



### Feature Story

### Let's Lighten the Lamp for Tiger Back Home

*Written by: Zhang Chaoya, volunteer from Yanbian University*

As a Green Ambassador Campaign volunteer, I luckily participated a volunteer field activity in Dahuanggou Forest Farm from March 11 to 14, which is a continuity of the Campaign of Welcome Tiger Back Home. Because of long distance and poor road condition in the forest, the field activity only lasted two days. I still learned a lot things and got totally different feelings about tiger conservation within the two days.



Dahuanggou is located in Wangqing County, Yanbian Korean Prefecture. I had already heard a lot of stories and reports that tigers and leopards haunted there. I guess that's why WWF takes it as its priority

working area. I am from Henan Province, thousand miles away from here. I am still very proud for such good environment condition so close to my university.

GAC volunteers and the rangers  
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Dahuanggou was still covered by heavy snow, which could submerge the knee in the forest, in March. The driver would be very careful when our mini van met any long slope covered by snow and ice. All of us were very nervous about roadside breakdown. After 2 hours cautious driving in the forest, we arrived safely at the management station of Dahuanggou Forest Farm. I could not help being worried about the people living here. It is so dangerous for them to get out of the mountains in winter.

We held a meeting in the morning of the second day. Prof Wu Zhigang, the tiger expert told us a lot of knowledge and interesting stories about tiger and his exciting experiences with tiger and other animals. He told us that there are about 500 wild Amur tiger in the world today. Only less than 20 live in China.



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Most of them are in the far east of Russia. Dahuanggou will play a critical role to welcome tiger back because it is directly connected with the tiger habitat in Russia. We also learned that Dahuanggou is WWF's first field pilot site of Amur tiger conservation in China. WWF also carries out monitoring and patrolling in Hunchuan Nature Reserve, neighboring Dahuanggou.

In the next one and half days, we followed Prof. Wu and Mr. Liu, the ranger of the forest farm, to patrol in the forest. All of us were expecting to meet some wild animals. But we were told the possibility was almost zero since a big snow just occurred and no animals would like to go out. Hiking in the forest with deep snow and cliffy slope, I thought that it is really hard for the ranger to protect tiger and other animals. Exhausted we were, we still found a lot of fun in the field. The air was so fresh with fragrance of trees. The sky was just like blue crystal. All of us were so excited to feel the happiness of back-to-nature. At the noon of the third day, we got a safe place and made a campfire. Boys took out bread, sausage and banana for a barbecue lunch. This was the best part of this activity. Enjoying the lunch and warm sunshine, we talked a lot about conservation, about our future....

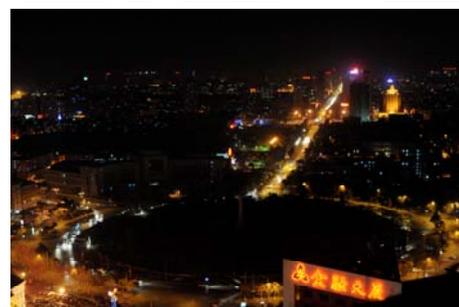


Candle wedding ceremony during EH

**EH Celebration in Changchun**

Earth Hour Campaign in Changchun experienced an unexpected success this year. With the joint efforts of Changchun Municipal Government, Jilin Environment Protection Union, Changchun Environment Protection Bureau, Changchun Street Lamp Management Office as well as many enterprises, volunteers and citizens, all symbolic buildings and landscape lamps in Changchun, including Changchun Municipal Government Building, Jilin Broadcasting Tower, Renmin Square, Wenhua Square, Weixing Square, Renmin Street, Nanhu Street and Chongqing Street, blacked out at 20:30 on March 27, 2010.

At the same time, Earth Hour has become a culture phenomenon in Changchun with local media's promotion, including Xin Wen Hua Newspaper, Jilin Radio Station, Jilin TV and Changchun TV. More and more people take it as a festival. Many people got to parks and squares to celebrate this special moment with millions of people all of



Before and after the black-out in Renmin Square



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the world to show their concern about environmental issue, such as climate change and pollution. For example, a hiking club named Flag Flying organized its member to hike in Nanhu Lake Park. More than 200 volunteers got together at Wenhua Square and hold a party. Dancing, singing, rope skipping, people enjoyed fresh air and friendship instead of odd TV play and exhausted video game in front of computer.

According to the statistics from Xin Wen Hua Newspaper, about 23,000 lamps blacked out from 20:30 to 21:30. More than 7000 kw electricity was saved within this hour, equals to reduce 6,330.664 kg carbon dioxide.

