

## ***Darwin Initiative Annual Report***

### **Darwin Project Information**

Project Ref Number	621
Project Title	ADEPT – Agricultural Development & Environmental Protection in Transylvania
Country(ies)	UK, Romania
UK Contract Holder Institution	The Grasslands Trust
UK Partner Institution(s)	ADEPT Foundation, Oxford Brookes University
Host country Partner Institution(s)	University Lucian Blaga, Sibiu; University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca; The University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Targu Mures; Ministry of Environment and Water Management; Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development; Ecotur Sibiu; World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube Carpathian Programme Romania; Town Hall Saschiz.
Darwin Grant Value	£292,800
Start/End dates of Project	1 May 2006/30 March 2009
Reporting period	1 Apr 2006 - 31 Mar 2007. Annual report number 1.
Project Leader Name	Nat Page
Project website	<a href="http://www.fundatia-adept.org">www.fundatia-adept.org</a>
Author(s), date	Nat Page, Jim Turnbull, 28 April 2007

### **1. Project Background**

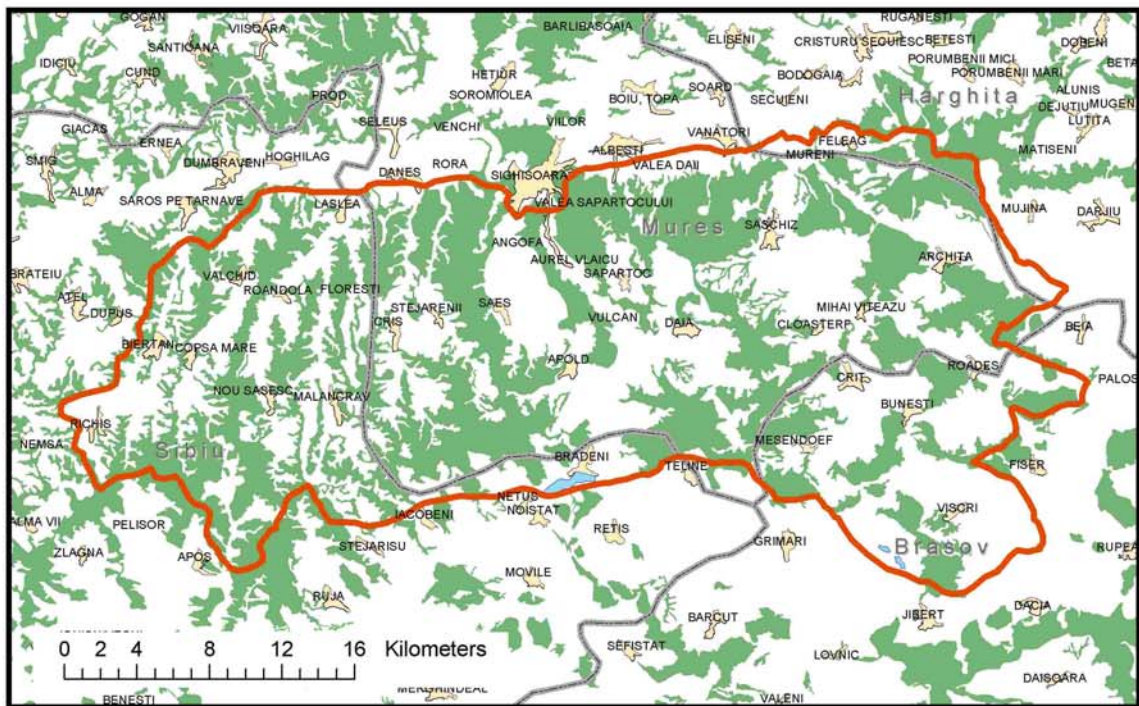
The project area is a 90,000 ha area of the South East Transylvania, a hilly mid-altitude region with biodiversity of European importance within a historic rural landscape. Over 50% of the area represents habitats listed under EU Habitats Directive, many being priority habitats, with many species listed in Habitats and Birds Directives.

The biodiversity of this important semi-natural High Nature Value farming landscape is under immediate threat from abandonment and intensification.

Semi-natural landscapes are under-represented in Romania's protected areas network. Romania's IUCN Cat II and Cat IV parks are all either in mountain areas of the Danube Delta.

The project goal is to map and assess the remarkable biodiversity of this area, and to work with the local people in its conservation. Since this is a populated economic landscape (population about 25,000), long-term conservation of the area's biodiversity must enjoy local support, which can be achieved by combining conservation with economic development initiatives.

