

FINAL REPORT

January 01 – December 31, 2001



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has”. – Margaret Mead, anthropologist.

The Grantor: Save the Tiger Fund
Project: № 2000 – 0182 – 013
Project Name: “Operation Amba - Siberian Tiger Protection Efforts in 2001”
The Grantee: the Phoenix Fund
Grant Period: January 01, 2001 – December 31, 2001

The primary objective Phoenix in this proposal is to make Operation Amba a stronger, better-equipped, professionally trained, highly mobile wildlife protection unit that closely co-operates with local environmental NGOs and governmental law enforcement agencies to ensure the long-term survival of the Siberian tiger and the taiga forest.

To fulfil the project the Phoenix Fund has been working on:

- 1) Tiger Conservation Activities;
- 2) Educational Activities;
- 3) CITES Expertise;

I. TIGER CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES:

After the demolition of the State Ecological Committee and reorganisation of Primorsky State Ecological Committee in February 2001, a new Inspection Tiger was formed within the Ministry for Natural Resources. The new Inspection Tiger is a juridical entity. The reorganisation processes affected the work of the Inspection Tiger teams and resulted in a slight decrease in the results of their work. During the year 2001 Inspection Tiger has been carrying out activities aimed at revealing and eliminating illegal trade in endangered wildlife, smuggling channels and people and groups of criminals involved in wildlife trade (See Table 1, p. 12 for the results).

Phoenix also started an important initiative of public ecological control and has been providing support to two mobile public inspector teams of the Russian Nature Society, an active partner of Phoenix. The first team covers the North of Primorye (Northern



Confiscating weapon, July 2001 1

Siberian tiger habitat). Both teams' leaders conduct patrols in co-operation with the wildlife managers, police officers and fishery inspectors etc. The team leaders have considerable experience in inspector's work as well as good relations with the local population and the state law enforcement authorities. Apart from their anti-poaching and eco-control raids, they carry out environmental education lectures at local schools in the North of Primorye. Though this work was not presupposed in this project, we considered it important to initiate this activity in 2001 together with the ecological education supported by Save the Tiger Fund (See Table 2, p. 14 for the results).

A) INSPECTION TIGER

1. Conservation activities

In February 2001, a tiger skin and set of bones (of a tiger shot on the 4th of January) were sent to the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh for research and further display.

On January 14, 2001 two six-month old tiger cubs were found near Pokrovka village of Krasnoarmeisky district, Primorye. Their mother had apparently left them. The female cub was ill, had wounds on the head, presumably caused by dogs' bites. The inspectors tried to track down the tigress, then placed a cage with one of the cubs on her path in hope that it would take the cub back but to no avail. Inspection Tiger contacted the Moscow Zoo and in co-operation with WCS Russia transported the cubs to the zoo where they were thoroughly examined and cured. Each weighed 58 kg. The cubs were named Tolya and Zhenya (after Inspection Tiger rangers who found them). One of the cubs stayed at the Moscow zoo. The other was sent some European Zoo upon the recommendation of Ms. Sarah Christie of Zoological Society of London. Now, both cubs are healthy and doing well.



A tiger track, 2001



A Dog killed by a tiger

During the period March 05 - 08, 2001 the Bikin team inspectors investigated a potential human/tiger conflict near Znamenka village. A tiger was frequently seen close to the village. Inspectors managed to scare the tiger away with the help of fire rockets.

Since February 08, 2001 a tiger was nailing dogs at Svetlogorye village. The inspectors of the Bikin and Eastern teams had been trying to scare the tiger away for about a week but all efforts were in vain. With the permission of the Department of Nature Resources, the joint Conflict tiger team immobilised and euthanized the conflict tiger (male, 12-14 years old, and weight -

196 kg) 150 meters far from the village in the night of March 16-17, 2001. The body was given to the Lazovsky nature reserve to prepare an exhibit for the eco- centre of the reserve.

