Summary report on the Amur tiger population in Russia, transboundary groups, and areas of mutual exchange of individuals

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THE AMUR TIGER CENSUS

Amur tigers inhabit the regions that always have snow in winter thus the census is conducted via counting paw prints and with the help of photo/video equipment. Over 1500 specialists, hundreds of vehicles, and snowmobiles are involved.

Data collection scope:

- Paw print sizes and distance between tracks.
- Time and direction of animal movement.
- Obstacles preventing movement between river basins.
- Sex and age of animals.

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Individual identification:

- Tigers are distinguished by the pad (“heel”) print of the front paw.
- The width of the “heel” is measured precisely.
- When the “heel” width coincides between individuals, movement time and direction are used for differentiation.

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THE AMUR TIGER CENSUS

- The Amur tiger census across the complete range — once every 10 years. Consists of 2 stages: seasonal part and one-time census.
- Annual monitoring that covers ~20–25% of the range — annually. It shows trends in tiger population and food resources; anthropogenic impact on habitat; climatic phenomena affecting animals well-being etc.

IF the the trends that monitoring shows are worrying, they conduct the unscheduled census across the complete range.

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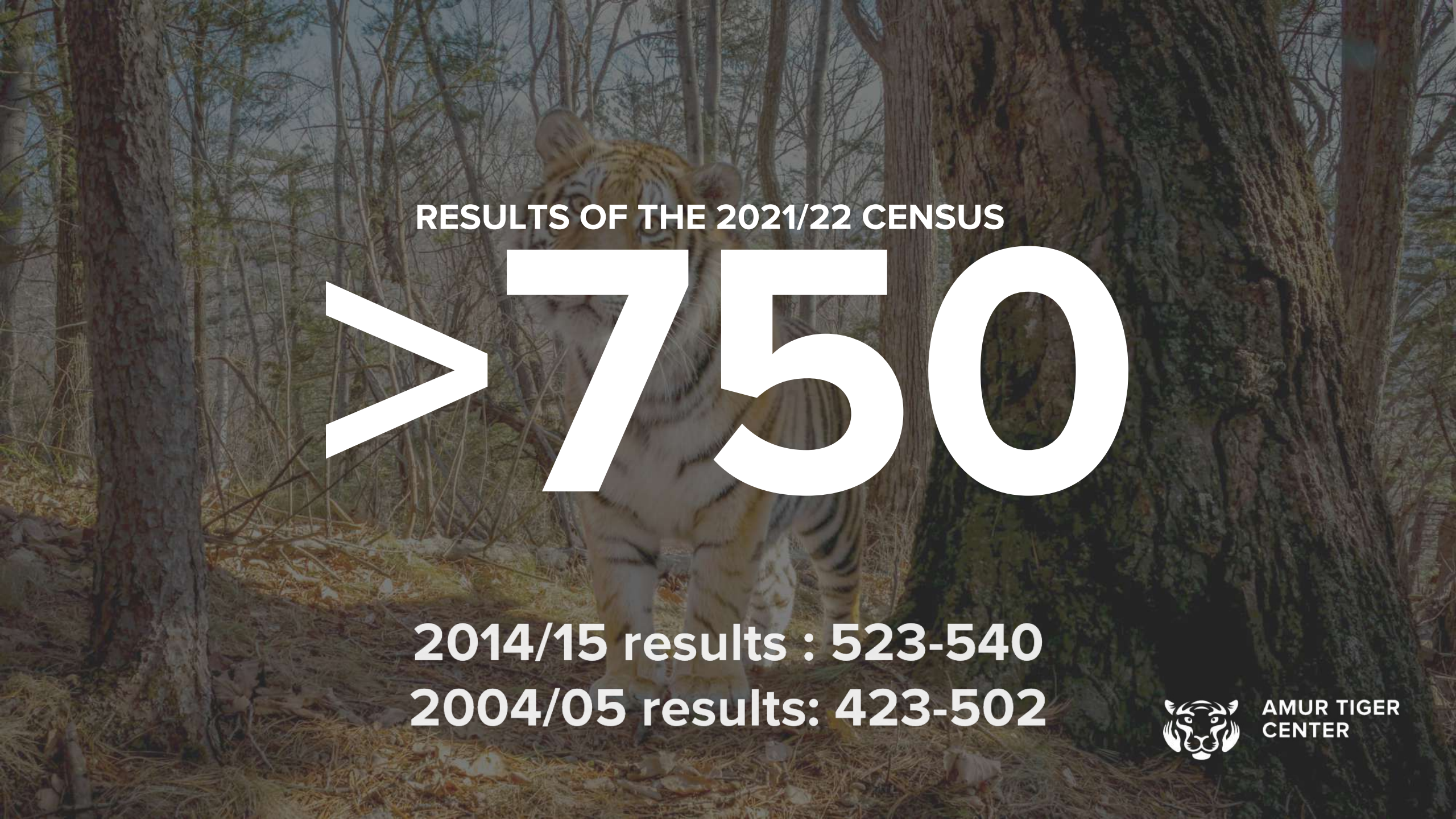
THE AMUR TIGER CENSUS 2021/2022