# General map







Scale 1:100000

### Legend

- Temporary water course
- Permanent water course
- Local road
- County road
- National road
- Administrative border
- Project area (Actions A.2, C.1, C.2)
- Proposed protected area
- Existing protected area
- Village/town
- Lake

### Land cover

- Pastures and meadows (Action D.1) including HD\* 40A0, 6210, 6240, HD 6340, 6510
  - Grassland/scrub (Action D.1) including HD\* 40A0, 6210
  - Transitional woodland/scrub (Action D.1) including HD\* 40A0, 6210
  - Orchard and wood pastures (Action D.1) including HD\* 40A0, 6210, 6240
  - Broadleaf forest (Action D.3) including HD\* 91G0, 91H0, HD 91V0
  - Inland marshes including HD\* 7210
  - Water bodies including HD\* 7210, HD 3130
  - Arable land
- HD\* EU Habitats Directive Priority Habitat  
HD EU Habitats Directive Habitat

Author: Bogdan Florescu  
floreescu@yahoo.com

Detailed map

## 2. Project Partnerships

Project partnerships:

During 2006 ADEPT has consolidated excellent working relationships with the project partners: University partners: Dr Andrew Jones and Dr John Akeroyd have inspired leading authorities from Romanian partner universities to carry out research in 2006, so that the project area is almost certainly the best studied non-mountain area in Romania except for the Delta. The universities have benefited from the planning and data analysis of Dr Andrew Jones and Dr John Akeroyd, and significantly from the equipment given to them through the Darwin funding: they are often hampered by lack of basic equipment (digital cameras, lap-tops, etc). The universities' work led to a completed N2000 Standard Data Form for the area.

Ministry of Environment and Water Management (MEWM): at request of the MEWM, ADEPT produced clear, informative and attractive brochures explaining Natura 2000 for local (project-area specific) and regional (covering 6 counties) use. As well as general distribution, these brochures have also been used at village gatherings given by ADEPT specialists (Jones, Akeroyd and Page) alongside local Environment Protection Agency representatives. In addition, the pSCI proposed in the N2000 Standard Data Form for the area was accepted by MEWM in late 2006, and the area is now Romania's largest accepted pSCI outside mountain areas and Danube Delta. This has given considerable support to MEWM's meeting CBD commitments.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development (MAFRD): Romania-based ADEPT staff worked with the state agricultural consultancy service ANCA to promote agri-environment pilot SAPARD 3.3 in the project area. As a result, the project area has 190 farmers signed up under agri-environment contracts; not a single farmer elsewhere in Romania joined the programme. ADEPT is now regarded by Brussels DG Agriculture (Mrs Zelig Peppiette) as the most important model for future implementation of agri-environment programmes in Romania. UK-based ADEPT specialists (Dr Jones and Dr Mark Redman) have been working at a technical level with the MAFRD in the design of agri-environment policies for Romania post-accession.

Ecotur Sibiu: Ecotur Sibiu has carried out research with students, especially aquatic ecology, in 2006, and will be our major partner in 2007 for schools environment education programmes in 2007.

World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube Carpathian Programme Romania: ADEPT (Nat Page) is in regular contact with WWF-DCP Romania (Raluca Barbu, Team leader, Nature and Prosperity). WWF have helped to give agri-environment modules to farmer courses in the project area.

Town Hall Saschiz: We have been carrying out practical environmental education, village awareness raising and practical village enhancement projects with the local authorities.

UK Partners : ADEPT has benefited from Peak District expertise (Sue Prince, OBE) in linking local prosperity, branded products and nature conservation: Peak District is a world leader in the sustainable use of protected areas. Oxford Brookes University is contributing a lot in development of ecotourism in the area, particularly during the ecotourism course in late 2006.

Grasslands Trust: it should be noted that we have asked the main original UK supplier organization to be transferred from the Grasslands Trust to ADEPT Foundation. The reason for nominating The Grasslands Trust to be the lead supplier for this project originally was that their senior grassland specialist Andrew Jones was one of the key scientists working on the ADEPT project in Romania. He has since left The Grasslands Trust, but is still available to the ADEPT Project through his new employer, IEEP, for whom he is now their Senior Biodiversity specialist. Other UK technical assistance partners in our project, including Oxford Brookes University and field botanist Dr John Akeroyd, have agreements directly with Adept Foundation. Management of accounts is carried out by Jim Turnbull.

**Other Collaborations:** ADEPT, WWF-DCP and a third NGO, Milvus Group, have decided to create a Grassland Alliance (named Poa) in order specifically to carry out policy and practical project work for the conservation of High nature Value (HNV) farming areas, of which Romania has the largest area in the EU. Poa has the approval and active support of WWF-DCP Head Office in Vienna, (Mike Baltzer). ADEPT has also become a member of the Romanian Ecotourism Association (AER).

CBD focal point: ADEPT meets regularly with the CBD focal point in the MEWM in Bucharest, Mrs Adriana Baz until mid-2006, and now Mr Silviu Megan. We are in specific contact about Natura 2000 status for the project area, and regarding agri-environment polices, where ADEPT assists communication between MEWM and MAFRD.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

Activities have been carried out as planned. Additional activities were undertaken: creation of a new state-approved training curriculum for rural tourism since existing one was unsatisfactory; extra staff needed for SAPARD 3.3 agri-environment promotion (3 staff full time for 5 months); N2000 brochures produced at request of MEWM.

