

Country Logo



Global Tiger Initiative

National Tiger Recovery Program Summary

Russian Federation

July 2010

Completed template to describe the Summary of the National Tiger Recovery Program (NTRP)

(NTRP will feed into the Global Tiger Recovery Program)

Country Name: **Russian Federation**

Long Term Strategic Goals. Examine the implications of the global goal to double the numbers of wild tigers in your country and briefly describe appropriate national strategic tiger conservation goals by 2022.

In accordance with the Strategy of Amur Tiger Conservation in the Russian Federation as approved by Ordinance of the MNR # 25-p of July 2010, the national goal for Russia is to identify mechanisms for safeguarding the existence of a viable population of the Amur tiger consisting of at least 500 animals with a maximum genetic diversity across the Russian Federation.

To achieve this goal, actions should be taken to attain the following strategic objectives:

- To conserve the existing Amur tiger population;
- To cause the Amur tiger habitats to be preserved and improved against the background of growing anthropogenic pressure on ecosystems;
- To mitigate adverse anthropogenic impact on the Amur tiger population.

Baseline Status. Briefly describe the gap between each Long Term Strategic Goal described above and current situation.

Currently, the Amur tiger range in Russia totals about 180,000 km², including an area of around 36,000 km² (or 20% of the Russian range) within protected areas, with 10% of them being federal PAs.

The recent century saw various trends in the Amur tiger population in the Russian Far East. There were periods of decline, stabilisation and growth of the population as well as periods of its fast and slow changes. Since the early 1940-ies, changes in the Amur tiger population have been recorded in special registers, and since 2001, Amur tiger count guidelines have been followed. These Guidelines require implementing an annual monitoring program and undertaking a full-range count every decade.

Since 2000, the Amur tiger range has been expanding to in the northern and western directions. Compared with the 1990-ies, the status of the Amur tiger population has changed: forest-scarce flatland parts of the range have been lost to agricultural development; increased fragmentation of the Sikhote-Alin and East-Manchurian population groups is fraud with complete isolation of these population groups in the nearest decade; and there is a downward trend in the number of tigers. Changes also occurred in the institutional frameworks and social and economic conditions for tiger conservation in Russia.

All numerous adverse anthropogenic factors, affecting the Amur tiger, may be classified into two large groups, depending on whether they cause direct impact (poaching, involuntary withdrawals) or indirect impact (forest fire, forest logging, road construction, human population density growth, hunters' activities, etc.). Poaching poses a major threat to the existence of the Amur tiger in Russia. As regards anthropogenic factors causing indirect impact, which reduces the Amur tiger population, the worst of them is the loss of habitats due to industrial development, including clear-cutting and unsustainable game management, impairing the tiger's prey population.

Priority Actions to achieve Long Term Strategic Goals. Identify 4-5 most critical NATIONAL and TRANS-BOUNDARY actions.

Key actions to achieve the long-term goal of having a viable Amur tiger population of at least 500 tigers are as follows:

At the national level:

- To alter the system of forest management in the Russian Far East with a view to reducing the threat of Amur tiger habitat decline, first of all, through prohibiting to cut Korean pine trees and restricting the cutting in oak stands;
- To improve game management with a view to increasing the prey capacity; provide economic incentives for game management units in charge of areas inhabited by Amur tigers, including such incentives as attraction of investment and other extra-budgetary funds;
- To reinforce poaching control, among other things, through toughening the punishments for storage and transportation of Amur tiger parts and derivatives;
- To establish an Amur Tiger Recovery Centre to accommodate, nurse and then release orphaned tiger cubs; and to give a temporary shelter to tigers withdrawn from the wild. To develop and implement guidelines on returning tigers to the wild;
- To ensure effective management of federal and regional PAs, playing an important role in conserving the tiger population. To strengthen enforcement of the established protection regime.

At the trans-boundary level:

- To establish two trans-boundary tiger reserves for seamless movement for Amur tigers and other wildlife across the border;
- To coordinate actions of customs authorities of different countries to suppress illegal exports of and trade in Amur tigers, their parts and derivatives. To cause respective entities to exchange information about international channels of illegal exports and trade, with a focus on the Asian and Pacific Region;
- To develop international cooperation among Amur tiger specialists and implement joint research programs.

