



**THE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION  
(Khabarovsk, Russia)**

**FINAL PROGRAMMATIC REPORT**

**Project Title: "The Amur tiger is one of the most important objects of nature conservation in the Russian Far East"**

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**Project Director: Alexander Kulikov, dr. of biology, Chairman of the Wildlife Foundation**

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The Wildlife Foundation did utmost in order to fulfill the project successfully.  
In order to realize these tasks we did the following work:

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

The scientific analysis of a modern condition of the Amur tiger shows, that the viable population of this animal has remained only on Russian Far East. On territory of Khabarovsk region (krai) there passes northern border of distribution of the given species. Therefore changes of conditions of existence on northern limit of distribution renders a large role on number and demographic structure of its population.

The condition of a tiger population continues steadily to be worsened in result of degradation of inhabitant in a consequence of anthropogeneous influence.

The area occupied by a tiger in Khabarovsk krai nowadays is 33,6 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, and the number is not exceeding 64-71 tigers (male and female). At the same time the negative tendency in changes of demographic structure of its population is marked.

The number of kids per one female is lowering consistently:

In 1980 was 2

In 1996 was 1.7

In 1999 was 1.3

The basic reasons are reduction of food resources of a tiger, anthropogeneous influence in main habitant of reproduction, poaching.

The large influence on distribution of a tiger was rendered by forest fires of 1998. About 200 thousand hectares of tiger inhabitation was destroyed, the animals actively moved in searches of rescue from fire and smoke, that resulted in devastation in one places and unusual occurrence for this species in others.

It is necessary to note, that the negative tendencies in a population of a tiger in Russia, which has disturbed a world public, in many respects, are explained by a low level of ecological training and education. Poaching is a consequence just of these reasons. Economic decline we put on the second place. And the proof to that is served the earnings of a hunter obtaining a tiger does not justify his risk and expenditures of work. Besides a great number of automobiles of high passing sharply has increased a number of people to places of a predator inhabitation. Mainly of townspeople having rather weak knowledge forest customs and laws, which always respected by natives.

In this connection a great importance have the projects directed on ecological education of the people, who live and work near to a tiger. First of all: the teacher of village schools, schoolboys of the senior classes, hunters, employees of wood guards, hunter specialists, foresters and the local inhabitants. Therefore project "The Amur tiger is one of the most important object of nature conservation in the Russian Far East", which has become possible thanks to grant of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, was directed on change of a situation in understanding of a necessity of preservation of a tiger by the local population. Thus within the framework of realization of the project the following tasks were put:

To advertise and explain the conservation measures of the Amur tiger through the newspaper, radio, TV, to issue relevant leaflets, a book.

Arrangement of workshops with the purpose of tiger conservation and rules of behavior of the people at meetings with tigers, in particular on roads.

Arrangement of a competition of children's drawings with the purpose of formation love to nature and careful attitude to it.

### 3. RESULTS OF PROJECT FULFILLMENT.

#### 3.1. Seminars:

There were conducted three seminars:

1. "The role of a tiger as an element of a unique ecological system of Sikhote-Alin forests ".
2. "Problems of coexistence of a person and a tiger ".
3. "The importance of a tiger and the role of local population in its conservation.

A question connected with the participants of each seminar was carefully studied before the beginning of seminars, in order not to have the casual students. The seminars were carried out just in places of tiger habitat, therefore the participants of our seminars were the people, living directly in places of a tiger habitat. Among the participants of seminars were the teachers of village schools from the remote places, who trains children, whose parents cut wood, catch animals, and children together with parents attend taiga. Having trained at our seminars, the students will transfer their knowledge to children, and children – to parents. Many organizations basically work with the urban population. We tried to work with people living near to tiger. We did not invite them to arrive to the city, on the contrary, we went to them. Nowadays there is a huge deficiency of information in our region. It is connected with economic decline in our country; therefore information received at our seminar would be very useful and necessary for their further work.

As illustrative materials we used video films such as: "Who is the main in the forest?", "Amur tiger", "Land of the tiger" (made by support from Exxon corp.) and cartographic materials describing distribution of a tiger on the territory of Khabarovskiy krai in various periods of time, since 1960-th years. We have applied modern data of distribution of a tiger to the maps. During the seminars we have distributed the following nature conservation literature containing information about the Amur tiger:

1. "The Russian language together with a tiger " - integrated courses on a Regional component "Amur tiger ".
2. "Amur tiger " - a book - toy.
3. "Amur tiger" – a manual for the teachers.
4. "Graceful", the story written by Vladimir Vasilinenko about a female tiger.
5. "Hundred meetings with a tiger ", advises for people who spend much time in taiga, written by Evgeniy Smirnov.
6. "Amur tiger ", the book written by Yurii Dunishenko and Alexander Kulikov.

At the seminars we have distributed leaflets created in the frame of the present project of tiger preservation:

- "Tiger conservation, its fodder resources, habitat".
  - "Humans and the tiger peaceful coexistence".
  - "Precautionary Measures and Safety Tips for People in Amur Tiger Habitat".
- "Tiger conservation, its fodder resources, habitat".
2. "Prevention of conflicts between tigers and human beings".
  3. "Rules of safe behavior of the people at meeting with a tiger".

***The first seminar:***

**Theme:** "The role of a tiger as an element of a unique ecological system of Sikhote-Alin forests".

**Contents:** The history of restoration of a tiger population, interrelations a predator – victim, ways of decision of the conflict of hunters on hoofed animals and a tiger.

**Term:** August 19, 1998

**Place:** Khabarovsk krai, Lazo district, the settlement Pereyaslavka.

**Audience:** the teachers of the rural schools from Lazo district, local people, the representatives of local administration, mass media of Lazo district, schoolchildren of high grade.

**Number:** 25 (the list of participants is enclosed).

The participants of the seminar got acquainted with the history of restoration of a tiger population, interrelations a predator – victim, ways of decision of the conflict of hunters on hoofed animals and a tiger. They also got acquainted with the federal program of preservation of the Amur tiger, knew about the International programs and projects in the field of guards of the Amur tiger, about the activities of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and also the questions connected with a problem of coexistence of the person and a tiger were considered.

