

Final Report: 2002-2003

Our project has made great progress - here are the highlights:

Booklet

Phoenix designed and published an educational booklet containing information on Black Vultures, their biology, reasons for population decline and conservation efforts. In total, 1,000 copies were produced in 2002. A second edition (2,000 copies) is scheduled to be published in March 2003.

The booklet is designed in such way that it immediately attracts attention due to carefully selected photos and expertly written text. The booklet is addressed to a broad audience and explains the basic principles of co-existence between people and wildlife. Apart from the scientific facts, it contains interesting educative materials, legends and superstitions.

Eco-classes

Between October - December 2002, special interactive classes were organised in local schools. They included presentations, video materials, eco-quizzes, games and competitions. By way of materials, the teacher used information from local wildlife publications: Zov Taigi magazine, Endangered animals of the Far East, Life of animals and also materials provided by Phoenix. The children showed great enthusiasm and interest in those classes, helped distribute the booklets in their schools and shared their thoughts with their other teachers and parents.

In total, 518 schoolchildren attended ecological classes. The competition winners were awarded wildlife calendars, designed and published by Phoenix (1,000 copies).

Survey

Prior to the booklet distribution, Phoenix carried out a survey to find out the way people felt about the vulture problem. There was a questionnaire for two target groups: schoolchildren and adults (parents). Schoolchildren were asked to choose a description of a Black Vulture from proposed answers, e.g. big or small, friendly or mean etc. The adults had to explain as best they could the reasons why people harm the nature. In total, 90 schoolchildren and 49 adults were interviewed as a model group. Another survey will be done in July 2003 to compare results.

Population Monitoring

In November 2002, Phoenix Fund began monitoring the vultures' population. So far, there has been no incidents of injury or death, partly because of the relatively smooth winter. However, Phoenix will continue educational work with both children and adults in the district.