



Tigers Alive Initiative Awards for Excellence in Protection Efforts 2011

Best Law Enforcement Monitoring



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The Amur Heilong Team

The Amur Heilong China team has been recognized for taking a law enforcement monitoring (LEM) tool from scratch and implementing it, producing regular reports in the process. As the Tigers Alive Initiative spent most of 2011 in a drive to get LEM tools up and running in landscapes, the team from China deserves recognition for quick adoption and consistent reporting and use of these tools.

The China Amur Heilong Landscape

The dense forest and rugged terrain along China's border with the Russian Far East make up the Amur Heilong tiger landscape. The Chinese provinces of Heilongjiang and Jilin along the Sino Russian border harbor the most potential for the Amur Tiger's recovery in China, as it connects with other major wild Amur tiger habitat in the Russian Far East. There are currently about 20 tigers in these forests, which hold mainly Korean Pines and Chinese Oaks in a total area of 208,709 square kilometres.

Partners and Team Composition

WWF partners in the landscape include: the State Forestry Administration, Heilongjiang Forestry Department, Jilin Forestry Department, General Administration of Heilongjiang Forest Industry, Heilongjiang Provincial Wildlife Institute, Northeast Forest University, Jilin Provincial Academy of Forest Science, Northeast Normal University, forestry bureaus and nature reserves in the core protected area in Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces.

WWF's full-time of six working in the Amur-Heilong landscape work full time with the patrol teams, going on patrols and collaborating on training and other activities.



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Challenges and Threats

Human population and economic development have exploded in recent years, degrading and fragmenting tiger habitat. Poaching of ungulates, the main tiger prey, is also common, leading to a lack of prey for resident tigers' survival. Snares set up to capture other wildlife can snag tigers as well. The area's growing infrastructure - rail lines, border fences and highways - impede free tiger movement making it difficult for tigers to migrate across the Sino-Russian border. Finally, a lack of a landscape-level monitoring system to determine the quantity and distribution of the tiger population makes planning, assessment and optimization of a complete tiger conservation plan in the region difficult.

Enforcement and Anti Poaching Progress in 2011

- An anti poaching team of 27 individuals in 9 forestry farms was established, leading to the collection of 5041 signs and sightings of wildlife, 13 signs of tigers and Amur leopards and the removal of 296 snares.
- Over 145 people improved their capacities through a series of trainings on anti-poaching and monitoring.
- 102 patrollers from the National Changbai Mountain Nature reserve in Jilin Province were trained in MIST, a software programme used for patrolling and anti-poaching. The Wangqing and Suiyang Forestry Bureaus established their own MIST databases.
- WWF-China worked with the local government to set up a system of rewards and penalties based on the results of spot checking inspections during the winter 2010-2011 survey.



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