



ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific

Workshop on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity for Transboundary Cooperation

Session 2.1

Overview of the NEASPEC big cat projects

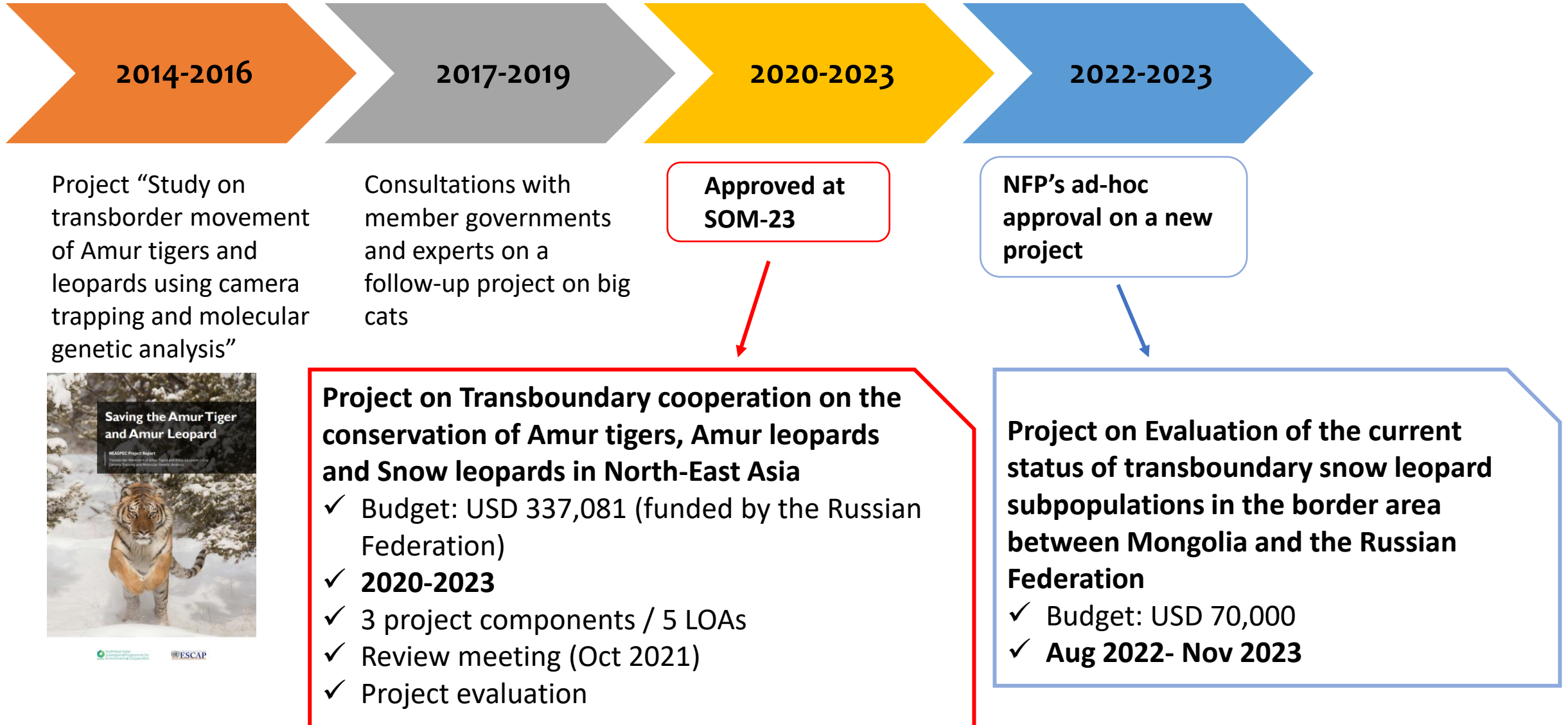
Mi-Jin Lee

ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office / NEASPEC Secretariat

