

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	EIDPO037
<b>Project Title</b>	Tarnava Mare: securing the future of a Transylvanian HNV landscape
<b>Country(ies)</b>	UK-Romania
<b>UK Organisation</b>	ADEPT Foundation Ltd
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	University Lucian Blaga Sibiu, University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, The University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Targu Mures, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Regional Environmental Protection Agency, DAPHNE Institute of Applied Ecology (Slovakia), Ecotur NGO Sibiu, Local Action Group Dealurile Tarnavelor, Milvus Group
<b>Project Leader</b>	Nat Page
<b>Report date</b>	24 October 2011
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.fundatia-adept.org">www.fundatia-adept.org</a>

**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 activities**

**1.1** *Further field studies and data analysis by specialists to complete the adaptation and filling of the database (grasslands, forest and aquatic habitats). We have made remarkable progress using innovative methodology – one half of the area has been mapped and assessed in each physical block for the area (Land Parcel Information System, LPIS, used in all IACS land area payments). This is first time such methodology has been used in Romania, and will be a model for wider use*

**1.2** *Complete database linked to bespoke GIS map: habitat and species data plus notes on condition, easily maintained and accessible to field teams and to all those involved in habitat/species management. Database, linked directly to management, built up based on physical blocks, allowing direct and practical access to habitat, habitat status, and past and desired management.*

**2.1.1** *Determination of ideal objectives for the area, including the reasoning behind each objective using available data and expertise. Under way as planned.*

**2.2.1** *Design and implement the necessary range of management guidelines. Under way as planned.*

**2.3** *Design, coordinated with MAFRD, regional agri-environmental package for the area. We have successfully introduced two regional agri-environment packages, accepted by the Ministry and under approval process in Brussels, bringing a significant additional percentage of the area (about 7%) into agri-environment eligibility: traditional orchards are now eligible for grassland payments. This is the only new agri-environment package in Transylvania (one other was introduced in Danube Delta area by Bird Life). A signal achievement, based on data we were able to bring, to justify the measure, through Darwin project work.*

**4.1.1 Workshops with farmers to promote agri-environment measures.** **4.1.2 Farm visits to promote agri-environment measures.** In 2011 ADEPT advisers have held workshops and farm visits for over 200 farmers; advised 8 grazing associations.

**4.2.1 Technical assistance and training workshops with farmers to add value to products, through branding linked to biodiversity. Promote producer groups and farmers' markets.** ADEPT has been the main organiser of farmers markets in Targu Mures, Brasov, Sibiu and Sighisoara during 2011, as in 2010. Each market has attracted several thousand customers, brought increased income to small-scale producers, and created considerable media coverage – national as well as local press and television.

**4.3.2 Workshops to promote FSC certification of forests, and to promote community forestry projects that add value to local timber.** ADEPT has begun FSC certification process for 18.000 ha of forest, Ocol Silvic Sighisoara. Mapping/ assessment of High Conservation Value forest has been completed and meetings held with forest owners.

**5.1. Regular meetings of management plan working groups, and of community committees, including local stakeholders, organised by ADEPT project implementation unit.** Meetings of the PIU and broader community meetings taking place as planned. In 2011 ADEPT has conducted meetings in 9 communes.

ADEPT is also main local organiser of an international conference on local and direct sales of food, 28-29 October, which will help to link farm incomes to conservation management.

**6.1 Quarterly newsletters for all households (approx 5000) in Tarnava Mare area.** Yes. Copies available.

**6.3 Design and print keys for HNVF indicator species, posters, brochures for awareness raising, and booklets on the Birds/Flowers/Butterflies of the area in Romanian and English.** National butterfly guide, author Prof Laszlo Rakosy, is nearing completion – will be Romania's only national guide. Interpretation panels on plants, butterflies and birds in place as part of school education programme. Photos available. Designing and printing keys for HNVF indicator species under way as planned: the list has been agreed by all project partners, and photographs being collected.

**6.4 Dedicated page on ADEPT website for Darwin Initiative.** Yes, can be visited at [www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=darwin](http://www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=darwin)

## **Project outputs**

- 1. Database using the interactive GIS software developed under the main project.** Proceeding well. After agreement by DAC to delay project completion until Dec 2012, we expect project objectives to be achieved.
- 2. Habitat and species management guidelines – under way as planned. Regional agri-environment package to reinforce positive incentives – achieved.**
- 3. Monitoring and evaluation methodology – methodologies developed and available on request**
- 4 Community prosperity linked to biodiversity – substantial progress, see 4.2.1 and 5.1 above.**
- 5. Integrated management plan for the Tarnava Mare area that brings together conservation and sustainable use in a practical manner, releases Natura 2000 funding – in progress.** After agreement by DAC to delay project completion until Dec 2012, we expect project objectives to be achieved.
- 6. Output Publicity and dissemination – substantial media coverage and national/EU level policy inputs.**