Constant visits of a tiger to Dolmi village of Khabarovsk territory were representing serious danger to the local people's lives. As a result of scaring-away activities of the joint Inspection Tiger team (Khabarovsk and Conflict tiger) during the period from March 31- April 14, 2001, the situation was successfully settled and the tiger went to the depths of taiga and has not returned to the village.



Trace of the tiger claws on the killed horse

In May 28th, 2001 Inspection Tiger investigated a tiger depredation case at Gamov deer farm. The inspectors found a horse killed by a

tiger, long scars and partly eaten internal organs verified the fact. Phoenix is considering a compensation payment to the deer farm in question (project financed by Tigris Foundation, Holland).

On the 26th of June 2001 the Gamov deer farm managers found tiger prints in their yard (about 200 meters). Inspection Tiger proved the fact but the tiger has not appeared on the deer farm territory since.

A unique experiment to release a Siberian tiger back into the wild is successful. In July 2001, after obtaining special permission of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Utes rehabilitation centre in khabarovsk region in co-operation with Inspection Tiger and WCS-Russia reintroduced two tigresses into the wild near the Southern Sikhote-Alin Mountain ridge. Both animals were radio-collared, and their movements will be monitored by tiger specialists of WCS Russia.

This year main attention was paid to organisational and enforcement activities, as well as co-ordination of the activities with the state nature conservation agencies, mass media and the public.

2. Eliminating illegal trade in endangered plant and animal species.

For the reported period Inspection Tiger has carried out a number of successful operations, many of them in co-operation with the state law enforcement agencies, such as Federal Security Bureau, Border Guard, Customhouse etc.

During the reported period the CITES/Kirovsky team gathered information on people and groups presumably involved in illegal trade in endangered wildlife and has determined the main activities to reveal the illegal wildlife channels and smugglers' groups.

In June 2001 the CITES/Kirovsky team in co-operation with the international conservationists and a Phoenix representative made an attempt to confiscate a tiger skin in Kirovsky village, but due to a temporary impediment the operation did not start.

In July a successful operation ended with confiscation of a tiger skin. A villager in Kirovsky district committed an attempt to sell a tiger skin. According to the data, that person and his "colleagues" killed a tiger in autumn 2000. They prepared the skin for sale and were looking for a buyer till the confiscation moment. The officers of CITES/Kirovsky team of Inspection Tiger kept the situation under control and finally, confiscated the skin at the moment of illegal trade.

The period July through October is characterised of increased illegal trade in wild ginseng, included in the Endangered Species List of the Russian Federation and CITES II. During the period the CITES/Kirovsky team confiscated 1,680 wild ginseng roots (10.82 kg): including 334 roots (1.7 kg) from Mr. Mironov in July and 329 roots (2.1 kg) from a Chinese citizen Lee Dafoo in August. 300 wild ginseng roots were planted in taiga to restore the population. From year to year the circle of people dealing in illegal trade in wild ginseng (mainly the Chinese) remains mainly the same, due to imperfection of the passport and border controls and legislation.



Confiscated tiger skin in Verkhny Pereval village, October 20, 2001

At the end of September the CITES/Kirovsky team obtained information that a villager was looking for a tiger skin buyer. The team carried out an investigation resulted in confiscation of a tiger skin on October 20, 2001 in Verkhny Pereval village.

In order to improve efficiency of Inspection Tiger work in struggling illegal hunting, trading and transporting wildlife objects in Primorsky and Khabarovsk regions, Inspection Tiger continues The sniffer dogs training project. A dog was purchased and trained according to a special technique, and

now it regularly participates in anti-poaching raids and it has shown good results. Thus, in August in Partizansk city with the help of this dog the CITES/Kirovsky team arrested a Chinese citizen Lu Fan for illegal transporting of 325 wild ginseng roots (2.385 kg) in his car.

3. Forest Conservation

Conservation of the forest, the habitat for many endangered species, is one of the main directions of the Inspection Tiger activities.

