

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report

<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>Host country Partner Institution(s)</b>	Caspian Environment Programme (CEP) – Iran Caspian Institute for Environmental Services (SCIENSE) Regional Environment Centre Caucasus The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) – Kazakhstan Centre of Environmental Education of Astrakhan – Russia <i>Khazar State Nature Reserve - Turkmenistan</i>
<b>Report date</b>	November 2007
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 3
<b>Project website</b>	In the process of being established

### **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 of the project there have been a number of significant events.

Firstly the posters were launched at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in May 2007. Hamid Amirbrihimi, the project partner in Iran attended this workshop on behalf of the project and was privileged enough to be able to give a presentation at one of the Ministerial sessions. He also presented representatives of each national delegation with a set specially printed posters in their language. Sets of English language posters were taken by the Caspian Environment Programme to use in their promotional work. Photographs from this event are attached to this report (see appendix) The posters were also presented at a Ramsar training event in Ramsar Iran in October attended by Ramsar Focal Point Officers from some of the countries around the region.

Over the summer the posters have been printed and delivered to the partner countries and the workshops planned for each country. The teacher's workshop has been held in Azerbaijan and are planned for the New Year now in the remaining countries (see appendix)

In October James Hindson was in Iran for the Ramsar event and took the opportunity to meet with the Iranian team and plans the structure and content of the website and the content of the Birds Key that will be published next year.

### **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 decision to print the posters in Iran was taken on cost grounds. The cost savings, even with the

transport costs, allowed *more* posters to be printed and posters to be printed in each partner language. However this has backfired on the project in a number of ways that has caused further delay to the project..

The first is that there have been significant problems in transporting the posters from Iran to the other countries in the region. Getting the posters from Azerbaijan from Iran was not a problem but there were problems getting the poster from Iran to Russia which involved a border wait of 3 months. Similarly there were some problems in getting the posters from Russia to Kazakhstan, though not of the same scale. This has caused further delays to the teacher workshops. These problems were largely because of customs issues. As the posters were going to be distributed free of charge in each country for educational purposes they legally should not have a duty payable. It took some time to persuade the authorities that this was the legal situation. In the case of getting the posters from Iran to Russia there were also issues around the documentation provided.

Secondly there were some editorial issues. One of the posters had to be reprinted in Azerbaijan because some of the Azeri words were not correct. Despite the fact that the text of the posters were checked by the partners, when checked by the Ministry of Environment different words were required.

There have also been further delays because of political issues. For example, the posters for Turkmenistan were also delayed because of changes required after printing. These were dealt with by putting stickers over the text. In the case of Turkmenistan quotes from the Bible and Koran had to be replaced with quotes by the former Turkmen President. The teacher's workshop in Azerbaijan was also delayed because our partner in Azerbaijan is the Regional Environment Centre of the Caucasus (REC Caucasus). The Head Office of REC Caucasus is in Georgia, and recently the Ministry of Environment has come to identify the organisation as a Georgian organisation rather than a regional one. With political relationships between Azerbaijan and Georgia not being good this caused a delay in the teacher's workshop.

As a result of these delays the project is a full six months and will probably be nine months behind schedule. This will not have an effect on the overall outputs though it will have budget implications that the FSC is currently discussing with our partners.

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

No – previous reports have highlighted the delays to the project. These will not affect the budget.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** **no/yes, in..... (month/yr)**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** **no/yes, 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? No**

## Information Sheet for Conference



### Biodiversity Education and Action around the Caspian Sea

A joint project managed by the Field Studies Council UK, the Caspian Environment Programme and partners around the region and funded by the UK government's Darwin Initiative.

The *overall goal* of the project is protect the biodiversity of the Caspian Sea through enhanced biodiversity Education and action in schools. Our *specific objectives* are to

- Increase school students and teachers knowledge about biodiversity in the context of sustainable development stressing the importance of monitoring and biodiversity protection.
- Provide support for teachers in the form of training and teaching materials to integrate biodiversity learning into school programmes
- Develop systems and resources to allow schools and communities to monitor and record Caspian Biodiversity.

