

Fundația ADEPT Transilvania

Protecting Transylvania's unique high-biodiversity landscapes
working with the small-scale farming communities that manage them



History of ADEPT

Established as a Romanian and UK charity in 2004.

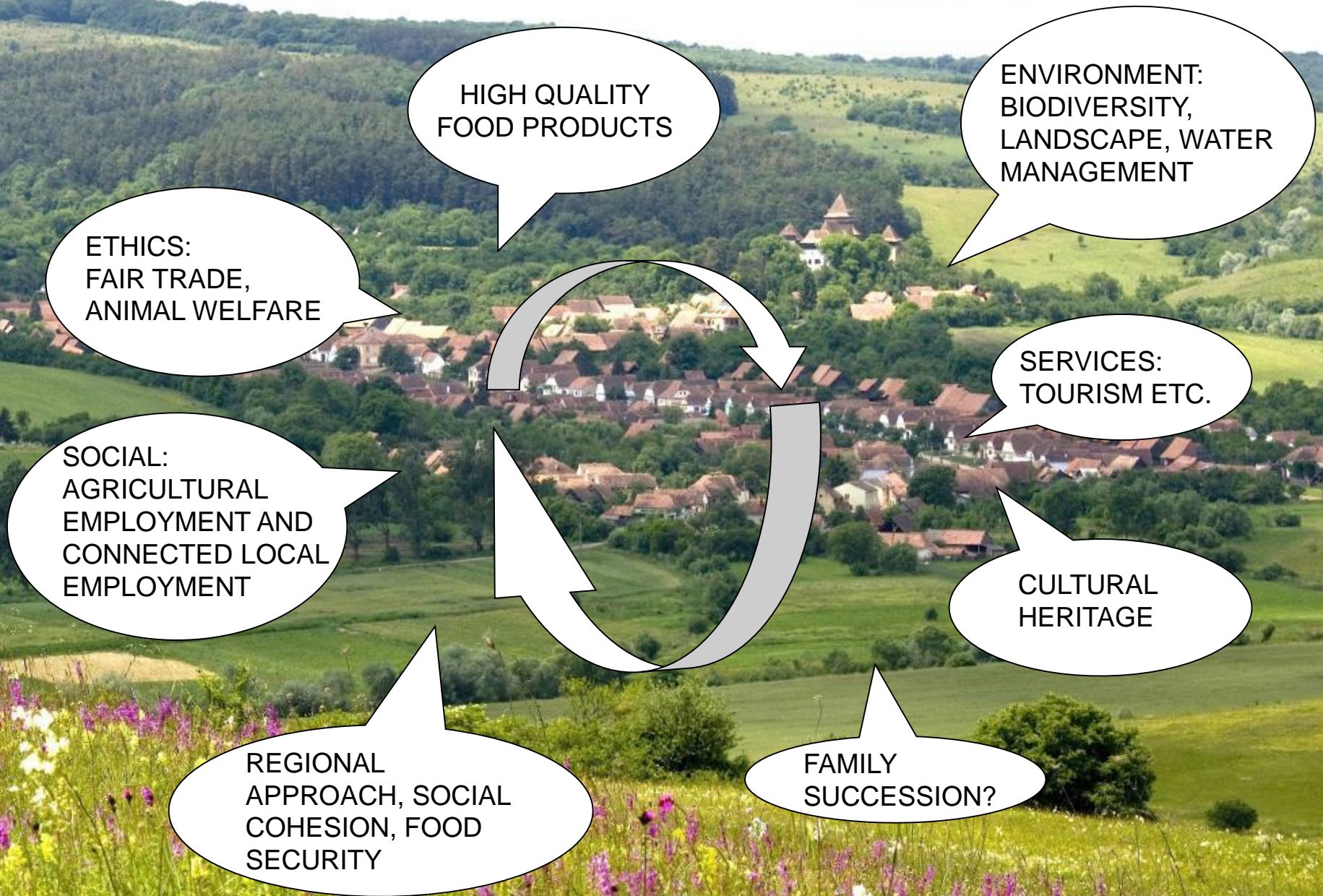
Objective: support and preservation of the High Nature Value cultural landscapes of Romania, and of the small-scale farming communities that have created them in the past and maintain them today.

