

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

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| Project Ref. No. | 162/13/013 |
| Project Title | Establishing biodiversity monitoring networks to inform Estonian coastal wetland management |
| Country(ies) | Estonia |
| UK Organisation | Earthwatch Institute (Europe) and University of Brighton |
| Collaborator(s) | NGO Läänerannik, Silma Nature Reserve and Matsalu National Park, West Estonia |
| Report date | 31 st October 2006 |
| Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4) | HYR 3 |
| Project website | http://www.vormsi.ee/darwin |

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).

May 06 – Project team review meetings: i) final year and post-project planning and ii) checking and calibrating monitoring stations

Jun 06 – 1st Earthwatch team fielded with 4 volunteers and two students

July 06 – 2nd Earthwatch team fielded with 4 volunteers and two students

Aug 06 – 3rd Earthwatch team fielded with 7 volunteers and one student

Aug 06 – Project team review meeting, re-calibrating all monitoring stations

Sept 06 – Estonian collaborators meeting on future drafting of monitoring plans and publishing a study material (coastal birds and insects) for students /schoolchildren

Stakeholder network sustained by email, web site updates, meetings and site visits:

1. Lotman has ongoing email contact with stakeholders from Estonia, Baltic States and the Baltic Environmental Forum
2. June 06 – Estonian coastal wetlands research assistant (Hannella Lillepruun) attended coastal ecology workshop in Poland
3. June 06: Lotman participated in Estonian Ministry of Environment workshop on Natura2000 network monitoring and management financing
4. July 06: Lotman participated in Baltic Environmental Forum stakeholder meeting on EU Habitats directive Natura2000 monitoring
5. July 06: Joyce presented Darwin research to Society of Wetland Scientists annual conference, Cairns, Australia (c600 attendees)

- 6. Aug 06: Project website updated with summer fieldwork information
- 7. Sept 06: Berg and Lotman presented the Darwin fieldwork results to c40 European scientists at a Coastal Ecology workshop in Germany

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 continue to be some problems with some data collection at the monitoring stations. Some soil measurements continue to be affected by interrupted data collection and/or downloading, and the project team continue to try to resolve this issue both in the field and with the equipment provider. Vandalism and damage by cattle resulted in damaged stations and lost data during 2006, especially at Matsalu National Park. These issues have resulted in incomplete data collection from some monitoring stations, and the need to repair and possibly relocate the monitoring stations at Matsalu. It is not anticipated that the budget will be affected.

The problems and delays with monitoring have prevented the prompt production of further monitoring plans to add to the one produced for Hosby in Spring 2006. However, this issue will be addressed by December 2006 with the production of draft plans for Tahu, Rumpo and Matsalu.

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

Not discussed with Secretariat.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: No

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: No

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

As we have been informed by the Darwin Secretariat that this project is not eligible for Fellowships or Post-project funding now that Estonia has joined the EU, we are holding a meeting at Brighton University with our Estonian partners and Lotman in early November to look ahead at concluding the project and the opportunities for funding a short extension to better deliver appropriate impacts and legacy.

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 by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**