

# Darwin Initiative – Final Report

(To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders  
(<http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/resources/reporting/>) -

it is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

## Darwin project information

Project Reference	14-021
Project Title	Large Carnivore Education Centre, Bulgaria
Host country(ies)	Bulgaria
UK Contract Holder Institution	Education 4 Conservation Ltd
UK Partner Institution(s)	UK Wolf Conservation Trust
Host Country Partner Institution(s)	Balkani Wildlife Society BBPS Semperviva
Darwin Grant Value	£95,210
Start/End dates of Project	1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008
Project Leader Name	Denise Taylor
Project Website	<a href="http://www.education4conservation.org">www.education4conservation.org</a>
Report Author(s) and date	Denise Taylor and Elena Tsingarska – November 08

## 1 Project Background

The project was to provide education equipment and materials, training and capacity building for the new Large Carnivore Education Centre, Vlahi, Pirin Mountains, Bulgaria. The project has built and refurbished an outstanding education facility which hosts exhibition halls, seminar rooms and training facilities, accommodation for 18 people, a café/bar, and stables. The project is achieving excellent results in wolf research and education and awareness raising in a country where wolves are still very much maligned. The Large Carnivore Education Centre is an excellent centre that will provide a focal point within the region, attracting visitors to the village and helping to support livelihoods there.

## 2 Project support to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The project has a strong commitment to the CBD due to the inherent nature of the work the project undertakes in protecting and conserving large carnivores through a mix of scientific research, education and awareness raising and political lobbying. The project leaders have been very instrumental in putting the conservation issues of wolves and brown bears onto the local and regional political agenda, and are at present in the process of helping to develop a Wolf Management Plan. A Bear Management Plan was previously developed.

Capacity building has taken place at the project in the host country through its various partnerships and links with other organisations. The strongest partnership with BBPS Semperviva is helping to increase tolerance for large predators through the livestock guarding dog programme where breeding pairs of guarding dogs are given to farmers to protect flocks and herds. These dogs have been in use for thousands of years until the Communists came to power and the breed almost died out. The project has resurrected the breed, and has also brought the focus back to pastoral ways of farming and livestock rearing.

For the project itself, capacity building was one of the key areas of the project, and the building and development of the Large Carnivore Education Centre will not only provide employment, but will also be a focal point for economic activity for the village itself.

### **3 Project Partnerships**

There has been a longstanding collaboration between the UK and host partners, and this continues to be extremely positive. The relationships developed extend into other networks which benefit the host country project. The UK Wolf Conservation Trust, of which the UK Project Leader is also a director, is highly supportive of the LCEC, and carnivore conservation in Bulgaria. Funding has been donated to Balkani Wildlife Society from the UKWCT, and an international student exchange has been set up which will support agriculture, biology and veterinary students from colleges and universities both in the UK and in Bulgaria.

Partners in both the host country and the UK have been involved in the decision making process on the development of education materials, training and the planning of courses and workshops. In addition, staff from the UK partners have helped with writing and editing education materials and translations into English.

There have been no particular challenges with regard to the partnership, and the lessons have been positive with strong ties being established that will extend beyond the duration of the Darwin Project.

### **4 Project Achievements**

The project achievements are outlined in Annexe 1, but in brief the primary achievement is that the Large Carnivore Education Centre is built and now functional. There is some additional refurbishment work required to make the accommodation and café/bar area ready, but the seminar halls and exhibition areas are now up and running, with workshops, courses and visits taking place on a regular basis. The LCEC is a commanding presence in the village, and has brought life back to Vlahi in terms of the potential for economic regeneration and further development of the village. Another centre has also been set up in the village by brother of the project leader, who was previously involved in the LCEC project as a manager. This is being run as a nature centre and complements the work of the LCEC. This centre also impacts on the regeneration of the village in attracting visitors to the region.

Although outside the remit of the Darwin Initiative outputs, the work done to date on the Wolf Management Plan (WMP) will have a high impact on the aims and objectives of the LCEC, and on wolf conservation in Bulgaria. The Wolf Management Plan has been funded by the UK Wolf Conservation Trust which has enabled a world expert on human dimensions (Dr Alistair Bath) to be commissioned to plan, implement and deliver the WMP.

