

Darwin Initiative – Final Report

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

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

Darwin project information

Project Reference	15-008
Project Title	ADEPT – Agricultural Development & Environmental Protection in Transylvania
Host country(ies)	UK, Romania
UK Contract Holder Institution	ADEPT Foundation Ltd
UK Partner Institution(s)	Oxford Brookes University
Host Country Partner Institution(s)	University Lucian Blaga, Sibiu; University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca; University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Targu Mures; Ministry of Environment; 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
Project Leader Name	Nat Page
Project Website	www.fundatia-adept.org
Report Author(s) and date	Dr Angela Banaduc (University Lucian Blaga, Sibiu), Dr Doru Banaduc (NGO Ecotur Sibiu) , Prof Silvia Oroian (University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Targu Mures), Nat Page (ADEPT Foundation)

1 Project Background

The project is located in South East Transylvania, an important High Nature Value farmed landscape with biodiversity of European importance. EU Habitats Directive habitats cover over 50% of the area, with many associated Habitats and Birds Directives fauna and flora species.

The problem: the biodiversity of this landscape is under immediate threat from abandonment and intensification, and also from lack of recognition: semi-natural landscapes are under-represented in Romania's protected areas network.

Project purpose: halt loss of biodiversity in the area. Map and assess the habitats and fauna/flora species of the area, raise national and local recognition, establish protection, and work with the local people in its conservation.

Outputs

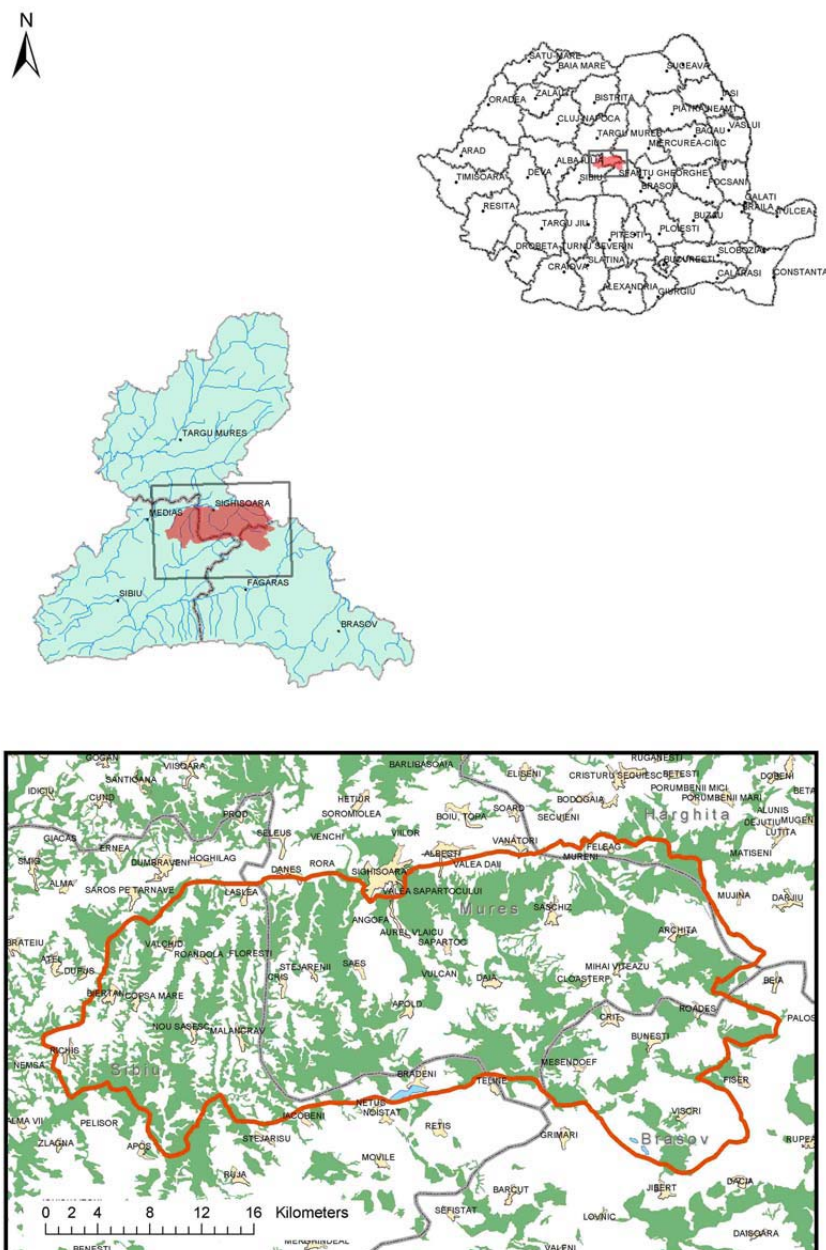
1. bespoke GIS database for area, key tool for flexible management
2. designation of area under Natura 2000
3. management and monitoring prescriptions for habitats and species, using the database, developed with local people
4. farm advisory centre, tourism/produce marketing office, school presentations, village meetings, publications, information boards, website to raise awareness and support

5. economic incentives for grassland and forest conservation. Local Steering Group. Improved access to EU agri-environmental schemes. Agro-tourism promoted through training/marketing. Policy input into National Rural Development Strategy

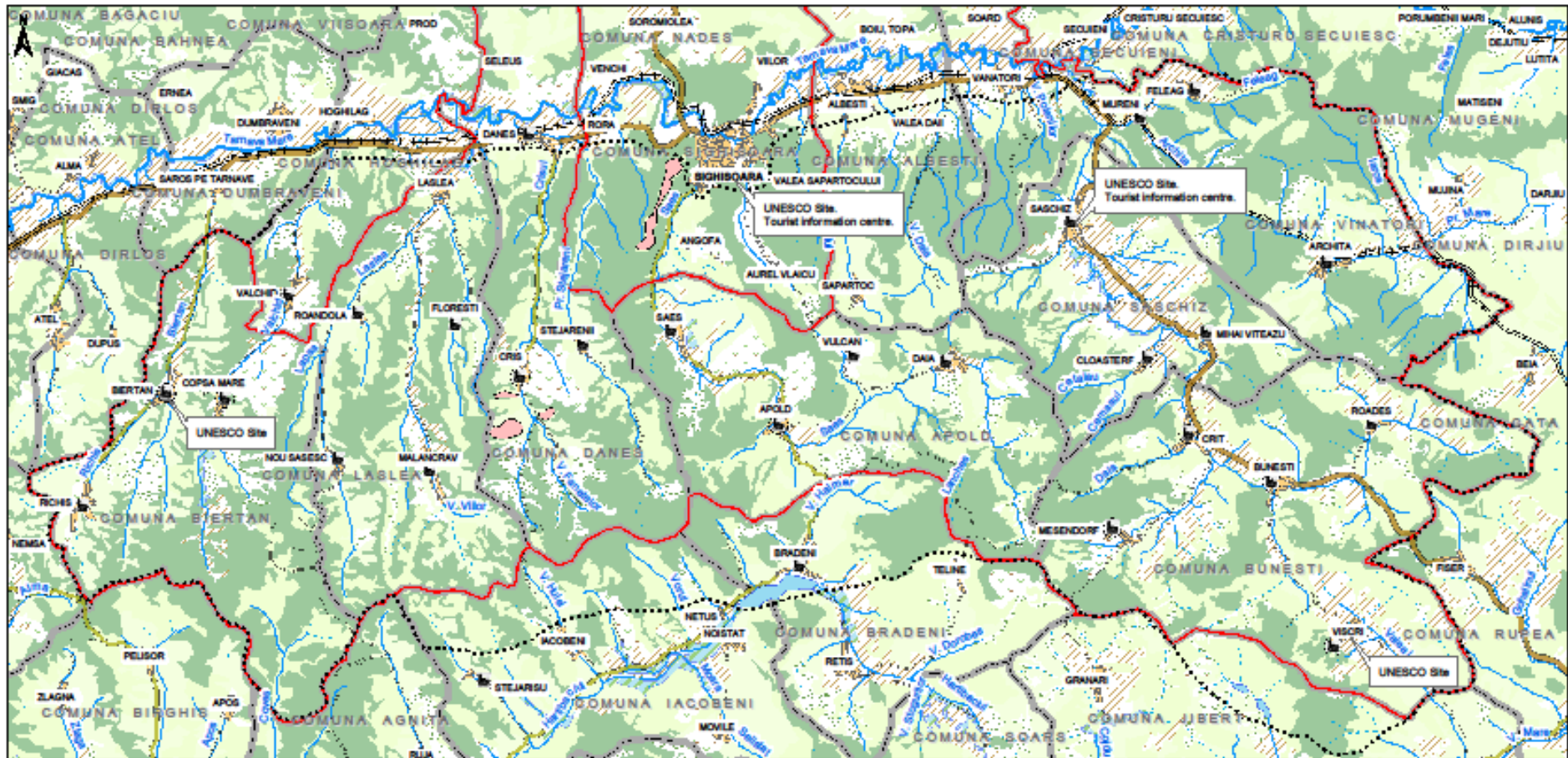
Outstanding achievements

1. Established largest SCI (Site of Community Interest, Natura 200 site under EU Habitats Directive) in continental Romania, promoting national recognition of importance of semi-natural landscapes
2. Pioneered the agri-environment grassland scheme in Romania bringing 12,000 ha of grassland under sustainable conservation management
3. established first farmers' markets in Romania providing a market for products linked to biodiversity
4. significant input into national policy, in agri-environment, and in food hygiene for small producers (important issue for survival of communities in semi-natural areas).

