



ACHIEVEMENTS

Community involvement event at the Onon-Balj National Park

Friday of July 31 was the day with full of events at the Onon-Balj National Park. Numerous awareness and cultural events were organized among communities as well as children within objectives to encourage more caring and responsible attitude to environment, to enhance community involvement on conservation activities and strengthen conservation sustainability.

Hot discussion was conducted under the theme “Our contribution to conservation of Onon-Balj National Park” among the local governors and communities to express and share their views and ideas.

Not only adults were involved, but also children expressed their opinions by drawings as one of the side events.



Community involvement
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One of the most attractive events was a ceremony to lay a local museum foundation. The museum will introduce and promote cultural and historical heritage of ethnic people such as Buriad, Khamnigan, Songool and Khalkh and revive environmental traditions of locals. It is located next to the Information Centre of Onon-Balj National Park. So far 10 museum objects are donated by local people and the border defense army.

“Community involvement is the priority, thus we should focus on establishing close cooperation with local people to achieve high conservation results” says the field office team.

Long life to you, Bikin River!

The festival “The Day of Bikin”, devoted to the International Day of Indigenous people, and the workshop on traditional forms of activities of indigenous communities were conducted on 7-9 August in Krasny Yar settlement.

Over 40 people became participants of the workshop to exchange experience — and Krasny Yar locals had many things to show and to share. Embroidery with national ornament made with threads and beads, souvenirs, national dresses, fur house shoes, necklaces made of fish bones, wood carving and things of tree



WWF on the International Day of
 Indigenous People
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bark.

After the workshop the festival began. The number of visitors in Krasny Yar reached several hundreds. The dance bands in national costumes came up to the stage.

Ivan Dunkai, the famous artist of Primorskii Province, Nanai by origin, born in this village, has brought the exhibition of his own painting.

The shaman ritual to cheer up the spirits and ask for their permission for the holiday is already a tradition of the festival. At the long dinner table the hosts and the guests - Udege, Nanai, Ulchi and Russians - had gathered together. They shared the joy of the nature being so generous in its gifts and love. The most important thing is not to forget giving back as much as you have taken, and the equilibrium will be maintained.

Tiger bus in Changchun



Tiger bus
©WWF-China

Mr. Wang, a citizen of Changchun City, was waiting for No. 306 bus on Ren Min Street as usual on September 10. He surprisingly found that this bus was so different. A highlighted label of “Wild Amur Tiger Conservation Bus” was printed on the outside of the wagon. When he got on the bus, he saw the billboard with the knowledge of wild Amur tiger.

This is the first theme bus of tiger conservation in China, which was cooperated by Chuangchun Nantong Bus Company and the volunteers of WWF 2009 Green Ambassador Campaign. WWF hopes that it would help the citizens understand the current situation of Amur tiger

in China as well as the law and regulation of tiger conservation issued by the government. The people can also know some historic stories and traditional culture related with tiger.

“It is so innovative. We can know many things about tiger and also realize that we can do a lot of things to help protect tiger even at home, such as resist to buy tiger products, save a piece of paper and not use disposable chopstick.”

From the statistics, one 306 bus carries more than 1,000 passengers per day. It is estimated that more than 30,000 person-time can see this call for Amur tiger conservation.



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“Currently, there are only less than 20 wild Amur tigers in the northeast area of China. WWF’s strength is so limited. We need everyone of us take part in the campaign of conservation to keep a living planet for our children and their children,” Mr. Lou Jia, the head of WWF Changchun Office, said.

Summer M&P conducted in Dahuanggou FF

WWF conducted summer monitoring and patrol (M&P) in Dahuanggou forest farm from August 18 to 24, 2009.

Prof Liu Weishi, from Northeast Forestry University, led a 4-person team, including 2 staff from WWF Changchun Office, to conduct this M&P.

With the support of the forest farm, the team made a survey about the farm’s geological information, such as the type of landscape, road, bridge, type of forest and the trail for patrol. Some tracks of wild ungulate were found, which is an important indicator for tiger habitat.

They also collected the information on human disturbance to the tiger’s habitat. Currently, illegal logging still happens sometimes in the farm.

