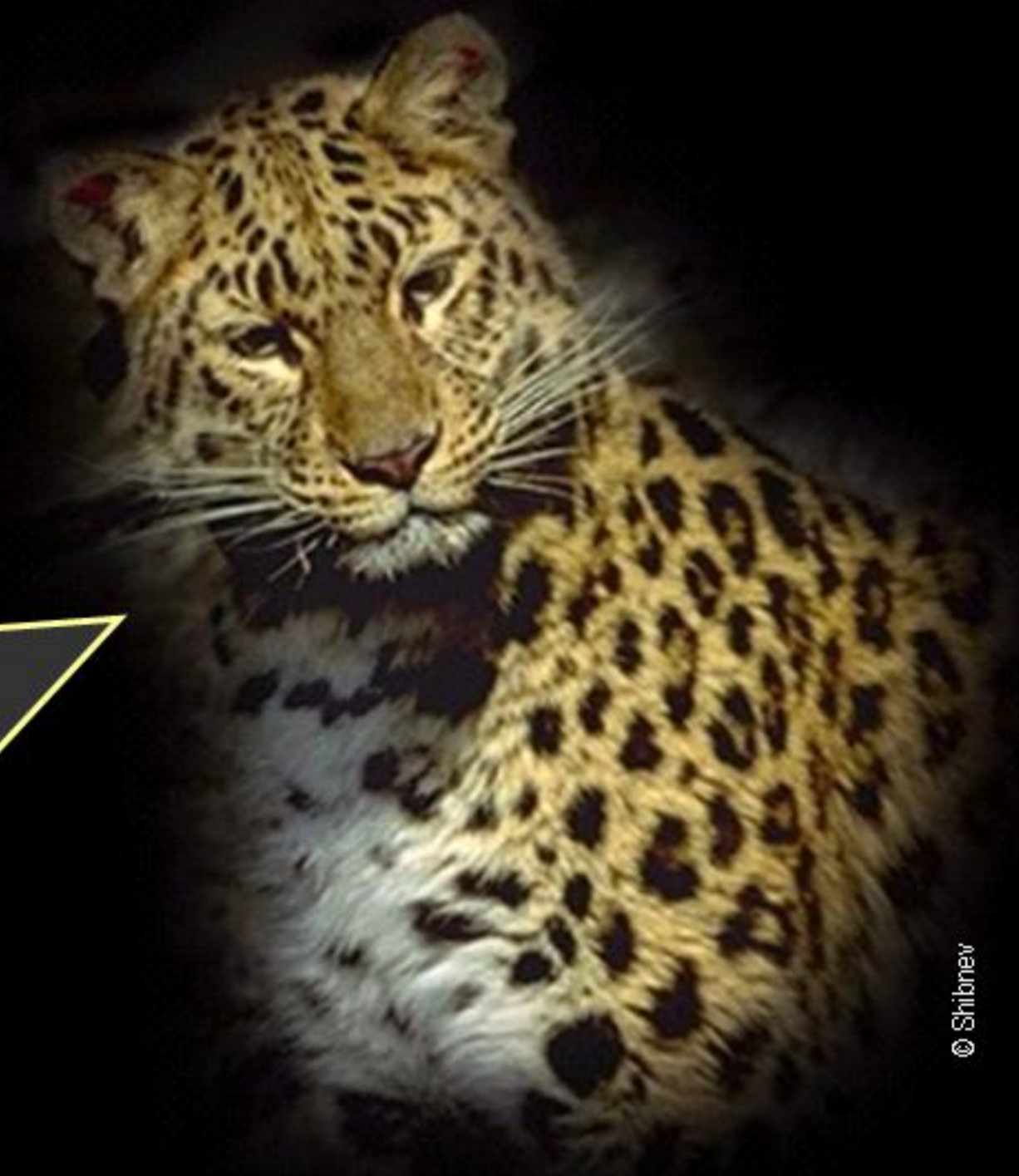


Hello !

I'm Vladimir, the **Amur Leopard**.
I'm the world's most endangered
cat. I live in **Russia**



© Sitnikov



There are only **30** Amur leopards alive in the wild today

Learn more about this beautiful big cat now...

What is an Amur leopard?

The Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) is the most endangered large cat in the world, only about 30 Amur Leopards survive in the wild. One of eight leopard subspecies it is named after the Amur River that forms much of the border between China and Russia. This leopard is very beautiful with unique long-haired fur which allows them to survive the extreme harsh winter of the Russian Far East.



Where do they live?