### Main Achievements

#### Monitoring Method of Tiger and Ungulate Training & Winter Survey Held in 3 Pilot Sites

WWF organized a training of monitoring method of tiger and ungulate in Dahuanggou forest farm from January 16 to 17, 2010. The participants were including local experts, WWF RFE colleagues, WCS staff, rangers from Hunchuan Nature reserve and Dahuanggou, Nuanquanhe and Chaoyanggou Forest Farms.



During the training workshop, the Russian colleagues introduced the status in quo of the Amur tiger conservation in Russia as well as the method of researching tiger and ungulate in the field. In the past, the experts from the two countries always debated on the differences of the research method and data processing. In Russia, the rangers adopt line-transect method, which is a time and manpower consuming way, to carry out winter survey since the density of tiger and ungulate are much higher than those in China currently. While in China, most tigers prowl along China-Russian boarder. Chinese experts suggest that it is good to adopt line-transect method along the boarder but not in the inner land where the tiger population is so small. This time, WWF provided a platform for them to exchange their view.



Field survey in tiger habitat  
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After the classroom workshop, all the guys went out to learn the method of identifying the tracks in the snow. The



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snow was big this year. At the same time, the snow in China is dryer than that in Russia. All these facts made it hard to judge the track in deep snow this year.

After the training, the winter survey was carried out in all the forest farms and Hunchun Nature Reserve in the following two weeks before Chinese New Year coming. It is the first time for WWF China to carry out field survey and conservation research after panda conservation in Sichuan 30 years ago.

### **Workshop of Tiger Conservation Network Held in Changchun**

WWF and Jilin Forestry Department jointly held a Workshop of Amur Tiger Conservation Network in Changchun on January 26, 2010. The participants were from Hunchun National Tiger Nature Reserve, Changbaishan National Nature Reserve, Huangnihe Nature Reserve, Yangbian Forestry Department as well as Jilin Forestry Department and Jilin Forestry Science Institute.

During the workshop, all the participants showed their wishes of establishing a network to strengthen communication and cooperation among different nature reserves and forest farms for tiger conservation

Nowadays, such nature reserves as Changbaishan and Hunchun, have already built up their capacity and function. And with the conservation awareness raising of the forestry enterprises in Changbaishan Landscape, the infrastructure of the network has been formed. " however the nodes on the net are not integrated very well, " Mrs. Hu Shaofeng, from Jilin Forestry Department, said, "the concept of conservation network was introduced by WWF and WCS. With their support, the communication among nature reserves has been improved greatly. In the next step, we will further this mechanism between the forestry enterprises and nature reserves. Then, a tiger conservation network would be formed in real."

With the coming of the Chinese year of tiger, WWF took this good opportunity to hold this workshop in order to bread down the limitation among different nature reserves and forest farms and make more room for wild tigers in Jilin Province. WWF is also planning to stretch this network into Heilongjiang Province to integrate tiger habitat of China as a whole.

### **Heixiazi Island Nature Reserve Established**

With WWF's support, Heilongjia Forestry Department finished the establishment of Heixiazi (black bear) Island Nature Reserve by the end of March, 2010.

Located at the meeting point of Amur/Heilong River and Ussuri River along the border between of China and Russia, Heixiazi Island possesses a unique habitat and biodiversity of wetland. Currently, it maintains the most original land of marsh in China.



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With the high speed development, the island became a hotspot for developers because of its advantageous location. In order to keep this ecologically precious island from destructive exploitation, Heilongjiang Forestry Department took an immediate action. They sent a research team to the island to conduct an ecological baseline survey, which powerfully showed the necessity of establishing a nature reserve on it.

The establishment of Heixiazi Island Nature Reserve symbolizes that another invaluable genetic storage is under protected.

### ***Mongolia***

#### **Herders take care of wild species**

There are thousands of Mongolians keen to protect the nature and wildlife species. One of these people is Lkhagva Jigmid, herder of Bagh 3, Binder soum of Khentii aimag.

In 2004, there were six does (female deer) entered the grazing areas of his livestock. He did not chase away and hunt them. Today, there are four male deer and 18 does (female deer) grazing freely without any fear. Since their emergence, J. Lkhagva, herder, has put totally 60 kg of saltlicks in grazing areas of Gyalalzakh zoo and nearby upstream of Uliastai River. For his wholehearted commitment/effort to the wildlife conservation, he was awarded by some monetary incentives from the local government. At present time of dzud, heavy snow falls, the wildlife species "is asking for" the help from us (the humans) having being suffered from shortage of fodder and feed. The individuals, who are keen to protect the wildlife, give their hands to the wildlife.