**Output 1.** *Locate and assess important species and habitats in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of conservation management and protection within the project area.*

In March/April 06 we help planning workshop in Cluj, attended by all the University partners, to decide on field survey methodology. As a first step we produced a 1:25000 map with detailed map coordinate grids, to make the recording of GIS information consistent (we decided better to mark physically points of interest on maps, which would be put into the computer by a single operator, rather than rely on many different people recording information electronically). From May-September 06, 14 scientists worked for an average 40 days each, producing a report on mammals including chiroptera (Dr Coroiu), birds (Dr Alin David and Milvus Group), gastropods, reptiles, lepidopetera (dr Laszlo Rakosy), flora (Prof Cristea, Akeroyd), forest (Dr Dan Gafta). This resulted in the Standard Data Form that led to acceptance of the area as as Romania's largest non-mountain pSCI by the MEWM.

**Output 2.** *Raise awareness of and support for local conservation measures through increased under-standing of the economic as well as global importance of the area and its heritage. Use various methods: Visitor Centre, school presentations, village meetings, publications, information boards, website.*

The visitor centre was opened ahead of schedule in May 2006, and the web site was also active by May 2006.

In May 2006, we produced Natura 2000 brochures, 5000 in each language in cooperation with County Environment Protection Agency (EPA).

In July, August and September 2006, in cooperation with EPAs, we gave presentations on N2000 and broader environmental issues to schools and village meetings.

In August 2006 we published an 85 page book on cultural history and natural history of the area - 3,000 copies in Romanian and 3,000 in English printed. These have been distributed to all schools and Town Halls in the area, as well as selling to tourists.

In September 2006 a monthly community newspaper was established, funded by ADEPT, which is very successful, very popular with the community.

**Output 3.** *Design and implement measures that will provide economic incentives for grassland and forest conservation. Plan incentive schemes using community participation, external expertise. Local Steering Group (LSG) established including ANCA, Town Hall and leading farmers. Assist local people to access EU agri-environmental schemes. Promote agro-tourism through training/ marketing. Provide input into National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Strategy*

Dr Jones and Dr Akeroyd visited Romania 3 times each in 2006, in order to build up management plans for the area and specifically to begin model management of a 50ha

grassland plot that we have secured for 5 years, on which different management techniques will be monitored.

ADEPT established an agri-environment office in Saschiz, serving the whole area: 190 farmers, on a total of 2000 ha, have signed up to SAPARD 3.3 agri-environment pilot scheme: the only applicants in the whole country (Viviana Vasile, Director, Rural Development and Strategy, MAFRD).

ADEPT and WWF gave 2 agri-environment modules during farmer training courses in April 2006.

26 local villagers graduated from an innovative rural tourism course, including a new curriculum accepted nationally (by state consultancy service ANCA) and several UK trainers. Training of trainers began in 2006 and will continue in 2007.

Two ADEPT staff visited Oxford Brookes University tourism faculty in September 2006, after which they have held tourism workshops in the area in order to develop a sustainable tourism strategy. This is being coordinated with the local authorities, and incorporated in their local development strategies.

In September 2006, 4 producers and an ADEPT staff member attended the Slow Food meeting in Turin. Linked to this event, ADEPT have helped to design and market local products, creating the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

ADEPT has been in regular contact with MAFRD, and Dr Jones and Dr Redman have been working at a technical level assisting the development of Romania's rural development plan, especially agri-environment.

### **3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs**

Report on how overall progress has been made towards the project outputs and how likely the project is to achieve them by its close. Please comment on the measuring of output indicators and whether the output level assumptions still hold true. If there have been changes in assumptions in what ways is the project meeting or managing these?

**Output 1.** *Locate and assess important species and habitats in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of conservation management and protection within the project area.*

Digital map created plotting locations of important habitats and species.

In addition, the pSCI proposed in the N2000 Standard Data Form for the area was accepted by MEWM in late 2006, and the area is now Romania's largest accepted pSCI outside mountain areas and Danube Delta.

Assumption: that Universities are capable and remain committed, proved correct.

**Output 2.** *Raise awareness of and support for local conservation measures through increased understanding of the economic as well as global importance of the area and its heritage. Use various methods: Visitor Centre, school presentations, village meetings, publications, information boards, website.*

The people in the project area are significantly more aware of the importance of their area, and are proud of it; they also have seen proof of the economic benefits linked with biodiversity as a „product”.

Assumption that villagers and schools will respond has been correct: schools welcome the new course modules, and the local farmers are the only ones in Romania willing to make agri-environment commitments under SAPARD 3.3.

**Output 3.** *Design and implement measures that will provide economic incentives for grassland and forest conservation. Plan incentive schemes using community participation, external expertise. Local Steering Group (LSG) established including ANCA, Town Hall and leading farmers. Assist local people to access EU agri-environmental schemes. Promote agro-tourism through training/ marketing. Provide input into National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Strategy*

Great advances have been made in packaging and branding of local products. Significant increases in sales of goods and services will not be obvious until 2007-8.

22 local have been trained in guest house management, and several of them will begin operation in 2007.



The success, relative to other parts of Romania, of the ADEPT agri-environment promotion office has exceeded all expectations.

Local Steering Groups will not be active until mid-2007: the other elements of 2006 work, especially training and SAPARD 3.3 work, did not allow time to establish these groups.