For the seminar were prepared special materials and ecological literature connected with tiger conservation. The following environmental set was disseminated at the seminar:

1. "The Russian language together with a tiger " - integrated courses on a Regional component "Amur tiger ".
2. "Amur tiger " – a book - toy.
3. "Amur tiger" – a manual for the teachers.
4. "Graceful", the story written by Vladimir Vasilinenko, about a female tiger.
5. "Hundred meetings with a tiger ", advises for people who spend much time in taiga, written by Evgeniy Smirnov.

At the seminar we have distributed a leaflet created during the fulfillment of the project on preservation of a tiger, mainly:

1. "Tiger conservation, its fodder resources, habitat".

As illustrative materials we used a video film "Land of the tiger" and also cartographic materials describing distribution of a tiger in the territory of Khabarovsk krai in various periods of time, since 1960-th years. To the maps we have applied modern data of distribution of a tiger.

For the seminar we have prepared a questionnaire to disseminate among the teachers and the representatives of mass media with the purpose of supporting further contacts with them and to get knowledge about their attitude to a problem of a tiger conservation.

Each of the participants filled in the questionnaire and expressed their attitude to the seminar. All the participants pointed out that the seminar was very useful and they will use the received knowledge in their future work. At the end of the seminar we have shown the film "Land of the tiger" (made by support from Exxon corp.).

There was shown a special information about the seminar by local TV.

The main attention at the seminar was given to the role of local teachers, mass media and nature conservation structures in the process of the Amur tiger conservation. By the results of questionnaire analyses we came to the following conclusion: people possess insufficient information about the Amur

tiger. They need more seminars of such kind.



*The second seminar:*

**Theme:** "Problems of coexistence of a person and a tiger".

**Contents:** What does tiger represent himself, how does it exist, why is tiger under protection, how to avoid the conflict between a person and a tiger.

**Term:** April 3, 1998

**Place:** Khabarovsk krai, Bikinsky district.

**Audience:** teachers of schools of Bikinsky district, the representatives of environmental centers and local administration.

**Number:** 28 (the list of participants is enclosed).

The participants of the seminar got acquainted with peculiarities of a tiger, its existence, why is a tiger under protection, how to avoid the conflict between a person and a tiger. The students knew about the federal program of preservation of the Amur tiger, about new International programs and projects in the field of guards of a Amur tiger, about the activities of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and also questions connected with a problem of coexistence of a person and a tiger were considered. The participants of the seminar have received durable knowledge, which will be transferred to children. For the seminar we had prepared special materials and ecological literature connected with tiger conservation. The following environmental set was disseminated at the seminar:

1. "The Russian language together with a tiger " - integrated courses on a Regional component "Amur tiger".
2. "Amur tiger " – a book - toy.
3. "Amur tiger" – a manual for the teachers.
4. "Graceful", the story written by Vladimir Vasilinenko, about a female tiger.
5. "Hundred meetings with a tiger ", advises for people who spend much time in taiga, written by Evgeniy Smirnov.
6. "Amur tiger ", the book written by Yurii Dunishenko and Alexander Kulikov.

At the seminar we have distributed a leaflet created in the process of fulfillment of the project:

1. "Humans and the tiger peaceful coexistence".

At the end of the seminar the participants asked many questions and received very concrete answers. They also expressed their attitude to the problem of tiger conservation and invited us to conduct more seminars on this problem.

In the questionnaires the participants thanked us for good preparation to the seminar and expressed willing to support contacts with us.

The seminar was finished by the film "Who is the main in the forest?". The videocassette we have transferred to study room of Educational Committee of Bikinsky district. At this seminar we also distributed the book "Amur tiger", which was recently published. According to the results of analysis of the questionnaires, we came to a conclusion: the seminar has managed and in the person of the participants of the seminar we have found the allies on guards of tigers and biodiversity protection.

The participants received much new information, which would be very helpful for their further work.

*The third seminar.*

**Theme:** "Rules of safe behavior of the people at meeting with a tiger. Problems of coexistence of a person and a tiger".

**Contents:** the role of a tiger as an object of conservation and an element of culture, basis measures on conservation of main tiger fodder resources, methods of non-conflict habitat of a person and a tiger.

**Term:** May 28, 1998

**Place:** Primorsky region, Pozharsky district, settlement Krasny Yar.

**Audience:** local people (Russian and Udege), local administration, hunters and specialists.

**Number:** 20 (the list of participants is enclosed).

The participants of the seminar got acquainted with peculiarities of a tiger, its role as an object of conservation and an element of culture, basis measures on conservation of main tiger fodder resources, methods of non-conflict habitat of a person and a tiger, about the activities of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Wildlife Foundation and its conservation projects.

The seminar was conducted at the end of May, because it was very difficult to get there in winter, bad roads. This place is so far from civilization that there is no electricity. It was very pity that we couldn't show a film about a tiger.

The people attended our seminar are living on the territory inhabited by tigers. So they must know as much information about tigers as possible, because on the whole they are hunters by nature. That was why the seminar was very important and significant for people from our point of view. We might change their attitude to a tiger.

We think, that the received knowledge at the seminar will be used in practice.

For the seminar we had prepared special materials and ecological literature connected with tiger conservation. The following environmental set was disseminated at the seminar:

1. "The Russian language together with a tiger" - integrated courses on a Regional component "Amur tiger".
2. "Amur tiger" – a book - toy.
3. "Amur tiger" – a manual for the teachers.
4. "Graceful", the story written by Vladimir Vasilinenko, about a female tiger.
5. "Hundred meetings with a tiger", advises for people who spend much time in taiga, written by Evgeniy Smirnov.
6. "Amur tiger", the book written by Yurii Dunishenko and Alexander Kulikov.