! **Census 2021-2022 was unscheduled: it was carried out 7 years (rather than the usual 10) after the previous one, due to a decline in wild boar population in certain parts of the Amur tiger's range. The decline was caused by outbreaks of African swine fever, which directly affects the tiger's population size and distribution.**

The event was conducted in accordance with Order No. 791 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation (Minprirody) dated 25 October 2021 & the Plan for the Full-Scale Census. The working group responsible for preparing and conducting the census included representatives Minprirody; directors of nature reserves and national parks; state and public environmental protection organizations; research institutes including the Russian Academy of Sciences. In each region within the tiger's range, dedicated sub-groups were established to carry out the census.


RESULTS OF THE 2021/22 CENSUS
>750
2014/15 results : 523-540
2004/05 results: 423-502
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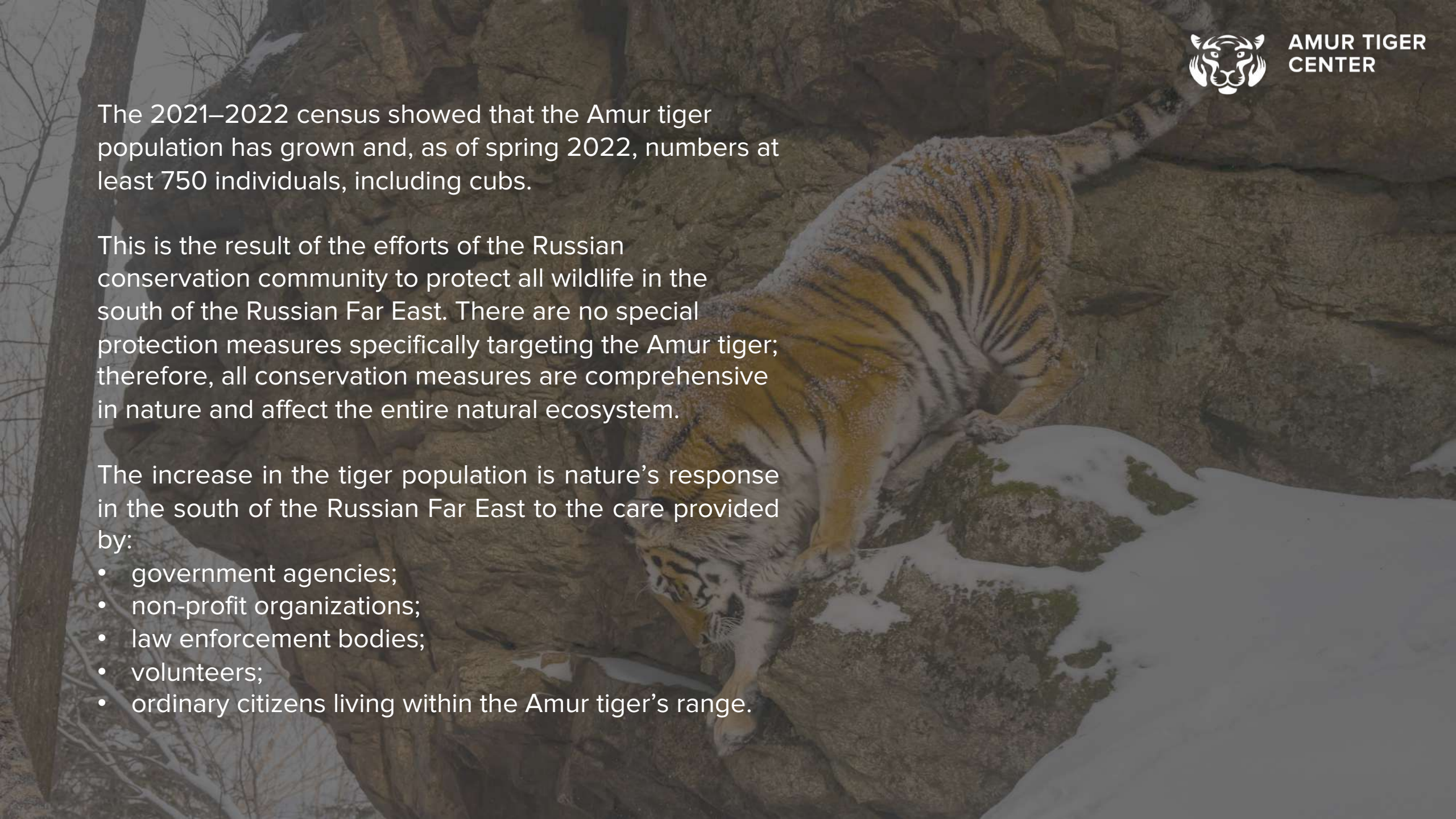

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The 2021–2022 census showed that the Amur tiger population has grown and, as of spring 2022, numbers at least 750 individuals, including cubs.

This is the result of the efforts of the Russian conservation community to protect all wildlife in the south of the Russian Far East. There are no special protection measures specifically targeting the Amur tiger; therefore, all conservation measures are comprehensive in nature and affect the entire natural ecosystem.

The increase in the tiger population is nature's response in the south of the Russian Far East to the care provided by:

- government agencies;
- non-profit organizations;
- law enforcement bodies;
- volunteers;
- ordinary citizens living within the Amur tiger's range.

CENSUS 2021/2022 DETAILS

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Since the 2014–2015 census the tiger has expanded into new territories where it was previously absent or only occasionally passed through. In the core range zone, the area has increased by 38 907 sq km overall, including:

- 22 411 sq km in Primorsky Krai;
- 16 496 sq km in Khabarovsk Krai.

The relative growth in Khabarovsk Krai was notably higher. The share of regions in the total range area has also changed — slightly, but in favour of Khabarovsk Krai.

Tiger Population by Region (Based on the 2021–2022 Census)

Region	Male Tigers	Female Tigers	Cubs	Total
Primorsky Krai	137	276	150	563
Khabarovsk Krai	55	99	56	210
Jewish Autonomous Oblast (JAO)	3	3	1	7
Total	195	378	207	780

