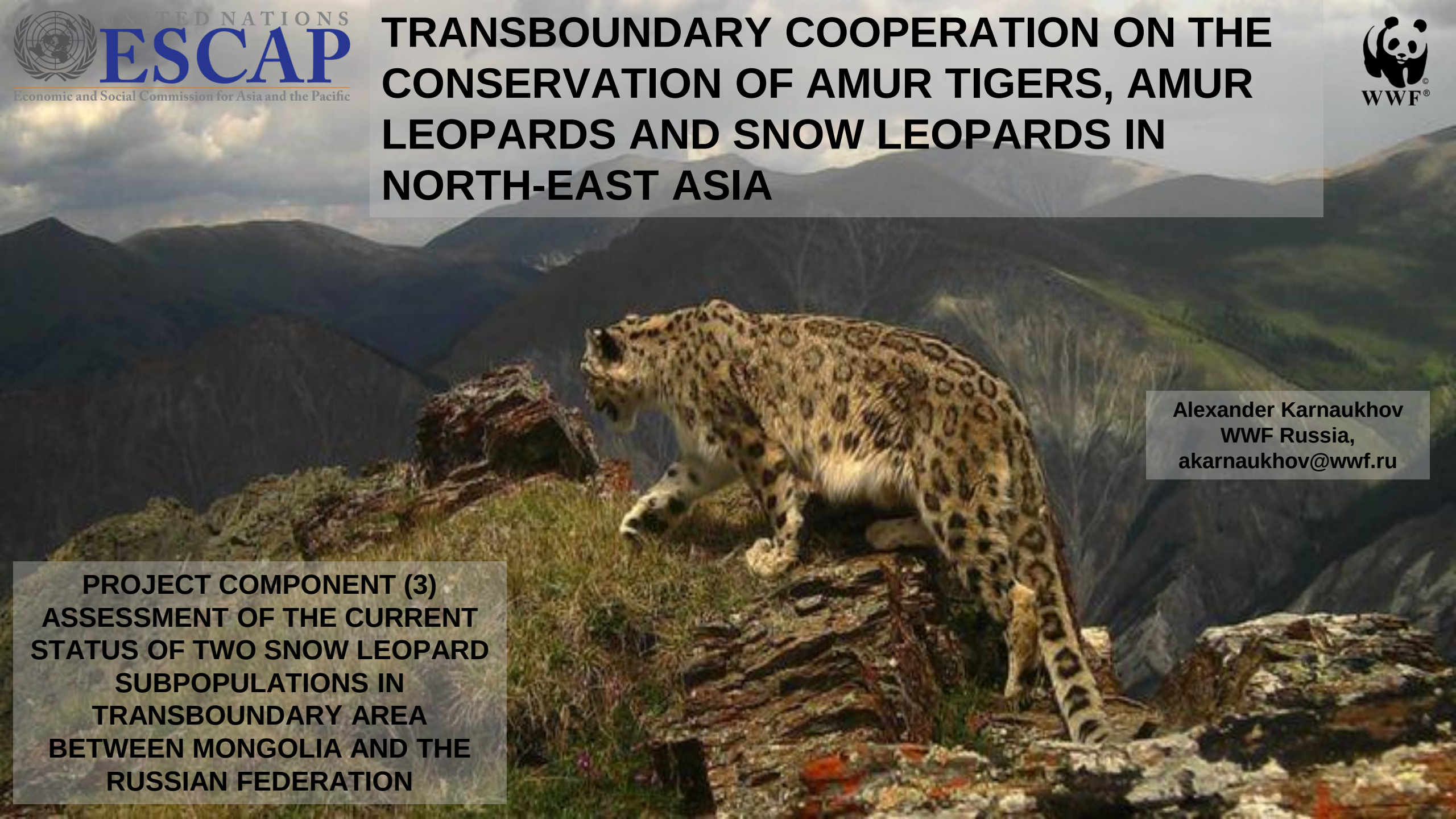
UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

# TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION ON THE CONSERVATION OF AMUR TIGERS, AMUR LEOPARDS AND SNOW LEOPARDS IN NORTH-EAST ASIA

WWF®

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## PROJECT COMPONENT (3) ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF TWO SNOW LEOPARD SUBPOPULATIONS IN TRANSBOUNDARY AREA BETWEEN MONGOLIA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

# Goal and Objectives

## Goal:

- To assess the current status and identify all individuals of Snow leopards in the Russian-Mongolian border areas.

## Objectives:

- Snow leopard monitoring collecting data of camera traps in the Russian side of the project area;
- Data analysis of all transboundary data.

