

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	621
<b>Project Title</b>	Agricultural Development & Environmental Protection in Transylvania
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Romania
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Grasslands Trust
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Fundatia ADEPT, Universities of Sibiu, Cluj, T. Mures and Oxford Brookes
<b>Report date</b>	31 October 2006
<b>Report No.</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website</b>	www.fundatia-adept.org

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

Nr.	Actions	Due date	Progress	Description of performance to date: November 2006
<b>1</b>	<b>1. Biodiversity assessment and protection.</b>			
1.1	Planning workshop with universities to decide field survey methodology	May 06	Yes: May 06	Carried out May 06, contracts signed June 06
1.2	Romanian University teams assisted by Dr J Akeroyd will carry out field work in summers 2006-8	Dec 06	Completed on schedule	Universities of Babes-Bolyai Cluj, Lucian Blaga Sibiu, Medicine & Pharmacy T. Mures have all carried out field work June-August 2006, Inventories of flora and fauna prepared. Reports were presented at a meeting of all the working groups, in Sibiu in October 2006, on schedule for Natura 2000 deadline. GIS 1:50,000 map of area created and habitats mapped
1.3	Teams complete Standard Data Form by deadline for N2000 registn.	Dec 2006	Progress on schedule	Habitat surveys for Natura 2000 completed by end October and data registered. The teams have finished field work and have completed the Standard Data Form for Natura 2000

<b>2</b>	<b>Education/awareness.</b> 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.			
2.1	Booklets designed and printed and distributed to schools and general public	July 06	Completed Aug 06	<b>85-page booklet</b> published and printed 9 August, 3,000 copies in Romanian and 3,000 in English. Book is on sale / free copies distributed to Town Halls and schools. The text and photographs set a new standard for this kind of book in Romania, and have already attracted a great deal of attention to the project and to the area. Three book launches covered by press in October 2006
2.2	Newsletters printed and distributed to schools and general public	Jan, April, July, Oct 06	Completed on schedule	In May 2006, at the request of the County Environment Agencies, ADEPT printed 5,000 English and Romanian language each of two leaflets about Natura 2000. Their modern design and illustrations make these documents very accessible to the public, and they are regarded as very successful by the Environment Agencies.  Newsletters have been distributed in January, April and July, specifying Natura 2000, training opportunities, grant opportunities under SAPARD 3.3  Monthly community newspaper established in October for free distribution in Saschiz.

2.3	Pilot presentations on environmental issues to schools and village meetings from Sept 06.	Sept 06	Started ahead of schedule, ongoing	In June 2006 ADEPT and invited specialists, including English Nature and Peak District National Park, in cooperation with the county environment agencies, gave presentations to open village audiences in the Town Halls or community centres of 8 of the 9 project area communes: PowerPoint presentations and printed documents on what is Natura 2000, on the effects of Natura 2000 and other conservation/agri-environment projects in the area, and specifically on the agri-environment grants available with ADEPT support.
2.4	Information Centre active	Sept 06	Started ahead of schedule, ongoing	The Tourist Information Centre opened in May 06, 3 months ahead of schedule. The information centre is permanently manned, is selling local products, publications and postcards, and distributing information about the area, where to stay etc.
2.5	Web-site established and operative	March 06	Started ahead of schedule, ongoing	ADEPT has a website, in English and fully translated into Romanian, that offers a great deal of information on the activities of ADEPT in the area, and includes <b>links to other producers/services</b> in area, in order to encourage visitors to stay in available guest house accommodation, buy local food, visit craftsmen, etc. <a href="http://www.fundatia-adept.org">www.fundatia-adept.org</a> .

