

## Amur Tiger

(*Panthera tigris altaica*)



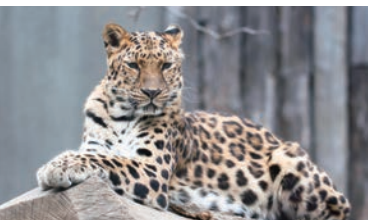
**Conservation status** | Endangered (IUCN Red List)

**Distribution** | Northeast China and Russian East (possibly DPRK)

**Habitats** | Dense forest and mountains, such as Korean pine forests

**Total population (estimate in wild, including cubs)** | approximately 800 \*

**Threats** | habitat destruction and fragmentation, lack of prey, and inbreeding risk



## Amur Leopard

(*Panthera pardus orientalis*)

**Conservation status** | Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List)

**Distribution** | Northeastern China and Southwestern Russia (possibly DPRK)

**Habitats** | mountainous forests, such as mixed Korean pine and deciduous forests

**Total population (estimate in wild, including cubs)** | Approximately 150 \*

**Threats** | Habitat destruction and fragmentation, lack of prey, growing competition with Amur tigers, and inbreeding risk

## Snow Leopard

(*Panthera uncia*)



**Conservation status** | Vulnerable (IUCN Red List)

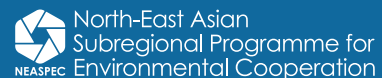
**Distribution** | Central and South Asia, including China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation

**Habitats** | Mountain ranges of Central and South Asia, at elevations of 500-5,000 meters

**Total population (estimate in wild, including cubs)** | up to 8,000 \*

**Threats** | Habitat destruction and fragmentation, lack of prey, and human-wildlife conflict

\* Species numbers are estimated based on projects under NEASPEC and expert consultations.



North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) is a comprehensive intergovernmental cooperation framework addressing environmental challenges in North-East Asia.

NEASPEC was established in 1993 by six member States, namely, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, to promote environmental cooperation in the subregion as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992.

NEASPEC has five thematic areas: Air Pollution, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, Marine Protected Areas, Low Carbon Cities, and Desertification and Land Degradation. Efforts on big cats fall under Biodiversity and Nature Conservation.

The Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP-SOENEA) serves as the secretariat to NEASPEC.

### NEASPEC Secretariat

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## NEASPEC

Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

# Paws across borders

Enhancing cross-border cooperation for big felines



## Overview

The North-East Asia region is home of some big cats species such as:

Amur tiger

Amur leopard

Snow leopard

These species play a vital role in:

- Maintaining a balanced and resilient ecosystem
- Serving as cultural symbols
- Acting as forest guardians

NEASPEC, as the only intergovernmental environmental mechanism, focuses on conserving these species by:

- Fostering transboundary cooperation
- Supporting field studies and joint analysis
- Linking science to policy



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



### Goal 1

Contribute to biodiversity conservation in North-East Asia by ensuring the survival of target species



### Goal 2

Promote transboundary and intergovernmental cooperation for nature conservation among NEASPEC member countries



### Goal 3

Enhance coordinated mechanisms for the conservation of target species and their habitats



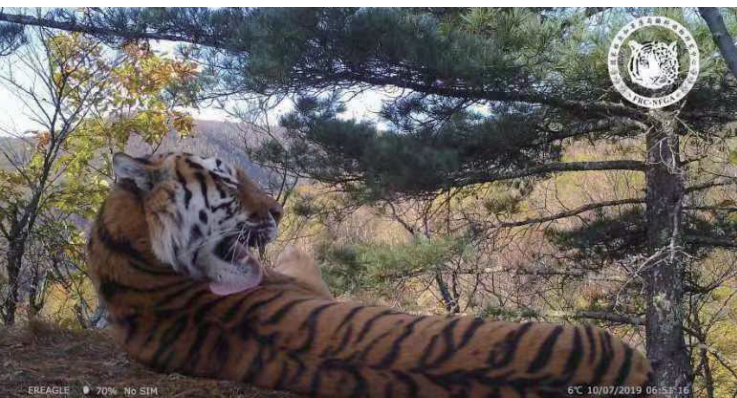
### Approach 1

Build on existing schemes to create synergies, promote partnership with existing activities and networks



### Approach 2

Support the subregional implementation of international agreements relating to nature conservation



Amur tiger (©Feline Research Center)



Snow leopard (©Eco-Bridge Continental)

## Achievements

### 1 Joint DNA Sampling

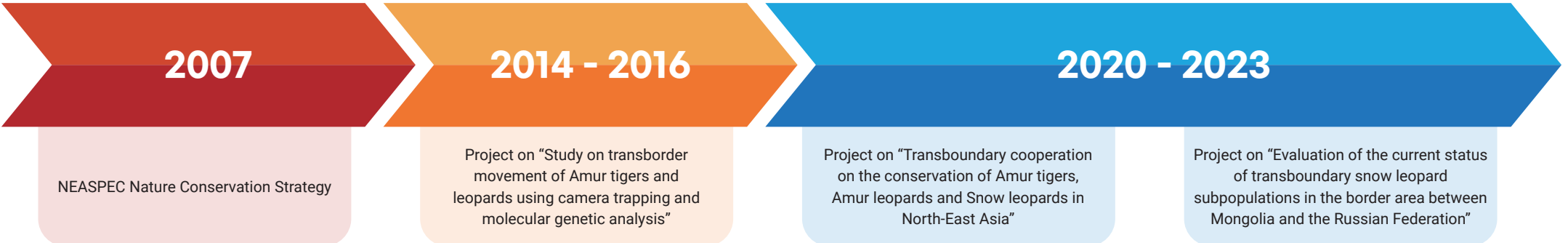
For the first time, DNA samples of Amur tigers and leopards were collected across the Sino-Russian border for collaborative molecular genetic analysis.

### 2 Data Sharing and Analysis

Chinese and Russian experts shared camera trap data and conducted molecular genetic analysis using the same methodologies, significantly enhancing data reliability.

## Collaborative Efforts for Nature Conservation under NEASPEC

The need for more collaborative mechanisms is growing, as effective partnerships are essential for advancing nature conservation in North-East Asia. Information and data sharing is key in driving further progress under NEASPEC, ensuring coordinated efforts for the region's ecological future.



## Achievements

### 1 Support for the "Land of Big Cats" Initiative

Conducted an in-depth study to advance action plans under the Memorandum of Understanding between national parks in China and the Russian Federation, aimed at fostering transboundary protected areas for big cat conservation.

### 2 Feasibility Study of Lesser Khingan Mountain Habitats

Partnered with experts from China and the Russian Federation to evaluate new habitats for Amur tigers, emerging as a result of successful reintroduction projects since 2010s. This study explores the potential for a cross-border conservation mechanism to protect these habitats.

### 3 Updated Snow Leopard Population Data

Collected and analyzed new demographic data on snow leopards along the Mongolia-Russian border, enhancing insights into population dynamics and providing a solid foundation for future management and conservation strategies.