Program Indicators (interim) to achieve country's Long Term Strategic Goals. Identify and describe measurable indicators that will demonstrate the progress by 2015.

- 1. Tiger.** The Amur tiger population stabilized and consisting of about 500 animals.
- 2. Ungulates.** The number of tiger prey animals matching the carrying capacity of their habitats.
- 3. Habitats.** The area and the quality of tiger habitats stabilised or growing.

Program Indicators (final) to achieve country's Long Term Strategic Goals. Identify and describe measurable indicators that will demonstrate achieving the Long Term Strategic Goals by 2022.

- 1. Tigers.** Measures taken to increase the Amur tiger population in the Russian Far East to 700 tigers to match the environmental capacity of tiger habitats.
- 2. Ungulates.** The number of tiger prey animals close to high levels of the habitat carrying capacity.
- 3. Habitats.** The area and the quality of tiger habitats made optimal with due regard to the prospects for social and economic development in the region.

Template to describe a NTRP Component linked to the Priority Actions

1. Mapping. Describe HOW this Component is linked to respective Long Term Strategic Goals and Priority Actions.

Long Term Strategic Goal:

In accordance with the Strategy of Amur Tiger Conservation in the Russian Federation as approved by Ordinance of the MNR # 25-p of July 2010, the national goal for Russia is to identify mechanisms for safeguarding the existence of a viable population of the Amur tiger consisting of at least 500 animals with a maximum genetic diversity in the Russian Federation.

To achieve this goal, actions should be taken to attain the following strategic objectives:

- To conserve the existing Amur tiger population;
- To cause the Amur tiger's habitats to be conserved and improved against the background of growing anthropogenic pressure on ecosystems;
- To mitigate adverse anthropogenic impact on the Amur tiger population.

Priority Action(-s):

- To alter the system of forest management in the Russian Far East with a view to reducing the threat of Amur tiger habitat decline, first of all, through forbidding to cut the Korean pine trees and restricting the cutting of oak trees;
- To improve game management with a view to increasing the prey capacity; provide economic incentives for game management units in charge of areas inhabited by Amur tigers, including such incentives as attraction of investment and other extra-budgetary funds;
- To reinforce poaching control, among other things, through toughening the punishments for storage and transportation of Amur tiger parts and derivatives;
- To establish an Amur Tiger Recovery Centre to accommodate, nurse and then release orphaned tiger cubs; and to give shelter to tigers withdrawn from the wild. To develop and implement guidelines on returning tigers to the wild;
- To ensure effective management of federal and regional PAs, playing an important role in conserving the tiger population. To strengthen enforcement of the established protection regime.
- To establish two trans-boundary reserves for seamless movement for Amur tigers and other wildlife across the border;
- To coordinate actions of customs authorities of different countries to suppress illegal exports of and trade in Amur tigers, their parts and derivatives. To cause respective entities to exchange information about international channels of illegal exports and trade, with a focus on the Asian and Pacific Region;
- To develop international cooperation among Amur tiger specialists and to implement joint research programs.

2. Description of Program Component. Briefly describe (i) Objectives, (ii) Activities, (iii) Expected Outcomes, (iv) duration and location of the Program Component.

1. International cooperation

It is important to develop cooperation with international conservation organisations, charity foundations and other non-governmental organisations. Such cooperation helps to raise additional funds; enables Russian and foreign Amur tiger specialists to share ideas, draw upon international best practices, and implement joint activities throughout the tiger range.

- To establish international trans-boundary reserves for seamless movement of Amur tigers and other wildlife across the border;
- To coordinate actions to suppress smuggling and re-selling of Amur tiger poaching products.
- To coordinate research programs, and develop international Amur tiger research cooperation.
- To continue cooperation in the management of the captive Amur tiger populations as part of the European Breeding Program of the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) and American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Selected activities are to be implemented within two years, most of the activities are to be completed within periods up to five years, and some of them are meant for periods of up to 10 years.

