental Film Festival went to the documentary shot on WWF's request – "The Land of the Leopard. A Circle of Life".

The annual all-Russia environmental festival was held in St. Petersburg. In 2017, the Year for Ecology in Russia, the conduction of the Festival is regarded as an important and significant event for the country. Over 100 films from all over Russia were received by the Festival administration. The level of the event was very high and the competition severe. The documentary telling a life story of the Amur leopard and its neighbors shot by the

Zov Taigi (Call of the Taiga in Russian) studio on the request of WWF was unanimously chosen by the significant jury as the best one.

According to Vasily Solkin, the film editor, head of communication at WWF Russia Amur branch, "*The Meridian Festival prize has touched me above all as the jury consisted of the real coryphées of the national non-fiction films*".

Among other Festival's high prizes of WWF is a documentary "*Enchanted*" shot by the Zabaikalsky Province TV on WWF's request. It was the best in the made-for-TV category. The broadcasting of the winning films will be organized in many cities across Russia.

The English version of the film is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UD2TM4lgTdg>

Crane Festival is celebrated for the fourth year in the headwaters of Amur

On the occasion of Migratory Bird Day, the Crane Festival is being celebrated for the fourth year since 2014 in Binder soum of Khentii province in order to raise awareness on the White-naped Crane, an endangered crane species. WWF Mongolia collaborates with 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. A contest was announced beforehand among the general school students on the theme of "White-naped Crane".



This year many interesting activities were held during the event, including the exhibition of children's drawings, performance by the children's eco clubs, mini Naadam (traditional games) and Q & A session. The organizers were happy that many children could give correct answers to all of the questions. Also, children were taught how to make origami of the crane, color the drawings and do drawing. More than 450 participants attended the event from Dadal, Batshireet, Bayan-Uul and Binder soums, including the children from eco-clubs, students from Khurkh village, as well as local residents.

Onon River kept from the risk of pollution

The Government of Mongolia has just made a decision to abolish the license of "U and B", gold mining company in the area of the Onon River, head of the Amur River. The company was causing pollution in the river and changed the river flow direction without authorization. If this situation had lasted longer, Onon River was at risk of pollution and reduction of water level where thousands of people and animals live on it.

WWF-Mongolia has been actively involved in initiating this decision, where it was appreciated by locals. Moreover, WWF-Mongolia has successfully organized community-based trainings to ensure that citizens are aware of environmental management plans and legislation within the framework of EU financed project "Strengthen public participation in mining investment planning". As a result, local residents and non-governmental organizations introduced the factual facts about the illegal activities of "U and B" company and decision-makers set specific requirements which resulted in the Onon River's survival. WWF-Mongolia is committed to increasing the participation of stakeholders in the decision making process and contributing to the healthy and safe environment of citizens.

UNITED FOR CONSERVATION EFFECTIVENESS

Sub-Council to be established to enhance efforts in combatting illegal wildlife trade



Environmental crimes related to poaching and illegal wildlife trade are not easy to detect due to its well-organized and sophisticated trade network. Although many well-documented cases are transferred to the investigation by the law enforcement agents, many of them are discarded to some reason. It is also crucial to prevent from environmental crimes and hold public awareness interventions. Therefore, WWF-Mongolia organized a consultation meeting jointly with the Crime Prevention Council, under

the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs in order to discuss on challenging issues, seek potential solutions, and enhance collaboration among stakeholders. Representatives from the General Customs Authority, General Authority for Border Protection, State Authority of General Attorney, Court Research, Information and Training Institution under the General Court Council, State Specialized Inspection Agency, General Police Department and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism have held open discussion to meet challenges in combatting crimes related to poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

The police detects the criminal case and transfers to the court. However at the court, it is complicated to sentence the criminal due to the lack of evidence and unclear scale of damage. The ecological and economic assessment of wild animals identifies the assessment scale according to sex and age. Hence, in some cases, it is impossible to distinguish the sex of a poached animal. Therefore, it is very challenging to identify to which extent the damage had occurred and thus it happens often for the case to be dismissed.