28 August 2024



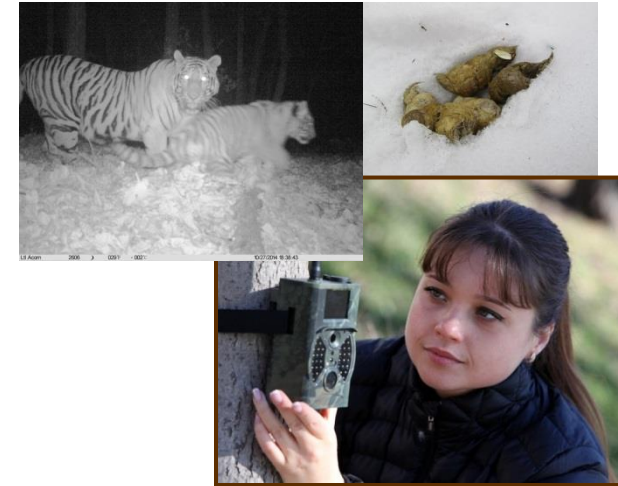
NEASPEC Activities - overview



Study on transborder movement of amur tigers and leopards using camera trapping and molecular genetic analysis (2014-2016)

Field Study

- Camera Trapping (2014)
- DNA Sample collection (2014)



Molecular Genetic Analysis

- Samples sent to China (December 2015)
- Extraction of DNA from samples

Final Project Report

- WWF Russia to compile analysis outcomes and provide policy recommendations
- Table of Content of the project report agreed at EGM
- Completed in autumn 2016

Study on transborder movement of amur tigers and leopards using camera trapping and molecular genetic analysis (2014-2016)

Camera trapping outcomes

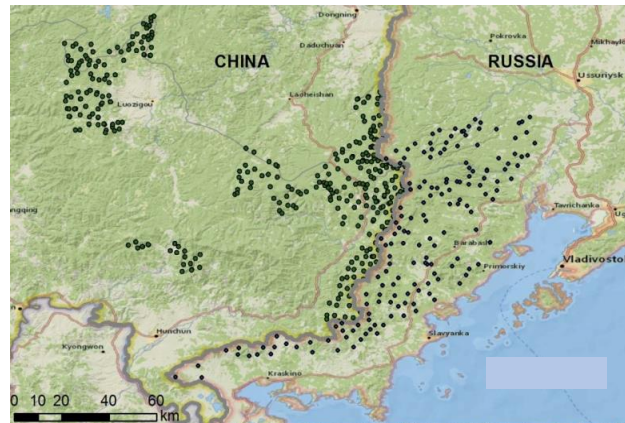
Identified territories	No .of Adults (Cubs)	No. of Adults (Cubs)
	Tigers	Leopards
China	22 (4)	23 (1)
Russia	42 (7)	81 (13)
Observed in both countries	19	15
Total	45	89

Molecular genetic analysis outcomes

		Tigers	Leopards
China	Samples collected	103	104
	Samples analyzed	22	15
	Individuals identified	15	10
Russia	Samples collected	78	86
	Samples analyzed	18	23
	Individuals identified	9	17
Both countries	Individuals identified	1	1

The first time for DNA samples from Russia to be delivered to China for joint analysis

- Some leopards and tigers actively cross the border.
- They are resident individuals with home rangers in both countries.
- One leopard crossed the border 10 times in 2013-2014.
- Clear trend of dispersion of young individuals from Russia to China.
- Tigers in China moved further inland from the border compared to those in Russia.



Post-project consultations with member States and experts on a follow-up project on big cats (~2019)

Consultation Meeting on Transboundary Nature Conservation (26 Feb 2018)

- Recommendations for the follow-up project
 - Joint assessment of habitats and corridors in range countries
 - Unified monitoring methodology
 - Technical cooperation on joint disease monitoring




Workshop on Transboundary Conservation of Big Cat Species in North-East Asia (July 2019)

- Requested urgent action towards establishing a transboundary protected area and conducting joint habitat assessment of ecological corridors and habitats.
- Follow-up action for snow leopards focusing on capacity building for scientific assessment.
- Elaborated on potential proposals to be funded by the Russian Federation
 - i. Sino-Russian transboundary protected area in the East Manchurian area
 - ii. Feasibility study in Lesser Khingan
 - iii. Study of migration of snow leopard along the Mongolian-Russian border

NEASPEC 23rd Senior Officials Meeting (October 2019)

- Approved the new project on big cats, with financial support by the Government of the Russian Federation