The implementation of the International Student Exchange will provide both additional income for the project as well as support for research activities through the participation of students.

#### **4.1 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits**

The impact of the LCEC is achieved through education and awareness raising of and about large carnivores and their conservation. The biological research elements, and the development and implementation of species action plans contribute directly to the biodiversity of large carnivores in the region and throughout Bulgaria.

The social impact of the project has been to regenerate the village of Vlahi, and to provide opportunities for local people in terms of employment and through the sale of goods and services through increasing visitor numbers.

There has been a certain amount of negative social impact with some particular groups and individuals who are steadfastly opposed to large carnivore conservation causing problems for the project. This year this has resulted in a small group of people poisoning some of the project's livestock guarding dogs. This, however, has to be placed in the socio-political and cultural context of the country and the general attitudes towards large predators, which to date has been highly negative. The whole aim of the LCEC is to address these issues through education, but these incidents do demonstrate that there is still some way to go to achieve the

goals, and also demonstrates the need for the education work. The implementation of the Wolf Management Plan works on bringing together the various stakeholder groups including hunters, farmers, livestock owners, local people, conservationists, biologists and educators, and as the WMP develops it is hoped that incidents of this nature will become less.

Furthermore, the development of the Wolf Management Plan is intended to lobby for a policy change towards the protection of wolves in Bulgaria, which are at present hunted for much of the year. The scientific research underpinning this will be made widely available, and it has previously been well documented that keystone species such as apex predators are a vital part of their ecosystem.

## **4.2 Outcomes: achievement of the project purpose and outcomes**

The outcomes of the project have been achieved on a number of different levels. The physical resource that the LCEC provides is a legacy that will offer long term benefits to the village giving the project and local people access to regional, national and international assets. This includes economic regeneration, knowledge and awareness of large carnivores and their conservation, a general awareness and participation in local environmental issues, capacity building within the village. Students and visitors from Bulgaria and also from other countries also benefit from the project in terms of accessing knowledge about different cultural traditions and lifestyles, biodiversity in the region, and education and science based research. Visiting the project and the village of Vlahi is an enriching experience and has had a personal and social impact on UK project staff and the international students who have spent time at the LCEC.

## **4.3 Outputs (and activities)**

The project has achieved its outputs as laid out in the logical framework. There were some problems with the completion of the building works due to money not being available to complete from the initial funders of the capital part of the project. However, this did not impact too greatly on the Darwin Initiative aspects of the project in terms of education and training provision and resources. The seminar and exhibition halls have been functional for some time and have been used for workshops and educational visits.

## **4.4 Project standard measures and publications**

The project standard measures can be found in the Appendix. In addition, there are other materials available with this report which evidence the work that has taken place. These include photographs of the project development and activities, radio interview files, recording of the centre opening which was translated by one of the project team.

## **4.5 Technical and Scientific achievements and co-operation**

For this project, the technical and scientific aspects of the work were outside the scope of the funding, with the main scope focusing on education and awareness raising through the building and development of the LCEC. However, the project does carry out detailed scientific and biological research from scat analysis, tissue sample analysis and radio telemetry work. This has given the project leader, Elena Tsingarska, a wealth of data which she has disseminated to the stakeholder groups, more recently as part of the Wolf Management Plan workshop process. For example, Elena has carried out detailed analysis of wolf territories as they cross the different municipal boundaries. This has a high significance as previously wolf populations were counted by each municipality, and it has previously been the case that the same pack of wolves can traverse three different municipalities and therefore be counted three times, thus exaggerating the numbers when it comes to allowing hunting quotas. Through the radio telemetry work and scat analysis, Elena could demonstrate scientifically the different wolf pack territories, and how they overlap each other and the different municipalities. This has had a positive effect on hunter and forester attitudes.

## 4.6 Capacity building

The LCEC is itself a long lasting legacy of this project, and has now become a key focal point in the village, and for the nearest town of Vlahi. The LCEC will provide employment for at least four members of staff, and will provide some economic sustainability through the facilities offered at the centre. For example, the shop will sell locally made and sourced products.

