

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	EIDPO037
Project Title	Tarnava Mare: securing the future of a Transylvanian HNV landscape
Country(ies)	UK-Romania
UK Organisation	ADEPT Foundation Ltd
Collaborator(s)	University Lucian Blaga Sibiu, University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, The University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Targu Mures, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Regional Environmental Protection Agency, DAPHNE Institute of Applied Ecology (Slovakia), Ecotur NGO Sibiu, Local Action Group Dealurile Tarnavelor, Milvus Group
Project Leader	Nat Page
Report date	31 October 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
Project website	www.fundatia-adept.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

1.1 Further field studies and data analysis by specialists to complete the adaptation and filling of the database (grasslands, forest and aquatic habitats). Field teams have carried this out in summer months.

1.2 Complete database linked to bespoke GIS map: habitat and species data plus notes on condition, easily maintained and accessible to field teams and to all those involved in habitat/species management. Carried out during summer field season. One major step forward has been securing the Land Parcel Information System (LPIS, used in all IACS land area payments) which now allows us to map the area in blocks that are defined in physical, land use and land management terms, and so will create a very relevant database that can be linked directly to management.

2.1.1 Determination of ideal objectives for the area, including the reasoning behind each objective using available data and expertise. Under way as planned.

2.2.1 Design and implement the necessary range of management guidelines. Under way as planned.

2.3 Design, coordinated with MAFRD, regional agri-environmental package for the area. Under way as planned, facilitated by ADEPT being a member of Romania's national Rural Development Monitoring Committee. ADEPT has participated, as the main NGO observer, in the first inspections of Romania's agri-environment scheme, which offers an opportunity to propose regional package.

4.1.1 Workshops with farmers to promote agri-environment measures. 4.1.2 Farm visits to promote agri-environment measures. In 2010 ADEPT advisers have held workshops and farm visits for over 250 farmers; advised 6 grazing associations. As an example of results, in 2010 six times as many farmers entered agri-environment schemes in the area receiving ADEPT advisory services, compared to neighbouring areas not receiving ADEPT advice (average 200 applicants, 2020 ha, per commune in ADEPT area; average 30 per commune, 538 ha, outside ADEPT area).

4.2.1 Technical assistance and training workshops with farmers to add value to products, through branding linked to biodiversity. Promote producer groups and farmers' markets.

ADEPT has been the main organiser of farmers markets in Brasov, Sibiu and Sighisoara during 2010. Each market has attracted several thousand customers, brought increased income to small-scale producers, and created considerable media coverage – national as well as local press and television.

4.3.2 Workshops to promote FSC certification of forests, and to promote community forestry projects that add value to local timber.

ADEPT has made contact with three of the four forest administrations in the area, who are all interested to investigate FSC. Further meeting will take place in early 2011.

5.1.1/2 Regular meetings of management plan working groups, and of community committees, including local stakeholders, organised by ADEPT project implementation unit.

Meetings of the PIU and broader community meetings taking place as planned. In 2010 ADEPT has conducted Local Action Group meetings in 9 communes. The first Local Action Group meetings were attended by about 20 local villagers, and the latest meetings by over 40, showing an increase of interest. ADEPT was also main local organiser of a major international conference on High nature value Grasslands: securing ecosystem services for Europe post 2010: over 120 people attended from 18 countries. Programme and conclusions available.

6.1 Quarterly newsletters for all households (approx 5000) in Tarnava Mare area. Yes. Copies available.

6.3 Design and print keys for HNVF indicator species, posters, brochures for awareness raising, and booklets on the Birds/Flowers/Butterflies of the area in Romanian and English. In September ADEPT published a fine 64-page book on the butterflies of the area, author Prof Laszlo Rakosy. Copies available.

6.4 Dedicated page on ADEPT website for Darwin Initiative. Yes, can be visited at www.fundatia-adept.org/?content=darwin

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.

In May 2010 a commercial logging company, Progresul Silvic SRL, was given administration of the SCI Tarnava Mare and the larger SPA (Podisul Hartibaciului) which overlaps the SCI. This caused considerable confusion and meant that the field work was limited this year as period May-July was spent in negotiations, necessary to protect the future good management of the area and integration of Darwin project with Progresul Silvic aspirations.

However, after negotiation with the Ministry of Environment we have reached a working arrangement with Progresul Silvic SRL. Therefore in July and August we began field work. We now have an effective methodology established (see 1.2 above). Progresul Silvic will rely on ADEPT for grassland management plans and all contacts with farmers.

As a result of the delays caused by these events in the first half of 2010, we wish to propose that this project period be extended by 9 months, until December 2012, without any increase in overall budget. This is to ensure best possible long-term results for the project and its goals. We would like to fund this by carrying over £25,000 from year 1 to year 2, and then dividing year 2 budget in equal halves for years 2 and 3.

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

We have discussed this with LTSI but have not made any formal request yet to extend the project deadline.

Discussed with LTS: yes, in September 2010

Formal change request submitted: no

Received confirmation of change acceptance no

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £25,000

4. 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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**