



Photo Story

Welcome Tiger Back Home Snow Sculpture Competition

The competition

This december, Changchun experienced the coldest winter in 21st centry.

December 21, 8 o'clock in the morning the temprature was – 20 C° .

In Jingyuetan National Forest Park, the lake is frozen, the land is covered with snow and the forest is silent.

Three snow sculpture teams already arrived a piece of open land in the forest. They begun to survey the field, measure the snow pile and take out the mud model with the real situation. The teams would finish three sculptures of tiger family, cartoon tiger and bear in the water respectively one week later.

Later, seven volunteers came to the venus. They were students from Changchun Technology University and Jilin Aguriculture University. They came here to provide help for the snow sculpture teams. Wang Xingyu, one of the volunteees, said:”I am very proud that I can participate this activity. I would like to do anything to help protect Amur tiger and its habitat.”

Prof Chen Jianxun, from Beihuan University, was the technical supervisor of the competition. He said, “I come here in order to make more people know the beauty of nature, the wonder of wild. More people would support WWF’s tiger conservation in their homeland if they understand that the nature and all wildlife is so amazing.”

Snow sculpture is a traditional entertainment in northeast China. It is the first time in China that an international conservation orgnization held a snow sculpture competetion themed with conservation.

The year of tiger is coming. Tiger conservation, again, is becoming a hot topic among the general public. WWF expected to take this



Highligt in the snow land
©WWF-China

opportunity to improve tiger conservation in China.

The highlight in Snow Festival



January 2, the new year came. But the cold weather still stay. – 23 C ° could not prevent people's passion to the snow.

Chuangchun Snow Festival was launched in Jingyuetan National Forest Park on that day. People from more than 30 countries came to participate the opening.

The people suprisingly found that there were many animals in the forest. Of couse, they were not real. They were the snow sculptures from WWF Welcome Tiger Back Home Snow Sculpture Competition, august tiger family, cute wild boar with Chinse elements, gentler sikar deer, strong red deer and bear in the water. They became the highlight of the opening.

"Look at the pig, it's so cute!" a little girl with red face was crying to her parents. "Wow, its teeth are so long. So strange!"

"It's not pig. It is wild boar. They are living in Changbaishan mountain," the WWF volunteer standing by the sculpture explained to the girl. "it's a new year gift from WWF. Is it lovely?"

"Yes!"

"Then should we protect them?"

"Of couse," the girl replied happiely.

A group of soldiers came to the sculptures. They were attracted by the tiger painted on the snow wall. " We are forest armed police. Protecting tiger is our work," a young soldier was very exciting when he read WWF brochure.



The masterpiece
©WWF-Mongolia

Tiger and environment conservation gradually became a hot topic in the cold snow land.

Postscript



Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

Only one month later (February 14, 2010), the Chinese year of tiger will come, which gives WWF and its local partner in northeast China a great opportunity to welcome tiger back home. All of the people know that it is the best, maybe the last, chance to take immediate and effective action for Amur tiger, the miracle of wild.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Dunhua Forestry Bureau Certified FSC

With WWF’s support, Duanhua Forestry Bureau obtained FSC certification on October 16, 2009, which means a piece of potential tiger habitat would be under better management. It also would promote sustainable economic development in local area.



The Snow Sculpture Team
 ©WWF-China

Dunhua Forestry Bureau was established in 1958. It is a large scale forestry enterprise with forest plantation, timber production, forestry industry as well as many social functions. It has 13 forestry farms and 91% of its 237,400 hectare area is covered by forest.

“The traditional model of forestry management is not adaptive to the need of bio-diversity conservation and sustainable development. Dunhua Forestry Bureau would like to take the historic and social responsibility to maintain national, even global bio-security. Supported by WWF, we cooperated with research institutions and international certification organization and successfully passed FSC examination,” said Mr. Li Jingbo, the head of Dunhua Forestry Bureau.

Dunhua Forestry Bureau submitted FSC application in September 2008. WWF started to help this forestry enterprise from April 2009 by providing financial and technical supports. During the applying procedure, WWF organized two workshops to improve the forestry bureau’s forest management plan and develop HCVF (high conservation value forest) Assessment & Management Plan.