 PROJECT DOCUMENT	
Project title:	Transboundary cooperation on the conservation of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and snow leopards in North-East Asia
Internal reference:	2020-ENEA-003
Implementing division/office:	Subregional Offices for East and North-East Asia (SOE/NEA)
Estimated project budget:	US\$377,081
Implementing period:	January 2020 – September 2022 (33 months)
Target countries and stakeholder groups:	Target countries: China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation Target stakeholder groups: Government officials, research institutes, non-government organizations, academia and local stakeholders
Partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFCA), Feline Research Center of NFCA, Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park Administration • Mongolia: Academy of Sciences • Russian Federation: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, WWF-Russia Amur Branch, WWF-Russia Altai Branch • Relevant local governments, administrations of protected areas and national parks and research institutes
Proposed funding sources:	The Government of the Russian Federation
Work programme EA and output:	Subprogramme #2 (Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia) EA(A): Strengthened policy environment that supports the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including gender perspectives EA(B): Increased effectiveness of subregional initiatives and coordination processes to address regional and subregional dimensions of sustainable development
Link to SDGs and other global mandates:	Output 3: North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) SDG 15 (Life on land) Target 15.5: "Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species." Target 15.7: "Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products."

Harbin Consensus on Strengthening Cooperation in Transboundary Conservation of Tigers and Leopards (2019)



- International Forum on Tiger and Leopard Transboundary Conservation, 28-29 July 2019, Harbin, China
- Jointly organized by the NFGA, Northeast Forestry University and 14 supporting organizations including NEASPEC
- Importance of transboundary conservation for the recovery of global tiger and leopard populations and called for sustained and collaborative actions from all stakeholders;
- Need to establish transboundary protected areas/ecological corridors;
- Improve information sharing mechanism and harmonize technical standards for monitoring.

关于加强虎豹跨境保护合作 哈尔滨共识

虎豹等亚洲大型猫科动物是生物多样性保护的旗舰物种，在维护生态系统平衡中发挥着难以替代的作用，也是生态文化的重要载体。为推动跨境区域虎豹保护，由中国国家林业和草原局主办、东北林业大学承办、14个组织（见附件）协办的“虎豹跨境保护国际研讨会”于2019年7月27—30日在中国哈尔滨召开。来自19个国家、12个国际组织及机构的代表、专家共300多人参加了会议。

Харбинский Консенсус об укреплении трансграничного сотрудничества по сохранению тигров и леопардов

Тигры и леопарды являются важнейшими видами для сохранения биоразнообразия в Азии. Они играют незаменимую роль в поддержании экосистемного баланса, а также являются важными носителями экологической культуры. В целях содействия сохранению тигра и леопарда с 27 по 30 июля 2019 г. в Харбине, Китай, был проведен Международный Форум по Трансграничному Сохранению Тигра и Леопарда, организованный Северо-восточным университетом лесного хозяйства, при содействии Государственного управления лесного и степного хозяйства КНР и 14 организаций, перечисленных в Приложении. В форуме приняли участие более 300 представителей и экспертов из 19 стран и 12 международных организаций.

Harbin Consensus on Strengthening Cooperation in Transboundary Conservation of tigers and leopards

Tigers and leopards are flagship species of biodiversity conservation in Asia. They play an irreplaceable role in maintaining ecosystem balance and are regarded as important carriers of ecological culture. In order to promote conservation of tigers and leopards, the Forum organized by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of P.R. China and hosted by the Northeast Forestry University with support of 14 organizations listed in the Annex, was held in Harbin of China during July 27-30, 2019. Over 300 representatives and experts from 19 countries and 12 international organizations attended the Forum.