# Time Frame (planned)

| Activities | Data collection from camera trapping of Snow leopards in the Russian Federation | Responsible Entity | Time Frame |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.1. | Inception meeting for Russian experts | Partner Institution | May 2020 |
| 1.2. | Set up camera traps in Eastern Sayan ridge of Okinsky district in the Republic of Buryatia | Partner Institution | May 2020 |
| 1.3. | Set up camera traps in Chikhachev ridge of Kosh-Agach district in the Republic of Altai | Partner Institution | June 2020 |
| 1.4. | Check camera traps in Eastern Sayan ridge of Okinsky district in the Republic of Buryatia | Partner Institution | August 2020 |
| 1.5. | Check camera traps in Chikhachev ridge of Kosh-Agach district in the Republic of Altai | Partner Institution | September 2020 |
| 1.6. | Compile camera trapping data | Partner Institution | October 2020 |

| Activities | Comparative analysis of camera trap data collected from Mongolia and the Russian Federation | Responsible Entity | Time Frame |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2.1. | Manage and coordinate the collection of camera trap data from Irbis Mongolian Center | Partner Institution | November 2020 |
| 2.2. | Conduct comparative study to identify snow leopard individuals and their transboundary movement in the Mongolian-Russian border | Partner Institution | December 2020 – February 2021 |

| Activities | Project report with priority action plans | Responsible Entity | Time Frame |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3.1. | Prepare a project report including analysis of outcomes from Activities 1 and 2, as well as priority action plans | Partner Institutions of Mongolia and the Russian Federation | March 2021 |

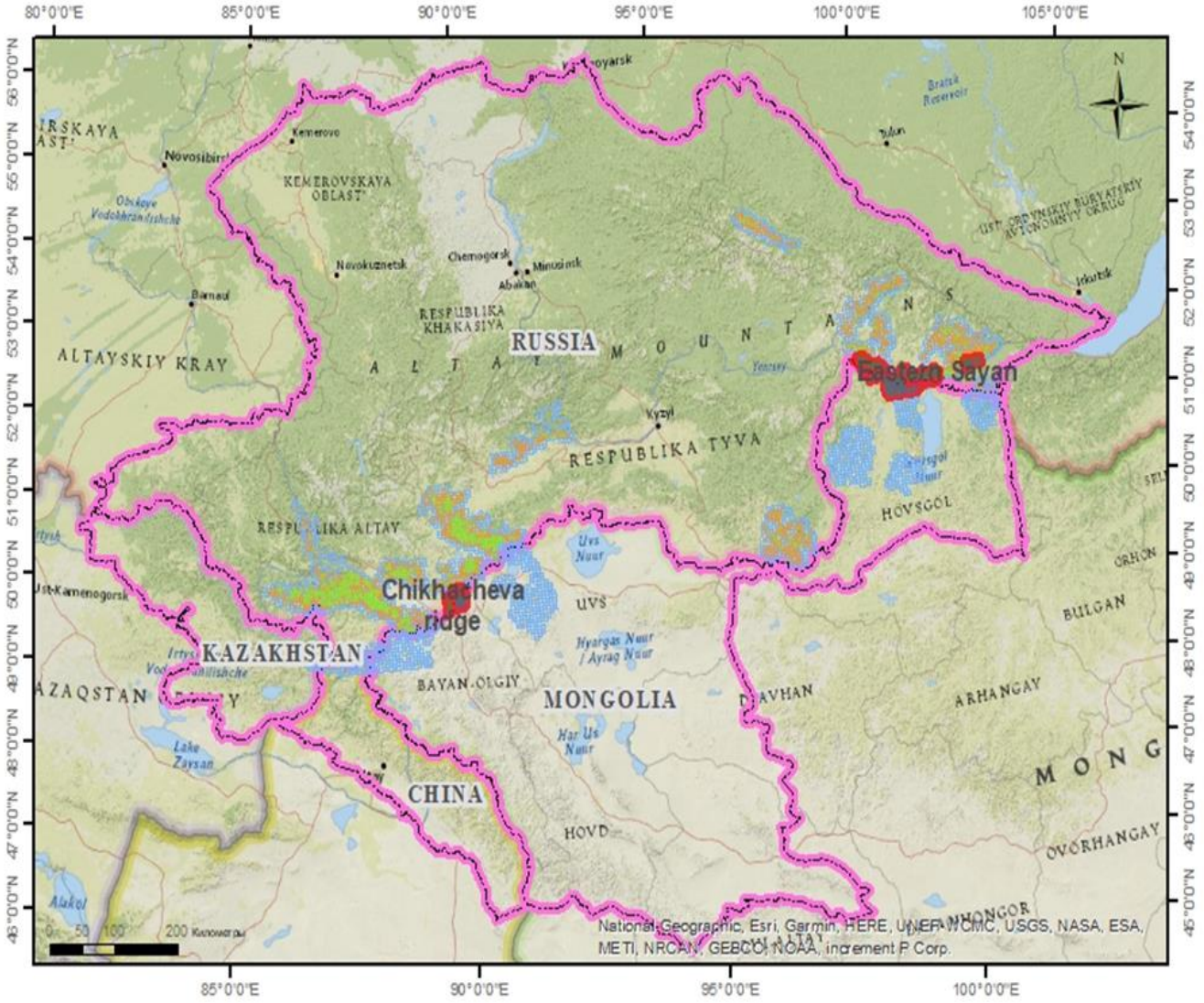
# Time Frame (real)