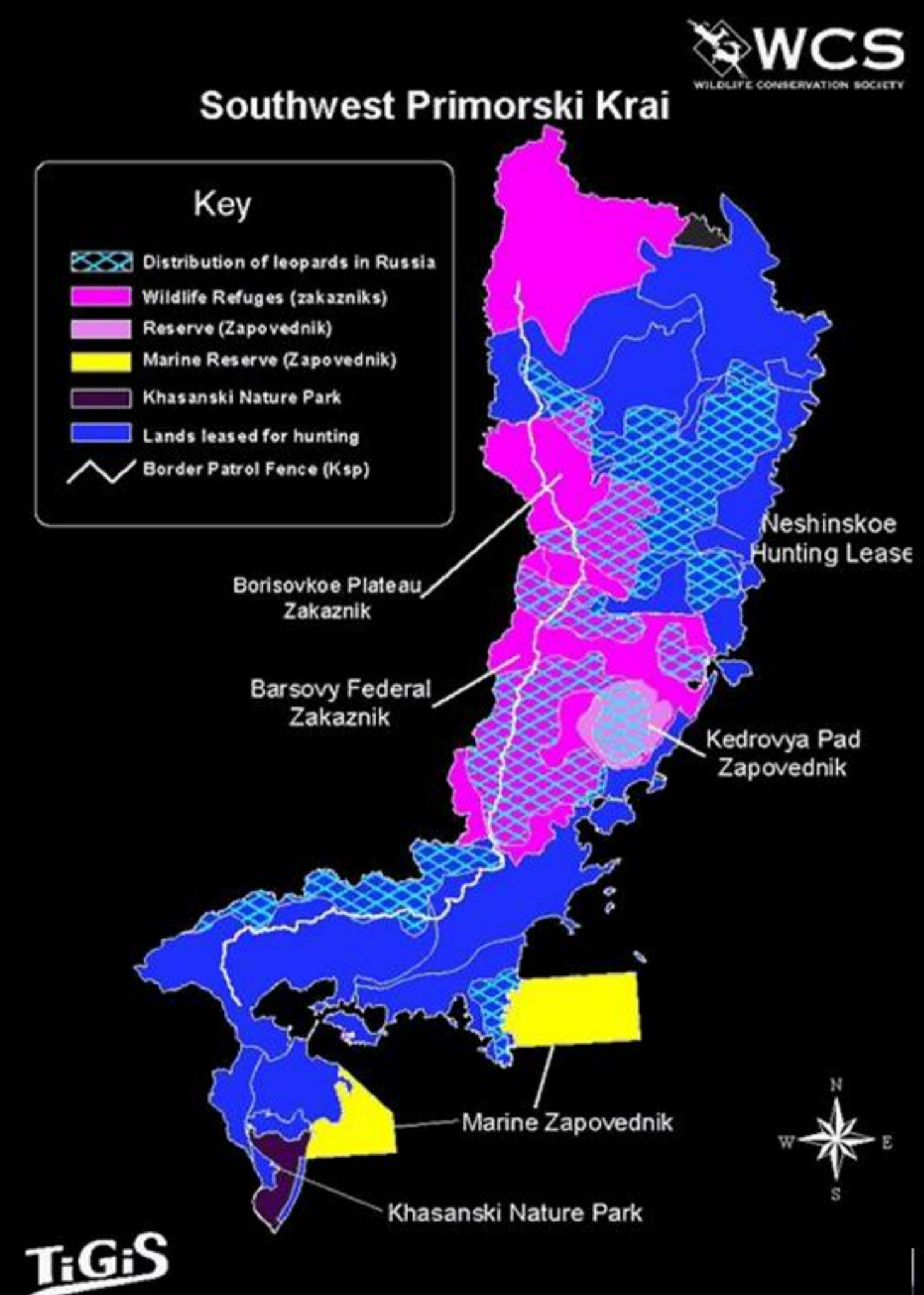
Most of them live in the Khasan district of Primorski Krai in the Russian Far East and only one or two individuals remain in China.

Its territory has shrunk enormously in the past century with only a tiny fragment of the original range remaining.

How do they live?

Amur leopards weigh between 25-48 kg, with exceptionally large males up to 60-75 kg. Their main prey species are roe and sika deer along with hares and badgers.

After a gestation period of around 12 weeks cubs are born in litters of 1-4 individuals. The cubs will stay with their mother for up to two years before becoming fully independent. Females first breed at an age of 3-4 years. In the wild leopards live for between 10-15 years.



Support Amur tiger & leopard conservation

Join us on www.amur.org.uk



Design: Guilaine Charon, CNRS, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France



Research

Scientists photograph the leopards when they walk past a camera in a tree triggering an infra-red beam. They monitor the population each year by examining these special photographs and by counting tracks in snow during winter.



