

**PROCEEDINGS FROM  
THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING MEETING:  
IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL TARGET PROGRAM  
'CONSERVING THE AMUR TIGER'**



April 8-12, 1999  
Vladivostok, Russia



## GLOBAL SURVIVAL NETWORK

WORKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

July 1, 1999

To the Participants and  
Other Interested Parties to the  
Vladivostok Donor's Meeting  
On Conserving the Amur Tiger  
April 8-12, 1999:

Dear Colleagues:

Global Survival Network (GSN) was pleased to have worked with Phoenix and the rest of you to organize the International Working Meeting on Implementation of the Federal Target Program: Conserving the Amur Tiger, April 8-12, 1999. We thank all who participated in this working meeting for your genuine concern for, and contributions to the future of the Amur tiger, its habitat, and the ecosystem it represents, from which we all benefit.

We hope you will all review the discussions and recommendations made at this working meeting. GSN would like to announce that, in response to our own review of these proceedings, we have made some preliminary decisions about our continued support for the implementation of the Federal Target Program. In response to a major and virtually unanimous recommendation made at the Working Group (regarding radio communications), GSN's priority in providing financial and technical assistance for the Federal Target Programme will be radio and other communications equipment. GSN will discuss this matter first with the State Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources to determine the precise needs of Department Tiger, State Committee offices in Moscow and the Far East, and how a communications system for Department Tiger might be expanded at a later date to other agencies.

GSN believes that it is necessary for other organizations to contribute toward this crucial effort, as sophisticated radio communications equipment can be expensive. However, an effective communications system can reduce recurring fuel and other costs over time, and it will certainly enhance wildlife protection efforts. Furthermore, a good communications system is something we as donors can leave in place for some time to come.

In additions to helping the Russian government secure proper communications equipment, GSN will continue supporting part of Department Tiger (Operation Amba)'s continuing operating costs. We encourage other donors to continue --or become-- sponsors of Amba. In addition to WWF's stated plans to continue financial support for Department Tiger, Phoenix and GSN's new office in Vladivostok will continue to serve as a focal point for securing private donations to help

supplement the government's contributions to this program. Through Phoenix, these donations will be recorded and reported to the State Committee on Environmental Protection so that we as NGO's and the Russian Government can continue working together, in a coordinated way, to implement as much as the Federal Target Program as possible.

We look forward to remaining in contact with all of you.

Best regards,



Steve Galster  
Executive Director  
Global Survival Network



Karin Elliot  
Russian Far East Program Co-Director  
Global Survival Network

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## SUMMARY

The "International Working Meeting: Implementing The Federal Target Program 'Conserving The Amur Tiger'" was organized by the Federal Environmental Protection Committee of Russian Federation, Global Survival Network (GSN) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Russia) with financial support from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-USA and RPO) and US AID, and logistical support of Phoenix and its partner, GSN. Sixty-four representatives of the Russian Federal Government and the Primorsky, Khabarovsk and Jewish Autonomous Oblast territorial governments and biodiversity organizations and external funding agencies from Great Britain, Switzerland and USA met together in Vladivostok on April 9-11, 1999 to consider their respective contributions to the implementation of the Federal Target Program for Conservation of the Amur Tiger. On the Russian Federal and krai level side, there was an opportunity to discuss useful policy initiatives and to identify projects for which external funding would be needed. The areas of primary interest and concern were:

- development of a system of protected areas and the maintenance of existing protected areas;
- habitat protection through forestry and hunting resource management;
- anti-poaching and anti-smuggling programs;
- managing human-tiger conflict and encouraging co-existence;
- monitoring tiger and prey populations;
- improving environmental education and awareness.

Having discussed the current situation and dynamics of the Amur tiger habitat and population, the meeting participants pointed out that:

- main reasons of the Amur tiger population decline are dwindling of the habitat and direct kills by people;
- further industrial and agricultural development plans of the area will lead to further dwindling and destruction of the Amur Tiger habitat;
- implementation of the Federal Target Program 'Conserving The Amur Tiger' can provide for long term conservation of the Amur tiger population in the Far East of Russia;
- financial crisis should not prevent the implementation of the Federal Target Program 'Conserving the Amur Tiger' as Russia is responsible for saving this tiger subspecies for the world.
- international environmental community provides financial support for many projects directed at Amur tiger conservation, but these funds are not always spent efficiently.

