

# ***Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species***

## ***Annual Report***

### **1. Darwin Project Information**

<i>Project Ref. Number</i>	162/12/032
<i>Project Title</i>	Supporting the Development of Nature Conservation Education in Bulgaria
<i>Country(ies)</i>	UK, Bulgaria
<i>UK Contractor</i>	Field Studies Council
<i>Partner Organisation(s)</i>	TIME Ecoprojects foundation
<i>Darwin Grant Value</i>	£131000
<i>Start/End dates</i>	1.09.2003 – 1.09.2006
<i>Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and report number (1,2,3..)</i>	1 September 2003 – 1 April 2004 Report 1
<i>Project website</i>	<a href="http://www.time-foundation.org">www.time-foundation.org</a>
<i>Author(s), date</i>	Dr James Hindson, FSC, Nadya Boneva, TIME, April 2004

### **2. Project Background**

- *Briefly describe the location and circumstances of the project and the problem that the project aims to address*

Environmental Education is listed as fourth priority for immediate action and support in the Biodiversity Strategy of Bulgaria. The strategy acknowledges that “much more time and energy is needed to be devoted to environmental education at all levels. This is a long-term undertaking, but immediate steps can be taken to begin the process. These steps include developing a national strategy for environmental education; appointing an advisory group of scientists, educators, and conservationists to provide guidance and advice in the design of curricula involving biological diversity and its conservation; and supporting opportunities for Bulgarians to interact with environmental educators in other countries.”

The purpose of the project is to build the capacity of education decision makers, teacher trainers and teachers to enhance the quality and effectiveness of nature conservation education in the formal school curriculum.

The specific objectives are:

1. To develop an understanding of nature conservation education that is set within the context of sustainable development
2. To build the capacity of the education decision makers, teacher trainers and teachers to enhance the quality and effectiveness of nature conservation education in the formal school curriculum
3. To build the material and human resource support to enable effective NCE to take place in schools.

### 3. Project Purpose and Outputs

- *State the purpose and outputs of the project. Please include your project logical framework as an appendix and report achievements and progress against it (or, if applicable, against the latest version of the logframe).*
- *Have the outputs or proposed operational plan been modified over the last year, for what reason, and have these changes been approved by the Darwin Secretariat? (Please note that any intended modifications should be discussed with the Secretariat directly rather than making suggestions in this report).*

#### Purpose

To build the capacity of education decision makers, teacher trainers and teachers to enhance the quality and effectiveness of nature conservation education in the formal school curriculum

#### Outputs

1. A body of educators able to develop deliver and support effective NCE into the formal school curriculum.
2. A NCE Policy approved by the Ministries of Education and Environment
3. NCE Teacher Training Module used for Teacher Training in NE Bulgaria.
4. An NCE Text Book and supporting resources published and used in Schools in NE Bulgaria.
5. An operational NCE Network
6. Publicity for the project

See table 1 Logical Framework

There have been a number of changes to the proposed operational plan and these are described in Section 6 of the Report below.

### 4. Progress

- *Please provide a brief history of the project to the beginning of this reporting period. (1 para)*

#### 1. *Inception visit of the FSC to Bulgaria.*

The inception visit took place between 20-26.09.2003 and the overall project, time-frame, budget items, the organization of the Inception launch and conference and training in UK all confirmed. Meetings were held with different stakeholders from Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Environment and Waters and British Embassy. Possible members of the four working groups and Nature Conservation Education Committee were invited to take part during the discussion on the project design.

#### 2. *National launch and Conference – 3rd of November*

The National launch and Conference took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2003 in Sofia. The Conference was opened by Mr. Tim Colley, 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary of the Embassy of UK in Bulgaria, Mr. Nikolay Koumdjiev, Deputy Minister of Environment and Waters, Mrs. Reneta Petkova, Senior expert, Ministry of Education and Science. 65 participants including representatives of Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Environment and Waters, Regional Inspectorates of Education and Science, school principals, school teachers, teacher trainers, NGO representative participated in the Conference. (Appendix1). The conference was organized in 3 sessions. The project was presented to all stakeholders with the FSC presenting a paper about Nature conservation education in the framework of Education for Sustainable development.

