

Darwin Initiative Annual Report 2007/8

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	621
Project Title	ADEPT – Agricultural Development & Environmental Protection in Transylvania
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; The University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Targu Mures; Ministry of Environment and Water Management; Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development; Ecotur Sibiu; World Wide Fund for Nature – Danube Carpathian Programme Romania; Town Hall Saschiz.
Darwin Grant Value	£292,800
Start/End dates of Project	1 May 2006/30 March 2009
Reporting period	1 Apr 2007 - 31 Mar 2008. Annual report number 2.
Project Leader Name	Nat Page
Project website	www.fundatia-adept.org
Author(s), date	Nat Page, Jim Turnbull, 30 April 2008

1. Project Background

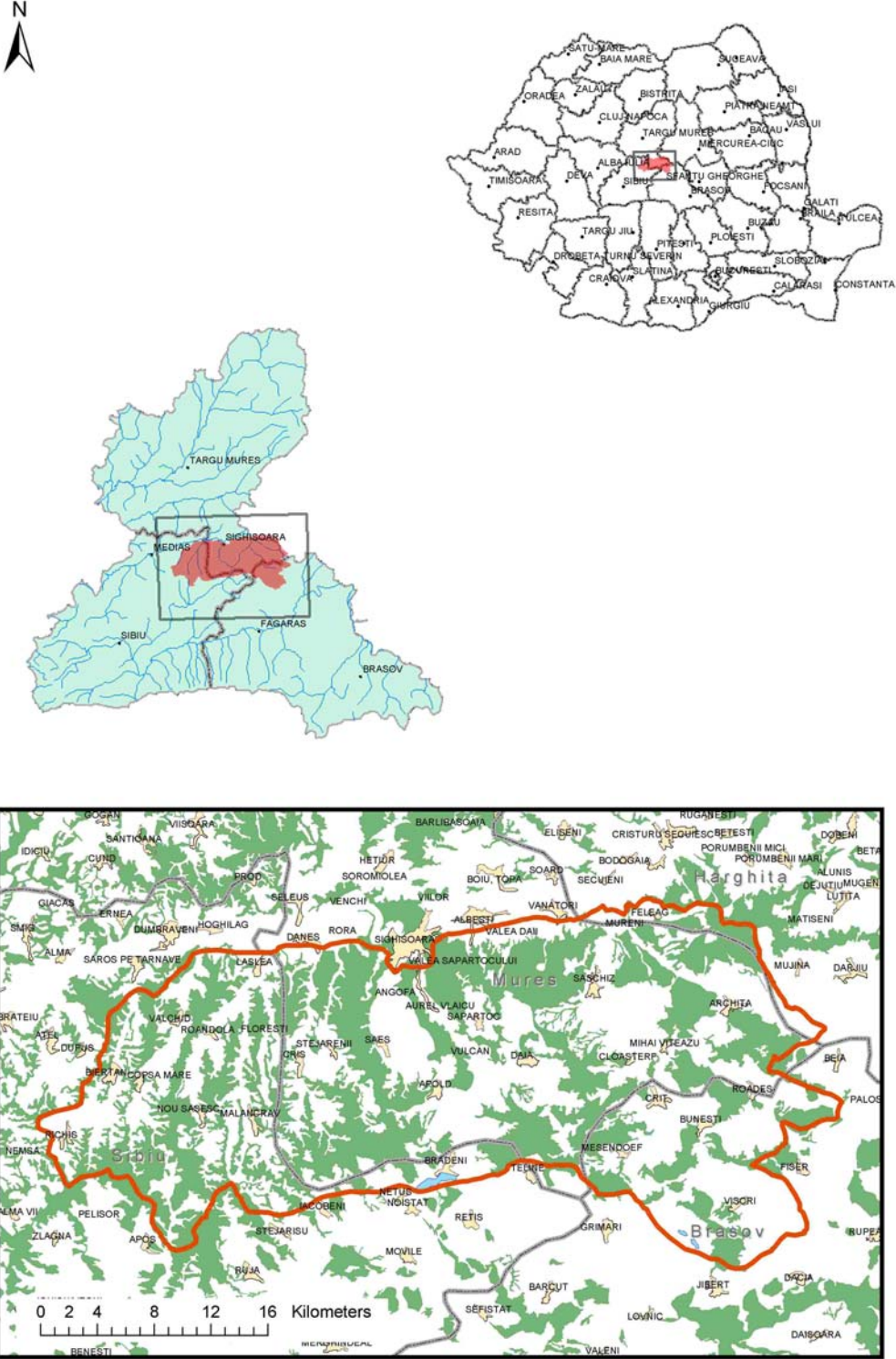
The project area is a 90,000 ha area of the South East Transylvania, a hilly mid-altitude region with biodiversity of European importance within a historic rural landscape. Over 50% of the area represents habitats listed under EU Habitats Directive, many being priority habitats, with many species listed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