As a result of several meetings of Interregional team with the heads of the State Forest Service and regional police department, the mechanisms of information exchange were developed to facilitate revealing the forest rules violations.



In August 2001 Khabarovsky team revealed 2 tractors falling trees in Khorsky forestry. The violators vanished from the logging site. The tractors and logs were confiscated and given to Lazovsky forestry.

In September Khabarovsky team of Inspection Tiger checked a loggers' group and revealed violations of logging rules. The logging was held outside the prescribed territory and caused an estimated damage of 657,901 rubles. All records on the violation were submitted to the Department of Natural Resources.

Illegal logging site, Khabarovsky region

4. Conservation of hunting resources.

To prevent Siberian tiger poaching and conserve its prey base, all the teams have been carrying out anti-poaching raids on their territories.

In July the Bikin team inspectors checked an apiary and arrested a person with illegal rifle. The poacher was in the hunting lease without a hunting licence and documents for the rifle. The protocol on the hunting regulation violations was drawn up and criminal proceedings were imposed.

In August Khasan team tried to check information on poaching under the light from the train. On the 19th of August 2001 at 0:40 they noticed light and shooting from the train. All attempts to arrest the poachers were to no avail, but the protocol/record on this case was sent to the local police department and the head of the railway station.



Joint raid of Khabarovsky team of Inspection Tiger and rangers of Motaisky wildlife refuge, October 2001

During an anti-poaching raid in October the Khasan team spotted a group of poachers hunting illegally. When the infringers saw the inspector, they made an attempt to escape. In the result of an exhausting chase in the forest, three poachers were arrested and taken to the local police office. Their "colleagues" were found through further investigation.

Around Ziminka village of Dalnerechensky district on a forest road the inspectors stopped and checked a car, in which a villager with a Chinese were transporting 70 kg of freshly caught frogs without any

documents. The poached wildlife was confiscated and the report was sent to the interregional inspector of the Committee of Nature Resources.

During patrolling in Pozharsky district the officers found a rifle "Squirrel" of 1963 in a burnt shed. The owner of the rifle was not found. The rifle and report were sent to the local police.

Inspection Tiger in co-operation with Far Eastern Customs Department smashed an illegal wildlife trade network.



The bust

During October 2001, Inspection Tiger rangers and Customs officers conducted an investigation of a wildlife crime ring operating out of the city of Ussuriisk (North of Vladivostok). They ascertained that the ring had a Chinese leader who operated covertly and a Russian former Border Police lieutenant who openly dealt with certain corrupt Russian authorities.

The ring operated in a narrow stretch of the Russian-Chinese border in the Pogranichny district. The attraction of this section is that it is infrequently patrolled, especially from the Chinese side. Both sides of the border in this area are rice and corn fields, and by disguising

themselves as agricultural workers, the criminals were able to pass back and forth undetected.

The night before the arrest, two Inspection Tiger rangers, a Customs officer and two Border policemen met and commenced surveillance. At 1:00pm the following day, the group spotted a mini-truck driven by the Russian ring member. The investigators watched him throw three bags to the ground. He then got out of the truck and radioed the Chinese. Soon afterwards, two Chinese men in camouflage emerged from the nearby bushes, took the bags and made to go back.

The three criminals were arrested on the spot. Inside the bags, the rangers found 80 kilos of dried sea cucumber, with a market value of US \$8,000. Assuming that such smuggling took place every two to three days during the year, the annual value of the illegal traffic is estimated to be close to one million dollars. The customs officers think that it was a illegal trade channel not only for dry sea cucumbers, but also for other endangered wildlife and derivatives (tiger parts and particles, bear paws etc).

According to the rangers, one of the arrested Chinese is probably in the military, however further investigation of their identities has yet to be conducted. All three are still under arrest.

As there is no direct evidence against the presumed Chinese ringleader, the authorities cannot arrest him. However, it is hoped that information that is revealed during the court case will enable the authorities to indict him at a later date.

