

**Global Survival Network**  
**Programmatic Progress Report**  
**Operation Amba**

**July 15, 1998**

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## Summary

In October 1997, GSN led a trip to the Russian Far East to review the progress made by Operation Amba. Steve Galster was joined by Karin Elliot, a Russian speaking consultant to GSN, Dr. Gerard Baars, Director of the International Bear Foundation, and Michiel Hotte of Stichting Tigris of the Netherlands. The primary objectives were to:

- Review the problems and progress of Operation Amba;
- Expand Operation Amba to cover: anti-poaching, education, science, prey base management, anti-logging, and public relations;
- Sign a contract for 1998 with Primorsky Krai Committee on Environmental Protection to continue GSN's support of Operation Amba;
- Explore the feasibility of developing a wildlife education and rehabilitation center;

The methods, information learned, results and decisions for the future are detailed in the attached November 13, 1997 trip report.

One of the primary outcomes of the above review trip was the decision to create "Phoenix: A Collective Biodiversity Recovery Program." Phoenix will serve as an all-Russian NGO, whose main objective is to seek funding and do public relations work for tiger and wildlife conservation programs, of which Operation Amba is the current top priority. The mission of Phoenix is to ensure the success of continued and expanded efforts to protect the rich biological diversity of Primorsky Krai.

The goal is to coordinate the activities of Operation Amba, local scientists, wildlife specialists and the local government to:

- Protect habitat for the Amur tiger, the Far Eastern leopard, and other endangered species of animals and plants;
- Restore a healthy prey base of wild boar and ungulates;
- Educate the general public about the value of conserving the natural world of Primorsky Krai;
- Coordinate data collection for scientists doing genetic and behavioral research on tigers and leopards;
- Support continued anti-poaching and anti-logging work.

Operation Amba will be the core element of Phoenix.

During GSN's visit, GSN and Amba decided that Amba would host GSN consultant, Karin Elliot, from January 15- March 15, 1998 to help jump-start Phoenix. A brief report on her stay is attached.

Amba also hosted Dutch film crew in October to do an educational piece on Amba's mission. The film crew was brought to Primorsky Krai by GSN.

## **Education**

Amba has been expanding its public outreach programs and has begun to develop ties with local schools and orphanages. Amba's Bikin group, led by Yuri Trough, meets with 9th and 10th graders and talks to them about their anti-poaching work. In March the Vladivostok team established ties with a local kindergarten that has a strong environmental awareness and education program. The Iman team, as other teams, donates poached venison to the local orphanage. One of its goals for this year is to start interacting with the children in the orphanage to teach them about tigers, tiger habitat and behavior, and nature conservation.

To expand on its educational activities, Amba has begun to work closely with the Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve. A bus is being purchased that will be painted in the flora and fauna of Primorsky Krai. It will transport children from towns and villages to the Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve. On the way to and during the visit, an Amba ranger will accompany the children. While at the preserve, the children will visit an existing ecology museum, an interpretive nature trail, and soon a new wildlife education and rehabilitation center. Initially, the center will be home to bears that, due to health reasons or exposure to humans, are no longer able to live on their own in the wild. Eventually, other animals may be added.

Operation Amba and the Primorsky Krai Committee on Environmental Protection have been working closely with the Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve to secure the land for the wildlife education and rehabilitation center, develop plans for its construction, and to help purchase the bus that will bring children to and from the preserve.

## **Anti-logging**

At the request of the Forestry Ministry Amba has created an anti-logging group called "Cedar". Currently, Cedar, supported by GSN, has 2 team members and one vehicle.

## Anti-poaching

The table below highlights results from Amba's anti-poaching work for the period January 1 1997 - March 1998.

Action	Unit	1997	1998 1st quarter	Total (since 1994)
<b>Number of protocols drawn up</b>				
*hunting violation	case	270	121	955
* fishing violation		133	73	520
*logging violation		109	35	226
		28	5	65
<b>Illegal traps confiscated</b>				
Tiger trap (cage)	number	0	1	1
Nets		318	32	471
Snares		40	26	98
<b>Confiscated weapons:</b>				
Including	number	105	63	439
Threaded barrel		22	14	105
Self-shooting		-	-	19
<b>Confiscated from circulation:</b>				
Tiger skin and tiger bones	item	11	3	34
Leopard skin	item	-	(2)	4
Skins of fur bearing animals	item	3	2	5
Musk deer musk gland	item	-	4	4
Wild ginseng	gr.	11921	-	25995
Dried frogs	kg.	150	-	150
Dried sea cucumber	kg.	120	116	714
Timber products	cubic meters	160	4	174
Sea urchins	item	-	100	100
Fish	kg.	55	312	767
Narcotics containing plants	hectares	1.5	-	1.5
Marijuana	kg.	20	0.16	20.16

<b>Action</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998 1st quarter</b>	<b>Total (since 1994)</b>
<b>Problem tigers and leopards</b>	episode days	8 82	6 21	20 168
<b>Confiscated year-old Asian black bears</b>	number	3	-	17
<b>Criminal proceedings instigated</b>	cases	5	7	35

During 1997, the average number of rangers was 17 rangers, in 1998 there are a total of 22.

In December of 1997 a new team, the Khasan Team, was created specifically to protect tigers, ungulates, and the dwindling Amur leopard population in southwestern Primorsky Krai. The new Khasan Amba team also performs general anti-poaching activities in the region along the Korean border. It is comprised of three well-trained rangers.

In October of 1997 Operation Amba rangers participated in a U.S. Department of Interior training program along with inspectors from the region's wildlife preserves.

**Global Survival Network**  
**Trip Report**  
**January 15, 1998 - March 15, 1998**  
**Karin Elliot**

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**Karin Elliot**

The objectives of the trip were to:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness and needs of the Operation Amba teams;
2. Help establish the Phoenix Fund;
3. Help design a public outreach brochure;
4. Help purchase a bus to transport children to the wildlife education center;
5. Help coordinate activities to organize the construction of the wildlife education center;
6. Coordinate activities among entities involved with Phoenix ( Operation Amba, Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve, Institute of Biology and Soil, forensics medical expert, and with GSN, the International Bear Foundation and Stichting Tigris);
7. Help Operation Amba develop stronger ties with schools and the media.

To achieve these objectives, I:

1. Interviewed all members of the seven Amba teams on site, with the exception of the team in Ternei (I only met with the head of the team in Vladivostok). We discussed ways to reach out to children in the schools and orphanages, the need to continue building ties with the local media, and our new method for collecting data for scientists.
2. Visited a kindergarten with a strong environmental education program with the Vladivostok team. We gave an interactive slide show on tigers and tiger behavior, and I attended an educational program with Amba members at an education center for gifted children;
3. Translated the Phoenix charter. Met several times with the Department of Justice, the entity that registers non-profit organizations, and hired a lawyer to finalize our documents;
4. Together with Amba's commander and rangers, developed a six-panel informational educational color brochure about Phoenix and its key components. Negotiated printing costs and hired a local publishing company to print the brochure;



5. Researched the purchase of a bus. This involved looking at about ten buses. I decided it would be prudent to postpone the purchase of a bus until summer so that it does not sit around unused during the harsh winter;
6. Maintained regular communication with the director of the Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve, by phone, fax and in person in support of expediting the construction of the wildlife education facility;
7. Hired a gentleman who will be responsible for managing a facility for bear cub reintroduction on the far side of the Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve. I sent this person to Tverskoy Oblast for a three-month training program;
8. Worked on a daily basis in Amba's office handling e-mail correspondence with GSN and addressed day-to-day problems. In support of Operation Amba, I developed a job description for a Peace Corps volunteer scheduled to begin working with Amba this fall. Other responsibilities ranged from making sure that genetic samples were delivered to the genetic researchers at the Institute for Soil and Biology from the forensics expert, to funding the production of a tiger calendar and educational poster. I also participated in autopsies of one leopard and one tiger, and ensured that the skins were properly removed so that they could be treated for exhibition at the nature museum at the Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve;

Some of the main things I learned about the progress and problems were:

1. Morale of Amba rangers is up, partly because of its successes, but also thanks to U.S.-government sponsored wildlife enforcement training, and due to obtaining official government status as full-fledged state law enforcement inspectors with the right to bear arms.
2. Regrettably, Amba has had to participate in two kills of "problem" tigers. Killing tigers is not really in Amba's mandate, and they want to discuss the issue of how to deal with problem tigers in the future.
3. Local press coverage about Amba is strong, usually it is positive, sometimes but rarely negative. Negative coverage appears to stem from jealousy and/or misunderstandings that Amba is rich.
4. Title to the land on which the wildlife education center is to be built was only recently secured. This has slowed the process of developing a construction plan and purchasing building materials. Construction is now set to take place.
5. Creative approaches will have to be used at the bear reintroduction facility on the far side of the Ussurisk Wildlife Preserve. There is no electricity on site, and the one road to the site is long and rough. The site will need its own generator for powering the electric fence and for storing milk for the bear cubs.