“Dunhua Forestry Bureau is connected with Wangjing Forestry Buearu. It is a part of the Great Changbai Mountains and a very potential habitat for Amur tiger,” said Mr Hou Baisen, Forestry Officer from WWF Changchun Office.

Winter Patrolling Launched in Tiger Habitat



WWF Russia

WWF Mongolia Programme Office

WWF China Programme Office

Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter

Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

November 3 2009, Mr Barney Long, Senior Species Office of WWF US, arrived in Changchun. He would participate the first winter patrolling in Dahuanggou, the first WWF pilot site in of Amur tiger habitat in northeast China.

During the first two days, Barney helped Changchun Office to improve patrolling plan and methodology. He gave a lot of constructive suggestion to Changchun colleagues. Finally, the improved patrolling plan was clarified that the length and the number of troupe of patrolling in November were 45 km and 2 troupes.

November 5, Barney joined the field working team, including Hou Baisen, Zhangchangzhi, Sun Ge, Peng Jianyu and Bi Tao for the WWF's winter patrolling in Dahuanggou.

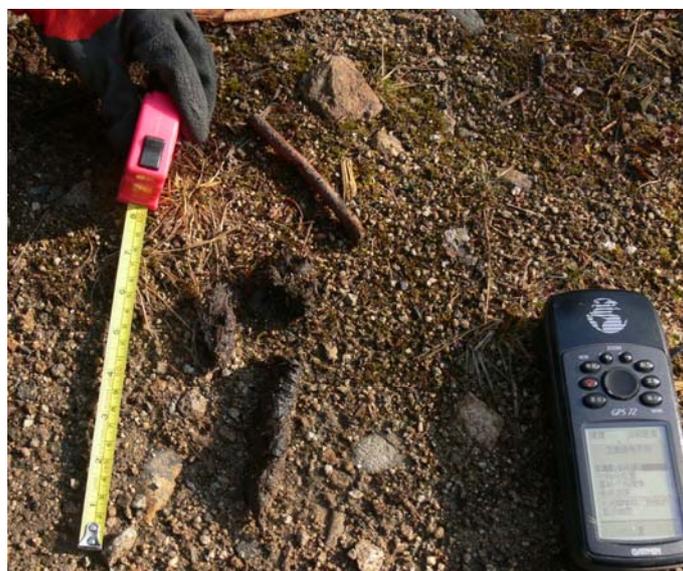
On the way to Dahuanggou, Barney told his Changchun colleagues that he did a lot tiger conservation work in southeast Asia and had ever encountered tiger within 20 meter in Indonesia.

When they drove close to Dahuanggou, a leopard cat suddenly leaped up and crossed the road. Because of high density of human activity in China, it is not easy to see a wild animal in day time. It was a good start!

After one day exchange with the forest farm and physical resuming, the patrolling was launched by the joint team of WWF staff and Dahuanggou rangers in November 7. The team climbed up along the slope in the morning. They found a lot of footprints of roe deer, rabbit, stoat, squirrel and grouse. When the rangers struggled in the bush and heavy snow, *Sitta europaea* was turning around the trunk, *Parus montanus* was eating shoots on the crown, Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus* was showing off its pink feather among branches, a group of thrush were finding food on the ground, Common Buzzard was hovering in the sky... the forest was showing its vitality under the warm sunshine. When they reached the ridge at



Barney (right) and Hou Baishen (left)
©WWF-China



The Soil of Leopard Cat
©WWF-China



Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

1,700 m altitude, they found some soil of red deer. A big finding! Red deer is the favorite food for Amur tiger. So it is an important indicator for tiger habitat.

This is just a snatch of winter survey jointly carried out by WWF and its local partners, say, Dahuanggou, Nuanquanhe and Dongning forest farms in Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces respectively. In the next 4 month, WWF and its local partners would carry out a series of winter patrolling. Let's wait for more exciting findings and stories.