MAFRD and MEWM now approach ADEPT to take part in consultation groups – ADEPT is one of very few NGOs included in the National Development Strategy Consultation Group – we are also in good contact with DG Agri in Brussels over Romania's agri-environment strategy.

The assumption that MAFRD and MEWM WILL retain their interest in and support of ADEPT has proved correct.

### 3.3 Standard Output Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	TOTAL
Established codes						
3	50 people attend courses in producer groups, marketing, rural tourism, alternative incomes	42				
4A	No. of undergraduates coordinated by University of Sibiu to carry out biodiversity assessment	10				
4B	Weeks/year	4				
4C	members of fauna/flora/habitat working group under post-doctoral supervision	8				
4D	Weeks/year	6				
6A	Field centre for PIU in operation – people trained in project management team	3				
6B	Weeks/year	4				
6A	No. of staff from Environment Protection Agencies and PIU paying working visits to similar Protected Areas in UK	2				
6B	Total no. of visits	1				
12A	Biodiversity monitoring reports (due Dec 06 will be ready June 07)	0				
14A	Village information centre meetings	9				
14B	No. of local producers attend Slow Food conferences in Italy.	5				
14A	Presentations in schools	3				
14B	Attendance at conferences to present findings	1				
16 A	newsletters/year for schools, town halls,	4				

	general circulation					
16 B	No. of copies	1000				
	workshops/year with Local Steering Groups (LSGs)	0				
16A	Illustrated booklet on cultural and natural heritage of the area	1				
16B	copies in Romanian	3,000				
16C	copies in English	3,000				
17A	Web-site established	1				
21	Visitor Centre established	1				
22	50 ha meadow rented for model grassland conservation/restoration management	1				
23	£308,685					
New -Project specific measures						

**Table 2 Publications**

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Book *	The Historic Countryside of the Saxon Villages of South east Transylvania, John Akeroyd, 2006	Fundatia ADEPT, Saschiz, Romania	www.fundatia-adept.org	£10
Book *	Peisajul istoric al satelor săsești din sudul Transilvaniei de John Akeroyd, publicată în 2006 de Fundația ADEPT	Fundatia ADEPT, Saschiz, Romania	www.fundatia-adept.org	£5
Book	Nature conservation; concepts & practice, Dan Gafta, John Akeroyd, 2006	Springer	www.fundatia-adept.org	£50



### 3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Please briefly report on progress made towards the project purpose, i.e. its outcomes. Do the purpose level assumptions hold true and are the indicators adequate towards measuring outcomes.

**Project purpose:** *conservation of bio-diversity in a semi-natural landscape of S E Transylvania (Romania), linked to benefits for the local population through sustainable use of private forest and grassland ecosystems, which will have local success and act as a model for broader application nationally*

95,000 ha pSCI has been accepted by MEWM as a pSCI, based on data collected under the Darwin project.

2,000 ha of grassland are now under management controlled by agri-environment grant contracts: management of at least 500 ha has been improved already. These measures will grow in 2008-08.

Local population already benefiting economically, through sale of value-added products linked to biodiversity image of the area.

Some direct impact already on Romania's National Rural Development Policy.

Indicators remain valid: *Statutory protection of the area. Local support for statutory protection. Increased prosperity of the area linked to conservation. Impact on National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Policy*

Assumptions remain valid: *Government maintains commitment to CBD and EU Natura 2000. Community support maintained through sharing of benefits of conservation. MAFRD and MEWM continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project*

### 3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The goal of the project is aimed mainly at maintaining the good state of the HNV farming landscape, by

1. mapping it and studying it in order to obtain statutory protection
2. giving the human community living in the area greater benefits from the conservation and use of that biodiversity, so that they have an incentive to halt the process of abandonment of the land.

Significant changes in the state of biodiversity are not expected: we hope that this project will maintain it in its current good order.

What will be measurable later in the project are increased income and other livelihood benefits for local farmers and other entrepreneurs linked to biodiversity "brand image".

## 4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

**Biodiversity evaluation** will be carried out by Dr Doru Banaduc (University of Sibiu), specialist in monitoring of biodiversity in protected areas, who has experience of the area, who will cooperate with Dr Andrew Jones of The Grasslands Trust. Dr Banaduc will work in the field with 3 post-graduate colleagues from University of Sibiu. Where possible, villagers will be asked to assist with field monitoring in order to promote their involvement in the project and to maximise efficiency of the process.

**Evaluation of economic especially ecotourism-related aspects of the project** will be carried out by Oxford Brookes University, Department of Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism Management.

**Evaluation of training and education/awareness raising** will be assisted by Gavin Bell (5 years experience as Peak District National Park Interpretation officer), and the Local Steering

Group of key stakeholders. This group will be dominated by local representatives and will ensure that local priorities are identified and addressed..