From the other hand, the police highlights that it is difficult to keep the derivatives from poached animal as evidence because there is no special place to contain them and therefore, in some cases they don't have other choice than to eradicate them. There is no place to store animal derivate in the country. This should be a priority to establish such storage. The participants have confessed that the information exchange is very weak amongst the law enforcement agencies and the cooperation needs improvement. The main outcome of the meeting was a decision to establish a Sub-Council under the Crime Prevention Council in order to intensify law enforcement efforts and improve collaboration among relevant agencies. This Sub-Council is agreed to be established by the order of the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs.

The First Working Meeting of Sino-Russian Reserve Network in the Heilongjiang River Basin

On June 21st, 2017, with the positive coordination and effort of WWF-NE office, as well as the great support of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management Office of Heilongjiang Forestry Department, the First Working Meeting for Chinese Members of Sino-Russian Reserve Network in the Heilongjiang River Basin was held in Taipinggou National Nature Reserve. Nearly 40 representatives from 16 nature reserves participated in this conference.

Sun Weibin, head of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management Office of Heilongjiang Forestry Department, and Liu Peiqi, director of the WWF-NE office, delivered the opening speeches separately. The management and training experience of Mai Po Nature Reserve were introduced by Sun Weibin and Hao Yuqi, respectively.

Zhu Baoguang, an expert from Heilongjiang Honghe National Nature Reserve, explained the population monitoring technology of Oriental White Stork, and Liu Huajin, an expert from Heilongjiang Xingkai Lake National Nature Reserve, explained the artificial nest constructing technique of Oriental White Stork. The feature film of *Mergus squamatus* made by Director Liu Peiqi was appreciated by the participants.

The topic of how to improve the management ability of nature reserves was discussed by each network member.

This meeting aims to enable the managers from each nature reserve network member to share experience, gain the relevant knowledge and improve the management ability. Next, WWF-NE China will establish more mutual learning and communicating platforms for the reserve network members to enhance the protection work of wildlife and environment in Heilongjiang River Basin.

The poacher will pay more than \$29,700 for killing a tigress

In Primorsky Province the poacher was found guilty for killing a young tigress in August 2015. He received a 22 months conventional sentence and was ordered to pay \$29,700 for his fatal shot. The verdict was announced on May 30, 2017. Specialists of WWF Russia and the Amur Tiger Center monitored the whole investigation. One of WWF staff participated in the forensic examination of the carcass. The results of the examination proved that the poacher shot the tiger intentionally and that the tiger was of no threat to the human.



On August 18, 2015, a young tigress with broken legs was found by one of the locals. The Police, the staff of the Primorsky Province Hunting Department, and vets of the Primorsky Agricultural Academy immediately arrived to the site. After preliminary investigation and the first aid to the tiger the animal was transported to one of the vet's clinic of Vladivostok to veterinarian clinic and was operated. For ten days specialists were struggling for the life of a wounded animal, however, in spite of all the efforts veterinarians failed to save the tiger's life.

Sate rangers learn to minimize conflicts with large predators

The lectures and training session was conducted by WWF Russia and Hunting Departments of Primorsky and Khabarovsk Provinces on June 15-16 to be the third one in a row. The staff of both provinces special groups on conflicts resolution between large predators and humans gathered together to share skills and lessons learnt and to be further trained. From the very start one of the tasks of the partner organizations was not only provide the groups with modern special gear but also to train the rangers on a regular basis as the conflict mitigation activities both save rare animals and humans lives and reduce social tension of people living close to wildlife.



At the seminar, the Primorye rangers received signaling systems which send signals to the rangers if a snare set for catching a conflict animal is activated. Such simple tools are not factory-manufactured so local technicians were asked to made them. The Khabarovsk Province rangers shared their experience on how to use them as these devices were successfully tested there. Another new topic was the lecture from Professor of biomedicine Mikhail Shelkanov who told the attendees on naturofocal infections threatening big cats of the Russian Far East and about the microbiological monitoring of the Amur tiger and the Amur leopard habitats. The “students” were taught how to take biological samples of the sedated animals, how to store the samples and transport them to the data bank.