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

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

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

General map





Scale 1:100000

Legend

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

Land cover

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

Author: Bogdan Florescu
floreescu@yahoo.com

Detailed map

2. Project Partnerships

During 2007 ADEPT has continued constructive collaboration with the project partners:

- University partners: Dr Andrew Jones and Dr John Akeroyd (ADEPT Foundation) have continued to work 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 have 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, etc).
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MMDD): the universities' work had led (late 2006) to acceptance by MMDD of the area as the largest continental pSCI in Romania. This has given considerable support to MMDD's meeting CBD commitments. We are in active discussion with MEWM regarding Environmental Structural Fund support for work on a comprehensive integrated management plan for the area.
- Ministry of Agriculture Rural Development (MADR): in 2006 Romania-based ADEPT staff worked with the MAFRD to promote agri-environment pilot SAPARD 3.3 in the project area. The 190 farmers signed up under agri-environment contracts received their first grassland management payments in late 2007; not a single farmer elsewhere in Romania joined the programme. ADEPT is regarded by Brussels DG Agriculture (Mrs Zelig Peppiette) as the most important model for future implementation of agri-environment programmes in Romania. UK-based ADEPT specialist Dr Andrew Jones worked at a technical level with the MAFRD in the design of agri-environment policies for Romania post-accession.
- Ecotur Sibiu: Ecotur Sibiu has coordinated the university teams in 2007, and has carried out some schools environment education programmes in Saschiz.
- 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 in the area, Oxford Brookes University delivered a sustainable tourism development plan for the area in late 2007.

Grasslands Trust: we have transferred project management/lead supplier status from the Grasslands Trust to ADEPT Foundation (UK registered charity). The reason for nominating The Grasslands Trust to be the lead supplier for this project originally was that their senior grassland specialist Andrew Jones was one of the key scientists working on the ADEPT project in Romania. He has since left The Grasslands Trust, but is still available to the ADEPT Project. Other UK technical assistance partners in our project, including Oxford Brookes University and field botanist Dr John Akeroyd, have agreements directly with Adept Foundation. Management of accounts is carried out by Jim Turnbull.

Other Collaborations:

- 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, 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.

CBD focal point: ADEPT meets regularly with the CBD focal point in the MEWM in Bucharest, Mr Silviu Megan (now transferred) and currently John Smaranda. We are in specific contact about pSCI Natura 2000 status for the project area, and Structural Fund opportunities for developing the pSCI management plan.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

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.*

- The data collected has proved very exciting. Some biodiversity hot-spots of European, if not global importance. But also the general species richness of the area has impressed local scientists, who were sceptical about the interest of a semi-natural habitat. Dr Jones and Dr Akeroyd visited Romania 4 times each in 2007, in order to build up knowledge of the area and specifically to begin model management of a 50ha grassland plot that we have secured for 5 years, on which different management techniques will be monitored.
- ADEPT 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. From May-September 07, 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 (Prof Cristea, Akeroyd), forest (Dr Dan Gafta). We now have a 1:25000 map in which we are beginning to complete detailed mapping of habitats, to such detail that they can be used for individual field management by local authorities and protected area management team. These will be the first such maps in Romania.
- As well as being basic data for the integrated management of the pSCI, these data may also be used to argue for enlargement of the pSCI when it is discussed at the biogeographical seminar in June 2008, Sibiu. ADEPT Project Manager Nat Page has been invited to attend N2000 NGO coalition meetings to prepare shadow lists and possibly participate in the biogeographical seminar, at which pSCIs are approved by DG Environment, Brussels.
- However, the target to create an integrated management plan for the area has proved unrealistic. See 3.2 below.