The LCEC will provide ongoing training and development for biology and agricultural students, both from within Bulgaria and from other countries. The existing staff at the LCEC have been to the UK on two occasions as part of the Darwin Initiative programme. These visits have been previously documented in the half year and annual reports. In addition, students from the UK Wolf Conservation Trust and the Education Manager from the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme have spent time at the LCEC on informal training programmes. The Education Manager from Ethiopia, in particular, spent two weeks in Vlahi to learn about other wolf education centres in different countries to inform his own practice in Ethiopia for the project there.

As part of the programme, the LCEC will continue to develop its workshops and seminars, and will increase its programmes for national and international students. This will directly impact the biodiversity as a result of increased biological research and further capacity building through the various management plans.

## 4.7 Sustainability and Legacy

The LCEC is a large building, which has been well constructed with longevity in mind right from the start of the project. As well as providing research and education facilities, the centre will also be used for seminars, workshops. The venue can be hired out which will generate additional income alongside that earned from the revenues from the café, shop, restaurant and accommodation facilities.

The education materials and displays have also been designed and produced to be long-lasting. Visitors to the LCEC have a rich experience that includes visiting the centre itself and spending time with the resident carnivores (wolves and bears). Experiential learning is well documented as being of the most influential and effective ways of learning. The LCEC has designed all its educational displays and materials with this in mind.

Balkani Wildlife Society and BBPS Semperviva work very closely together. The focus for both projects is on the village of Vlahi and the surrounding region of the Pirin Mountains. The impact of both these NGOs is already having a significant impact on the village with the redevelopment of some of the once previously derelict properties. Not everyone is positive towards the NGOs because of the type of work they are doing, and there have been some initial problems. However, the majority of people in and around Vlahi, Kresna and the surrounding area can see the potential for further economic regeneration.

The development of the Wolf Management Plan will have a long reaching impact on the conservation of the wolves in the region. The process is designed to bring together all the different stakeholders, including biologists, conservationists, policy makers, local communities, hunters, farmers, livestock owners. Three workshops have already been held bringing these groups together and these have been facilitated by an expert in this field who has undertaken this work throughout Europe and North America. Although not directly funded by Darwin Initiative, the strong links between the project leaders and other organisations have helped to facilitate this process both through funding being made available and through the links established by both project leaders.

### [What will happen to project staff and resources after the project ends?](#)

The project aims and objectives have always been long term, especially as this has involved the building of a large education centre. The Centre is up and running and already providing workshops, seminars, and hosting educational visits from schools. In addition, the project receives students and volunteers to help with the biological and ecological research. The educational materials and equipment will continue to be used on a long term basis and have been designed with this in mind.

## Are partners likely to keep in touch?

The project leaders in the UK and Bulgaria had strong links prior to the project commencing and these have been strengthened further as a result of the project. The UK team will continue to raise money and support for the LCEC, with the aim of doing this on a longer term basis. Although the Darwin Initiative Programme has been completed, there is still much ongoing work to be accomplished, and the project will continue to evolve and develop.

## 5 Lessons learned, dissemination and communication

### What are the key lessons to be drawn from the experience of this project?

The lessons to be drawn from the experiences of this project are many and at different levels. Many large building projects overrun on budget, and this project has been no exception. However, the small team in the host country have not been daunted by this and through their dedication and commitment continued with some of the building work themselves. The lesson drawn from this is that there needs to be a contingency plan if the project relies on a particular asset to be realised, such as a building to be completed.

Another valuable lesson is that small teams of people can make a huge difference. The Darwin Initiative should be proud to have helped this small team to achieve such far reaching outcomes for the biodiversity of the region of the Pirin Mountains in particular, and in Bulgaria as a whole.