6. Anti-poaching programs continue to improve, because of increased cooperation with police, and because Amba teams are becoming more experienced and confident in their work.
7. A leopard count was done with the participation of Amba, the Hornocker Institute, and the local representative of WWF and others. An approximate number of 40 was counted. Many of the leopards were found lingering around deer farms.
8. Some local administrative bureaucrats are still opposed to Amba activities because it impedes the hunting business. The bureaucrats are tied to the Hunting Department. Amba rangers feel that ungulate numbers are too low for the existing tiger population.
9. Establishing Phoenix required jumping through bureaucratic hoops, but it is falling into place nicely.

### **Assessment**

After working with Amba for two months I can attest that they are dedicated to their work and that they care a great deal about presenting an image worthy of respect. They appreciate the government support to provide them with uniforms for all seasons, and they hope that the government will eventually be able to make a greater contribution to their efforts. In the meanwhile, Amba appreciates the support it gets from GSN, the STSC, Save the Tiger Fund, and others. Phoenix will allow Amba to solicit funds directly from western and Russian sources. It will serve as a coordinating body to ensure the health and growth of the tiger population and its habitat, as well as the overall health of the entire ecosystem of Primorsky Krai and its rich biological diversity.

### **Accomplishments**

Since March 1998:

- Phoenix has been officially registered.
- Phoenix educational brochures featuring Operation Amba have been printed.
- A director for Phoenix has been hired who has been working very hard to launch Phoenix.
- A bank account is currently being established and the official Phoenix logo registered.
- Phoenix has received its first grant from the Barbara Delano Foundation of California with help from GSN.

**Global Survival Network**  
**Trip Report**  
**November 13, 1997**  
**Steven Galster**



## GLOBAL SURVIVAL NETWORK

WORKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

November 13, 1997

TO: Members of the Siberian Tiger Support Coalition:  
-David Shepherd Conservation Foundation  
-Tusk Force  
-International Bear Foundation/Ouwehands Dierenpark  
-Stichting Tigris  
-I-Mei Foundation

FR: Steve Galster, Coordinator/GSN

RE: Trip Report and Financial Support Schedules

GSN led a program review trip to the Russian Far East last month. I was joined by Karin Elliot, a Russian-speaking consultant to GSN, Dr. Gerard Baars, Director of the International Bear Foundation, and Michiel Hotte of Stichting Tigris of the Netherlands.

The objectives of the trip were to:

- a. Review the progress and problems of Operation Amba;
- b. Explore the feasibility of developing a wildlife rehabilitation and education centre;
- c. Expand the remit of Operation Amba to cover all aspects of counter-poaching: education, science, anti-logging, public relations, and prey base management.
- d. To sign a new contract with the Primorsky Krai Committee on Environmental Protection, which houses Operation Amba.

To achieve these objectives, we:

- a. Interviewed the Commander and Deputy Commander of Amba and reviewed their finances;
- b. Interviewed all Amba captains and some of the rangers from each team
- c. Accompanied 2 Amba teams on some of their anti-poaching work
- d. Interviewed Dr. V. Yudin, a wildlife biologist who has 5 tigers and other animals in captivity
- e. Interviewed J. Cutliar, the Director of Ussurisky Nature Reserve
- f. Had follow up discussions with the rangers, Zov Taigi (Environmental NGO) and the local WWF representative, Pavel Fomenko.

Some of the main things we learned about progress and problems were:

1. The Primorsky Krai Committee on Environmental Protection is more financially stable than last year. The Ministry of Environment is paying for more salaries and has equipped some Committee staff, including several Amba rangers with new uniforms;
2. Amba has expanded its operations, with teams (some very small in number) based in the following areas: Iman, Bikin, Ussurisk, Vladivostok, Sikhote-Alin, and Kirovsky.
3. Anti-poaching operations are working better than last year because of increased police cooperation on anti-poaching raids, particularly in Iman, Ussurisk, and Luchegorsk.
4. Tiger poaching is still down.
5. Illegal logging is up.
6. Bear poaching is steady, compared to last year.
7. The status of leopards is not exactly known, but numbers are very low, probably no more than 25 left around southwest Primorsky Krai.
8. Local press coverage of Amba activities is way up, and is mainly positive.
9. Some local administrative bureaucrats are opposed to Amba activities because it impedes the hunting business. The bureaucrats are closely tied to the Hunting Dept. and are a constant thorn in Amba's side.
10. Morale of Amba rangers is up, partly because of their successes, and partly because 2 rangers from the Ussurisk team, who were sponsored by WWF and who had negative attitudes, were fired.
11. The U.S.-government sponsored wildlife enforcement training seminar in Lazovsky Nature Reserve in October was considered very useful by Amba and Nature Reserve rangers.

After careful review of the program, full agreement was reached on the following:

1. Amba was deserving of continued financial and technical support from the STSC, specifically to aid Headquarters, plus the teams of Iman, Luchegorsk, and Kirovsky;
2. A small, new team was needed to protect leopards and tigers in Kedrovaya Pad;
3. Because Amba does more than just protect tigers (a big part of protecting tigers involves protecting prey, trees, and working with local communities), it was agreed that Amba's remit should be formally expanded and fall under an umbrella program name. The name which was agreed was "Phoenix: A Collective Biodiversity Recovery Program".
4. Amba will be the central component of Phoenix, which will include the following activities:
  - a. Law enforcement: anti-poaching, patrolling, etc
  - b. Data collection of illegal trade (to be used for further law enforcement activities with police and foreign wildlife

- enforcement agencies). This data can also be collated with that of the Hornocker Wildlife Institute to determine habitat and prey base management schemes for the immediate future (mixing anti-poaching and science).
- c. Community relations: developing a new brochure to explain what Amba does and what Phoenix is. This brochure will include on its backside a reporting form for citizens to fill out, including tiger sightings, poaching sightings, etc.
  - d. Education and bear protection: A Phoenix wildlife rehabilitation and education centre will be built next to Ussurisky Nature Reserve and an existing wildlife museum. Local school children and adults will be able to learn more about Amba and Program Phoenix by visiting this centre, where they will also see live orphaned bears. One Amba ranger will be on hand to talk to the children and public.
5. To ensure a sustained future for Operation Amba and Program Phoenix, it was agreed that a "Phoenix Fund" should eventually be registered within the Primorsky Krai Committee on Environmental Protection as a local, Russian registered non-profit organization. It is hoped that 18 months from now, donations can be sent directly to this fund from outside and within Russia.

To implement these main points, we incorporated these elements into the new contract. We considered both what STSC members have committed to the cause, and the Primorsky Krai Committee's more stable footing before signing the contract. I should point out that the 2 teams "formerly" supported by WWF are barely hanging on because WWF has not paid them for 4 months. They even had to cut their staff (including the 2 trouble-makers referred to above). Morale on these teams were much poorer compared to the ones the STSC supports. I promised to bring this up with WWF, because it is scandalous that they should not fulfill their contractual obligations when they have raised so much money off the Siberian tiger. The 4 month lapse is due to a banking problem they had in Moscow. But that does not excuse WWF from sending an emergency grant directly to the Far East. It was very sad to see this situation. We definitely do not want to make the same mistake. As we pointed out in our collective report to CITES in June in Africa, one of the essential components to a successful species recovery program is timely financial transfers to the field. You can really see the difference as a result of the STSC's timely support for Amba.

