

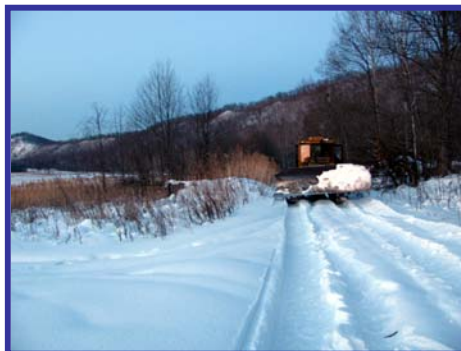


21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TIGER  
giving wild tigers a future



# Emergency Ungulate Feed in the Russian Far East

Final report  
2009



Vladivostok  
Russian Far East  
2009

## Project overview



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Deep snow in Udege Legend National Park

Primorye in the south of the Russian Far East represents the only area in the world where the Amur/ Siberian tiger still exists in the wild. The results of Tiger Count 2005 indicate that tiger numbers have been stable in Russia over the last 10 years (the 1996 count estimated the population at 415-472 tigers and the 2005 count at 428-502). But the Amur tiger population is very vulnerable due to poaching, habitat destruction, prey depletion and many other

factors. Only an estimated 10% of the tiger population is living in protected areas, this is clearly not enough to sustain the population.

The good news is that in 2007 two new national parks were established in Primorye: Udege Legend National Park and Zov Tigra National Park that meant additional protection to the Amur tiger population. According to 2004 tiger census (WCS-WWF), there are at least seven tigers (including three females, one of them with two cubs) more or less permanently residing in the Udege Legend National Park itself or migrating to and from the adjacent areas. Thus, the Park is located in the core area of tiger habitat, and has a big potential for increasing both tiger and tiger prey populations for the whole region. Since the Park's creation the Phoenix Fund has been supporting anti-poaching and educational activities carried out by the Park's staff.

The weather in Primorye was always famous for its surprises. In summer we have rains with catastrophic floods, in winter – severe frosts or tons of snow. Besides hampering human activity, all these cataclysms have baneful influence on animals. This winter we had heavy snowfalls that affected mostly northern areas of Primorye. And Udege Legend was no exception. This report contains information on the project “Emergency ungulate feed in the Russian Far East”.

## Project activities



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Inspectors clear roads

This winter Udege Legend National Park has witnessed snows of over 1-2 metres (39-75 inches) after abundant snowfalls in December 2008 and January 2009. The mass death of ungulates could take place if no urgent measures were taken. Sika deer, roe deer and wild boar being the food resource for the Amur tiger, would die in the first place. It is also worth mentioning that after snowfalls local hunters rushed to the forest where it was easy to find animals by their tracks on the snow or kill deer stuck in snowdrifts. Therefore, it was necessary to take urgent measures to save ungulates: to clear the woodlands to let the hoofed animals get food

and deliver forage to feeding grounds. Poor financial status of the Park complicated the situation. Since January 2008 there had been delays in transferring funds from federal budget to all federal-level protected areas. Such delays were caused by the Government's decision to get all federal protected areas (PAs) subordinated to the supposed that in early 2009



Ministry of Natural Resources. It was all the nature reserves that were administered by Rosprirodnadzor (Federal Nature Resources Supervision Agency) would become part of the Ministry of Natural Resources. This sudden change resulted in a protracted transition period from one body to another.

Under such circumstances Udege Legend National Park did not have available funds for fuel to use special technical equipment to break roads and deliver additional fodder to the feeding grounds. The Park's administration had to appeal to local and international communities asking to help raise funds for taking emergency measures in the Park. Thanks to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Inspectors put rabies vaccine

Tiger grant of £1,000 the Park's staff managed to solve the problem in proper time. The funds were spent to use a bulldozer (rent and fuel). All in all, 50 km (31 miles) of roads were cleared and 15 km (9 miles) of feeding grounds were arranged. While clearing snowy roads the Park's inspectors put rabies vaccine (400 doses) for carnivorous on the ground.

Snow clearing let ungulates (sika deer, roe deer and wild boar) reach forage delivered by the inspectors and survive the baneful situation in taiga. During a scheduled census held by the Park's guards in February large groups of hoofed animals (red deer and wild boar) were spotted at cleared roads. The animals were readily browsing plants that remained within their reach and branches that were undercut specially by the Park's staff. Also, the inspectors in two groups patrolled the area on regular basis to prevent poaching.



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Inspectors deliver woody forage

## Acknowledgements

We greatly appreciate the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger for generous support to the Udege Legend National Park. Thanks to the grant funds the Park's guards managed to maintain ungulate population stable in the protected area protect wildlife in severe winter conditions.

ATTACHMENT

## Udege Legend (Udegeiskaya Legenda) Nature Reserve