At the seminar we have distributed a leaflet created in the frame of the present project on preservation of a tiger:

1. "Precautionary Measures and Safety Tips for People in Amur Tiger Habitat".

In the questionnaires which were distributed among the participants we found many warm words about our seminar, people thanked us for good preparation and materials, expressed willing for further contacts with us.

Nevertheless not all participants of a seminar understand the necessity of preservation of the Amur tiger. They consider tiger as their direct competitor, as he hunts on hoofed animals, which are objects of a hunt for the local population. Also because a tiger catches the hunting dogs, which help to conduct hunting to the local population. To our opinion the misunderstanding of preservation of the Amur tiger is connected to a lack of the information about international and national cultural meaning of this

species. Unfortunately among those who understands not enough the preservation of a tiger are also representatives of indigenous population. It is pointed out to loss of the traditional attitude to a tiger, as to emperor of a taiga. It causes an additional alarm and requires to strengthen just this direction of works, namely: to give more information to the representatives of the indigenous population about cultural traditions of former generations on careful attitude to a tiger.

In the whole the seminars had a great success.

### **3.2. Lectures and conversations.**

For lectures and conversations we have chosen a wide audience including all layers of population. We also worked with journalists. It is necessary to work with them, as they frequently deform information on a tiger in the newspaper articles and write about it as a monster eating a person.

At the end of May there was given the lecture: "Place and meaning of a tiger population in ecological systems of Sikhote-Alin".

There was the following audience: the representatives of the wildlife service department of Khabarovsk krai, the members of the environmental committee, the representatives of hunting enterprises, nature conservation and public organizations of the regional center. The number of the listeners was 31. The audience got information about the latest results of monitoring, the results of estimation of tiger population made in March 1998 in a province Dzuya-Lin (China). There was reported about the habitat conditions and the number of a tiger population in both countries. By the results of monitoring the territories for strengthening guards of a tiger were recommended. The recommendations for reduction of press to the hooved animals were given, in connection with deterioration of fodder conditions of tigers. At the end of the lecture there was shown a film "Amur tiger". The listeners expressed willing to meet with us more frequently.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August there was conducted a conversation with the children rested in the summer environmental camp "Youth" situated beyond the limits of the city. The number of the audience was more than 100 children and grown-ups. The conversation was about the conservation measures on the Amur tiger protection, its number and distribution, biological peculiarities and also about the international programs and projects on the Amur tiger preservation. At the end of the meeting there were conducted games with the children during which they could fastened their received knowledge about the Amur tiger. The children expressed their interest to the problem of tiger conservation. They asked many questions and received answers.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of August there was a conversation on the Amur tiger conservation with the representatives of the Far Eastern journalist association representing the local newspapers of Lazo district, Vyazemsky district, Bikinsky district and others. There were discussed questions on international projects and programs, the role of international NGO's and activities of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Information received by the journalists during the conversation helped them to realize issues on the Amur tiger conservation.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of August there was conducted a conversation with the local hunters basically with the representatives of indigenous people Udege and the leaders of a national community "Jango", administration of a settlement Gvasyugi about the role of a tiger in ecosystem of forests and as element of national culture of Udege people. The attention was inverted to actions of local hunters upon whom depends tiger destiny. The international and national meaning of importance of preservation of the Amur tiger was explained. The number of audience was 17. From our point of view such conversations are necessary to conduct more frequently, because these people are living on the territory where tiger

habitat.

Analogous conversation was carried out on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August with the rangers of the wildlife refuge "Chukensky", which is one of the important elements of the system of protected territories created for rescue of the Amur tiger. The number of the audience was 5. The rangers knew more about a tiger. Our task was in reducing motivation of poaching. If more know, will kill less.

In October we conducted a conversation with the children attended the environmental center in Vyazemsky district. The theme of the conversation: "The problem of co-existence of people and tigers. The number of the audience was 25. The children were very active and asked many questions. At the end of our meeting we showed a film about the Amur tiger "Who is the main in the tiger?" The children expressed their attitude to this problem.

At the end of May 1999 there was conducted a lecture for tiger rangers: "Rightful aspects and possibilities of peaceful co-existence a person and a tiger. The number of the audience was 30. Such lectures are very useful because we work with people, who have a direct attitude to forest and a tiger habitat.

### **3.3. Work with mass media**

Much was done with mass media, as it is one of the directions of our work by grant. There were given 4 interviews and 3 broadcasts, was shown 1 interview about the book "Amur tiger" by TV in the program "News". The interviews and broadcasts were given by Mr. Kulikov and Mr. Dunishenko. There were given 4 interviews for Khabarovsk regional radio and radio "Olimp" The names of interviews:

- "The role of the local people in Amur tiger conservation",
- "Rules of safe behavior of people at meeting with tiger,
- "Tiger conservation and its fodder resources, habitat",
- "Prevention of conflicts between tigers and human beings",

There were given 3 broadcasts:

- "The consequences of fires and their influence on tiger population",
- "The Wildlife Foundation and its program on tiger conservation".
- "International programs on Amur tiger conservation"

In April, 1998 the chairman of Wildlife Foundation Mr. Kulikov has given an interview for international edition of a Khabarovsk regional radio, which conducts an announcement on territory of China, on problems of preservation of the Amur tiger both interaction of Russia and China in this sphere. This performance has received the wide response from the students of China. And this interview was repeated 6 times. Questions connected with responsibility for illegal shooting of a tiger were mentioned. There were written a few articles to the local newspapers about the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, about the exhibition of children's drawings and also about Wildlife Foundation's activities by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's grant.

In May 1999 we conducted a bill presentation of the book "Amur tiger" where journalists from broadcast, TV, local newspapers were present. (The list of participants is enclosed).

### **3.4. Participation in meetings, conferences, seminars.**

We took an active part in meetings, conferences and seminars conducted not only in our city but abroad too.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August there was a meeting at our office with the representatives of the World Bank where were discussed issues of the Amur tiger conservation.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of August there was a meeting with the representatives of USAID, where were also discussed issues of the Amur tiger conservation.