### How has information relating to project achievements been disseminated and applied, and who was the target audience?

Information relating to the project achievements has been disseminated in a number of ways including:

- Radio and television interviews in the host country
- Newspaper articles in the host country and the UK
- Poster presentations at seminars, conferences and festivals
- Presentations at lectures – in particular at the Geographical Society in London to an audience of 400 people
- Regular articles in Wolf Print magazine
- Website articles on the sites for the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, E4C, Balkani Wildlife Society.

### Will dissemination continue or develop after project completion?

Yes, most certainly. E4C will continue its support of the project into the long term future.

### 5.1 Darwin identity

The Darwin logo has been used on websites, on posters, in articles and as part of presentations. The logo is also very clearly displayed on the front entrance to the LCEC.

## 6 Monitoring and evaluation

There have been no major changes in the project design. The remit of this project was to design and produce education materials, obtain education equipment, provide staff training on education and learning, and assist with capacity building for the LCEC. These have all be achieved as outcomes.

The monitoring and evaluation to date has been done internally through regular meetings, mainly within the host country. Photographic documentation of the project development has been a strong feature throughout the project, and clearly shows the transformation of a previously derelict building which was once a horse stable to an impressive two-story education centre. Similarly, the development of education materials has also been documented.

## 6.1 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

As far as we are aware, all outstanding issues have been addressed for this project.

### Have you discussed the reviews with your partners and other collaborators?

In 2007, BALKANI Wildlife Society initiated development of a Wolf Management Plan for the country. Prof. Alistair Bath from the Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada is leading the process and facilitating the workshops. A Bear Management Plan was produced in 2006 and accepted by the Government in 2008. The working group consisting of representatives from all the interested parties had its first and second workshops, respectively in March and July. The institutions and organizations represented are: Ministry of Environment, Regional Authorities of the Ministry, National Forestry Board and its regional authorities where wolves are present, National Hunting Association, Institute of Zoology - BAS, Institute of Forestry - BAS, Central Laboratory in Ecology – BAS, Natural History Museum, Forestry University, Biology Faculty, National Laboratory on Diseases on Game, Livestock breeders, five NGOs working for conservation of Large Carnivores in Bulgaria. The group takes its decisions only through consensus, in order that what is accepted in the plan works in practice and is implemented. The main goal of the Plan is: **“To work toward understanding and addressing the key issues facing wolf conservation in Bulgaria.”** All the participants agreed at the first workshop that the wolf should always exist in Bulgaria and its population should be viable. During the second workshop the group reached the point that it is necessary to institute a protection season for the wolf in Bulgaria, namely that the species should not be hunted during the breeding and pup rearing season (March – August). Most of the participants agreed on this point, but the final decision about that is going to be taken on the next workshop in November 2008 (we are awaiting the minutes of this workshop to confirm that this decision was indeed taken).

The wolf project studies on the Bulgarian species population have had some significant results on the genetics of the wolf in Bulgaria. The tissue analysis carried out by the Warsaw Institute in Zoology – the Polish Academy of Sciences show evidence of hybridization of Bulgarian wolves with domestic dogs. In addition, the different wolf relationships between individual wolves shows evidence of migration trails in the country which can be tracked. All these topics (especially the genetics) are going to be discussed at the next Wolf Management Plan workshop and solutions are going to be sought for decreasing the probability of hybridization.

Data about the wolf are still being collected in the field and the results are used to enrich the educational materials at the centre.

The bear study team at BALKANI has collected some data on individual bear territories and migrations. These examples are going to be included in the educational materials as well.

At the end of 2007, the BALKANI wolf project team together with Prof. Alistair Bath designed and disseminated a questionnaire about attitudes, opinions and knowledge about the wolf. The questionnaire was disseminated among foresters and hunters in four representative regions in the country. Completed questionnaires were received from about 1600 foresters and nearly the same number of hunters. The results are currently being analysed, and hopefully will show the attitudes and knowledge of these two groups toward the species and therefore help with the development of education programmes to address of each of these different groups in order to improve their attitude and knowledge.