#### What have we done so far?

- We have produced a series of five large full colour posters about biodiversity issues around the Caspian in each national language,
- Supported by a Guide for teachers on how to use the posters and training.
- Country team members are in the process of running workshops for teachers

#### What is going to happen in the future?

- We shall be producing a biodiversity monitoring key that groups of young people in schools and communities can use to evaluate the status of biodiversity around the Caspian. We shall focus on wetland birds in the first instance.
- The project is in the process of setting up a web site.

The project is managed jointly by the Field Studies Council and Caspian Environment Programme working with local partners in each country. More information about both organisations can be found on our web sites ([www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org) and [www.caspianenvironment.org](http://www.caspianenvironment.org)) More information about the Darwin Initiative can be found on the Darwin web site ([www.darwin.gov.uk](http://www.darwin.gov.uk))

The Partners in each country are

Azerbaijan	Regional Environment Centre, Caucas
Iran	South Caspian Institution for Environmental Science
Kazakhstan	Central Asia Regional Environment Centre
Russia	Centre for Environmental Education, Astrakhan
Turkmenistan	Khazer Nature Reserve

Also produced in all the local languages example – Kazakh



### Биокөптүрлілік мәселелері және Каспий теңізі аймағындағы атқарылып жатқан шаралар туралы білім беру

«Табиғат аясында оқыту» Мемлекеттік емес ұйымның (Field studies council, Ұлыбритания) Каспий Экологиялық бағдарламасы және аймақтағы серіктестермен бірлескен жобасы.

Жобаның *жалпы мақсаты* биокөптүрлілік туралы білім беруді және осы бағыттағы мектептегі іс-шараларды күшейте отырып, Каспий теңізінің биоәртүрлілігін сақтау болып табылады. Біздің *нақты мақсаттарымыз*:

- Орнықты даму тұрғысынан биокөптүрліліктің мониторингі және оны қорғаудың маңыздылығы туралы оқушылар мен мұғалімдердің білімін арттыру.
- Мектеп бағдарламасына биокөптүрлілік мәселелерін ендіру мақсатында мұғалімдерге тренингтер және оқыту материалдары түрінде көмек көрсету.
- Мониторинг өткізу және Каспий биоәртүрлілігін бақылау жөнінде мектептер мен қоғамдастықтарға арнаулы жүйелер мен ресурстар ұсыну.

#### Біз қандай жұмыстар атқардық?

- Ұлттық тілдерде Каспий биоәртүрлілігі туралы мұғалімдерге арналған құралдар, қалай қолдану жөніндегі нұсқаулар қоса берілген көлемді 5 түрлі түсті плакат әзірленді.

#### Болашаққа не жоспарланып отыр?

- Бұл плакаттар мен оқу құралдары мектептерге таратылады; әрбір серіктес пилоттық мектептерде тренингтер өткізеді.
- Мектеп оқушылары және қоғамдастықтар Каспий биоәртүрлілігін бағалауда қолдануы үшін лайықталған мониторинг кілті әзірленеді.
- Жоба Веб -сайтта әзірленуде.

Жоба «Табиғат аясында оқыту» мемлекеттік емес мекемесінде және әрбір елдегі серіктестермен бірлесе отырып жүзеге асырылады. Бұл мекемелер туралы толық мәліметтерді төмендегі Веб-сайттардан табасыз: ([www.field-studies-council.org](http://www.field-studies-council.org) және [www.caspianenvironment.org](http://www.caspianenvironment.org)). Дарвин құлшынысы туралы толығырақ мәліметтер Дарвин Веб-сайтында ([www.darwin.gov.uk](http://www.darwin.gov.uk)) орналасқан.