The Phoenix Fund gave the Oscar rewards (flashlights) to the CITES team of Inspection Tiger and Customs officers who distinguished themselves in the operation to eliminate illegal wildlife trade channel



Phoenix Director gives award to the CITES team officer

The main purpose is to stimulate law enforcement agencies in Primorsky Krai to investigate environmental violations and crimes, illegal trade and other environmental law infringements.

6. Ecological education:

Besides their anti-poaching raids, the Inspection Tiger officers have been carrying out educational and outreach activities in kindergartens, schools and other educational institutions through lectures, games, contests and exhibitions.

In September the Khabarovsk team held a school contest entitled: "My beautiful region". The children brought handmade rugs (tapestry) depicting rare and endangered species of Primorye and Khabarovsk regions to the contest.



Tapestry contest and a lecture at a secondary school in Khabarovsk region, October 2001

In August Primorye Radio carried out a children's contest "Live Planet" in the "Habitat" programme.

The theme of the programme was "What do you know about Inspection Tiger and their work"? Children from all over Primorye sent dozens of letters with paintings of "how they see inspector's work". The winner received a prize from the head of Inspection Tiger.

7. Mass media.

During the reported period the Inspection Tiger activities were highlighted in mass media 344 times: TV- 59; radio - 58; articles - 147; information agencies - 20; Internet news - 43; press releases - 16.

Inspectors together with the representatives of Phoenix took part in reconstructing the seizure of two Siberian tiger skins from a Russian wildlife trader in April 2000 for a UK broadcasting programme.

B) PUBLIC ECOLOGICAL CONTROL

The Primorsky Krai Nature Society co-operates closely with the Inspection Tiger teams, hunting managers, policemen, wildlife managers, and fishery inspectors.

For the reported period, the groups of public ecological inspectors conducted work in ecological education, joint law enforcement raids with wildlife managers, Inspection Tiger officers, police officers, fishery inspectors to reveal pollution and violations of the hunting and fishing rules. The head of the group is an experienced ranger that has been working in biodiversity conservation for many years. The other members of the groups are volunteers, mainly from nature-oriented youth organisations and environmental clubs of different universities.



Joint raid of Inspection Tiger officers and public inspectors, Anuchino village, December 2001

August 08, 2001 – The head of the northern group of public inspectors conducted a joint raid with the head of the Hunting Management department of Pozharsky district and the chief of Luchegorsky Hunting lease. During that raid two men were arrested for illegal hunting out of the season, both of them had rifles and one of the rifles was not registered. Based on the records of that

case the criminal proceedings were instituted against the poachers. The next days in one of the checked cars the explosives prohibited to use were found. Video records of the cases were given to the local TV Company and a programme appeared on TV the next day.

On August 11, 2001, the northern team conducted a joint raid with a fishery inspector. As a result, two men in a fishing boat were arrested. The inspectors confiscated 12 illegal fishing nets from the violators. The crime was documented. All illegal poaching devices including the boat were confiscated. The poachers were made to pay fine.

October 18 – 23, 2001 – Several joint anti-poaching raids with the fishery inspectors were carried out around Luchegorsk on the Bikin River. They resulted in confiscation of the illegal fishing devices and the catch. The inspectors plan to continue their co-operation and carry out joint raids to reveal the fishing rules violations and investigate pollution.

December 07 – 09, 2001 – The head of the northern group carried out a joint raid with the interregional wildlife manager in Pozharsky, Dalnerechensky and Krasnoarmeisky districts. During the raid both inspectors drew up 4 protocols/reports on violations of the hunting regulations, confiscated 5 rifles, 62 traps for fur-bearing animals and 17 skins of poached squirrel. Those raids show that the majority of the hunters, who have hunting licenses for fur-bearing animals, do not close the licenses when they leave the hunting leases with the fur. They try to conceal the number of hunted animals and sell the “stolen” fur to the middlemen for a higher price and they, in turn, sell the fur to China. Such activities undermine not only the bio-resources of hunting leases but also the budget of the hunting societies that sell the licenses and the economics of the region.