Attached is a proposed financial transfer schedule for each STSC member, based on what we have all discussed. After a lot of conversation with each of you, I believe everyone is donating as much as they can. I took some excellent photographs during the trip, which you can use for your fundraising purposes. Let me know, and my office will have duplicates made and sent to you.

One more thing for now: GSN will be sending Karin Elliot to the Russian Far East from January 15-March 15 to oversee the development of Program Phoenix. Karin is a fluent Russian speaker, a veteran Russian traveler, and did a great job on this last trip. *I will be working with her from here.*

I must leave for my last trip of 1997 (Burma and India) next week. The sooner I can get a confirmation of the financial transfer schedule, the better. Call, fax, or email me with any questions by Tuesday of next week. I am back in the office on December 11th. On behalf of our Russian colleagues, the tiger, and the taiga, thanks for your consistent support. I swear we're making a big difference!

Steve

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve".

**Global Survival Network**  
**Presentation**

**Save the Tiger Conference**  
**Dallas**  
**February 19, 1998**  
**Steven Galster**



PRESENTATION BY STEVEN GALSTER, GLOBAL SURVIVAL NETWORK:  
EXXON CONFERENCE, DALLAS, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

Thank you very much. I want to thank Exxon and the Save the Tiger Fund for inviting me here today to talk about how to develop an effective anti-poaching program. I will provide an overview of the 10 basic steps I believe an anti-poaching program must follow in order to be successful. I base these 10 points on GSN's experience in Russia mainly, and to some degree, my experience in Africa and South Asia. GSN and our partners apply conventional security measures to wildlife protection in the field, while using multi-media educational tools targeted at local communities and wildlife consuming communities to discourage the killing and consumption of these species. I am happy to say that we are seeing some positive results from this combined approach, which I am also pleased to say was made possible by financial contributions from the sponsors of this conference, the Save the Tiger Fund of the United States in partnership with Exxon, as well as an international coalition of groups who have worked well together in supporting the Russian program and our educational program called ACAP. Our principal partners have been the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation and Tusk Force of England, Ouwehands Zoo and the Tiger Foundation of Holland, the I-Mei foundation of Taiwan, and the Delano Foundation of the United States. Two preliminary remarks:

- I. There are essentially 2 types of anti-poaching programs: park-based and mobile. I will be referencing a project GSN helps to sponsor in Russia which is mobile, but most of what I will talk about is relevant to both types of programs.
- II. Scientific and educational programs related to tiger conservation are useless unless combined with anti-poaching efforts; the same is true in reverse: anti-poaching efforts are useless unless combined with scientific and educational work and community outreach. Which is why our approach to anti-poaching is comprehensive.

First step:

1. Identify the Threat. Thoroughly. In security terms this is called a Comprehensive Threat Assessment. Assign an objective tiger research team the task of conducting an exhaustive, 8-12 weeks, hands-on examination of the various threats to the tiger. This team should first review the research that has already been done, interview the local experts, go out into the field and investigate the situation, go back and interview the experts again, as well as hunters, farmers, police officers, businessmen, and rangers. And finally, interview poachers and traders –either covertly by using undercover researchers, or by finding poachers and smugglers who are no longer involved in the business and are willing to talk. Getting an insider's perspective is invaluable.

Yes, a lot of good research has already been done in a number of tiger range states on tiger roaming patterns, prey base density, poaching, trading, and other important aspects of tiger conservation. But these different kinds of data are not always pieced

together with an eye toward an overall strategic plan. It is important to matrix all of this information in order to effectively develop such a plan.

2. In security terms this kind of plan is called A Strategic Action Plan. This plan should address all threats to the tiger: the poacher, the smuggler, the logger, perhaps public attitudes, etc. This Strategic Action Plan is your blue print for the anti-poaching program. Therefore, it should be genuinely edited, authored, or co-authored by local personnel. It will eventually fail if its core idea is not locally designed. In 1992, several experts in Russia's Ministry of Environment, based in Moscow and Vladivostok, came up with a basic plan to address widespread tiger poaching that was occurring inside and outside nature reserves in the Russian Far East. Their idea was to develop a mobile, anti-poaching force that supplemented park ranger efforts. This idea formed the core of Operation Amba, a mobile anti-poaching force whose mission and operations were expanded and fine-tuned --and made real-- with the help of foreign sponsors starting in 1993.
3. High-level Political Support. Before initiating the anti-poaching program, present the SAP, on which it is based, to sympathetic, high-level government officials. Gain their input. Invest them in the program. Make them political, if not financial sponsors of the program. This is essential for the fourth main element (establishing good relations with the other enforcement agencies), which I shall get to next. This high-level political support is also important in that it can make the work of the rangers a lot easier (making sure they are properly supplied, for example) and it should prevent the government from suddenly terminating the project for some unforeseen reason. In Russia, Operation Amba was supported from the beginning by the Ministry of Environment at its top level. But it was not until 1995 that we got to the office of the Prime Minister to get his support. PM Chernomyrdin signed a Tiger Decree in August 1995, which has provided some protection to the anti-poaching program and helped generate a national action plan. A major portion of this plan remains unfunded, however. And the local administration of Primorsky Krai is not as supportive as it could be. It would have been better had we secured top level support from the central and federal levels from the beginning. It was not for lack of trying, I can assure you. Tigers were dying and we couldn't wait for the bureaucracy to respond.
4. Good relations with Police and other Enforcement Agencies. In some countries, it is the military or police who are responsible for protecting wildlife. In those cases, this point is irrelevant. But those cases are rare. An anti-poaching ranger, an investigator, or an NGO involved in executing the Strategic Action Plan usually operate with limited authority. They may be skillful at identifying poachers or smugglers, but in order to apprehend them and get them put into jail, they need cooperation from the police and the prosecutor's office. Since 1995 Amba rangers have enjoyed increasing cooperation from police officers. Here we see a police officer assisting Amba with the apprehension and arrest of a Chinese wildlife poacher. Some police officers are starting to recognize the value of working with these rangers: not only do they catch wildlife criminals, but sometimes these poachers and

smugglers of tigers are law breakers in general. Several months ago, Amba rangers caught a tiger poacher who police had been chasing for 3 years on multiple homicide charges. Had Amba not caught him for poaching tigers, the murderer would still be at large.

5. **Defensive Capability.** Rangers and investigators who pursue dangerous wildlife criminals on a daily basis must be able to defend themselves. This means having the proper equipment (e.g. arms), professional training to use that equipment, and the legal right to defend themselves. Amba rangers have the right to operate inside and outside nature reserves, to stop cars and investigate wildlife crimes. This is all very important. And Amba rangers have received training by the U.S. Department of Interior, which improved their anti-poaching techniques. But Amba rangers do not have the right from the central government to carry arms under all circumstances, nor can they carry the kind of arms they need to defend themselves under all circumstances. Similarly, in India it is not uncommon to find rangers with very old arms and three to five bullets to last them for 6 months. Governments that claim to be committed to wildlife conservation need to demonstrate that commitment by defending their rangers.
6. **Mobility.** During operational work, rangers and investigators have to quickly cover a lot of ground, physically speaking, in order to prevent a tiger kill, to catch someone who has already killed a tiger—or is about to smuggle it out of the country. Good, multi-terrain vehicles that can be serviced and repaired locally are essential. And a good fuel budget to keep the vehicles going. The best contribution that Exxon and the Save the Tiger Fund have made so far to this operation—mind you, their overall support has been crucial—are the 4 wheel drive trucks and fuel money they started providing the Amba teams with last year. Amba started out using old, slow, army-style trucks. Which are still useful for patrolling in some areas, but the rangers couldn't keep pace with poaching gangs that were driving Japanese land-rovers. Now they can.
7. **Communication Equipment.** Successful surveillance, pursuit, and apprehension of poachers and smugglers requires coordination among 2 to several dozen anti-poaching rangers and investigators at any one time. During an operation, rangers and investigators may be situated 200 feet to 50 kilometers away from one another. At least one communications device per group of anti-poaching personnel is needed. The ideal system is one that has a mother base at command headquarters, which connects to smaller units kept in a ranger's vehicle or forest base, which in turn connects to hand-held wireless units. This kind of system allows for coordination among the Command, a stationary or mobile unit in the forest, and the rangers who are patrolling the forest by foot—or by elephant.
8. **Investigations.** Every anti-poaching program should have at least one or two people trained in investigations. They benefit the anti-poaching program in three ways: (i) they identify the geographical areas where poaching and trading is most prevalent,

