



Achievements

1. Survey evidence showing international border barriers effecting the migration of Mongolian gazelle

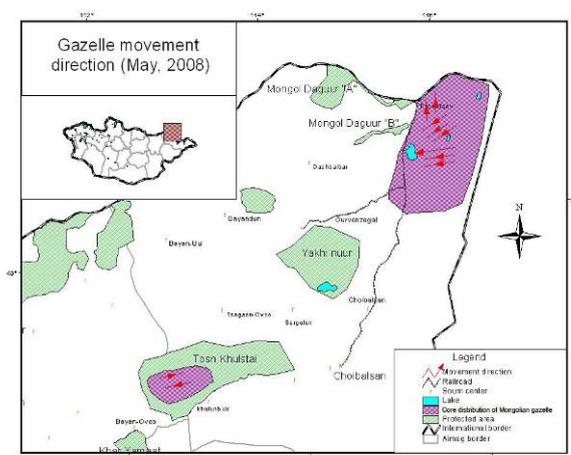
The Mongolian gazelle migrates hundreds or thousands of kilometres seasonally, but the detailed migration routes are still unknown (Berger, 2004) because continuous tracking is difficult. One of the important factors is linear development such as international border, which can have significant impacts on Mongolian gazelle movement and survival. Russian scientists and border guards declared that gazelles are passing the international border and some hundreds (300-400) died of wounds by unsuccessful crossing and jumping over the fences.



Mongolian gazelle died of wounds of unsuccessful crossing the fences, WWF Mongolia

Therefore evaluation of the situation on gazelle movement through Mongolian part of the international border between Russia and Mongolia is very necessary and urgent. Surveys are being carried out by WWF Mongolian Programme Office cooperatively with the Institute of Biology.

The objective of this survey was to describe the migration direction of Mongolian gazelles and examine impacts of border fences on animal migration in the Mongolian part. During the survey, Mongolian gazelle concentration were observed near the Ereentsav county, Khukh lake and Toson Khulstai NP, and their locations were closer to the international border, moving directions were based along the international border.



Migration movement and distribution of Mongolian gazelle



2. Decree on Hunt signed in Primorye

The document is a result of cooperative work of policy-makers, lawyers, non-governmental hunting organizations and expertise from WWF. The long-expected law provides clear explanations of responsibilities for game usage and protection, empowers staff game-wardens to check documents of those met in a hunting estate's territory, describes rights and duties for hunters.

According to WWF, from now on more than 40 000 official hunters of Primorye will be armed with "rules of the game". Though not every proposition done by ecologists were included into the law on the whole, it provides legal basis for sustainable use and protection of game resources.

3. Jilin "Bird-loving Week" and anti-poaching award in Dunhua



Anti-poaching award by Luo Xingbi, WWF China

The 2008 "Bird-loving Week" was initiated in Wenhua Square in Dunhua of Jilin Yanbian Korean Autonomy on April 26th. Jilin wildlife Conservation Society, Jilin Forestry Department, WWF Changchun Programme Office and Yanbian related agencies co-organized this event with the theme of "Boom ecoculture, construct eco-civilization". Although the weather was bad, raining heavily from early morning, all the participants, including

leaders from NRs, school students, forestry police and other wildlife conservationists actively joint the whole process.

WWF Changchun Programme Office prepared a wildlife show around the Square, which attracted many people's attention in spite of the rain. During the celebration, 30 people from Hunchun NNR, Yanminghu NR,ect, including Mr. Jin Song were awarded "Provincial Anti-poaching Exemplar", which was also supported by WWF.



Wildlife show in Wenhua Square by Luo Xingbi, WWF China



4. Key biotopes helping protect rare flora and fauna species in Primorye

With WWF's assistance, one of the biggest logging companies of Primorye JSC "Primorskii GOK" has started on its leased territory delineation of key biotopes important for rare species conservation. Results of field expeditions have surpassed all expectations: unprecedented concentrations of rare species habitats were found, some of the species are endemic to Primorskii province. WWF recommends banning any human activities in the area of key biotopes concentration which is in the central part of the eastern Korean pine nuts harvesting zone.