Another major human activity in the farm is forest frog breeding. The farmers built some simple shelters at the breeding site. They recorded the sites on the map in order to provide a temperate station to the rangers during winter M&P.

All the information collected was recorded in the GIS system for the farm. It will help the farm and WWF for the winter M&P as well as other conservation actions. In the future, the farm will take more responsibility in M&P but not only provided guide like this time.



M&P trip in Dahuanggou ©WWF-China

Market opportunities open up for herder groups

The trade fair “Green Days of Autumn” was held in Ulaanbaatar, 18-24 September 2009 where 17 herder groups and small business entrepreneurs from Onon-Balj area participated and introduced 9 kinds of organic products.

This was made possible within the ADB/JPRF supported and WWF Mongolia implemented project on “Poverty reduction through community-based nature resource management” for herders from Umnudelger, Binder, Batshireet, Bayan-Adraga and Dadal soums. Locally produced nine kinds of best organic products were presented to Ulaanbaatar customers and gained a sale of more that 3000USD in total.



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Furthermore, it was a unique opportunity to promote the Onon River Basin and get contacted with potential partners for further marketing opportunities. A survey was undertaken from more than 200 customers with purpose to identify products of high demand.

In few words, the outcome of participation in the trade fair could be summarized as following:

- The first step to promote locally made organic products in the capital city market was successfully undertaken.
- Establishment of contacts with more than 30 business entities and individuals who expressed their willingness to cooperate will serve as basis for sustainable marketing network.
- Participants experienced the importance of packaging and labeling of products and could be noted as lessons learned.
- Participants experienced the importance of working together as team.



B. Oyuntuya, head of Chuluut herder group from Dadal soum:

I am extremely happy to have such opportunity to take part of trade fair and gain a sell of 450USD. I have learned that we have to focus on exploring marketing opportunities and improving packaging and labeling of our products. And the most important is that I got in contact with a business partner whom I agreed to supply sour cream on monthly basis. 4 other partnerships are in the pipeline now. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to WWF Mongolia for giving me such opportunity!

PRA training held in Dahuanggou FF

A training of participatory rural appraisal (PRA) co-organized by Wangqing Forestry Bureau and WWF was held in Dahuanggou forest farm from September 25 to 29, 2009.

Mr. Han Wei and Mrs Du Ling, PRA experts from Sichuan, came to give the lecture to 19 staff from Dahuanggou, Nuanquanhe and Chaoyanggou forest farms, Wangqing Forestry Bureau as well as 4 staff from WWF Changchun Office.

During the first two days, the experts introduced the concept and methodology of PRA, information need to be collected and how to use survey tools such as seasonal calendar to the trainees.



PRA practice in the field
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From the third day, the trainees, with the guide of the two experts, took practices in Donggoutun village, a neighboring community of Dahuanggou forest farm. Through this practice survey, they visited farmer households



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and got some valuable social-economic information and human-wildlife conflicts of this community which could not be known via traditional survey approaches in this area.

PRA method ever effectively helped WWF’s panda conservation in southwest mountain area in China. Now WWF is preparing to promote it in tiger conservation in northeast China. Although 5-day’s training is not enough for trainees to grasp all the methodologies and finish survey of the local village and Dahuanggou Forest Farm , it still successfully introduced a comparatively new tool for the conservation workers in the northeast of China.

WWF also strengthened the communication and partnership with local partners by this training.

Many happy returns of the Tiger Day

Tenth Tiger Day was held in Vladivostok on September 27. WWF has prepared to celebrate the jubilee – tenth in a row – “Tiger Day” on a large scale.

To commemorate the holiday and start preparations for the Year of the Tiger WWF’s has launched “Congratulate the Amur tiger with his year” action. The idea is very simple – everyone willing to say his word in the Amur tiger protection had the opportunity to write the New Year wish to the tiger. All wishes on bright orange paper were pinned into a big banner with blue-eyed tiger cub designed for the holiday.



People on the Tiger Day
 ©WWF-Russia

On the eve Year of the Tiger - all greeting cards together with big plush toy tiger will travel along 14 nature reserves and 3 national parks of the Russian Far East. Children – winners of different contests in each nature reserve will be “tiger’s ambassadors” to another nature reserve or national park thus covering entire tiger habitat and drawing people’s attention to the tiger conservation.

