

# Darwin Initiative – Final Report

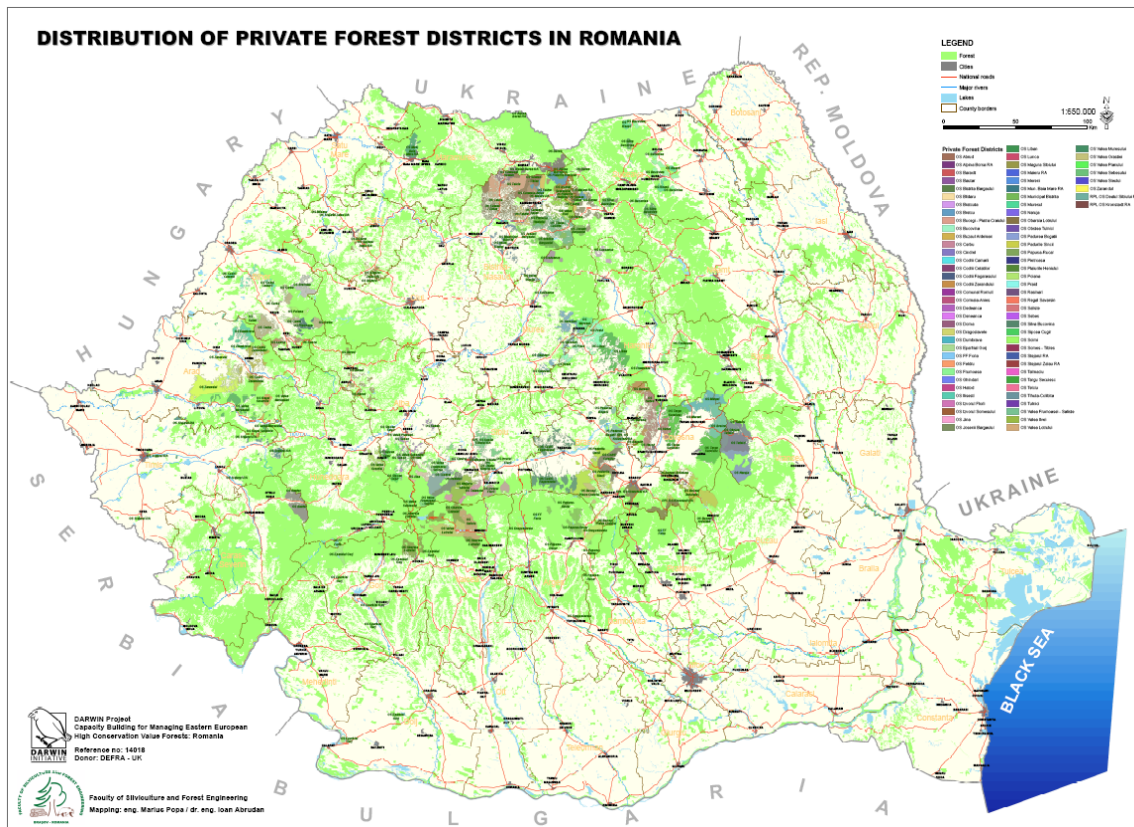
## Darwin project information

Project Reference	14018
Project Title	Capacity Building for Managing Eastern European High-Conservation-Value-Forests: Romania
Host country(ies)	Romania
UK Contract Holder Institution	Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College
UK Partner Institution(s)	ECI-Oxford University (Dr Anne Lawrence), ProForest
Host Country Partner Institution(s)	Trasilvania University, Piatra Craiului National Park, OS Zarnesti, Carpathian Wildlife Foundation, WWF-DCP, The National Association of Private Forest Owners
Darwin Grant Value	213,000
Start/End dates of Project	July 2005-June 2008
Project Leader Name	Dr Florin Ioras
Project Website	<a href="http://www.unitbv.ro/silvic/darwin.html">http://www.unitbv.ro/silvic/darwin.html</a>
Report Author(s) and date	Dr Florin Ioras, Prof Ioan Vasile Abrudan, July 2008

## 1 Project Background

This project contributed to the definition and identification of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) in private ownership in Romania, assessed management needs of these forests, delivered appropriate training to owners/forest managers and established ongoing monitoring to ensure sustainability prevails. Project results were communicated publicly and supported appropriate changes to biodiversity conservation policy and management.

Representatives of communities were consulted in a participatory way within high-risk areas of habitat loss and a training programme was designed for designated representatives (forest managers/owners). This was delivered to optimise effectiveness of private forest management and conservation at local level in these sensitive areas.



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

This project assisted Romania in implementing:

Article 6 (General measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use) – The project supported the definition and identification of HCVF for Romania and the development of a national HCVF standard/manual (including definition, thresholds and management recommendations for each HCVF category), and the results are likely to influence future policy,

Article 8 (In-situ Conservation) – the project was concerned with the regulation of biological resources, including the establishment of HCVF areas,

Article 10 (Sustainable Use) – The project aimed to promote conservation through sustainable use, and provided support for co-management by private forest owners and forest enterprises,

Article 13 (Education and Awareness) – Project results on the HCVF definition/establishment and policy recommendations and the effects of management measures have been disseminated to private forest administrators and local communities,

Articles 17 and 18 (Information and Cooperation) – Projects results have been disseminated through local and national media to promote the importance of the conservation and sustainable utilisation of forest resources that are in private ownership.