General maps



SCI Sighisoara-Tarnava Mare: detailed map



Legenda / Legend

Curs de apa temporar \ Temporary water course	Zona LEADER / LEADER area	Biserica fortificata / Fortified church
Curs de apa permanent \ Permanent water course	Zona protejata existenta / Existing protected area	Biserica / Church
Drum local \ Local road	Sat, oras / village, town	Teren arabil / Arable land
Drum judetean \ County road	Lac / Lake	Livezi si pasuni impadurite / Orchard and wood pastures
Drum national \ National road		Pasune / Pastures
Limita administrativa \ Administrative boundary		Padure / Broadleaf forest
Zona protejata propusa / Proposed protected area		Vegetatie arbustiva / Transitional woodland/scrub
		Mlastina / Inland marshes
		Zona umeda, lac / Water bodies

0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Kilometri



Author: Bogdan Florescu

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

ADEPT has met regularly with the CBD focal point in the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Bucharest, Mr Silviu Megan. The project has helped Romania's implementation of CBD Articles 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18. See Annex 3.

3 Project Partnerships

The project was the result of constructive collaboration with the following project partners:

- University partners: Dr Andrew Jones and Dr John Akeroyd (ADEPT Foundation) have worked with Romanian partner universities carrying out field research, bringing together national specialists in a wide range of disciplines: flora including fungi, large mammals, micro-mammals, bats, amphibians, snakes and lizards, birds, aquatic macro-invertebrates, butterflies and moths. The project area is almost certainly the best studied non-mountain area in Romania except for the Delta. The universities benefited from the European perspective of Dr Andrew Jones and Dr John Akeroyd, and from the equipment given to them through the Darwin funding: they are often hampered by lack of basic equipment (digital cameras, lap-tops, mist nets, moth traps, electro-fishing, etc).
- Ministry of Environment (MoE): the universities' work led (late 2006) to acceptance by MoE of the area as the largest continental SCI in Romania. This has given considerable support to MoE's meeting CBD commitments. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Mures County. EPAs of 8 counties have made use of the Natura 2000 briefing materials produced under the project (copy sent to Darwin Secretariat).
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forests & Rural Development (MAFRD): in 2006 Romania-based ADEPT staff worked with the MAFRD to promote agri-environment pilot SAPARD 3.3 in the project area, at the request of MAFRD. The project helped to raise regional MAFRD capacity to promote agri-environment among farmers. Also at the request of MAFRD, ADEPT specialists Dr Andrew Jones and Dr Mark Redman worked at a technical level with the MAFRD agri-environment policy section in the design of agri-environment policies for Romania pre- and post-accession. Brussels DG Agriculture (Ms Zelig Peppiette) regards ADEPT project as the most important model in Romania for future implementation of agri-environment programmes.
- Ecotur Sibiu: has coordinated the university teams in 2007, and has carried out some schools environment education programmes in Saschiz. The project has raised capacity by giving Ecotur Sibiu members experience of working with UK specialists.
- 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. After consultation process, Oxford Brookes University delivered a sustainable tourism development plan for the area in late 2007.

Other Collaborations:

- National Sanitary Veterinary & Food Safety Authority (ANSVSA): we have developed a new and important relationship with ANSVSA. In January 2007 there was a national outcry from Romania's 1.5 million small-scale farmers about the threat to them from EU food hygiene regulations. ADEPT took the initiative, with World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube Carpathian Programme Romania (WWF-DCP), to work with ANSVSA to clarify

the situation and create a simple brochure. This was a new collaboration with direct impact on the economic viability of High Nature Value farmed landscapes.

- NGO collaboration: ADEPT joined the Natura 2000 Coalition of leading conservation NGOs in Romania in early 2007, and European Dry Grasslands Group in 2008.

4 Project Achievements

- 85,000 ha area has been accepted by MOE as a SCI, based on data collected under the Darwin project. This represents considerable impact: the largest SCI outside the Carpathians, which would not exist without this Darwin project.
- Innovative GIS software developed and in operation that can be used for biodiversity (habitat/species) mapping, land management/zonation, land ownership.
- Agri-environment: in 2007, 190 farmers in project area contracted into the pilot grassland agri-environment scheme, the only ones in Romania. 2,000ha under agri-environment management protection. In 2008 this increased to 1,500 farmers signed up to the main agri-environment scheme in the area, protecting 12,000 ha of grassland. The impact of the pilot scheme was also seen in percentage take-up of the full scheme: national level take-up of the scheme (Measure 214 under National Rural Development Plan) was average 30%, whereas in the ADEPT project area take-up was 75%, directly as a result of ADEPT promotion of the scheme among farmers in the area.
- Bucharest and Brasov farmers' markets, the first real producers' markets in Romania, have led to extensive national coverage of the whole issue of linking conservation to local benefit. Major impact on public awareness as well as on incomes for small farmers/producers.
- Food Hygiene Brochure – the lengthy process, May 2007- March 2008, of defining this brochure's contents was instrumental in defining Romanian government policy towards small producers – an issue that had been ignored until then. The creation of the booklet actually made a substantial contribution to national policy, linked to the economic survival of over 1m small producers in Romania. EU DG Sanco has congratulated the Romanian authorities on the booklet. MAFRD and ANSVSA are helping to distribute the 50,000 copies (done in Hungarian as well as Romanian in order to address the many small-scale farmers in Hungarian-speaking areas of Romania). Copies sent to Darwin Secretariat.
- ADEPT staff taught at a national agri-environment training programme in 12 sites around the country.

See Annex 1

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

Impact on biodiversity

- Maintaining the good state of the HNV farmed landscape, by mapping it and studying it in order to obtain statutory protection, by designing habitat management protocols that are practical for farmers, and by designing monitoring methodologies to measure, and improve, biodiversity conservation results. Significant changes in the state of biodiversity are not expected. We hope that this project will halt loss of biodiversity, the current trend. To maintain biodiversity will be a major success, as the national trend is for abandonment of the main lowland (continental Biogeographical region) biodiversity hotspots, grasslands.

Impact on sustainable use

- Direct impact on Romania's National Rural Development Policy, through Darwin-funded specialists Andrew Jones and Mark Redman helping to design national grassland agri-environment measures.

- Significantly greater uptake of agri-environment grassland measures by farmers in ADEPT area as a result of information campaigns and helping farmers with application process.

Impact on equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits - giving local communities greater benefits from the conservation and use of biodiversity, so that they have an incentive to halt the process of abandonment of the land.

- The local population has benefited economically through greater access to agri-environment schemes and other rural development measures, assisted by ADEPT advisory office.
- Strong upward trend in income for local people from biodiversity-related products and services. The local population has benefited economically through the sale of value-added products linked to biodiversity image of the area. Clearly measurable and demonstrated are increased income and other livelihood benefits for local farmers and other entrepreneurs linked to biodiversity “brand image”.

The indicators in original project proposal 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 in original project proposal remain valid: government maintains commitment to CBD and EU Natura 2000; community support maintained through sharing of benefits of conservation; MAFRD and MoE continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project

4.2 Outcomes: achievement of the project purpose and outcomes.

Project purpose: defined in project logframe as *conservation of bio-diversity in a semi-natural landscape, 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.*

Project purpose has been achieved: the 85,000 ha project area is - as a result of the project - under statutory protection (SCI). Management and monitoring measures have been defined. Local people are obtaining direct benefits from the area’s biodiversity (through agri-environment grants pioneered by the project, and also through added value to goods and services linked to the biodiversity brand of the area). National policy towards HNV farmed landscapes has been transformed by the project.

