Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we <u>will not be able to</u> <u>confirm receipt of reports</u> but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	162/12/032
Project Title	Supporting the Development of Nature Conservation Education in Bulgaria
Country(ies)	UK, Bulgaria
UK Organisation	FSC
Collaborator(s)	TIME Ecoprojects Foundation
Report date	17.10.2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	5
Project website	www.time-foundation.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

1. Policy Working Group

The WG Policy had 5 WG meetings. Minutes are available for these meetings. The WG -

- Developed and adopted the framework document for NCE in the context of ESD in Bulgaria. (see Attachment 1)
- Participated in the organization and execution of National Conference about Environmental education, funded by MATRA program and held on 27.05.2005. This was attended by the FSC and involved the launch of the framework document.
- Participated in the organization and execution of the National advisory body for Education for Sustainable development
- Participated in 9th Conference Environmental Education in Europe, Klaipeda, Lithuania 13-18 September 2005 for the promotion of the document.
- Developed a promotional poster about NCE in the context of ESD in Bulgaria and promoting of the Program for support Education for Sustainable Development in Bulgaria

2. Teacher Training Working Group

During the reporting period 4 WG meetings took place. The WG -

- Finalized Information pack for Teacher Training. (see attachment 2)
- Organized of teacher training workshop for October 2005
- Developed a questionnaire and selection procedure for teachers to be trained in workshop
- Program for the workshops developed and discussed with the project partners.
- Letters of invitation from behalf of Ministry of Education and Science developed and sent to the participants in the workshops

3. Education Materials Working Group

During the reporting period 5 WG meetings took place. Minutes of the meetings are available. The WG:

- Developed the content and design the Teachers book for Mandatory Selected Education Module "Environment" for 1st and 2nd grade.
- Developed materials consulted with project partners from FSC James Hinson and Ken Webster
- Developed a questionnaire and selection procedure for teachers to be trained with the developed education materials coordinated and consulted with WG Teacher training

• The next activity period will focus on submitting the Education materials and Teachers books for formal approval to the Ministry

4. Network Working Group

During the reporting period there were no WG meetings. However the WG

- Created a mailing list. All the information produced by the different WGs is regularly circulated to members of the WGs.
- Bulletin 'ECOPOLIS' Six issues have been produced and include the logos of DEFRA and DARWIN. The bulletin is distributed free of charge to all Regional Inspectorates of the MofSE, environmental education NGOs, and schools and under subscription to different Governmental institutions, municipalities and business entities.
- Website Ministry of education and science agreed to maintain the Website of Bulgarian CHM mechanism dedicated to Nature Conservation Education. The Website is basically developed and WG group will contribute to it monthly update with information, useful practices and education activities.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

There was no notable problems or unexpected developments over the reporting period.

All working groups attended the National Conference "Environmental education in Bulgaria", organized by partner organizations Borrowed nature, Bulgaria and Ameco, The Netherlands in the framework of MATRA project. WG leaders presented the results and outcomes of both projects. Ken Webster, FSC gave a presentation "Environmental Education becomes Education for Sustainable Development".

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so have changes been made to the original agreement?

Not applicable

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:

no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.