For the external funding agencies, the meeting presented an opportunity to speak to the requirements of each funding agency and to explain how to apply for funding support.

The form of relationship to be developed between the Federal government, the territorial governments, and the external funding agencies was discussed. The World Wildlife Fund proposed a financial agreement that would define the financial contributions to be made by the Russian and territorial governments, and the WWF and other such donor agencies as might choose to participate. Dale Miquelle proposed a set of guidelines that would ensure that donor programs are included in the Federal Target Program and that the coordinating agency - the State Committee on Environmental Protection - is fully informed of all donor initiatives. To improve future coordination, a Working Group has been established to advise the State Committee on project funding needs and priorities. An information database will be created by the Phoenix Fund to track ongoing projects.

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization
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## **Russian Federation State Committee for Environmental Protection**

1. Valentin Ilyashenko, Chief of the Department for Conservation of Biodiversity
2. Gennady Kolonin , Leading Specialist of the Department for Conservation of Biodiversity
3. Vsevolod Stepanitsky, Chief of the Department of Protected Areas

## **Federal Ecology Fund**

Vladimir Khaimin, Deputy Chief of the Federal Ecology Fund

## **Federal Forest Service**

4. Sergey Kotsyubinsky, Chief of the Department of Wildlife Conservation

## **Foreign Organizations:**

5. Peter Jackson, Save the Tiger Fund & IUCN
6. Andrew Bond, World Bank
7. Joshua Ginsberg, New York Zoological Society
8. Sarah Christie, London Zoological Society
9. Fred Bagley, US Fish and Wildlife Service
10. Dale Miquelle, Hornoker Wildlife Institute
11. Steve Galster, Global Survival Network
12. Karin Elliot, Global Survival Network
13. Margaret Williams, WWF US
14. John Gervers, Tiger Network
15. Paul Toyne, WWF UK
16. Michael Jones, Pacific Environmental Resource Center

## **IFAW – Russian Program Office**

17. M.N. Vorontsova, director

## **WWF-Russia Program Office**

18. Igor Chestin, Director
19. Vladimir Krever, Biodiversity Conservation Program Coordinator
20. Sergey Sheveiko, Coordinator of the Far East Eco-Region Project
21. Natalia Moralyova, Ecological Tourism Fund "Dersu"
22. Alexei Weismann, TRAFFIC Europe-Russia
23. Sergei Chebanov, Evolution Physiology and Biochemistry Institute

## **WWF- RFE Office**

24. Pavel Fomenko, Biodiversity Program Manager
25. Olga Kabalik, Environmental Education Program Manager



### **Primorsky Krai**

26. Eugeny Stomatiouk, Chief of the Department of Nature Resources, Government PK
27. Valery Shafranovski, Primorski Krai Administration
28. Victor Gaponov, Specialist of the Department of Nature Resources, Government PK
29. Mikhail Bibikov, Chief of the PK Committee for Environmental Protection
30. Vladimir Shetinin, PK Committee for Environmental Protection
31. Sergei Zubtsov, Commander of Department Tiger
32. Andrei Kopaev, Deputy Commander of Department Tiger
33. Boris Litvinov, Deputy Commander of Department Tiger
34. Nikolay Drachov, Chief of the PK Game Department
35. Igor Suslov, Deputy Chief of the PK Game Department
36. Tatiana Aramileva, Specialist of the PK Game Department
37. Anatoly Prikhodko, Director of PK Forest Service
38. Sergei Lyapustin, Customs Department, PK
39. Anatoly Astafiev, Director, Sikhote-Alinsky Nature Reserve
40. Eugene Smirnov, Senior Scientist, Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve
41. Alexander Laptev, Director, Lazovsky Nature Reserve
42. Andrey Kotlyar, Director, Ussurisky Nature Reserve
43. Boris Abramov, Senior Scientist, Ussurisk Nature Reserve
44. Victor Korkishko, Director, Kedrovaya Pad Nature Reserve
45. Galina Salkina, Senior Scientist, Lazovsky Nature Reserve, NGO "Save the Siberian Tiger"
46. Dmitry Pikunov, Leader Scientist, Pacific Geographical Institute
47. Alexei Prokopenko, Phoenix
48. Andrei Yarigin, Phoenix
49. Nikolai Kazakov, Phoenix
50. Vasily Solkin, Zov Taigi/WWF
51. Lilia Kondrashova, Environmental Education Resource Center
52. Alexander Gulkov, Ecological Fund 'Sikhote-Alin'
53. Igor Nikolaev, senior scientist of the Institute of Biology and Soil , Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Science