In September there was a meeting of Mr. Kulikov with the director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He has reported about the results of project performance, the arisen questions were discussed, the wishes of fund were listened.

In March 1999 the chairman of the Wildlife Foundation had a meeting with Mr. Phemister in Washington on questions of realization of the project and the prospects of the further work with fund were discussed.

In April the chairman of the Wildlife Foundation had a meeting with Mr. Peter Jackson, one of the executive directors of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

At the meeting Mr. Kulikov has told about the results of performance of the project.

In April one the executors of the given project took part in conference for teachers conducted by WWF in the city of Vladivostok where was organized an exhibition of children's drawings devoted to the Amur tiger conservation. The children's drawings of Khabarovsky krai were exhibited there and highly evaluated of the competent jury. During the conference there were distributed 80 books written by Mr. Dunishenko and Mr. Kulikov "Amur tiger".

In April in Vladivostok was another conference devoted to the problems of tiger conservation. We disseminated 200 books "Amur tiger" among the participants of the conference. Many of the foreign colleagues, interested in tiger conservation problems, wished to have an English version of the book "Amur tiger". We decided to make an English version (it was not planned by our grant) and put it in Internet in the nearest future.

The participants of seminars unanimously have recognized, that the book "Amur tiger " is very necessary, useful. Except the listed above organizations, which have received our book, it was received by more than 300 participants of a regional conference on guards of a nature and also by the participants of the congress on nature conservation. It goes without saying the book is very popular among the readers loving nature.

### ***3.5. Establishment and development of new contacts.***

In mid of August there was a working visit to the nature reserve "Lazovsky" (Alexander Laptev, director), where were solved questions concerning with the illustrations of the book "Amur tiger". An artist of the nature reserve "Lazovsky" M. Rydvansky presented his drawings for our book.

At the end of August there was a meeting with the director of "Sikhote-Alin" nature reserve (Sergei Astafyev) with the purpose of information exchange and contact support.

### ***3.6. Organization of the exhibition of the children's drawings.***

The high-grade conservation of a tiger is impossible without effective public support of the appropriate measures, first of all on the part of growing generation. Such work was conducted within the frame of the project – competition of children's drawings.

It was carried out on the territory of constant living of local people in the area of a tiger. The children from Vyazemsky and Lazo district's, Sikachi-Alyan, Gvasyugi, Khabarovsk district took part in the competition. The total number of children took part in the competition was 130.

Before the conduction children's drawing competition, we developed the rules of competition for the participants. Then the document was sent to all children's organizations in places of tiger inhabitation. The letter-inquiry was sent to the children's organizations in order to get feedback what do they need. Then we went to the Department of Culture and reserved the hall for conducting an exhibition appointed to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. After special preparations we started to collect drawings for the exhibition. We also made trips to the places of preparation to the exhibition and gave all necessary materials for the participants: paper, color chalks, color pens, colors and so on. In the children's competition took part the following organizations and centers: children environmental camp (Lazo district), the artistic school (Vyazemsky district), the artistic school (Khabarovsk rural district), secondary school of the settlement Gvasyugi, the children's organization "Broccoli" (Khabarovsk), secondary school from Sikachi-Alyan.

After preparatory measures children have begun work. At the end of August we have collected children's works and have announced in the newspaper about an exhibition of children's drawings, which was carried out in Artist saloon.

The exhibition was solemnly opened by the chairman of the Wildlife Foundation Mr. Kulikov. To opening of an exhibition we have invited the children's ensemble of dance from a national settlement Sikachi-Alyan. During the ceremony we have organized for children a competition on a theme " What do you know about the Amur tiger? ". The winners have received small souvenirs and gifts.

The exhibition was prolonged from September 23 till October 4, 1998. For this time it was visited more than 2 thousand adults and children. In the visitors' book children wrote that more often it is necessary to carry out such exhibitions, that the adults do not forget about the existence of such beautiful, at the same time rare animals, as the Amur tiger.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October we have summarized work of our exhibition, have collected the participants and have awarded with gifts. Children were happy. We are sure, that seeds, which we have sown, will bring the fruits. And the Amur tiger will please with its presence not one generation of the people.

The exhibition of children's drawings had a great success. We have received many wishes on continuation of this work. Many people asked us to print post cards and a calendar using these beautiful drawings.

We conducted an additional competition of children's drawings for children from orphan's house. The orphan's house is situated far from the city of Khabarovsk and knew about the competition of children's drawings too late. So we decided to arrange a special competition among the pupils of orphan's house using our reserves. The children were very happy and we too.

### ***3.7. Preparation and publishing of the book.***

The book "Amur tiger" was written by Y. Dunishenko and A. Kulikov.

The book is oriented to local population living in places inhabited by tigers and it is written by easy

language oriented to those people.

The unique pictures to the book were prepared by the artist from the settlement Lazo Primorsky region. The text of the book was prepared for typing at our office and was published at the printing house. The content of the book was highly appreciated by the employees of the printing house, so they decided to increase the volume of edition. Instead of 1000 books we've received 3000 by the same price. When the book was published we started to disseminate it among the participants of our seminars, the government officials, the leaders of ecological movement, environmental NGO's, school libraries of Khabarovsky krai and population. We have given some portion of our edition to the anti-poaching brigade from the Wildlife Hunting Management Department of Khabarovsky krai that they handle our books together with penalty to the poachers.

We have disseminated the book among the nature reserves of Primorsky and Khabarovsky krai's, where tiger inhabitat.

They are: "Kedrovaya Pad", "Ussuriysky", "Lazovsky", "Sikhote-Alinsky", "Bolshekhkhtsirsky", "Botchinsky". The book was also disseminated among forest schools and centers, governmental agencies and non-governmental. (List of organizations is enclosed).

Part of circulation was specially delivered to the national settlements as: Gvasyugi, Krasny Yar, Troitskoye, and Arsenyevo.