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.*

- 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.
- We have opened a new visitor centre, in a better location under the tower of the UNESCO-listed church,
- Signs and information boards erected on time. We have put up Natura 2000 notice boards in villages, and distinctive village entry signs.
- We have produced a 1:50,000 map of the area for visitors, and begun to mark and map a system of footpaths.
- The Monthly newspaper is appreciated and widely read. Monthly community newspaper is a very much in demand and used for Natura 2000/agriculture information as well as local news. Some of our N2000 and agri-environment articles have been offered to and printed in other, similar local papers (e.g. in Turda, Cluj).
- Schools presentations: 2 in November/December 2007, continuing monthly in 2008. School presentations started late in 2007, but 3 schools in project area are now included in „model class” run by a local NGO, Milvus Group – one hour each month to classes throughout the year, training of teachers in environmental issues, and a summer camp for 50 children in July 2008.
- Visits by Orange staff: 5 groups, each of 20 staff, visited and stayed 2 nights in the project area in 2007 to carry out voluntary work as part of Orange CSR support.

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.*

- ADEPT’s agri-environment officer in Saschiz assisted the inspections (late summer) of all 190 farmers, on a total of 2000 ha, who have signed up to agri-environment pilot scheme: all of these received their first annual grants by end of 2007.
- 42 local villagers graduated from rural tourism course, offered by state consultancy service ANCA and several UK trainers. The course is an innovative course, relevant to modern needs, developed by ADEPT.
- Oxford Brooks University tourism faculty held tourism workshops in the area in June 2007 in order to approve the sustainable tourism strategy, which has now been delivered.
- In March 2007, the first producers market was held in Bucharest: ADEPT was a partner in the market (along with EU Delegation and Peasants’ Museum Bucharest) and 5 of the 15 producers came from the ADEPT project area. The market was a commercial and PR success, and was repeated 3 times in late 2007 – sold out every time, and with good national TV and newspaper coverage.
- Linked to these events, and also for sale in the information centre, ADEPT have helped to design and market local products, creating the link between conservation and economic prosperity. This is achieved by quality control, improved packaging and

presentation, and creating attracting outlets to link up to consumers. A logo was designed and is in use for Tarnava Mare area, for marketing of local products.

- Our solar driers are in demand for producing marketable preserved fruit, herbs and vegetables.
- Dr Jones have been working at a technical level assisting the development of Romania's rural development plan, especially agri-environment.
- The project area is one of Romania's first areas for implementing the EU's LEADER programme - the Tarnava Mare Local Action Group (LAG). Visits are taking place between Tarnava Mare LAG and other Local Action Groups, three British and one Irish, under a Trans-National LEADER project signed in 2006.
- Time target not met for creation of a local steering committee. This is being achieved through the LEADER process, by creation of Local Action groups (LAGs). The area LAG was established in May 2007, representing every commune: representatives are from local authorities and other interested community groups and business representatives. 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.

See also Annex 3 for photographic summary.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

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.*

- Innovative interactive digital software developed for detailed plotting of locations of important habitats and species, and for practical use in land management.
- pSCI proposed in the N2000 Standard Data Form for the area accepted by MMDD in late 2006, will be considered at the Biogeographical Seminar in June 2008, Sibiu.
- Integrated management proposals for the area cannot be written until MMDD has decided on guidelines for pSCI management. Therefore, creation of integrated management plan is realistically only possible in subsequent phase of the project, 2009-2013. However, it will rely heavily on the data and information systems, and relations with local stakeholders, developed during this Darwin project.
- Assumption: that Universities are capable and remain committed, proved correct.

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

- 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.
- 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.

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*

- Packaging/ branding/marketing of local products has significantly increased sales: in 2007 ADEPT sold 1,000 baskets with selections of products (including 4,000 jars of jam, local herb tea) to Orange Romania, for corporate gifts at Christmas, as well as 10,000 other jars of jam directly from the Tourist Information centre. 14,000 jars sold compared to 6,000 in 2006.
- In addition, the Bucharest Market was started - the first market in Romania insisting on only small producers (under 10 employees, but generally family producers), selling direct to the public only their own products. In 5 weekends sales (one weekend in Brasov and one in Sibiu, as well as 3 in Bucharest itself) 10 producers from ADEPT area and 30 from other areas have 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, in the Bucharest market. 10,000 people attended the market on the first day in Bucharest.
- The number of visitors who have purchased goods or services (village tours) has increased from estimated 300-400 in 2006 (numbers were not accurately recorded) to 1378 (492 Romanians, 886 other nationalities).
- ADEPT local manager Cristi Gherghiceanu made presentations at four international Slow Food meetings (Italy Turin, Sicily, France and Poland) in 2007. ADEPT is regarded as one of Slow Foods star new groups, and is held up as an example. At Turin, accompanied by 3 ADEPT area producers. ADEPT has produced a Food and Culture 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.
- 42 locals have been trained in guest house management. Guest house occupation statistics are not clear (since many owners take visitors without paperwork) but 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.
- 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.
- MADR now approaches ADEPT to take part in consultation groups – ADEPT is one of very few NGOs included in the National Development Strategy Consultation Group – we are also in good contact with DG Agri in Brussels over Romania's agri-environment strategy. Andrew Jones spent 15 days in the MADR 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 MADR and MMDD will retain their interest in and support of ADEPT has proved correct.