Indicators:

- Statutory protection of the area - yes
- Local support for statutory protection -yes.
- Increased prosperity of the area linked to conservation -yes.
- Impact on National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Policy - yes

Outcomes:

Human behaviour has changed towards biodiversity, and access to assets linked to biodiversity has improved

- locally through special school programmes, information campaigns (newspapers, panels around the area, festivals), and through demonstrably improved incomes linked to biodiversity. Natura 2000 is seen as a good thing by local people - it has proved hard to sell in other parts of Romania and other parts of the EU
- nationally through the recognition at policy level of the importance of HNV farmed landscapes and the communities that live within them, changed by the project, and by public image of such areas changed by agro-tourism and farmers’ markets which the project was a leader in developing at a national level.

4.3 Outputs (and activities)

The project achieved its outputs as laid out in the logical framework, except for 2 issues raised under 4.3.1 below

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.*

- From May-September 07, and again in May-Sept 2008, 14 scientists worked for an average 40 days each, producing reports on mammals including chiroptera (Dr Coroiu), birds (Dr Alin David and Milvus Group), gastropods, reptiles, lepidoptera (Prof Laszlo Rakosy), flora (Dr J Akeroyd and Dr Andrew Jones for UK, with Prof Cristea, Prof Oroian and others), forest (Dr Dan Gafta). The data collected has proved very exciting. Some biodiversity hot-spots of European, if not global importance, have been identified.
- ADEPT commissioned bespoke GIS software, allowing interactive mapping of habitats and species in the area by field teams (down to 4 metre resolution), making the downloading of GPS information gathered from the field a simple process. This software is already being used in other protected areas, for example by WWF in forest areas. We are beginning to complete detailed mapping of habitats, allowing individual field management by protected area management teams. With MAFRD support, we have access to IACS land parcel mapping, a useful additional tool for management.
- Built up baseline data on biodiversity effects of different management on a 50ha demonstration/experimental grassland plot that we have secured for 5 years. Effects of different management techniques will be monitored - not visible in project lifetime. See Annex 8.
- The SCI proposed in the N2000 Standard Data Form for the area accepted by MoE in late 2006, was approved at the Biogeographical Seminar in June 2008, Sibiu. At biogeographical seminar (June 2008) formal approval was given by Brussels of the SCI status of the area. However, EU decided that many Continental habitats are under-represented ("insufficient - min") and ADEPT has been asked to assist in studies to identify further important grassland sites. Therefore, as well as being basic data for the integrated management of the current SCI, these data may also be used to argue for enlargement of the SCI in late 2009.
- Integrated management proposals for the area cannot be written until MoE has decided on guidelines for management of Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, the creation of an integrated management plan is realistically only possible in a subsequent phase of the project, 2009-2011. When it does happen, it will rely heavily on the data and information systems, and relations with local stakeholders, developed during this Darwin project.
- Biodiversity monitoring methodology and measurements - established and in use. See Annexes 7, 7a and 7b.
- Forest assessment including Non Timber Forest Products carried out by WWF-DCP specialists on behalf of ADEPT. High Conservation Value forest parcels have been mapped in detail, including HCVF 3 category (rare, threatened and endangered ecosystems) and HCVF 4 category (forests providing ecological services).
- Forestry workshops including inputs from WWF-DCP. 5 workshops held. First workshop and subsequent technical meeting with Sighisoara Forest District, Apold Forest District and WWF-DCP in June. Entry of some forest areas into FSC Group Certification process has been delayed by the confusion in forest ownership, with the majority of forests being returned to private owners in period 2005-2007. The ownership/management situation is only now sufficiently clear in our project area to allow FSC certification. The fact that the area is a N2000 SCI, and many of the forest parcels are habitats directive habitats, makes FSC certification process much easier, as there is no further assessment required before certification.

Indicators

- No./duration of field trips. 14 scientists 40 days each.
- Area covered. 20,000ha covered by field studies, remaining 65,000ha using orthophotoplan available with GIS software, still requires groundtruthing
- No./area of important species and habitats identified and mapped: 27 Habitats Directive Annex II fauna species, 7 Habitats Directive Annex II flora species, 15 Habitats Directive Annex I Habitats covering 57.6% of area (see copy of Standard Data Form provided Annex 13)
- Standard Data Form completed. Yes, copy provided (Annex 13)
- Field reports:
 - o Aquatic and semi-aquatic species and habitats including vegetation, fish, invertebrates: Banaduc, D., Banaduc, A., Dragulescu 2006, 2007, 2008
 - o Ichthyofauna: Banaduc, D., 2006, 2007
 - o Hydrology and aquatic macroinvertebrates: Banaduc, A., 2006
 - o Birds: Milvus 2006, 2007
 - o Flora and habitats: Oroian 2006, 2007. Cristea 2006. Jones 2006, 2007. Akeroyd 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, Schneider-Binder 2007, Akeroyd and Jones 2008.
 - o Fungi: Bucsa 2006
 - o Forests: Gafta 2006, 2007
 - o Butterflies: Rakosy 2006, 2007, 2008
 - o Gastropods: Gheoca, 2006
 - o Bats: Coroiu 2006, 2007
 - o Mammals: Coroiu 2006, 2007
 - o Reptiles and amphibians: Ghira 2006, 2007
 - o Socio-economic baselines and surveys: Popa, and others 2006, 2007, 2008.

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.*

- 28 boards, one in each village, installed. Also the first of a series of new village signs, promoting the area brand, have been installed at Saschiz which have noticeably increased visitor numbers.
- Newsletters printed and distributed to schools and general public. Monthly community newspaper established in October 06, printed regularly in 2007 and 2008. Includes articles on Rural Development programme to explain opportunities/responsibilities in simple terms.
- Presentations on environmental issues to schools. Monthly classes in schools Nov 07-July 08, again in Nov 08-May 09. In August 2008, a summer ecological camp was held for 25 local children.
- Farmer advisory service active, serving 8 communes, has helped with enrolment in agri-environment measures and in inspections. Was visited by 80 farmers in 2006, 150 during 2007, 280 during 2008. ADEPT extension advisor also made farm visits (50 in 2006, rising to 60 in 2007 and 65 in 2008). Measurable outputs: see under project Achievements above.
- Tourist Information Centre (TIC) active, selling local products, publications and postcards, and distributing information about the area, where to stay etc. The number of visitors who have purchased goods or services through the office has increased from estimated 300-400 in 2006 (numbers were not accurately recorded at that time) to 1378 (492 Romanians, 886 other nationalities) in period May-August 2008.
- Web-site established and operative. The website has been revised and includes a page devoted to Darwin Initiative, end 2008.

- Publications, media publicity including a 15 minute slot on national TV, school presentations, village meetings, publications, information boards, website have all had an impact on public perception of the importance and economic relevance of conservation measures.
- Volunteer weekends by Orange staff: 5 groups, each of 20 staff, visited and stayed 2 nights in the project area in 2007 and again in 2008, to carry out voluntary work as part of Orange Corporate Social responsibility support.

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 to be paid grants for agri-environment grassland management.

Indicators:

- Number of booklets and leaflets designed, printed and distributed: 12, see website publications page <http://www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=publications>. Plus monthly newspaper for area 2007 and 2008 = 24 editions.
- Number of presentations delivered at schools. 4 classes x 9 times/years, 2007 and 2008, total 72 classes
- Number of information boards erected. 28.
- Number of hits on web-site. Not measured.