Жоба бойынша серіктестер:

Әзірбайжан	Кавказ аймақтық экологиялық орталық
Иран	Оңтүстік-Каспий экология ғылымдары институты
Қазақстан	Орталық Азия аймақтық экологиялық орталық
Ресей	Экологиялық білім беру орталығы, Астрахань
Түркменстан	«Хазер» қорығы

Leaflet for conference attached:

## List of Participants

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## Report of Conference

To: Dr. James Hindson  
Project Manager  
Darwin Initiative - Biodiversity Education around Caspian Sea

Report on attendance and participation in COP1 of Tehran Convention  
23-25 May 2007, Baku, Azerbaijan Republic

The Tehran Convention is an overarching legal instrument for environmental protection in the Caspian region. Following the ratification of the Tehran Convention by all five Governments of the Caspian littoral states (Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan) the Convention entered into force on the 12th August 2006.

Ratification has been finalized in an almost record time, an indication of the keen interest of the riparian countries. Ratification has been timely and needed in view of the increasing threats to the environment of the Caspian Sea region, posed by sea level fluctuations, land based sources of pollution, over fishing, oil and gas exploration and extraction, degradation of the natural habitats and the introduction of invasive species.

The ratification has been a milestone in the history of the Caspian given the challenges linked to understanding the threats and maximizing the potential for development of the region in a way, which is environmentally sound and sustainable in the long run. Solution oriented dialogue and cooperation is at the heart of this and a precondition for success. The Tehran convention in force offers a unique platform for making collective commitments and achieving results.

The First Conference of Parties to the Framework Convention (COP I) was convened 23-25 of May in Baku (list of participants is attached). The Rules of procedures and Financial Rules were discussed and adopted during COP1, and the Convention stepped into a new stage of protocol development and implementation.

There were 2 reasons for my participation in the COP1; first, to meet and further inform the key delegates from the littoral states about the Darwin Initiative–CEP Biodiversity Education Project to gain more support, and second, to represent the public in the Conference of the Parties.

Fortunately both tasks were quite successful and related activities were as follow:

- An English version of the set of 5 posters that are developed as a part of the Caspian Biodiversity Education Project were posted on the wall of the reception area of the COP1, and were visited by the key delegates of 5 littoral states and other officials and participants.
- A leaflet (copy is attached) introducing the Project was prepared in English and all 5 local languages, and copies were distributed among the participants and all the media covering the Ministerial meeting session. The delegation heads of each littoral state received a set of posters in his/her language, a CD containing the e-version of the poster and the leaflet.
- I delivered a speech at the ministerial session and emphasized on the importance of public environmental awareness, education and participation in nature conservation efforts.
- In private conversation with each head and/or key representatives of delegations, among those some are listed below:
  1. Dr. Goussein Bagirov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Rasim Sattar-zada, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan Republic
  2. Dr. Fatemeh Vaez Javadi, Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Head of the Department of the Environment, Dr. Seyed Mohammad

Bagher Nabavi, Deputy Head of the Department of the Environment for the Marine Environment

3. Dr. Alexandr Bragin, Head of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Ecology, Dr. Serik Akhmedov, CEP-SAP Implementation Coordinator, Kazakhstan Republic
  4. Dr. Natalia Tretiakova, Deputy Head of Conventions and International Organizations Division of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Svetlana Balashova, Head of State Ecological Department/Russian Technical Control Service, Russian Federation
  5. Dr. Makhtumkuli Akmuradov, Minister of Nature Protection and NFP for CEP, Dr. Gozel Orazdurdyeva, CEP-SAP Implementation Coordinator, Turkmenistan
  6. Andrew Hudson, Principal Technical Advisor, International Waters, UNDP
  7. Dr. Shafgat Kakakhel, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP
  8. Ross Shotton, Senior Fishery Resources Officer, FAO
  9. Patricia Charlebois, Marine Environment Division, IMO
  10. Dr. Vladimir Mamaev, Regional Technical Advisor, UNDP/GEF
- I met with Chingiz Allaverdiev, the Project Coordinator in Azerbaijan and discussed the means for transportation and delivery of the posters to Baku, and agreed to deliver the posters to Azeri border office for him to pick up.