Threat: Poaching

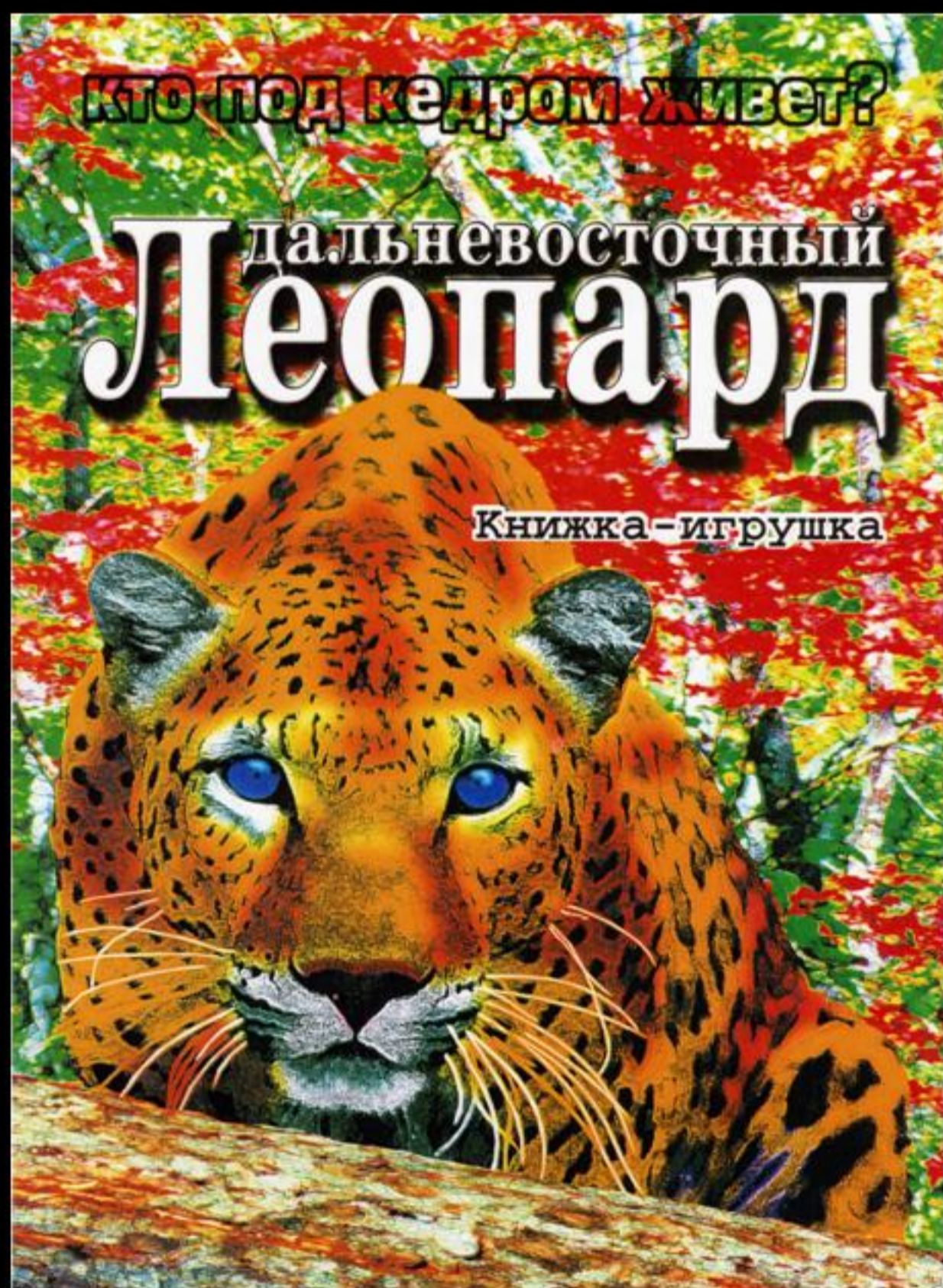
Poaching for the fur and Traditional Chinese Medicine trade is the biggest threat to the leopard's survival. In the year 2002-2003 police have confiscated 6 leopard skins in the Russian Far East from traders. Illegal hunting also reduces the leopard's prey populations. There are good anti-poaching teams protecting the leopards, but poaching still continues because the prosecution rate for illegal hunters and poachers is pitifully low



Conservation

The conservation projects supported by AMUR and its partners WCS, WWF, ZSL, DSWF, Tigris Foundation and Phoenix include:

- Training and financial support for anti-poaching teams
- Support for customs services that deal with illegal wildlife trade
- Support for forest fire-fighting
- Compensation for livestock killed by tigers and leopards
- An education and public awareness programme
- Habitat, prey and leopard population monitoring
- Support for the management of protected areas



We must take urgent action **NOW** to stop it from becoming extinct.