Project on Transboundary cooperation on the conservation of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and Snow leopards in North-East Asia (2020-2023)



1. TLNP + LLNP
2. Lesser Khingan Mountain areas; and
3. Chikhachev ridge (left) and Eastern Sayan ridge (right)

Project component	Implementation	Partners
1 Transboundary cooperation between the Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park (TLNP) of China and the Land of the Leopard National Park (LLNP) of the Russian Federation to conserve Amur tigers and leopards	January – December 2022	Land of the Leopard National Park
2 Transboundary cooperation between neighboring protected areas in Lesser Khingan Mountains to conserve Amur tigers	July 2020 – September 2021	Feline Research Center (China) and WWF Russia
3 Assessment of the current status of two snow leopard subpopulations in Transboundary areas between Mongolia and the Russian Federation	May 2020 – June 2021	Irbis Mongolia Center and WWF Russia

Project on Transboundary cooperation on the conservation of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and Snow leopards in North-East Asia (2020-2023)

■ Project component 1

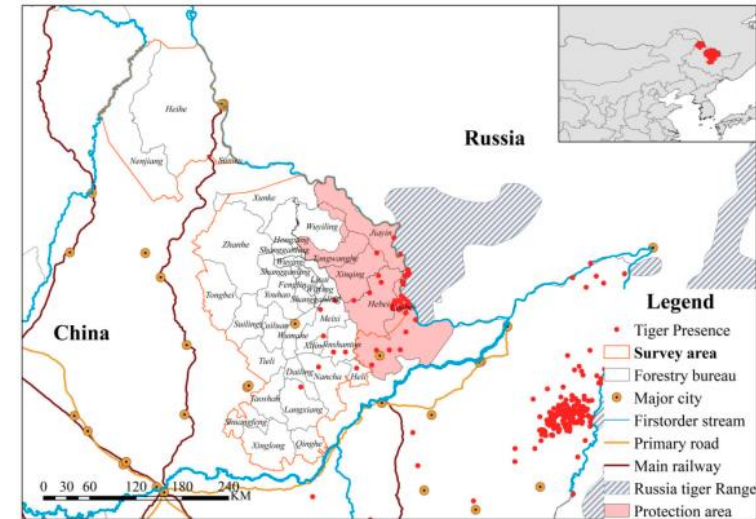
- ✓ **Implementing partner:** Land of the Leopard National Park (Russian Federation)
- ✓ **Implementing period:** Jan-Dec 2022
- ✓ **Budget:** USD 96,000
- ✓ **Target areas:** TLNP and LLNP
- ✓ **Target species:** Amur tigers and leopards
- ✓ **Key activities:** desk research, basic unified geographical map of the project transboundary protected areas (tentatively named 'Land of Big Cats'), information sharing and capacity building activities for experts and field staff
- ✓ **Recommendation:** creation of a formal coordination structure or mechanisms by establishing a permanent secretariat or coordination council of "Land of Big Cats"



Figure 2. Habitats potential for the Amur tiger on the territory of projected Sino-Russian transboundary national park "Land of Big Cats" (project progress report, created by the Pacific Institute Geography, Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Science)

Project on Transboundary cooperation on the conservation of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and Snow leopards in North-East Asia (2020-2023)

Figure 2. Schematic map of the scope of cross-border tiger protected areas



■ Project component 2

- ✓ **Implementing partner:** Feline Research Center (China) and WWF Russia (Amur Branch)
- ✓ **Implementing period:** July 2020 – September 2021
- ✓ **Budget:** USD 50,000
- ✓ **Target areas:** Lesser Khingan Mountains
- ✓ **Target species:** Amur tigers
- ✓ **Key activities:** feasibility studies to assess existing and proposed protected areas through field surveys, literature review, and socio-economic-environmental analysis
- ✓ **Recommendations:** an info-sharing platform on cross-border areas, joint scientific research and long-term monitoring to improve cross-border management of Amur tigers and their habitats, etc.
 - *Both partners proposes a creation of a cross-border nature conservation system and safe ecological corridors for Amur tigers.*