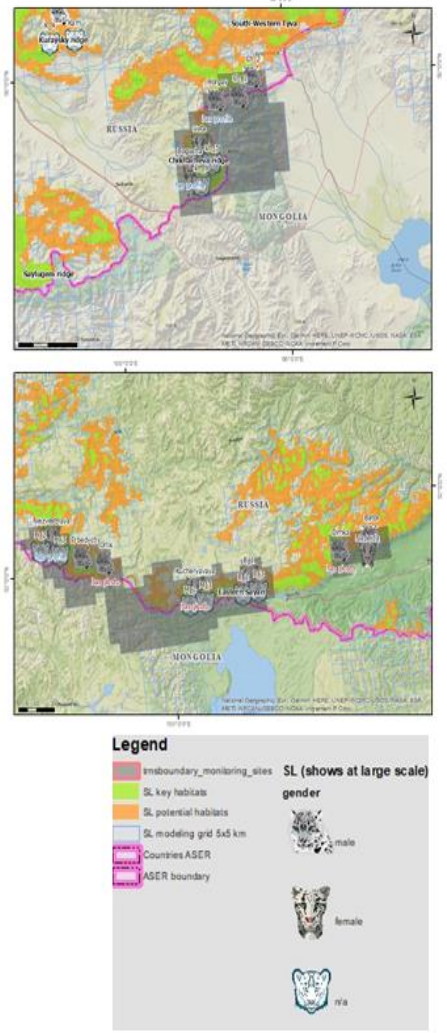
| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| June 8, 2020 | Inception meeting |
| June 15-June 30, 2020 | Field trip in Russian side of Chikhachev ridge |
| July 8-July 31, 2020 | Field trip in Russian side of Eastern Sayan ridge |
| September 1-15, 2020 | Preparation of interim report |
| 10-30 September, 2020 | Field trip in Russian side of Chikhachev ridge |
| 1-10 October, 2020 | Field trip in Russian side of Eastern Sayan ridge |
| 15-31 October, 2020 | Data exchange with Mongolian colleagues |
| December 1-15, 2020 | Preparation of the year-end report |
| February 1 – March 30, 2021 | Spatial analysis of Russian field data |
| April 1-30, 2021 | Data exchange with Mongolian colleagues |
| May 1-15, 2021 | Comparative study to identify snow leopard individuals |
| May 16 – June, 2021 | Spatial analysis of transboundary data |
| May – June, 2021 | Preparation of the final report |

# Project budget

| # | Activity | Sum, USD |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Localization of the mobile application for snow leopard monitoring | 5 000 |
| 2 | Snow leopard monitoring in  Russian part | 12 444 |
| 3 | Data statistical analysis | 3 000 |
| 4 | Administrative costs (management staff salaries, managing office expenditures) | 4 556 |
| **Total** | | **25 000** |

# Project sites




- **Chikhachev ridge** (Kosh-Agach district of Republic of Altai of the Russian Federation and Bayan-Ulgii aymag of Mongolia);

- **Eastern Sayan ridge** (Okinsky district of Republic of Buryatia of the Russian Federation and Hovsgol aymag of Mongolia)

# Snow leopard distribution in Russia

Snow leopard world range

Key habitats

Potential habitats

Altai-Sayan Ecoregion (WWF priority Ecoregion)

# Threats to snow leopard population in Russia

By-catch by snares when poaching other species (*Musk deer*)