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*

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

- Local Steering Group (LSG) established, in the form of Local Action Group (LAG) under EU LEADER measure (axis 4). We will therefore call this group the LAG, not LSG, in future. The actual structure and activity of the LAG (as defined under LEADER) fulfills all the requirements for an LSG. LAG met 5 times in 2008.
- Training courses in food and crafts marketing, with UK specialist 2006-2008. In March 2008 ADEPT published a guide for food hygiene for small producers, 50,000 copies distributed in ADEPT area and nationally, with assistance of Romanian authorities. In August 2008 ADEPT also published a more technical Food Hygiene Manual (sent to Darwin Secretariat).
- Packaging/ branding/ marketing of local products and services has significantly increased sales. ADEPT has developed a Tarnava Mare brand for the area. Strong upward trend in sales: 2006 - £440, 2007 - 9,220, 2008 - £105,000 of which approximately £14,500 was for tourism activities accommodation, activities and guiding. The real figure is probably £125,000-150,000, as many sales using Tarnava Brand are not reported to the project. As an example of sales volumes, we cite local jams instigated by the project: 6,000 jars sold in 2006, 14,000 jars sold in 2007, 50,000 jars sold in 2008.
- In 2007 the Bucharest Farmers' Market „Targul Taranului” was started - the first market in Romania insisting on only small producers (under 10 employees, but generally family producers), selling only their own products direct to the public. Darwin Initiative was promoted at these events. 10,000 people attended the market on the first day in Bucharest. Over 5 weekends, sales of 10 producers from ADEPT area and 30 from other areas sold approximately €20,000 worth of cheese, preserves and preserved meats each weekend. This is a very high income for such producers, linked very clearly to the High

Nature Value image of the brand developed for the area. The market has continued monthly with considerable commercial success, in Bucharest 2007-2008, and in another major city Brasov from early 2009.

- Oxford Brookes University, Department of Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism Management. Oxford Brookes University created tourism action plan. Annex 12 attached.
- 63 locals have been trained in guest house management, 21 in 2006 and 42 in 2007. Several hundred visitors have stayed with our trainees in 2007 and 2008. In one village alone (Crit), 2 guest houses went from no activity in 2006 to 240 bed nights in 2007.
- Pilot guest houses active. 15 new guesthouses in use in Saschiz as result of training. Tarnava Mare Tourism Association is being established through the LAG. Income in ADEPT-promoted guest houses, booked through the TIC, was over £14,000 in 2008, but is likely to have been in reality two or three times that figure and most bookings are not through the TIC.
- ADEPT director Cristi Gherghiceanu has attended Slow Food Terra Madre biennial meeting in Turin, October 2008, accompanied by local producers, with great success. He also made presentations at four international Slow Food meetings (Italy Turin, Sicily, France and Poland) in 2007 and 2008.
- ADEPT has produced a Food and Culture Tours brochure, and walking tours brochure, in order to increase numbers who stay in the area, visit producers and buy local products/services - as always, linked to the biodiversity image of the area. Copies to Darwin Secretariat.
- MAFRD has invited ADEPT to take part in consultation groups. ADEPT is one of very few NGOs included in the National Rural Development Strategy Monitoring Committee. We are also in good contact with DG Agri in Brussels over Romania's agri-environment strategy. Andrew Jones and Mark Redman spent 15 days in 2007 working in the MAFRD technical department helping design of agri-environment scheme. ADEPT attended 2 seminars in 2007 for National Rural Network and presentation of National Rural Development Plan.

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

Indicators

1. TIC active. Numbers of visitors at centre: 350 in 2006, 1378 in 2008.
2. No. of locals visiting the Farmer Advisory office: 510 in project period.
3. Number of meetings and presentations held at the centre - 46 over project period, in the ADEPT office and in town halls of other communes in the area..
4. LAG active. Management proposals agreed by local and regional stakeholders.
5. No. of farmers/ forest owners participating, area covered. 16 farmer workshops, total 250 farmers. 5 forest workshops, 55 forest owners total.
6. No. of courses delivered in farming/agrotourism. No. of villagers participating. 3 courses, total 63 guest house owners.
7. Improved profitability of traditional farms. Yes, measured by guest house income and improved markets/prices for local products.
8. Records of meetings with MAFRD and MoE re inputs in strategies. Available on request, including minutes of National Rural Development Strategy Monitoring Committee, of which ADEPT is an active member (only 2 other NGOs are members).

4.3.1 Any problems either anticipated or unexpected, in achieving the outputs, and how were they resolved?

As reported in the mid-term review, December 2007, two of the outputs were not feasible by project end:

- a. preparation of a management plan for the area using a participative approach
- b. Forest: the ownership and administration of forests

4.3.1a preparation of a management plan for the area using a participatory approach

In June 2008 the site was accepted as an SCI, with Protected Area designation under Romanian Law. In August 2008 the Ministry of Environment (MoE) circulated a consultation document recommending a framework for managing Natura 2000 sites. This has still not been finalized and published in its final form. Drafting an integrated management plan for the area will only be feasible once national, generic guidelines are published. Preparation according to national methodology is obligatory if a management plan is to be accepted at national level. Currently, there is no legal way to accept the management plan of an area.

The removal of integrated management plan as such as a target for this project was proposed in the Mid-Term Review and accepted by DEFRA. But please note, ADEPT's grassland management plans developed under the Darwin project have been incorporated into the national agri-environment scheme.

The management plan is key to consolidating project results in the long term. We therefore intend to submit a Darwin Post Project application in late 2009, by which time the necessary legal framework will exist. The Darwin post-project proposal will be to:

1. complete the GIS-linked database that has been established under the main project
2. complete and test the full range of generic habitat and species management guidelines
3. agree regional agri-environment package with MADR, replicable in HNV farmed landscapes elsewhere in Romania.
4. complete and test the monitoring and evaluation guidelines
5. develop through extensive consultation a management structure for the area
6. consolidate the above into an integrated management plan accepted by stakeholders including MoE, MAFRD and local farmers/communities.

4.3.1b Establishment of conservation forest management including FSC certification.

Entry of some forest areas into FSC Group Certification process has been delayed by the confusion in forest ownership, with the majority of forests being returned to private owners in period 2005-2007. The ownership and administration of forests is still in a state of flux. It has not been clear with whom we should be consulting for future forest management initiatives. This can only begin after 2009. The ownership/management situation is only now sufficiently clear in our project area to allow FSC certification.

But please note, ADEPT specialists have carried out forest studies, identified High Conservation Value blocks of forest, and held several workshops with forest owners as they are in the process of regaining ownership and administration from the National Forest Agency. We are also in dialogue with the National Forest Agency as they will probably retain administration, if not ownership, of certain forest blocks.

4.4 Project standard measures and publications

Standard measures

See Annex 4

Publications

See Annex 5

See also website page <http://www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=references>

Much of the Darwin project research has been brought together in the *Transylvanian Review of Systematical and Ecological Research, 4 – The Saxon Villages Region of southeast Transylvania*, 216 pages, Editura Universității „Lucian Blaga” Sibiu, ISSN 1841-7051.2007, including the following papers:

- Macromycetes of the Breite Nature Reserve of ancient oaks by Livia Bucsa.

- The riverside thickets of the Saxon Villages area of south-east Transylvania by Constantin Dragulescu.
- Xerophilous and Xero-Mesophilous grasslands on slumping hills around the Saxon villages Apold and Saschiz by Erika Schneider-Binder.
- The challenge of High Nature Value grasslands conservation in Transylvania by Andrew Jones
- The xero-mezophilic and xerophilic grasslands of *Festuco-Brometea* class in the Sighisoara-Târnava Mare potential Natura 2000 site, by Silvia Oroian, Mariana Hiritiu and Manuela Curticapean,
- Ruderal flora of the Saxon Villages: a neglected conservation community by John Akeroyd.
- Aspects regarding the terrestrial malacofauna of the Saxon Villages area of Southern Transylvania, by Voichita Gheoca
- Benthic macro-invertebrate and fish communities of some southern Târnava Mare river tributaries by Angela Curtean-Bănăduc and Doru Bănăduc.
- The herpetofauna of the Sighisoara area, by Ioan Ghira.
- Distribution, population size and dynamics of the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia* L.) in the Hârtibaciu River basin by Ferenc Kosa and Tamas Papp.
- Small mammals (Insectivora and Rodentia) from the Agnita-Sighisoara area by Ana Maria Benedek.

4.5 Technical and Scientific achievements and co-operation

Cooperation: Fundatia ADEPT, during the Darwin project, has developed broader cooperation with Romanian partner universities. Dr John Akeroyd was asked to act as joint editor with Professor Dan Gafta of Babes Bolyai University Cluj of the book *Nature Conservation: Concepts and Practice*, and also of *Transylvanian Review of Systematical and Ecological Research, 4 – The Saxon Villages Region of southeast Transylvania*, produced by Lucian Blaga University Sibiu. These Darwin partners are the leading natural sciences universities of Transylvania.