Experience sharing trip successfully organized



WWF-Mongolia had taken over the management responsibilities of the Khar Yamaat Nature Reserve, as signed the agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. Although many interventions are taking place in accordance with approved plans, tangible results are yet to be visible. Learning from others is an important aspect of doing better conservation. Therefore, WWF-Mongolia has initiated an experience sharing trip for the Khar Yamaat Nature Reserve

Administration staff and adjacent soums' authorities to the Ikh Nart Nature Reserve where the community-based nature resource management is believed to be one of the most successful in the country. On the first day of trip, S.Amgalanbaatar, the head of Ikh Nart Nature Reserve administration gave a talk about their protection interventions, challenges met and solutions provided.

The next day, guests were introduced with operations of the research center under the Nature Reserve administration and undertook a trip to observe their target species, e.g. the Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) and Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica pallas,1776*). Participants got acquainted with protection measures of target species, management options, conservation success and lessons learned. The most interesting part was to see how the administration manages to reach consensus with herder families in the limitation zone of the Nature Reserve, avoiding competition in using pasture resources by domestic livestock and wildlife. Also, the participants got acquainted with local herders' initiation to build fences in order to protect headwaters of springs.

On the third day of trip, the guests met with community-based organizations, established upon herders' initiatives, residing in the limitation zone of the Ikh Nart NR and acquainted with their nature conservation interventions. The soums' authorities of the buffer zone of Khar-Yamar NR appreciated the initiatives of herders and expressed their willingness to replicate in their places such as creating a community fund, undertaking through planning in order to avoid duplication of interventions, and establishing the Buffer Zone Council.

Brief news

- In February, the assistance to the film crew from WWF-UK was provided. The crew shot the footage, including video and photos, for the fundraising campaign I Protect Tigers featuring Pavel Fomenko as a tiger protectors from WWF Russia. The footages hot was shared by WWF UK with WWF Russia to be partially used in the same-name online campaign. A week before the campaign start the article was published in the The Guardian. Photo report by photographer Antonio Olmos devoted to the work of WWF tiger protector. *More details: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2017/jun/24/the-siberian-tiger-protector-in-pictures>*
- On June 29, WWF Russia starts the "I Protect Tiger"s online campaign telling the stories of several Far Eastern rangers involved in tiger conservation.
- A radio project "Planet Mates" – a joint project of WWF Russia Amur branch (Vasily Solkin) and "Radio Russia" launched in 2016 continues to run weekly at prime time and keeps attracting a great interest of the audience. Since the beginning of the project 43 releases were aired, 15 of them in the reporting period. In the Year of protected areas the project enlarged its geography. The programs are devoted to

rare animals and to protected areas of the whole Amur basin. Each program is repeated on “Radio Russia Primorye” and “Vesti FM” about 20 times. About 30 programs are translated into Chinese and broadcasted regularly on Chinese TV Channel in Suifenhe city of Heilongjiang province. *More details: <http://www.sfhtv.org.cn/show.asp?id=2817>*

- TV project “Planet mates” was launched in January 2017. 5 programs were released and broadcasted on Primorsky TV channel about seal, Indian marten, leopard, mandarin duck, and about the process of shooting the documentary “Land of the Leopard. The Circle of Life” by Vasily Solkin.
- The Blog of Vasily Solkin, deputy head of WWF Russia Amur branch, and Anna Barma, protected areas coordinator at WWF Russia Amur branch, was launched as part the Sacred Necklace of the Amur River campaign and posted regularly in the social networks and on wwwf.ru. Altogether 36 posts were published.

YOU SAID BIG CATS



Hi friends, I am living well!

A set of successive camera trap photos and 2 videos show a lively tiger running and dancing in the forest of Heilongjiang Laoyeling Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve. It is male, active and strong.