## 7 Finance and administration

### 7.1 Project expenditure – April 2007 to March 2008

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others – Accountants fees, insurance			
Salaries (specify)			
TOTAL			

### 7.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

DBU (German Environmental Agency) – 59275 EUR, refurbishment of the LC centre building & promotion of the centre;

Anglian Wolf Society – 18000 EUR, refurbishment of the LC centre building;

Frankfurt Zoological Society – 17000 EUR, refurbishment of the LC centre building

EURONATUR – 6500 EUR, completing and equipment of the seminar hall at the LC centre

UK Wolf Conservation Trust and Bernd Thies Foundation and EURONATUR – have been supporting the work for development of the Wolf Management Plan and the field analysis.

### 7.3 Value of DI funding

The DI funding enabled the host country project team to build its capacity. The team of mainly four persons was able to organize a huge amount of work around the refurbishment of the building. A lot of literature and other information was analysed and reviewed, which was needed to shape the messages being presented through the exhibitions in the LC centre. The internal space at the exhibition hall was designed by the host country team. The education materials were designed and made. Advertising of the LC centre to general public and contacts to schools to raise awareness of the LCEC were made by the host country team. Last but not least, the initial functioning as an education facility was run by the same team.

## Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2007 - March 2008	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>		<p><i>The project and its partners are having a positive impact on biodiversity in a number of ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>increasing knowledge about the science and ecology of large carnivores. This will go a long way to supporting species management plans. In particular a Wolf Management Plan is currently being drawn up with the aim of obtaining future legal protection for the wolf (in Bulgaria there is currently a bounty on wolves).</i></li> <li>- <i>Raising awareness of large carnivore conservation and educating children and adults. Hunting is still a popular pursuit in Bulgaria, and large predators, especially the wolf, are still perceived negatively. Behaviours towards them reflect these negative perceptions and attitudes.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>



		<p><i>The project is continually striving to change perceptions and attitudes, not only through activities at the centre, but also through active participation in hunting associations, etc.</i></p> <p>- <i>the project team lobby and campaign for changes in legislation to protect and conserve large carnivores and their habitats.</i></p>	
<p><b>Purpose</b> Long-term and effective public education about large carnivore species and the ecosystems in which they exist in Bulgaria.</p>	<p>Large Carnivore Education Centre to be built and equipped by Year 2.</p> <p>Throughput of visitors (school groups and adults) to the Education Centre</p> <p>Evidence of raised public awareness</p>	<p>The LCEC has been largely completed, and now has functional exhibition halls and seminar rooms. There is still some work to be completed on the accommodation block and the bar and café area, but this does not affect the function of the centre to deliver education programmes.</p> <p>The project has attracted media attention from national and international news and film companies, and magazines and press.</p>	(Highlight key actions planning for next period)
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Staff from the Centre attend professional development and training courses to equip them with the skills required to deliver conservation education programmes.</p>	<p>Upto 4 members of staff attend 2 workshop courses or seminars in UK during first two years of the project.</p>	<p>A team from Bulgaria visited the UK in November 2006 to follow up on their previous visit in Year 1. They were particularly interested in gathering research on interactive and interpretive education displays, and specifically requested that they be able to spend time at London Zoo and the Natural History Museum in London. They also spent time at the UK Wolf Conservation Trust. Three members of the team have been proactively involved in the design work for the centre itself, as well as the education materials and displays.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1.</p> <p>To plan, develop, and produce the education and information materials for the LCEC. To equip the centre.</p>		<p>The design work for the exhibition displays was carried out, and the majority of the interactive and interpretive displays were developed and produced.</p>	

		Development of the education materials will continue so that displays are kept fresh and vibrant and interesting to visitors. The photographs accompanying this report document some of the displays and materials produced.
<b>Output 2.</b> Visitors attend the Centre – school groups and adults.	At least 25 groups of pupils (each group about 50 pupils) from different parts of Bulgaria and at least 300 other visitors have visited the LC centre by Yr 3.	Visitors now attend the Centre on a regular basis, especially school groups. There were two phased openings of the Centre, each of which attracted a significant number of visitors. Other groups also visit the Centre from other countries.
<b>Activity 2.1.</b> To advertise the LCEC to schools in the whole country. To undertake a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the centre to the general public using different media – local and national TV/radio/press		The marketing of the centre is ongoing, and has attracted continual media attention both from within Bulgaria and internationally.
<b>Activity 2.2.</b> To accept school groups from all over the country. To accept visitors from the general public. To host meetings/workshops.		The centre now has the capacity to accept visitors. School groups are now able to use the seminar hall for workshops. The first of these was held during the first phase opening in early May.