2. Strengthened protected area network

In the tiger range, there is a network of protected areas of different categories and levels (publicly-owned nature reserves, national parks, federal and regional special-purpose nature reserves) and other protection areas with special nature resource management regimes (protected zones, protection forests, ecological corridors). Such areas provide protection for the Amur tiger and maintain high densities of ungulate populations.

To strengthen the network of protected areas, it is deemed expedient to:

- Establish ecological corridors (areas under management regimes called to limit adverse impact on Amur tiger habitats from clear-cutting, road construction, etc.) to connect protected areas in key Amur tiger habitats;
- Establish protection zones with restricted regimes of nature resource use on land adjacent to PAs;
- Provide additional public support to PAs to backup their inspection teams, among other things, through

increasing their salaries and supplying needed equipment.

- Expand the area of the existing nature reserves and national parks in the Amur tiger range.

Selected activities are to be implemented within two years, most of the activities are to be completed within periods up to five years, and some of them are meant for periods of up to 10 years.

4. Amur tiger population studies and monitoring

Biodiversity conservation, including conservation of rare and endangered species should be based on up-to-date R&D findings. Activities, included in the research program, are specified in the Strategy of Amur Tiger Conservation in the Russian Federation as approved by Ordinance of the MNR # 25-p of July 2010.

There is a need to improve the methodological frameworks for Amur tiger monitoring and counts, and to monitor and count tigers following the Guidelines for Amur Tiger Counts in the Russian Federation as approved by the MNR in its Order # 63 of March 15, 2005.

Selected activities are to be implemented within two years, most of the activities are to be completed within periods up to five years, and some of them are meant for periods of up to 10 years.

5. Human-tiger conflict prevention and settlement

Contacts between humans and tigers are unavoidable, and sometimes, they conflict. Unlike other tiger subspecies, the Amur tiger is peaceful towards humans. Prevention and timely settlement of human-tiger conflicts is an important constituent of wild tiger conservation. To some extent, activities of other program components will help to prevent conflict situations. But, it is important to:

- Prepare recommendations on safety rules in Amur tiger habitats and instructions on how to behave in the case of a tiger encounter; prevent conflict situations through informing local people and hunters (when issuing hunting certificates) about safe behaviour in the case of a meeting with a tiger;
- Identify the most effective ways to repel Amur tigers;
- Put radio-tracking collars on Amur tigers;
- Provide for good performance of the *Tiger* Special Inspection Program (a federal institution) under the *Conflicting Tiger* Component;
- Establish an Amur Tiger Recovery Centre to keep, nurse and then release orphaned tiger cubs and to give a temporary shelter to tigers withdrawn from the wild;
- Expose captured conflicting tigers to veterinary examinations and perform autopsy of perished animals.

Selected activities are to be implemented within two years, most of the activities are to be completed within periods up to five years, and some of them are meant for periods of up to 10 years.

6. Public awareness and education

An important constituent of Amur tiger conservation efforts is raising public awareness of the Amur tiger as a unique national and global value. To this end, it is necessary to:

- Develop and implement targeted PR campaigns for various social groups living in the Amur tiger habitats to develop a positive image of the tiger as a symbol of the region's wildlife;
- Preserve the spiritual culture and traditions of indigenous peoples, promote their traditional knowledge, rituals and customs aimed at conserving and respecting the Amur tiger;
- Promote sustainable nature resource management practices, which ensure conservation of Amur tiger habitats and prey populations;
- Develop negative public opinion about poaching.

Selected activities are to be implemented within two years, most of the activities are to be completed within periods up to five years, and some of them are meant for periods of up to 10 years.

3. Policy. Briefly describe what kind of policy or legislation is needed (amended or introduced) to achieve the Component's Objectives.

To improve the Russian conservation legislation related to Amur tiger conservation, it is recommended to:

- Include in respective laws of the Russian Federation legal requirements to bring to account those who provide access to Internet resources to advertise tiger skins for sale, and those who buy poaching products for personal use;
- Amend the forest legislation of the Russian Federation with a view to reducing the threat of Amur tiger habitat decline in the Russian Far East, first of all, through prohibiting to cut Korean pine trees and restricting the cutting of oak trees;
- To amend respective laws of the Russian Federation with a view to improving game management to increase the prey capacity, providing economic incentives for game management units in charge of areas inhabited by the Amur tiger, including such incentives as attraction of investment and other extra-budgetary funds;
- To amend respective laws of the Russian Federation with a view to toughening the punishments for illegal procurement of Amur tigers, including storage and transportation of their derivatives;

4. Capacity. Briefly describe what kind of capacity needs to be enhanced or created to achieve the Component's Objectives.