### **Khabarovsk Krai**

54. Vladimir Boltrushko, Chief of the KK Committee for Environmental Protection
55. Nikolay Balagansky, Chief of the KK Game Department
56. Yuriy Grischuk, Deputy Chief, KK Regional Forestry Committee
57. Nikolai Yefimov, Deputy Director of the Department of Natural Resources KK Government
58. Oleg Gunin, Head of the Anti-poaching Brigade, KK Game Department
59. Nikolai Zabubenin, Head of the KK Forest Dept
60. Anatoly Darenski, All-Russian Research Institute of Wildlife Management, Hunting, and Farming
61. Yury Dunishenko, Senior Scientist of the All-Russian Research Institute of Wildlife Management, Hunting, and Farming
62. Alexander Kulikov, Chairman, Wildlife Foundation
63. Sergei Kostomarov, Director, Botchinskiy Nature Reserve

### **Jewish Autonomous Krai**

64. Sergei Yakimov, Chair, Environmental Protection Committee



## RESOLUTIONS

The State Committee for Environmental Protection of Russia, together with Khabarovsk and Primorsky Committees are responsible for implementing the Federal Target Program, 'Conserving the Amur Tiger.' Still there were and still are several other projects conducted by other organizations which currently do not qualify as parts of the Federal Program, but could be approved as such. Each international organization involved in the implementation of the Federal Program should identify a partner organization in Russia. It is very important that the projects are well coordinated between all the Federal Program participants. For this coordination, the State Committee will be advised by a Working Group to identify and prioritize projects for inclusion in the Federal Target Program. The Phoenix Fund is responsible for bringing together an Initiative Group of representatives from organizations in Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai to define goals, objectives and members of the Working Group. The Initiative Group will include:

*Alexander Kulikov*, Khabarovsk Wild Animals Foundation;  
*Anatoliy Astafiev*, Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve;  
*Yuriy Grischuk*, Khabarovsk Krai Forest Service;  
*Sergei Zubtsov*, Department Tiger;  
*Tatyana Aramileva*, Primorsky Krai Game Department;  
*Alexei Prokopenko*, Phoenix Fund;  
*Pavel Fomenko*, WWF.

The Phoenix Fund will create an Amur Tiger Conservation database in English and Russian to be used by local organizations and donors. The English version of the database will be made consistent with and become part of the international database created by London Zoological Society.

A financial agreement will be considered between WWF, the State Environment Committee, the Primorsky and Khabarovsk Territorial Administrations, and such other external funding agencies as may be interested.

The Administrations of Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai will take steps to reduce disturbance of tigers and prey animals by restricting people's presence in the forest. The Forest Service would be responsible for limiting the times when non-timber products can be collected and the amounts that can be collected. The Hunting Management Department would seek to maintain populations of prey animals through appropriate restrictions on hunting seasons and locations.

The London Zoological Society and Phoenix will work with territorial government agencies to save tiger and leopard skins and bones for scientific purposes and for museums, rather than just burning them. This project will include identification of channels to ship seized skins and bones to museums all over the world.

The Environmental Protection Committees in Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai will organize biodiversity conservation press-centers to accumulate information about wildlife conservation issues and make it available to local and international mass media.

During the Meeting the participants worked in Working Groups. For each group at least two coordinators/facilitators were assigned. Each of the groups discussed a part of the Federal Target Program. The main tasks for each group were to discuss the current situation within their part and work out suggestions and outline projects for successful implementation of that part.