which helps focus patrol work--that saves time, money and can save the lives of tigers and rangers; (ii) they identify actual poachers and smugglers (the obvious benefit); and (iii) they can seriously disrupt poaching and smuggling networks by projecting a magnified perception of the anti-poaching force. This is extremely important.

It is impossible to keep watch over all poachers and traders. But in Russia we have seen that the surprise arrests of just a few wildlife criminals can lead others to wonder which one of them is next. In 1995 we could see that tiger poaching was coming down. We did some research to determine why. One of the reasons, that was made clear to us by several undercover agents working for Amba was that traders were afraid of being caught by the new tiger team. Clearly they thought the anti-poaching force was bigger than it was.

Done properly, interrogations that follow a successful sting can generate a lot of useful information. Time and again, the Amba rangers have learned that there is no honor among wildlife thieves. It is vital to interrogate the poacher or smuggler on the spot. Amba rangers know how to do this. Unfortunately, the police who assist do not always do this. In this case, for example, the police officer had a golden opportunity to learn more about wildlife smuggling from Russia to northeast China. The Chinese poacher probably knew a lot about the trade. But the policeman asked questions about the immediate violation only.

All information collected should be collated and stored in a database. There are several types of software available that organize the information to show patterns of poaching and trading. These are useful for focusing anti-poaching and investigative operations even further.

9. Public Affairs –or “Community Outreach” in the very broad sense of the term. Because tiger poaching and smuggling is both a local and an international phenomenon, an anti-poaching program must reach out to local and international communities. The anti-poaching program—ideally—will develop this capability itself, and not rely exclusively on some other department in the government.

Lets talk local outreach first:

Everywhere is different, but I think there are several basic ways to secure local cooperation and support, which we have been developing in Russia and Asia and which seem to be paying off: (i) the leader of the anti-poaching program must meet with local community representatives (whether they are village elders or municipal leaders), get to know them, listen to their concerns, and find some common ground between their goals and the goals of the anti-poaching program; (ii) incorporate these local concerns into the anti-poaching work—if possible, involve some of the locals in the anti-poaching program. In some cases, educational leaders asked for information and help in general on environmental education. Today, some Amba rangers stop in at public schools in between patrol work, in uniform, and talk to classrooms about nature protection; (iii) develop a brochure that explains the full scope of the anti-poaching program and why it’s important for both nature and people. Also, develop business cards. The brochure and

business cards should bear the logo of the anti-poaching program; (iv) establish good relations with the press. Get your mission and the results of your work, into the newspapers, and onto radio and TV. Not only has Amba secured good coverage in local newsprint and TV, but several rangers occasionally contribute articles about their own work. This publicity educates the local community and cultivates interest and support for the work.

International outreach is key for two reasons:

(i) It helps to know where poached tigers are being smuggled off to. It is possible and very important to develop a channel of communication between wildlife enforcement personnel in the range state, where the tiger was just poached and smuggled out of, to enforcement authorities in the importing country. Interpol already provides one such channel for information exchange. Some countries already belong to the Interpol SubGroup on Wildlife Crimes and have a designated Liaison officer. This is a Governmental foreign affairs issue and as such, a formal agreement between range and importing states may have to be signed. GSN has consistently recommended that the Russian Government establish such a regional agreement with countries that import Siberian tigers. I believe the Russians are now trying to organize a wildlife enforcement meeting with the governments of China, Japan, South Korea, and possibly the United States.

(ii) International outreach is important for another reason: Most tiger range states are strapped for cash. International foundations, governmental and intergovernmental agencies have money available to support sustainable biodiversity programs. But what often happens is intermediary organizations that have closer access to these funding bodies access the money and disburse it to the anti-poaching program from afar. This scenario is certainly better for the anti-poaching program than getting no money at all. But by the time administration and other fees are cut along the way, the anti-poaching program may receive as little as half of what they could have gotten had they applied for the money directly. I think intermediary organizations can play a vital role in getting anti-poaching programs set up or in improving their effectiveness. But eventually I think the anti-poaching program—or the governmental agency that serves as its umbrella—should try accessing that international money on its own. To do this an anti-poaching program requires: access to email and the internet, a fax machine, a person who can read and speak some English (the international language used) and who is trained in writing proposals. In order to access foreign money directly, the program has to assure a funder that they have safe banking channels, good accounting mechanisms, and timely reporting procedures. It is worth taking the time to develop these tools.

10. And finally: Cash Flow. Running an anti-poaching program is not terribly different from running a business or an army. It can be very cost-effective and productive when its budget is well - planned and fulfilled in a timely manner. Tardy cash flow can slow the momentum of an operation. For anti-poaching, it is especially important

that the line items for salaries and fuel be fulfilled on time: Morale and mobility are top priorities. Good cash flow requires:

Good budgeting: develop a full budget (the ideal or “maximum” budget) and a back-up plan or “minimum budget” (what you need to get by). This is what GSN and Amba do every year. We know what to aim for, pay for the top priorities (salaries, fuel, etc.) and if extra money is secured we allocate it to the maximum budget, or “wish list” as we call it.

An agreed transfer schedule (so you know when to expect the money). This should be part of any contract signed with a sponsor. This is a commitment.

Clear and frequent communication with your sponsor, whether it’s a foreign NGO or a governmental agency. GSN had one botched wire transfer to an anti-poaching group in Russia because of bad communication and it hurt the momentum of that group. It was a tough lesson for both sides, especially the guys on the ground.

And be Productive: reach your goals, and demonstrate your results-- your value—to your sponsors.

**Letter from**  
**Commander**  
**Vladimir I. Shetinin,**  
**Operation Amba**



**Государственный комитет  
по охране окружающей среды Приморского края**

690001, г. Владивосток, ул. Пушкинская, 93 ☎ 220-302; 228-065, факс: 268-574

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036**

**SAVE THE TIGER FUND COUNCIL  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EXXON CORPORATION**

**Dear Sir/Madam:**

Let us express our great thanks to you for your significant financial contribution toward protecting the Amur (Siberian) tiger.

Due to the support of the Global Survival Network and Save The Tiger Fund, Operation AMBA has become well-known both in Primorskiy Region and in Russia, as well as abroad.

It is true that as the Operation AMBA develops, preconditions toward more efficient execution of state ecological control have taken shape. Tasks are now actively being implemented to decrease negative changes in the tigers' habitat and their continuing poaching.

Unfortunately, we are forced to admit that here in Russia, because of difficult economic situation, Operation AMBA does not receive any financial support from the Federal Government. It is gratifying to know that there are people in the United States who are concerned with protecting the Amur tiger from extinction and are willing to donate the significant funds to help solve this complicated problem.

Respectfully,  
Commander of Operation AMBA

V. Shetinin.





**Государственный комитет  
по охране окружающей среды Приморского края**

690001, г. Владивосток, ул. Пушкинская, 93 ■ 220-302; 228-065, факс: 268-574

**«ФОНД СПАСЕНИЯ ТИГРА»**

**Уважаемые Господа!**

Позвольте выразить Вам огромную благодарность за значительный финансовый вклад в дело охраны Амурского (Сибирского) тигра.