The joint raids helped establish good relations with the state law enforcement officers, wildlife managers and fishery inspectors, and the public inspectors plan to carry out joint raids in future.

- Poisonous Chemicals

At the end of August 2001, together with the Nature Conservation Committee and Epidemic Inspection, the northern group of public inspectors conducted a raid to control recycling of 7 tons of poisonous pollutants that were revealed earlier. At that time the public inspectors made the local government recycle them. The second raid found that about 4 tons of polluting chemicals were packed into plastic bags to be delivered to the recycling place. They made a prescription to recycle the rest of the pollutants (about 3 tons) as soon as possible. But it needs more work as the recycling plant asked for twice as much money for utilisation as before. The recycling of 7 tons of poisonous chemicals is coming to the end by January 2002.

- Nature monument

Phoenix in co-operation with the public inspectors' group of the Russian Nature Conservation Society initiated the creation of the new protected territory to save a unique water reservoir “Solenaya Pad” (Salty Lake) in the northern habitat of the Siberian tiger. All necessary documents were prepared and nowadays the set of documents is under consideration in Primorsky Administration. Local TV companies gave broad coverage of this case and made a documentary “Salty tears of Salty Lake”. The idea to create a nature monument received broad support among the local population. There are a lot of obstacles on the way of creating this tiny reserve, but the northern public inspection team controls the situation and sent a request to the Regional Prosecutor's Office on the possibility to take these 160 ha from private possession.

II. ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Besides, we managed to attract the public ecological control group of the Primorsky Krai Nature Society, an active partner of Phoenix's, to our educational projects in the North of Primorye. The head of the group, an experienced law enforcement officer, in co-operation with skilful educators and wildlife managers, has been carrying out work with children. The head of the northern public inspector's team held 23 lectures for schoolchildren in the regional and local libraries and a tourism club. The lectures covered such important subjects as human behaviour and livestock management in tiger habitat and survival in the wild. The lectures attracted many people and evoke a lot of questions.



Yury Trusch, head of the northern public inspectors team, giving lecture at school in Pozharsky district, autumn 2001

These activities help the children understand the importance of conserving the rare and endangered species of Primorsky Krai (focusing on the Siberian tiger) by preserving their habitat; they highlight threats to wildlife and talk the daily work of the environmental law enforcement officers. The lectures also include video materials on anti-poaching raids of both public eco-control and Inspection Tiger teams.

In April 2001 the head of the northern group organized a trip for the children of the Luchegorsk city schools to participate in the Regional Ecological Exhibition where they won the first prize. In May 2001, he took schoolchildren of Pozharsky district to the 5th ecological conference in Vladivostok. All events received excellent press coverage.

- Annual Ecological Youth Conference "From the Earth Day to the Earth Century"

On the 23rd of May 2001, the 5th Youth Conference was held in Vladivostok. Schoolchildren from all over Primorye took part in it. The Phoenix Fund was the only NGO sponsor of the Conference. We provided transportation for schoolchildren and teachers from Pozharsky region. One of our educators from Khasan, Natalia Drobysheva, gave a "Master class - Slide-presentations on the Habitat of the Far Eastern leopard and Siberian tiger."

December 14, 2001 – the head of the team and the Phoenix educational projects co-ordinator organised a contest for a position of the educational programme co-ordinator in Pozharsky district (North of Primorye) for 2002. An ad was placed in the local newspapers and TV programmes and attracted several good specialists.

The team works in close contact with the local mass media and the interviews and reports from anti-poaching raids often appear on the local TV and in the newspapers.

- Tiger Day in Luchegorsk, North of Primorye, September 24, 2001

The Tiger Day environmental Festival took place on September 23, 2001 in Vladivostok. This event was a Phoenix initiative now in its second year. Phoenix invited children from North and South Primorye who live close to tiger habitats as special guests.