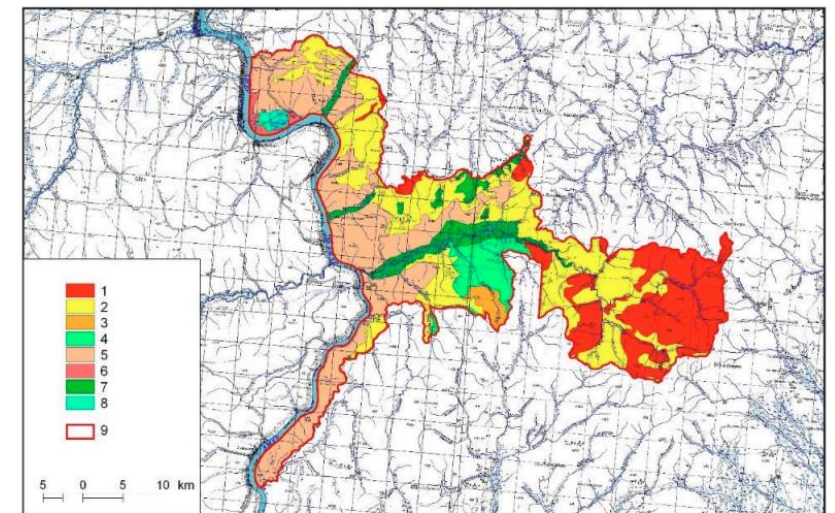


Fig. 25. Landscape map of the proposed Pompeyevsky National Park

The numbers indicate:

1–8: Types of natural landscapes (names are given in the text of the subsection). 9. Territory of the proposed national park

Project on Transboundary cooperation on the conservation of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and Snow leopards in North-East Asia (2020-2023)

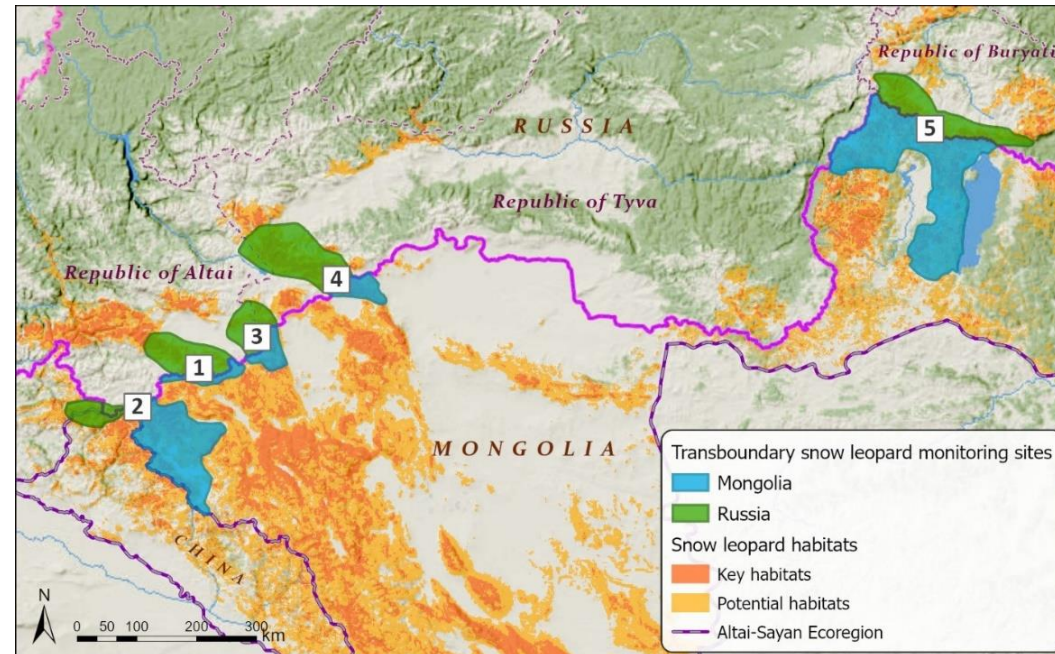
Project component 3

- ✓ **Implementing partner:** Irbis Mongolia Center and WWF Russia (Altai Branch)
- ✓ **Implementing period:** May 2020 – June 2021
- ✓ **Budget:** USD 50,000
- ✓ **Target areas:** Chikhachev ridge and Eastern Sayan ridge
- ✓ **Target species:** Snow leopards
- ✓ **Key activities:** field monitoring and joint analysis
- ✓ **Recommendations:** continued joint scientific analysis in expanded study areas