SITUATION AS OF 2026

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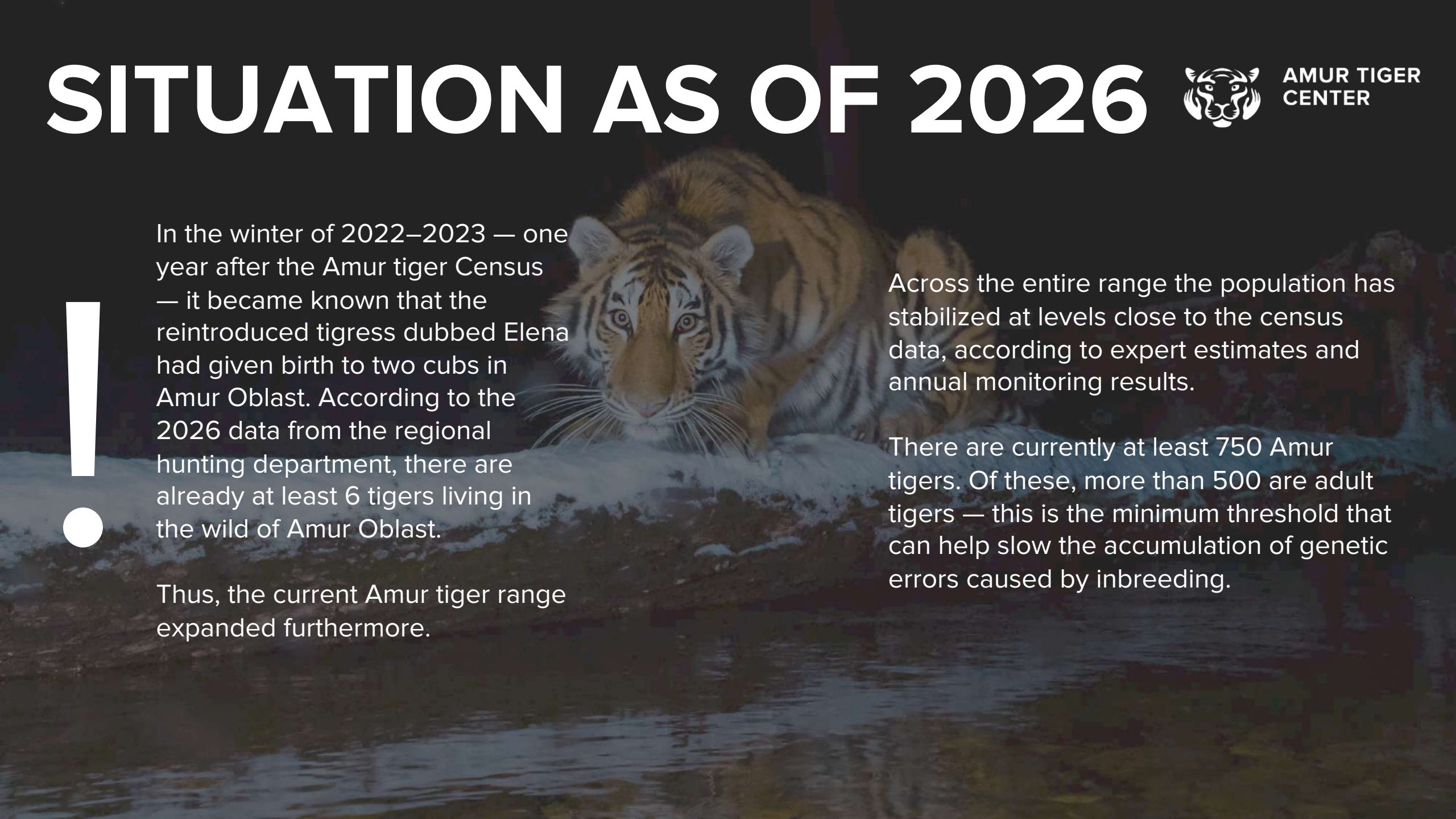

In the winter of 2022–2023 — one year after the Amur tiger Census — it became known that the reintroduced tigress dubbed Elena had given birth to two cubs in Amur Oblast. According to the 2026 data from the regional hunting department, there are already at least 6 tigers living in the wild of Amur Oblast.

Thus, the current Amur tiger range expanded furthermore.

Across the entire range the population has stabilized at levels close to the census data, according to expert estimates and annual monitoring results.

There are currently at least 750 Amur tigers. Of these, more than 500 are adult tigers — this is the minimum threshold that can help slow the accumulation of genetic errors caused by inbreeding.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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The main international documents guiding tiger conservation are:

- **Global Tiger Recovery Program 2.0 (GTRP)**;
- **Declaration of the Heads of Government of Tiger Range Countries**.

Both adopted at the Second **International Forum on Tiger Conservation**, Vladivostok, September 2022.

Key achievements of TRCs since **the International Forum on Tiger Conservation**, Saint Petersburg, November, 2010 :

- **Development of national tiger conservation strategies;**
- **Strengthening the protection of tigers and their habitats;**
- **Expansion of the network of protected areas.**

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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Russia has fully met its 2010 GTRP commitments, as confirmed by the 2021–2022 Amur tiger census.

BUT the future of the Amur tiger subspecies depends not only on Russia, but also on neighboring countries: the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

International cooperation and joint efforts will help:

- **increase the effectiveness of measures aimed at saving the tiger;**
- **ensure the exchange of information and ideas;**
- **improve the chances of conserving the Amur tiger.**

KEY AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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To ensure the long-term survival of the Amur tiger, interstate cooperation should be developed in the following areas:

1. STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS
2. TRANSBOUNDARY RESERVE “LAND OF BIG CATS”
3. COMBATING ILLEGAL TRADE
4. SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION
5. CAPTIVE POPULATION MANAGEMENT
6. PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL INITIATIVES
7. PARTNERSHIP WITH NGOs

RUSSIA-CHINA COOPERATION

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Russia

- Holds almost a century-long experience in tiger study and conservation;
- Plays a crucial role as a source population for tigers dispersing into border areas.