3.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	TOTAL
Established codes					
3	52 people attend courses in producer groups (10), marketing, rural tourism (42), alternative incomes	42	52		
4A	No. of undergraduates coordinated by University of Sibiu to carry out biodiversity assessment	10	15		
4B	Weeks/year	4	4		
4C	members of fauna/flora/ habitat working group under post-doctoral supervision	8	10		
4D	Weeks/year	6	6		
6A	Field centre for PIU in operation – people trained in project management team	3	3		
6B	Weeks/year	4	4		
6A	No. of staff from Environment Protection Agencies and PIU paying working visits to similar Protected Areas in UK	2	3		
6B	Total no. of visits	1	2		
12A	Biodiversity monitoring reports (due Dec 06 will be ready June 07)	0	0		
14A	Village information centre meetings	9	3		
14B	No. of local producers attend Slow Food conferences in Italy.	5	4		
14A	Presentations in schools	3	5		
14B	Attendance at conferences to present findings	1	2		
16 A	newsletters/year for general circulation	4	12		
16 B	No. of copies / issue	1000	1000		
	workshops/year with Local Steering Groups (LSGs)	0	3		
16A	Illustrated booklet on food hygiene regulations for small producers		1		
16B	copies in Romanian	3,000	40,000		
16C	copies in English	3,000	1000		
16C	Copies in Hungarian		10000		
16A	High quality 1:50000 visitor map for area		1		

16B	copies in Romanian and English	-	3,000		
17A	Web-site established	1	1		
21	Visitor Centre established	1	1		
22	50 ha meadow rented for model grassland conservation/ restoration management	1	1		
23	£308,685				

Table 2 Publications

Type	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)		Cost £
journal	Akeroyd, J. (2007) The floral riches of southern Transylvania.	The Plantsman, NS, 6: 152–156.		
journal	Akeroyd, J.R. (2007b) Ruderal flora of the Saxon Villages: a neglected conservation constituency.	Transylvanian Review of Systematical and Ecological Research.	University of Sibiu	
journal	Jones, A. (2007) The challenge of High Nature Value grassland conservation in Transylvania.	Transylvanian Review of Systematical and Ecological Research.	University of Sibiu	
journal	Mountford, J. O. and Akeroyd, J.R. (in press) Village grasslands of Romania – an undervalued conservation resource.	Phytologia Balcanica.		
Map*	Sighisoara-Tarnava Mare Tourist map	ADEPT Foundation	Amazon UK	
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	

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

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

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

95,000 ha pSCI has been accepted by MMDD as a pSCI, based on data collected under the Darwin project. 2,000 ha of grassland are now under management controlled by agri-environment grant contracts: these measures will grow in 2008.

Local population benefiting economically, through sale of value-added products linked to

biodiversity image of the area.

Direct impact on Romania's National Rural Development Policy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is measurable is increased income and other livelihood benefits for local farmers and other entrepreneurs linked to biodiversity "brand image".

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

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

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

Evaluation of training and education/awareness raising will be assisted by Gavin Bell (5 years experience as Peak District National Park Interpretation officer), and the Local Steering Group of key stakeholders. This group will be dominated by local representatives and will ensure that local priorities are identified and addressed..

Main indicators will include:

Quantitative

- 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.

Establishing effective biodiversity monitoring is a target for 2008. Timing target was not met.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews

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, but the group has not yet developed into an effective steering committee for the area. This will be target for 2008.

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 MMDD 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) MMDD 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) Subsequently, a biogeographical seminar is summoned at which the pSCIs are approved technically (in this case will be June 2008). Project Leader Nat Page is part of a small group of NGOs preparing for the biogeographical seminar, and may be invited to take part in it.
- (4) The biogeographical seminar sends back recommendations (to expand protection of under-represented habitats and species, for example).
- (5) Finally the list is approved by European parliament (probably not until 2009 in this case).