Fundatia ADEPT, during the Darwin project, has become an active member of Romania's Natura 2000 NGO coalition, and of the European Dry Grassland Group, centred at University of Hamburg. We also have memorandum of understanding with the EPA of Mures County and made joint Natura 2000 presentations to all villages of the area in cooperation with the EPAs of Mures, Sibiu and Brasov counties.

We consider one of our main scientific achievements as having, during the Darwin project, altered Romanian academic (as well as government policy) approach to semi-natural landscapes. In 2005 our interest in farmed landscapes was greeted with scepticism by universities and by the MoE. Universities considered the study of biodiversity in man-made landscapes to be uninteresting, and over project period have been amazed by the richness and European importance of the biodiversity in the High Nature Value farmed landscape of the project area. The MoE initially resisted the idea of designating a man-made agricultural landscape as a protected area, and were only convinced to do so by the strong motivation presented in the Standard Data Form. These changes of view will have a long lasting effect on biodiversity conservation in Romania.

4.6 Capacity building

Donations of equipment through the project (see para 7.1 below) have significantly increased the ability of

- Universities to carry out research - they are under-funded and lack required equipment such as lap-tops and digital cameras, moth traps and electro-fishing apparatus
- EPAs and ANCA representatives, though donation of laptops and PowerPoint beamers for which they have no budget, to make presentations to the general public (re Natura 2000 etc.) and farmers (re agri-environment etc.)

The project, since 2008, has been working with Romanian post-graduate and undergraduate students on specific aspects of field work supporting the project, and linked to their MSc or PhD work (in cooperation with their supervisors). This is helping to train next generation of field scientists.

The project helped to raise regional MAFRD capacity to promote agri-environment among farmers.

The project has significantly improved management capacity of Fundatia ADEPT's Romanian staff.

4.7 Sustainability and Legacy

Project achievements are most likely to endure:

- Tarnava Mare SCI, legally established as part of Natura 2000 network
- 85,000 ha of HNV farmed landscape with EU Habitats Directive habitats and species protected, reversing national trend of loss of biodiversity in farmed landscapes.
- Economically viable small-scale farming communities, through access to agri-environment support, and through adding value to local products and diversification of income linked to biodiversity image.
- Recognition in Romanian official and academic circles of importance of semi-natural landscapes.

Future of project staff and resources after the project ends:

Fundatia ADEPT Romania staff intend to continue to work in the field of HNV farmed landscape conservation in the area and more widely in Romania. ADEPT staff are increasingly being invited to other areas to advise on our integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and local development

The links between specialists (from universities and from NGOs) developed during the project are likely to continue. As an example of lasting links, Dr John Akeroyd has been invited to be a visiting professor at Babes Bolyai University Cluj, starting autumn 2009.

5 Lessons learned, dissemination and communication

a. Conferences at which ADEPT made presentations about the Darwin project:

- Flora Europaea international conference, Cluj September 07
- Romanian MAFRD conferences on national rural network September 07 Targoviste and January 08 Predeal
- Bucharest Business Week Awards presentations, Sibiu and Brasov, May 2007
- CSR conference in Bucharest September 2007
- Euromontana Piatra Neamt October 07
- Pan Parks international conference, Bulgaria, October 07
- High level Business and Biodiversity conference, Lisbon, November 07
- Community Participation in Protected Area Management, March 2008 Bistrita, linked to Darwin Initiative project 14019 "Youth Participation in Protected Area Management in Rodna Mountains, Romania" (see Annex 9)
- International CSR conference in Bucharest September 2008.
- Bucharest Business Week Awards presentations, Bucharest, May 2008

b. Media coverage - see also Annex 4

The project, always mentioning Darwin Initiative, has had extensive media coverage in 2007 and 2008, including

- national television - TVR1, Pro TV, Antena 1 national TV News, March 07, June 08

- coverage of Darwin project linked to HRH The Prince of Wales's visit to the project in May 2008, and May 2009, national newspapers and TV
- Discover Your Europe – weekly one hour programme on national TV – 30 minutes on ADEPT, 2007
- Viata Satului, TVR1 (main national channel) 30 minute broadcast September 2007, 15 minutes broadcast in May 2008
- Cotidianul, Romania Libera, Evenimentul Zilei and other national daily newspapers May 2007, June and September 2008
- Bucharest Business Week: national CSR Award for best national environmental project 2007
- Perla Romaniei national travel quarterly Medieval treasure: the fortified Saxon Villages May 2008
- Jurnalul de Bucatarie monthly food magazine European projects: July 2008
- Green Report – monthly magazine Rebirth of the Saxon Villages 2007 and 2008
- Dilemma national weekly paper May 2008
- National weekly 24 Hours *Saschiz: European Commune*
- Europeanul - national EU information monthly - *Meadows and pastures at 800,000 Euros* October 2007, and other article June 2008
- Selenis website focussing on environment issues : interviews with J Akeroyd, N Page and other ADEPT staff, Sept 2008
- Descopera – national magazine *Protecting a fragile paradise*, Oct 2008

5.1 Darwin identity

The Fundatia ADEPT website has been revised and includes a page devoted to Darwin Initiative, end 2008.

Project was invited to present an article to Darwin newsletter January 2009 (Annex 10).

See 5 above: Darwin Initiative role in the project has been publicised at numerous conferences, and in many national TV and newspaper programmes/articles in Romania. Darwin Initiative has a high profile in Romania.

6 Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring of project progress has been carried out through quantitative and qualitative measurements against targets established in the project logframe. Main indicators include:

Quantitative

- identification of indicator species
- 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 promotion of protected area(s)
- assessment of improvement of prices obtained for products and services in the region;
- account of response of visitors to the visitor centre.

Biodiversity evaluation

Methodologies established in period 2006-2007 and base line surveys carried out in 2008 by Dr Doru Banaduc (University of Sibiu), specialist in aquatic habitats
Dr Andrew Jones, specialist in grassland habitats
Dr Dan Gafta, specialist in forest habitats.
Drs Banaduc and Jones worked in the field with 3 post-graduate colleagues from University of Sibiu.

Methodologies:

1. Grassland - see Annexes 7 and 7a. The manual and forms are in Romanian, held electronically and printed out when required. Annex 14 is the English version. We were able, with author's permission (Antonia Eastwood, then with FFI), to make very good use the material developed for Croatian grasslands under another Darwin Initiative project "Developing a model for the conservation of Croatia's grassland biodiversity", 2003-2006.

Socio-economic survey: carried in 2008 and 2009, comparing to a 2003 baseline survey of the area. See Annex 11. The manual and forms are in Romanian, held electronically and printed out when required.

6.1 Actions taken in response to annual report reviews

6.1.1 Review of Annual Report no. 1 (April 2007) made the following comments

a. It is mentioned that the leadership of the project is now within ADEPT rather than the Grasslands Trust because the main contact person, Andrew Jones, has moved organizations. Mr. Jones continues to advise the ADEPT Foundation directly. It is recommended that this change in management is clarified with the Darwin Secretariat directly, as soon as convenient.

This has been resolved with the secretariat.

*b. The Local Steering Group will be active in mid 2007; progress on this activity, previously scheduled for year 1, can be reported in the **next Half Year Report**. Also to be reported is progress on the Local Action Group's activities and farmers/owners level of involvement in the decision making process of the area's management.*

Local Steering Groups: being achieved through the LEADER process, by creation of Local Action groups (LAGs). The area LAG was established in May 2007, representing every commune: 2 further meetings were held in September and November 2007. The group has now developed into an effective steering committee for the area, meeting regularly and having an input in local strategies and planning.

c. When reporting, the project leader could provide updates on the status of the acceptance of the area as protected within Romanian Legislation firstly and progress towards abiding by EU Directives; secondly (if relevant). It is not quite clear whether the MOE has the final say on declaring and gazetting the protected area. It is also recommended the Secretariat is updated on the process as it is good material for press releases.

The process for pSCI approval is:

- (1) MOE collects data, on basis of which it passes a Ministerial Order defining the areas.
- (2) The areas are then protected as if already a SCI, under precautionary principle.
- (3) A biogeographical seminar was summoned to consider Romanian and Bulgarian pSCIs (potential Sites of Community Interest) at Sibiu in June 2008. Sighisoara Tarnava Mare pSCI was approved, and therefore become an SCI.
- (4) The biogeographical seminar sends back recommendations (to expand protection of under-represented habitats and species, for example). The continental habitats and species characteristic of Sighisoara Tarnava Mare SCI were judged to be INSUFFICIENT

MINIMUM, a technical judgement under which the MoE is asked to increase the percentage of those habitats and species. Fundatia ADEPT plans to apply to expand the area of the Sighisoara Tarnava Mare SCI in late 2009, from 85,000 ha to 120,000 ha, on basis of data gathered under the project.