Such nature-rich farmed landscapes are unique in Europe. We base our activities on recognition that nature conservation and local prosperity go hand-in-hand.

Activities:

- Biodiversity inventories especially in grasslands
- Understanding the link between biodiversity and management
- Designing and implementing EU and national support for these important landscapes and farming systems
- Helping farming communities gain access to EU support
- Helping farming communities gain access to markets for their products and services (food products, tourism services, and wider ecosystem services).
- Training farmers, farmer associations, producer groups and tourist associations for improved long term income.

Protecting all aspects of multi-functional landscapes



Achievements

EU level

- Member of the DG Agri Advisory Group on Quality of Agricultural Production
- Policy advocacy in Brussels for better-designed support for small-scale farming, short food chains, and High Nature Value landscapes
- Top EU award for innovative information systems for farmers, 2012 and 2013. Top EU award from DG Environment for best project for bringing local benefits to communities within a protected area, 2014.

National level:

- Member of National Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee.
- Active member of national working groups within on agri-environment, Agricultural Chambers, Association and Cooperation, Family Farming, Innovation.
- Work with the MADR to design and implement agri-environment support measures in a wide area of Romania.
- Created farmers markets in 4 Romanian cities, increasing consumer appreciation of local food quality
- Organised national conferences on local food production, short food chains, and marketing, for Romanian small-scale producers.

Local level:

- Working closely with Town Halls, community groups, farmer associations
- Regular farm meetings and workshops carrying out farm advisory services role
- school classes in nature conservation.

Biodiversity monitoring, restoration and conservation

LIFE TransilvaCooperation: Demonstrating cooperative approach for good management of Natura 2000 grasslands at landscape scale

Funded by: EU LIFE Programme.
2020-2023. €596,275



ADEPT working with farming communities in two valleys (Angofa, Mureş and Viscri, Braşov) to demonstrate how cooperative management and co-designed local management plans can:

- Improve conservation of EU protected grassland habitats and species, especially wildflower-rich haymeadows
- Raise farmer incomes, an additional incentive to continued traditional farming.



Biodiversity monitoring, restoration and conservation

Pilot on-farm projects to test results-based payment schemes for enhancement of biodiversity

Funded by: EU DG Environment
2015-2019. €415,000



MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII
ȘI DEZVOLTĂRII RURALE

Project to develop and test the use of results-based agri-environment schemes to maintain the broad range of species and habitats in two regions of High Nature Value farmed landscapes (Târnava Mare, Mureș and Pogány Havas, Harghita).

Activities:

- monitoring of biological indicators
- 73 farmers received total €40,000/year for 3 years for good management
- Grant scheme designed and submitted to the Romanian Government for future implementation



Adding value to high quality food linked to high-biodiversity landscapes

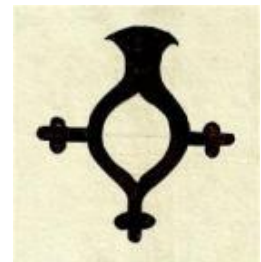
Viscri cheese production centre
Funded by: Carrefour Foundation
Supported by Rurality
2020-2022. €250,000.



Design and build a local cheese value chain
Viscri, including a cheese processing plant.

This will give added value to the milk produced
by cows fed on wildflower-rich pastures managed
by family farmers in the region.

- 55 farmers supported
- Higher income for dairy farming
- Distinctive local product developed with added value linked to high biodiversity grasslands.



Developing farmer associations and box schemes in Mureș and Sibiu Counties

Cooperation and association in Dealurile Târnavelor Local Action Group and Podișul Mediașului Local Action Group

Funded by: Agenția p. Finanțarea Investițiilor 2018-2020. €100,000



MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII
ȘI DEZVOLTĂRII RURALE

Promoting associations in two Local Action Groups in order to cooperate in marketing of products

- 80 small producers in 8 villages in Mureș: Vânători, Albești, Apold, Nadeș, Daneș, Laslea and Biertan.
- 15 producers in 5 villages in Mediaș
- Increase of local income in the two areas, high biodiversity landscapes
- Cooperation increased at community level.



