

CONSERVATION

New Reserve for Asian Cats



Siberian tigers don't care what side of the Russian-Chinese border they're on: They're in trouble on both frontiers. Poachers stalk them. Their forests have been felled. Now only about 350 remain in the wild.

To protect tiger and leopard habitat and allow prey like deer and wild boar to recover, Chinese



STEVE BLOOM, STEVE BLOOM IMAGES

conservationists—assisted by Russian and U.S. colleagues—have created the Jilin Hunchun Nature Reserve. The 345-square-mile sanctuary in far eastern China snakes along Russia's border near the coast.

Siberian tigers—like these captives in the Siberian Tiger Park in Harbin, China (above)—are among the world's largest cats. Most live in Russia, where a few have been cut off by development

stretching north from Vladivostok. Also isolated there are the world's remaining Far Eastern, or Amur, leopards, perhaps as many as 40. "The leopards' last chance is to expand west into China," says Dale Miquelle, biologist for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which helped create the Jilin Hunchun reserve. "We hope tigers also wander into the reserve. The trick is making them want to stay." —John L. Eliot

ENGINEERING

Need a Lift?

Cranes like this one helped 18th-century European builders lift heavy stones. But how did they build the crane? That's the art of timber framing, and it's still taught by the Timber Framers Guild, based in Massachusetts. The apprentices for this project were students of professor Rick Brown at the Massachusetts College of Art and students from Wheelock College and the Wentworth Institute of Technology. A period engineering textbook provided the design. —Michael Klesius



CARY WOLINSKY