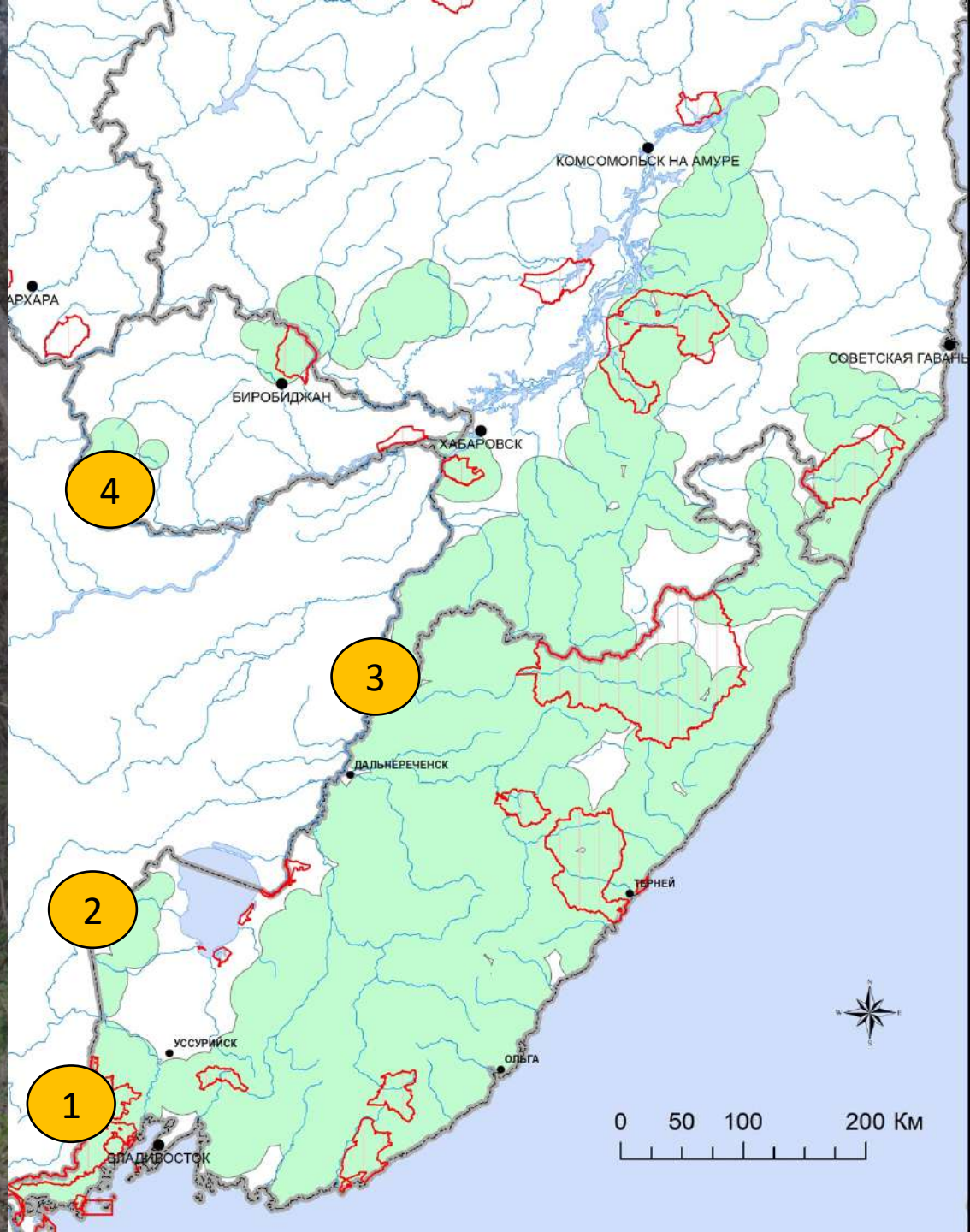
China

- Has taken active measures to conserve the Amur tiger and wildlife in the past decade;
- Investing heavily into the nature conservation projects and rapidly building expertise.