## Annex 2 Project's final logframe, including criteria and indicators

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Goal:</b>  <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</b>  <b>the conservation of biological diversity,</b>  <b>the sustainable use of its components, and</b>  <b>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</b></p>			
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>Long-term and effective public education about large carnivore species and the ecosystems in which they exist in Bulgaria.</p>	<p>Large Carnivore Education Centre to be built and equipped by Year 2.</p> <p>Throughput of visitors (school groups and adults) to the Education Centre</p> <p>Evidence of raised public awareness</p>	<p>Large Carnivore Education Centre and partner institution reports</p> <p>Visitors' Book and Attendance Records</p> <p>Pre and post education programme surveys</p>	<p>Schools express interest in the centre and the activities it offers</p> <p>The number of visitors to the national park is stable or growing.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>An old building is rebuilt and refurbished.</p> <p>The Centre is equipped with exhibition and education materials.</p>	<p>Plans drawn up by architects, building and refurbishment work undertaken.</p> <p>Equipment put in place</p>	<p>The Centre is opened and ready to be used.</p>	<p>The local municipality issues all restoration permits in time.</p>
<p>Staff from the Centre attend professional development and training courses to equip them with the skills required to deliver conservation education programmes.</p>	<p>Upto 4 members of staff attend 2 workshop courses or seminars in UK during first two years of the project.</p>	<p>Partnership institution reports.</p> <p>Completed course material.</p>	<p>Necessary visas can be obtained to attend UK.</p> <p>Trained staff will remain with project to use the skills and experience gained.</p>
<p>Visitors attend the Centre – school groups and adults.</p>	<p>At least 25 groups of pupils (each group about 50 pupils) from different parts of Bulgaria and at least 300 other visitors have visited the LC centre by Yr 3.</p>	<p>Positive feedback from visitors. The pupils' groups and all visitors are satisfied with their experience, evidenced through Satisfaction Surveys and comments in Guest Books, and observations made by Centre staff.</p>	<p>Schools and other groups express sufficient interest in the Centre and the activities being offered.</p>

<p>Different meetings, workshops and seminars on environmental and nature protection issues are held in the LCEC in the seminar hall.</p>	<p>At least 4 seminars/workshops held in the Centre by yr3</p>	<p>Results of the pupils' attitude survey prove that their knowledge about large carnivore species has improved and their attitude is more favourable</p> <p>Visitors' attendance and assessment recorded by the guest book</p> <p>Minutes, results, declarations, etc. from the meetings held in the LCEC.</p>	<p>Various organisations find the locality attractive for holding meetings at the centre.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>To complete architectural plans, carry out construction and refurbishment of the building. To obtain all the necessary permissions from the local municipality. To appoint the company which will build/refurbish the new Centre.</p>		<p>Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)</p> <p>Yr 1: Meetings with the specialists to clarify the ideas and the final architectural project. Visit municipality to apply for and get the permissions for building, etc. (2 months May, June 05); Yr 1: Collect offers from different companies and choose one (1 wk June 05);</p>	
<p>To plan the education programmes that are to be delivered at the new centre.</p>	<p>Yr 1: Centre staff to attend first professional development courses in UK. Yr 1: Collect information about the way of presenting /exhibiting the information and the materials used in other information centres, museums, etc., using different sources (internet, personal contacts, other information materials) (July – September 05); Yr 1: Meetings with a designer to work out the plan for the way the information will be presented in the present LC centre and the type of materials to be used (September – October 05).</p>		
<p>To plan, develop, and produce the education and information materials for the LCEC. To equip the centre.</p>	<p>Yr 1: Order the different materials required. (November 05 – February 06); Yr 1: Arrange all the education materials in the LC centre (April – May 06); Yr 2: Update education and information materials.</p>		
<p>To advertise the LCEC to schools in the whole country. To undertake a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the centre to the general public using different media – local and national TV/radio/press</p>	<p>Yr 2: Opening the LC centre inviting representatives of GOs, NGOs, Institutes, etc. Inviting media (June 06); Yr 2: Prepare a brochure and distribute throughout schools in Bulgaria (September – October 05); Invite the media including TV and radio channels, newspapers and magazines) to present the new LCEC.</p>		

