

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14019
Project Title	Youth participation in protected area management in Rodna Mountains, Romania
Country(ies)	UK and Romania
UK Organisation	University of Oxford
Collaborator(s)	The Administration of Rodna Mountains National Park
Report date	20/10/06
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/humaneco/youthparticipation-romania.php

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>		
July	Training in participatory biodiversity inventory and monitoring; training materials disseminated.	Achieved. In addition, a booklet on biodiversity inventory and monitoring techniques was developed.
July–September	Monitoring activities implemented by school students.	All 18 monitoring plots established. Monitoring activities carried out.
July–September	Data collection for the field guide to be compiled by APNMR staff and student clubs.	Good progress has been achieved. A series of workshops with the clubs will be conducted in November to analyse results.
<i>2. Management plan developed and implemented</i>		
May	Management plan finalised.	The management plan was finalised and sent for approval to the Romanian Academy and the Ministry of Environment and Water Management.
June	Management plan approved.	The management plan awaits approval by the competent authorities
June	Training in tourist guiding skills; training materials available.	Training of students was conducted in July and August as part of student camps organised by APNMR. An information leaflet was designed for distribution in local communities. Local community members will be trained next year in collaboration with the project LIFE05NAT/RO/000176.

July	Annual work plans developed.	Awaiting the approval of the management plan.
July– September	Annual work plans implemented.	Awaiting the approval of the management plan.
<i>3. Experience evaluated, model developed and promoted</i>		
April- September	Project web page updated.	Both partners web pages have been updated. However, the latest developments and newsletters need to be added.
August	Newsletter issued.	Finalised in September; available in Romanian and English, both in printed and electronic form.
August	Workshops to analyse and disseminate results.	Scheduled for November based on participant feedback that more would be able to attend at that time.
September	Project presentation in local communities and schools.	A schedule for presentations has been drafted and presentations were held in half of the surrounding communities. Further presentations will be organised in November.

In addition:

Alina Szabo and Claudiu Iusan presented the poster "Education for Biodiversity through Youth Participation in Protected Area Management in Romania." The congress was held in Eger, Hungary between 22-16 August and reunited more than 1000 researchers from 53 countries.

Alina Szabo attended the 2006 Europarc Conference, in Oxford, 19-21 September 2006 and distributed a policy briefing note prepared for the occasion (attached).

<p>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.</p> <p>The IT person for the Romanian partner, APNMR, went on maternity leave. This has affected slightly the GIS component of the project. However, two other staff have been trained in GIS techniques and activities have been taken over by the APNMR's Biologist with help from the UK partners. In addition, a link was made with a GIS specialist employed by the Apuseni Nature Park to foster experience sharing.</p>	
<p>Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p> <p>No – but there has been extensive correspondence about the issues noted in point 3 below, without conclusion.</p>	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

<p>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p> <p>The project is operating under several financial difficulties which are addressed in separate correspondence from OUCE's administrator to Sarah Nelson. Following resolution of this discussion we will have to reassess the project's activities planned for year 3.</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 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.**

Attached:

Policy briefing
Response to issues raised in review of annual report

To follow:

Map showing location of monitoring plots (GIS advisor currently on sick leave)