There is still time to save the Amur leopard but everyone who cares about Russian wildlife must get involved.

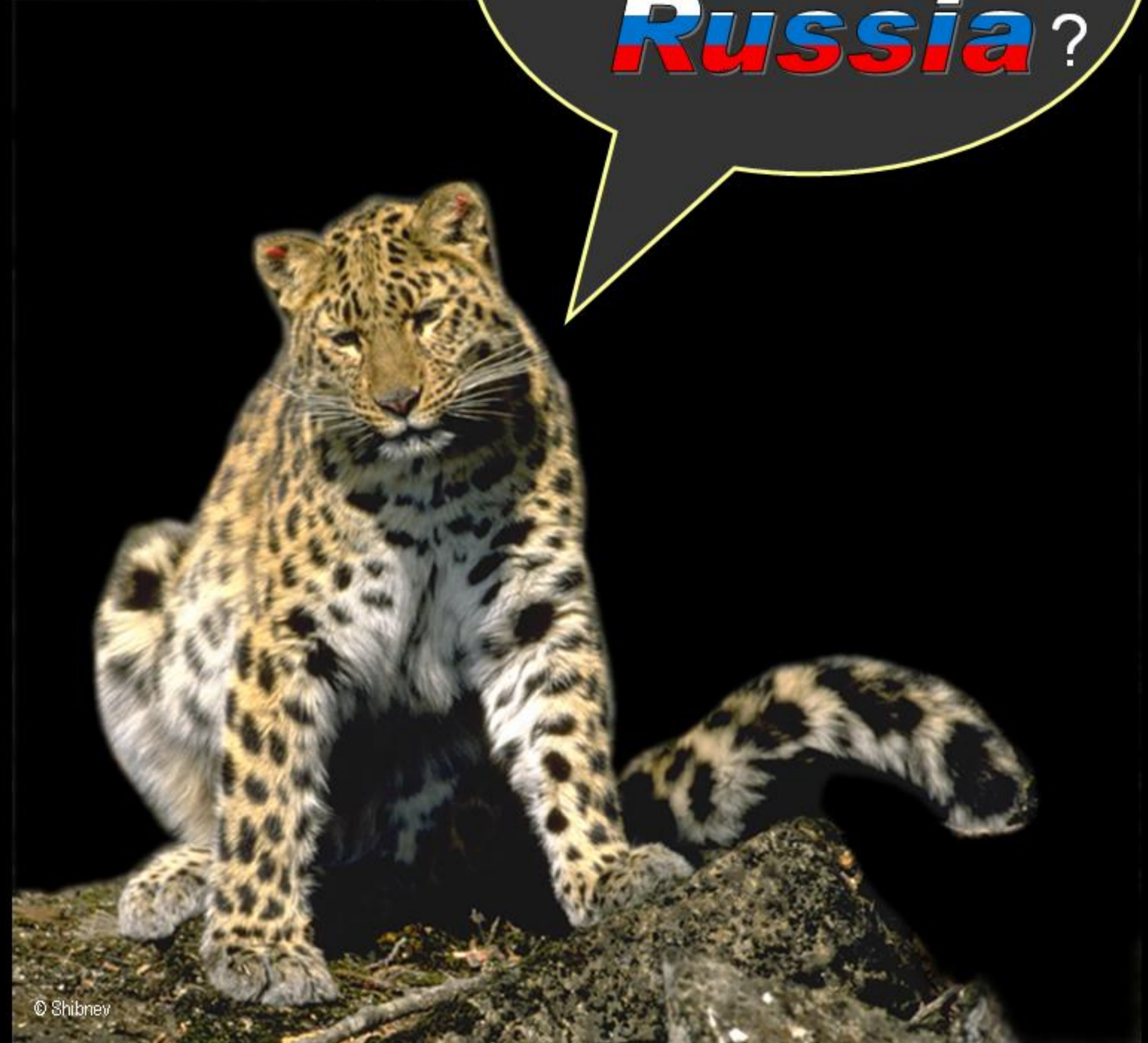
← This booklet was distributed to school children in leopard area.



Threat: Habitat destruction

Forest fires destroy large tracts of leopard habitat each year as farmers burn their fields and the fires spread to the forests where leopards live.

The forests where Amur leopards live also suffer from logging (there is only selective logging there, so forest do not disappear) and leopard habitat is also threatened by development projects, including plans for a coalmine, an oil pipeline and other infrastructure.



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