Some part of edition we have reserved for distribution at the future seminars, meetings connected with problems of nature conservation. The newspaper "News of Khabarovsk" has expressed desire, in connection with limited circulation, to reprint the text of the given book in their newspaper. We have agreed, as there are more inhabitants of Khabarovsky krai will get acquainted to a problem of preservation of the Amur tiger. In the book we printed: "This publication became possible due to the financial support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's.

We developed and disseminated 3 types of leaflets:

"Tiger conservation, its fodder resources, habitat".

"Humans and the tiger peaceful coexistence"

"Precautionary Measures and Safety Tips for People in Amur Tiger Habitat"

In each leaflet we printed: "This publication became possible due to the financial support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The leaflets is a mass material and is intended for scope, as it is possible for a greater part of the population. The leaflets were distributed by the following channels: seminars, conversation, lecture, meeting, conferences.

The first type of leaflet was developed at the end of April, the second in September and the third in February. The leaflets were disseminated among people living in the places inhabited by the tiger. These places are the settlement Pereyaslavka (Lazo district), Bikinsky district, the settlement Krasny Yar. The leaflets were also disseminated in the city of Khabarovsk. The total number of the leaflets was 3000 copies.

Below is the main content of the leaflets:

## **"Tiger conservation, its fodder resources, habitat".**

People have for many years now been observing the impoverishment of the planet's wild areas. Not only are microorganisms disappearing forever, the same thing is happening to the planet's little known plants and animals. There are hundreds of thousands of entries on the list extinct species and the pace of the process is growing geometrically. In our lifetime the Stellar sea lion, the Caspian tiger, the red wolf have all disappeared. These are not just some lungless tritons that are known to virtually no one outside the scientific community.

It should be noted that large mammals are the first to suffer when habitat change occurs. And if these species disappear, this is an indication of impending ecological tragedy. That is why people are making an effort to protect endangered species. A tiger living in the wild is an indication that its forest habitat is still vital and functioning. But no matter what we do to protect the tiger, if we do not take measures to protect its home, then ultimately our efforts will be fruitless.

The number of tigers on earth once numbered in the tens of thousands. Judging by recent data, it would now be hard to account for even a fraction of that figure. Seven to eight thousand tigers live in India and in other countries, including Russia, only a few tigers remain in the wild. That is why people believe that tigers must be protected. International agreements and laws exist to achieve this goal. Millions of dollars are spent annually to promote tiger conservation. And it is not just the "greens" that are keeping a careful watch over the tiger; everyone who is not indifferent to its fate is involved in the effort. That is why tiger conservation has long been a political issue. The Amur tiger lives amongst us here in the Russian Far East and it occupies a special place in the worldwide effort to protect the planet's biodiversity. The Amur tiger is the largest cat in the world. It lives in extreme conditions in forests with little prey and lots of snow. The Amur tiger is on the edge of its natural habitat here in the Russian Far East, so the tiger faces plenty of problems even without the poachers.

Once upon a time the Amur tiger was numerous in China and Korea. In Khabarovsk and Primorsky krai's, only a small part of what is the Amur tiger's historical habitat, there were once more than one thousand tigers. Now there less than fifty adult tigers left in Khabarovsk krai and the number of tiger in Primorsky krai ranges from 330 to 370. It is unlikely that there are more than twenty to thirty tigers in China. We found tracks of only three to five tigers during our recent research in Jilin Province and those tracks were discovered near the Russian border. Another of China's tiger, the south China tiger, is living out its last days in the wild and will probably disappear in the near future. The Amur tiger makes rare only appearances in Korea. This means that the tigers living in Russia are the last vital population of this species in the wild. And although the area of Khabarovsk krai is 78 million hectares, the tiger exists on only 3.3 million hectares. Declines in the average size and number of tiger litters mean that the reduction in total tiger numbers is continuing.

Tigers are declining in numbers because their habitat is deteriorating. Tigers are shot in the belief that their skins will enrich the attacker. Such is a faint hope! China has introduced a ban on shooting the tiger's prey and the processing and sale of 'tiger parts' is prohibited. Our neighbors are beginning to seriously deal with their wild areas in response to the great pressure being applied upon the Chinese government by environmental protection organizations around the world.

A National Strategy for the Conservation of the Amur tiger has been developed in Russia and a Federal program has been drafted that has, unfortunately, yet to be funded. That program is good, but in any case, the fate of this mighty cat is in the hands of the people living next to it. We face a choice: the tiger or the wolf that instantly takes up the tiger's niche when the former disappears. Or we can have an Ussuriysky taiga replete with biodiversity or one full of deserts and alder groves? For the time being the tiger is alive here in the RFE and is managing to withstand the pressure being placed on the environment.





## **"Precautionary Measures and Safety Tips for People in Amur Tiger Habitat".**

Tigers live in Bikinsky, Vyazemsky, Lazo, Nanaisky districts and in parts of Komsomolsky and Sovgavansky districts of Khabarovsky krai. Tigers have in recent years been encountered in Vaninsky district and two tigers are living in the Khekhtsir.

The Amur tiger's permanent habitat is broadleaf deciduous Korean pine spruce forests. There is nothing for the tiger to eat in the mountains, in spruce and fir taiga and its tracks are encountered in this habitat only when it is moving, usually in summer. This predator occupies a little more than three million hectares of the 78 million hectares that is Khabarovsky krai.

A tiger's presence can be discerned only by its tracks. If you manage to see a tiger, that is a great success - you have been really lucky.

A tiger track is just a much larger version of the print left by our domestic cat. The track is nearly completely round and consists of a heart shaped "heel" and four digits whose claws do not leave any traces since they are retracted. Inexperienced people can confuse a tiger track with that of a large dog or a wolf, even with a bear track. But the impression of their paws is elongated and their claws leave a solid impression.

A tiger cub's track resembles in large part that of an adult lynx. But even a large lynx leaves tracks less than five and half centimeters in size when at the same time the track of a tiger cub, one capable of following its mother, is rarely less than seven centimeters.