### 3. *Training of the NCEC Bulgarian team in UK.*

The training took place in the period 1-10<sup>th</sup> of December 2003. The aim was to improve the NCEC capacity by investigating UK's experience in organising and applying nature conservation education in the context of sustainable development.. 8 people leaders of working groups on the project and governmental representatives participated in the training- 2 representatives of TIME Foundation and 2 representatives of Borrowed nature (for the whole period). 2 representatives of Centre 21-Varna, 1 representative of the Ministry of the Environment and Waters and 1 from the Ministry of the Science and Education. The programme of the study visit is attached. – Appendix II

Time was also given for discussions about combining the activities and distribution of the responsibilities of the complementary MATRA and DARWIN funded projects for supporting the environmental education in Bulgaria. Representatives of the project management organisations- TIME, Borrowed Nature, FSC and AMECO participated in the meetings.

### 4. *Working Group formation and training*

Working groups for each project component were formed in January 2004 after extensive consultation. A training workshop was held between the 9-13<sup>th</sup> of February 2004 facilitated by TIME and FSC. The general aims of the workshop were - to engage with some of the broader changes in thinking about sustainability, about teaching and learning and about what 'messages' we are hoping young people will engage with. The workshop also tackled some of the practical aspects of the work of the four working groups. Thirty people attended the workshop including representatives from the FSC and AMECO. The list of participants is in Appendix III. The full report of the workshop is in attachment IV.

### 5. *Analyses of the current situation*

In March 2004 studies about the current situation in the field of teacher training and policies regarding Nature conservation education in context of Education of Sustainable development is going on.

- *Summarise progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable for the period and the logical framework (complete Annex 1). Explain differences including any slippage or additional outputs and activities.*

See Annex 1

- *Provide an account of the project's achievements during the last year. This should include concise discussion on methodologies and approaches by the project (e.g. research, training, planning, assessment, monitoring) and their consequences and impacts as well as results. Please **summarise** content on methodologies and approaches, and, if necessary, provide more detailed information in appendices (this may include cross-references to attached publications).*

Some description of the project achievements is included above, but in summary we consider that in the seven months since the start of project we have established a solid foundation for the achievement of the project objectives including a significant element of training and the creation of the Working Teams. We have also established excellent relationships with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Waters to the extent that the Bulgarian Project Team Manager has been invited to take part in

Ministry discussions and lead a working group on Biodiversity Education in the National Curriculum at a forthcoming high-level conference.

- *Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome them.*

There are no significant difficulties

- *Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, indicators for measuring achievements, exit strategy?*

We have not made any changes to the overall project design

- *Present a timetable (workplan) for the next reporting period.*

### 3. Work plan April – September 2004

Steps	Time frame	Results	Communication
<b>Policy working group</b>			
1. Preparation, research and analysis of national plans and programs for introduction and development of NCE and ESD.	March-May 2004	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarification of the terminology.</li> <li>2. Review of the international decisions and documents for EE, NCE, ESD.</li> <li>3. Review of the national programs and recommendations for EE, NCE, ESD</li> <li>4. Analysis of existing standards and programs in the last 3 years</li> </ol>	Working group meetings
<b>Teacher training</b>			
Survey, analysis and discussion of the policy for NCE, educational documentation, development of a concept, structure and content of module of teacher qualification	05 - 08. 2004r	Concept, structure and content of the module for teacher qualification	<b>Working group meetings, co-ordination with D1</b>
Development of teachers training module.	08 – 09. 2004	Module for teacher qualification developed - 16 pages, A4, 80 numbers	2 working group meetings
Development of information package for teachers qualification, discussion of structure, volume and content	10. 2004r.	Structure of information package discussed	Working group meeting

Educational materials			
Study of the implementation and content of NCE and ESD in educational materials in Bulgarian educational curriculum.	April – May 2004		Work on-line
Development of educational programme for Mandatory education from 1- 4-grade.	June-July 2004		WG meeting
Development of educational materials concept (structure and contain)	Sept-October 2004	Draft of curriculum.	WG meeting
Networking			
Development of a strategy for the creation and development of the Network for nature conservation education	February-March 2004	Strategy for the development and operation of the Network for nature conservation education	Working group meetings
Development of a bulletin of the Network	April- May 2004	Designed new rubrics for NCE in 'Ecopolis' Bulletin; Established contacts with 'Az Buki' teachers' magazine	WG
Editing, printing and disseminating monthly the bulletin	May 2004 – August 2006	Dissemination of the bulletin to the stakeholders- schools, NGOs, MoES and MoEW	WG
Development of a mailing list for the needs of the project	February 2004- August 2006	An operational mailing list for exchange of information between the WGs	WG

## 5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

- *Have you responded to issues raised in the review of your last year's annual report? Have you discussed the review with your collaborators? Briefly describe what actions have been taken as a result of recommendations from last year's review.*

This is our first annual report. The project started in September 2003.

## 6. Partnerships

- *Describe collaboration between UK and host country partner(s) over the last year. Are there difficulties or unforeseen problems or advantages of these relationships?*

The FSC has worked closely with TIME over the first seven months of the project and had a major role in providing training through the National Launch Event, The Study Visit to the UK and the Working Team Training in Bulgaria. The working relationship has been good with no difficulties that have had a long lasting impact.

- *Has the project been able to collaborate with similar projects (Darwin or other) in the host country or other regions, or establish new links with / between local or international organisations involved in biodiversity conservation?*

One unexpected development that has had a major impact, but a beneficial one, was the award of a grant from the Dutch MATRA Fund to another NGO in Bulgaria, Borrowed Nature, to develop an environmental education strategy, teacher training programme, resources and network. The Project is being managed in partnership with a Dutch Environmental Consultancy AMECO.

There is obviously a content overlap between the two projects as Biodiversity Education is a sub set of Environmental Education. In addition, there was a structural overlap in that both projects have the same four project components - strategy, teacher training, resource development and networking.

It would have been patently silly for both projects to work separately for these reasons but there were additional strong arguments for developing close links between the projects

- (a) The same people are involved in both projects. There are not that many people in Bulgaria that TIME and Borrowed Nature could call upon to join working groups.
- (b) The Ministry of Education would not have been able to comprehend and therefore support two similar projects.
- (c) It would not make sense to schools - it is a big enough challenge to get schools to accept one new approach to the environment without separating new developments into “environmental education” and “biodiversity education”

Therefore, immediately after the award of the project, the managers from the UK and Dutch partners and the Bulgarian partners met together to discuss how the projects could work together to achieve all the goals, and build on the obvious potential synergies. The two partners in Bulgaria prepared a paper on how the projects should work together to ensure that maximum benefits are gained. In December the FSC, TIME, AMECO and Borrowed Nature had a meeting and developed an action plan. In February the same team met in Bulgaria to finalize the time frames of both projects and to have an agreement about the outputs.

Essentially, what has been agreed is that the Working Groups for both projects will be common, but that the MATRA project will lead on and manage the Strategy and Networking Components, and that the Darwin project will lead on and manage the teacher training and resource development components. We have developed a system of communication and ground rules for the use of projects logos and other management systems to ensure that both projects meet their objectives. The close linking between the projects has substantial benefits for the Darwin project, largely because the financial resources of the MATRA project are much larger. This has positive benefits especially in terms of the production of resources and the number of teachers that can be trained.

It should be stressed that exactly the same activities are taking place in the Darwin project as were proposed. It should also be noted that TIME Foundation and the FSC were aware of the MATRA proposal as both organisations had been involved in developing the initial proposal. However, this had been rejected by MATRA on two previous occasions, and hence our motivation to submit a Darwin application. Unknown to TIME and the FSC, AMECO had submitted the project for a third time with successful results.

## 7. Impact and Sustainability

- *Discuss the profile of the project within the country and what efforts have been made during the year to promote the work. What evidence is there for increasing interest and capacity for biodiversity resulting from the project? Is there a satisfactory exit strategy for the project in place?*

The project profile is very high with both the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment and Waters. We are especially pleased with the impact we have had on the Ministry of Education as it took a lot of work to bring them fully on board. The project has also been introduced to a wider audience through four broadcasts on Bulgarian National Radio in Programs Horizont and Hristo Botev, and BBC1 and in one national newspaper- Dnevnik. The project was presented with an article in the newspaper "AZ Buki" disseminated in each school of the country. However, because the project is in the early stages we have not yet made large efforts to disseminate it more widely. This will have more prominence in the coming year.

## 8. Post-Project Follow up Activities (max 300 words)

This section should be completed ONLY if your project is nearing completion (penultimate or final year) and you wish to be considered to be invited to apply for Post Project Funding. *Each year, a small number of Darwin projects will be invited to apply for funding. Selection of these projects will be based on promising project work, reviews to date, and your suggestions within this section. Further information on this scheme introduced in 2003 is available from the Darwin website.*

- From project progress so far, what follow-up activities would help to embed or consolidate the results of your project, and why would you consider these as suitable for Darwin Post Project Funding?
- What evidence is there of strong commitment and capacity by host country partners to enable them to play a major role in follow-up activities?

We are in the beginning of the project

## 9. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

- *Explain differences in actual outputs against those agreed in the initial 'Project Implementation Timetable' and the 'Project Outputs Schedule', i.e. what outputs were not or only partly achieved? Were additional outputs achieved?*

There are no changes in the actual outputs compared to the initial Project proposal during the reporting period.

- *Provide details of dissemination activities in the host country during the year, including information on target audiences. Will dissemination activities be continued by the host country when the project finishes, and how will this be funded and implemented?*

The project was introduced in four broadcasts on Bulgarian National Radio – Programs Horizont and Hristo Botev, and BBC1 and in one national newspaper- Dnevnik. Program Horizont has the potential of about 6000 000 people, because this is the biggest national radio program available all over the country, the program Hristo Botev has the audience of 1 000 000 people. The daily newspaper Dnevnik obtains the total print of 6000 newspapers and on-line version with 6308 visitors.

The project was presented in an article in the newspaper "AZ Buki" disseminated in each school of the country. The newspaper obtains the total print of 5 000 newspapers.

More than 50 people participated in the National conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2003 and 30 people participated in the workshop organized from 9-13 February 2004.

The project is announced on the web site of TIME Eco projects Foundation with 4013 visitors.

- Please expand and complete Table 1. **Quantify** project outputs over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures (see website for details) and give a brief description. Please list and report on appropriate Code Nos. only. The level of detail required is specified in the Guidance notes on Output Definitions, which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures

**Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)**

<b>Code No.</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Description</b>
6 A/B	30 people	Education for Sustainability and Biodiversity Education Training in Bulgaria 9-13 <sup>th</sup> February 2004
	8 people	Education for Sustainability and Biodiversity Education Training in UK, 1-10 December 2003
7	100 pages	Training materials for the courses above
8	Staff time	As indicated in proposal. FSC staff time to date 25 days
14A/B	65 people	High Level Conference on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
15A/B/C	4 radio 2 newspaper	Press coverage as indicated above
16A/B	0	None prepared to date
20	1	One computer purchased
21	1	NCE Committee established

- In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Details will be recorded on the Darwin Monitoring Website Publications Database. Mark (\*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

To date we have produced no publications

**Table 2: Publications**

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(e.g. contact address, website)	

## 10. Project Expenditure

- Please expand and complete Table 3.  
Please see attached Table 3

**Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)**



Item	<i>Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Balance</i>
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- *Highlight any recently agreed changes to the budget and explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget.*

#### **11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons**

- *Discuss methods employed to monitor and evaluate the project this year. How can you demonstrate that the outputs and outcomes of the project actually contribute to the project purpose? i.e. what are the indicators of achievements (both qualitative and quantitative) and how are you measuring these?*
- *What lessons have you learned from this year's work, and can you build this learning into future plans?*

The FSC and TIME have monitored the project through regular reports and meetings. A representative of the FSC has visited Bulgaria on four occasions over the year and TIME Foundation has visited the UK once. At each meeting we have checked the planned activities and outputs with those actually undertaken. Our reports and discussion documents demonstrate progress together with records of Working Group meetings and Training materials.

No specific lessons have been learnt that have an impact on the project.

#### **12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)**

■ ***Agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section***

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention e.g. in terms of best practice. The idea is to use this section for various promotion and dissemination

purposes, including e.g. publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin promotion material, or on the Darwin website. As we will not be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

We have no outstanding achievements to report this year other than bringing the Ministry of Education fully on board the project

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2003/2004

<b>Project summary</b>	<b>Measurable Indicators</b>	<b>Progress and Achievements April 2003-Mar 2004</b>	<b>Actions required/planned for next period</b>
<p><b>Goal:</b> To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>• The sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Purpose</b> (insert original project purpose statement)</p> <p>To build the capacity of education decision makers, teacher trainers and teachers to enhance the quality and effectiveness of nature conservation education in the formal school curriculum</p>	<p>(insert original purpose level indicators)</p> <p>That the quality of learning about Bulgaria's nature increases. That the NCE begins to develop positive changes in attitudes and behaviour</p>	<p>(report impacts and achievements resulting from the project against purpose indicators – if any)</p> <p>Nature conservation education in the framework of education for sustainability was introduced to 50 people participated in the National conference. 8 people – project coordinator and members of WGs were trained in best available Education for Sustainability practices of UK. 30 people- WG members were trained in Bulgaria by UK trainer.</p>	<p>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project &amp; highlight key actions planning for next period)</p> <p>- more than 24 WG meeting in order to achieve the outcomes of the project are going to take place in the period April – September 2004</p> <p>-Survey, analysis and discussion of the policy for NCE, educational documentation, development of a concept, structure and content of module of teacher qualification Study of the implementation and content of NCE and ESD in educational materials in Bulgarian educational curriculum. Development of educational programme for Mandatory education from 1- 4 grade.</p>

			Development of a strategy for the creation and development of the Network for nature conservation education Development of a bulletin of the Network
<b>Outputs</b>			
(insert original outputs – one per line) 1. A body of educators able to develop, deliver and support effective NCE into the formal school curriculum.	A functioning Nature Conservation Education Committee. A minimum of 25 people trained in effective learning approaches, biodiversity education, curriculum and resource development	<i>(report completed activities and outcomes that contribute toward outputs and indicators)</i>	(report any lessons learned resulting from the project & highlight key actions planning for next period)
2. A NCE Policy approved by the Ministries of Education and Environment	Policy Developed by Working Team and approved by Ministries.	A high-level conference was held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> of November to launch the project. 50 participants representatives of different stakeholders were presented.  8 members of NCEC were trained in UK	
3. NCE Teacher Training Module used Teacher Training in NE Bulgaria.	Working Team produce a course and manual which is adopted teacher training institutions and organisations.	Working group of 7 people was established and trained in Bulgaria in Biodiversity education in the context of Education for SD.	Survey, analysis and discussion of the policy for NCE, educational documentation, development of a concept, structure and content of module of teacher qualification

4. An NCE Text Book and supporting resources published and used in Schools in NE Bulgaria.	Working Team develop a textbook and materials in consultation with teachers and teacher trainers and the book is adopted by at least 25% of schools in the NE region.	Working group of 6 people was established and trained in Bulgaria in Biodiversity education in the context of Education for SD.	Study of the implementation and content of NCE and ESD in educational materials in Bulgarian educational curriculum. Development of educational programme for Mandatory education from 1- 4-grade.
5. An operational NCE Network	Target audience use the network facilities	Working group of 6 people was established and trained in Bulgaria in Biodiversity education in the context of Education for SD.	Development of a strategy for the creation and development of the Network for nature conservation education Development of a bulletin of the Network
6. Publicity for the project	Reports in newspapers, radio and other media mentioning the Darwin Initiative	The project and the conference were introduced in 4 broadcasts on Bulgarian National Radio – Programs Horizont and Hristo Botev, and BBC1 and in one national newspaper- Dnevnik.  The project was presented with an article in the newspaper “AZ Buki” disseminated in each school of the country.	4 issues of the Bulletin will be issued and disseminated among the different stakeholders and schools

Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.



**Appendices**

**Appendix I**

**National Launch & Conference, 3 November – List of Participants**

**Appendix II**

**UK Study Visit Programme**

**Appendix III**

**Working Group Workshop, 9 – 13 February – List of Participants**

**Appendix IV**

**Working Group Workshop, 9 – 13 February – Report**

