

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	013-34
Project Title	Wildlife Health Monitoring and capacity building for leopard conservation in Russia (Amur Leopard & Wildlife Health Project)
Country(ies)	Russia
UK Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	Primorskaya State Academy of Agriculture, Ussuriysk, Primorski Krai; Wildlife Conservation Society, Representative Office in Russia, Vladivostok; Moscow Zoo; Novosibirsk Zoo; Lazovsky State Nature Reserve, Laso rayon; Primorski Krai; Tigris, Vladivostok; Institute of Biology and Soils, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Science, Vladivostok; Utios Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, near Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai; International Fund for Animal Welfare, Russian Office, Moscow Faculty of Veterinary Science and National Centre for Zoonosis Research, University of Liverpool
Project Leader	Sarah Christie
Report date	1 April – 31 October, 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 4
Project website	Mentioned on http://www.zsl.org/field-conservation/carnivores-and-people/amur-leopard-conservation-in-russia,468,AR.html - in particular, please see the blog and photo story links at the bottom of the page. Mentioned on http://www.amur-leopard.org/index.php?pg=1214035549 .

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

See page 3 below

Baseline progress for Apr – Sept 2008	Actual project progress for April – September 2008	Comments
<p>Activities for output 1: Training workshop completed in Moscow Zoo</p>	<p>The Moscow Zoo Vet Training Workshop was successfully held June 23-28th, 2008. The health and reproductive quality of three Amur leopards at the Moscow Zoo Breeding Station were assessed. Five students from the PSAA received theoretical and practical training in the management of an EEP and the veterinary evaluation of wild animals in captivity with a focus on Amur leopards and additional training on other taxa. The Workshop was led by ALWHP consulting veterinarian Dr. John Lewis.</p>	<p>For further information the Zoo workshop report is attached in Annex I.</p>
<p>Conduct final TMU workshop in autumn 08 (Coordinator for this not yet found).</p>	<p>Neither ZSL nor WCS were able to find a coordinator for the final training workshop planned for Nov 08, so it was postponed until Spring 2009. Darwin funding contributions to this workshop series are small, with WCS supplying most of the funds via TMU. The project officially ends on Dec 31 08, however we have funds from other sources to continue salaries and activities until Mar 31 09 so hope to be able to assist with the workshop organisation and content as usual (we will be applying for a time extension for the final report for this reason).</p>	
<p>Develop joint curriculum for lectures in wildlife Diseases with PSAA in autumn 2008</p>	<p>We contributed to the wildlife disease curriculum of PSAA; powerpoint presentations of all wildlife veterinary workshops run by ZSL ALWHP/WCS have now been incorporated into the PSAA Wildlife Disease course which is taught by Dr. Sergey Mihailovich Kovalov.</p>	
<p>Activities for output 2: Continue sampling in Lazo region through 2008 until sufficient samples collected. If resources allow, expand sampling effort to a second site. Carry out hunter sampling in Lazo region (and perhaps elsewhere) in autumn 2008.</p>	<p>We made good progress with disease sampling. We captured and sampled 16 wild animals from target species from 3 different areas in LZ and 54 domestic dogs and cats from 8 villages adjacent to LZ. We also collaborated with local hospitals and regional veterinarians to acquire 5-10 year histories of Zoonanthroponotic and zoonotic diseases in the LZ area that may be important for leopard reintroductions. Resources did not allow for a second sampling site. In November, after the hunting begins, we will conduct hunter sampling of ungulates from 3 different hunting bases adjacent to LZ. We will also begin trapping ungulates after the onset of snowfall.</p>	<p>Please see also the ZSL inhouse magazine article previously submitted, which will form Annex II, and links to blog and photo story at the bottom of the page http://www.zsl.org/field-conservation/carnivores-and-people/amur-leopard-conservation-in-russia,468,AR.html</p>
<p>Final sampling sessions of wild Amur leopards and tigers in 2008.</p>	<p>Spring session was cancelled due to permit problems but autumn session proceeded as normal. Project vet consultant Dr. John Lewis, (Wildlife Vets International), was present during the capture of 1 adult male and 1 adult female Amur leopard in October. Samples were taken and will be made available to the project. This session is still ongoing and so we do not yet have any pictures or detailed information to provide. Project employee</p>	

	Misha Goncharuk will be joining the team shortly to gain experience.	
Activities for output 3: The WHMU should be in working order by the end of 2008.	Progress was made with the business plan for the WHMU (current draft attached) and purchasing the last of the furnishing needed for the lab. The major items are due to arrive in a couple of weeks, and pictures will then be forwarded to Darwin. The renovations also proceeded well and the lab room is now awaiting only the furniture – due to arrive in a week or so.	Please see Annex III
Activities for output 4: Continue progress towards output 2 & 3.	We made good progress towards outputs 2 & 3, which are essential precursors for output 4. The disease management chapter for the reintroduction plan is also in final draft stage (text attached).	Please see Annex IV