Schoolchildren were chosen to take part in the Tiger Day parade on the streets of Vladivostok. The Public Inspectors gave an idea of celebrating a similar Tiger Day in Luchegorsk, and this idea was endorsed by the local administration, thus the children returned to their hometown Luchegorsk the next day to celebrate wildlife holiday. The event received broad coverage on the Russian local and TV. We hope that this year's festival will help many people to realise the importance of wildlife conservation issues.



- Udege festival

The public inspectors took part in the annual Festival of the Minorities that was held in Krasny Yar village of Pozharsky district. Primorsky Administration decided to make this holiday annual. The co-operation with the local tribes, like the Udege, and strengthening relations with them is very important for the nature conservation. Their rights need to be explained to them and in co-operation we will be able to save our environment.

III. CITES EXPERTISE

Extinction of species – is one of the brightest evolutionary events. It is recognised that by far the number of animal species comprises only 1% of those inhabiting the Earth during its history. At present time mass species extinction is observed, the first since the late Cretaceous. Thousands of species require urgent conservation (Holzinger, 1996). Molecular-genetic methods are of primary importance for development of an adequate strategy for species recovery.

Genetic analysis helps identify genetic status as well as the unique character of taxons, and develop recommendations for captive breeding, reintroduction and genetic monitoring. The aim of the research is to help solve the problems of endangered wildlife conservation in the Russian Far East and analyse the genetic variability of the Amur tiger. It is known that low variability considerably limits the adaptive potential of the endangered species. The results can be used in practice:

- a) to develop strategies for conservation (including captive breeding) and reintroduction of rare and endangered species;
- b) to create the endangered animals DNA database.



Isolated DNA of a tiger

The Genetic Laboratory of the Institute of Biology and Soils helps the customs officers identify the species of the wildlife samples withdrawn at the control points. Within the project we purchased necessary equipment and reagents. The Institute made an Agreement with the Customs Office and Inspection Tiger to provide analysis genetic research on the confiscated wildlife tissue samples.

The research on the genetic variability of the wild tiger population was carried out with the help of RAPD-PCR analysis, on a representative for rare species excerption of 15 individuals. It gave more accurate information and proved the low status of the tiger genetic variability.

Since the previous report the laboratory managed to isolate DNA from the tissues of three animals. Thus, nowadays, it is the most representative excerption for genetic analysis of the wild population of Far Eastern sub-species of *P.tigris*.

During the reported period the genetic laboratory has received 7 samples of the Amur tiger tissue for genetic research and investigation (see Table 3). 5 DNA samples were isolated from the tissues with the help of a standard technique of phenol-chloroform extraction.

Genetic variability of specie is very important to the future of the population of that specie. The greater the genetic variability the better are chances of that population for survival. The analysis of the Amur tiger genetic material has helped biologists to conclude that the Siberian tiger population is more exposed to extinction than that of the Far Eastern leopard and due to its genetic poverty is still extremely vulnerable. Genetic research and analysis therefore is an important method for determining the situation of a particular specie in the wild.

The Laboratory has also carried a unique genetic research on the rodent molls (*Myospalax psilurus epsilon*) and black vulture, both endangered species. For the first time the characteristics of the genetic variability of rodent moll were given. They showed low genetic variability of the population. The material was received from three local populations in Pogranichny district of Primorye, 24 animals in total.



A rodent moll

Annually about 400-500 black vultures winter in the southern Primorye. The last few years have seen the numbers decimated. The biggest losses were seen during the winter 2000-2001 when 1/3 of the population died. During that period 15 birds were gathered to become the basis of the research. The genetic research of this part of the black vulture population showed lack of vital capacity during the hard conditions of winter 2000-2001. The research showed the characteristics of its variability and pheno- and phylogenetic reconstruction. It also revealed a low level of genetic variability, even lower than that of Amur tiger.