Благодаря поддержке GSN и «Фонда Спасения Тигра» Операция АМБА получила огромный резонанс в общественной жизни края, страны и за рубежом.

Действительно, с развитием Операции АМБА наметились предпосылки к более эффективному осуществлению государственного экологического контроля, активному решению задач по уменьшению негативных изменений среды обитания тигра и продолжающейся нелегальной его добычи.

С большим сожалением мы вынуждены признать, что здесь, в России, в связи с тяжелым экономическим положением Операция АМБА не получает какой-либо ощутимой финансовой поддержки от российского правительства. Мы безмерно рады, что в Соединенных Штатах есть люди, обеспокоенные проблемой сохранения Амурского тигра как исчезающего вида, и готовые пожертвовать значительные средства для решения этой многоплановой проблемы.

С уважением,  
Командир Операции АМБА

**В.И. Щетинин.**

**Sample Brochure**

**Program Phoenix**

## Пожалуйста, помогите

НАМ.

Пожалуйста, заполните эту анкету и вышлите нам по адресу:

690001, Владивосток

ул. Пушкинская, 93, отдел "Тигр".

Государственный комитет по охране окружающей среды Приморского края

Исследовательский проект природы.

Дата	Наблюдение*	Местообитание	Детали наблюдения

\* в этом пункте поставьте соответствующий индекс:  
 "А" - видное животное/растение (тигр, медведь, кабара, дельфин, женьшень)  
 "В" - торгавя животным, растением  
 "С" - живое животное или его следы  
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факс (4232) 26-85-74

e-mail: [tigr@matura.marine.su](mailto:tigr@matura.marine.su)



## "Фонд Феникс"

Коллективная программа  
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биологического разнообразия

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деятельность

сбор информации для учёных

сохранение биологического  
разнообразия

сохранение среды обитания  
животного и растительного мира

экологическое воспитание детей  
и населения

образовательный реабилитационный  
центр медведей

## ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ ВОСПИТАНИЕ



С 1996 года в Уссурийском заповеднике работает эколого-информационный центр "Уссурийский эндемик". Кроме специальных занятий с детьми, акцент проводит обзорные экскурсии по музею заповедника и экологическим тропам. На базе экоцентра для детей проводятся экологические праздники, экологические семинары, курсы и конференции.

При Уссурийском заповеднике Фонд "ФЕНИКС" создаёт центр реабилитации диких животных и биологическую станцию для передержки медвежат, потерявших матерей, с последующим выпуском их на волю.

## КОНТРОЛЬНО-ИНСПЕКЦИОННАЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ

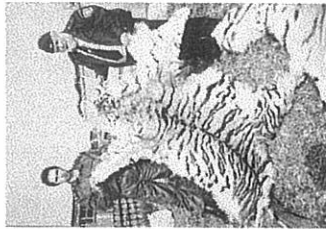
В 1994 году в структуре Госкомэкологии ПК создан специализированный оперативный отдел "ТИГР". Его основная функция - осуществление государственного экологического контроля в сфере сохранения биологического разнообразия, в том числе амурского тигра, дальневосточного леопарда, тропанга, "корня жизни" - женьшеня и других редких и исчезающих видов животных и растений Приморского края. Отдел "Тигр" также сотрудничает с Биолого-почвенным институтом ДВО РАН, где проводят генетические исследования редких видов.

## ОТДЕЛ "ТИГР"

**Цель:** сохранение биологического разнообразия.



На снимке: Берзюк С. Л. и Тимченко В. В., государственные инспекторы Приморского края по охране природы.

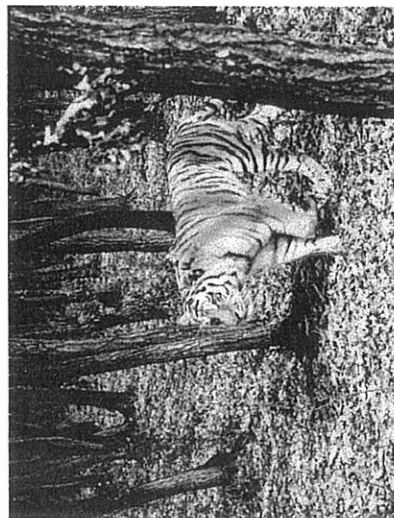


На снимке: изыятая шкура амурского тигра.



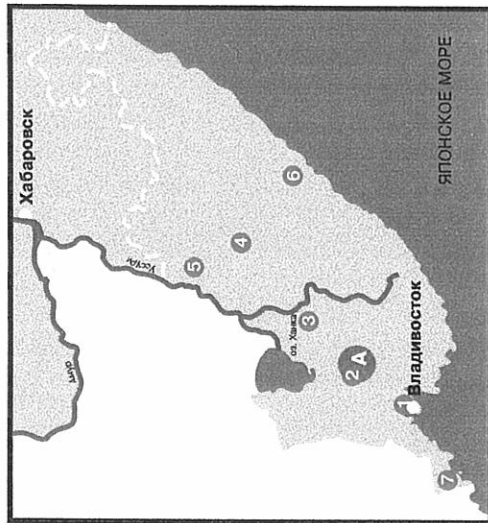
На снимке: Шелгин В. И., начальник отдела "Тигр".

**Задачи:** предотвратить, выявить и пресечь злоупотребления в природопользовании.



На снимке: амурский тигр в зоологическом стационаре Биологического института РАН.

## КОНТРОЛЬНО-ИНСПЕКЦИОННЫЕ ГРУППЫ ОТДЕЛА "ТИГР" В ПРИМОРСКОМ КРАЕ



1. Владивостокская
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3. Кировская
4. Иманская
5. Бикинская
6. Восточная
7. Хасанская

А. Уссурийский заповедник

За справкой можно обратиться:

- в отдел "ТИГР"  
г. Владивосток, ул. Пушкинская, 93  
тел. (4232) 22-80-65

- в дирекцию Уссурийского Заповедника  
г. Уссурийск, ул. Неросова, 19  
тел./факс (241) 2-01-07

**Articles on**  
**Wildlife Conservation**  
**In Russia's Far East**

# TUSK FORCE

ACTIVELY PROTECTING  
ENDANGERED SPECIES

## Conservation Force PAGE 2

British native species: an update on watervoles and dormice

## Force for change PAGE 3

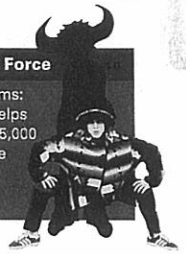
Whales under threat: the significance of the 'Irish proposal'

## Awareness Force PAGE 4

ACAP update: developments in Hong Kong and Thailand raise awareness of the plight of endangered species.