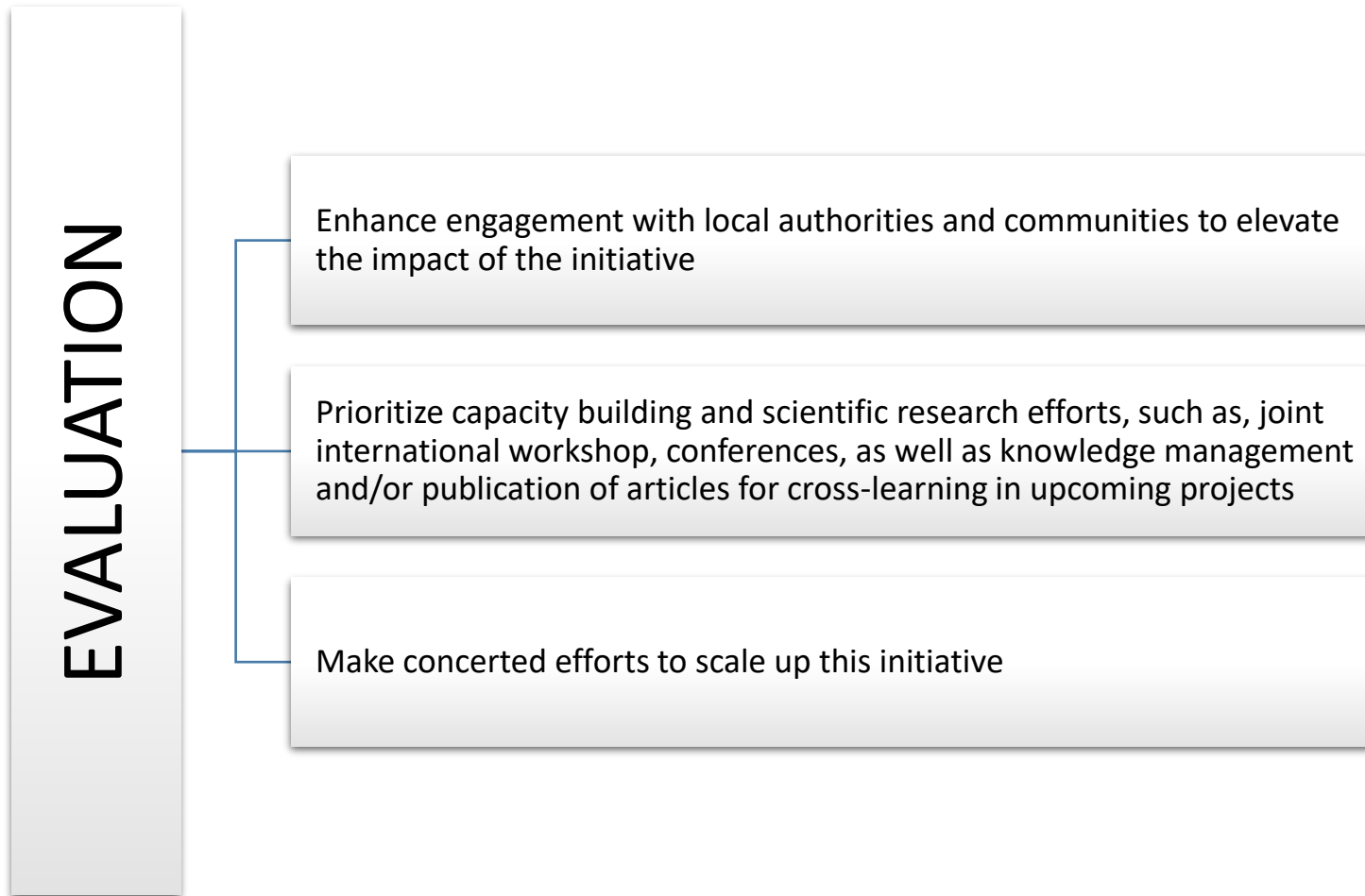


Follow-up project on Snow leopards

- ✓ **Implementing partner:** Irbis Mongolia Center
- ✓ **Implementing period:** Aug 2022 – Nov 2023
 - *ad-hoc approval by NFP in June 2022*
- ✓ **Budget:** USD 70,000
- ✓ **Key activities:** field monitoring and joint analysis



Project on Transboundary cooperation on the conservation of Amur tigers, Amur leopards and Snow leopards in North-East Asia (2020-2023)





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