Modern computers donated to the Genetics Laboratory

The research revealed relatively low genetic variability of all the three endangered species. It was surprising to find out that the genetic variability of tiger is the highest comparing to the others. Originally the species could have different potential to keep the genetic variability. The first loss of this variability, as the compared objects live in the same region, could happen simultaneously for all the species during some quick ecological changes (for example, Pleistocene cold spell). Now all of them experience human pressure.

The previous research shows that the tiger variability can vary depending on different molecular markers. That is why it is necessary to include the structural

genes of the nucleus in the research –there is a lack of sufficient data in this field. This would be a good addition to the research carried out in other laboratories, because the genetics of the rare and endangered species is a very laborious and expensive science and it requires co-operation in research. Continuation of the genetics research will allow us to enrich the DNA database that can be used by other researchers.

The research on vultures proves that the majority of the dead animals were homozygous. This fact presupposes that: a) the samples represent the whole vulture population wintering in Primorye; b) the samples represent mainly one of the most vulnerable gene-types and the population has a higher genetic variability. This dilemma can be solved only through further genetic monitoring.

The rodent moll appeared to have the lowest variability. There is a scarce information on the genetic peculiarities of this sub-specie. In order to understand fully the threat to the species survival, it is necessary to compare it to more successful populations of the same species.

It is always hard to predict survival prospective of rare and endangered species. For example, swan in Southern America recovered from 73 birds to 10,000 only in 80 years. On the other hand, Java tiger disappeared from the Earth only in 40 years after the steep decline in its population.

Continuation of the genetic research will allow us to enrich the DNA database that can be used by the other researchers. It is important to have all information on the genome. Besides, the material in such a DNA library can be used for the research with the help of other methods. The advent of new technologies will lead to provide more thorough analysis of the items and even identify any individual, track its origin etc. The value of such a database is unquestionable, especially for the long-term genetic monitoring and recovery programmes.

Acknowledgements:

This project is the result of the united efforts of many people. Thanks to support form the Save the Tiger Fund, we helped keep the Amur tiger population stable in 2001 and we hope for our fruitful co-operation in future. Supplementary and essential project information and results were kindly presented by Inspection Tiger, Russian Nature Conservation Society and Genetics Laboratory to who we owe our special thanks.

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Table 1: Inspection Tiger raids results

Activity	CITES team-Kirovsky	Khabarov sky team	Khasan team *	Bikin team	Total
1. Issued protocols (records of evidence):	44	73	68	61	260
a) on hunting rules violations	1	21	19	30	71
b) fishery rules violations	1	11	29	29	70
c) on forest violations	29	31	1	2	63
d) on pollution	-	3	-	-	3
e) Amur tiger	1	-	-	-	1
f) marine bioresources	3	3	7	-	13
d) on violation of the protected territory regime	9	4	12	-	39
2. Confiscated weapon:	2	5	19	28	54
3. Confiscated illegal tools:					
a) diving equipment	-	-	10	-	10
b) Boats with engine	-	-	6	-	5
c) nets	-	13 (110 m)	31	76(2035 m)	120
d) fish spear	-	-	2	-	2
e) traps for shrimps	-	-	75	-	75
f) saw	-	8	-	-	8
g) tractors	-	5	-	-	5
h) automobiles	-	4	-	-	4
4. Confiscated poached wildlife					
a) tiger skin, tiger parts	2 (skin)	-	-	-	2
b) leopard skins, leopard parts	-	-	-	-	-
c) sea cucumber (items)	110,900	-	5,298	-	116,198
d) wood, m ³	153	96.35	-	65.7	315.05
e) fish, kg	-	15.7	707.1	-	722.8
f) scallops' meat, kg	-	-	475	-	475
g) crab meat	-	-	638	-	638
h) crab legs	-	-	12	-	12