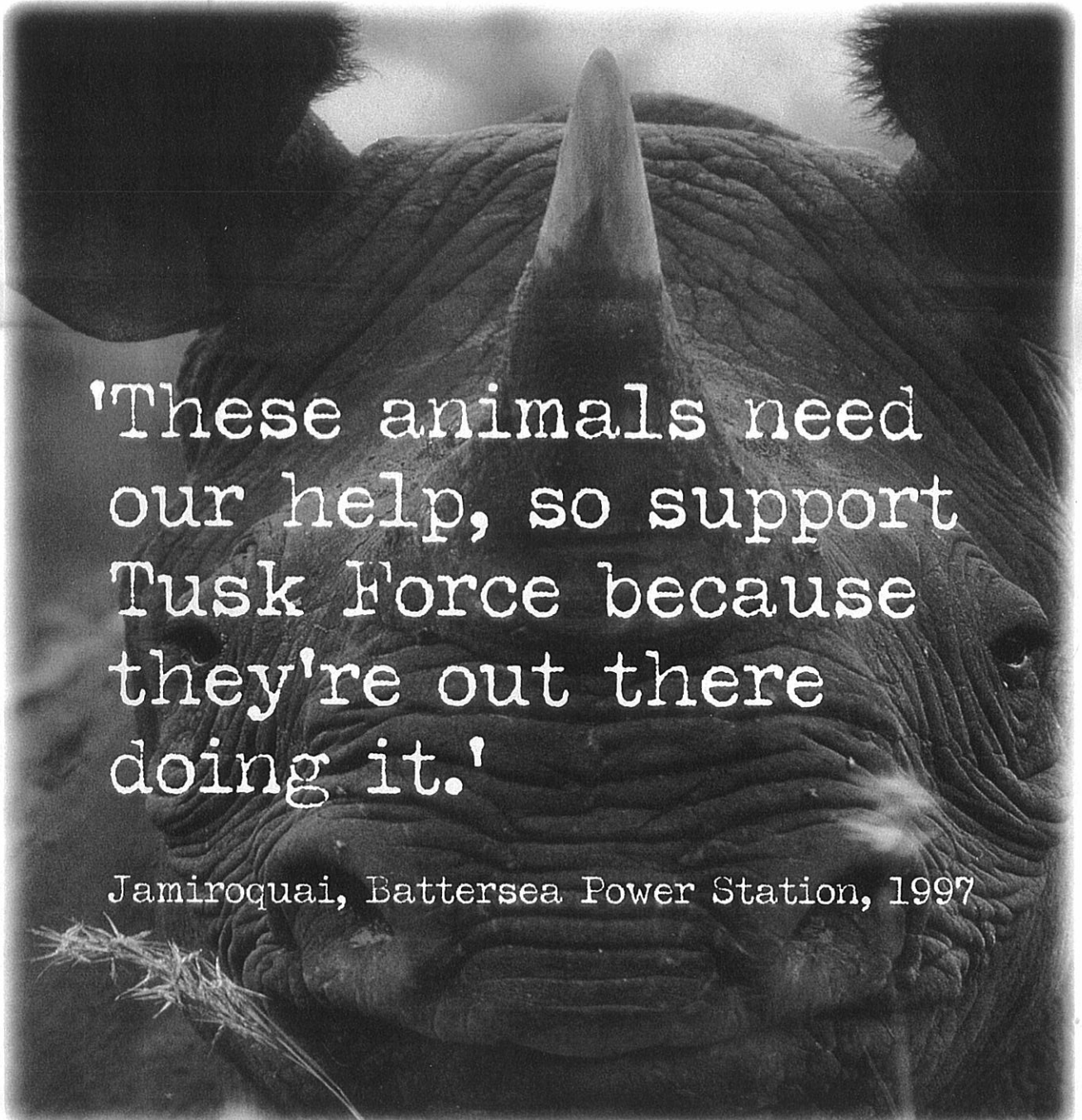
## Fundraising Force

Night of dreams: Jamiroquai helps us to raise £75,000 in a space-age marquee in Battersea



# Wild Times

Spring 1998 News from the front no.4 Tusk Force - catalyst for change



'These animals need our help, so support Tusk Force because they're out there doing it.'

Jamiroquai, Battersea Power Station, 1997

# Tigers and bears in the Russian Far East



Our expanded Operation Amba team is working with vigour and increasing experience. **Steve Galster**, Project manager reports.



The AMBA rangers persist in their work with vigour and increasing experience.



**T**he AMBA rangers persist in their work with vigour and increasing experience. While the Ussurisk team deals mostly with contraband, the northern teams – Iman and Bikin – deal more with illegal logging, fishing and hunting. The Vostochnaya team has recently expanded to three people, and the Ussurisk and Kirovsky teams are looking to recruit new members. As of December 1, 1997, a seventh team – Khasanskaya – was created to dedicate special attention to protecting the Far Eastern leopard.

The Amba teams are working closely with local, national and international press in order to increase support for and compliance with their wildlife law enforcement work: The Vostochnaya team have given interviews with local journalists, Radio Vladivostok and Reader's Digest, while the head of the Bikin group has co-produced a series of documentary films for a programme called 'Our Workaday Lives.'

**Local education initiatives:** Aware of the importance of educating the civilian custodians of the wildlife they protect, Amba is interacting increasingly with local schools. A 20-seat bus will be bought to drive school children to the Ussurisk Nature Reserve where they will be guided around the bear forest, ecology museum and nature trail. The bus will be painted with a mural depicting the flora and fauna of the Primorsky Krai. Zov Taigi, Amba's education partners, are currently producing a wildlife and habitat public awareness brochure.

This month three AMBA teams, Khasanskaya, Ussurisk and Vladivostok will participate in a leopard count along with others including the Hornocker Wildlife Institute.

**Shrinking habitats:** Although Operation Amba's success at reducing poaching is unquestionable, another factor

is compromising their excellent work: tiger habitat, and the prey species who also rely upon it, is being depleted by illegal loggers and hunters. Hungry tigers are more likely to enter villages seeking food which makes them vulnerable to poachers and armed villagers defending their livestock. Sadly, AMBA rangers have had to participate in the killing of two tigers in the past three months, including one which had killed the two men who wounded it. At the time of writing, another tiger has been wounded by a poacher's bullet.

**Phoenix:** In response to this problem, Department Tiger is creating a non-profit, non-governmental, collective biodiversity recovery programme which will be known as Phoenix. It will incorporate the law enforcement work of Operation

Amba, but will include amongst its objectives 1) environmental education, 2) habitat protection and recovery, 3) collection of information for scientists and rehabilitation and 4) reintroduction of orphaned animals.

**Bears:** A facility for orphaned or injured bear cubs by poachers is currently being created in Ussurisk Nature Reserve with funding by a Dutch Foundation. As a result of dedicated funding of Russian bear protection by Tusk Force, one of the Amba rangers is about to depart for a four month apprenticeship with a biologist experienced in preparing young bears for reintroduction. When he returns to the new facility he should be able to care for up to five cubs annually.

Finally, papers have recently been signed which give AMBA rangers the full status of government law enforcement agents and grant them a right to carry arms. They hope that the weapons will be given to them soon because they are up against dangerous gangs. In addition they are in great need of snowmobiles, rubber rafts with outboard motors, compact mobile personal computers and transportable printers, and warm winter boots. The main office needs a 586 computer, laser printer, color scanner, fax/modem, answering machine and photocopier. Tusk Force is trying to get some of this equipment donated from the UK. If you can help in any way please call us on 0181 7438855

**STOP PRESS** Congratulations to the Iman team who recently received a letter of congratulation from the police for their good work.



## 21st Century Tiger

Tusk Force believes in working alongside other organisations with similar aims to maximise the desired results. Here Tusk Force has linked with organisations to help the tiger. **21st Century Tiger** is a new partnership between three conservation organisations; Tusk Force, Global Tiger Patrol and London Zoo is dedicated to saving tigers in the wild. It brings together organisations experienced in different areas of tiger conservation, and the combined expertise ranges from producing educational resources on protected species, through scientific research to field project management.

Set up as a direct answer to criticism that too many organisations are involved in tiger conservation work and too much money is spent on administration costs. The three main partners are working together to fundraise and to identify and vet individual projects for support from the **21st Century Tiger** fund.

Launched in February 1997 at Tigers 2000, the international tiger conservation symposium organised by the Zoological Society of London and sponsored by ESSO UK, 21st Century Tiger has so far been able to raise and distribute £90,000 to wild tiger conservation projects in Sumatra, India and the Russian Far East within its first year.