(5) Finally the list is approved by European parliament (probably not until 2009 in this case).

6.1.2 Mid-term review December 2007: Main recommendations and next steps

- *The Local Steering Group should be established to provide overall guidance and oversee the implementation of the project.*

Yes, in late 2007. See 6.1.1 b above

- *The project should develop a biodiversity information system linked to GIS to store data collected by researchers. It will serve as a multipurpose information system for the preparation of the management plan and monitoring of its implementation.*

Yes. ADEPT is the first project to use software designed by Bogdan Florescu, allowing interactive mapping of habitats and species in the area by field teams, downloading GPS information gathered from the field in a simple process. We hope that this software will be used in other protected areas in Romania. This is a highly flexible system, using layers to visualise habitats, hotspots, down to satellite image definition.

- *Better overall coordination of biodiversity research – its focus, methodology and data evaluation among partner Romanian Universities would be welcomed.*

Yes. Under University Lucian Blaga Sibiu, this was achieved in 2008, also stimulated by the existence of the GIS database for data storage and coordination.

- *The experimental design to realise controlled experiments on the effects of different management measures on an experimental grassland site should be elaborated in detail.*

Yes. John Akeroyd and Andrew Jones have designated experimental plots and established the first year's experimental management, 2008: see Annex 8. Significant measurable results will not be available until 2010/2011.

- *Grassland sites already entered into agri-environmental schemes in the project area should be monitored and a monitoring system should be proposed and established.*

A list of key indicator species, allowing base line and periodic assessments, has been prepared (2008) by John Akeroyd and Andrew Jones, assisted by post-graduates from University of Cluj. This has been linked to the monitoring methodology established in late 2007. See Annexes 7 and 7a.

- *The preparation of a management plan for the area, using a participatory approach, does not look feasible within the project duration. It is recommended as follow-up activity.*

Integrated management proposals for the area cannot be written until MoE has decided on guidelines for management of Natura 2000 sites. Therefore, creation of integrated management plan is realistically only possible in subsequent phase of the project, 2009-2013. This will be subject of a Darwin Initiative Post-Project proposal in late 2009. See para 4.3.1a above. However, it will rely heavily on the data and information systems, and relations with local stakeholders, developed during this Darwin project.

- *Market research could be carried out to gauge the impact of the CEPA elements of the project on the local stakeholders.*

We have conducted market research as part of socio-economic surveys, August 2008, see Annex 11.

6.1.3 Comments requested from review of 2007-2008 report, March 2008

- *Regarding Output 1: Will the team propose an alternative integrated management plan or some guidelines which will substitute the practical use of scientific data element, which is key to this output?*

ADEPT team grassland management guidelines have been incorporated into the agri-environment schemes (National Rural Development Plan 2007-2013), published Feb 2008. This is a very practical use for the scientific data accrued during the project: in fact is probably the most effective use of the data in terms of effective conservation.

We have agreed with the Regional Environment Protection Agency Sibiu (that covers 6 counties, including all three counties of the project area) that they will be granted the GIS database developed under the project. This will leave a permanent legacy of great practical value for biodiversity conservation in Transylvania. We also hope that Darwin Post-Project funding 2010-2012 (if granted) will allow the preparation of a model integrated management plan for the area that will make full use of the data gathered under the project. Again, see para 4.3.1a, page 11 above.

- *It is hard for the reviewer to clearly pin point which aspects of the project can be attributed to Darwin only and which aspects are to do with the ADEPT venture. Achievements that are clearly Darwin could be clarified (including by a website page).*

A new ADEPT website in English and Romanian was launched in late 2008, which has a page dedicated to Darwin Initiative and so clearly indicates which aspects of the project can be attributed to Darwin. Almost all the project activities are based on Darwin co-financed equally by Orange Romania under its Corporate Social Responsibility programme.

Website page <http://www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=darwin>

- *Detail economic benefits for farmers more clearly.*

Agri-environment grants: 75% of the farmers in the area are in the measure 214 agri-environment scheme (as opposed to national average of 30%). These farmers receive €124/ha for meeting agri-environment criteria (mainly, no pesticides, no artificial fertilizers, low amounts of farm yard manure, mowing after 1 July, sticking rates 0.6-1.0 livestock units). They can also receive an additional €52/ha for not using machinery on the land. This significantly helps the survival of dairy cattle and sheep farming in the area.

Calculation: total grant for 12,000ha = 12,000 x €124 = €1.48m. The average national uptake is 30%. The local uptake as a result of ADEPT assistance is 70%. Difference from baseline is €845,000.

Packaging/ branding/ marketing of local products and services has significantly increased sales. The Farmers' Market established for small producers in Bucharest, involving 6-12 Tarnava Mare producers each time, has continued monthly with considerable commercial success. In 2006, proper sales figures were not kept. These are now being kept, since 2007.

There is a strong upward trend in sales figures:

- o 2006 – approximately £440
- o 2007 - 9,220
- o 2008 - £105,000 of which approximately £14,500 was for tourism activities - accommodation, activities and guiding. The real figure is probably £125,000-150,000, as many sales using Tarnava Brand are not reported to the project. As an example of sales volumes, local jams: 6,000 jars sold in 2006, 14,000 jars sold in 2007, 50,000 jars sold in 2008.

7 Finance and administration

7.1 Project expenditure

In all cases costs are individually accounted for in audited accounts, and invoices available.

Item	A. Total Budget	B. Darwin budget	C. Total Actual expenditure	D. Darwin actual expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc					
Office costs (e.g. postage, telephone, stationery)					
Travel and subsistence					
Printing					
Conferences, seminars, etc <i>(balance transferred to travel and subsistence with agreement with secretariat)</i>					
Capital items/equipment					
<i>Pilot micro-enterprise equipment</i>					
solar drying,					
Cheese-making					
Jam-making					
<i>Universities - Cluj, Sibiu, Targu Mures</i>					
15 x mammal traps					
10 x mist nets					
3x inclinometers,					
3 x gps,					
3 x binoculars,					
1 x bat detector,					
1 x moth trap,					
1 x fish traps					
4 x lap-tops,					
4 x digital cameras					
For visitor centre / field centre:					
2 x PCs,					
2 x lap-tops					
1 x power point,					
1 x photocopier,					
1 x digicam					
1 x GPS					
Office furniture					
reference books,					
For Environment protection Agencies in 3 counties Mures/ Sibiu/ Brasov:					
3 x Laptops					
3 x powerpoint projectors					
For ANCA training courses					
3 x laptops					
3 x powerpoint projectors					
Subtotal capital items					
Others (admin fees, audit etc.)					
Salaries (see itemised below)					
TOTAL					

Salaries

Project Team Members	A. Total Budget	B. Darwin budget	C. Total Actual expenditure	D. Darwin actual expenditure	Balance
UK Based					
1. Nat Page					
2. Jim Turnbull					
3. Dr John Akeroyd					
4. Dr Andrew Jones					
5. Dr Mark Redman					
6. Gavin Bell					
7. John Taylor					
8. Oliver Field					
9. Rebecca Hawkins					
10. Sue Prince					
Project Implementation Unit					
Coordinator (C Gherghiceanu)					
Head of information office (Ben Mehedin)					
Agricultural extension officers (I Schaaser / A Calugar)					
Marketing / tourism development					
Office Manager / Administrator (F Baciu)					
Assist Office Manager / (Diana GIS design)					
Bogdan Florescu					
Univ. Lucian Blaga Sibiu:					
Prof D. Constantin,					
Dr Angela Curtean Banaduc					
Dr Doru Banaduc,					
Dr Ioan Ghira					
Univ. Babes Bolyai Cluj Napoca:					
Prof Vasile Cristea					
Dr Laszlo Rakosy					
Dr Ioan Coroiu					
Dr Dan Gafta					
Dr David Alin (ornithologist)					
Milvus					
Tamas Papp (ornithologist)					
Univ. de Medicină și Farmacie Targu-Mures:					
Prof Silvia Oroian					
Dr Mihaela Samarghitan					
Ing. Mariana Stoian					
Ecotur Sibiu					
Dr Angela Banaduc					
+ 3 assistants					
WWF-DCP:					
Erika Stanciu					
+2					
Env Protection Agency Mures in-kind salaries					
ANCA (ag. Extension office) Mures in-kind salaries					
Admin					
TOTAL SALARIES					

7.2 Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Owing to extra funding raised during lifetime of project, we were able to expand activities especially in printing, agricultural extension services GIS bespoke software and capital equipment. Total expenditure was £736,713 over project period, Darwin Initiative funding £292,800, co-financing required was £443,913.

Sources of co-finance for the project	Total during project period
Orange	430,000
Gerald Micklem Trust	6,000
Parthenon Trust	12,000
In-kind co-financing from Romanian Universities, Environment Protection Agencies and ANCA in staff time and laboratory facilities	42,000
Environment for Europe Fund	17,875
	507,875

7.3 Value of DI funding

All the activities and outputs described in this report were entirely dependent on Darwin Initiative funding. Although we received matching co-finance from Orange Romania, this was dependent on Darwin support.

SHORT GLOSSARY:

ANCA	National Agency for Agricultural Consultancy
ANSVSA	National Sanitary Veterinary & Food Safety Authority
EPA	Environment Protection Agency
HNV (farmed landscapes)	High Nature Value
LSG	Local Steering Group
LAG	Local Action Group
MAFRD (formerly MARD)	Ministry of Agriculture, Forests & Rural Development
MoE (formerly MEWM)	Ministry of Environment
pSCI	potential Site of Community Interest
SCI	Site of Community Interest
TIC	Tourist Information Centre
WWF-DCP	World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube Carpathian Programme Romania

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements	Actions required/planned for next period
<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 constrained in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity • The sustainable use of its components • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 		<p>ADEPT input has led to statutory protection through Natura 2000 status.</p> <p>12,000 ha of HNV grassland under agri-environment grants/contracts</p> <p>Marketing of traditional products linked to biodiversity successful, significant economic benefit to farmers, attracting national attention</p>	(do not fill not applicable)
<p>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</p>	<p>Statutory protection of the area.</p> <p>Local support for statutory protection. Increased prosperity of the area linked to conservation.</p> <p>Impact on National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Policy</p>	<p>Natura 2000 SCI status approved by MOE in October 2006, and by Biogeographical Seminar in 2007. Advanced mapping capabilities for area developed. Management plan for the SCI will not be completed until later phase, 2010-12.</p> <p>Local authorities and local people have seen success 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: Andrew Jones and Mark Redman were MAFRD's main outside technical advisors on design of the agri-environment measure, part of Rural Development Programme 2007-2013.</p>	
<p>Output 1. Locate and assess important species and habitats in order to consolidate the scientific data required to propose various forms of</p>	<p>No./duration of field trips.</p> <p>Area covered.</p> <p>No./area of important species and habitats identified and mapped.</p>	<p>40 x 5 day field trips completed in 2006, 2007 and 2008. 20,000ha covered by field studies, remaining 65,000ha by GIS mapping (orthophotoplan, IACS land m also available).</p>	

conservation management and protection within the project area.	Standard Data Form completed. Area/no. of habitats/ species covered by the form.	Field trips completed on time, and Birds and Habitats Directive habitats and species were mapped, and area boundaries established consistent with distribution, using advanced GIS developed for ADEPT. The GIS system allows quantifiable measurement of habitats and species.
<p>Activity 1.1 Biodiversity assessment and protection.</p> <p>Further field surveys, inventories, mapping and participative research.</p> <p>Completion of Standard Data Form for potential Sites of Community Interest (pSCI). Obtaining Natura 2000 designation of the S E Transylvania area</p>		<p>Standard Data Form completed 2006/2007.</p> <p>Romanian University teams assisted by Dr J Akeroyd carried out field May-September 07 and 08, 14 scientists for 40 days each. Reports Dec 07 and Dec 08.</p> <p>Important floristic sites identified, which will be subject of further, specific protection proposals. Advanced GIS sytem used.</p> <p>Grassland management guidelines will be developed during 2008, in order to form part if the integrated management plan which will be developed in next phase 2008-2013.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Number of booklets and leaflets designed, printed and distributed.</p> <p>Number of presentations delivered at schools</p> <p>Number of information boards erected.</p> <p>Number of hits on web-site.</p>	<p>Publications according to project plan: monthly community newspaper was 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.</p> <p>36 classes to schools/year, 2007 and 2008, total 72.</p> <p>26 information boards erected, plus 2 village signs which will be replicated in other villages.</p> <p>Raising awareness can be measured quantitatively by number of publications – there was significant media coverage in 2007 and 2008 – see Annex 4.</p> <p>Positive response of local people, increased involvement of local people in environmental and conservation related issues – this is occurring through the LEADER process, in which over 100 local people are active.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1. Education/awareness.</p> <p>Publish materials for schools and wider public.</p> <p>Produce information boards.</p> <p>Design web site to inform about project, promote products and tourism services.</p> <p>Establish information centre to serve local people and visitors.</p>		<p>A new Visitor Centre open and active in May 2007, with wider range of products ans services for sale</p> <p>Web site active by May 2006. We receive regular feedback from website visitors, and contacts through the website. New website launched December 2008.</p> <p>Book on food hygiene standards for small producers - 40,000 copies in Romanian, 10,000 in Hungarian and 1,000 in English, printed March 2008.</p>

		<p>Food and culture brochures, 2000 in English, March 2008.</p> <p>Presentations given on environmental issues to schools, plus summer camp for schoolchildren.</p> <p>26 information boards in place in May 2007.</p> <p>Visits by Orange staff: 5 groups/year 2007 and 2008, each of about 20 staff, visited and stayed 2 nights in the project area in 2007 to carry out voluntary work as part of Orange CSR support.</p>
<p>Output 3. . Design and implement measures that will provide economic incentives for grassland and forest conservation.</p> <p>Plan incentive schemes using community participation, external expertise.</p> <p>Local Steering Group (LSG) established including ANCA, Town Hall and leading farmers.</p> <p>Assist local people to access EU agri-environmental schemes.</p> <p>Promote agro-tourism through training/marketing.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Number of meetings and presentations held at the centre.</p> <p>LSG active. Management proposals agreed by local and regional stakeholders.</p> <p>No.of farmers/ forest owners participating, area covered.</p>	<p>12,000ha of HNV grassland under agri-environment contracts.</p> <p>The number of visitors who have purchased goods or services increased from estimated 300-400 in 2006 to 1378 in 2007.</p> <p>12 presentations/year 2007/2008 at information centre and at other villages.</p> <p>Packaging/ branding/marketing of local products has significantly increased sales. In 2006 approximately £440 worth of sales, 2007 £9,220, 2008 £105,000 of which approximately £14,500 was for tourism activities. The real figure is probably £125,000-150,000, as many sales using Tarnava Brand are not reported to the project. As an example of sales volumes, local jams: 6,000 jars sold in 2006, 14,000 jars sold in 2007, 50,000 jars sold in 2008.</p> <p>Local Steering Groups: being achieved through the LEADER process, by creation of Local Action groups (LAGs). The area LAG was established in May 2007, representing every commune: 2 further meetings were held in September and November 2007, but the group has not yet developed into an effective steering committee for the area. This will be target for 2008.</p>
<p><i>Activity 3.1. 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>63 locals have been trained in guest house management. Several hundred visitors have stayed with our trainees in 2007. In one village alone (Crit), 2 guest houses went from no activity in 2006 to 240 bed nights in 2007. £14,500 income in 2008 for tourism activities booked through ADEPT - real income 2 -3 times that.</p> <p>ADEPT has produced a Food and Culture Tours brochure and high quality map for visitors/walkers in order to increase numbers who stay in the area, visit producers and buy local products/services, as always, linked to the biodiversity image of the area.</p> <p>ADEPT led establishment of first farmers markets in Romania, where small producers sell their own products - very successful.</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>ADEPT staff taught at a national agri-environment training programme in 12 sites around the country.</p> <p>1500 farmers in project area are in grassland agri-environment contracts.</p> <p>After 2 consultation process, sustainable tourism proposal for the area was completed by Oxford Brookes in late 2007.</p> <p>ADEPT local manager made presentations at 4 international Slow Food meetings in 2007/8. Attended Turin festival accompanied by 3 ADEPT are producers.</p> <p>5 Forestry workshops held in 2008. Forest assessment including Non-Timber Forest Products carried out with assistance of WWF. FSC certification not feasible owing to uncertainties about forest ownership and administration.</p>
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Annex 2 Project's final logframe, including criteria and indicators

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>			
Purpose			
<p>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.</p> <p>Local support for statutory protection.</p> <p>Increased prosperity of the area linked to conservation.</p> <p>Impact on National Biodiversity Strategy and National Rural Development Policy</p>	<p>Existence of statutory protection (Natura 2000 or IUCN Cat V).</p> <p>No. of ha. protected.</p> <p>No. of ha. under traditional management.</p> <p>No. of visitors bringing economic benefit to the area.</p> <p>National Rural Development Policy reflects ADEPT project lessons. Model applied in other areas.</p>	<p>Government maintains commitment to CBD and EU Natura 2000.</p> <p>Community support maintained through sharing of benefits of conservation.</p> <p>MAFRD and MOE continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project</p>
Outputs			
<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.</p> <p>No./area of important species and habitats identified and mapped</p>	<p>Reports of field trips. Reports of data produced.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Number of presentations delivered at schools. Number of information boards erected. Number of hits on web-site.</p>	<p>Annual reports on</p> <p>1. distribution of leaflets and reaction to them.</p> <p>2. school presentations and reaction to them.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Plan incentive schemes using community</p>	<p>1 Visitor Centre active.</p> <p>No. of visitors and locals visiting the Information Centre.</p> <p>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>participation, external expertise.</p> <p>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>LSG active. Management proposals agreed by local and regional stakeholders.</p> <p>No.of farmers/ forest owners participating, area covered.</p>	<p>Annual reports of no. and content of LSG meetings.</p> <p>Account of management proposals agreed.</p> <p>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>
	<p>No. of courses delivered in farming/agrotourism. No.of villagers participating. Improved profitability of traditional farms.</p> <p>Records of meetings with MAFRD and WEWM re inputs in strategies.</p>	<p>Annual reports of no., uptake & effectiveness of courses.</p> <p>Profitability of farms compared with 2005 baseline.</p> <p>Project lessons incorporated into strategies</p>	<p>Villagers see the courses as relevant and useful to their own economic benefit.</p> <p>MAFRD and MoE continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Activity milestones (summary project implementation timetable)</p>		<p>Assumptions</p>
<p>1. Biodiversity assessment and protection. Further field surveys, inventories, mapping and participative research.</p> <p>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 with university teams to decide on field survey methodology May 06</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Teams will complete Standard Data Form by December 2006, deadline for Natura 2000 registration.</p> <p>Romanian government proposes Natura 2000 designation mid- 2007</p> <p>Grassland management guidelines published July 2007</p> <p>Flora of Transylvania published October 2008</p>		<p>Equipment and funding available to allow field surveys, especially 4x4 vehicle</p>
<p>2. Education/awareness.</p> <p>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>3,000 copies in Romanian and 3,000 in English to be printed by July 2006.</p> <p>Quarterly information sheets from February 2006.</p> <p>Pilot presentations on environmental issues to schools and village meetings from September 2006.</p> <p>Visitor Centre active by September 2006.</p> <p>Web site active by March 2006.</p> <p>Information boards in place by May 2007.</p>		<p>Funding available.</p> <p>Schools welcome educational input</p>

<p>3. Establish incentives, reduce poverty. Stakeholder meetings to design and implement grasslands conservation management measures.</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>
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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	10	Develop national strategies that integrate conservation and sustainable use.
7. Identification and Monitoring	20	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	30	Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	5	Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.
11. Incentive Measures	10	Establish economically and socially sound incentives to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity.
12. Research and Training	5	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	10	Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.
18. international technical and scientific cooperation	10	international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
Total %	100%	Check % = total 100

Annex 4 Standard Measures

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
Training Measures		
3	Number of other qualifications obtained	63 - rural tourism diplomas 23 - food hygiene diplomas
4a	Number of undergraduate students receiving training	25
4b	Number of training weeks provided to undergraduate students	8 Weeks/year 2007/2008
4c	Number of postgraduate students receiving training (not 1-3 above)	7
4d	Number of training weeks for postgraduate students	8 weeks 2008
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (i.e. not categories 1-5 above)	55 forest owners, 250 farmers
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	15
Research Measures		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	110
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	3
10	Number of formal documents produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording.	3
11a	Number of papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals	15
11b	Number of papers published or accepted for publication elsewhere	4
12a	Number of computer-based databases established (containing species/generic information) and handed over to host country	1
Dissemination Measures		
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	9 international conferences 46 Village information centre meetings
15a	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	24
15b	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in host country(s)	6
15c	Number of national press releases or publicity articles in UK	5
15d	Number of local press releases or publicity articles in UK	2
16a	Number of issues of newsletters produced in the host country(s)	26

Code	Description	Totals (plus additional detail as required)
16b	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(s)	3000
17a	Number of dissemination networks established	2
18a	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(s)	7
18c	Number of local TV programme/features in host country	2
19a	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(s)	4
19b	Number of national radio interviews/features in the UK	2
19c	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country (s)	2
Physical Measures		
20	Estimated value (£s) of physical assets handed over to host country(s)	£60,000
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisation established	1
22	Number of permanent field plots established	1
23	Value of additional resources raised for project	£440,000
Other Measures used by the project and not currently including in DI standard measures		
	No. of ha of under Natura 2000 protection	85,000
	No. of ha of priority grassland and forest habitats under Natura 2000 protection	47,600
	No. of ha of grassland under agri-environment contracts	12,000
	No. of Habitats Directive species protected in the Natura 2000 area	27 Annex II fauna species, 7 Annex II flora species
	No. of farmers receiving advice especially on grants by visiting the Farmer Advisory office or by farm visits	510 in project period.
	No. of booklets and leaflets designed, printed and distributed:	12
	No. of presentations delivered at schools	72
	No. of information boards erected.	28
	No. farmers benefiting from agri-environmental schemes	1,700 (av. 7 ha./farmer)
	Additional income to area from agri-environmental schemes over expected from national average*	€845,000/year
	No. of visitors at TIC	350 in 2006, 1378 in 2008.
	Income to area from farmers markets, TIC sales and guesthouse income **	€105,000/year

* Calculation: total grant for 12,000ha = 12,000 x €124 = €1.48m. The average national uptake is 30%. The local uptake as a result of ADEPT assistance is 70%. Difference from baseline is €845,000.

** Calculation: €105,000/year direct result of sales of products and services, going into local peoples' pockets, compared to baseline in 2005 of 0.

Publications

Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Book, over 100 colour illustrations	Akeroyd, J. (2006) The historic countryside of the Saxon Villages of southern Transylvania.	Fundatia ADEPT, Saschiz, Romania. 86 pages,	Amazon UK	£12
Book, conference proceedings	Akeroyd, J. R. & Page, N. (2006) The Saxon Villages of Southern Transylvania: Conserving Biodiversity in a Historic Landscape.	In Gafta, D. & Akeroyd, J.[R.], Eds (2006) Nature Conservation: Concepts and Practice, pp. 199–210. Springer Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany.	Amazon UK	£150
journal	Akeroyd, J. (2007) The floral riches of southern Transylvania.	The Plantsman, NS, 6: 152–156.	The Plantsman	
journal	Akeroyd, J.R. (2007) Ruderal flora of the Saxon Villages: a neglected conservation constituency.	Curtean-Bănăduc, A., Bănăduc, B., and Sîrbu, I., Eds (2007) Transylvanian Review of Systematical and Ecological Research, 4 – The Saxon Villages Region of southeast Transylvania, 216 pages, Editura Universității „Lucian Blaga” Sibiu, ISSN 1841-7051.	University of Sibiu	
journal	Jones, A. (2007) The challenge of High Nature Value grassland conservation in Transylvania.			
journal	Numerous other articles			
journal	Mountford, J. O. and Akeroyd, J.R. Village grasslands of Romania – an undervalued conservation resource.	Phytologia Balcanica.	Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, phytobalcanica@abv.bg	
Map*	Sighisoara-Tarnava Mare Tourist map	ADEPT Foundation	Amazon UK	£3.50
Booklet*	Minimum food hygiene and food safety conditions for small producers	ADEPT Foundation	www.fundatia-adept.org	
Booklet*	Food and culture tours	ADEPT Foundation	www.fundatia-adept.org	

Annex 5 Darwin Contacts

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