**Main indicators will include:**

Quantitative

- counts of indicator species to measure effectiveness of biodiversity management and protection (see table of some possible indicator species below);
- number of hectares of grassland under active traditional management at beginning of the project, at end of the project, and to form a baseline for future M&E
- number of hectares of grassland under management agreements
- number of hectares of forest under management agreements
- number of published documents
- number of visitors to the Information centre
- number of villagers benefiting from agri-environmental schemes
- number of guest houses, no of visitor nights
- number of villagers benefiting from rural micro-enterprises

Qualitative

- account of coordinated management plan to be developed/implemented;
- account of promotion of protected area(s)
- account of farmer associations established;
- assessment of improvement of prices obtained for products and services in the region;
- account of response of visitors to the visitor centre.

**5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

N/A.

**6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

Use of the EU LEADER project will be an important aspect of the development of greater active community participation, facilitating an exit strategy as local capacity is built up through the LEADER process.

Major unexpected difficulty was the difficulty in promoting agri-environment schemes among a skeptical farming population. This required 3 full-time staff for 3 months (we had only budgeted one staff member for this job).

Romania is set for a politically unstable period this year. The State Secretary in MAFRD (Apetrei) with who we had established an excellent working relationship has been removed (since his political party has withdrawn from the government) and not yet replaced. However, the new Minister at MEWM is well known to us (Korodi, former State Secretary) and will continue to support the project. The main problem in such period is the unwillingness of ministry officials to take decisions during political power vacuums.

**7. Sustainability**

As a result of the high profile of the project, especially after its success in bringing in the only farmers in Romania into EU pilot agri-environment schemes, ADEPT Foundation has been invited to be a member of the National Strategic Committee for Rural Development (a position only shared by WWF). This will promote national policies favourable to the long term sustainability of the project goals.

In September 2006 we held the book launch for the book, The Historic Countryside of the Saxon Villages of South east Transylvania, John Akeroyd, 2006, in Bucharest, Sibiu and

Saschiz, which led to national and local press coverage: the book is now for sale in major bookstores in both English and Romanian, and has significantly raised awareness in Romanian of the value of their natural heritage.

In March 2006 and again in March 2007 ADEPT won the Bucharest Business Week award for the best Corporate Social Responsibility environmental project, and in February 2007 received the PC World award for environmental conservation in Romania. These awards led to good press coverage.

## **8. Dissemination**

ADEPT and the county environment agencies gave presentations to village audiences, mainly farmers, in the 9 Town Halls of the project area in 2006.

Brochures on Natura 2000 designed, 5,000 printed in Romanian and distributed throughout 6 counties of Romania by the Regional Environmental Protection Agency, Sibiu.

Brochures on the project area, limits of the pSCI and explaining Natura 2000 benefits for local people designed, 5,000 printed in Romanian and distributed throughout 6 counties of Romania by the Regional Environmental Protection Agency and local (county) level environmental protection agencies Sibiu, Mures, Brasov.

## **9. Project Expenditure**

## 10. **OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period**

### **Conservation:**

- **Natura 2000.** The 95,000 ha project area was accepted by the Ministry of Environment as a Natura 2000 site - the largest pSCI in lowland Romania. Local support, engendered by the benefits the project has already given to local people, was a key factor in obtaining Ministry approval.
- **85-page book** was published by ADEPT (3,000 copies in Romanian, 3,000 in English) and distributed free to all target schools and Town. The rest are selling well to visitors and general public. The book has attracted attention to the project and the area.
- **Natura 2000 local publicity.** ADEPT designed and printed 5,000 general brochures on Natura 2000 and 5,000 specific brochures about the area, and distributed them in the project area, including to all Town Halls. Joint presentations with the Environment Protection Agencies of Mures and Sibiu have been made to all communes. English Nature and Peak District have also helped with public presentations on economic use of natural heritage.

### **Community**

- The project area has been selected by the Ministry of Agriculture as one of Romania's pilot areas for EU LEADER programme. Mayors of the 9 communes of the area have established a Local Action group. A "Transnational" LEADER project was agreed and signed between the project area and three UK LEADER Groups, which will bring branding, food and tourism marketing and other expertise into the project area.

### **Agri-environment**

- **190 farmers have entered EU (SAPARD 3.3) agri-environment agreements,** covering 1800 ha., through the ADEPT office. This will bring in over €850,000 over 5 year period into the area as direct payments to small farmers, for conservation management of grasslands. These are the only SAPARD grassland conservation agreements in Romania.
- The Ministry of Agriculture regards ADEPT as a pilot scheme of national importance. ADEPT is one of the few NGOs formally working with the Ministry of Agriculture in the design of its agri-environment policies and rural development policies, as a member of the **National Strategic Committee for Rural Development.**

### **Farm incomes and diversification**

- **Tourist Information Centre** opened and manned 7 days/week in the tourist season, selling local products and publications, and distributing information about the area, where to stay etc.
- **Course on food hygiene,** attended by 21 local people and by government food inspectors, so that small-scale food producers are not eliminated by EU regulations.
- 4 local producers plus ADEPT administrator attended **Slow Food Salone de Gusto** in Turin; their products were much appreciated and all were sold. This has increased local recognition in Romania, and local pride for traditional products that were previously undervalued.
- low-technology **solar dryers** were built for preserving fruit and vegetables. They offer alternative sources of income for home producers.
- **Agro-tourism course** designed by ADEPT and accepted into Romania's national curriculum. First course delivered to 23 local entrepreneurs.

## Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2006/07

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2006 - March 2007	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conservation of biological diversity</li> <li>• The sustainable use of its components</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>		<p>Process begun of assuring statutory protection through Natura 2000 status. 2000 ha under agri-environment grants/contracts</p> <p>Marketing of traditional products linked to biodiversity has been adopted by local councils as a strategy, linked to area Brand Image – an innovative concept in the area</p>	<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p><b>Purpose</b> Conservation of bio-diversity in a semi-natural landscape of S E Transylvania (Romania), linked to benefits for the local population through sustainable use of private forest and grassland ecosystems, which will have local success and act as a model for broader application nationally</p>	<p>Statutory protection of the area. Local support for statutory protection. Increased prosperity of the area linked to conservation. Impact on National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Policy</p>	<p>pSCI status approved by MEWM in October 2006</p> <p>Local authorities and local people have seen some small-scale successes of selling value-added local products linked to the area, and wish to use this more widely.</p> <p>Technical assistance for the MAFRD in detailed development of agri-environment measures</p>	<p>pSCI approval in Brussels</p> <p>Advanced mapping capabilities for area will be developed, financed by MEWM Environment Fund</p> <p>Management plans for the pSCI (will be one of the first in Romania) assisted by advanced mapping.</p> <p>Establish one of Romania's 30 pilot agri-environment offices in the area – we have been selected for this by MAFRD</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Locate and assess important species and habitats in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of conservation management and protection within the project area.</p>	<p>No./duration of field trips. Area covered. No./area of important species and habitats identified and mapped. Standard Data Form completed. Area/no. of habitats/ species covered by the form.</p>	<p>Field trips completed on time, and Standard Data Form completed; Birds and Habitats Directive habitats and species were mapped, and area boundaries established consistent with distribution.</p> <p>The Standard Data Form allows quantifiable measurement of habitats and species, and is appropriate.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 <b>Biodiversity assessment and protection.</b></p> <p>Further field surveys, inventories, mapping and participative research. Completion of Standard Data Form for potential Sites of Community Interest (pSCI). Obtaining Natura 2000 designation of the S E Transylvania area</p>		<p>Planning workshop carried out with university teams to decide on field survey methodology April 06</p> <p>Romanian University teams assisted by Dr J Akeroyd carried out field May-September 06, 14 scientists for 40 days each. Report December 2006.</p> <p>Standard Data Form completed by 12 November 2006, deadline for Natura 2000 registration.</p> <p>Area passed first review by Ministry of Environment, allowing Romanian government to propose Natura 2000 designation to EU – 15 November 2006.</p> <p>To come: grassland management guidelines by July 2007</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.</b> Raise awareness of and support for local conservation</p>	<p>- Number of booklets and leaflets designed, printed and distributed.</p>	<p>Publications have exceeded the project plan: N2000 brochures created at request of local environment protection agency, monthly community newspaper was</p>	



<p>measures through increased understanding of the economic as well as global importance of the area and its heritage. Use various methods: Visitor Centre, school presentations, village meetings, publications, information boards, website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of presentations delivered at schools.</li> <li>-Number of information boards erected.</li> <li>- Number of hits on web-site.</li> </ul>	<p>started in October, delivered to every house in Saschiz ((1000 houses) with local authority assistance, has proved very popular and a good way of spreading knowledge, announcements etc. Raising awareness is obviously an abstract concept, and can only be measured quantitatively by number of publications/demand for publications, and qualitatively by the response of local people, increased involvement of local people in environmental and conservation related issues</p>
<p>Activity 2.1. Education/awareness. Publish materials for schools and wider public. Produce information boards. Design web site to inform about project, promote products and tourism services. Establish information centre to serve local people and visitors.</p>		<p>Visitor Centre open and active in May 2006 Web site active by May 2006 Book on biodiversity of the area - 3,000 copies in Romanian and 3,000 in English printed August 2006. Natura 2000 brochures, 5000 in each language in cooperation with County Environment Protection Agency (EPA), May 2006. Pilot presentations given on environmental issues to schools and village meetings from July, August and September 2006, in cooperation with EPAs.  Information boards in place by May 2007.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.</b> . Design and implement measures that will provide economic incentives for grassland and forest conservation. Plan incentive schemes using community participation, external expertise. Local Steering Group (LSG) established including ANCA, Town Hall and leading farmers. Assist local people to access EU agri-environmental schemes. Promote agro-tourism through training/marketing. Provide input into National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Strategy</p>	<p>Visitor Centre active. No. of visitors and locals visiting the Information Centre.  Number of meetings and presentations held at the centre.  LSG active. Management proposals agreed by local and regional stakeholders.  No.of farmers/ forest owners participating, area covered.</p>	<p>Visitor centre has proved a great attraction in the area, Romanian and foreign visitors to the area. About 300 visited over summer of 2006: we hope for over 1000 in summer 2007. The centre was too small in 2007 to host meetings, but we are moving into a larger centre in 2007. The Local Steering Committee was not active in 2006. We decided to establish it gradually through the bottom-up LEADER process. A Local Action Group (LAG) for the area was established in February 2007 and first executive committee meeting will be in May 2007. Local committees unwilling to meet unless they have a real budget/real activities to decide on, which will only appear in 2008 through LEADER: we plan that a small biodiversity project budget be placed under LAG control by mid 2007, form the existing ADEPT project budget, to pump-prime the process of real local involvement by decision making. 190 farmers entered SAPARD 3.3 Agri-environment programme in 2006, a remarkable result since uptake was zero in the rest of Romania. This covers 2,000 ha of grassland, of the 30,000 ha of HNV grassland in the area. We will continue to promote farmer commitment to agri-environment programmes in 2007, when Axis 2 funding comes on stream from the EU</p>
<p>Activity 3.1. <b>Establish incentives, reduce poverty.</b> Stakeholder meetings to design and implement grasslands conservation management measures.  Training courses in agriculture, forestry and alternative incomes (e.g. agrotourism) plus marketing, delivered by UK/ANCA.  Technical assistance through ANCA/Info Centre to help farmers/forest owners to</p>		<p>5 visits by John Akeroyd and 3 by Andrew Jones in 2006. Assistance given to farmers through ANCA/ ADEPT agri-environment office (3 staff) for access to various rural development schemes, e.g. SAPARD, began in June 2006 owing to late implementaion by MAFRD. Agri-environment modules were given as part of 2 farmer traing courses in February and March 2006. . Courses to qualify farmers for agri-environment schemes have not taken place: MEWM decided that such course would no longer be required. However, ADEPT has beeb chosen as one of 10 small areas in Romana for EU-funded agri-</p>

access agri-environmental subsidies.

UK/Romanian specialists assist meetings to develop and implement sustainable tourism strategy, improved marketing of the area, products and tourism services.

environment courses on 2007. .

Farmers began to enter agri-environment agreements in July 2006, owing to delayed start of SAPARD 3.3 programme.

Consultations took place with ANCA to write a revised course curriculum for „workers in rural tourism”, which includes tourism, traditional food production and food hygiene, by May 2006. The first training course using this innovative curriculum took place in Saschiz July-December 2006: 43 students started the course, 23 finished the course. In 2007 we will broaden the selection area and make selection criteria more strict, in order to get a better finishing rate. The course was very well received, using specialists in tourism (Oxford Brookes), economic use of protected areas (Peak District), gastronomy and food hygiene (Royal Society for Food Hygiene)

An ecotourism assessment was carried out in early 2006 by Oxford Brookes as part of the course design process.

We plan that the first guest houses run by course students will be in operation by May 2007.

First producer visit to Italy sponsored by Slow Food took place successfully in September 2006; the 4 producers were amazed to Italian and international interest in their traditional foods, and have kept together as a team, and plan to form the centre of village groups market local products through the Tourist Information Centre and to local hotels beginning 2007.

Sue prince of Peak District is advising with logo and brand image for the area, having had considerable success with creation of producer groups linked to high quality, and marketing them, in Peak District.

Forestry workshops including inputs from WWF-DCP and ECCM begin May 2007

Forest assessment including Non-Timber Forest Products will be carried out in mid-2007.

## Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: 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 the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</p>			
<b>Purpose</b>			
<p>Conservation of biodiversity in a semi-natural landscape of S E Transylvania (Romania), linked to benefits for the local population through sustainable use of private forest and grassland ecosystems, which will have local success and act as a model for broader application nationally</p>	<p>Statutory protection of the area. Local support for statutory protection. Increased prosperity of the area linked to conservation. Impact on National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Policy</p>	<p>Existence of statutory protection (Natura 2000 or IUCN Cat V). No. of ha. protected. No. of ha. under traditional management. No. of visitors bringing economic benefit to the area. National Rural Development Policy reflects ADEPT project lessons. Model applied in other areas.</p>	<p>Government maintains commitment to CBD and EU Natura 2000. Community support maintained through sharing of benefits of conservation. MAFRD and MEWM continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project</p>
<b>Outputs</b>			
<p>1. Locate and assess important species and habitats in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of conservation management and protection within the project area.</p>	<p>No./duration of field trips. Area covered. No./area of important species and habitats identified and mapped</p>	<p>Reports of field trips. Reports of data produced. Biodiversity monitoring annually allowing assessment of impact of agri-environment policies</p>	<p>Universities remain committed and able to carry out data collection</p>
	<p>Standard Data Form completed. Area/no. of habitats/species covered by the form.</p>	<p>Standard Data Form and description of habitats/species described in the form.</p>	<p>Universities coordinate data and complete form</p>
<p>2. Raise awareness of and support for local conservation measures through increased understanding of the economic as well as global importance of the area and its heritage. Use various methods: Visitor Centre, school presentations, village meetings, publications, information boards, website.</p>	<p>Number of booklets and leaflets designed, printed and distributed. Number of presentations delivered at schools. Number of information boards erected. Number of hits on web-site.</p>	<p>Annual reports on 1. distribution of leaflets and reaction to them. 2. school presentations and reaction to them. 3. no. of information boards/hits on website</p>	<p>Villagers including schools are interested to learn about local and global environment issues</p>
<p>3. Design and implement measures that will provide economic incentives for grassland and forest conservation. Plan incentive schemes using community participation, external expertise. Local Steering Group (LSG) established including ANCA, Town Hall and leading farmers. Assist local people to</p>	<p>I Visitor Centre active. No. of visitors and locals visiting the Information Centre. Number of meetings and presentations held at the centre.</p>	<p>Annual reports on use of Information Centre, number of visits and presentations, effective-ness of visits and presentations</p>	
	<p>LSG active. Management proposals agreed by local and regional stakeholders. No.of farmers/ forest owners participating, area covered.</p>	<p>Annual reports of no. and content of LSG meetings. Account of management proposals agreed. No. of farmers/forest owners participating in incentive schemes.</p>	<p>Villagers continue their interest in participating in the project, through local sharing of benefits</p>

