

June 2014 Newsletter

Fur seal off Tristan da Cunha
Credit S Scott



In this issue



A word from Defra



A word from the Chair



Overseas Territories project news



Darwin Project news

The Darwin Initiative supports developing countries to conserve biodiversity and reduce poverty. The Darwin Initiative (funded by DEFRA, DFID and FCO), provides grants for projects working in developing countries and UK Overseas Territories (OTs).

Projects support:

- *the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*
- *the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS)*
- *the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)*
- *the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)*

darwininitiative.org.uk



@Darwin_Defra



Facebook page



LinkedIn Alumni page


Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Konis Santana National Park: Irasequiro
River leaving Lake Iralalaro Credit C Trainor

Darwin Project News





Romanian village in the Transylvanian project site.
Credit BgZ Gibbons

Award-winning Transylvanian project bringing multiple benefits

Under Darwin funding from 2005-2012, Fundatia ADEPT Transylvania's work has led to the designation of a large lowland farmed area of Romania as a Natura 2000 site. ADEPT has worked within the site to conserve biodiversity and to bring benefits to the farming communities. Our approach to management of the area is based on supporting continued current farming practices that are threatened by their low economic viability. Abandonment or intensification will destroy the habitats, therefore socio-economic benefits are not ancillary to good management of this site: they are the main means of its protection.

On 21 May the result of the first year of the EU's Natura 2000 awards were announced. A Darwin-funded project in Târnava Mare won the Socio-Economic Benefits Award, with 'an impressive example of Natura 2000 providing economic growth and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. The project enables farmers to make a better living by working sustainably on high nature value land, while also preserving a unique landscape with rich biodiversity. Thanks to the project, 2300 farming families in the region generate income of more than €2.5 million annually, and similar ideas are now being applied in other parts of Romania'.

ADEPT Director Nat Page says that "*this was only*

possible because of the imaginative, sympathetic and flexible funding from Darwin Initiative, which saw the potential of the project and allowed adaptive management during the project".

The Sighisoara-Tarnava Mare SCI Natura 2000 site, in Southeast Transylvania, Romania, was established in 2009 as part of a Darwin Initiative project. Darwin Initiative has supported Fundatia ADEPT, an Anglo-Romanian NGO, from 2005-2012, during which time ADEPT gathered the data necessary for the Natura 2000 designation, and carried out a range of conservation and community support activities within the site.

The project increased socio-economic benefits by:

- Agri-environment payments: Romania's only pilot project for the HNV grassland agri-environment measure in was in the SCI. This led to simplified application and effective management criteria for the grassland habitats. The direct result of the SCI advisory services is an additional €2m of income, for 2,300 farmers.
- ADEPT introduced innovative mowing machines to the area which make the mowing of slopes more practical and economic.
- As a result of milk hygiene training and improved

equipment delivered by the SCI advisory team, the price per litre of milk received by producers in the SCI is 25% higher than neighbouring areas, giving additional income of €350,000 per year to over 200 dairy farmers in the area. It has also halted the decline of cow numbers, which was a threat to traditional grassland management especially haymeadows. From a conservation point of view, every cow means one hectare of dry grassland maintained by mowing.

- Marketing including creation of farmers' markets has added value to products specifically linked to consumer perception of the natural landscape. At the markets, 40 producers are now earning over €75,000 per year from Târnavă Mare branded products (up from €2,500 in 2008).
- ADEPT also developed a system of walking trails and mountain bike trails in the area, and has brought 3,000 more visitors to stay in the area, in 2012, compared with 2011 before the trail was completed. This brings €120,000 to the area per year, divided among the 30-40 guest houses who are in the network.
- ADEPT has also carried out schools classes in 8

schools, 250 children per year. We used indicator species brochures developed under the Darwin project for teaching in schools, and to enable schools monitoring projects.

- Finally, local pride has developed which underpins the above benefits and makes them more sustainable.

This project is innovative because its activities integrate a wide range of solutions, delivered by a single dedicated team. ADEPT directly carries out some classic habitat restoration activities, but its main work is with farmers and communities, improving incomes linked to the high-nature characteristics of their area.

For more information [click here](#) or contact Nat Page nat@fundatia-adept.org

