How will Natura 2000 designation affect those who live in the Sighișoara-Târnava Mare area?

Natura 2000 recognises that local people's interests must be protected

Obligations

Natura 2000 designation places certain obligations on local people. Economic activities can continue in the area, but activities must be avoided that could seriously disturb the species or habitats for which the site has been designated.

Opportunities

Natura 2000 designation offers considerable development opportunities. The 'brand image' of a Natura 2000 site is very attractive, providing opportunities to develop better markets for local products and services, as well as access to EU funding.

The ADEPT Foundation is offering training and assistance to people within the Sighisoara-Târnava Mare Natura 2000 area. See right ▶

1 Agriculture and food marketing

Training in agri-environment measures and assisting access to funding available (such as SAPARD 3.3) to help farmers meet Natura 200 requirements.

Training in high-quality small-scale food processing, adding value to local products.

Training in product development. 'branding' and marketing, so that farmers and other producers obtain good markets and premium prices.

2 Forestry

Assisting access to funding to support nature-friendly forestry practices within Natura 2000 areas, such as forest certification.

3 Tourism/Recreation

Training in agro-tourism and related activities. As a Natura 2000 site, the area will attract many more eco-tourists.

Local involvement in the management of Natura 2000 sites

As part of the Natura 2000 process, consultations will be held with all interested parties in the area, so that practical and effective management solutions are found which are acceptable to local people. This process will lead to a development strategy for each commune.

If you would like to take part in this consultation process, please contact your Town Hall or the ADEPT Foundation.

For more information on Natura 2000, contact the following **Environment Protection Agencies:**

- Mureş, Târgu Mureş, Str. Podeni, nr. 10 Tel. 0265-314987; Fax: 0265-314985 email: apmms@apmms.ro site: www.apmms.ro
- Sibiu, Sibiu, Str. Hipodromului, nr. 2A Tel. 0269-422653; Fax: 0269-446758 email: office@apmsibiu.ro
- Brasov, Brasov, Str. Politehnicii, nr. 3 Tel. 0268-419013; Fax: 0268-417292 email: apm@apmbrasov.ro Or visit website: www.natura2000.ro

Contact ADEPT Foundation on Tel.: 0748 2000 88; e-mail: info@adeptfoundation.org or visit the ADEPT website at www.adeptfoundation.org





Photograph Mihai Cazan







The Natura 2000 Network is the European Union's main instrument for nature conservation. It is a network of designated sites across the EU, where vulnerable plant and animal species and important habitats must be protected. Natura 2000's aim is to safeguard Europe's biodiversity and to promote biodiversity-friendly economic activities.

The importance of the Sighisoara-Târnava Mare area

The Sighisoara-Târnava Mare area is a cultural and ecological landscape without parallel in Europe. The EU gives very high importance to the area's forests and grasslands rich in wild plant and animal species, the result of hundreds of years of traditional management.

The site has been proposed by Mures Environmental Protection Agency, on the basis of scientific studies carried out by specialists from Romanian

Universities, the Grasslands Trust (UK) and the ADEPT Foundation.

Selection as a Natura 2000 site is recognition of the area's importance at a European level - a source of pride for local people, it also offers considerable economic opportunities.

The site consists of about 90,000 ha. including the following Communes:

- · Saschiz, Danes, Apold, parts of Vânători, Albesti, Sighisoara municipality (Mureş County)
- Buneşti (Braşov County)
- Laslea, Biertan, parts of Hoghilag, Brădeni, Iacobeni (Sibiu County)

The ADEPT Foundation is working with local communities in the area in order to help fulfill Natura 2000 obligations, and to help gain access to special funding and other economic opportunities available as a result of Natura 2000 designation.