“The prey density in the area is as high as 4.68 individuals per square kilometer,” Liang Zhuo, vice director of Administrative Bureau of Heilongjiang Laoyeling National Nature Reserve, “The snow transect survey in 2016 shows that the prey has recovered very fast in late years for nature reserve establishment, anti-poaching, and food supplementary in last several years winter.”

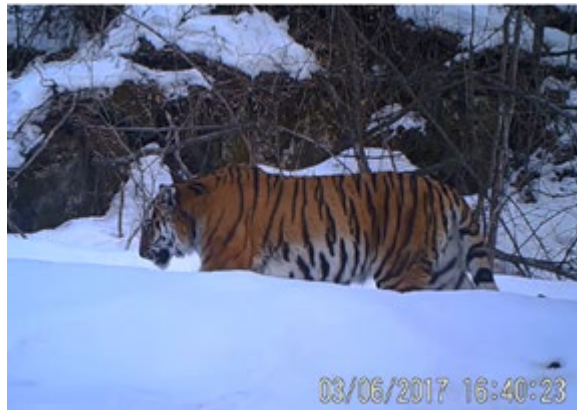


Copyright: Administrative Bureau of Heilongjiang Laoyeling Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve

“This nature reserve is our zero-poaching pilot area,” Liang Zhuo pointed out, “There are no new snares in the whole nature reserve. This is a joint effort by WWF, nature reserve and rangers.”

By data comparison with Land of Leopard National Park, there are 4 tigers living in this nature reserve. This male tiger (LYL-101) was once also recorded in Land of Leopard National Park.

Three tigers in Dahuanggou area



Copyright: Administrative Bureau of Jilin Wangqing Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve/WWF

There are at least three tigers in Dahuanggou area, in Jilin Wangqing Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve. The camera trap showed the results during June 2016 to April 2017. “They are adult tigers, 2 males and 1 female,” Sun Quan, vice director of Administrative Bureau of Jilin Wangqing Amur Tiger National Nature Reserve, “This area is a new tiger settlement away from Russian-China border area for their potential breeding.”

“There is also a tiger trail with one cub sign in Dahuanggou area,” Kong Weiyao, the working group leader of snow transect survey in 2016 supported by WWF, “This interesting sign indicates there exist one or two breeding tiger families in this area.”

The Dahuanggou area in Wangqing is the neighbor of Dahuanggou in Hunchun. This area has played a role in connecting tiger dispersal from Hunchun and Land of Leopard National Park border area to inland of China.

The frequent tiger-human conflicts in Wandashan area

“My cow was killed by tiger,” the informant reported to Heilongjiang Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau on June 24, 2017, “the left cow bodies, pulling traces, and tiger pugs are there!”



The response team in Heilongjiang Forestry Bureau immediately investigated the killing case. “It may be an adult female tiger.” Yang Lijuan, the tiger expert of conservation department in Heilongjiang Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau (Datashan), added, “the tiger pad is 9 centimeters in width.”

Several cameras were put in the predation site for tiger individual identification by camera trap photo and videos. The plaster mold was also made for the tiger pugs.

There was another cow predation by tiger in Changsheng village in Raohe on June 29, 2017, and tiger pugs again found in Dadingzishan village in Dadai Forest Farm on July 5, 2017, north to Datashan in Dongfanghong Forestry Bureau. It is 40-50 kilometers away from the predation site in Datashan Forest Farm. “It seems likely not the same tiger,” Yang Lijuan explained, “the tiger in Datashan Forest Farm will stay around for some days after the killing with almost full eating. This tiger was moving from north to south, while the Datashan is in the south.”

The tiger was traced in Wulingdong forest farm, Qingshan forest farm, Dumuhe forest farm, Xinancha forest farm, and Dongling forest farm during January to February 2017. They found 3 faces, some sleeping beds, and 3-4 failed predation attempts to boars. According to pug size of 9 centimeters in width, the tiger is 2.5 to 3 years sub adult. The DNA analysis by the faces shows a male tiger.