# WORKING GROUP MEETINGS MINUTES

## 1. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

*Coordinators: E.Stomatiuk, N.Efimov*

The Working Group exchanged opinions on the development of a system of protected nature reserves in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Krai, and agreed to the following:

- 1.1 **Financial support is needed for the creation of specially protected nature Krai in Primorsky Krai.** These include:  
national parks at Sredneussuriiski, Verkhneussuriiski, and Kema-Amginski; an international park in the Khasan region of Primorye, to be linked in future with adjacent Krai in China; a territorial nature park at Vladivostokski (this project is underway); and an international nature park in the Western part of Primorye together with China (work is being done to provide technical and economic guarantees for the project).
- 1.2 **In Khabarovsky Krai financial support is needed for the following specially protected areas:** a national park called Anuiski (Nanaiski region), a territorial Biological Zakaznik at Hoso (Komsomolski region) (the project is underway); an international park at Strelnikov ridge (Bikinski region) together with neighboring Krai in China (scientific basis and frontiers are being defined); five ecological corridors to connect the existing specially protected natural areas with those that are being developed (organizational and legal documentation is underway); and biological refuges at Mataisky, Pihza, Hoso.
- 1.3 **Provide financial support for a joint working group to establish a legal basis for creating ecological corridors in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Krai.**
- 1.4 **Provide financial support for a working group to change the legal status of the Borisovskoe Plateau refuge** in order to provide better control over economic activities in that refuge. Analyze legal acts of the Russian Federation and draw up recommendations for improving the federal and regional legislation. Consider ways to accomplish administratively what is not yet defined in law.
- 1.5 **Form and finance an international working group represented by Primorsky and Khabarovsky Krai and the international donor organizations** to establish regulations and define mechanisms for providing financial support to the new specially protected Krai, especially for the first years of their existence.
- 1.6 **Assign responsibility** for performing this part of the Federal Target Program to the administrative structures headed by N.N.Efimov in Khabarovsky Krai and to E.S.Stomatiuk in Primorsky Krai.

## 2. SUPPORT OF EXISTING SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

*Coordinators: V. Stepanitsky, A. Astafiev*

- 2.1 **Focus foreign donors' attention** - both governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) - on the following priorities for financing projects:
  - **provide state reserves and other specially protected areas with modern radio communication equipment** as well as special equipment for forest fire-fighting;
  - **maintain specialized anti-poaching brigades (mobile groups);**
  - **train state wildlife inspectors and enhance their professional qualifications;**
  - **monitor BIOTA;** and
  - **support ecological education and awareness programs among local populations.**

- 2.2 Encourage the State Committees for Environmental Protection and the Forest Management Departments of both Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai to strengthen their control over state nature refuges, including limits on the cubic capacity of forest felling.**
- 2.3 Request the Regional Administrations of Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai to:**
- excuse state nature reserves from the road tax;
  - provide financial support to the federal nature reserves and refuges from the regional (Krai) budgets and from non-budget funds.
- 2.4 Significantly increase financial allocations from both federal and regional ecological funds for bio-diversity conservation (including financial support of the Specially Protected Natural Krai of various types and categories).**
- 2.5 Ask Primorsky Krai Governor Y. Nazdratenko and Khabarovsk Krai Governor V. Ishayev to submit a request to the Russian Federal Government and the Russian State Duma to substantially increase financial allocations for federal nature reserves and federal nature refuges from both the federal budget and Federal Ecological Fund.**
- 2.6 Ask the Administration of Primorsky Krai to create a buffer zone around the Ussurisk State Reserve and to continue step-by-step expansion of the Krai of Sikhote-Alin and Lazo Reserves in 2000.**
- 2.7 Ask the Administration of Khabarovsk Krai:**
- to expand the Krai of the Botchinsky State Reserve until it merges with the seashore line, as was agreed in the original project;
- 2.8 To strengthen protection of the endangered Amur leopard and Siberian/Amur tiger and their habitat, it will be necessary to organize a "cluster" state bio-sphere reserve within the boundaries of the existing "Barsovy" federal refuge, "Borisovskoye Plato" regional refuge, and "Kedrovaya Pad" state reserve.**

### **3. FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

*Coordinators: Sergei Kotsubinskiy, Yuriy Grischuk*

**Forests play a very important role in economic development and environmental sustainability both in the world and in the Russian Far East.**

As the main habitat for the Amur Tiger and its prey base, the condition of the forest is key to the survival of the tiger. Therefore, the main activities of Forest Service brigades are directed toward forest protection and reforestation. Several projects require funding to be implemented:

- 3.1 The Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai Forest Service are currently creating 45 brigades of 3-4 rangers to patrol the forest.** To make those groups more effective, there is a need to purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle for each brigade (Russian UAZ would do) and 2 jeeps, one for each Krai head group. There is also a need for mobile radio stations, including 100 walkie-talkies and 47 vehicle-based radios to provide communications between the brigades, their bases, and aircraft. The rangers will need 300 weapons for law enforcement activities.