One of these examples is the efforts of J. Lkhagva, herder, who have been taking care of the does (female and male deer). He in cooperation with some local residents put hays and fodder to the wild species at their expenses. If each individual protects the wildlife like J. Lkhagva, herder, does, the wildlife species in the country will be well preserved within their habitats and their populations will be increased. And in return the wildlife will make the environment alive and the humans happier as researchers said.

#### **"A life was gifted to Gurvan Lake"**

In Dadal soum of Khenti aimag, a legendary birth place of Chinggis Khaan, well known as the Millennium prolific man in the world history, there was a beautiful lake called as



A life was gifted to Gurvan Lake  
© WWF-Mongolia



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Gurvan Nuur that was well known by its medical treatment important among domestic residents.

Few years ago, the lake was full of water and waterfowls gathered in large numbers. Due to various reasons, the lake water had been lowered and since 2004 the lake was dried up. In the beginning of this month, the “Enkh Undur” herder community members, Soum target group, developed a project proposal “Let’s gift life to the western lake”.

The initiative has been supported by the eastern regional sub-office of WWF Mongolia Programme Office and local community members and the Programme office are collaborating. The community members, who proposed the project, have started to plant tree seedlings and carry ice from Balj River in order to protect from wind and reduce dryness. To date, they carried 40 tons of ice to the lake bottom.

Moreover, school children and students from grades 4-9 along with their teachers and educators took part in carrying snow to the lake dried up. The school children and teachers piled snow in ten big sized gers (Mongolian dwelling, round shaped) making their contributions in “gifting life to the lake”. Totally eight secondary school teachers and 185 children participated in snow carrying. Local communities said that this effort will be continued until the lake is restored.

## Importance of Taimen conservation was better understood.

Numbers of taimen that is sometimes called as ‘fresh water body wolf ‘ are reduced from year to year. One of long term conservation efforts for the rarely found species conducted in the past is the conservation activity under a motto “Fresh water king, Taimen- a proud of Onon River”.

A campaign “Let’s give freedom to Taimen, king fish” was successfully organized for conservation of Taimen in Onon river basin. It was opened in Bayan-Uul soum of Dornod aimag, on March 17. Organizers of the campaign were the WWF Programme eastern regional office staff members and local representatives including B. Gankhuyag, specialist; S. Enkhjin, officer, and J. Dorj the project coordinator, D. Densmaa, a teacher of “Nature and Children” eco-club for the 11<sup>th</sup> year school children and local communities at the soum in accordance with its agenda.



Importance of Taimen conservation was better understood © WWF-Mongolia

Main purpose of this campaign was to provide better understanding on conservation importance of Taimen to local communities. Open Day event was attractive to all the attendees. They expressed

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their feelings as it was quite interesting, creative, and timely awareness activity for local communities including the school children. A contest “AHA” was organized during the Open Day and children and youths actively took part in it. Officers made some presentations on the values and importance of taimen. Competition “who can make taimen?” and dancing with taimen were organized. They were much interesting for children.

In other words, the event was full of taimen related information as the organizers said. All the participants commented that such events should be organized frequently for local communities and they will be important for the improved awareness and attitude to wildlife species particularly among school children and youths.

### **New business ideas from environmental community group members**



New business ideas from environmental  
community group members  
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Environmental community members of Dadal soum of Khentii aimag actively work together.

In the first quarter of 2010, eight community group members had their meetings and totally 103 members of 77 households attended. Community group members, who attended the meetings had their registration documents available and approved their action plans for 2010.

On the meetings, the members made mapping and lists of the areas and resources under their protection and lists of training they need in the future. They also shared their ideas on new businesses that are helpful for their livelihood. The project coordinator made presentations on

the project activities, experiences of Khustai NCP, how to establish and run mutual revolving fund, and announcement of selection of best community group(s).

During the meetings, community group leaders had some surveys on community group member households in order to enter data into database. Community group members agreed on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in accordance with laws and regulations and joint efforts in business that are supportive for their livelihood.

### **Russia**

#### **New Strategy of Amur tiger protection approved by international scientific society**



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An international conference “Amur tiger in Northeast Asia: planning for the 21 Century” was held in Vladivostok on March 16-18. 109 experts from 13 countries participated in the conference organized by the Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Science, WWF and WCS.