“The faces are very scarce and small during the tracing period, and there are only 2-3 predation attempts to boars, but failed.” Yang Lijuan said, “These indicate the tiger has not lived so well in this area.” There have been recently frequent tiger-human conflict cases in Wandashan area, where has a heavy grazing and keeps a great many of forest boar farms. The tigers appear more around the forest boar farms.

Filippa, the tigress, freed



On 29th April, after a long journey from the Rehabilitation Center in Alekseevka, Primorsky Province, to Dichun Wildlife Refuge in Evreiskaya Province, Filippa, the tigress, left the transportation cage and ran away deep into the forest. The release mission was performed with the support of WWF Russia and the Amur Tiger Center.

Let us recall that on 29th December in 2015, an exhausted five-month-old tiger cub was found in one of the gardens of Filippovka village near the Land of the Leopard National Park. The animal was dying from starvation, but having approached the village looking for food, she nearly became a victim of domestic dogs herself. Local people reported to the national park's staff about the found and saved the tigress life.

After 14 months of rehabilitation in the Rehab Center in the village of Alekseevka Filippa has fully recovered and learned to hunt by herself. A small helpless tiger cub has turned into a graceful tigress. She was named Filippa after the village where the local people found her. Filippa was fitted with a GPS collar to help the specialists monitoring all her movement in the wild after the release.

Watch short video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEDIf6jkBtc>

More details: <http://new.wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amurskiy-tigr/tigritsa-filippa-obrela-svobodu/>

Vladik, the tiger male, came back into wild

The tiger Vladik who successfully completed a rehabilitation course in the rehabilitation center for animals (in the village of Alekseevka) was released into the wild on 15 May 2017 in the Bikin National Park. The release mission was performed with the support of WWF Russia and the Amur Tiger Center. The Minister of Natural Resources of Russia Sergey Donskoy was personally involved in the tiger release.



The tiger appeared near Vladivostok in the mid-October, was later captured and placed into the Rehab center. Vladik, as the tiger was named, was successfully treated and the specialists decided to bring him back into wild. Vladik's new home was chosen not accidentally. No other male tigers roam in the Bikin National Park, there are plenty of prey, and it is far from the human settlements.

Watch the video here: <https://yadi.sk/i/VeuD4l-r3JEGtf>

The copyright belong to the Amur Tiger Centre/WWF

Experts found out the reason of Uporny's death

On 14 March, due to GPS collar, Uporny was found dead in the Gur River valley with wounds in the head and on the back. The dead tiger was near a killed wild boar he had preyed. The experts' theories about Uporny's death were confirmed today after the examination at the Center of wild animals diseases at Primorskaya Agricultural Academy in Ussuriisk.

"The conclusion is almost definite: the animal's death was caused by the attack of another predator. In our opinion it could be another tiger, quite a large male as well. This situation confirms the version that the life of predators in the wild is very hard and the mortality from natural causes is higher than is described in scientific studies," comments Pavel Fomenko, head of rare species unit at WWF Russia Amur branch.

In spite of its short life, tiger Uporny helped the experts to improve the methodology of rehabilitation of conflict tigers. On its example, it is proved once again that even if due to

some reason the tiger interfered humans territory, there is deformedly a way to bring it back in the right way, avoiding any conflicts with humans again. Thanks to Uporny, the whole world received the information about the adaptation of a tiger in the northern part of its home range, in the most severe conditions for these predators.

More details are here: <http://new.wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/eksperty-vyyasnili-prichinu-gibeli-tigra-upornogo/>

Students rally in the Land of the Leopard

WWF supported the movement of Friends of Land of the Leopard National Park. Together with Khasansky District Department of Education WWF organized the annual Rally of Friends of the Land of the Leopard NP Clubs which took place in Slavyanka on April 22. The rally went under the name “The Sacred Necklace of Amur”. A series of master classes were conducted by staff of WWF and Land of the Leopard NP. The contest for the best presentation and report on protected areas within the Amur River basin was held. Kids from 15 eco squads prepared traditional mini performances devoted to the protected areas and their unique wildlife. Best 38 students and 5 teachers from schools of Khasansky and Nadezhdinsky Districts were awarded with the excursion to Primoirsky Aquarium.