Tiger Monitoring

On December 15, the Amur tiger monitoring started. WWF-Russia provides bulk financing of the survey and leads field work on some monitoring plots (there are 16 plots in total in Primorskii and Khabarovskii Provinces). The task of field workers is to fix all encountered tiger prints, measure them, and define their "age". They need to collect maximum information about tigers especially about predators' litters roaming the unit's territory and adjacent areas. It is also very important to register all day-old prints made by wild ungulates along the route as ungulates are the basic prey for tigers in winter. Not less important is to collect information about the condition of tiger habitats like existing and former logging sites, roads, forest fires, poaching, as all these factors influence tiger survival in harsh environment of the Russian Far East.

For four days in the field within Sinyaya monitoring unit and in close vicinity to it, field workers including WWF staff found ten tigers' crossings and - what is most impressive - paw prints of a female tiger with "teen-aged cub". Now it is not the time to speak about the exact number of tigers; full data will be received in February after the second stage of monitoring is finished.

Major funds for the field work are provided by WWF Russia. The special thing about this year's tiger monitoring is direct help and control over the process from governmental agencies responsible for tiger status in Russia, namely Hunting Departments of Primorskii and Khabarovskii Provinces, special inspection "Tiger", Federal Service for supervision over natural resources exploitation.

Introduction on Anti-poaching Unit "IRVES 5"



One of game wardens measures tiger print during tiger monitoring.
© WWF-Russia / P. Fomenko



Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

An anti-poaching unit “IRVES 5” was established in 2008 in accordance with the cooperation agreement between WWF Mongolia Country Office and State Supervision Inspectorate Agency in order to inspect, reveal/arrest and eliminate illegal hunting and environmental violations as well as to ensure adequate environmental law enforcement within its target areas. Since its establishment, the anti-poaching unit “IRVES 5” has been dealing with the inspection, reduction, and elimination of environmental violations and crimes and mobilization of local communities into conservation activities throughout Onon river basin. Within the framework of reduction and elimination of illegal hunting and trade of endangered species e.g. taimen, the anti-poaching unit deals with the inspection over illegal hunting and trade of rare and endangered wildlife species e.g. musk deer, bear, roe deer, Mongolian gazelle, and marmot.



IRVES 5
©WWF-Mongolia

One of specific features of “IRVES 5” unit performances is to carry out its activities within border and border strips. Thus, it closely cooperates with military frontier unit staff or officers, soum police officers and representatives, and State environmental inspectors within its target areas.

In addition to the inspection over illegal hunting and trade of wildlife species and other environmental violations and crimes, the “IRVES 5” unit also focuses on increased quality of information shared through mutual confidence and trust building among informants, military frontier and intelligence unit staff members, rangers, environmentalists, and local communities. As a result of close

cooperation among local communities and stakeholders, the information on environmental violations and crimes is immediately shared and illegal actors or violators are immediately arrested. For instance, it was informed about the Chinese people, who fished at Kherlen river and made oil in unhealthy conditions having used chemicals. The Chinese were removed from the area, but later they moved to and re-opened their business in other part of Dornod aimag. This was immediately informed to respective officers in Dornod aimag and responses to stop their actions were undertaken.

Military frontier unit and eastern regional office of WWF Mongolia Country Office made cooperation agreement on adequate border and border strip regime and environmental law enforcement. Under the cooperation agreement, they carry out joint patrolling and inspections and organize awareness activities for local communities and respective target groups.

Since its establishment, the anti-poaching unit “IRVES 5” has arrested 13 cases of illegal actions and imposed totally MNT 18 millions as fines to violators and offenders. For instance, illegal actions e.g. seven cases related to Saker falcon, eight cases related to Taimen, 500 cases related to Pallas’ sandgrouse, 40 cases related to marmot, four cases related to Red deer, 12 cases related to Roe deer, two cases related to bear claws, and five cases related to Mongolian gazelle were revealed and



Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

liabilities/fines and penalties were imposed to violators and offenders. Additionally, the anti-poaching unit revealed illegal actions e.g. mining operations, mining areas without rehabilitation, and illegal timbering within the State border and border strips.

In order to increase participation of local communities particularly herders in anti-poaching activities and expand anti-poaching activities, it needs to strengthen cooperation with volunteer and partnering groups and improve public awareness and advocacy.

