

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

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	13.10.2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	3
Project website	<i>www.time-foundation.org</i>

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).

Summary - The project is progressing according to the timescale, and the outputs are on track in terms of timescale and budget. Several unanticipated outputs have occurred. The project has made a significant input into the education sections of the National Biodiversity Action Plan, and a Nature Conservation Education (NCE) optional programme has been developed with Ministry of Education encouragement and support.

1. Policy Working Group

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

- Collected information about the current situation and legal framework of education, and trends about the development of NCE, environmental education and ESD.
- Reviewed and specified the contents and definitions of terms associated with NCE and ESD.
- Discussed the structure and contents of the framework document for NCE in the context of ESD in Bulgaria. (see Attachment 1)
- Produced the outline first draft of the NCE Strategy.
- Met with MPs (members of Commissions on Environment and Education of the General Assembly) in September in order to receive support for the framework document.
- Agreed the consultation process for the strategy

2. Teacher Training Working Group

During the reporting period 2 WG meetings took place. The WG -

- Undertook an Institutional analyses of the teachers qualification, standards and programs for teachers in primary education in the context of education for sustainable development (see Attachment 2)
- Developed the structure, contents list and approach of the Teacher Training Module and Information Package (see attachment 3)

- Developed of some initial contents for the training materials.

3. Education Materials Working Group

During the reporting period 2 WG meetings took place. Minutes of the meetings are available. The WG -

- Undertook a report on the “Analyses of educational materials, education curriculum, education standards for nature conservation education and education for sustainable development” (see attachment 4)
- Developed Nature Conservation Education programme for the Mandatory selected Education Section of the school curriculum for Grades 1-4 (see attachment 5). It should be noted that this is an additional output for the project. It was developed partly to ensure that teachers had a curriculum structure in which to set the text book and other materials.
- Developed the outline structure and content of the Text Books and teachers notes.
- The next activity period will focus on writing the text book and submitting the programme for formal approval to the Ministry

4. Network Working Group

During the reporting period 1 WG meeting and one training for the WG took place. The WG

- Created a mailing list - and all the information produced by the different WGs is regularly circulated to members of the WGs.
- Produced and adopted a draft strategy of the Network.
- Bulletin ‘ECOPOLIS’ - the two middle pages of the bulletin are dedicated to Nature conservation education. Four 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 - 3 offers for the development of the website were submitted - and the lower one was selected- Aspectrum. The WG coordinator waits for the money intended for development and support of the website, from BorNat under the MATRA project, to sign a contract with the developer to start the website. The timeframe for design and developing is 30-40 days after signature of the contract.

5. Other activities

(a) Participation in the conference devoted to the National Biodiversity Action Plan.

The development conference was held on 4-5 May in Sofia with 120 participants. Nadya Boneva was invited to make a presentation and to chair a session on Nature Conservation Education and Public Awareness during the second day of the conference (see Attachment 6). She also has made a substantial contribution to the section “Education and public awareness in the new National biodiversity action plan 2005 –2010. Suggested text and proposed activities have been accepted by the Ministry of Environment and Waters and are included to the draft version of the plan to be approved early next year.

(b) Training. One training event has been held for the WGs on Education Materials and Teacher Training. Both were funded under the MATRA project but this was co-led by the FSC expert Ken Webster. Further training are planned for October, November and January.

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.

The working groups for the Teacher training and Education materials attended the training organised in the framework of MATRA project. The linkages between the two projects are proceeding satisfactorily. There are obviously communication and coordination challenges, but these are generally being dealt with positively.

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

No changes have been made

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes, in November 2003 (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/work plan: None

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

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

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.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/work plan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**