

Russia



Over 6.5 million square miles in area, Russia is far and away the largest country on earth. From the towering peaks of the Caucasus

Mountains to the ancient waters of Baikal, Russia's landscapes form an awe-inspiring tapestry of unique ecosystems that support such diverse species as the Amur tiger, snow leopard, saiga antelope, Siberian crane and giant taimen fish. Two-thirds of the world's remaining temperate forests are in Russia.

Russia's rich biodiversity, however, is vulnerable and faces threats from habitat loss, poaching and climate change. Numerous plant, migratory bird, fish, and marine mammal

species range across portions of both the United States and Russia. Through the Wildlife Without Borders-Russia (WWB-Russia) program, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service cooperates with Russia in many ways to manage and conserve the diverse wildlife.

WWB-Russia sponsors exchanges, conferences, training workshops, and consultative meetings for Russian and American field biologists to share information and conduct joint-scientific studies. In addition, the program provides financial assistance to Russia's extensive network of nature reserves (zapovedniks) and national parks through a competitive grants program that helps to purchase office and field equipment, patrol vehicles and boats, installation

of communications, education and outreach, and infrastructure improvements and repairs. The world-class but financially challenged reserves provide sanctuary to endangered species and preserve vast stretches of forest habitat whose importance as a carbon sink is increasingly recognized.

For over 40 years, WWB-Russia has been a leader in conservation relationship between the United States and Russia. Through the continued efforts of conservationists in both countries, the program helps preserve some of the most spectacular wildlife and valuable natural habitats remaining on our planet.



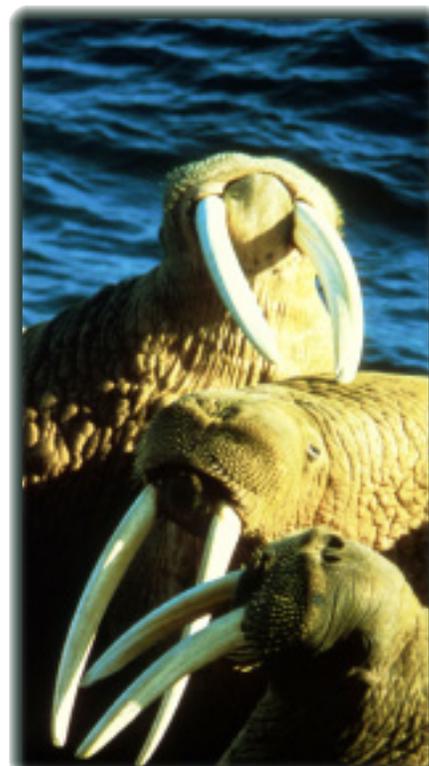
Polar bears (Ursus maritimus) USFWS

Since its inception, the Wildlife Without Borders – Russia program has contributed to a wide variety of highly successful cooperative conservation efforts, including:

- Conducting the first comprehensive survey of the Pacific walrus population shared by Russia and the United States. By taking thermal photographs from airplanes and directly monitoring populations from ships, FWS biologists have gained valuable information on this exceptional species.
- Purchasing and distributing more than one million bird bands throughout Russia. Banding migratory birds enables Russian and American biologists to track their movements across continents.
- Providing grants to Russia's extensive nature reserve system, a network of protected areas covering over 90 million acres. These grants allow often underfunded reserve staffs to purchase the modern equipment and supplies necessary

to protect those vast areas. Russia Program grants have provided everything from uniforms and cold weather clothing to new facilities, communications equipment, and land and water patrol vehicles.

- Implementing a bilateral agreement between Russia and the United States for the conservation and management of threatened polar bears. This continuing effort includes the use of the latest satellite tracking technology to monitor the movements of the shared Alaska- Chukotka polar bear population throughout its Arctic range.
- Protecting the critically endangered saiga, an antelope whose numbers have plummeted from over 1,000,000 in 1990 to fewer than 30,000 individuals today. The Wildlife Without Borders - Russia program has provided training and financial support to conserve saiga and their habitat.



Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) USFWS

- Donating more than 2,000 surplus uniforms for use by Russian refuge staff.
- Facilitating the cooperation, training and exchange of Russian and American field scientists, researchers and conservationists.



Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*)
USFWS



Saiga with calf (*Saiga tatarica*)
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Russia Program Funding from 2007 through 2011	
Total Number of Grants Awarded	56
Total Funds Distributed Through Grants	\$613,000
Total Partner Contributions Leveraged by Grants	\$35,000
Total Number of Conservationists Trained	58
Total Number of Habitats and Ecosystems Addressed	43
Total Number of Reserves and Parks Receiving Grants	91

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