Direct poaching *is rare*

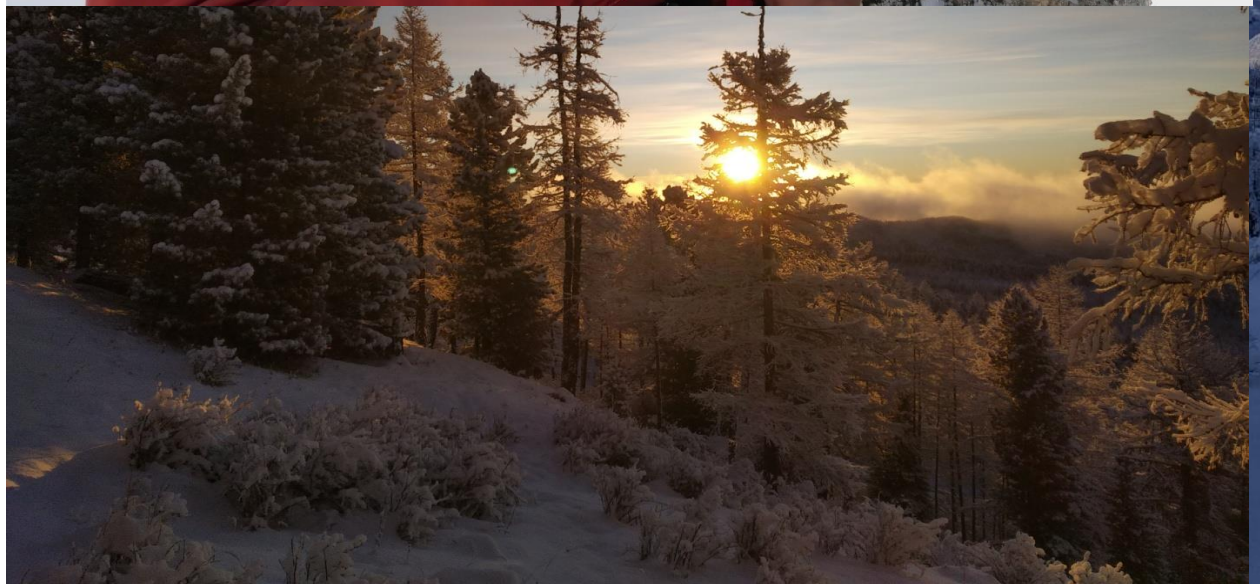
Herders-SL conflict (herders) *Particularly in Tyva Republic.*

Development of infrastructure in SL habitats

Shrinking of prey numbers

Climate change

# Project site 1. Okinsky ridge



The total length of all survey routes – 720 km,

Surveyed area – more than 600 square km,

# of checked cameras – 26,

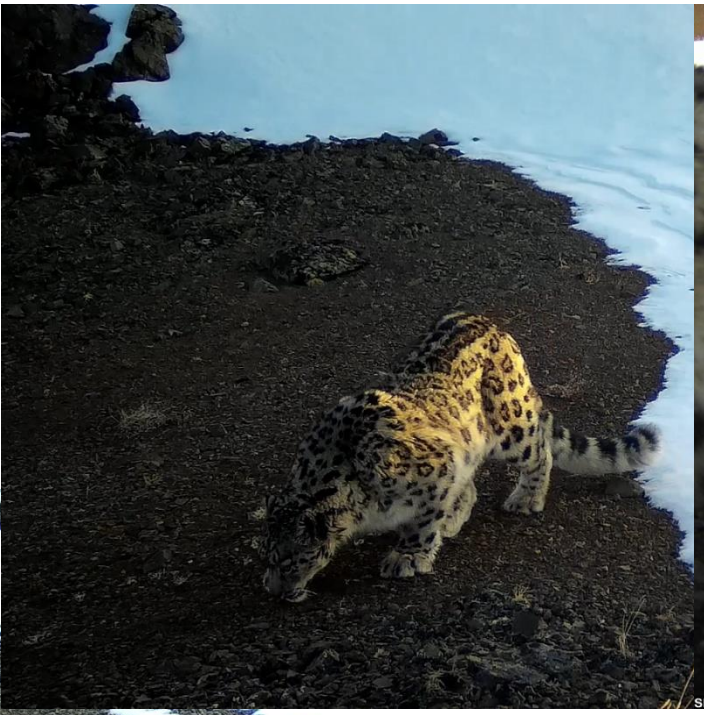
# of installed cameras – 10,

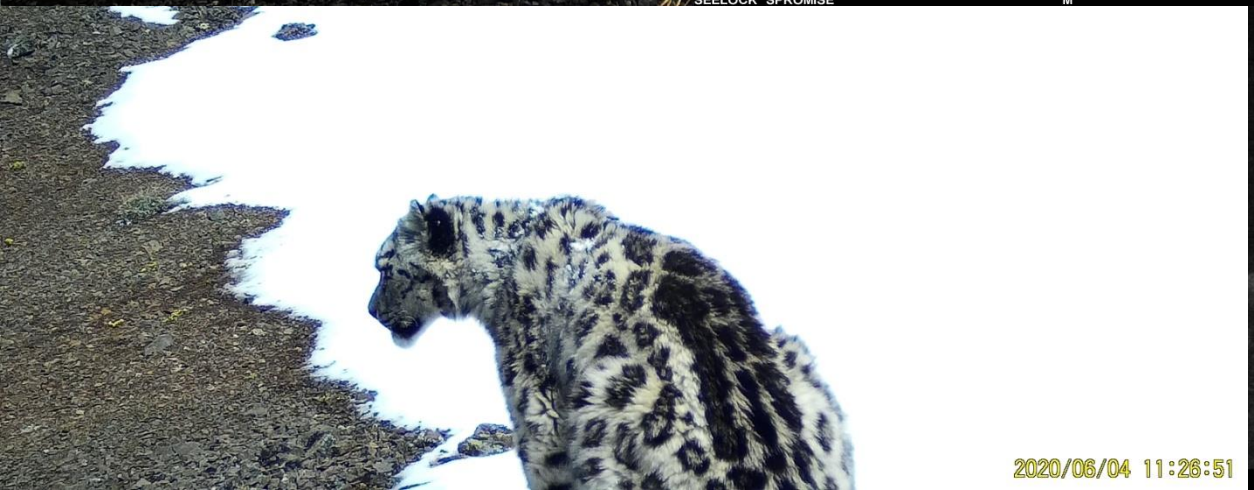
# of the snow leopard signs – 32 (9 feces, 20 scrapes, 3 footprints),