Completion Report 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.*
See 5b 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.*
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.*
This is the task of University Lucian Blaga Sibiu, who will take this on as a specific responsibility under the project in 2008
- *The experimental design to realise controlled experiments on the effects of different management measures on an experimental grassland site should be elaborated in detail.*
This is the task of John Akeroyd and Andrew Jones, who will take this on as a specific responsibility under the project in 2008
- *Grassland sites already entered into agri-environmental schemes in the project area should be monitored and a monitoring system should be proposed and established.*
The development of a list of key indicator species, allowing base line and periodic assessments, is the task of John Akeroyd and Andrew Jones, who will take this on as a specific responsibility under the project in 2008.
- *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 MMDD has decided on guidelines for pSCI management. Therefore, creation of integrated management plan is realistically only possible in subsequent phase of the project, 2009-2013. 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.*
Noted - we will report on this in next mid-term review, November 2008.

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Forest: the ownership and administration of forests has been in a state of flux in period 2004-2007. For this reason, the work on forest management has been delayed – since it was not clear with whom we should be consulting for future forest management initiatives. Forest management activities, in the form of forest assessment and workshops, will take place in 2008, and be reported on in next mid-term report in November 2008.

7. Sustainability

Active support from MADR suggests that the models of study, protection and giving local benefit will be adopted as examples of good practice and replicated elsewhere in Romania. This will assure long term sustainability of the project through policy support, especially in the form of grants under National Rural Development Programme.

The project is also aiming at building local capacity to generate sustainable commercial viability for the project, through adding value to local products and diversification of income.

8. Dissemination

Conferences attended at which ADEPT made presentations:

- Flora Europaea, Cluj September 2007,
- Euromontana Piatra Neamt October 2007,
- Romanian MADR conferences on national rural network September 2007 Targoviste and January 2008 Predeal,
- 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”

Media coverage

Publication/Broadcast	Title of article	Date of publication
TVR1, Pro TV, Antena 1 national TV	News: Bucharest market for small food producers	17 March 2007
Cotidianul, Romania Libera and other national daily newspapers	News: Bucharest market for small food producers	17 March 2007
Romania Libera national daily	Medieval treasure: the fortified Saxon Villages	11 May 2007
Perla Romaniei national travel quarterly	The beginning of Ecotourism in Romania	May-July 2007
Jurnalul de Bucatarie monthly food magazine	European projects: ADEPT	4 July 2007
TVR1 main national TV channel	Discover Your Europe – weekly one hour programme on national TV – 30 minutes on ADEPT	5 August.2007

Green Report – monthly magazine	Rebirth of the Saxon Villages	14 October.2007
Dilemma national weekly paper	Natura 2000 and the Saxon Villages	December 2007
24 Hours National weekly	Saschiz: European Commune	17.07.07
Romania Libera	Rhubarb Jam from Saschiz on sale in Europe	9.08.2007
Evenimentul Zilei national daily	Saxon Villages sell jam in Europe	11.10.07
EuROpeanul	Meadows and pastures at 800,000 Euros	11.10.2007
Evenimentul Zilei national daily	Saxon villages reborn with EU money	22.09.07
Selenis	Website focussing on environment issues : interviews with J Akeroyd, N Page and other ADEPT staff	13.09.2007
Descopera – national magazine	Protecting a fragile paradise	26.10.2007

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget	Actual expenditure	Darwin expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc				
Office costs (e.g. postage, telephone, stationery)				
Travel and subsistence				
Printing				
Conferences, seminars, etc				
Capital items/equipment				
Others				
Salaries (specify)				
TOTAL				

2007 accounts are with auditor and accountant: Certificate and Financial Statements will be submitted to DEFRA Darwin Initiative in due course.

10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

[I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section](#) (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Major achievements in 2007 that were planned:

- 190 farmers in project area receive grassland management grants, the only ones in Romania
- Innovative software developed and in operation that can be used for biodiversity (habitat/species) mapping, land management, land ownership, designing walking routes.