Partially, activities of this component are included in other program components. But, it is necessary to:

- Raise the level of professional knowledge of nature resource managers and specialists, including those from game management units;
- Mobilise additional financial support for protected areas, including support from international donors, to improve the performance of protected areas;
- Raise the level of knowledge about the Amur tiger among officers of customs and law enforcement services.

5. Stakeholders. Identify and briefly describe the roles of other critical actors, NGOs, organizations, or cooperating TRCs in achieving the Component's Objectives.

In accordance with the effective legislation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (the MNR) is vested with the functions of developing national policies, laws and regulations related to wildlife and habitat research, use, renewal and protection. Protected area management includes protection of tigers and their habitats, with federal protected areas being subordinated to the MNR. The *TIGER* Special Inspection Program is a federal institution, which is called to prevent and resolve human-tiger conflicts.

The Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation provides support in protecting the tiger and its habitats against poachers and also suppresses illegal storage, transportation of and trade in tiger parts and derivatives.

The Federal Customs Service is called to suppress smuggling of tiger parts and derivatives.

The earlier federal powers related to protection and renewal of wildlife resources, except for wildlife within federal protected areas, and habitat protection were devolved to regional public authorities (in particular, those of the Primorsky, Khabarovsk Krays and the Amur Oblast).

The Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and its subordinated research institutes study the biology of the Amur tiger and develop scientific frameworks for its conservation. WWF-Russia and its Far East Office are involved in the implementation of activities to conserve and study the Amur tiger population and habitats.

Tiger conservation and habitat protection activities are funded from the federal and regional budgets and out of proceeds from international and Russian non-governmental organisations.

The multi-stakeholder partnership (of public authorities, research community, non-governmental organisations, and civil society) helps to ensure effective implementation of conservation initiatives as related to Amur tiger studies and conservation.

6. Performance Indicators. Identify key measurable indicators that will demonstrate progress towards achievement of the Component's Objectives.

- The Amur tiger population in the Russian Far East consisting of 500 - 700 animals;
- Two Russian-Chinese trans-boundary tiger reserves within the *Kedrovaya Pad* nature Reserve and the *Leopardovyi* Federal Special-Purpose Nature Reserve and near the *Strelnikov* Ridge established and ensuring seamless movement of Amur tigers and other wildlife across the border;
- Over 20% of the Amur tiger range in Russia included PAs, with 10% of this area being part of federal PAs;
- Cutting of Korean pine trees banned, and cutting in mature oak stands restricted in tiger habitats; tiger habitat decline prevented;
- Punishments for smuggling of Amur tiger parts and derivatives from Russia toughened.
- Punishments for trade in, storage and transportation of Amur tiger parts and derivatives toughened;
- Amur tiger counts undertaken on regular basis following the Guidelines for Amur Tiger Counts in the Russian Federation as approved by the MNR in its Order # 63 of March 15, 2005.
- Additional equipment for inspection teams of nature reserves and national parks supplied, and their salaries raised.

7. Indicative Costs in US\$ equivalent (approximate estimate):

Activity	Costs (US\$ million)
1. International cooperation	1
2. Strengthened protected area network	19
3. Improved Amur tiger protection outside PAs	12
4. Research	6
5. Prevention and resolution of conflict situations	4
6. Public awareness and education	2
TOTAL	44

8. Preferred Financing Mix. Identify and indicate the order of magnitude of the expected and/or desirable funding sources for the above listed activities (for 2011-2015 and beyond), including central and subnational government budget, intergovernmental organizations (UN etc.), multilateral development banks (WB, ADB, etc.), Global Environment Facility, bilateral aid agencies, private foundations, international NGOs, etc., as appropriate.