

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-019
<b>Project Title</b>	Youth Participation in Protected Area Management in Rodna Mountains, Romania
<b>Country(ies)</b>	UK and Romania
<b>UK Organisation</b>	University of Oxford
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	The Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park (APNMR)
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Dr. Anna Lawrence</i>
<b>Report date</b>	<i>08/11/2007 (an extension to the deadline was granted by the DI Secretariat)</i>
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	3
<b>Project website</b>	<i><a href="http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/humaneco/youthparticipation-romania.php">http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/humaneco/youthparticipation-romania.php</a></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).**

## Project implementation timetable

Date	Key milestones	Achievements
<i>1. Baseline and monitoring systems established</i>		
June – July	Information collected on stakeholders' perception of PNMR and the role of its administration.	A questionnaire was developed to assess stakeholders' opinions and the impact of the project in the local communities. Based on previous experience, the survey has been postponed for end of November – beginning of December, when respondents' availability is highest.
July–September	Monitoring activities implemented by school students.	Monitoring activities were carried out based on standard protocols and monitoring sheets developed for this purpose. The data were introduced in the GIS database. These activities are part of a wider monitoring programme for the entire park (as per the management plan).
September	Field guide compiled by APNMR staff and school students.	The field guide was developed and is in preparation for publishing.
<i>2. Management plan developed and implemented</i>		
July–September	Annual work plans implemented.	The management plan has not been approved yet by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (formerly the Ministry of Environment and Water Management) due to changes in policy and new requirements introduced by legislation passed in 2007. This situation is common to all Romanian protected areas that needed to complete management plans by 2006.

		However, APNMR has started work on activities included in the first annual work plan.
<i>3. Experience evaluated, model developed and promoted</i>		
April-September	Project web page updated.	The ECI webpage has been updated; the APNMR site is currently being redesigned.
May	Visit to Bulgarian protected areas: the Central Balkan National Park and the Roussenski Lom Nature Reserve	These activities were undertaken in addition to those included in the initial project timetable and facilitated dissemination of project results and initiation of collaboration between the Romanian and Bulgarian protected areas.
August	Newsletter issued.	Developed and available in Romanian and English.
September	Workshops to analyse and disseminate results.	Postponed for December when participation would be wider.
September	Project presentation in local communities and schools.	A schedule for presentations has been drafted and presentations are ongoing in the local communities and schools (September-December). Broadcasts on local TV stations are scheduled for December.

**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 project leader has been appointed Head of Social and Economic Research at the Forestry Commission, but has arranged to remain responsible for this project through a retainer of 20% at ECI, to the end date of 31 March 2008. Salary has been reallocated from her post, to the project manager Alina Szabo, and this has been approved by the Secretariat. We do not foresee any negative effects on the project; Ms Szabo had already been contributing more time than paid for, to the project, and has acquired the necessary expertise to guide the project partners through the final stages. Dr Lawrence is visiting for a pre-conference planning trip, to assist with training (in field guide training) and analysis (of social evaluations) in December 2007, and again in March 2008, to ensure oversight of project conference, final report and follow-up.

The revised budget is attached separately.

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

See below.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** /yes, in July 2007 (month/yr)

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** no/, 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.**

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at [Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**