Project has been highly successful in achieving its objectives. The project has provided the first rigorous quantitative assessment of:

- The conservation value of private forests in Romania
- The role of private forests in the livelihood of local communities
- The impact of HCVF establishment on local communities
- The bio-economic status of the private forests and the likely effects of external trends and management policies.

These achievements go substantially beyond the outputs originally envisaged. The original focus of the study was the HCVF in the context of private ownership, but the project was integrated in the NATURA 2000 network and provided the first complete database and map of all private forests managed by private forest districts and of sites that are at risk to loose habitats due to current management regimes.

A close cooperation regarding the definition and identification of HCVF and the project progress has been developed with Mr. Silviu Megan – the CBD Primary Focal Point for Romania and the Director for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas in the Ministry of Environment and Water Management.

A strong lobby was created with relevant decision makers within the country and both the Secretary of State for Forests (Mr. Istvan Toke) – Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development (MAFRD) and the Director General (Mr. Ciprian Pahontu) of Forest Directorate from MAFDR participated in two of the training workshop organised in Brasov in the frame of the project.

The continue active involvement of project team in the national policy development and capacity building for management will ensure the translation of project outputs into policy.

### **3 Project Partnerships**

The project was conceived and carried out jointly by BCUC and Transilvania University.

The MoU agreed between BCUC and UNITBV described responsibilities and tasks as follows:

- Management of the project,
- Providing and implementing guidelines and tools with respect to integration and links between the various work packages,
- Integrating of resources and integration with respect to various activities within the work plan,
- Deciding upon the technical roadmaps with regard to the Project,
- Deciding upon measures in the framework of controls to ensure the effective day-to-day coordination and monitoring of the progress of the technical work affecting the project as a whole,
- Management of knowledge created in the project, but not limited to measures for dissemination of knowledge from the project which is not to be used by the Partners,
- Requesting and integration of information and input from the work packages for the purpose of training and innovation related activities and subsequent reporting,
- Implementing and deciding upon press releases and other (joint) publications by the partners with regard to the project.

The project has interacted with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of local communities, forest administrators and large associations of forest owners, governmental and non-governmental organisations and the international Life programme. The integrated modelling work was carried out in direct collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, WWF-DCP, Life programme, Association of Forest Administrators, giving all organisations co-ownership of the results and thereby promoting adoption.

The project partnership has grown in strength year after year. All project partners has continued their fruitful cooperation in view of project implementation and we have managed to not only fulfil our tasks but to link with other ongoing projects such as Life Natura “Priority forest, sub-alpine and alpine habitats”, MAFRD Project- “Evaluation of the protection functions of forest and development of a compensation scheme for forest owners” and with WWF Danube Carpathian Programme work on social issues. These partnerships support directly the implementation on the project especially in the field of identification of HCVF included in categories 1-4 (including pSCI) and category 5.

A strong lobby was created with relevant decision makers within the country; eg. Secretary of State for Forests (Mr. Istvan Toke) – Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development (MAFRD), Director General (Mr. Ciprian Pahontu) of Forest Directorate from MAFDR, Mr. Silviu Megan – the CBD Primary Focal Point for Romania and the Director for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas in the Ministry of Environment and Water Management.

Also the 3 project partners – Transilvania University, WWF and Carpathian Wildlife Foundation are active members in the Carpathian Ecoregion Initiative which supports the implementation of Carpathian Convention in the field of biodiversity conservation.

The main project coordinator in Romania – Dr. Ioan Abrudan from Transilvania University of Brasov – has cooperated closely with the Association of Private Forest Administrators from Romania (Mr. Dorel Fechete-President and Mr. Cori Alexa – Secretary) in the revision of the HCVF Manual, development of the database and training workshops.

Dr. Abrudan contacted the group of consultants (Dr. Viorel Blujdea, Dr. Marian Dragoi and Dr. Stefan Tamas) involved in the implementation of the World Bank – Forest Development Project’s component regarding the support for the establishment of private forest owners associations in Romania and has periodically been in touch with the project manager of this project – Mr. Florea Trifoi.

The NGO partners (WWF-DCP and Carpathian Wildlife Foundation) had introduced this project to NGO Coalition NATURA 2000 established in Romania, related partners and work they conduct under the BBI MATRA programme (Development Ecological Network in the Carpathian Ecoregion) and WWF Danube Carpathian workprogram in Romania.

The Piatra Craiului National Park and OS Zarnesti, were highly supportive of the project and in actual fact highly grateful for the awareness raising and direct contribution to data collection and development of management recommendations.

The collaboration with the Darwin project ‘Youth Participation in Protected Area Management in Rodna National Park’ was very fruitful and Dr Anne Lawrence had an important input on the social aspect of this project. Members from both teams participated to workshops organised by the respective projects.

It should be mentioned that the exemplary cooperation between the Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College and the project partners was mentioned in its application for a University title, to exemplify work undertaken by the institution: “Collaboration with the University of Transylvania on a Darwin Initiative project ‘Capacity Building for Managing Eastern European High Conservation Value Forests: Romania’, funded by DEFRA, and building on an earlier successful two year project, also DEFRA funded.”

## 4 Project Achievements

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

Romania, in line with other former communist countries did not have a traditional approach to participation through the involvement of local communities and other more traditional stakeholders in decision making on forestry sector. Internationally, much interest has been shown in the research results and assessment methods employed, as the latter is always the weak part in any effort to establish if the presence of a habitat is sustainable over time. It is as vital piece of information that should be known before any management plans takes place. This project filled this gap by identifying habitats of community importance that were at risk to be lost if present management plans continued. More important due to economic conditions private forests were considered to be under pressure to be over harvested and with no desire for biodiversity conservation due to a lack of information and support. The project was confronted with a continual change of private forest size during the duration of its life and had to update and consider new sites for monitoring at a monthly interval. The total surface of forest in private ownership increased with 30% in three years through the restitution process.

This project had an impact on biodiversity conservation in Romania as follows:

1. increased number of communities/forest managers and informed public on the conservation and management of the country's valuable forests.
2. greater awareness of biodiversity issues which will consequently lead to policy initiative on sustainable forest development.
3. Romania is increasingly practicing good forest management irrespective of the ownership of forestland.

This project has certainly generated a lot of interest in the Romanian conservation community and also more internationally. WWF-DCP has already adopted and adapted the approach of HCVF in several other projects in Romania related to forest management and conservation. Transilvania University and the local co-ordinator professor Ioan Vasile Abrudan are now focusing important research resources on private forest management for biodiversity. Representatives of all private forest districts have participated to the workshops at least once and have voluntarily supported the project with relevant information on holding size, location, species, management applied and known biodiversity issues. Most of them showed a keen interest to learn about the need for more sustainable management and how they could market ethical products that came from a sustainably managed forest that has high conservation value forests.

The government department in charge of private forests have shown great support and interest in the approaches of the project, particularly in resource assessment and participated in all workshops. Excellent collaboration took place with the roma communities that use forest for firewood and non-timber products in Sacele area. A social profile was created for such communities and a better relationship developed between private forest administrators and roma communities.

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

This project purpose has been achieved through the following planned outputs:

1. 6 individuals trained as trainers in HCVF identification, management and monitoring.
2. 61 forest owners/administrators trained on participatory assessment techniques with focus on sensitive forest habitats.
3. 60 forest owners/administrators trained on community forestry options in HCVF, certification and skills development.
4. 3 graduate master students in Private Forest Management and Conservation.
5. Development of HCVF Manual.
6. Development of the database and map of all private forests managed by private forest districts.
7. Development of lists of habitats that are at loss risk.
8. Regular presentations and press releases.

In addition to the planned and achieved outputs, the project has had a wider impact through the following:

1. Training material and practical experience gained through the project by trainees is being taken into the local communities to help train local community groups and students.
2. Darwin project outputs have been included within the Transilvania University, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering postgraduate courses in Sustainable Forest Management and Environment Protection. Monitoring data is used to show the causal linkages within forest habitats and the usefulness of predictive modelling for informing management. This will add to the resources available to Romanian partners for their own training activities.
3. The profile of the project has remained very high within Romania as local and national media items have featured the project on a regular basis.
4. Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan (the local project coordinator) has been awarded a Professorship at the Transilvania University.
5. Dr Florin Ioras will be visiting professor at the Transilvania University. He will be working with the project team members in developing peer reviewed publications and course material and furthering fieldwork studies on habitat loss.

The effectiveness of the training was evaluated through training attendance records and evaluation questionnaires completed by the trainees to assess the knowledge and techniques they have learnt through the training. The trainees were also encouraged to give informal feedback on the training sessions at the end of each day. These were reviewed each evening and if possible comments were addressed in the next day's activities.

The project participants had access to data and information that was provided by the Life project on Natura 2000 and the other Darwin project on Youth Participation in Protected Area Management in Rodna Mountains, Romania regarding social baselines development.

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

The purpose of this project was to promote knowledge and skills in HCVF management and conservation among private forest owners, community groups and managers of private forests.

The planned outputs are as follows:

1. Establishment of national co-ordination centre for training in HCVF identification, assessment and management (Transilvania University of Brasov). This will build Romania's capacity for managing better its forest resources. Trained personnel will be available to implement plans based on the aforementioned new knowledge.
2. Private HCVF at risk of habitat loss identified. This allows Romania to gain knowledge regarding which factors have a disruptive and destructive impact on the habitats and how the loss could be stopped or at least slow down.
3. System designed to monitor private HCVF resources. This ensure this project momentum was carried forward and proposed or designated sited could be under permanent review in order to keep the designation and reduce the probability of having any habitat loss.
4. Specialists trained in HCVF management and monitoring techniques. Training managers and owners, educating stakeholders and policymakers, dissemination of results by a variety of methods and organisation of a permanent point of contact at the Transilvania University, enabled this project to support its legacy beyond its life.
5. Publication of research. These will contribute towards creating awareness on private forest management challenges, importance for Romanian biodiversity and significant contribution for communities' livelihoods.

Neither the outputs, nor the proposed operational plan, have been modified over the three years. The project met all its objectives.

#### 4.4 Project standard measures and publications

Most of the intended publication outputs and capacity building programme were achieved. Some training went towards training of trainers due to particular context, but there were more results than originally planned in most areas. The measures and publications were achieved in the following way:

<b>Intended outputs</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Exceeded</b>
-	3 MSc theses	3 MSc theses
60 people receiving 3 training weeks on community forestry options in HCVF, certification and skills development	60 people receiving 3 training weeks on community forestry options in HCVF, certification and skills development	N/A
61 people receiving 3 training weeks on participatory assessment techniques with focus on sensitive forest habitats.	61 people receiving 3 training weeks on participatory assessment techniques with focus on sensitive forest habitats.	N/A
6 people receiving 2 training weeks on HCVF identification and management/conservation	6 people receiving 2 training weeks on HCVF identification and management/conservation	N/A
1 baseline survey	1 baseline survey	N/A
Field research programme 48 weeks	Field research programme 48 weeks	N/A
3 paper on peer reviewed journals or conferences	3 paper on peer reviewed journals or conferences	N/A

1 manual for HCVF forest identification, management and monitoring	1 manual	N/A
-	Guidelines for HCVF 5 and 6 implementation	Guidelines for HCVF 5 and 6 implementation
-	1 database of private forest districts in Romania	1 database of private forest districts in Romania
1 Database of sensitive private HCVF	1 Database of sensitive private HCVF	N/A
1 Map of private forests managed by private forest districts	1 Map of private forests managed by private forest districts	N/A
1 map of sensitive private HCVF in Romania	1 map of sensitive private HCVF in Romania	N/A
3 news-letters x 200 copies (Schools)	3 news-letters x 200 copies	N/A
3 news-letters X200 copies (NGOs)	3 news-letters x 200 copies	N/A
1 project website	1 project website	N/A
3 radio programmes	3 radio programmes	N/A
3 TV programmes	3 TV programmes	N/A

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

All research objectives were achieved and represent one of the major project successes.

An outline of our achievements follows:

1. We mapped and presented in database format information on all private forest holdings managed by private forest districts. In the 1995 the area of private forests was just 353,000ha, the distribution was scarce and fragmented. Following 2001 a dramatic increase in the private forest holdings was witnessed and today we have more than 40% of 6,7 million ha of forest in Romania in ownership other than state. We were able to collect data on all private forest districts and this work revealed an improved situation compared with the 1990s when many private forests were clear felled. We found a significant increase in owners interest in conservation and ecotourism related to conservation type of activities as an added value for the forest functions. HCVF and responsible management trade mark was considered a solution to be embraced with suitable informative support.
2. The distribution of risk of habitat loss was marginal and closely matched the distribution of certain social segments, showing the strong dependency of some communities to timber as a way of living.
3. Unfortunately the main potential loss was connected with the roma population. The vectors for this potential loss were the poverty and the lack of integration of such communities in the decision making at association or community level. A social baseline assessment should be investigated to define policy recommendations as roma communities are not classified as indigenous people and they do not have special rights linked to the forest or with potential HCVF character.



4. We found that 'recreational hunting' is not appropriate in the Romanian context. Given that the lack of hunting rights of the new forest owners is a sore point, this needs further investigation.
5. However, we discovered a need for future studies to evaluate how hunting rights could be clarified for the right land owners and agreed partnership developed with the local hunting associations who may have the right to shoot on private land. Also a key issue was compensation for damage done by some game species (wild boar and bears) on crops respectively livestock.
6. Monitoring process was extensive and in partnership with the Natura 2000 monitoring network we were allowed to conclude how HCVF sites were better inter-connected to encompass better habitats of community importance and also to protect soil and water sources that were important for communities that were not always located in the proximity of the water source.
7. We trained 6 trainers who are considered as able to train others on HCVF identification and management.
8. We published the process of forestry privatisation sector in Romania, identification and management of HCVF in Romania and compared the HCVF process with situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Full description of methods and findings can be seen in the following three manuscripts, these are subject to peer review in international journals and conferences.

1. Ioras F, Abrudan I V (2006)  
The Romanian forestry sector: privatisation facts, *International Forestry Review*, 8 (3), 361-367.
2. Ioras F, Abrudan I V (2007)  
High Conservation Value Forests Identification and Management in Romanian. In: *Proceedings of the Symposium: Forest and Sustainable Development*. Transilvania University Press, 649-658
3. Ioras F., Abrudan IV, Dautbasic M, Avdibegovic M, Ratnasingam J, Gurean, D. (2008)  
Conservation gains through HCVF assessments in Bosnia - Herzegovina and Romania. In: *Biodiversity and Conservation*, under review.

### Training assessment

The project was successful in training Romanian private forest administrators, forest managers and students. The following lists account of people directly involved in the project.

### Project staff involved with training

1. Dr Tudor Stancioiu, WWF-DCP. Dr Stancioiu has conducted the monitoring training of trainers of trainers.
2. Dr Anne Lawrence, ECI-Oxford University. Ms Lawrence has conducted training on social assessment for local project members.
3. Proforest Oxford. They have conducted training for the Romanian partners on (i) current HCVF development and field experience., (ii) specific training on social assessment techniques, and (iii) field testing of the developed guidelines for the identification of HCV 5 & 6.

4. Mr. Mircea Verghelet, Piatra Craiului National Park and NFA Protected Areas Service. Training on participatory assessment techniques with focus on sensitive forest habitats.

Because we developed for the first time a database and map of the private forest districts in Romania we covered a large area and the best training strategy was through road shows that linked in some cases with other projects such as Natura 2000 one and we prepared written outputs that presented in simplified format as booklets. We produced the following key products:

1. HCVF a viable chance for Romanian forest resources management.
2. Distribution of private Forest Districts in Romania.
3. Association of Private Forest Administrators - aim, objectives and activities.

Three theses were produced at MSc level. The theses are:

1. The situation of the forest stock administrated by the private forest districts – Mr. Ioan Dutca.
2. The situation of the protected areas included in the forest area administrated by the private forest districts - a case study: Piatra Cariului National Park – Mr. Razvan Ududec.
3. Aspects regarding the regeneration and harvesting activities in the forests administrated by the private forest districts in Romania – Mr. Liviu Rovina.

#### Technical assessment

The most important technical products are the HCVF manual for identification (thresholds established), management and monitoring and the guidelines for HCVF 5 and 6 assessment.

The database and distribution map of private forests managed by private forest district are also important technical products as they were elaborated for the first time in Romania and were highly appreciated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development and the Association of Private Forest Administrators.

We produced a database and maps of habitats at loss risk. We also made policy recommendations on the methodology regarding the allocation of support the private forest owners should receive from state in order to achieve and continue to have sustainable management of their forests.

#### **4.6 Capacity building**

This project has significantly changed the perception of conservation with private forest owners.

Prior to our project, it was believed that:

1. Biodiversity conservation is something that is only a responsibility of the state.
2. Conservation will restrict the owners to much in conducting harvesting operations.
3. HCVF is just another fancy concept impose from west.

We contributed to the production of the manual for identification, management and monitoring of HCVF and also guidelines for HCV 5 and 6 assessment. Prof Ioan Abrudan is a member of this project team and also a member of the board of the association of private forest administrators. He is therefore a key player to transform the recommendations into action.

Future monitoring of this project outcome will be conducted as part of the Natura 2000 monitoring network but only for areas that are at risk of habitat loss. More training will be provided by the trainers through the private forest association and by the Transilvania University.

#### Improve local capacity and social impact

Globally the project will provide capacity for Romania to assess better its forest values and link with the regional biodiversity conservation networks. Also Romania could be the first country to have two approaches on HCVF, for large and small size forest holdings. Training received by Dr Tudor Stancioiu on social assessment of communities linked to the forest allows him to investigate further the social dimension of biodiversity conservation for holdings that are in ownership of churches and municipalities. Professor Abrudan has gained his professorship in recognition for its work in the field and this project demonstrated once more his valuable contribution on Romanian conservation and in special to aspects related to private forests. Mr George Predoiu has been employed by WWF-DCP as one of their country representative and Dr Ovidiu Ionescu has been appointed associate professor at Transilvania University. These appointments will ensure that this project mission will be continued in the years to come.

The social assessment training provide by Dr Anne Lawrence to local team members has allowed the team members to gain substantial analytical skills.

Intended outputs	Achieved Outputs
Postgraduate theses	3
Training of trainers	6
Workshops	16
Newsletter	6
Press releases	3
TV or radio programs	6
Database	2
Map	2

Information relating to project outputs and outcomes has been disseminated at International Symposium and Workshops.

The International Symposium presentation served to present the project to colleagues from the Balkan Region. The Symposium was held in Brasov Romania. The workshops were organised by UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Dr Ioras and Prof Abrudan gave presentations on lessons learned from the development of HCVF process in Romania.

#### Improve collaboration between UK and local Partner

The interaction between BCUC and UNITBV and also the private forest administrators association has been strengthen through this project. We worked effectively and efficiently together and we found sound mechanisms of collaboration. Dr Ioras and Dr

Lawrence have travelled extensively to Romania, and the Romanian team travelled annually to the UK for training and to discuss the progress and development of the project in person. A strong relationship was also developed with the local WWF office, OS Zarnesti, Piatra Craiului National Park Administration and Fundatia Carpati.

BCUC has strengthened its collaboration with ECI-Oxford and subsequently with the Forestry Commission where Dr Anne Lawrence is now the head of the Social Unit.

#### **4.7 Sustainability and Legacy**

Romania as many other eastern European Countries did not have much experience on employing social science techniques on assessing communities. The lessons learned and the outputs of this project will be applied in future work on conservation that will take place in communities associated with forest ownership or proximity. WWF-DCP has recognised technical capabilities developed by some of the personal involved with this project and they employed them to improve its approached on dealing with local communities. The training capabilities developed at Transilvania University will continue to provide courses and produce training and awareness material beyond the life of this project.

We will continue to monitor the habitats that are on danger of loss and will develop an integral management plan for those HCVF sites.

### **5 Lessons learned, dissemination and communication**

This project has covered the entire Romania. The geographic extend of the survey was solved by coordinating the work of a permanent on the road team that surveyed areas that were identified at risk of habitat loss.

The project had a project officer who received and processed data that was passed to the technical staff. The strong leadership and hands on approach meant that any identified problem and possible seat back for meeting project annual targets was dealt with before it would have become a major problem. The MoU enabled the management team to keep track of the project steps at any moment.

The capacity building on various levels has been very successful. The concept of HCVF and its potential benefits have been disseminated widely and has been largely understood and implemented. The capacity building of all trained people in this project has been highly successful and the progress in performance and in actively taking over training with in the private forest association is very encouraging, in particular since more private owners are put in repossession of their forestland. All local project team members felt that they have learned a lot during their involvement in the HCVF project.

The collaboration with Dr Anne Lawrence of ECI was seen as very important by local team. Dr Lawrence had long years of experience in social forestry. Her advice was taken on board and was very helpful.

The concept of social aspects in forest management has been very novel to the local team and communities. It required considerable explanation on the benefits of social surveying techniques but also has expertise on social enterprise development for conservation.

The managers of private forest districts have understood the sustainable-use messages and the emphasis on the value of a sustainably managed forest for conservation, as well as social, cultural and touristic value. They are likely to pass on and reinforce these to the individual owners and community members.

Perhaps the key lesson to be drawn from this project is that small projects such as those supported by the Darwin Initiative can achieve big impacts by integrating and critically assessing work carried out by larger initiatives such as development projects.

## **5.1 Darwin identity**

In order to publicise the Darwin Initiative the Darwin Logo was featured on project outputs, on field equipment and on information advertising the project (see Annexes). The Darwin Initiative has been acknowledged in symposiums, newsletters, leaflets, theses, reports and peer-reviewed publications. The Darwin Initiative had three projects in Romania and was well recognised at ministerial level because of the focus groups established for making policy recommendations. During the life of this project, the Darwin Initiative was linked to the main project outcomes that were disseminated by newspapers, the websites and the printed information. The message passed to the Romanian people was of its role in facilitating conservation actions in countries rich in biodiversity, but somehow poor in economic resources, in order to implement the convention of biodiversity (CBD).

This project showed a clear identity for its synergetic approach integrating training of trainers with rigorous ground truthing for the conservation of habitats which are at loss risk. We found useful to be in permanent contact with Natura 2000 implementation team and with the Youth Participation in Protected Area management in Rodna Mountains, Romania (14019). We also promoted collaboration with many different local researchers and institutions. The identity of the project remained intact due to the message of our results and their significance for the originally intended purpose.

## **6 Monitoring and evaluation**

Project objectives and outputs had been defined mostly in terms of applied products. These products have been achieved and demonstrated by the results reported here and in the previous reports and annexes. All work has been peer reviewed. Indeed the final paper has exposed the work to a critical review by well known biodiversity and conservation journal.

To determine whether the project and its components were conducted as planned both BCUC and UNITBV carried out project evaluation throughout the course of the project with the help of internal peers. This evaluation determined whether the project was meeting its stated purpose, objectives, outputs and milestones according to the proposed timetable. Towards the end of each project year, the steering committee evaluated the project to assess strengths, weaknesses and implement corrective measures. It was also assessed the cost-effectiveness of what had been accomplished, benefits to trainees and the effectiveness of components. This annual evaluation determined how dissemination activities and outputs were providing feedback to inform decision-making. Success was estimated based on academic outputs (theses, papers, etc) training and education outputs (number of people trained and training weeks), cooperation activities with local institutions, etc.. They have also

examined how research and training had contributed to understanding of the key factors involved in the long-term conservation of habitats located in private forests and general biodiversity. Outcome indicators have served as a baseline for measuring success. At the end of the project was evaluated whether the project was replicable, transportable and applicable to other countries in the region.

The main project activities were annually evaluated using a participatory principle by promoting the participation of all partners in the evaluation process. All staff responsible for the execution of the project were included in the annual evaluation process of BCUC and UNITBV.

This project was also visited in 2006 by Ms ten Kate member of the Darwin Board.

## 6.1 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

The reviewers were in general positive regarding our work. We have acknowledged and replied to any concerns or clarifications required (eg hunting issues). The main query raised by the reviewers related to other income generating activities such as hunting, compensation schemes. We endeavoured to reply to all these in an informed way based on local realities and legislation. We discussed all raised concerns within the project steering group. The project targets and milestones were revisited and it was made sure that the project was on track meeting its intended purpose.

The effectiveness of this project is implicit in how well received was its message and objectives at local and national level.

## 7 Finance and administration

### 7.1 Project expenditure

Project team member	2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008		2008/2009	
	Darwin	Other	Darwin	Other	Darwin	Other	Darwin	Other
Dr Florin Ioras								
Dr Steve Jennings								
Dr Anne Lawrence								
Dr Ioan Abrudan								
Mircea Verghelet								
Mihai Voiculescu								
Erika Stanciu								
Gheorghe Predoiu								
Dr Ovidiu Ionescu								
<b>TOTAL COST OF SALARIES</b>								

	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	TOTAL
<b>Rents, rates, heating , cleaning, overheads</b>					
• Darwin funding					
• Other funding					
<b>Office costs e.g. postage, telephone, stationary</b>					
• Darwin funding					
• Other funding					
<b>Travel and subsistence</b>					
• Darwin funding					
• Other					
7.1.1.1.1.1.1 Printing					
• Darwin funding					
• Other					
<b>Conferences, seminars etc.</b>					
• Darwin funding					
• Other funding					
<b>Capital items/equipment (please break down)</b>					
• Darwin funding 3 Laptops, 2 Video Projectors, 2 Colour Printers, 2 Digital Photo Cameras, 1 Photocopier Machine					
• Other funding 3 Laptops 2 PCs 2 B&W Printers					
<b>Other costs (including Audit costs to a maximum of £500) (Please specify and break down)</b>					
• <b>Darwin funding</b> Baseline maps production Web site Video projector rent Secretary – Romanian (part-time) Translator Accountant – Romanian (part-time) Audits					
• Other funding High Conservation Value Forests Toolkit GIS facility use and data processing Data on forest ownership					
<b>Salaries (from previous table)</b>					
• Darwin funding					
• Other funding					
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</b>	<b>111,500</b>	<b>84,500</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>268,000</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS FUNDED FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55,000</b>
<b>TOTAL DARWIN COSTS</b>	<b>86,000</b>	<b>69,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>213,000</b>

The project expenditure has remained in line with the agreed budget

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

A number of additional funds were raised during the project, including money from the WWF-DCP (€5,000 ) for the field test of the HCVF Manual, Transilvania University of Brasov ( €4,500) for field survey of sensitive forest habitats of community importance in private ownership and in-kind contribution (estimated at €3,000) of 3 MSc students for the field work.

## **7.3 Value of DI funding**

Darwin Initiative funding has enabled the local partners to feel a gap in the knowledge regarding private forests and to make people aware of its importance for the biodiversity conservation at national level. There was no intention at national level to support financially a comprehensive assessment of private forests and biodiversity aspects found within these forests before this project started. Private forests now are perceived as important for the country and a special department was established at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development which had made use of the information provided by the projects and secured this project legacy.



## 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> 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, and</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>		(report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity eg steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits)	(do not fill not applicable)
<p><b>Purpose</b> To promote knowledge and skills in HCVF management and conservation among private forest owners, community groups and managers of private forests.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of a pool of national specialists in management and conservation of private HCVF.</li> <li>2. Heightened public awareness of forest ecosystems conservation.</li> <li>3. Evidence of sustainable management/conservation and commitment to this.</li> </ol>	<p>(report on progress towards achieving the project purpose, ie the sum of the outputs and assumptions )</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of private forest managers trained - 121 trained.</li> <li>2. Establishment of eco-tourism activities that will be beneficial to the management of HCVF by landowners - Zarnesti region full support delivered for linking ecotourism activities with the HCVF sites located in the region.</li> <li>3. Number of sites recorded as HCVF and managed sustainably - 20</li> </ol>	Continue to monitor HCVF habitats at risk to loss.
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Effective recruitment of trainees and successful delivery of on-site training</p>	<p>Effective recruitment of trainees and successful delivery of on-site training</p>	Office functional, programme peer- reviewed and accepted by Romanian	

		<p>authorities.</p> <p>Office space provided by Transilvania University and operational since 2005 (Room S15). All learning materials prepared and disseminated via this office in Romania.</p>
<p><b>Output 2.</b></p> <p>Private HCVF at risk of habitat loss identified.</p>	<p>Map based representations of private HCVF according to risk and habitat loss; HCVF management and conservation plan models.</p>	<p>Maps and database.</p> <p>All maps prepared and continuously updated. The project linked with a Natura 2000 network project to better identify habitats that are at risk to loss.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.</b></p> <p>System designed to monitor private HCVF resources.</p>	<p>Monitoring programme for private HCVF.</p>	<p>Annual schedule for monitoring of private HCVF has been in place since the summer of 2006. A number of 20 sites are under permanent monitoring and are also part of the Natura 2000 monitoring network and 7 sites were monitored randomly.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.</b></p> <p>Specialists trained in HCVF management and monitoring techniques.</p>	<p>Romanian specialists trained for the monitoring programme.</p>	<p>121 forest owners and managers plus 6 trainers of trainers local candidates trained. The programme was continuously improved based on courses feedback and new material that was published locally and internationally.</p>
<p><b>Output 5.</b></p> <p>Publication of research.</p>	<p>Successful review and publication of three articles.</p>	<p>Three publications have been submitted and published (2) or under the review for publication (1) in reputable journals</p>

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Goal:</b></p> <p><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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the conservation of biological diversity,</b></li> <li>• <b>the sustainable use of its components, and</b></li> <li>• <b>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</b></li> </ul>			
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>To promote knowledge and skills in HCVF management and conservation among private forest owners, community groups and managers of private forests.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of a pool of national specialists in management and conservation of private HCVF.</li> <li>2. Heightened public awareness of forest ecosystems conservation.</li> <li>3. Evidence of sustainable management/conservation and commitment to this.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of private forest managers trained.</li> <li>2. Establishment of eco-tourism activities that will be beneficial to the management of HCVF by landowners.</li> <li>3. Number of sites recorded as HCVF and managed sustainably.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local resistance anticipated so co-operation between project participants and local communities is essential for successful implementation, as is local knowledge.</li> <li>2. Working groups will be created at community level.</li> <li>3. Government support pledged to HCVF sustainable management and conservation.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishment of national co-ordination centre for training in HCVF identification, assessment and management.</li> <li>2. Private HCVF at risk of habitat loss identified.</li> <li>3. System designed to monitor private HCVF resources.</li> <li>4. Specialists trained in HCVF management and monitoring techniques.</li> <li>5. Publication of research.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Effective recruitment of trainees and successful delivery of on-site training</li> <li>2. Map based representations of private HCVF according to risk and habitat loss; HCVF management and conservation plan models.</li> <li>3. Monitoring programme for private HCVF.</li> <li>4. Romanian specialists trained for the monitoring programme.</li> <li>5. Successful review and publication of three articles.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Office functional, programme peer-reviewed and accepted by Romanian authorities.</li> <li>2. Maps and database.</li> <li>3. Annual schedule for monitoring of private HCVF and monitoring forms.</li> <li>4. Trained monitors.</li> <li>5 Journals.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Office space identified and learning materials prepared.</li> <li>2. Some local specialists currently opposed to private ownership.</li> <li>3. Monitoring schedule could be affected by adverse weather conditions.</li> <li>4. Secretary of State for Forestry supports educational aspects.</li> <li>5. Training period may clash with holiday periods.</li> </ol>

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project planning.</li> <li>2. Learning materials production.</li> <li>3. Training workshops.</li> <li>4. Field research programme.</li> <li>5. Classify private HCVF according to risk of habitat loss.</li> <li>6. Training courses held in the UK for Romanian trainers.</li> <li>7. Production of publicity material.</li> <li>8. Report to Darwin-Defra.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project planning workshops to revise project goals and outputs achievement (7, every 6 months +1 at start).</li> <li>2. Draft and publish HCVF identification and management manual (1 manual - Yr2/Yr3).</li> <li>3. Workshops to establish methodologies and procedure for field survey (1 wk 06/05), participatory assessment techniques (1 wk 07/05) and private forest owners' management options and skills development (6 for 60 private owners/managers on participatory assessment techniques, focusing on sensitive forest habitats (HCVF) and 6 for 60 private owners/managers on community forestry management options in HCVF, certification and skills development - 06/05, 12/05, 09/06, 09/07).</li> <li>4. Protocols for all main habitat survey (09/ 05), production of baseline social survey (07/05-10/ 05) and habitat assessment fieldwork (4 months per year (May-September 05, 06, 07)).</li> <li>5. Creation of a database of forest resources ownership (1 database Yr2), identification of sensitive private HCVF areas (1 database - Oct 2007), creation of database of sensitive areas (1 database), and production of maps to localise sensitive forestry habitats susceptible to deforestation and habitat loss (Jan 08).</li> <li>6. Intensive training of Romanian participants in HCVF identification and management/conservation (4 in community forestry and biodiversity assessment techniques with a focus on sensitive forest habitat management) (09/05, 06/06).</li> <li>7. Annual TV and radio broadcast (Yr2 &amp; 3). Publication of school newsletters (12/05,06,07), and information in local NGOs publications (every six months). One scientific publication per year.</li> <li>8. Production of bi-annual reports</li> </ol>

## 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	19	Educational materials on conservation and biodiversity issues were produced.
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	23.8	Valuable populations of bear, wolf and lynx that in many cases are linked with High Conservation Value Forests were protected <i>in-situ</i> through identification of these forests and by making regulatory recommendations that increased public awareness.
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	14.4	The project developed multifunctional traditional land-use management associated with private forest ownership. This project contributed to maintain forestland patrimony by eliminating dysfunction caused by land fragmentation and encouraging forest owners to preserve and manage their forests sustainably. It took into account the pluralism of ownership when endorsing viable systems and structures adequate to the appliance of efficient techniques and technologies in forest production.
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	19	People's responses were analysed, and the project implementation monitored the efficiency of its dissemination
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	23.8	Local and national media were used to promote the importance of the conservation and sustainable utilisation of forest resources. All training courses delivered by the project had a focus on biodiversity conservation. In order to gain local and national support this project created working groups at the level of the public authority responsible for forests.
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	3 (Mr. I. Dutca, Mr. R. Ududec, Mr. L. Rovina)
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (ie not categories 1-5 above)	Workshops on participatory assessment techniques, with focus on sensitive forest habitats (HCVF) -61 participants.  Workshops on community forestry management options in HCVF, certification and skills development – 60 participants.  Workshops on HCVF identification and management / conservation – 6 participants (UK based)
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	Workshops to establish methodologies and procedures for field survey and participatory assessment techniques 2 weeks
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	Baseline for social survey
<b>Research Measures</b>		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	Field research programme 48 weeks.
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	Protocol for habitat survey.
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.	Manual of HCVF identification and management.  Map of sensitive private HCVF areas
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals	2
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere	1
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country	Database of forest ownership situation in Romania.  Database of sensitive private High Conservation Value Forests areas.
<b>Dissemination Measures</b>		
14b	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	2
16a	Number of issues of newsletters produced in the	School newsletters - 3 x 200

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Totals (plus additional detail as required)</b>
	host country(s)	copies.
16b	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(s)	
17a	Number of dissemination networks established	Project web page
17b	Number of dissemination networks enhanced or extended	Project update news for national NGOs through a dissemination network– 3 x 200 copies
18a	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	1 - OTV
18c	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	2 – ProTV and TVS Brasov
19a	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	1 – Radio 3
19c	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country (s)	2 – Radio Brasov and Radio Romantic Brasov
<b>Physical Measures</b>		
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	£11,000
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	1
22	Number of permanent field plots established	20
23	Value of additional resources raised for project	<p>Contribution in kind represented by space and IT equipment to the value of £15,000.</p> <p>Time spent with this project covered by participants' employers - £23,100.</p> <p>Office costs - £3,000.</p> <p>Printing costs - £1,500.</p> <p>Travel within UK and Romania - £3,000.</p> <p>Seminar and workshop facilities - £1,500.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development and the WWF-DCP contribution in kind to the amount of £9,500. This contribution was represented by databases, HCVF, use of GIS facilities and education materials.</p>



## Annex 5 Publications

Type *	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Journal	Ioras F, Abrudan I V (2006) The Romanian forestry sector: privatisation facts, International Forestry Review, 8 (3) 361-367	International Forestry Review	Journal	
Proceedings	Ioras F, Abrudan I V (2007) High Conservation Value Forests Identification and Management in Romania In: Proceedings of the Symposium: Forest and Sustainable Development. 27-28 Oct 2006, 649-658	Transilvania University Press	Proceedings	
Journal*	Ioras F., Abrudan IV, Dautbasic M, Avdibegovic M, Ratnasingam J, Gurean, D.(2008) Conservation gains through HCVF assessments in Bosnia - Herzegovina and Romania. In Biodiversity and Conservation Journal, under review.	Biodiversity and Conservation	Journal	

## Annex 6 Darwin Contacts

Ref No	14018
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