Tigers infrequently attack humans and if an attack occurs, everyone in the Russian Far East, if not everyone in Russia, hears about the incident. Even so, a predator is a predator and to avoid unpleasant situations in tiger habitat, it is best to observe the following rules.

1. An encounter with a female tiger with cubs does not represent a serious danger since it is rare that a mother will attack in defense of her cubs. If a person appears near the den of newly born cubs, the animal will give off a warning roar and she might take a few leaps in direction of the person causing the disturbance. But this is for demonstration purposes. Though you can't always tell. Maybe in this case the mother loves her children more than she does her life.

2. An analogous situation is possible when encountering a tiger that is feeding on a kill. Typical behavior, if it discovers the intruder beforehand, is for the tiger to leave. A dangerous situation is when the predator is carried away and has let a human get too close - in such a situation an attack is not out of the question. A tiger has no way to tell that you are not at all interested in its kill and could spring in its defense.

Both near cub dens and near kills there are usually a lot of tiger tracks and this should serve as ample warning that a person is getting too close. The caws of ravens and the agitated behavior of birds point to danger. It is recommended that in these instances the site be avoided. A half-kilometer detour or a return back down the path is the least costly way out of this situation.

Don't try and catch a tiger cub, even if there are a lot of you in the group. First of all, this is a criminal matter, and second of all, its teeth and claws are rigged to cause you a lot of problems and can even lead to your death. We know of cases when an injured hare has pierced the stomach of human with its rear feet and the person then had to carry his guts to the hospital. A tiger, even a small one, is not a hare.

3. In contrast to cats that can't stand dogs, a tiger is just "crazy" about them. These are critically dangerous situations for humans. We have heard stories of tigers that have captured the luckless mutt

under the legs of its owner. Usually the human gets out of the situation unharmed, that is, if he has nerves of steel and he does not take to blasting away with his rifle. It is one thing if a bullet stops a tiger dead in its tracks. But if all it had done is wound the animal, a tragedy is in the making. A flair or a rifle discharged above the animal is more reliable. Noisy and bright lights have an affect on the tiger and will discourage its passion for some dog meat.

Dogs should be under the tight control of their owners near hunting cabins, apiaries and other campsites. Enclosures, deep, firm hovels protected by a fence made of poles, tethers -- these are the main ways to protect your dogs' lives. They will help to minimize the intrusions of an insistent neighbor that once it has dragged off one dog, will not calm down until it has taken the next one.

4. Aside from the damage a human can inflict upon a tiger, it can also be wounded by a bear, by a wild boar or by one of its own when for some kind of reason tigers need to work things out among themselves. An injured tiger is a potentially very dangerous situation since it then likes to go after easy prey. Hunger guides its behavior. Blood on tracks, on rest sites, an unusually small gait, visits to trash pits, attacks on dogs in villages -- all these are signs of a tiger in distress. Ascertaining the presence of such an animal should be done only when it is extremely necessary and then, only by people who have a great deal of experience and who are well armed.

It is important to notify specialists from the Federal Committee on the Environment when such an animal makes an appearance; they have the authority to look into the situation and to take necessary measures.

5. There are many known cases when a tiger has exhibited threatening behavior after being disturbed during its stalk of wild boar or Manchurian deer. The predator is in a state of heightened awareness and is potentially dangerous. So if you suddenly run up on some very fresh tiger tracks when out hunting for the very same prey, it is best to abandon the venture to the master of the forest and go off to look for game in another spot.

6. It is no secret that cunning people set up all kinds of traps for tigers. Do not try to approach an animal that has gotten in trouble. This is mortally dangerous. The tiger will gather all its strength for a lunge in the direction of its offender and its wrath is frightening. One must immediately inform environmental protection agencies and the Committee on the Environment in the event of such occurrences. Trying to do something for the tiger could cost you your life.

7. If you suddenly spot its tracks that you know is not typical tiger habitat, be extremely careful. An animal in unfamiliar habitat can be dangerous. It is hard to tell what kind of problem has driven the predator from its regular habitat. It could be hungry. It might be sick. One should immediately inform specialists in such cases so that they can go to the scene, track the animal and watch its behavior to determine what measures to take.

8. Unpredictable attacks on humans are known to have occurred. The Amur tiger is in general considered the least dangerous of the tigers. Perhaps this is because commercial hunting has been going on in our forests since time in memorial and the predator has gotten accustomed to the human's strength. Even so, you cannot say that there are no man-eating tigers.

If a tiger appears before you, this does not mean that it is man-eating. But there is something about you being where you are that the tiger does not like and its appearance is a demonstration, a warning. It does not pay to connive the animal and instead what you should do is make a noisy, luminous display, something that will lucidly explain to the predator that you like this situation even less.

The signs that help to clue you in that a tiger is extremely agitated are: if it is stiff, if its ears are pulled

back, if the fur on its head and mane are standing on end, if its tail is nervously twitching. Such a predator is extremely dangerous and if it makes small leaps, then you have simply been lucky. You have time to take some defensive measures: shoot a flare gun, a rifle into the air, in a word, use any kind of flame or any kind of noise at your disposal.

Do not try to run - this is the worst possible thing to do. Do not turn your back to the animal, that is, if you do not have a desire to feel its fangs pierce your neck. Do not try to climb a tree if you are not confident that you can get to the safety of its branches faster than the animal can get to you. A tiger does not climb trees but is capable of making two or three jumps up the trunk to drag you down by the leg.

If you have no means of protection, the most reliable thing to do is to quietly step backwards, without hysterical wails, trying to talk the animal into leaving you alone. In cases when the predator takes off in panic after the use of something to frighten it, you can calmly continue on your way. If you have some doubts, start a campfire and wait for awhile. When this is not possible, go ahead and climb that tree and spend a couple of hours admiring nature. She will calm you down and help you make the right decision.

