

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Period: 1 April 2002 to 31 December 2002

Project Title	Building capacity in wetland biodiversity conservation in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia
Country	Various
Organisation	<i>EUROSITE</i>
Project Ref. No.	162/10/008
Report date	24 October 2002

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

- Second workshop held successfully in East Anglia (Wicken Fen) in June 2002;
- Workshop 2 report is at an advanced stage at the time of writing. Final review by Project leader before printing and distribution. Electronic format is available;
- Organisation of Workshop 3, to be held in Somerset/Taunton, 13-17 November 2002, as planned;
- Number of registered participants is as expected: 12 participants from CEE-countries and 6 participants from the United Kingdom (& *EUROSITE* staff member);
- First preparations for Workshop 4, hosted by the Wildlife Trust (5-9 March 2003), are starting;
- Description of the Darwin Initiative project and its first results have been widely publicized within the network of site management organisations throughout Europe;
- UK team members and Country partners have been integrated into the *EUROSITE* information system. They receive the *EUROSITE* electronic newsletter regularly. They also have access to the *EUROSITE* Intranet and can benefit from the electronic library where technical documents on nature conservation issues are archived.

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?

- There were no notable problems or unexpected developments in the last 6 months.

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

The major change, which occurred in the summer of 2002, was the transfer of the project management from Philip Eckersley (now working with English Nature) to the *EUROSITE* team in Tilburg, The Netherlands. The Department agreed upon this transfer after it was discussed with the Project leader (E. Idle). From now on, Gavin Whitmore *EUROSITE* Communication Manager, will handle the project management, acting under the responsibility of Nicole Nowicki-Caupin, Director-General of *EUROSITE*. The role of English Nature has not changed.

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