



WWF

UPDATE

FEBRUARY

2015



Amur leopards

YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE

TOP CAT

LORD'S HALF-BROTHER
HAS TAKEN OVER HIS
TERRITORY

ALSO INSIDE

HOW YOU'RE HELPING TO PROTECT
AMUR LEOPARDS ACROSS RUSSIA AND CHINA
WILD WORLD - NEWS OF OUR
WORK AROUND THE WORLD
A BRAND NEW SECTION FOR
OUR YOUNG ADOPTERS

Lord

YOUR FIELD REPORT



COMPILED BY YULIA FOMENKO FROM WWF'S RUSSIAN AMUR LEOPARD AND TIGER PROGRAMME, WHICH YOUR ADOPTION HELPS SUPPORT



SEE THE CUBS IN ACTION

You may remember reading about a fly-on-the-wall YouTube documentary about the antics of your adopted leopards

The Russian team has finished the second lot of episodes, including some of the scenes you've just read about. You can watch the video at wwf.org.uk/spottedfamily2. If you've recently become an adopter and didn't see part 1, you'll find it at wwf.org.uk/spottedfamily.

Some scenes are quite graphic, so adults may wish to view the footage first, before letting younger viewers see it.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

We haven't been able to tell whether Narva's cubs are boys or girls, but they're all very different characters.

LEO is the oldest cub and is always leading the others into mischief. He (or she) has all the makings of a skilful hunter.

KRYM is much more cautious than Leo, but still very active. The two cubs often play together.

BARY is the youngest and also the quietest of the cubs. He (or she) rarely joins in with Leo and Krym's rough-and-tumble, and is always the last to feed.

ALL IMAGES © WWF-RUSSIA

Big news! Lord has been overthrown by his half-brother, and Narva's cubs have been in and out of hiding. It's like a leopard version of 'Lord Of The Rings'.

STEALING THE CROWN

In your last update we told you that Tolsty's son, Lord, was the new dominant male in the Land of the Leopard National Park. But it seems his half-brother, Meamur, had other ideas. Our latest camera trap photos show that Meamur has now taken over Lord's domain. We haven't seen Lord for a few months and think he's probably moved to another part of the forest.

Meamur was given his name by Ilya Lagutenko, leader of popular Russian rock band Mumiy Troll. And this is one cool cat. He's very handsome, and has the same white socks as Lord – except

1.5 YEARS AMUR LEOPARD CUBS BECOME FULLY INDEPENDENT AT AROUND ONE-AND-A-HALF YEARS OLD



that Meamur's socks aren't quite as long. He's been prowling around his new territory making his presence felt, and he's already attracted the attention of at least one female resident. Narva was recently caught on camera following his trail.

TRIPLET TROUBLE

Talking of Narva. She and her three young cubs have been keeping us on our toes. First of all, we found camera trap footage showing that the youngest and smallest of the litter had hurt its paw. A few weeks later, Narva was caught on camera again, but without a cub in sight. Where were they?

We knew that the cubs were reaching the age where they could survive on their own in the wild, but we were concerned about the youngest one's injury. Then we found something that made us

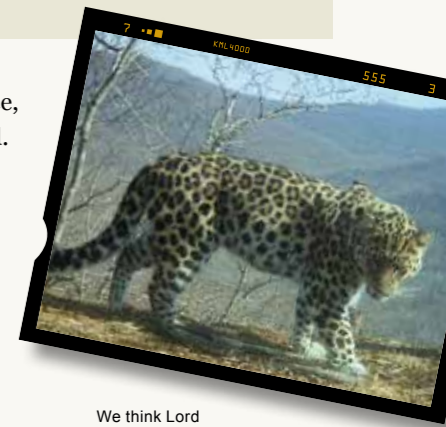
even more anxious. New camera trap footage revealed two of Narva's cubs, but we couldn't see any signs of the third. We were heartbroken – but that wasn't the end of the story.

We kept watching the forest and checking the camera traps, and a few weeks later they gave us the results we'd been hoping for. The third cub was alive and well, and his paw seemed better too. We think this cheeky cub was probably there all along, but keeping out of range of the camera traps. Playing hide-and-seek with us!

GOODBYE GIRL

After all that, the adventure still wasn't over for the three gorgeous cubs. One night, Narva decided it was time to say goodbye to her boisterous brood. There was no big fuss. She simply turned tail and headed off on her own.

The two older cubs didn't even seem to notice, but the youngest one looked rather confused. He watched Narva walk away and then sat down, as if waiting for her to return. Eventually he gave up and the cubs spent the night together. Amazingly they chose a spot right next to our camera traps. With no mum to control them they had a great time, tumbling and play fighting. Perhaps they were polishing up the vital hunting skills they'll need to survive on their own. 🐾



We think Lord may have moved to a different part of the forest

YOUR NEXT UPDATE >> IN YOUR JUNE UPDATE
WE'LL BRING YOU MORE NEWS ABOUT YOUR ADOPTED AMUR LEOPARDS, SO KEEP WATCHING THE POST.



ADOPTER INSIGHT



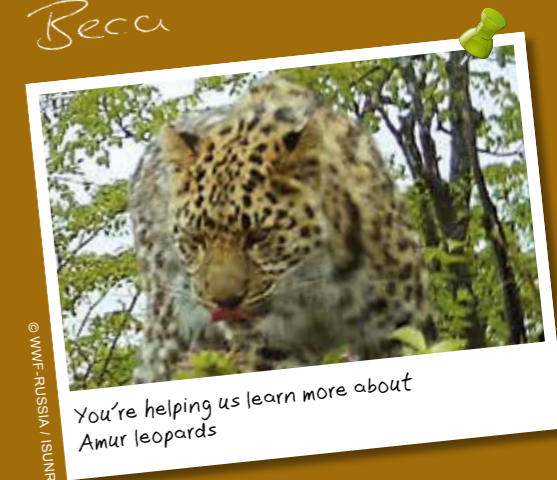
OUR AMUR LEOPARD EXPERT, BECCI MAY, TELLS YOU WHY CAMERA TRAPS ARE PLAYING A VITAL PART IN SECURING A BETTER FUTURE FOR AMUR LEOPARDS

Amur leopards are spotty, but very hard to spot! That's why using camera traps is so important. And you should be really proud of yourself. Adopters like you help to pay for the equipment that tells us so much about the cats' movements and behaviour – important information that enables us to pinpoint the best ways to protect them.

We've been stepping up the number of camera traps being used in Russia and China. We now have around 200 in China and 200 in the Land of the Leopard National Park, home of your adopted leopards. In total, we're covering around 80% of known Amur leopard habitat in Russia.

Results of last winter's Amur leopard survey show there are around 20 individual Amur leopards living in north-east China – between 13 and 15 in Jilin province and 5-7 in Heilongjiang province. This brings the total estimated global population of wild Amur leopards to 70. Because of you, we can go on working to learn more about these incredible big cats and help inform the national conservation strategy. You're making a real difference to the Amur leopard's future. Thank you.

Becci



You're helping us learn more about Amur leopards

MAPPING OUT A FUTURE

We're working within Russia and China to ensure Amur leopards and tigers have a brighter future

There are around 70 Amur leopards left in the wild, and the last remaining populations are found in the forests of the Russian Far East (principally Primorsky province) and north-east China (Jilin and Heilongjiang provinces).

UNDER PRESSURE

Many of the forests are untouched and pristine. But times are changing. Forest fires, infrastructure development and logging to feed the global demand for wood and paper are putting pressure on Amur leopard habitats. Poaching is an additional threat to Amur leopards and their prey.