Natural salt lick is one of the key biotopes

by K. Kobayakov, WWF Russia

WWF hopes that starting from the next year key biotopes delineation will become a must for any forest inventory survey done in the region. So far, protection of habitats of rare species within the leased areas is a good will of enterprises striving for sustainable complex nature use. JSC "Primorskii GOK" is one of those.

5. Far Eastern leopards filmed by secret cameras



Young female leopard captured on film during this spring census, by WWF, ISUNR

To develop effective measures on the Far Eastern leopard conservation, put them into practice and evaluate gained results, ecologists need continuous monitoring over the leopard status. Over the past years scientists have been monitoring the rare cat's plight using camera traps. This year the research with camera traps was done by WWF and a local NGO, Institute for sustainable use of nature resources near Kedrovaya Pad` Nature Reserve. Eight of the animals were captured on film. The confirmed stability of the leopard population gives us hope, WWF had said in a statement. But this is

only a small part of the leopard's habitat in the southwest Primorye. The remaining 70 percent of the leopard's habitat is in precarious condition. The goal of utmost importance to create a unified federal PA for the leopard has not yet been achieved in Primorye.



6. Changbaishan Landscape Planning workshop in Changchun

The direct threats to Amur tiger/leopard and leopard in Northeastern China are, for example, unavailable effective breeding population for long term survival, habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss of connectivity between tiger/leopard habitats, low densities of prey population, snares and limited implementation capacity, etc. In order to mitigate those threats and restore tiger and leopard population in Changbaishan Landscape, WWF Changchun Programme Office and WWF RFE will dedicate to a joint strategic planning for Changbaishan Landscape. This strategic planning will develop a land use plan and make efforts in improving NRs' management and conservation ability such as Hunchun National Nature Reserve.

After sufficient consideration and preparation, WWF Changchun Programme Office and WWF RFE have taken the first formal step to carry on this planning. On June 13, 2008, Changbaishan Landscape Planning workshop was held in Changchun Wumao Hotel. Participants include Mr. Zhu Chunquan, WWF Conservation Director, Mr. Sheng Lianxi and Mr. Li Zhenxin, from Northeast Normal University, Mr. Bai Xiaoming, from Jilin Environment and Science Institute, Mr. Wang Xiangcheng and Mr. Wu Zhigang, from Jilin Forest Administration, and Mr. Mu Huisheng, from Jilin Investigation and Planning Institute,



Changbaishan Landscape Planning Workshop,
by Luo Xingbi, WWF China

etc. All experts show interests and willingness to support the Planning. During the meeting, participants discussed the planning scope, existing data and data needed, and assigned each task to experts for their support and inputs. All believed that through nice and effective cooperation and communication, Changbaishan Landscape Planning will be successful.

7. Russia and Mongolia joint protection on Amur River headwaters

Due to active support from WWF-Russia and WWF-Mongolia, the idea of creation of trans-boundary nature reserve "Headwaters of Amur" was approved by the Russia-Mongolian Commission on nature protection. This will ease forest fire fighting as the fire brigades will be able to cross the border according to a simplified scheme. Also, the commission agreed to create buffer zone around the Sokhondinskii Nature Reserve in Russia so that its borders will be contiguous with the Onon-Badge NR in Mongolia. The initiative to enlarge the Daurskii transboundary NR was also approved by the Commission.