OTHER PROGRESS

Birthday of two “conservation” chocolates



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At WWF's initiative and in cooperation with students and tutors of the Far Eastern state University OAO "Primorskii Confectioner" has issued two new chocolates named *Our Tiger* and *Our Leopard*.

The chocolates birthday coincided with the traditional Tiger Day. New WWF's partner has announced in public that all money generated from new product selling will be given to WWF for leopard conservation activities.

What is more important is that both items have the slogan *Let us conserve tiger/leopard together!* and WWF's address. On tiger choc there is also briefed info about the Amur tiger and main threats. These choc's issue was trial so we should wait and see how high the demand will be and after that look for new perspective for this cooperation.



The pack of conservation chocolate
©WWF-Russia

Protecting nests from fires

Wildlife biologists of the Amurskaya Province Directorate for PAs took preventive measures to save from fires 18 trees with stork nests in two provincial wildlife refuges.

Usually, all grass and bushes growing around a tree at 2-3 meters distance is removed. But this year all tree trunks were treated with special chemical solution preventing wood from burning and rotting.

These measures are only part of the Far Eastern stork conservation program. Among other activities is construction of artificial poles, monitoring of the population structure, creation of electronic data base of nests' passports, nests inventory.

Big contraband channel blocked

Three plastic bags with 385 wild ginseng roots - 3, 5 kilos - were confiscated from a Russian citizen by the Far Eastern Operative customs officers. Biological expertise was provided by WWF experts.

All roots were in good condition, ready to be sold. The packaging method indicates that roots were prepared for prompt transportation and were awaited for on the Chinese side of the Sino-Russian border. No secret that apart from wild ginseng roots, other wildlife products are illegally transported abroad through such channels. This seizure has closed one of illegal wildlife transportation channels.

Illegal harvesting of big amounts of wild ginseng causes great damage to nature and our country. Administrative bodies leave WWF-Russia and Russian Academy of Science appeals without any attention.

Students learn in practice how to protect wild nature

Ninth field school for young ecological inspectors was held in Khabarovskii Province on August 10-20 with WWF's financial and technical support.



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25 students from three Student environmental protection group (DRUZHINA) have been taught how to issue protocols, how to detain poachers, how to administer first aid to the wounded, how to prevent accidents etc.

Also students were trained to state mission for their organizations, to define goals, to make up work plans and make proposals. And what is not less important - to exchange experience with each other.

Amur tiger has died

The Amur tiger being kept at Utyos rehabilitation center in Khabarovskii Province has died.

The tiger was in a critical condition when it was brought to the center. All efforts of ecologists and vets to save the rare cat were in vain.

At first it was thought that the tiger was severely poisoned. Analyses were sent to the Moscow Zoo and the results showed that the tiger suffered from plague and toxoplasmosis. Analysis results are very disturbing. It is of utmost importance to identify source of plague to focus all efforts on its combating.

WWF watches gas pipeline construction

On September 28, WWF forwarded to the Russian Federal Service for Ecological, Technical and Atomic Supervision a letter asking to deny state ecological expertise of design documents for *Sakhalin-Khabarovsk-Vladivostok* gas pipeline.

According to WWF, the documentation is incomplete as *Gazprom*, the largest extractor of natural gas in Russia, has not met the requirements of a special commission formed at the public hearings.

WWF will monitor gas pipeline construction in the Russian Far East and fix all legislation violation by *Gazprom*.

Fire prevention belt created in the selected areas of Onon river basin

The creation of a fire prevention belt is started along the state border area of 225 km length and 100 m width in Bayan-Uul soum of Dornod province, Binder and Dadal soums of Khentii province to prevent wildfire moved in from Russian Federation. The prevention belt is proved to be a solid and reliable protection if undertaken annually. It helps to reduce the fire intensity and allows to extinguish fire without detrimental damages.

Mobile and horse patrolling have been scheduled in the places where fire is most likely to occur. The patrolling officers are charged with prevention work such as keeping safe from household ash and cigarettes, ensuring safe functioning of machinery and electric devices, installing muffler in the car smoke pipes as well as avoiding hunting with tracer bullets.