<b>3</b>	<b>Establish incentives, reduce poverty.</b>			
3.1	The Grasslands Trust technical visits annually 2006-2008.	First visit report by Sept 06	March 06	ADEPT specialists including botanist John Akeroyd, and WWF grassland specialist, gave agri-environment presentations to 60 farmers from 8 villages in the area. This will improve incomes from traditional grassland, including access to SAPARD agri-environment grants for grassland conservation. June 06: Andrew Jones carries out first studies of the grassland management demonstration plot, an abandoned 50 ha hay meadow at Saschiz which will be the site of research and training activities.
3.2	Minutes of LSG meetings, and regularly 2007-2008.	Sept 2006	Delayed until early 2007	The area has been selected as a pilot LEADER + area (Local Action Group). The LEADER process will be used in early 2007 to form Local Steering Group (LSG). A Local Action Group in UK has signed a MoU with the project area LAG offering training visits in community development projects.
3.3	Assistance given to farmers thro' ANCA/ ADEPT Centre for access to rural developmnt schemes	Feb 06	June 06:	ADEPT/ANCA office operating sine June 2006. ADEPT employing 4 people in the office, and purchased 2 PCs, a fax machine and a high specification photocopier, in order to complete SAPARD 3.3 applications. This promoted the take-up of the scheme and therefore continued good management of HNV grasslands. <b>190 farmers</b> have signed agri-environment agreements, covering <b>1,800 ha</b> .
3.4	Agri-environment workshops	Feb06	May 06 – postponed owing to delay in start of SAPARD 3.3	Workshops instructing farmers how to apply for SAPARD 3.3 (EU agri-environment pilot scheme) have been held in 4 communes. Start was postponed owing to delay in SAPARD 3.3 (which was finally accredited by Brussels in May 06, having been scheduled for December 05). Agri-environment workshops will be held as scheduled in Saschiz and other communes in Oct-Dec 06, and in early 2007, as part of the SAPARD 3.3 process.
3.5	Biodiversity-friendly agriculture courses	Feb, March, April 06	Completed on schedule	2 agri-environment modules were given on courses in Sighisoara (covering Sighisoara and Apold communes, 28 farmers) and Albesti (covering Albesti and Vanatori communes, 26 farmers) in February 06, fitting into the agriculture training schedule of the ANCA (state agricultural consultancy agency) courses in the area. In May 2006, 54 farmers in 2 communes received certificates for attending ANCA (state agricultural consultancy agency) agriculture courses that included agri-environment modules delivered by Fundatia ADEPT.
3.6	Info centre active providing ag extension advice.	March 2006	June 06	ADEPT information centre in ANCA office, serving 9 communes, total area 90,000 ha, total population 20,000, total no. of farms 5,000.
3.7	Agri-environment agreements signed with farmers.	Feb, March 06	May-November 06	SAPARD started with a 4 month delay, but activity went ahead successfully. Through ADEPT/ANCA office, <b>190 farmers</b> have signed agri-environment agreements, <b>covering over 1,800 ha</b> . In the rest of Romania, only 1 other farmer has signed up to the scheme.

				The Romanian Ministry of Agriculture regards ADEPT as the model agri-environment project for Romania.
3.8	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.	April 06	February 06	ADEPT has helped in the formation of Saschiz's first food producer group, 20 jam producers who produced jams this year for sale to tourists and local hotels. Feb and Sept 06: ADEPT held a training course in Saschiz led by a Royal Society for the Promotion of Health (RSPH) specialist, training a local group in food hygiene for small producers: course attended by 20 villagers and 6 Romanian Food Hygiene Inspectors from several counties. All took an RSPH exam and have received certificates. Following the training visit, ADEPT have built 9 low-tech, indirect solar driers. These are the first such driers in the region. The driers will improve household storage over the winter as well as providing marketable fruit and vegetable products over a more extended period. These dryers are now in operation in the Saschiz area. In June, the UK specialist provided further training in the use of the solar driers. ANSVSA Director asked that our teaching material be translated into Romanian for national use.
3.9	Ecotourism workshops developing sustainable tourism strategy begin April 2006, assisted by UK specialist.	April 06	Delayed until 2007	Ecotourism training and guest house development on schedule. However, the sustainable tourism strategy requires a longer consultation process, which will build on the agro tourism course findings and be coordinated by Oxford Brookes University. The process will be facilitated under LEADER. The LEADER process will be used in early 2007 to form Local Steering Group (LSG), and a consultation group for the development of the sustainable tourism strategy.
3.10	Ecotourism assessment	July 2006	March 06	March 06: with ADEPT funding, UK 'responsible travel' specialists helped to design an improved rural tourism course. ANCA (the government agricultural advisory service) agreed that the revised course be accredited into the national curriculum.
3.11	Ecotourism courses	Oct 06	June-November 06	The course curriculum was developed in cooperation between ANCA and UK experts from Peak District and Wild Scotland. This was a vast improvement on the existing course, which did not provide the skills to help meet modern agro-tourist expectations. The first rural tourism course was held June-November 2006, in Saschiz. 46 villagers enrolled, 23 attended to the end, of whom all passed the final exam and obtained diplomas. Many will start tourism-related micro-enterprises in 2007. We have been asked to offer the course more widely in 2007, throughout the project area.
3.12	Pilot guest houses active	May 2006	August 06	3 new guesthouses in use in Saschiz as result of training
3.13	Producers visit Slow Food gatherings in Italy	Sept 06	Oct 06	Slow Food representatives visited in July 2005, when they met cheese, meat, honey and jam producers. They selected jam as the best flagship product for the area. In early June 2006, they helped select the best types of jam to promote and the best producers of that jam. In late June 2006, Slow Food President Carlo Petrini visited Romania, held press conferences in Saschiz (articles in local newspapers) and Bucharest (articles in several Bucharest papers). Petrini also met Minister of Agriculture Flutur and various government officials. Seven people attended Turin Slow Food meeting. The Saschiz stall attracted a lot of attention, considerable Italian publicity. Over 1,000 jars of jam, plus ADEPT and Darwin publicity materials including the booklet, were taken to Turin for sale. This event will increase the international profile of the project.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

a. 3 month delay in start of SAPARD agri-environment programme caused delay in that aspect, but in spite of that, excellent results (190 farmers signed up, out of total 191 for whole country).

b. after assessment visits by UK specialists, decided to postpone the consultation process for development of sustainable tourism strategy until 2007, so that it can form part of LEADER + community development process.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:                      no**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:      no**

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No**

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, [stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk](mailto:stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**