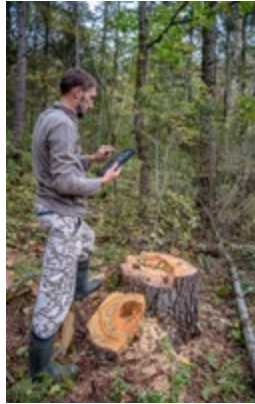
WHEN THE BELT IS GREEN



WWF handed over KEDR forest monitoring system to Primorsky Province Administration

At the press conference held in late June, WWF handed over KEDR to the supervision of the Primorsky Province Administration. Introducing KEDR system into service on a regular basis is part of the Agreement on Cooperation signed in 2016 by the Primorsky Province Administration and WWF for implementation of wildlife conservation projects.

It will help to speed up detection of illegal logging and will dramatically reduce its occurrence.



Primorye is the first in Russia to employ KEDR forest monitoring system to fight illegal logging. According to Peter Osipov, head of WWF Russia Amur branch, “KEDR operation will help to preserve Korean pine – broadleaved forests – the home of the Amur tiger and leopard and to move the monitoring over forest management to the higher level. It is necessary to bring innovative technologies and field work of forestry staff together.”

The signals from the system are sent in real time mode to the control stations of the Forestry Department of Primorsky Province and to the forestry units, as well as to the mobile apps of the forest inspectors, speeding up the revealing and stopping

the violations of the forestry legislation.

The system is firmly integrated into the informational data bases of the Forestry Department, that allows to robotize a great part of processes for making decisions to stop illegal logging by forestry staff. The portal of open geospatial data that is now in public access will help IT companies and IT services to develop handy applications of various services for citizens and companies.

More details are here: <http://new.wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/wwf-peredal-administratsii-primorya-sistemu-monitoringa-lesov-kedr/>

Korean Pine Day held in the tree nursery

WWF RFE together with Youth Center of Primorsky Province held environmental contest of research projects prepared by secondary schools students. 460 schoolchildren from 25 districts of Primorye sent their projects out of which the jury selected 111 winners. They were awarded with the excursion to Primorsky Agricultural Academy to participate in Korean Pine Day. The holiday organized on May 18 gather all the winners, their tutors, press people sow Korean pine seeds in the nursery beds.



The Living Taiga Environmental Journalism Contest

The contest was organized for the 11th time. This year the contest brought together 73 participants representing 48 newspapers, radio- and TV channels, information agencies of the Amur Ecoregion, as well as 8 young reporters of a TV studio from Luchegorsk. The jury reviewed 155 printed papers, 162 pieces of news by information agencies, 90 TV casts and 7 radio casts submitted on eight nominations namely, Home for the Amur Tiger, Nature and Power



Industry, Korean Pine is the Tree of Life, Amur Green Belt, Protected Land, Land of Wild Salmon, Hunting Industry on Guard of Nature Protection, Personality in Nature Conservation, which reflect main activities done by WWF in the Amur ecoregion. The journalists from PrimaMedia provincial agency were awarded with the GrandPrix of the contest with the project «ExpBikin-2016» Expedition organized with WWF RFE support. The project released 11 photo and video reports about the nature beauty of the Bikin River: <http://primamedia.ru/story/expbikin2016>

Eight winners of the Living taiga contest will be awarded with the prize in the form of metal ginseng sculptures made by local blacksmith. Best journalists will attend the summer school of environmental journalism on 27-31 July, 2017.

Heilongjiang Forestry Department visit to Russia

The delegates from Heilongjiang Forestry Department and two border forestry bureau/nature reserves had a visit and field trip to Land of Leopard National Park during April 3-7, 2017. Heilongjiang Forestry Department, Russian government, WWF Russia-Amur Branch and WWF China reviewed the work performance under 28 transboundary protected area network agreements between China and Russia.