Reviewing of a new federal Strategy for Amur tiger conservation in Russia and National action plan on the federal and provincial levels was the most important result of the Conference. After being refined by the working group, these documents will be forwarded to the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources so that by the Global Tiger Summit to be held in Vladivostok in September 2010 Russia will have officially approved functional document supported by legal and financial decisions.



Amur tiger documentary disc

*“It is high time to turn from words to actions, - says Yuriy Darman, director of WWF-Russia’s Amur branch. – I hope that in the Year of the Tiger the Government of Russian Federation and Primorskii Province Governor will take efficient measures for the Amur tiger conservation: a moratorium for Korean pine logging will be set, the Bikin River will be listed into UNESCO world heritage, and using tiger skins as wall decorations will become in Russia a criminal offence”.*

**“Amur tiger in the third millennium”**

This is the title of a documentary made at WWF-Russia’s request. The film’s first performance took place on February, 14, when the Year of the Tiger started in the Chinese lunar calendar. The plot grabs the audience by its resemblance to a Western – killed tigers and cut Korean pines are falling on the ground without a hint to be resuscitated. The climax of the film is very symbolic – Russian prime-minister Vladimir Putin is kissing the sedated tiger thus giving us a hope to convert the present-day situation by banning for Korean pine loggings, by increasing penalties for storage and transportation of tiger parts, and by getting governmental funds for tiger conservation. The film has got the “silver” at the “Golden Vityaz” (Golden Knight) film festival. The film is available in Russian and English.

**Sweden hunters help save Amur tiger**

In February, a group of heads of the leading RFE hunting clubs accompanied by WWF staff went to Sweden to learn the experience of Swedish hunters how to do game management. The main objective of the group was to learn the techniques to raise wild ungulates number in Primorye so that it was sufficient both for tiger and leopard and local hunters. Heads of hunting clubs, members of the study group, already try to replicate lessons learnt during the trip in their territories. Some types of feeders will be used for the first time, primarily dispenser feeders equipped with timer. Types of forage and methods of forage processing will be changed a bit, focuses will be shifted from different types of



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forage. The group plans to prepare a letter to the Primorye Hunting Department with recommendations on how to change hunting methods and ungulates management to further put them into practice.

As a follow up, a series of seminars for game users is scheduled to raise their awareness on how game management is organized in Sweden. Without doubts, some information will become part of methodological recommendations on wild ungulates feeding which are planned to be published this year.



Similar feeders with timer will soon appear in the RFE hunting estates.

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### Harsh sentences

*for shooting Red List's birds*

WWR-Russia is satisfied with the judgment delivered to S. Uvarov by Justice of Peace for killing two white-naped cranes. For the first time ever harsh sentence has been passed for shooting Red List's birds. The convicted person has to pay about 11 000 USD as penalties. Non-governmental organizations, including WWF, followed the case from the very start of investigation.

*for cutting Korean pine*

Dalnerechenskyi district Court sentenced a culprit to 44-months imprisonment for cutting Korean pine illegally. He was detained in 2009 during a raid with one of WWF staff participating but the sentence was announced on January 27 this year.

### We should be prepared for forest fire season

In March, 17 firemen were lectured and trained in every aspect regarding forest fires like reasons of fire outbreak, stages of fire fighting, prognosis and evaluation of the level of danger, safety arrangements etc. The course took place at the initiative and with WWF's financial support at the Agricultural Academy hosting staff of "Kedrovaya Pad" Nature Reserve, foresters, land users



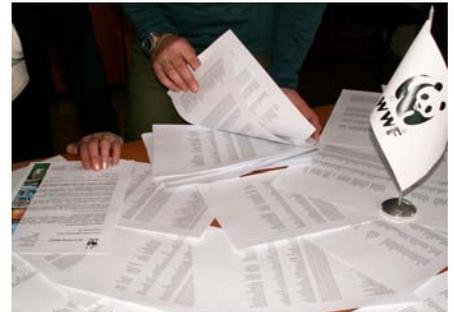
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8-42331-41953 - штаб ГО и ЧС Хасанского района  
8-42331-41475 - круглосуточный диспетчер администрации Хасанского района  
8-42331-41507 - оперативный дежурный пожарной службы Хасанского района  
92-34-57 - визит-центр WWF „Земля Леопарда“

12000 such leaflets with contact phone numbers where to call in case of forest fires will be distributed this year in Land of Leopard



as its main audience. All these people are members of special fire fighting brigades active in the most biodiversity rich areas of Primorye among which are Land of Leopard and Korean pine stands in the Bikin River valley.