<p>To accept school groups from all over the country. To accept visitors from the general public. To host meetings/workshops.</p>	<p>Yr 2 &amp; 3 and ongoing: At least four school groups to visit LCEC per month. (Sep – Nov 06; Mar – June 07; Sep – Nov 07; Mar – May 08); Yr 2 &amp; 3 and ongoing: Accept visitors daily throughout for different activities according to seasonal conditions; Yr 2 &amp; 3: Host at least 4 workshops per year.</p>
<p>To estimate the results of the project by undertaking surveys with the school groups and others who visit the LCEC.</p>	<p>Yr 2 &amp; 3 and ongoing: Carry out surveys with all the pupil groups before and after the education process in the centre. Yr 2 &amp; 3 and ongoing: Collect opinions, assessments and recommendations by visitors of the centre through the guest book</p>

## Annex 3 Project contribution to Articles under the CBD

### Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use		Develop national strategies that integrate conservation and sustainable use.
7. Identification and Monitoring		Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities that have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.
8. In-situ Conservation		Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.
9. Ex-situ Conservation		Adopt ex-situ measures to conserve and research components of biological diversity, preferably in country of origin; facilitate recovery of threatened species; regulate and manage collection of biological resources.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity		Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.
11. Incentive Measures		Establish economically and socially sound incentives to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity.
12. Research and Training		Establish programmes for scientific and technical education in identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components; promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries (in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations).
13. Public Education and Awareness		Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.
14. Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts		Introduce EIAs of appropriate projects and allow public participation; take into account environmental consequences of policies; exchange information on impacts beyond State boundaries and work to reduce hazards; promote emergency responses to hazards; examine mechanisms for re-dress of international damage.
15. Access to Genetic Resources		Whilst governments control access to their genetic resources they should also facilitate access of environmentally sound uses on mutually agreed terms; scientific research based on a country's genetic resources should ensure sharing in a fair and equitable way of results and benefits.

<b>Article No./Title</b>	<b>Project %</b>	<b>Article Description</b>
16. Access to and Transfer of Technology		Countries shall ensure access to technologies relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under fair and most favourable terms to the source countries (subject to patents and intellectual property rights) and ensure the private sector facilitates such assess and joint development of technologies.
17. Exchange of Information		Countries shall facilitate information exchange and repatriation including technical scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surveying programmes and local knowledge
19. Bio-safety Protocol		Countries shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities and to ensure all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis, especially where they provide the genetic resources for such research.
Other Contribution		Smaller contributions (eg of 5%) or less should be summed and included here.
Total %	100%	Check % = total 100

## Annex 4 Standard Measures

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
<b>Training Measures</b>		
2	Number of Masters qualifications obtained	<p>1 student at Sofia University, Biology Faculty graduated with an MSc with a thesis on wolf diet. , Data collected from the project for analysis.</p> <p>1 student at Sofia University, Biology Faculty graduated with an MSc with a thesis on behavioural observations on the ambassador animals at the LCEC and their interactions with visitors</p>
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training	3 British students in Biology, 2 Dutch students in Veterinary Practice, 1 Austrian student in Biology, 1 German student in environmental protection, 2 French students in biology, 1 Bulgarian student in Biology
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students	29 weeks altogether
5	Number of people receiving other forms of long-term (>1yr) training not leading to formal qualification( ie not categories 1-4 above)	<p>1 student studying Ecology at the Southwest University in Blagoevgrad – 2 years training.</p> <p>1 student at Sofia University (Biology Faculty) – 4 years.</p> <p>1 student at Sofia University (Biology Faculty) – 1 year of training</p>
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (ie not categories 1-5 above)	<p>23 students from Sofia University, Biology Faculty visited the centre in April 2008, in order to receive more detailed information about large carnivores. They saw a slide show about the status of large carnivores in Bulgaria.</p> <p>29 students also from the Biology Faculty, but from the department of Pedagogic (future teachers in Biology) visited the centre in May 2008, to obtain more information on the LCEC and also to see how we work with pupils.</p> <p>26 students at the Pedagogic Department from the Thracian University in Stara Zagora received one day's training with information on the LCEC and how education</p>



Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
		<p>programmes are delivered.</p> <p>For the last report period (Oct 2007 – May 2008) 5 groups of pupils (8 – 11 years old) with a total of 129 pupils visiting the centre. The children saw the exhibition and a slide show about large carnivores and visited the centre's ambassador animals.</p> <p>230 other visitors (adult groups and families) visited the centre during the same period.</p>
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	A wide range of education and exhibition materials at the centre, including slide projections and videos used in the education activities, outdoor education games for pupils conducted with them during their visits at the centre.
<b>Research Measures</b>		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	7 weeks in total for two members of staff
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	<p>A Bear Management Plan for Bulgaria produced under the LC Program of BALKANI Wildlife Society and accepted by the Government.</p> <p>A Wolf Management Plan for Bulgaria has been started to be developed in December 2007 and is expected to be completed in 2010.</p> <p>Although these outcomes are not directly outlined in the original proposal, the development of these plans outlines the broader work being carried out by Balkani Wildlife Society.</p>
<b>Dissemination Measures</b>		
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	1 workshop held at the LCEC with local people to present the centre; 1 workshop at the LCEC with co-funding organizations to present the stage of the centre development
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	2 workshops for development of Wolf Management Plan for Bulgaria. At the workshops the development and the opening of the LCEC was promoted in order to

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
		<p>make it popular for more people.</p> <p>The opening of the LCEC in March 2008 at which representatives of different official institutions were presented.</p> <p>The workshop and seminar programme will continue to be developed beyond the scope of the Darwin Initiative funding.</p>
15a	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	<p>In the final period, 1 press release was sent to a number of National media (TV, radio, newspapers, magazines) in March 2008, with information about the centre. Prior to this the project has received media attention for its work with large carnivores.</p> <p>News of the launch was also posted on the websites for Balkani Wildlife Society, the UK Wolf Conservation Trust, and E4C.</p>
15b	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	2 local press releases have mentioned the project and the funding raised from Darwin Initiative.
15c	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in UK	Articles in Wolf Print, an international magazine, have been published with details of the project and progress reports.
15d	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in UK	At least 2 local press releases in newspapers in Coventry and Warwickshire
16a	Number of issues of newsletters produced in the host country(s)	Newsletters still to be set up. This will take place in early 2009.
18a	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	
18b	Number of national TV programme/features in the UK	
18c	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	
18d	Number of local TV programme features in the UK	
19a	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	1 interview in 2007 and 1 interview in March 2008. Recording accompanies this report.
19b	Number of national radio interviews/features in the UK	
19c	Number of local radio interviews/features in host	2 interviews during the opening of the LCEC (1 for the national radio

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
	country (s)	and 1 for the Blagoevgrad district Radio); 1 interview during the first project year (National Radio), and 1 interview during the second year (Blagoevgrad Radio)
19d	Number of local radio interviews/features in the UK	
<b>Physical Measures</b>		
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	1 The LC centre is a long-term educational/training and research facility.

## Annex 5 Darwin Contacts

Ref No	14-021
Project Title	Large Carnivore Education Centre, Bulgaria
<b>UK Leader Details</b>	
Name	Denise Taylor
Role within Darwin Project	Project Leader
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Role within Darwin Project	Project Manager
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Email	
<b>Partner 1</b>	
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Organisation	Balkani Wildlife Society
Role within Darwin Project	Project Leader – Host Country
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Email	
<b>Partner 2 (if relevant)</b>	
Name	
Organisation	
Role within Darwin Project	
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