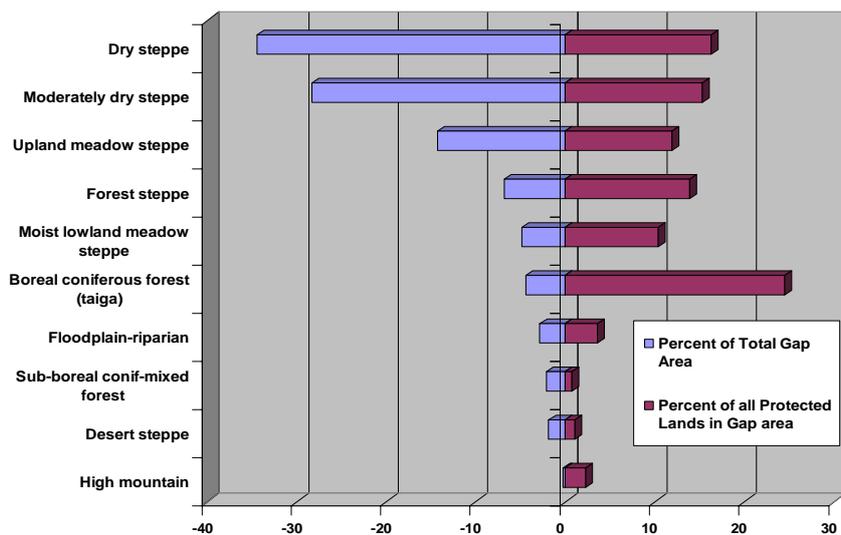


8. Protected Area Biodiversity Gap Analysis in headwater area of Amur-Heilong River

In order to ensure important natural and cultural heritages are protected and passed to next generation the Government of Mongolia decided put under protected area network up to 30 per cents of total territory by 2030. Even tough the total area of protected area had reached 13.7 percents of total territory, various research work show that their protection effectiveness needs improvement. In this connection WWF Mongolia in collaboration with and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), USA, have conducted a "Protected Area Biodiversity Gap Analysis" in Eastern Mongolia to identify a common set geographic and strategic priorities to address the gaps and barriers hampering effectiveness of Protected Areas.

The preliminary analysis had showed that formal protection coverage for dry steppe and moderate dry steppe are not in desired level compared to other ecosystems found in the region. This gap is further exacerbated due to weak protected area management as well as failures to include some of critical habitats and biodiversity hotspots in the protected area network. Final recommendations of gap analysis will be available by October 2008 and will be reflected in the current Conservation Action Plan for Onon-Balj area, the headwater of Amur-Heilong River.

Gaps in Ecosystem representation and Protected area coverage



9. Jilin and Heilongjiang Provincial Forest Administration delegation visit in Russia

From May 17 to 21, 2008, WWF RFE and WWF Changchun Programme Office co-organized this visit in Russia. 19 people from Primorskii Province Department of Federal Natural Resources Management Service, Jilin and Heilongjiang Provincial Forest Administration, Yanbian Korean Antonomous Forest Management Bureau and NRs, etc, took part in the visit.



Camera trap monitoring methodology by
Olga Sass, WWF Russia

During the 5-day visit, participants visited wildlife museum in Primorskii province, and the forests there. In one of the forests, they were told there are 8 Amur tigers. Tiger footprints can easily be seen in this region, where local communities have moved out for tigers. As for NA staff, although the hardware conditions are not that good, they love their occupation to protect tigers. While in Barabash, Russian experts taught people how to set infrared cameras to take photos of tiger and other wild animals. Anti-poaching team leader in RFE shared experience with Chinese delegation in the past two years through exchange. After 2007

MOU, there is almost no anti-poaching case in China. Forestry Administrations of both NE China and RFE will strengthen anti-poaching management. WWF RFE and WWF Chuangchun Programme Office acted as "bridge-builder" to promote cooperation and experience exchange.

10. Sustainable forest management promoted in Northeast China

Muling Forestry Bureau has applied for FSC forest management certification and the main auditing was conducted in April 2008. Up to now, about 589,000 ha forests in Northeast China have been certified by FSC. HCVF identification technical scheme/standards on forest management unit level has been developed and demonstrated successfully in at least 4 FMUs.

In June 2008, WWF China organized two field trips in Mudanjiang Forest Bureau to discuss a High Conservation Value Forests identification project in the region, which will form the basis for potential FSC certification applications from one or two FMUs. At least two forest management units of Mudanjiang Forestry Bureau will conduct HCVFs training and identification.

