

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-021
Project Title	Large Carnivore Education Centre – Bulgaria
Country(ies)	Bulgaria
UK Organisation	Education 4 Conservation Limited
Collaborator(s)	Balkani Wildlife Society
Report date	26 October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	www.education4conservation.org

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).

The Large Carnivore Education Centre project aims and objectives are to staff and help to equip the Centre, and to provide training and development for Centre staff.

A co-ordinator assistant, Nina Korova, was recruited at the start of the project to assist the Project Leader, Elena Tsingarska. Steps have also been taken to identify a Centre Manager and a Centre Guide.

Research has been carried out to identify the education materials and equipment required for the Centre, and suppliers contacted. Design work has started on the education materials.

The building of the Centre is now underway, although there have been some delays in the funding of the capital work. Despite this, the building and refurbishment work is still on target at this stage.

The Centre currently has two ambassador wolves and has recently rescued a brown bear which is now being homed at the project. These large carnivores will form part of the education programme for visitors to the Centre. In the past six months a wild wolf has also been radio collared as part of the ongoing biological research.

In the UK, research and liaison has been carried out to identify suitable education centres for training to take place. UK project staff have visited three centres and have had a number of meetings with training providers, including staff from Nottingham University. The aim is to bring Centre staff from Bulgaria to the UK in February 2006.

E4C has actively promoted both the Centre itself and Darwin Initiative through a number of press releases, E4C website and at various events held during the first six months. This aspect of the work will continue and will gain momentum as the Centre continues its development.

