«Conservation of the Amur Tiger and its Habitats» was the first WWF’s project in Russia that started in 1994. WWF assisted in building of a network of anti-poaching brigades in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Provinces that included response forces of the key tiger protected areas, provincial Wildlife Management Departments, and the Tiger Inspection. Over 25 years, jointly the Amur Tiger population has been stabilized and even has risen in number up to 580 animals.
WWF participated in the development and approving of the methodology of a tiger census which is conducted once in 10 years. In the last census in 2015, around a thousand field workers covered 22,835 km of the routes across the entire tiger home range (163,000 km²). Later, the data provided by camera traps proved the accuracy of the winter counting of tigers tracks in the snow. In 2018, the expert evaluation of the monitoring results and the simulation study gave the number of **580** wild tigers speaking of the general **25%** growth of the population over 25 years.

In 2002, WWF pioneered the development and putting into practice the methodology of camera traps monitoring of the leopards. In 2007 and 2013, WWF was among the sponsors and participants of the leopard winter tracks survey. Today in Russia there over **100** spotted cats thanks to the joint efforts of the government and NGOs.

*Activities on tiger and leopard conservation is being done in cooperation with governmental agencies, the Amur Tiger Centre, and the Far Eastern Leopards autonomous non-profit organization.*
MINIMIZATION OF CONFLICTS WITH LARGE PREDATORS

With the support of WWF in 2012 in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Provinces three groups to mitigate conflicts between humans and with large predators were formed and equipped with all necessary gear. WWF supports two rehabilitation centres — Utyos in Khabarovsky and Rehabilitation Centre Tigr in Alekseevka in Primorye. Jointly, 200 conflicts were mitigated with no victims both among animals and humans; 23 tigers were released back into the wild after successful courses of rehabilitation.

PARTNERSHIP WITH HUNTING LEASES

Over 80% of the Amur tiger habitats are beyond protected areas, therefore, WWF has created a network of 14 model hunting leases encompassing 1122004 hectares or 10% of tigers’ habitats in Primorye. Due to the joint wildlife management plans the number of wild ungulates in some leases has raised causing the increase in tigers number. In Sinegorye Hunting Lease, seven years ago there were no tigers at all and in 2019, 6 tigers were registered; in Tayozhniki over three years of intensive activities the number of cats has increased from 3 to 6 animals. Elaborated mobilization plans saved the ungulates from mass mortality in deep snow winters.

COOPERATION WITH THE CUSTOMS

In 2000, WWF assisted the Vladivostok Branch of the Russian Customs Academy in the creation of a training and education centre. Annually, over 200 cadets are being trained there. 11 customs officials were trained as experts to identify wildlife products. Thanks to the support of WWF several generations of sniffer dogs are skilled to specify wildlife contraband. With WWF’s help 17 guidebooks on nature conservation were published.

ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES

WWF provides assistance to the Wildlife Management Agencies, hunting societies, nature reserves and national parks in their anti-poaching efforts: purchases gear, equipment, vehicles, conducts trainings and seminars, WWF’s staff participates in raids and field operations. Over the years of cooperation, 46322 protocols were issued which amounts to a 90 meters high sheaf of papers; 8332 guns were confiscated which amounts to three disarmed motorized rifle regiments; 907 criminal cases were initiated; over 100 tiger skins and bones of over 50 tigers were seized; 514 forensic examinations were conducted; 2452 cases of wildlife contraband were registered, 773 of which dealt with CITES species.
around 580 Amur tigers roam the Far Eastern taiga. The population is stable.

514 forensic examinations of wildlife items are conducted.

3 873 km² of protected areas are established for the Amur leopard.

33 442 km² of protected areas for the Amur tiger are declared. Among them there are 5 national parks.

200 conflicts with large predators are mitigated.

23 Amur tigers are released back into the wild.

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.

www.wwf.ru

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