- 3.2 **In 1999, forest fires ravaged large sections of Khabarovsk Krai**, including four areas of Amur Tiger habitat. Funds are needed for fuel and maintenance of aircraft to monitor and suppress forest fires.
- 3.3 In the aftermath of the fires, **funds are needed for reforestation of Korean pines in an area of 1,730 hectares.**
- 3.4 **Forest regulations stipulate creation of small-forested protected areas in all types of forests with a restricted forest usage regime.** To protect ungulates and therefore Amur Tigers, ungulate densities need to be determined during the winter season. Two working groups are needed, one in Primorsky and one in Khabarovsk Krai, to identify the areas to be protected, and to prepare documents. Additional sources of funding will be needed as long as these activities are not included in the Forest Service budget.
- 3.5 **Currently the most widely distributed forest conservation awareness projects include signs, flyers, wall calendars, and mass media publications.** In addition to these approaches, it is imperative to draw on the successful experiences of Western countries and to introduce new methods. Programs like "Smokey the Bear" are of great interest, but their implementation would need both financial and informational support.

#### **4. HUNTING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

*Coordinators: N. Balaganski, T. Aramileva*

The main part of the Amur tiger habitat is located in the areas that are used by people for different reasons. It is critical for tiger survival to maintain a certain number of ungulates the main prey for tigers. It is very important that Hunting Departments manage the ungulates population and hunters are economically interested in careful usage of ungulates and tiger conservation.

Working Group made the following recommendations:

- 4.1 **Organize a competition among the hunting leaseholders** for the best tiger and ungulates conservationists.
- 4.2 **Provide good data bases on which to manage populations** and to prove or disapprove reductions in hunting animals. Do a census of ungulates, to be carried out by independent agencies such as HRM Institutes, not by hunting leaseholders. Support research on defining prey capacity and standard density of ungulates in the Amur tiger areas.
- 4.3 **Work out and implement a training program in hunting resource management for hunting specialists.**
- 4.4 **Support research on identifying the food intake levels required for ungulates** and the optimum population levels for ungulates.
- 4.5 **Set up a rescue fund for helping wild ungulates under extreme weather conditions and lack of food.**
- 4.6 **Ask the federal government to include in the budget the money to pay for the environmental impact assessment** to decide how many animals can be hunted.
- 4.7 **For leaseholders to find it beneficial to have tigers present on their leases** develop a market for tourism through investment in infrastructure and advertising.
- 4.8 **Set up grazing lands for ungulates**, perhaps in small refuges or zakazniks, to draw tigers from hunting lease areas.



## **5. ANTI-POACHING PROGRAMS**

*Coordinators: P.Fomenko, O. Gunin, V. Shetinin*

- 5.1 **Ask GSN and WWF to keep financial support of the existing anti-poaching brigades in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Krai.**
- 5.2 **Ask the Federal Government of Russia to start providing money stated in the Federal Target Program for anti-poaching and tiger habitat protection.**
- 5.3 **Provide for financial remuneration for "public" inspectors** who take an active part in bringing to light and preventing ecological violations.
- 5.4 **Ask the Game Department in the Ministry of Agriculture to increase the number of "state hunting inspectors" positions** in local Raions in both Primorsky and Khabarovsky Game Departments.

Ask the deputies of the Russian Federation State Duma from Primorsky and Khabarovsky Krai, and leaders from the State Committee for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Forest Management Department (ROSLESKHOZ), and WWF-Russia Office to assist in raising the status of wildlife inspectors through changes to Russian legislation. Changes are needed to:

1. ensure the right to search persons as well as vehicles;
  2. endow the inspectors with interrogation organs powers;
  3. establish responsibilities for the keeping and transporting of Red Book of Russia and CITES endangered species;
  4. provide guarantees in case wildlife inspectors get wounded, become physically disabled, or get killed (similar to the law on MILITIA).
- 5.5 Work out mechanisms among the federal and territorial entities of the State Committees for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Forest Management (ROSLESKHOZ), with participation of GSN and WWF, for integrating the field inspection groups in Primorsky and Khabarovsky Krai (if necessary, write an agreement between the federal executive authorities and/or between their territorial sub-entities). The purpose of these joint agreements would be to:
1. increase effectiveness of inspection patrols;
  2. maximize use of different departments' experience and power;
  3. make most effective use of governmental and non-governmental funds;
  4. more equally distribute funds between various departments;
  5. work out and implement joint programs for training wildlife patrol inspectors