The meeting discussed and agreed the delegates from National Park Department of the State Forestry Administration, the State Forestry Administration Commissioner in Changchun and WWF China will visit Russia for the experience sharing on Amur tiger national park in China. The visit and field investigation will be very important for knowledge and experience integrated into the Amur tiger national park planning in China.



The 36th Birds Loving Week in Heilongjiang Province



The annual activity, firstly issued by the State Council of China in 1981, was aim to strengthen the protection of birds and carry out the agreement on the protection of migratory birds. This year, the activity was carried out in Dajia River Nature Reserve on May 20th. WWF-NE office and Heilongjiang Provincial Forestry Department jointly launched this event. About 60 representatives came from the Heilongjiang Provincial Forestry Department, Sino-Russian transboundary nature reserves, WWF-Russia and WWF-China as well as the students and volunteers participated in this event. During this activity, the photographic works, which not only including Red Crowned Crane, Oriental White Stork (OWS) and other waterbirds, but also many cute little birds live in forest, were posted to public. The funny game, “Migratory of Wading Birds”, was carried out enthusiastically in this activity, while the pupils became “small birds”. With a throw of the dice, these “small birds” moved on and felt the difficulty of the migration to Britain of a snipe bird born in Arctic. Although facing the threats of predators, bad weathers and hunters, these “small birds” kept moving step by step for reaching their breeding ground. Through this activity, the students have a deeper understanding on the significance of protecting birds, and there will be a loving seed in their hearts. Once getting an opportunity, they would become “loving birds” warriors.

During the event, a workshop about the bordering protected area network in Amur river basin between China and Russia was held. Representatives of two countries introduced the achievement they got in the past year and respective workplans. As a flagship species, the protection and monitoring of OWS were elaborated in details. Meanwhile, some common views, such as the protection to OWS, strengthening ecological education and development of ecological tourism, were reached by two parties as the priorities in future cooperation. The representatives agreed to develop the joint work plan for the next three years.

Training Course on Protection and Management of Wetland held in Heilongjiang Province

The conservation and management of wetland need to keep pace with times so as to meet the management demand of different wetland types. In order to restore wetland, inspire stakeholders to participate actively in management and promote the sustainable development of protection and management of wetland, the workshop was held on June 1st - 2nd, 2017. About 40 representatives and experts, came from Heilongjiang Provincial Wetland Protection and Management Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Northeast Forestry University, Harbin Wetland Research Institute, WWF and 16 Wetland Parks, attended this training.



According to surveys, the wetland loss rate in NE China has reached 59% in the past 40 years, while many wetlands are still deteriorating. Liu Peiqi, the director of WWF-NE Office, elaborated on the works of wetland restoration and protection, achievements and work plans WWF had made. The director of Heilongjiang Provincial Wetland Protection and Management Center, Wang Renchun, gave a brief appraisal on the protection and restoration work of wetland in Heilongjiang province.

Aiming at the need of wetland protection and rapid restoration, WWF invited Pro. Lv Xianguo, Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, to explain the problems that should be paid attention to during the process of wetland restoration.” We need to be more specific and targeted in the recovery process, “according to him, “ also, it should be noticed to reduce the impact on the surrounding residents.” The main management issues and problems urgent to solve in each Wetland Park were discussed by WWF and all representatives so as to make sure the cooperation direction between WWF and Wetland Parks in Heilongjiang province, which would be an important foundation for carrying out better protection and restoration of wetland in Heilongjiang River Basin.

Training of SMART and ArcGIS was held in Wangqing

The training was delivered by WWF China in partnership with Jilin Forestry Department on April 18th- 22th, 2017. Which included patrol collecting, and experience sharing. More than 40 staff and rangers from 8 forestry bureaus of tiger habitat China presented this training.

Weilim Yap, Law enforcement and landscape specialist, Malaysia, provided the in-depth explanation of SMART and the connection with ArcGIS. “ It is not only a software, but also a set of best practices for anti-poaching,” according to Yap, “the number of implement sites is over 130 in more than 30 countries, among which, 10 countries are nationwide.” Li Weiping, WWF-NE officer, gave a detailed field operation manual from the basic to the rangers even without any ArcGIS experience.