Abdolhamid Amirebrahimi  
Director  
South Caspian Institution for Environmental Services

**Photos attached:**



Azeri and Iran Delegates



Iran Delegates





Kazakh Delegates



Russian Delegate

**Appendix II**  
**Teacher Training Workshop in Azerbaijan**

**Programme**  
**of the workshop “Information and methodological manual for teachers to support the educational posters on Caspian biodiversity”**

Baku, 6 December, 2007.

10.00- 10.10	<b>Introduction - Ç.Allahverdiyev - Project Coordinator in Azerbaijan</b>
10.10 - 11-30	<b>Expert – L.Dadashova:</b> <b>The review of a state of a the biological variety in the Azerbaijan sector of Caspian sea.</b>  <b>What is Biodiversity and Why is it Important.</b>  <b>Education to sustainable development and a biological variety at modern school.</b>
11.30 - 11-45	Coffee - break
11-45 - 13-00	<b>Education for susrainable development and conservation of biodiversity in modern school</b> Teaching and Learning Methodology.  <b>Poster 1. What is Biodiversity and Why is it Important.</b>
13-00 - 13-45	Lunch
13-45 - 16-00	<b>Poster 2. How does biodiversity work?</b>  <b>Poster 3. The state of Caspian biodiversity</b>
16-00 - 16-15	Coffee - break
16-15 - 17-30	<b>Poster 4. What’s causing biodiversity problems?</b>  <b>Poster 5. How can we help to save Biodiversity?</b>
17-30 - 17-40	<b>Last word - Director the Center of ecological education of the Ministry of Education</b>
17-40 – 18-00	<b>Presentation of the book of Cand.Biol.Sci. of the Academy of sciences of Azerbaijan, director of institute of zoology of mr.Ilyas Babayev</b>
18-30	Supper

## Report of Workshop

### The report About a seminar on use of posters on a biodiversity. Baku, on December, 6, 2007

The seminar has been carried out together with the Center of Ecological education of the Ministry of Education of the Azerbaijan republic.

At a seminar there were teachers from 12 schools of cities Baku, Sumgait, Khachmaz and Lenkoran:

Maya Hadjiyeva	school № 194,	city Baku
Sanubar Mehraliyva	school № 254,	city Baku
Naiba Nabiyeva	school № 220,	city Baku
Gulafet Nasibova	school № 294,	city Baku
Rafiga Abbasova	school № 5,	city of Sumgait
Huru Zeynalova	school № 30,	city of Sumgait
Vugar Nazarli	the school of village	Goyshaban, Lenkoran region
Ilgar Qurbanov	the school of village	Xanbulan, Lenkoran region
Nabi Khankishiev	the school of village	Shirinsu, Lenkoran region
Nabiulla Abdullayev	the school of village	Nabran, Khachmaz region
Javid Teymurov	the school of village	Niyazabad, Khachmaz region
Firuz Agamirzayev	the school of village	Uzunoba, Khachmaz region

Training was spent the expert of the Ministry of Education by madam Lalah Dadasheva.

In work of a seminar participated mr. And Shukurov - director of the Center of Ecological education of the Ministry of Education of the Azerbaijan republic and mr. Ilyas Babayev - Cand.Biol.Sci. of the Academy of sciences of Azerbaijan, director of institute of zoology. Mister Ilyas Babayev has presented the new book «Waterfowl in Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian sea».

Work of a seminar has been started at 10 o'clock and executed according to enclosed program. Participants of a seminar have shown the big interest to a theme of a biological variety. They have positively estimated posters. Brightness and beauty of these posters have been especially marked. It will pull to them attention of pupils.

During a seminar was many questions on which have been given exhaustive answers.

Occupations with posters at schools will begin in January 2008.

After the ending of a seminar all participants have received a full set of posters with the Manual on training.



At the end of a seminar mister A.Shukerov has expressed gratitude to FSC for realization of the project.

Photos of a seminar are applied.