Hand-in-hand for Tiger

On October, 29 in Vladivostok an Agreement on Cooperation on tiger and leopard conservation was signed between China and Russia. From the Chinese side it was signed by Jilin Forestry Department, from Russia – Hunting Department of Primorskii Province, Federal Service for Natural Resources Exploitation, and Special Inspection “Tiger”. This is the first agreement of such high level between Jilin Province and governmental structures of Primorye responsible for these species conservation. It gives a real chance to restore tiger to Changbaishan, its historical range. Jilin Province borders on southwestern Primorye where remaining 30 leopards live. About 20 tigers roam the area periodically displacing from Russia to China and back.

One of the Agreement’s sections envisions that the two sides contribute to creation of a transboundary reserve to include federal refuge Leopardovyi from the Russian side, and Hunchun reserve from China. In mid January two WWF specialist visit China to participate in tiger monitoring in near-border areas and exchange available experience.

First FSC-certified Wood from the Russian Far East Comes to European Market

A ship with wood products certified under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards was sent from the port of Vanino to Germany by ARKAIM Ltd. Timber Company, one of the largest timber companies in the Russian Far East based in Khabarovsk Province.

WWF believes that the possibility of the direct shipments of certified wood to the environmentally sensitive markets of developed countries will become a new motivation for the development of the environmentally friendly forest management in the Russian Far East.

ARKAIM Ltd. received FSC certificate on the forest management and the “chain-of-custody” in September 2009, and became the third Far Eastern timber company, after “Terneyles” and “Primorskii GOK”, certified under FSC standards. Total area of ARKAIM’s certified leased areas equals 1,1 million hectares thus increasing the area of certified forests in the Russian Far East up to 2,5 million hectares.



Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

WWF considers the certification of ARKAIM and certified wood shipment to Europe as logical steps of pragmatic policy of the company, oriented to the development of profound processing of the harvested wood.

The Cooperation Agreement between WWF-Russia and ARKAIM was signed July, 2009. Among its provisions are delineation and conservation of HCVF, rare and endangered species habitat protection, introduction of measures to reduce negative impact from logging operations and other activities.

Scoring of Ecological Responsibility among Users of Game Resources in Primorye

On December 31, an Agreement on cooperation on the above topic was signed between WWF and Primorskii Province Hunting Department, and approved by Mr. Popov, vice-governor of Primorye.

Main purpose of the work is to promote sustainable use of game resources. One of the tasks is to determine ecologically responsible, socially oriented and economically stable users. To participate in the scoring a game user should fill out the questionnaire and be ready to receive independent experts who might come to verify submitted data and discuss perspectives for collaboration in sustainable game management. Those users who receive lowest rates will go through unscheduled audit. The scoring will be conducted in cooperation with Primorskii Province Society of hunters and fishermen.

Year of Tiger



Tiger visits a kindergarten
 © WWF-Russia

In December, Tiger Campaign started in the Russian Far East. WWF's idea was enthusiastically accepted by 15 nature reserves and 3 national parks located in the south RFE, the exact area where the Amur tiger roams. Together with these PAs WWF has developed integrated action plan dedicated to the Year of Tiger. The goal of the joint actions is to form positive attitude of local people towards the rarest predator and save its home. All activities within the campaign will be done in cooperation with governmental, business and grassroots organizations, agencies responsible for nature conservation, kids and youth, mass media of federal and local level.

Among "tiger activities" there are different kids' creativity contests and competitions, contests among nature

reserves, teachers and students.



WWF Russia

WWF Mongolia Programme Office

WWF China Programme Office

Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

Tiger Marathon will be the final event of the campaign. Symbolic plush tiger toy together with winners of contests will visit all PAs and finishes its relay in Vladivostok, at international Tiger Summit.

Other Information

FSC Survey Trip in Jilin and Heilongjiang

Richard, the FSC Consultant, took a 4-day survey trip in Jilin and Heilongjiang with Hou Baisen, the Forestry Office of WWF Changchun Office from December 18 to 21, 2009.

In Hunchun, Jilin province, the visitors discussed with local forestry officials about forest management standard, the distribution of high conservation value forest (HCVF) as well as the management and monitoring of HCVF. They specially exchanged information on the judgment of Amur tiger habitat. For example, Hunchun nature reserve, through 5- year consecutive monitoring data, would like to recognize a place as important tiger habitat where tiger appears more than two years.

In Muling, Heilongjiang province, Richard and Hou Baisen met Mr Shi Fengming, the Director of Muling Forestry Bureau and the working team for FSC application. Richard introduced the procedure of HCVF judgment, including primary judgment, stakeholder participation, drafting report, workshop with expertise and adjustment of management plan. They also discussed on the judgment of animal habitat and conservational management.

After this trip, Richard highly appreciated WWF's FSC promotion work in northeast China, "WWF did a lot of work on HCVF here, which means one of the most important forest in the world is under good management."

Communities in Onon River Basin Prefer Co-management

Training on co-management was organized. Its main purpose was to train local communities particularly herders in how to join herder communities for protection of their inhabiting areas and their natural resources. Main focus was given to active participation of local communities in herder communities.

Using participatory methods, we organized a workshop on reporting 2009 yearly operations and planning for 2010 for environmental groups/communities in Onon river basin. The workshop was attended by leaders of environmental groups/ herder communities in Dadal, Binder, Bayan-adraga, Norovlin, Binder, and Batshireet of Khentii aimag and Bayan-Uul soum of Dornod aimag. In addition to this workshop, participatory training on establishment and running of community based organizations was organized for leaders of environmental groups/communities and Soum/Bag Citizen's Representative Khurals (CRKh) Heads and Bag Governors. Training was organised to provide



attendees with clear understanding on how beneficial to local communities if they cooperate in protection of natural resources within their areas. These two trainings were attended by over 200 individuals.

Overall appraisal and conclusion of herder communities operating at local areas: at the moment, local communities residing Onon river basin are willing to learn about the concept of herder communities and to join community based groups. However, the herder communities already established at local areas vary in their development or mature. For instance, most or 49 herder communities are at their beginning stages, while 14 herder communities have already submitted their requests on land to protect to their Soum CRKh for consideration/approval. However, there are seven herder communities matured. Project members expresss that they will continue the activities that focus on efficient participation of local communities and heders in establishment and running of herder communities.

If Buffer Zone Council Is Established

Training on PAs and their natural resource management, PA Buffer Zone Councils and their roles, management, and strenthening of Buffer Zone Councils was organized for project implementers, PA administration staff members, authorities of the Soums within PA buffer zones, and members of Buffer Zone Councils in Onon river basin.

Training was organized for the Soum CRKh Heads, Governors, Presiduems, members and newly established Buffer Zone Council members of Protected Areas in Onon river basin e.g. Khan Khentii SPA and Onon Balj NCP.

As Buffer Zone Councils are established and empowered, the disputes and conflicts raised among river basin natural resource users will be appropriately solved by co-management approaches.



A Study Tour to Sohond Strictly Protected Area

Specialists of Onon Balj National Park administration had a study tour to Sohond Strictly Protected Area (SPA), trans-boundary Protected Area that covers Dadal and Norovlin soums of Khentii aimag, Bayan-Uul of Dornod aimag, border port 'Ulikhan', Kira district of Russia, and Aguzakan cordon of Sohond SPA for a week starting from 09 November, 2009. Sohond SPA was established in 1973. Director of the SPA administration is Mr. V. I. Yashnov. The SPA lies in mountainous areas of permanent snow-caped Sohondo, a part of



Study Tour to PA
©WWF-Mongolia



Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

highland areas of Khentii-Chikoi Mountain in the southern part of Uvur Baikhal and Kira district of Chit province. The SPA was listed in the World Biosphere Reserve in 1985.

Main purpose of study tour was to deepen and expand cooperation with Russian Sohond SPA, make contributions in establishment of trans-boundary PA, and share experiences in conservation, monitoring, research, and public awareness that are conducted within Sohond SPA through paying ground visit to the PA.

Considerable experiences particularly in public awareness activities, research and monitoring and use of technical equipment and tools, research methodologies were shared during the study tour. For instance, study tour participants were presented with bio-technical measures, observations, overnight and observation shelters, use of transport, telecommunication and self defence means, arrests of illegal actions and offenders, compensations of damages, and working with school aged children, eco-clubs and their operations, and training materials and manuals.

