

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 30 November 2008)

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| <b>Project Ref. No.</b>         | 14-052   |
| <b>Project Title</b>            | Biodiversity Education and Action around the Caspian                               |
| <b>Country(ies)</b>             | Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan                              |
| <b>UK Organisation</b>          | Field Studies Council  |
| <b>Collaborator(s)</b>          | None   |
| <b>Project Leader</b>           | James Hindson (until 30/09/08); Richard Dawson (from 01/10/08)                     |
| <b>Report date</b>              | 1 April 2009 – 30 November 2009  |
| <b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b> | HYR4   |
| <b>Project website</b>          | <a href="http://www.caspianseabiodiversity.org">www.caspianseabiodiversity.org</a> |

## **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).**

Over the past six months there have been significant changes in the project. On 30 September James Hindson left the FSC and was replaced by Richard Dawson as Project Leader. Prior to James Hindson leaving the FSC the annual report 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008 was submitted together with a request to extend the project for a further 12 months to 30 June 2009. This extension has now been agreed.

There are ongoing issues with the posters. Iran, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan all have their posters and they are being used in conjunction with the teacher training workshops. Agreement has been reached between Iran and Turkmenistan for the posters to be shipped by land. The Russian version of the posters have been reviewed by the Ministry of Education and some changes requested. These changes have been made and the Russian partners are now awaiting the print files from Iran so the changes can be added to the posters and reprinted.

The partners have agreed the bird identification key. All partners have the agreed text and bird images and are currently printing keys in their local language in preparation for the monitoring activities that will commence in January 2009.

The project website has been updated and all the birds uploaded to the site. Partners are discussing the potential for translating the site into Russian and Farsi to provide greater access.

A project partners meeting will take place from 1-5 December in Almaty. The meeting will review project progress to date and plan delivery until project completion. The meeting will include a training element about the monitoring and recording of birds for schools and communities.

## **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 have been ongoing problems with the posters but these should now be resolved.

A key issue has been that project partners have not met since 2006 and as such co-ordination and planning has been limited to email and Skype conversations. This will be rectified through

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| <p>the meeting on 1-5 December in Almaty.</p> <p>These issues have been notified to the Darwin Secretariat and a project extension agreed. We remain confident that the project will still deliver its expected results.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b></p> <p>These issues have been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and a project extension agreed to 30 June 2009.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Discussed with the DI Secretariat:</b></p>   | <p><b>no/yes, in..... (month/yr)</b></p> |
| <p><b>Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)</b></p> <p>Project extension agreed to 30 June 2009 – no changes to work plan excepting delayed delivery. Revised dates for completion of the project will be agreed during the project partners meeting 1-5 December in Almaty.</p> |  |

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| <p><b>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b></p> <p>None at this time.</p> |
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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/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

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**