access EU agri-environmental schemes. Promote agro-tourism through training/ marketing. Provide input into National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Strategy.	No. of courses delivered in farming/agrotourism. No. of villagers participating. Improved profitability of traditional farms. Records of meetings with MAFRD and WEWM re inputs in strategies.	Annual reports of no., uptake & effectiveness of courses. Profitability of farms compared with 2005 baseline.  Project lessons incorporated into strategies	Villagers see the courses as relevant and useful to their own economic benefit.  MAFRD and MEWM continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project
<b>Activities</b>	Activity milestones (summary project implementation timetable)		Assumptions
1. Biodiversity assessment and protection. Further field surveys, inventories, mapping and participative research. Completion of Standard Data Form for potential Sites of Community Interest (pSCI). Obtaining Natura 2000 designation of the S E Transylvania area	Planning workshop with university teams to decide on field survey methodology May 06 Romanian University teams assisted by Dr J Akeroyd will carry out field work in summers 2006-8, 14 scientists for 40 days each. First report December 2006. Teams will complete Standard Data Form by December 2006, deadline for Natura 2000 registration. Romanian government proposes Natura 2000 designation mid- 2007 Grassland management guidelines published July 2007 Flora of Transylvania published October 2008		Equipment and funding available to allow field surveys, especially 4x4 vehicle
2. Education/awareness. Publish materials for schools and wider public. Produce information boards. Design web site to inform about project, promote products and tourism services. Establish information centre to serve local people and visitors.	3,000 copies in Romanian and 3,000 in English to be printed by July 2006. Quarterly information sheets from February 2006. Pilot presentations on environmental issues to schools and village meetings from September 2006. Visitor Centre active by September 2006. Web site active by March 2006. Information boards in place by May 2007.		Funding available.  Schools welcome educational input

<p>3. <i>Establish incentives, reduce poverty. Stakeholder meetings to design and implement grasslands conservation management measures.</i></p> <p>Training courses in agriculture, forestry and alternative incomes (e.g. agrotourism) plus marketing, delivered by UK/ANCA.</p> <p>Technical assistance through ANCA/Info Centre to help farmers/forest owners to access agri-environmental subsidies.</p> <p>UK/Romanian specialists assist meetings to develop and implement sustainable tourism strategy, improved marketing of the area, products and tourism services.</p>	<p>The Grasslands Trust technical visits annually 2006-2008. First visit report by September 2006.</p> <p>Minutes of LSG meetings September 2006, and regularly 2007-2008.</p> <p>Assistance given to farmers through ANCA/ Visitor Centre for access to various rural development schemes, e.g. SAPARD, beginning February 2006.</p> <p>Agri-environment workshops begin February 2006.</p> <p>Courses to qualify farmers for agri-environment schemes begin April 2006.</p> <p>Information centre providing agricultural extension advice active from March 2006.</p> <p>Farmers enter agri-environment agreements starting April 2006</p> <p>Consultations to agree training needs in food and crafts marketing, April 2006. First training courses with UK specialist input April 2006, and continue 2006-2008.</p> <p>Ecotourism workshops developing sustainable tourism strategy begin April 2006, assisted by UK specialist.</p> <p>Ecotourism assessment July 2006.</p> <p>First ecotourism courses October 2006.</p> <p>Pilot guest houses active May 2006. Guest houses receive Ministry approvals and in active operation February 2007.</p> <p>First producer visit to Italy sponsored by Slow Food September 2006.</p> <p>Forest assessment including Non-Timber Forest Products carried out by WWF by March 2007</p> <p>Forestry workshops including inputs from WWF-DCP and ECCM begin May 2007</p> <p>Entry of some forest areas into FSC Group Certification by June 2008</p>	<p>EU pre-accession subsidies (SAPARD) and post-accession agri-environmental subsidies remain available.</p>
--	---	--



### ***Checklist for submission***

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 5MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk">Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	yes
<b>Is your report more than 5MB?</b> If so, please advise <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk">Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</a> that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	no
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table?	yes
Do not include claim forms or communications for Defra with this report.	