Particularly as this year is the Chinese year of the Tiger, 21st Century Tiger is looking for corporate partners to help them in this valuable work. If you are interested in further details or in making a contribution to 21st Century Tiger, please write – quoting Tusk Force – to: 21st Century Tiger, c/o London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY



# wildlife MATTERS

SPRING 1998 ISSUE TWELVE

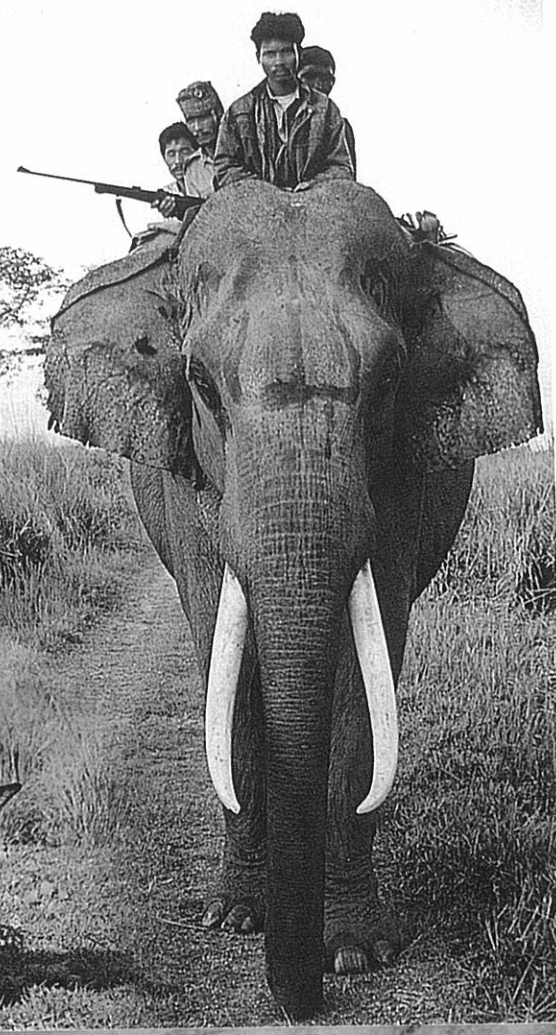


Children Orphaned  
by Tiger Poachers

A God in Distress



The Art of Survival



THE MAGAZINE OF THE DAVID SHEPHERD CONSERVATION FOUNDATION  
ACTIVELY WORKING FOR THE SURVIVAL OF TIGERS, ELEPHANTS, RHINOS AND  
OTHER CRITICALLY ENDANGERED MAMMALS



# No Respite for Siberia's Tigers

"Despite positive action, Siberian tigers, whose numbers have crept up to around 400, remain dangerously close to extinction. Unless we continue to work with our Russian friends and international partners and fund Operation Amba, the days left to the year 2,000 may be the last for the Siberian Tiger."

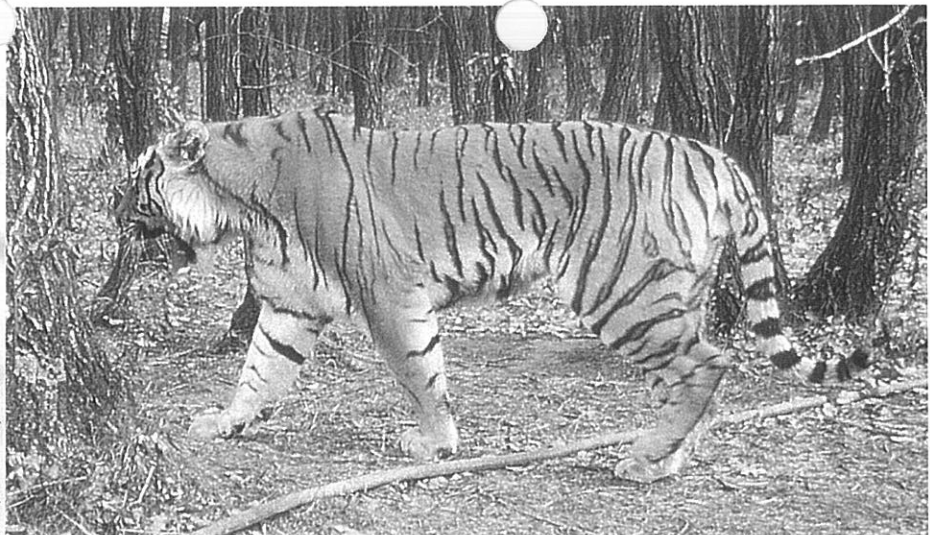
David Shepherd

There are now seven teams of 'Operation Amba' anti-poaching rangers fighting to save the Siberian Tiger in the Russian Far East. Relations are now good with their area police services who accompany them on their raids and the Iman team recently received official police congratulations in recognition of its successes. Some teams focus on smuggling of contraband while others, notably the Iman and Bikin teams, deal with illegal logging, fishing and hunting. In the two months since it started operations, Khasanskaya team has completed successful operations, catching sea cucumber poachers, confiscating 15 weapons and a large trap set to catch a live tiger, in which were two live dogs as bait. Rangers from the Ussurisk and Vladivostock teams have also participated in a leopard survey since mid February 1998 under scientists of Russian and foreign institutions. An official report is yet to be completed, but initial estimates suggest that



Operation Amba Commander Shetinin examines tiger skeleton

All photos courtesy of GSN



A Rare Sighting

despite the population being as low as 50-60 leopards, it is still considered sufficient to be viable.

News of tigers is disturbing. The forests are reportedly still being depleted of prey species on which the tigers survival is critical. This problem may be among the reasons Operation Amba rangers were forced to kill two tigers over the past three months. The first had to be shot in December 1997 after he had attacked and killed two men in retaliation, because they had wounded him. The second tiger was killed at the end of January this year. Wounded in the right fore-leg, he had hung about for days near the town of Spassk-Dalni during which he killed and ate eleven dogs and was considered a threat to humans. Initial examination suggests he had been suffering from his wounds for up to ten days before he was finally shot dead. Both incidents are reminiscent of old, injured or sick tigers in India that become man-eaters, being unable to hunt and kill their natural prey. DSCF has also just received yet another report of third tiger shot and wounded by a hunter. What may be the outcome is unsure, but it is likely she will have to be shot as she will also become a danger to people.

Over-hunting of the tiger's natural prey animals is a grave threat. With little to hunt and eat, tigers inevitably may be forced into the unnatural situation of having to approach human settlements in search of food. Normally wildlife, including tigers, avoids human settlements. However, if the tigers are starving, desperation may force them into errant boldness, seen as aggression, in order to survive by seeking food in or around villages. This threat is as grave as direct poaching of tigers themselves. Recognising that poverty and other causes may be the reasons for over-hunting of the prey species, it is also probable, bearing in mind the ruthlessness of known poachers, that it could be a deliberate attempt to provoke tigers into becoming 'problem animals' instead of protected animals.

Meanwhile, back in Moscow, Operation Amba's Commander Shetinin recently received authority from the Ministry of Ecology officially approving Amba rangers lawful status as enforcement agents with the right to carry weapons. Naturally, with the daily risk to their lives, the added protection of weapons has given the rangers a much needed boost to their morale.

Since DSCF began to help Operation Amba in 1994 it has flourished. The teams interact with local schools, and donate confiscated game meat to orphanages. Having learned the value of the press, Amba's teams work closely with it in Russia and internationally, as well as with TV, having helped to produce a series of documentary films. Undoubtedly, the human environment of tigers in Siberia has been greatly improved; a vital achievement, for otherwise measures to prevent continued depletion of the natural prey animals of tiger would be far more difficult.



Rangers proudly display the three essential weapons of law enforcement, including DSCF radios

Operation Amba now appeals to the Siberian Tiger Coalition of DSCF, Global Survival Network (GSN), Tusk Force and its other international partners, for funding to buy arms, bullet proof vests and rubber batons. The rangers also need snowmobiles, rubber boats with outboard engines, warm winter boots and other field equipment and Amba's main office needs a computer and printer, colour scanner, fax/modem, answering machine and photocopier.

Amba rangers protect not only tigers, but also other wildlife and rural people, from Russia's wildlife crime mafia. When Amba men arrest wildlife criminals they are often involved in other kinds of crime. It is critical for environmental and human security that the men of Operation Amba are adequately funded for the art of survival by people and wildlife alike.