# of the snow leopard captures – 26 captures

# of identified snow leopard individuals – 5

# Project site 1. Okinsky ridge





# Project site 2. Chikhachev ridge

The total length of all survey routes – 270 km,

Surveyed area – more than 1000 square km,

# of checked cameras – 37,

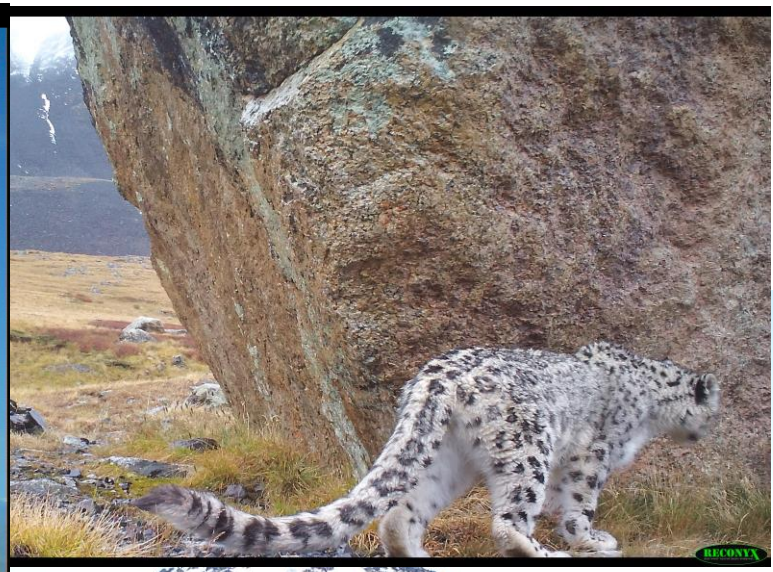
# of installed cameras – 12,

# of the snow leopard signs – 43,

# of the snow leopard captures – 12 captures

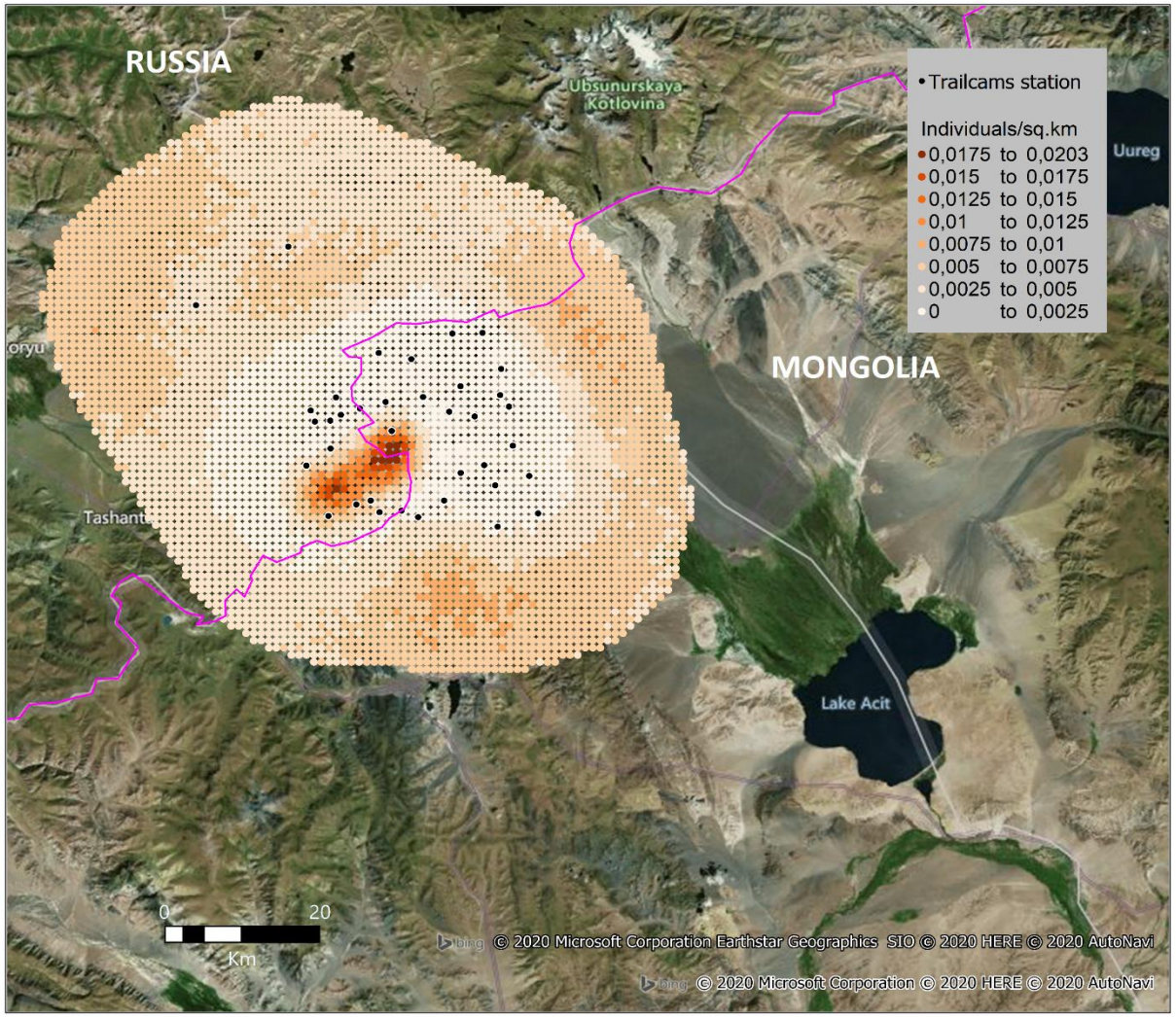
# of identified snow leopard individuals – 8