RUSSIA-CHINA COOPERATION

Natural corridors along the Russia–China border:

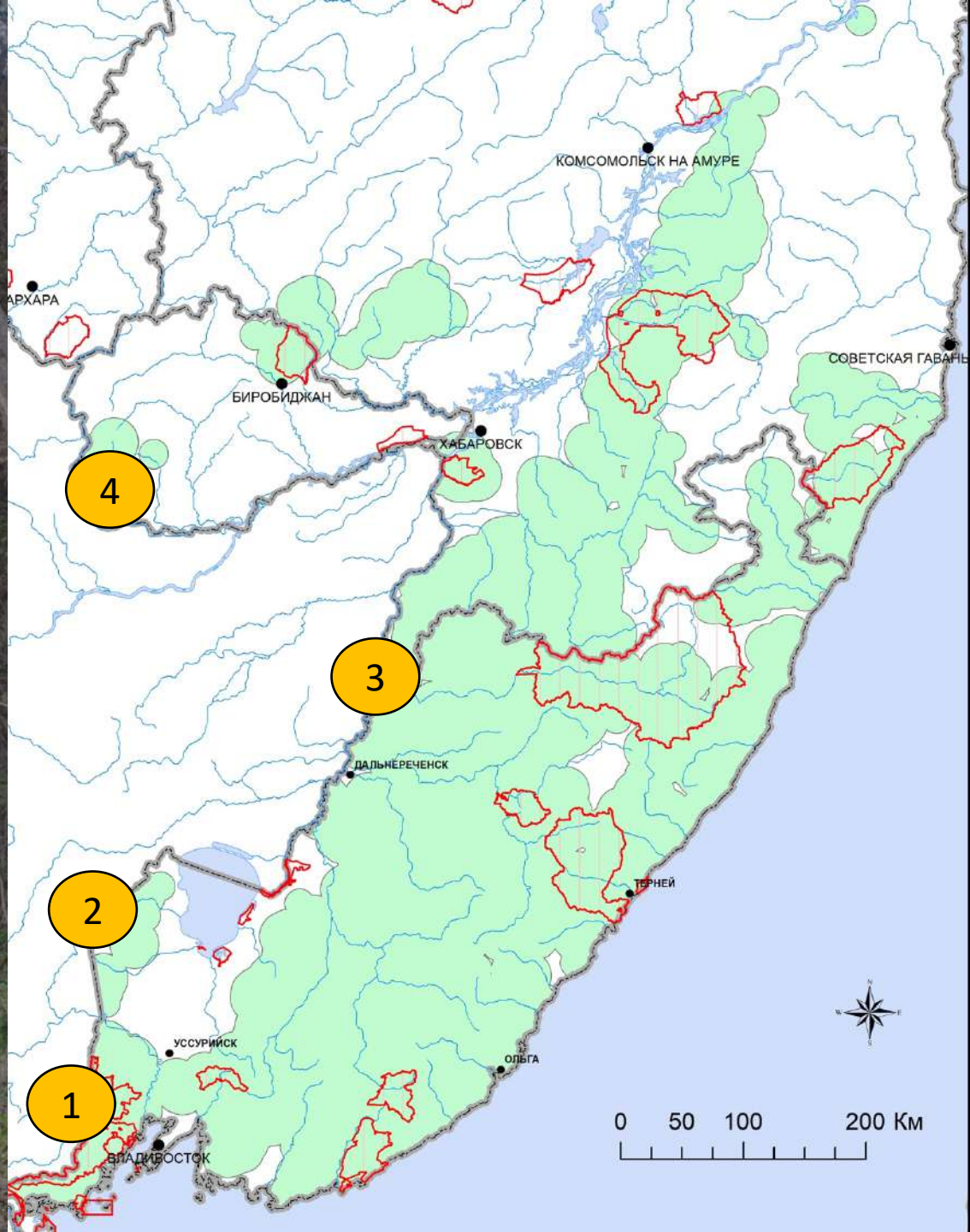
1. **South-Western Primorye**: nearly 200 km of land border (from Khasan to Poltavka);
2. **Pogranichny Range**: south of Lake Khanka;
3. **Ussuri River Gorge**: near the Bikin River mouth;
4. **Khingan Gorge**: along the Amur River.



RUSSIA-CHINA COOPERATION

Natural corridors 1, 2 and 3 are the specially protected areas now. Those are (1) National Park “Land of the Leopard”, Poltavsky zakaznik; (2) Komissarovsky zakaznik & (3) Sredneussuriysky zakaznik on the Russian side.
On the Chinese side: Northeast Tiger and Leopard National Park, Fenghuangshan, Erduan, Datashan, Dongfanghong and Dajiahe nature reserves.

There’re plans (the work is ongoing) to create **national park Pompeevsky** in Russia and to expand **Taipinggou Reserve** in China to protect natural corridor 4.




THANK
YOU!