

Rare Siberian Tiger Kills Man in Russia's Far East

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A Siberian tiger. Bastak State Reserve

An endangered Siberian tiger has killed a man in Russia's Far Eastern region of Khabarovsk, law enforcement officials <u>said</u> Monday.

According to the local branch of Russia's Investigative Committee, a wild Siberian tiger — also known as an Amur tiger — attacked the unidentified man near the village of Obor, which has a population of about 500 people.

The Amur Tiger Center, a non-profit organization that monitors the population of the endangered tiger species, <u>said</u> the animal had wandered into Obor on Sunday and killed the man's dog.

He then followed the Siberian tiger into a nearby forest, where other residents later found his body along with the remains of his dog.

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Authorities in the Khabarovsk region have <u>reported</u> nearly 300 cases of tigers entering populated areas this year, and in some instances, the wild animals have <u>killed dogs</u> and attacked people.

Experts say that an <u>uptick</u> in encounters between humans and Siberian tigers could indicate "serious disruptions" in their habitats.

"In my view, [increased tiger attacks are] associated with the destruction of the predator's habitats due to logging, excessive hunting of [the tiger's prey] and African swine fever, which has decimated the remaining wild boar population," zoologist Sergei Kolchin told the environmental news outlet Kedr

In August, residents in the Khabarovsk region <u>asked</u> Russian President Vladimir Putin to help ensure better protection against Siberian tigers.

Putin has for years been a <u>vocal advocate</u> of protecting the endangered tiger species, and in 2013 he <u>created</u> a foundation for their conservation.

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