# News

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- 20** Loro Parque Fundación

Photo: Vladislav Hrouzek

## Amur Leopard: First *in situ* Conservation Efforts

By Michiel Hötte, Tigris Foundation,  
The Netherlands

The Siberian Tiger Support Coalition (STSC) will start the first ever *in situ* conservation project for the Amur leopard. An anti-poaching team will be established to protect this highly endangered leopard, its habitat and its prey base. The Tigris Foundation (member of STSC) is encouraging members of the Amur leopard EEP to assist in the support of this project and other conservation initiatives for the Amur leopard. Leif Blomqvist and Sean McKeown of the EEP Felid TAG support this initiative.

The STSC was originally formed to finance the Amba anti-poaching project to save the Siberian tiger. Amba was a success and the situation of the Siberian (or Amur) tiger has stabilised. However, the Siberian tiger is not the only endangered species in the region. STSC is therefore expanding its activities. Existing projects and new activities will be integrated into a biodiversity conservation programme named "Phoenix".

One of the aims of Phoenix is to save the highly endangered Amur leopard. The following activities are planned in support of this aim:

1. an Amba anti-poaching team for the Amur leopard;
2. education and promotion to create support for Amur leopard conservation (this includes a children's school book about the Amur leopard);
3. research into the genetic status of the Amur leopard zoo population;
4. support for a census in adjacent regions of China by the Hornocker Wildlife Institute in co-operation with Russian and Chinese scientists;

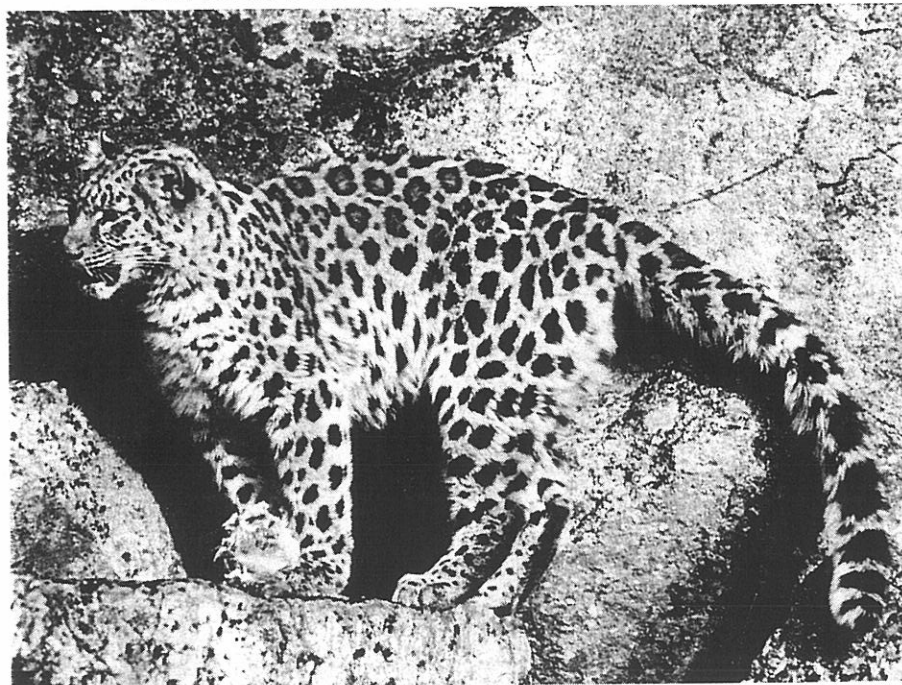


Photo: Yuri Shihov

*Amur leopard (Panthera pardus orientalis) in Redrovaya Pad Nature Reserve*

5. development of a reintroduction plan, starting with an assessment of potential release sites and
6. a comprehensive habitat protection plan for the current range and potential reintroduction sites.

These activities are all based on the recovery plan for the Amur leopard that was developed during the 1996 Amur leopard conference in Vladivostok. Until now none of the projects in this plan have been implemented! The STSC thinks it is due time to change this situation.

The most immediate threat to the last viable population of 25-30 Amur leopards in Russia is poaching of both the leopards and their prey (e.g. Sika deer, Roe deer, Hares and Badgers). The first priority is therefore to finance an Amur leopard anti-poaching team.

Due to the shortage of prey, leopards regularly visit deer farms at the edge of the forest. These farms raise Sika deer

for their antlers, which are sold to China for use in traditional medicine. Snares are often placed around holes in the fences of these farms to kill those leopards that try to enter. The team will not only patrol the forests, but will also check the farms for signs of poaching. Compensation will be paid when Sika deer are killed by leopards, but only to those farms where there is no evidence of poaching.

We expect the leopard population to recover to 55 individuals in the present range, where the anti-poaching team will be active. Experts participating in the leopard conference considered this to be the approximate population level that can be sustained when prey populations have recovered. Our expectations are based on the success of anti-poaching measures for the Siberian tiger.

The anti-poaching team will be operational in January 1998. The team will comprise four rangers and will use a

4-wheel drive army truck and a jeep. The costs of the team and compensation payments are estimated at \$52.000 for the first year and around \$30.000 in subsequent years. To date \$26.000 has been raised with the help of two members of the Amur leopard EEP: Rotterdam Zoo (The Netherlands) and La Torbiera Zoo (Italy). Ouwehands Zoo (The Netherlands) will also support the project.

Tigris and STSC, in co-operation with EEP, want to establish a group of interested zoos to support these *in situ* conservation efforts. Tigris and STSC will:

7. supply information about current projects (progress reports), planned projects (project descriptions and proposals) and fund-raising results. Based on this information zoos can chose projects they would like to support. If sufficient zoos agree to participate it will be possible to provide a small news letter about Amur leopard conservation;
8. supply promotional material, such as slides of Amur leopards in the wild, that can be used for fund raising and
9. supervise and manage field projects in Russia.

If all members of the Amur leopard EEP support our initiative, we can expect to save the Amur leopard.

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## Loro Parque and *in situ* Parrot Conservation

By David R. Waugh, Loro Parque Fundación, Puerto de la Cruz, Spain

### Introduction

Since its inception in 1972, Loro Parque of Tenerife has been able to make valuable contributions to improve the captive management and breeding of parrots. It participates in all parrot EEPs and European studbooks, and is coordinator for two EEPs, the Blue-throated macaw (*Ara glaucogularis*) and Red-crowned amazon (*Amazona rhodocorytha*), and studbook keeper for three studbooks, the Red and Blue lory (*Eos histrio*), the Mount Apo lorikeet (*Trichoglossus johnstoniae*) and the Red-spectacled amazon (*Amazona pretrei*). Furthermore, in the last decade Loro Parque has been able to make a substantial and direct contribution to the conservation of wildlife *in situ*. It has done this in stages, culminating in the 1994 creation of the Loro Parque Fundación (LPF), which is registered at national level by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science as a non-

profit, non-governmental organisation with its headquarters at Loro Parque, and with an international, independent Advisory Board.

### Objectives of the LPF

To integrate the needs of people and parrots by encouraging local community initiatives which bring permanent benefits through wise use of the local environment.

- To implement grass-roots, community education programmes at project sites and in countries where parrots occur, as well as broader awareness campaigns.

- To effect field studies which produce the biological and socio-economic information necessary for the most effective conservation management. Ecological studies, parrot population monitoring, reintroduction, protection measures and defining habitats for preservation and extractive uses all contribute to this objective.

- Where feasible, to apply information gained from captive management and breeding of parrots to assist with recovery procedures in the wild state.

- As a form of capacity-building, to promote training and research opportunities within the projects that it supports.

### Scope of the LPF

To achieve these *in situ* conservation objectives the LPF has a broad scope. It operates on an international basis to promote conservation of parrots, biodiversity, the environment and sustainable development, including combined *in situ/ex situ* programmes. The donation by Loro Parque of the world's most diverse parrot collection (2,724 specimens of 301 taxa) to the LPF emphasises the aspect of *in situ/ex situ* programmes. To date the LPF has supported 25 distinct conservation projects, of which 13 are currently operational (1997), with a total direct expenditure of US\$1,020,089.