Leopard's "Family" Grows

WWF-Russia is happy to share excellent news: on November 16, in the southwest Primorye two Far Eastern leopard females and three cubs were registered!

Being in an anti-poaching raid in the upper reaches of the Amba River, rangers came across paw prints of the rarest cat of the Globe – a leopard female with a cub.

This very day, not far from the village of Sukhanovka drivers noticed leopard female accompanied by two cubs with shoulder height of about 50 cm.

Such encounters inspire us with optimism — if leopards breed then the situation is not that bad and there is a real hope to sustain its population in the wild, 33 vehicles inspected. Right away, interagency group for protection of Leopardovyi Refuge has taken enhanced control over leopard's litters habitats. WWF and Phoenix Fund provide financial and technical support for the group's activities.

The time Is Ripe to Enlist Korean Pine into Red Data Book of Primorye

Primorskii Province deputies approached Interagency Commission on Rare and Endangered Flora and Fauna Species with the initiative to include "bread-giving" tree of the Ussuri taiga into the Red Data Book of Primorye. WWF finds the idea to be very timely and offer Primorye Administration to support the initiative. This would be the best present for a tiger in commemoration of the Year of Tiger. During a heated discussion, one of the deputies was very crisp saying that they should take revolutionary decision towards the tree, that they there were no time to wait another 3-5 years.



WWF Russia

WWF Mongolia Programme Office

WWF China Programme Office

Amur/Heilong Eco-region Complex Newsletter

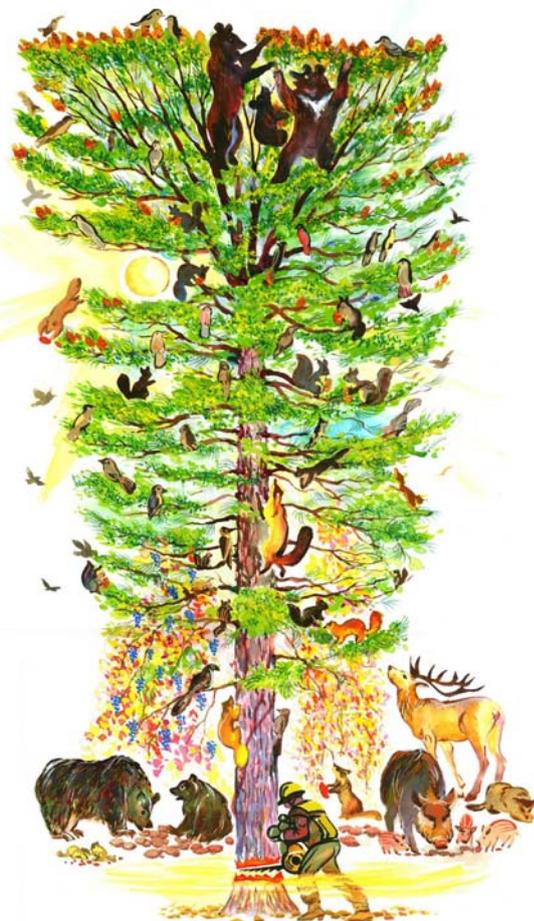
Issue 14, Oct to Dec 2009

This idea was already supported in 2007 by 20 000 Far Eastern citizens who send their post cards to the President of Russia asking to protect Korean pine stands from destruction.

Days of the Amur River will be conducted including cleaning up of rivers and lakes, banks, festivals, exhibitions, other outreach. We consider it a mini victory but on the level of the entire Amur River basin.

In December, a meeting on Oriental stork took place in Khabarovsk. Results of the rare bird census in PAs were summed up and the effect of the "Nests' Keepers" program discussed. Participants of the meeting made a decision to create an integrated data base of Oriental stork nests.

Yurii Darman was appointed as a head of Community Council at the Federal Service for Supervision over Natural Resources Exploitation that supervises the whole Far Eastern Federal District.



**We wish Korean Pine to be Red Data Book species.
Picture by G. Pavlishin**