Major achievements in 2007 that were not planned:

- Bucharest farmers' market, the first real producers market in Romania, has 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 – and 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, MADR 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.
- ADEPT staff taught at a national agri-environment training programme in 12 sites around the country.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for F/Y: 2007/8

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2007 - March 2008	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>Process continues with ADEPT input of assuring statutory protection through Natura 2000 status.</p> <p>2000 ha under agri-environment grants/contracts</p> <p>Marketing of traditional products linked to biodiversity under way and successful, attracting national attention</p>	<p>(do not fill not applicable)</p>
<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>pSCI status approved by MMDD in October 2006</p> <p>Local authorities and local people have seen successes of selling value-added local products linked to the area, and wish to use this more widely.</p> <p>Technical assistance for the MADR in detailed development of agri-environment measures</p>	<p>pSCI approval in Biogeographical Seminar and in Brussels</p> <p>Advanced mapping capabilities for area developed. Management plans for the pSCI assisted by advanced mapping will not be completed until later phase, 2009-2013.</p> <p>Establishment of pilot agri-environment offices in Romania was due 2007, now postponed until 2009. We have been selected for this by MADR.</p> <p>Andrew Jones was MADR's main outside technical advisor 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 conservation management and protection within the project area.</p>	<p>No./duration of field trips. Area covered. No./area of important species and habitats identified and mapped. Standard Data Form completed. Area/no. of habitats/ species covered by the form.</p>	<p>40 x 5 day field trips completed. 20,000 ha covered (can be done more quickly now teams are familiar with area).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The GIS system allows quantifiable measurement of habitats and species, and is appropriate.</p>
<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>Romanian University teams assisted by Dr J Akeroyd carried out field May-September 07, 14 scientists for 40 days each. Report December 2007.</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of booklets and leaflets designed, printed and distributed. - Number of presentations delivered at schools - Number of information boards erected. - Number of hits on web-site. 	<p>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>5 presentations to 3 classes – 15 presentations in all.</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 – see part 8 above.</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 and services for sale</p> <p>Web site active by May 2006. We receive regular feedback from website visitors, and contacts through the website. Counter not activated – will do this in 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 (5 x 1 hours classes).</p> <p>26 information boards in place in May 2007.</p> <p>Visits by Orange staff: 5 groups, each of 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>The number of visitors who have purchased goods or services increased from estimated 300-400 in 2006 to 1378 in 2007.</p> <p>5 presentations during the period at the centre.</p> <p>Packaging/ branding/marketing of local products has significantly increased sales: in 2007 ADEPT 14,000 jars sold compared to 6,000 in 2006.</p> <p>Bucharest Market - 5 weekends' sales 10 producers from ADEPT area and 30 from other areas have sold approximately €20,000 worth of cheese, preserves and preserved meats each weekend.</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>UK/Romanian specialists assist meetings to develop and implement sustainable tourism strategy, improved marketing of the area, products and tourism services.</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>42 locals have been trained in guest house management. Guest house occupation statistics are not clear (since many owners take visitors without paperwork) but 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.</p> <p>ADEPT staff taught at a national agri-environment training programme in 12 sites around the country.</p> <p>190 farmers in project area received grassland management grants in 2007: the only ones in Romania. In all cases, original application and subsequent inspection was assisted/attended by ADEPT staff member.</p> <p>After 2 lengthy consultation visits, sustainable tourism proposal for the area was completed by Oxford Brookes in late 2007.</p> <p>ADEPT local manager Cristi Gherghiceanu made presentations at four international Slow Food meetings (Italy Turin, Sicily, France and Poland) in 2007. ADEPT is regarded as one of Slow Foods star new groups, and is held up as an example. At Turin, accompanied by 3 ADEPT are producers.</p> <p>Forestry workshops including inputs from WWF-DCP postponed until May 2008 start.</p> <p>Forest assessment including Non-Timber Forest Products will be carried out – postponed until late 2008 owing to uncertainties about forest ownership and administration.</p>
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Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</p>			
<p>Purpose</p>			
<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>MADR and MMDD continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project</p>
<p>Outputs</p>			
<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 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>I Visitor Centre active. No. of visitors and locals visiting the Information Centre. Number of meetings and presentations held at the centre.</p>	<p>Annual reports on use of Information Centre, number of visits and presentations, effective-ness of visits and presentations</p>	
	<p>LSG active. Management proposals agreed by local and regional stakeholders.</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. Records of meetings with MADR 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>MADR and MMDD continue their active interest in ADEPT as a model project</p>
Activities	Activity milestones (summary project implementation timetable)		Assumptions
<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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Short Glossary:

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	MADR (formerly MAFRD)
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	MMDD (formerly MEWM)
National Sanitary Veterinary & Food Safety Authority	ANSVSA
National Agency for Agricultural Consultancy	ANCA

Checklist for submission

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