# Project site 2. Chikhachev ridge

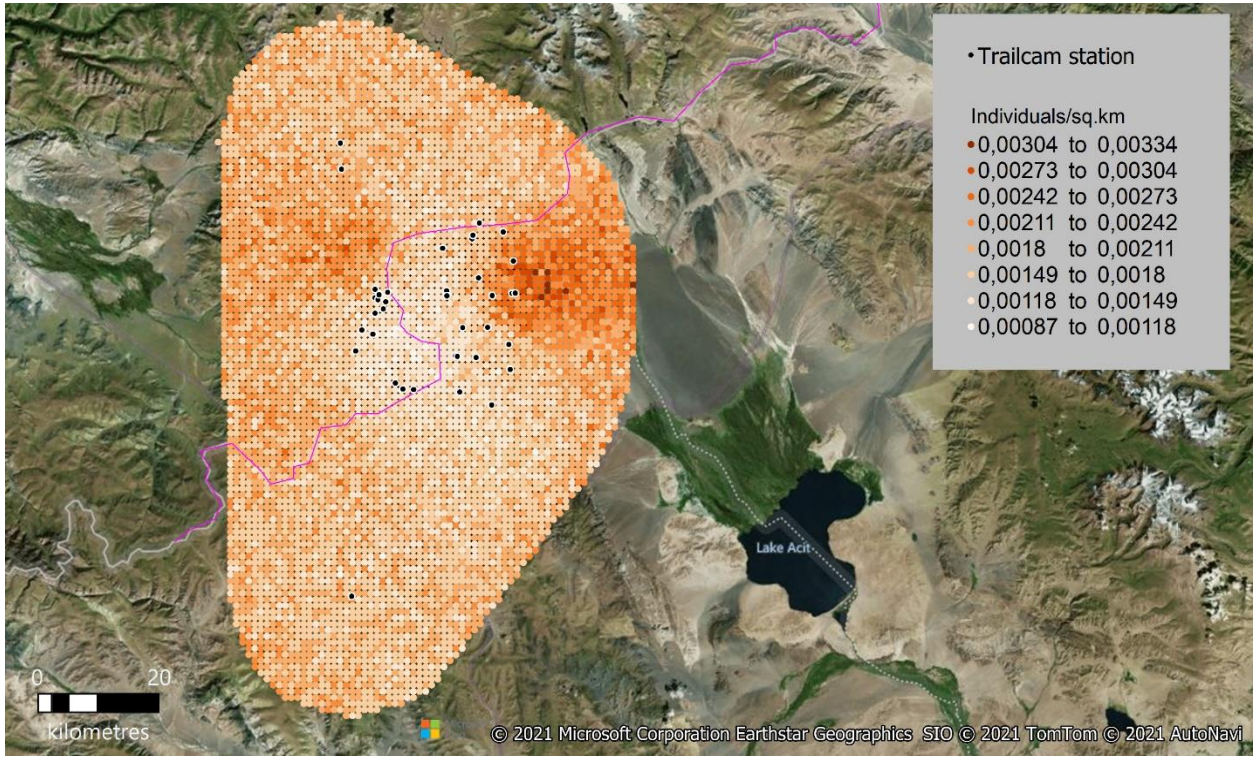


# Spatial analysis. Chikhachev ridge

## 2018



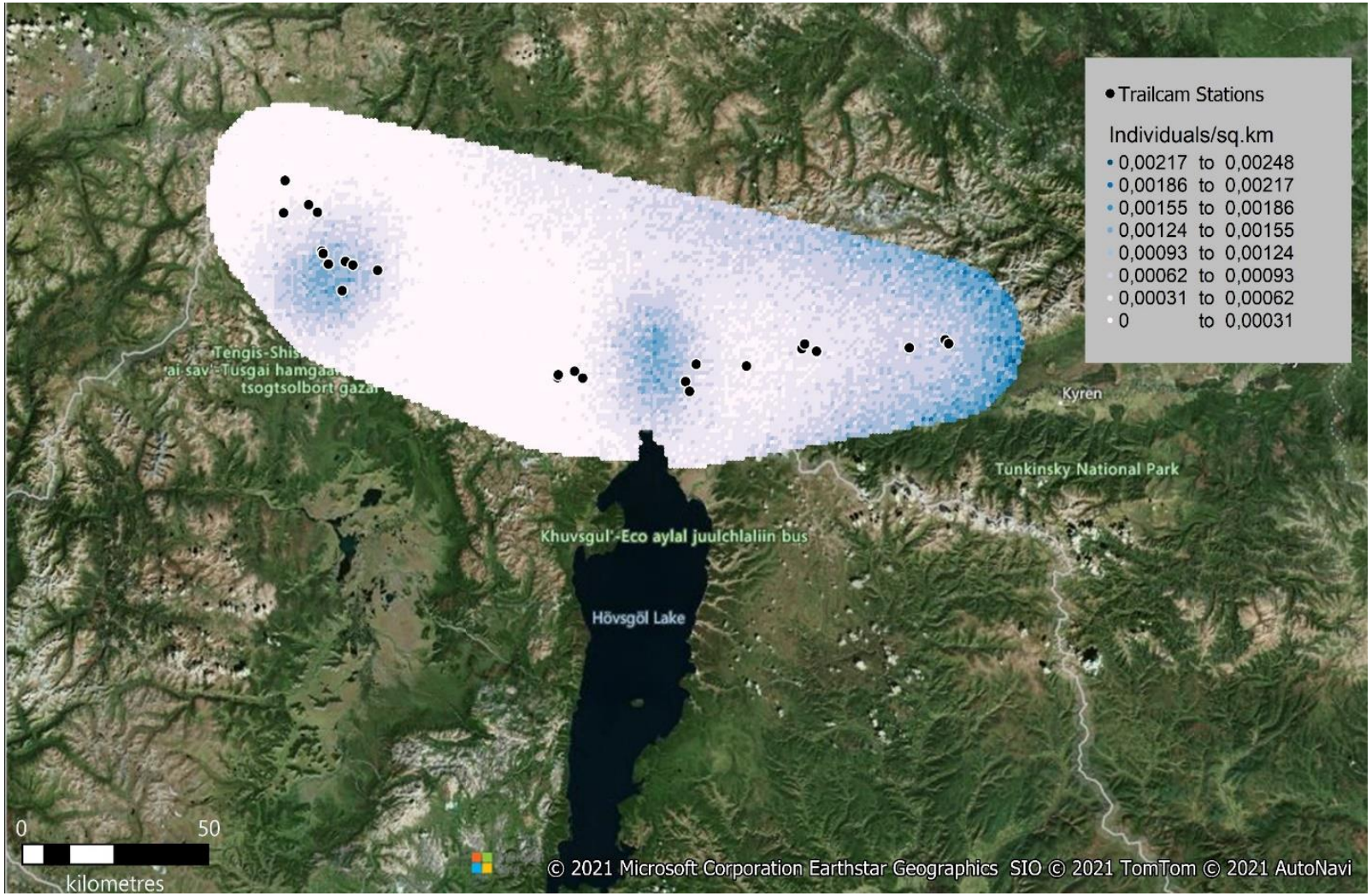

## 2020




| Year | Density | N |
|---|---|---|
| 2018 | 0,43±0,11 | 22.06 |
| 2020 | 0,17±0,05 | 10.68 |

