

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report Form

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project Title</b>    | <b>Supporting the Development of Nature Conservation Education in Bulgaria</b> |
| <b>Country</b>          | <b>Bulgaria</b>                                                                |
| <b>Organisation</b>     | <b>TIME Ecoprojects Foundation</b>                                             |
| <b>Project Ref. No.</b> | <b>162/12/032</b>                                                              |
| <b>Report date</b>      | <b>01.11. 2003</b>                                                             |

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The project started on 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2003. This report is outlining progress over the first two months.

1. Inception visit of Dr. James Hindson in Bulgaria.

The inception visit took place between 20-26.09.2003. Set of meetings have been organized by the TIME team. We discussed the overall project, time-frame, budget items, the organization of the Inception launch and conference and training in UK.

Meetings with different stakeholders from Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Environment and Waters, British Embassy took place. Possible members of the four working groups and Nature Conservation Education Committee were invited to take part during the discussion on the project design.

The financial contract was developed and signed.

2. Organization of the National launch and Conference – x of November

The invitation letters were prepared and sent out to more than 60 participants. Ministers of Education and Science and Environment and Water were invited to the opening ceremony together with the Ambassador of the Embassy of UK. The hall and catering services were hired. The materials and information for the Nature conservation education, project design and time-frame, were prepared for distribution during the conference.

Set of meetings among the TIME team and partners were held in October in order to discuss the content of the conference, presentations, work in working groups, etc

The project and the conference were introduced in 4 broadcasts on Bulgarian National Radio – Programs Horizont and Hristo Botev, and BBC1 and in one national newspaper- Dnevnik.

The FSC prepared a presentation and background paper.

3. Leaders have been identified for the four different Teams – Policy, Teacher Training, Resource Development and Networking.

4. The Study Visit to the UK has been planned for the first week of December. Dates were agreed and the overall structure of the visit agreed.

**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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

One unexpected development has been the award of a grant from MATRA to another NGO in Bulgaria to develop an environmental education strategy, teacher training programme, resources and network in partnership with a Dutch Environmental Consultancy AMECO. There is obviously overlap between the two projects as Biodiversity Education is a sub set of Environmental Education. The two partners in Bulgaria will be preparing a paper on how the projects should work together to ensure that maximum benefits are gained. In December the FSC, TIME, AMECO and Borrowed Nature will be meeting to agree an action plan. DEFRA has been kept informed of the situation and has given encouragement to work together as closely as possible.

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

There is no specific issues relating to the project at this stage.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland. Email: [R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk)