



Fundatia ADEPT Transilvania

Protecting the rich biodiversity of Transylvania and using it to benefit local communities

Fundatia ADEPT brings together Romanian and wider European expertise to carry out innovative conservation and rural development projects that are firmly rooted in local communities

Southeastern Transylvania is one of Europe's most important natural and cultural landscapes, supporting many rare habitats and fauna and flora species including some of the most significant areas of wildflower-rich grasslands in Europe.

This high nature value farmed landscape is the result of good husbandry over hundreds of years, and the source of income for thousands of small-scale farmers today.

It is threatened by poor rural incomes, abandonment or intensification of land use, and lack of awareness of the value of the area.

Local control, local benefit, local image

Only local people can conserve this unique area successfully.

The survival of the landscape and its rich biodiversity depends on maintaining traditional land management.

ADEPT is carrying out an integrated conservation, rural development and agri-environment programme, linking economic and social benefits with biodiversity conservation, and raising local capacity for good management in the future.





Biodiversity and agri-environment measures

ADEPT has successfully promoted the inclusion of the Sighișoara-Târnava Mare area in Natura 2000, the EU network for species and habitat protection that offers financial incentives for good management.

ADEPT, Romanian Universities and partner NGOs are designing conservation measures for the area, based on species and habitat surveys, which will encourage sustainable development of the local economy.

ADEPT is designing management plans in close cooperation with local councils and community groups. Biodiversity conservation measures will only be practical and effective if designed in close cooperation with local people.

The Târnava Mare area is an important national pilot area for testing EU incentives for good grassland management. ADEPT is helping farmers gain access to these agri-environment grants.

ADEPT works with farmers in order to increase agricultural incomes linked to food quality and traditional management of grasslands, and has established demonstration sites for farmers and visitors.

40% of the area is broadleaf forest. ADEPT, WWF Romania and local forest owners are designing a community forestry scheme to add value to wood and wood products linked to sustainable cropping.

Education and raising awareness

ADEPT organises classes and practical courses for schools on environmental issues and on the link between environment, food and health.

ADEPT has produced an 80-page book on the flora, fauna, history and culture of the area, in English and Romanian.

ADEPT is actively contributing to rural development policy-making in Romania.



Enterprise development – local products

ADEPT delivers courses for small producers so that accession into the EU does not threaten traditional food production.

ADEPT has led the establishment of farmers' markets, where producers sell their own products, which are proving very popular.

ADEPT has designed and built a community food processing centre and low-technology solar driers, and is helping individuals make the step from domestic to small-scale commercial production.

ADEPT has helped form Slow Food groups in the area, bringing together consumers (hotels, restaurants, international buyers) with local farmers and producers.

ADEPT is helping to develop marketable, aged cheeses to add value to cow and sheep milk, the main cash product of the area. Survival of the grasslands depends on continued livestock farming.

Enterprise development – rural tourism

ADEPT is promoting the establishment of the Târnava Mare Tourism Association, and is promoting beneficial links with other such groups in Romania, and with international tour operators.

ADEPT has developed a modern and effective rural tourism training course, to improve guest houses and stimulate associated activities such as walking and riding guides, and production and sale of traditional crafts.

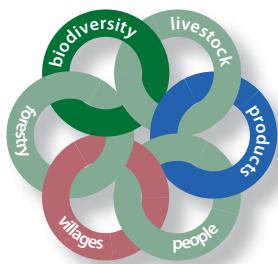
ADEPT is developing long-distance walking routes between the villages of the Târnava Mare area, backed up by good quality maps.

ADEPT has opened a Tourist Information Centre in Saschiz, to put visitors in touch with guest houses and small producers, and to explain the importance of the area to locals and visitors through publications, signs and interpretation panels.



This spectacular landscape of forests and grasslands is dotted with historic Saxon villages and fortified churches, some of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites





An intact rural ecosystem is an unbroken chain linking nature, society and economy. ADEPT identifies critical linkages and strengthens them by providing advice, practical help and access to funding



ADEPT offers a landscape-scale conservation programme under which benefits are retained locally.

Community Development

ADEPT has launched a locally-managed fund to support small community projects, which is stimulating local interest and participation in this integrated programme.

Local communities are aiming to become a pilot area in Romania for the EU's LEADER + programme, a source of funding for community development projects.

Brand Image – pulling it all together

ADEPT is helping local communities develop an effective brand image for the Târnava Mare area, under which local products and services will be immediately recognizable. The brand symbolises the link between nature conservation and community prosperity, and between good environmental practices and high-quality local products, in the minds of local people and consumers.

Funding

ADEPT is supported by Orange Romania, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, by the UK Government (DEFRA) Darwin Initiative, and by other charities.

ADEPT has received several awards in Romania for best practice in Corporate Social Responsibility.

Donations to Fundatia ADEPT can be made by post, at the Tourist Information Centre, or by contacting Fundatia ADEPT to arrange bank transfer or credit card payments.

Romania Charity Reg. nr. 17034237

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For further information visit our website at www.fundatia-adept.org



ADEPT Tourist Information Centre

Str. Principala nr. 166, Saschiz, Mures
547510 Romania

Tel: +40 (0)265 711 635

Mob: +40 (0)748 2000 88

Fax: +40 (0)365 814 076

Email: info@fundatia-adept.org