i) bear paws	4	-	-	4	8
j) bear bile	-	-	-	1	1
k) penis of a deer	1	-	-	-	1
l) young antlers	4	-	-	-	4
m) deer's tail	1	-	-	-	1
n) ginseng, items (grams)	1,678 (10,807)			2 (12)	1680 (10,819)
o) duck	-	-	4	-	4
p) frogs (items/kg)	-	-	-	980/70	980/70
r) crab (items)	3,800	-	-	-	3,800
s) roe deer meat	-	-	22	-	22
5. Checked:	-	39	147	26	212
a) individuals	24	81	246	30	381
b) organisations	3	5	4	-	12
c) forest users	25	13	-	2	40
d) hunters	-	-	-	1	1
e) hunting huts	-	28	2	14	21
f) boats	-	-	17	-	17
g) fish plant	-	-	3	-	3
6. Submitted to other organisations	44	73	68	61	260
7. Instituted criminal proceedings	1	2	-	4	7
8. Stopped criminal proceedings	-	-	2	1	3
9. Conflict tigers case (case/days)	1/2	1/14	6/11	-	8/27
10. Mass media contacts					
a) radio	-	5	-	-	19
b) TV	1	4	4	-	59
c) newspapers, journals	2	7	4	-	147
d) press releases	-	-	-	-	16
e) information agency	-	-	-	-	20
f) internet news	-	-	-	-	43
11. Ecological education					
a) lectures, hours	9	3	27	-	37
b) individual discussions, hours	-	5	29	4	38
c) seminars, trainings for officers	1	1	1	1	1
d) classes for the officers, hours	-	15	5	3	33

* - Individual grants and fuel expenses are covered by the Tigris Foundation.

Table 2: Results of joint raids of the northern public inspectors' team and state law enforcement officers (except for Inspection Tiger), April – Dec 2001.

Activity	Northern team
1. Issued protocols	29
Including:	
a) hunting rules violations	16
b) fishing rules violations	12
c) pollution	1
d) reserve regime violations	-
2. Confiscated items:	
a) weapon	14
b) nets	47
c) boats	4
d) fish-spear	3
e) traps	62
f) squirrel skins	17
g) sea cucumber, kg	-
h) frogs, items	-
3. Lectures, hours	23
4. Mass media	
a) TV Interviews, programmes	14
b) radio programmes	1
c) newspaper articles	12

Table 3: Received Amur tiger tissue samples and the genetic analysis.

No	Place	Organisation	Date	Sex, age	Source of DNA extraction	DNA
1.	Unknown	Inspection Tiger	Jan 23, 2001	Male, Adult	Tissue	-
2.	Yakovlevsky district	Inspection Tiger	March 7, 2001	Ad.	Liver	-
3.	Terneysky district	Inspection Tiger	March 19,	--/--	Liver	+
4.	Khankaisky district	Khankaisky nature reserve	2001	Male, Ad.	Liver	+
5.	Terneysky district	WCS office (Dale Miquelle)	Jan 25, 2001	Ad.	Blood	+
6.	-----/-----		Jan 26, 2001	---/---	---/---	+
7.	-----/-----		Feb 19, 2001	---/---	---/---	+

Attachment A - STF Approved Budget & Financial Reporting Form

Grantee: *Phoenix Fund*
Project Name: *Operation Amba*
Project #: *2000-0182-013*
Grant Period: *1/1/01-12/1/01*
Period Covered: *1/1/01- 12/1/01*

STF FUNDS RECEIVED BY GRANTEE FROM NFWF TO DATE: \$ 51,546

EXPENSES INCURRED TO DATE:

Budget Category	Approved Budget	Actual Expenses
Salaries	\$ 25,320	\$ 25,320
Equipment	\$ 22,780	\$ 22,780
Supplies	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Travel	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400
Consulting Services	\$ 400	\$ 400

TOTAL \$ 60,500 \$ 60,500

REMAINING: \$ 8,954

Signed: _____

Date: _____