9. Preventative measures for mushroom hunters, fishers and berry pickers include not wandering the forests at night, moving in the forests in groups, being noisy. Animals need to recognize from a distance that there are people about so they can let you pass. As people have been saying for eons: If you're afraid of the wolves, stay out of the forests. And those who walk around the taiga on tiptoes, well these are the people who risk turning up right next to an unbalanced animal and who find they have no options. This is the case with not just tigers. A female bear with cubs is much more dangerous; she is a mother unlike the tiger.

10. But if a tiger does attack, hope should spring eternal. In most cases, the conflict ends in injuries and mutilation and how severe they will be depends on the human's behavior. If there is time, a shot over its head might put a halt to the attack of an obviously aggressive tiger. If that does not work, the next shot be aimed to kill: in the forehead, in the jaw, in the neck so as to instantaneously render the criminal harmless. If no weapon is available and the animal knocks you off your feet, do not flail your arms. That will just add to the surgeon's work. It is hard in such a situation to summon up calm, but animal-like fear and inhuman wails just incense the tiger even more. All you can do is lie there and await your fate. Extra movement means additional injuries. If the tiger had wanted to have you for breakfast, you would never have known about it. The tiger attacks from the rear and kills instantly. In most provoked attacks, the animal calms down and flees the scene. They say that a knife once helped someone. A taiga dagger, with an 18-20 centimeter blade and slightly rounded tip so that it does not get stuck in bones and can slide through the chest area between the ribs, is a wonderful instrument. But it is a weapon and you have to have a hunting license and police permission to carry one. The chance to use it is extremely problematic, but it does provide some assurance.

When deciding whether or not to use a weapon, one should remember that shooting this extremely rare animal means proving the veracity of the action to the appropriate parties. But the best rule for personal safety is "do not shoot," and not just because in most cases it ends in the shooter getting killed.

We hope that such a tragedy will pass you by. Happy trails!

## "Humans And The Tiger: Peaceful Coexistence"

Humans and tigers have always been neighbors. And each has always go on about its own business. The tiger just simply lived in its own home, in a place set up for it by nature. The tiger hunted the food it was supposed to hunt, raised its young in the way instinct prescribed and the tiger, in its own habitat, was tsar of the forest kingdom. People also hunted for their food and the two were went on with their lives in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Commercial hunters, dependent upon the forests, are who most frequently encountered the tiger. But this fellow had no need for the tiger and conflicts ending in tragedy, judging by the information that has come down to us from the past, were a real rarity. As for the indigenous peoples of the Ussuriysky taiga, the tiger was an animal totem.

But time passed and humans took over the right to wear the crown of tsar of the forest and instead of bows and arrows and spears, they took to using firearms. Then an idle healer discovered the medical value of tiger bones and the killing of the mighty cats began. The number of tigers to dramatically decline and the tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of tigers that had once roamed the planet dropped to less than seven or eight thousand in the wild. Of the eight subspecies that existed at the beginning of this century, three have been eliminated in the last fifty years and others, including our Amur tiger, are on the verge of extinction Only the new tsar of all animals, the human, has become seriously concerned about this situation. And not simply because he will soon have no one to rule over. It turns out that the tiger is a better partner than the wolf that comes in to take its place. The tiger is an animal of improbable beauty when it is alive. The tiger helps to preserve the human's environment. And in general, it simply is not right to extirpate extremely rare species, all the more so, such a famous one as the tiger. So a reverse pattern has begun - conservation, rebuilding numbers, developing ways for peaceful coexistence.

Naturally, there was no need for such plans earlier. There were few roads or cars or people in the forest. And those who lived there held sacred the forest code of behavior. Now much has changed. People are everywhere. They tramp all over the tiger's forest habitat all year long. The tiger has shown itself to be a versatile animal and has easily adapted to the influx of people. It has learned to live along side humans and is not especially bothered by their presence. But hold on if the tiger should go on the warpath! Given its strength and its agility, the tiger could easily take out dozens of people, especially the innocents from the city, people who know nothing of the laws of the taiga. For the time being it is not killing humans although it has good reason to do so. The irrational behavior of humans has decimated the tiger's prey. They have cut down the best forests, destroying in this way the roof over their head. They have killed tigers out of curiosity and have intentionally attacked it, using the most cunning of methods.

The tiger has, on another occasions, gone out and "shown its teeth" and some people have died in its claws. But the paradox is that in 99% of the cases, it is the human that has created the conflict. Is it caused by some lack of knowledge? Is it done with some evil intention? Careful study of the incidents shows that these are indeed some of the reasons. The aim of such investigations is to deliver a guilty verdict and to sentence the tiger-hooligan to death with no appeal and to objectively establish the guilt or innocence of the human. These strict measures are taken even at a time when there are so few tiger left in the wild. In other parts of the world, tigers are recognized as killers only after several tragedies. They are then captured and released in other locations and only then, if they take up their old ways, is the death sentence prescribed.

Tigers in the wild are becoming rarer and rarer and so we have to live peaceable with them. There is no other way. People around the world will not allow them to be wiped out. Russia has agreed to enforce certain rules prescribed by the international community. Elimination of the tiger wouldn't be an answer to the question anyway. Look at the number of deaths caused by people getting run over by cars or are killed by the antics of bears. Or think about the fact that around fifty people a year die from bee stings. Nobody is thinking of giving up their cars or do they plan to stop eating honey. There are no plans to

shoot all the bears. That is why the tiger problem will always be acute. Is there a possible solution?

Much experience and knowledge has been gained in the last ten years during development of a strategy for human behavior. The strategy comes down to the following.

1. We must not let the condition of the ungulate population reach a critical stage. The bag norms that scientists establish for deer and wild boar already account for the share taken by large mammals. For Manchurian and roe deer, the percentage of the population that can be shot varies from between ten to fifteen percent of their spring numbers, this depending upon the condition of the population. The wild boar hunt can remove up to forty percent, given especially good reproduction conditions. But at the current time, even five percent is a high figure! If more than this percentage is removed from the wild, what begins is a slow, but steady decline in numbers. Something that happening right now with practically all the tiger's prey species. The number of Manchurian deer, for example, has dropped at least three hundred percent in the last twenty years. For the wild boar, the drop is an order of magnitude lower. For predators -- needs take over when the devil drives. If we continue to manage things in this way, what we can expect is a rush of hungry animals to settlements. The animal is not out to hunt people. This is not customary prey. The outskirts of villages have enough to offer without going after humans.