Through this training, the rangers could monitor the anti-poaching action and allocate resources efficiently. WWF China would reply to all the feedbacks on the first time and we expect to develop SMART patrol in all the tiger habitats in China in the future.

Drones help forest leaseholders

WWF Russia experts participated in testing of affordable and low cost unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and GPS devices that can successfully monitor forest practices. Since March 1, the national law requires that forest management reports should contain the remote sensing materials (GPS survey, aerial photography), as well as photo and video records of logging operations and forest restoration.

In February-March, 2017, WWF Russia initiated testing of low cost GPS/GLONASS, mobile devices with various program settings and simple drones of 3 and 4 DJI Phantom type in a real logging site in Primorye to find out if forest users can fulfil new requirements of the Forest code. The testing was carried out jointly with the representatives of regional division of Federal Forestry Agency, Roslesinform, forest leaseholder and WWF Russia. The testing had to define the efficiency of these devices so that any forest leaseholder could prepare the forest management report meeting new requirements. We measured the accuracy of navigation and tested different program settings for drones: recording site location and video recording of the logging site outlines to monitor forest management operations.

More details are here: <http://new.wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/bespilotniki-pomogut-arendatoram-lesov/>

Nature Reserves of Russia and China celebrated the Khanka Lake Day

With the support of WWF Russia, two nature reserves Xinkaihu (China) and Khankaisky (Russia) jointly celebrated the Day of Khanka Lake for the first time. The holiday was held on April 25 in Xinkaihu Nature Reserve in China. The Russian delegation introduced Chinese partners to the Sacred Wave Marathon which was organized in reserves and national parks of the Amur River basin in the Year of Protected Areas.



An exhibition of children's drawings of the international contest "Khanka in hands" was organized, where 30 works of children from Russia were presented.

Staff of Khankaisky Reserve presented diplomas to Chinese schoolchildren and teachers - winners of the contest. A very symbolic event was the “Bird House” action. Chinese schoolchildren welcomed birds by setting birdhouses. After all, spring is the time when migrating birds return to their nesting places in Khanka Lake.

During the visit, colleagues from the Chinese and Russian reserves introduced each other to the forms and methods of scientific research. In order to implement the Action Plan adopted at the second meeting of the Joint Commission for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Khanka/Xinkai Reserve, a working meeting of the international “Khanka Lake” reserve was held to exchange the progress and coordinate the future joint work.

More details are here: <http://new.wwf.ru/en/resources/news/amur/zapovedniki-rossii-i-kitaya-otprazdnovali-den-ozera-khanka/>

Sustainable use of pasture resources has been discussed



The livestock is a private property and therefore it is impossible to force herders to decrease the number. One of the most effective means is to raise awareness of herders that increasing the livestock number affects their major resource – the pastureland.

With this aim, WWF-Mongolia has initiated a consultation meeting and training sessions for herders in Bayan-Ovoo soum of Khentii aimag and Tumentsoyt soum of Sukhbaatar aimag to discuss about sustainable use of pasture resources. The training session was led by D. Baigalmaa, the head of the Altai Sayan branch office of WWF-Mongolia late April 2017. She is an experienced person with multi-year expertise in sustainable pasture management in the Western Mongolia. The consultation and training sessions were organized in a participatory way where herders are given more room for discussion on their challenges and came up with potential solutions to meet these challenges. The training sessions covered important topics such as options to use pasture according to the agreed scheme and timeline. Participants acknowledged the possibility of using the pasture resources in a sustainable way using participatory approach despite all the challenges they face. This means that herders are willing to implement the participatory nature resource management practices. Importantly, herders have stated the motivation of and collaboration with local authorities is vital for success and therefore, we need to start with building common understanding and consensus of each party.

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AMUR-HEILONG ECOREGION IN NUMBERS

1

River
Ecoregion
Vision

3

Key species:
Tiger, Leopard
and
Oriental Stork



2

Migratory species:
Mongolian gazelle
Taimen



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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