**Agreement on cooperation** was signed by WWF and the administration of “Kedrovaya Pad” Nature Reserve. Parties agreed on collaboration on flora and fauna species conservation, and on development of environmental education for local people. The issue of Far Eastern leopard and Amur tiger conservation is specially emphasized in the Agreement: the implementation of projects on anti poaching activities, fighting illegal logging and forest fires, the exchange of up-to-date information on violations of nature protection. Director of “Kedrovaya Pad” Nature Reserve expressed his gratitude to WWF for its organizational and financial support during establishment of the unified protected area. He said that they were glad to have WWF as a partner as it always kept its promises.



Signature in favor of Korean pine collected by WWF are ready to be delivered to Primorskii Province Administration.  
© WWF-Russia / O. Sass

**Will be Korean pine included into the Red List of Primorye?**

The “Protecting Korean pine one protects Amur tiger” campaign was kicked off by WWF-Russia early in February. An appeal to those who are not indifferent to vote for including Korean pine into the Red List was put on wwf.ru. By February 4, about 17000 electronic signatures from the whole Russia were received. At the same time WWF’s partners did outreach to get people from remote sites sign the appeal. By March 30, citizens of Khabarovskii and Amurskaya Provinces sent 888 and over 2000 signatures, respectively.

On February 24, a public opinion poll was started on the Primorskii Province Legislative Assembly’s site. According to its results, over 98% of responders voted “for”. Everyone is waiting for a word from Sergei Darkin, Primorye Governor, who is still receiving appeals from people in favor of “bread-giving” tree.

**Year of Tiger is in a full swing**

Tiger Campaign started in the Russian Far East in December last year is surviving its second turn. So far, for the recent four months, about 35000 people became participants of contests and competitions, exhibitions and New Year parties, theatrical performances and quizzes.



In February, Tiger Marathon started its glorious “parade” across south of Primorye. Symbolic plush tiger toy, picturesque banners and a big map-line of march are to be carried by winners of different tiger-contests when visiting 15 Far Eastern nature reserves and 3 national parks. Toward early April, three reserves in Primorye and one in Khabarovskii Province have already hosted the tiger cortege. On the way during the stops in villages the kids conducted interactive tiger lessons, made presentations. Everyone has the chance to stroking the plush tiger and make a picture in company of the striped animal.

Central square of Vladivostok in September 2010 will be the final point of the Marathon when thousands of people come together to honor the TIGER in front of participants of the Tiger Summit.

### Other Information

#### WWF Donated Equipments to Partners

WWF donated equipments, including digital camera, GPS, snowshoes and walkie talkies, for monitoring and survey to Dahuanggou, Nuanquanhe and Chaoyanggou Forest Farms in early January 2010. The equipments would help rangers get accurate ecological data during winter monitoring and patrolling.



The group is ready to start out

#### Tiger documentaries invited

At the initiative of WWF-Russia' Amur branch, Management of the «Pacific Meridian», an International Film Festival of Asian Pacific Countries, introduced this year a special nomination— “The best documentary on tiger conservation” — as part of the Festival's program “AMBA”. Films of 30-120 min duration shot in 2006-2010 are invited to participate. The mission of the new nomination is to consolidate forces of cinematographers, leading Russian and foreign ecologists in an effort to save tiger on the Globe.

«Pacific Meridian» is held annually in one of the most beautiful places on the Pacific Ocean coast – the city of Vladivostok. The Festival was instituted in 2003 and its 8th edition will be held this year, September 11—17.

<http://www.viff.vl.ru/>

#### Leopard inspires future designers

WWF-Russia, OJSC “Primorskii Konditer” (“Primorye Confectionary”), and department for computer design of the Mass Communication Institute at the Far Eastern State University ran students contest in favor of leopard. Its focus

#### One-line news

Russian prime-minister Vladimir Putin issued an order #38-p, 26.01.2010 “On conducting of World Tiger Summit in Vladivostok on September 9-12, 2010”.

Public Environmental Impact Assessment of the Sakhalin-Khabarovsk-Khasan pipeline came to a categorical conclusion: it is unacceptable to construct the pipeline in Khasanskki district and southern part of Primorye.



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*was to create a symbolic leopard to be a future character for “Primorskii Konditer” sweet products. Two young ladies became the winners in nominations “For vivid visualization of the richness of nature the Far Eastern leopard live in” and “For the symbol deserving to represent WWF’s program on leopard conservation”. These symbols will decorate leaflets, flyers, posters to be issued by WWF-Russia in the future.*