HOW WE'RE HELPING

We're working with governments and other partners to look after the long-term future of the Amur-Heilong region and the wildlife it supports. Our work includes:

- Monitoring the movements of Amur leopards and tigers, including camera trap surveys

- Supporting the protection and management of forests to give Amur leopards and other animals safe places to hunt and breed
- Supporting the prey species that leopards and tigers depend on – for example, by providing additional food for deer during harsh winters
- Tackling unsustainable and illegal logging with the help of our Global Forest & Trade Network – which supports trade between companies committed to responsible forestry



2,500 SQ KM
THE AMUR LEOPARD'S CURRENT RANGE IS ESTIMATED TO BE UNDER 2,500 SQUARE KILOMETRES - THAT'S AN AREA AROUND THE SIZE OF DORSET

NUTS ABOUT LEOPARDS



HEALTHY FORESTS ARE A MUST FOR BOTH AMUR LEOPARDS AND TIGERS. PINE NUTS FROM KOREAN CEDAR PINE PROVIDE IMPORTANT FODDER FOR WILD

BOARS AND OTHER PREY SPECIES. IN 2010, WE HELPED PERSUADE THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO BAN THE LOGGING OF KOREAN PINE. SOME LOCAL COMMUNITIES NOW HARVEST PINE NUTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE, SUSTAINABLE SOURCE OF INCOME.

HOW YOU CAN HELP - THINK FSC

WHENEVER YOU BUY FURNITURE AND OTHER WOOD OR PAPER PRODUCTS, ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC) SYMBOL. THIS CONFIRMS THAT THE WOOD WAS SOURCED FROM RESPONSIBLY MANAGED FORESTS. YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT OUR LIVING FORESTS CAMPAIGN IN WILD WORLD.



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HEALTHY BALANCE

Amur leopards are top predators, which means they play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. We're working hard to increase prey numbers, because it all helps to nurture nature

Since 2012 we've been reintroducing red deer and sika deer into Wangqing Nature Reserve and introducing methods to support prey species in other protected areas across north-east China, including Suiyang Nature Reserve.

FROSTY FODDER

One of the methods we use is to place feeding stations and salt licks in different parts of the forest. This gives deer and other animals a better

chance of surviving the long, harsh winters. And it looks like our efforts are paying off.

Latest survey results show that all the feeding stations in Wangqing and Suiyang are being used, and that prey species are reproducing. Prey density has doubled in Suiyang and tripled in Wangqing compared with 2010. Roe deer and wild boar are charging ahead in the population stakes, which is great news for Amur leopards.



A magnificent sika deer

© VLADIMIR FILONOV / WWF

TOUGH JUSTICE

WE'RE HOPING STRONGER MEASURES AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME WILL MAKE WOULD-BE OFFENDERS THINK AGAIN



© MARK ATKINSON / WWF

Following amendments to the Criminal Code of Russian Federation (which we pushed for), it's now illegal to take, keep, purchase, store, transport, transfer and sell wild animals protected by Russian law – including Amur leopards. And the government has been making sure that everyone knows this through a poster and advertising campaign. Now we've seen the first conviction.

IN THE KNOW

Having read one of the posters, a witness knew exactly what to

do when he came across a group of men inspecting a leopard skin – incredibly they were doing this in broad daylight in the middle of a street!

The witness immediately contacted the police and they caught the culprit red-handed. He was found guilty and given seven months' community service with 5% of his salary confiscated. It's another positive step forward in the fight against illegal wildlife trade.



“ IT'S NOW ILLEGAL TO TAKE, KEEP, PURCHASE, STORE, TRANSPORT, TRANSFER AND SELL WILD ANIMALS PROTECTED BY RUSSIAN LAW ”



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SEND A MESSAGE TO THE RANGERS

KNOWING THAT YOU'RE THERE FOR THEM MEANS A LOT TO THE RANGERS MONITORING YOUR ADOPTED AMUR LEOPARDS, SO WHY NOT SEND THEM YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE OF SUPPORT? WE'LL FORWARD IT ON TO YULIA, AND PRINT A SELECTION IN YOUR NEXT ADOPTION UPDATE. EMAIL YOUR MESSAGE OF BETWEEN 50-100 WORDS TO MYADOPTION@WWF.ORG.UK WITH THE SUBJECT LINE 'MY AMUR LEOPARDS - MESSAGE FOR RANGERS'

Thank you

WWF.ORG.UK

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|  | <p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <hr/> <p>wwf.org.uk</p> |
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