HCVF promotion workshop was held in Mudanjiang City on June 16 by WWF China. Mr. Cui Wushe from SFA participated in the workshop and gave a brief to participants on national policies for sustainable forest management and the possibility of integrating HCVF concept into sustainable forest management planning. Professor Li Fengri from the North-East Forestry University, an expert on HCVFs in the country, gave trainings on HCVF concept and methodologies to about 40 officials and staffs of forest management units.



Other information

1. Field survey in Sanjiang Plain

WWF US Freshwater Officer and WWF Changchun Programme Freshwater Officer had a field survey in Sanjiang Plain from April 17 to 24, 2008. This trip aimed to know better of different marsh types in Sanjiang Plain, and main species there, such as Oriental White Stork, Red-crowned Crane and Amur Sturgeon, and NRs' need, for future planning of freshwater program.



A nest of wild White-naped Crane, by Carissa, Wong, WWF US

During the trip, the two officers did survey in sedge marsh, reed marsh, rivers, etc, observed many endangered big birds as Oriental White Stork, Red-crowned Crane; what's more, they found a nest of wild White-naped Crane. When visiting sturgeon breeding center in Fuyuan County and GEF Sanjiang Plain Biodiversity conservation eco-agriculture demo sites, they got the information from NR staff that global warming is relatively obvious in this region. In the past few years, on April 20, the river surfaces were still frozen, but this year, all melt. The temperature is 15-20°C

higher than the same period of previous years. NRs want to enhance cooperation and exchange with neighboring Russian NRs by the help from WWF, and hope WWF would provide support in Oriental White Stork wireless tracking, communication and education.

2. Public hearings on the oil pipeline wrapped up

WWF and other grassroots participated in the public hearings on assessment of impact from Eastern Siberia-Pacific ocean oil pipeline Phase II on environment. The hearings were held in Khabarovskii and Primorskii provinces, Amurskaya and Evreiskaya oblasts. All proposals from interested organizations were collected, which are concerning compensation sums for fauna damage, creation of preventive anti-poaching and fire prevention units, financing measures to raise wild ungulates number in the Amur tiger habitats. Among other conservation proposals was financing of feasibility study for creation of provincial wildlife refuge in the neighborhood of the Strelnikov Ridge which is the buffer zone for Ussuriiskii Nature Reserve and of Nature Park on the Livadiiskii Ridge. Public information centers located in the region are collecting proposals until July 29.



3. Congratulation from WWF to winners and laureates of the “Living Taiga” contest

The contest for the Far Eastern journalists was established in 2006 by several environmental organizations including WWF. This year 10 winners and 13 laureates were awarded out of 62 participants. Grand prix was given to a young journalist from Primorye-wide newspaper for a number of vivid publications in favor of leopard. The majority of contest's nominations like *The Home for Amur Tiger, land of the Leopard, Korean Pine Tree of Life, Green Belt of Amur, Protected Land*, and others reflect main activities done by WWF in the Russian Far East.

Short news

1. A joint action plan as part of the cooperative agreement was signed by WWF/TRAFFIC and the Vladivostok branch of the Russian Customs Academy (VB RCA) on rare and endangered wildlife species conservation and control over nature resources trafficking across the Russian border.
2. Cooperative agreement between WWF and Primorskii province administration with detailed work plan for the current year was signed.
3. Criminal case against Dmitrii Kozlov was filed back in April 2006 based on WWF's appeal to public prosecutor to check the forestry unit activities. Checking confirmed illegal logging operation in the Tayozhnyi wildlife refuge done on Kozlov's permission. On April 1, he was sentenced to one year of conditional punitive measures with two-year-long probation period.
4. On May 27, international smugglers were sentenced to imprisonment and penalties as they were found guilty of trading tiger derivatives and bear paws between Russia and China. WWF and TRAFFIC experts were involved in independent expert evaluation of confiscated wildlife products. The verdict marks the start of wildlife crime being treated with seriousness it deserves.



The verdict is being announced to international smugglers by N. Pervushina, WWF Russia