2. So a second important aspect of peaceful coexistence is the garbage conditions in areas surrounding the villages themselves. Dead animals cast out on the edges of a village, unmanaged dogs and cattle, these are easy prey. Even a human quickly gets used to easy prey, so what can be said for a predator!

3. It is essential to follow some rules when grazing and tending cattle. First of all, there should be a herder equipped with flares, or in the worse case, with firecrackers that you can now buy anywhere. A tiger panics from bright and noisy contraptions that humans have at their disposal. Having tried several times to get its way, tigers usually loses any desire to experiment with two-legged beasts. Secondly, fences around stables should be tall and strong. All these precautions are applicable to defend against your neighbors who like to come over for shish kebab and who show up a lot more often than tigers do.

4. Stop the practice of shooting at tigers. Experience shows that the majority of tragedies take place when people have a gun. A miss placed bullet, some loss of caution; these are the main reasons for tragic ends. An injured or crippled tiger is a mortally dangerous animal and not just because it is hard to shoot in such a state. Completely innocent people can suffer as happened in the Bikin River watershed in 1998.

5. A more complex and long term measure is the creation of a system of protected territories substantial in size. Islands of protection where hunting ungulates is excluded. Everything necessary must be done to increase tiger numbers. Let tigers live there in comfort and calm! These measures should be done for not just the tiger. The animal kingdom is quickly growing scanty. So all the planet's inhabitants, including people, need these islands. In giving up territory to animals, they lose nothing. About all that will happen is that hunting in adjacent areas will improve. And there will be a guarantee that we will not turn everything around us into a desert.

So you can see that there is nothing tricky or unachievable in this problem of peaceful coexistence. We just have to adhere to some ancient, long forgotten truths that have for eons assured sustainable natural resource use.

Yes, these days we have a lot of troubles. But when hasn't Russia had a lot of troubles? Our predecessors left us an extraordinarily rich environment. And we are capable of passing this baton on to future generations. Perhaps they will be richer and will preserve it forever!

#### 4. CONCLUSION.

The results of the fulfillment of the project permit us to come to the following conclusion: We have conducted 3 seminars; the total number of the participants was 73.

Among the participants of seminars were the teachers of village schools from the remote places, who trains children, whose parents cut wood, catch animals, and children together with parents attend taiga, the representatives of local administrations, mass media, the representatives of environmental centers, hunters, specialists of hunting areas, indigenous people. Having trained at our seminars, the students will transfer their knowledge to others. Information received at our seminars is very useful and necessary for their further work.

Nevertheless not all participants of the seminars understand the necessity of preservation of the Amur tiger. Some of them consider a tiger as their direct competitor. People do not possess much information about international and national cultural meaning of this species. It causes an additional alarm and requires to strengthen just this direction of works, namely: to give more information to the representatives of the indigenous population about cultural traditions of former generations on careful attitude to a tiger.

In the whole the seminars had a great success.

For lectures and conversations we have chosen a wide audience including all layers of population. We also worked with journalists. The total number of our listeners was 243.

There were given 4 interviews and 3 broadcasts, was shown 1 interview about the book "Amur tiger" by TV in the program "News. It is very difficult to calculate the number of the audience, because many people of our region like to watch to TV and listen broadcasts.

We have conducted the children's exhibition. The total number of children took part in it was 130. It is very important to mention that the competition of children's drawing was carried out on the territory of constant living of local people in the area of a tiger. The exhibition of children's drawings had a great success. We have received many wishes on continuation of this work. Many people asked us to print post cards and a calendar using these beautiful drawings.

In the framework of the project we published a book about the Amur tiger.

The book "Amur tiger" was written by Y. Dunishenko and A. Kulikov.

The book was oriented to local population living in places inhabited by tigers and it was written by easy language. The volume of edition was 3000 books. It was disseminated among the participants of our seminars, the government officials, the leaders of ecological movement, environmental NGO's, school libraries of Khabarovsky krai and population. Some portion of edition was given to the anti-poaching brigade from the Wildlife Hunting Management Department of Khabarovsky krai.

During the fulfillment of the project we designed and published 3 types of leaflets.

The leaflets is a mass material and is intended for scope as it is possible for a greater part of the population. The leaflets were distributed by the following channels: seminars, conversation, lecture, meeting, conferences. The total number of disseminated leaflets was 3000 copies.

The results of the realization of the project revealed the key directions in the field of environmental education on tiger conservation problems and planned priority directions for future works.

As a result of concrete actions connected with the environmental education is marked a tendency of

decreasing poaching in Khabarovsky krai. If in 1990-1994 years there were killed from 8 up to 15 predators per one year in Khabarovsky krai, but in 1998/1999 such cases we already do not know. There were appeared special kinds of hunting; the animal has ceased to be a casual production. Strengthening of guards, a flow of educational information quickly smooth out the scales for the benefit of a tiger. It is possible to consider that it is direct effect of propagation developed in protection of a tiger.

Other encouraging results are rather appreciable also. In particular, the number of supporters of a tiger steadily is increased. If some years ago the mention about a rare predator somewhere in a forest settlement caused immediate negative reaction, now sharp judgements become a large rarity.

It is possible to assume, that with continuation of instructive work with the population in near future it will be possible to restore a situation, which was in 50 - 70 years, when the people did not think at all of shooting a tiger.

Regretfully it is necessary to ascertain the fact that children living near to a tiger in the remote settlements till now had very poor knowledge about him. The participants of our seminars (school teachers, students and other layers of population) in the frame of the fulfillment of the project expressed a great interest to a problem of a tiger conservation. And this interest is the basis of the optimistic forecast in business of preservation of the Amur tiger.