## **6. ANTI-SMUGGLING PROGRAMS/EXPORT CONTROLS**

*Coordinators: S. Lyapustin, S. Galster*

- 6.1 **Strengthen legislation** or regulation to allow for more effective enforcement of anti smuggling programs, especially to authorize seizure of tiger products within Russia (current law only allows seizures of imports or exports at the border), and to impose penalties.
- 6.2 **Fund education and training of customs officers** through provision of training manuals, videos and visual aids, workshops, and international contacts with customs professionals.
- 6.3 **Provide financial incentives and other forms of recognition** for good performance, including publication in the media of positive achievements, and awards from higher levels of government.
- 6.4 **Help develop effective propaganda for use against smugglers.**
- 6.5 **Hold a preliminary meeting of customs officers** with NGO participation to consider issues for the TRAFFIC sponsored meeting in July 1999.

## **7. MONITORING POPULATIONS OF AMUR TIGERS AND THEIR PREY**

*Coordinator: D. Pikunov*

Monitoring the population of Amur tigers is one of the most important activities within the Federal Target Program. It gives statistical precision to evaluations of the status of the tiger population, and provides a basis for judging the effectiveness of tiger conservation programs. The Working Group recommends the following projects:

- 7.1 **Carry out another full survey count of tigers** to compare the current status with the population survey of 1996.
- 7.2 **Carry out a survey of the prey base.**
- 7.3 **Conduct a study of the boundaries of tiger range** every year to determine the dynamics of the frontiers of tiger habitat.
- 7.4 **Conduct a statistically verified analysis of all cases of deaths of tigers** (including death when shot by poachers).
- 7.5 **Do a study of the reproductive status of tigers**, showing where and how many cubs are produced. The study would rely on local people's reports as well as population surveys.
- 7.6 **Ask the Environmental Protection Committee to establish methods of the Amur tiger counts** and establish a regulation to conduct an overall tiger census every 10 years and annual tiger counts in model areas, paying attention to the dynamics of the habitat in the peripheral areas.

## **8. IDENTIFICATION AND MONITORING OF HABITAT**

*Coordinators: Y. Dunishenko, D. Miquelle*

- 8.1 **Primorsky Krai will bring together representatives of the hunting and forest management departments with the Institute of Geography and WWF** to assess the situation and develop proposals for habitat monitoring. Khabarovsk region is already receiving funding from the Rhino-Tiger Fund for this purpose.
- 8.2 **Using satellite imagery, assess habitat loss within known tiger range.** Identify available habitat in boundary regions of China.
- 8.3 **Use information from the next tiger population survey, especially regarding reproductive status of tigers, to identify core habitats and areas that require protection.**

## **9. COEXISTENCE OF TIGERS AND PEOPLE**

*Coordinators: G. Kolonin, V. Schetinina, Y. Dunishenko*

Conflicts between humans and tigers could undermine efforts to conserve Amur tigers. To encourage coexistence of tigers and people and to minimize conflicts, the following projects within the Federal Target Program need to be supported:

- 9.1 **Creation of mobile response teams** to react immediately to every report of tiger attacks on livestock or people. These teams within the Primorsky and Khabarovsk State Committees for Environmental Protection would investigate and resolve the conflict situations between people and tigers.
- 9.2 **Creation of a fund to finance investigations** and to provide training for team members in techniques of scaring, sedation and removal of problem tigers. The fund would also provide necessary vehicles and equipment to ensure rapid response.

9.3 **Training and materials for mobile response teams, anti-poaching teams, forest rangers, and nature reserve personnel** to carry out education programs in local communities. These programs would teach people basic rules of behavior when entering tiger habitat and include methods and ways of scaring tigers away (dissemination of Save The Tiger Society experience).

9.4 **Gain support for development of new methods and ways of scaring tigers away from settlements and farms.**

9.5 **Creation of a fund to compensate local community members for economic losses when livestock or people are attacked by tigers.** Although external donors can help establish emergency funds for this purpose, in the longer term this source cannot be relied upon and other methods, such as insurance pools, may be needed.