# Spatial analysis. Okinsky ridge

## 2020



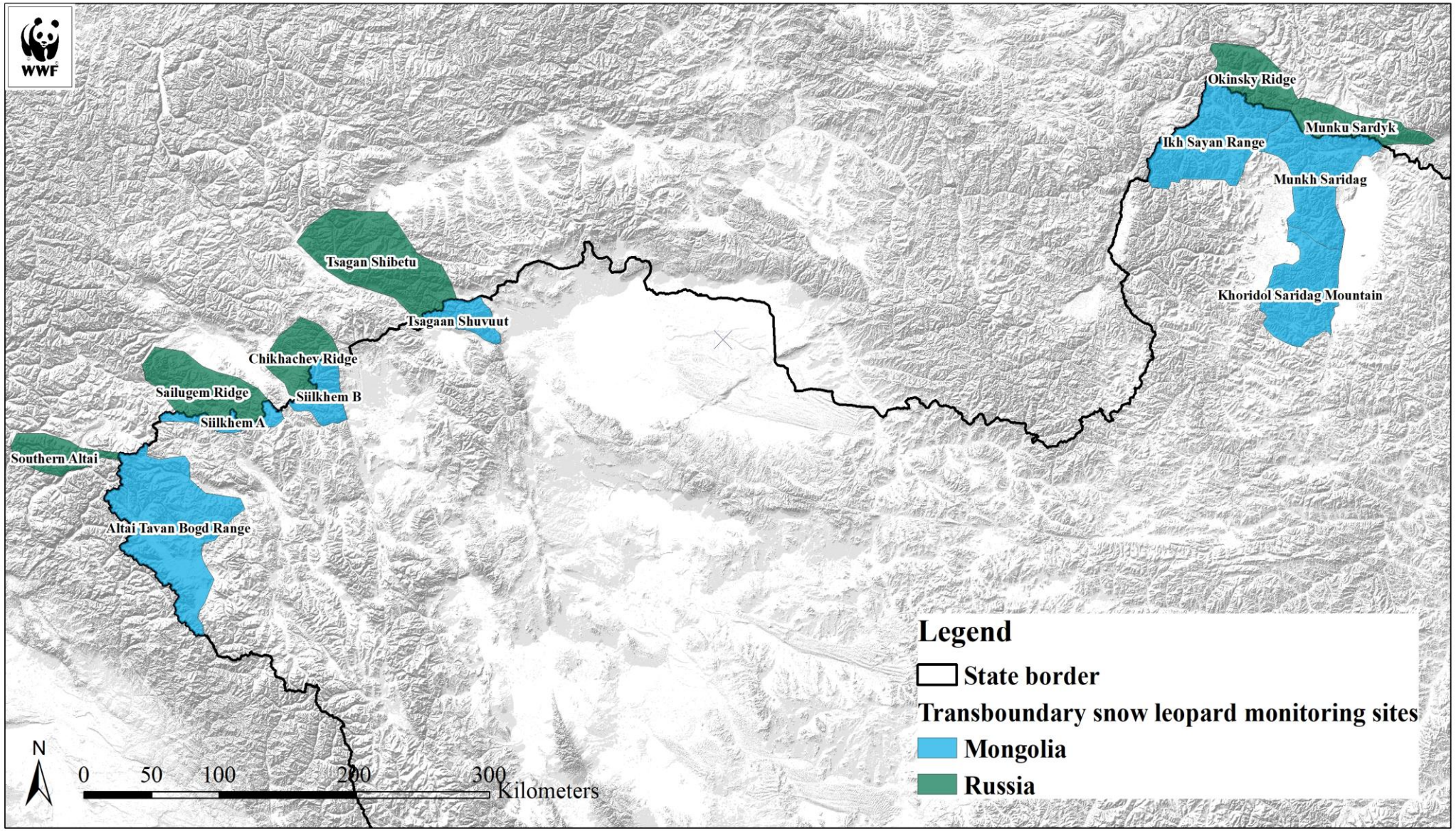

| Year | Density | N |
|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 0,04±0,01 | 5.99 |

It's not transboundary data, only from Russian side of the ridge.

Cameras in Mongolia have not been checked yet!

Only some cameras was checked in Ikh Soyon ridge in Mongolia – 2 individuals were identified

# Next steps…




5 transboundary populations

Regular monitoring every 2 years

New project sites: Southern Altai, Sailugem, Tsagan-Shibetu

Preliminary budget: 70 000 USD (for Russian side)

# Thank you for your attention!