

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/033
Project Title	Monitoring bat biodiversity: indicators of sustainable development in Eastern Europe
Country(ies)	Romania, Bulgaria
UK Organisation	Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	The Bat Conservation Trust, Romanian Bat Protection Association, Bat Research and Protection Group of Bulgaria
Report date	31st October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
Project website	http://leopard.ncl.ac.uk/IOZBats/

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).

Aim: July 2006 - 1st workshop to train key Romanian personnel in survey techniques, call analysis, volunteer recruitment. Romanian monitoring protocols designed and equipment procured.

Progress: We held the first workshop in Cefa, Romania in July 2006. We trained 9 volunteers from the Romanian Bat Protection Association in acoustic bat monitoring and survey techniques, we bought and transferred six sets of survey equipment over to the group and we assisted with the design of their monitoring protocols and national survey. The trained volunteers then split up into six survey groups distributed over Romania and have done at least four surveys at their sites each since the workshop (one in July, two in August and one in September). We also travelled to Bulgaria and set up meetings with the Bulgarian Bat Research and Protection Group and made new contacts at The Green Balkans about their possible involvement in the project next year. We have a further meeting with the Bulgarians scheduled for November 2006 in Rousse, Bulgaria.

Aim: Sept 2006. Development and design of pilot online database to host project data. Pilot survey data collected and uploaded to database by Romanian personnel.

Progress: Work has been progressing well on the database. We are using ASP.net to design the site and this allows users to interact with the site by registering and posting news via web blogs and other communication forums. Users will also be able to upload and download and analyse their collected data. Currently, the design of the database is in place and we are now working on user registration and the data upload and download functions – please have a look at our progress at <http://leopard.ncl.ac.uk/IOZBats/>. We have been in discussion with The Centre for Population Biology at Imperial College London who have expressed an interest in hosting and storing the data for our project and covering any of the overhead costs associated with this. We have received all the acoustic monitoring transect data collected by the Romanian volunteers and will be incorporating it into the web database as well as analysing and interpreting the data over the next few months.

Other progress: We applied and obtained funding for this project from Bat Conservation International \$1000 and The Rufford Laing Foundation £15,000. We have applied for funding (\$25,000) to Conservation International to run a workshop to implement these acoustic protocols into their global Tropical Ecology, Assessment, and Monitoring (TEAM) sites (decision by Nov 2006). We have also

applied to The Royal Society for £15,000 for equipment to further test and develop the protocols used for acoustic monitoring of bats by car (decision by March 2007). The Romanian Bat Protection Association have also applied for £10,000 to the Romania government to a matched funding grant, whereby their government will match any equipment money this project spends or donates to Romania (decision in Dec 2006).

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.

Website development was more expensive than we anticipated and we agreed with the Darwin Secretariat to move £4,000 from equipment into salaries. To cover this, we have applied for a number of other grants to cover the equipment costs. We have additionally made contact with The Green Balkans in Bulgaria to provide project volunteer management together with the bat expertise of our original contact Dr. Teodora Ivanova. We have set up an additional meeting with them all to discuss this in November in Rouse.

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

Yes – movement of £4000 from the equipment budget.

Discussed with the Darwin Secretariat: no/yes, in...06/2006..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

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.**