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

*Coordinators: O. Kabalik, N. Kazakov*

The Working Group recognized the need to change ecological awareness in order to reduce poaching of tigers. The Group identified the following problems in the area of environmental education according to their priority: **(1) the difficult economic situation; (2) the lack of a comprehensive approach to environmental education; (3) the lack of educational materials based on the biodiversity of the local region; (4) the lack of understanding among leaders of organizations about the importance of environmental education; (5) the lack of coordination between organizations involved in environmental education; and (6) the lack of accepted methods for teaching environmental education.**

The following **target groups** should be the highest priority for environmental education programs, in descending order: **(1) journalists; (2) representatives of local administrations; (3) managers and directors of enterprises and organizations; (4) political parties; (5) hunters, farmers and foresters; (6) local communities; (7) teachers; and (8) children.**

Based on the above, the Environmental Education/Awareness Working Group suggested the following projects:

### **10.1 "Amur Tiger and Its Habitat Conservation" curriculum for primary schools.**

Continuation of this WWF program involves printing of books for teachers and students, conducting a series of seminars for school and kindergarten teachers, testing and integration into school curriculums, and integration of the method into the Teacher Retraining Institute program. The cost of the project is \$100,000.

**10.2 K-12 and University Primorsky Biodiversity Education Program.** This project is a locally adapted program on biology, ecology and wildlife conservation for schools of Primorsky Krai. The program is intended for teachers of children from 4 till 17, but could be used for all ages. Currently the program is being developed by teachers from the Teacher Retraining Institute, Far Eastern State University, schools of Vladivostok, the Primorsky Krai Education Department, the Environmental Protection Committee, scientists from 6 different research institutes, and NGOs. The preparation and implementation of the program will take 4 steps in 5 years. The first step is to create a pilot program for 1,000 students 8-11 years old in 10 different schools of Primorsky Krai. The cost of the first step is \$52,000. Part of this sum will be covered by the Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Committee, and the Ecological Foundation of Primorsky Krai.



## PRESS RELEASE

An International Working Meeting on Implementing the Federal Target Program "Conservation of the Amur Tiger" was held in Vladivostok, Russia from the 9th to the 11th of April.

The meeting was organized by the State Committee for Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation (Moscow), Phoenix Fund (Vladivostok), Global Survival Network (Washington D.C.), and the World, Wide Fund for Nature (Russia).

Sponsors of the meeting were USAID, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) (New York), Worldwide Fund for Nature (Russia), Worldwide Fund for Nature (USA).

Participants included administrators of the Russian Federal Government Responsible for wildlife conservation, forest protection, and customs service, representatives of Primorsky and Khabarovsky regional governments, nature reserve directors, representatives of the international donor community, and Russian and foreign representatives of nature conservation organizations.

Over the course of the conference the participants discussed ways to implement the Federal Target Program and its components. The most important issues concerning the conservation of the Amur tiger in Primorsky and Khabarovsky regions were outlined: The role, support, and development of the system of specially protected areas; Managing hunting resources; Managing forest resources; Anti-poaching activities; Control over exports/fighting smugglers; Monitoring the population of the Amur tiger, its habitat and prey base; Programs on ecological education.

Potential sponsors of tiger conservation programs were present at every working session - representatives of the World Bank, USAID, Federal Ecological Fund (Russia), Global Survival Network (USA), Tiger and Rhino fund (USA), Save the Tiger Fund (USA), WWF (Russia, UK, USA), London Zoological Society(UK), Wildlife Conservation Society(USA), Hornocker Wildlife Institute (USA), IUCN (Switzerland), Tiger Network (USA).

The working group meetings identified project priorities and funding requirements for consideration by potential sponsors.

At the end of the meeting the sponsors discussed the functions and goals of their foundations and organizations and explained the procedures for applying for grants. They had a very positive opinion of the projects that were submitted by the conference participants and emphasized their commitment to supporting the Federal Target Program. They did not address which projects will be financed by the international sponsors, and which projects will be financed from the Russian budget.

One of the most important results of the working meeting was the decision to create a working group of experts consisting of scientists and specialists on various aspects of conservation of the Amur tiger. The main task of this group will be to make a list of project suggestions and coordinate the work of organizations involved in implementing the Federal Target Program.

All meeting participants evaluated considered the establishment of a working group as a positive step in addressing the conservation needs of the Amur tiger.

All questions should be addressed to Phoenix Fund