Revising the JRC/EEA EU-level HNV Farmland methodology

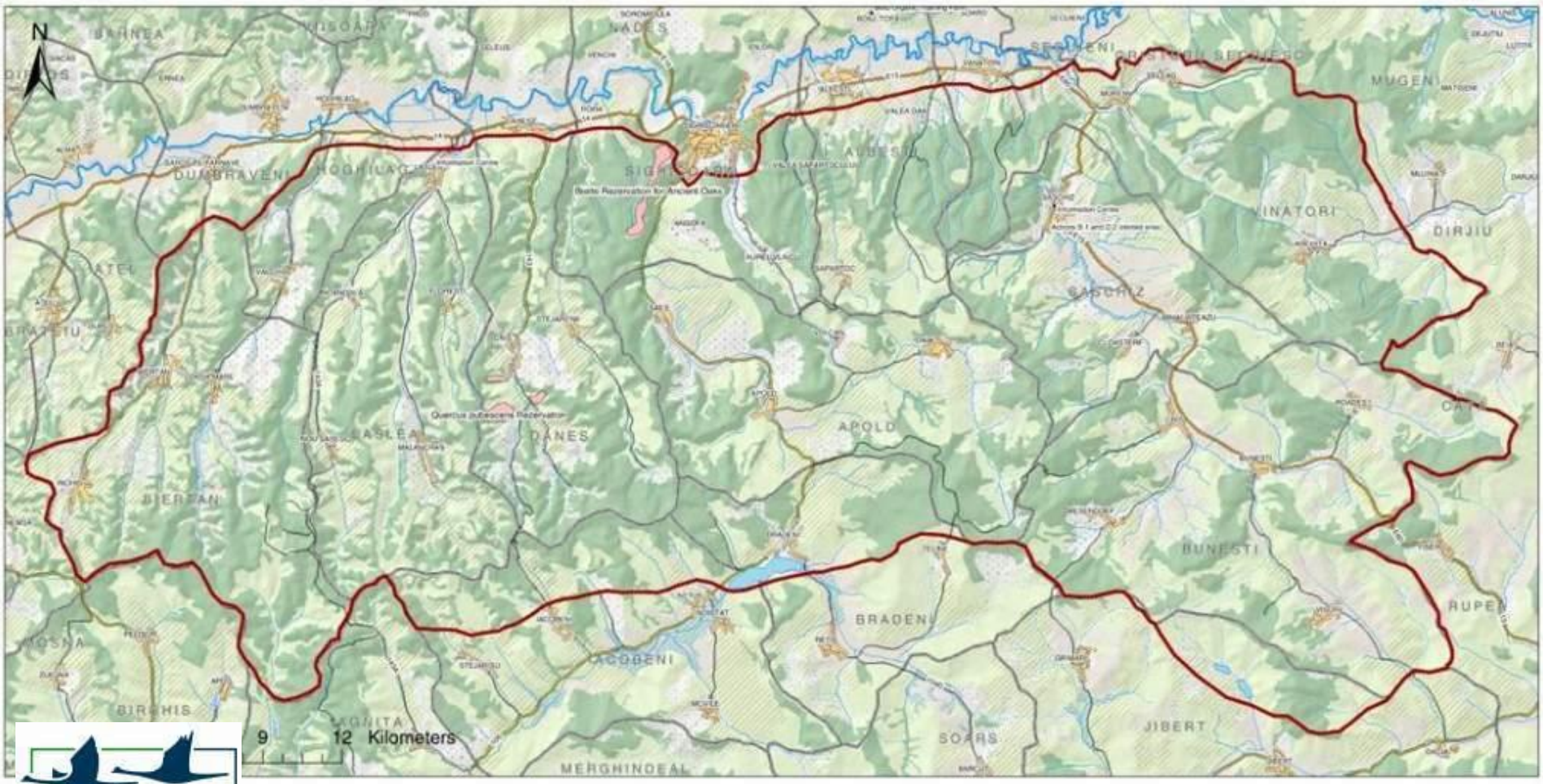
Expert workshop to review potential improvements of the JRC/EEA HNV farmland methodology

Răzvan Popa, ADEPT Foundation
Cristi Maloș Babeș-Bolyai University

12 june 2017, Viena

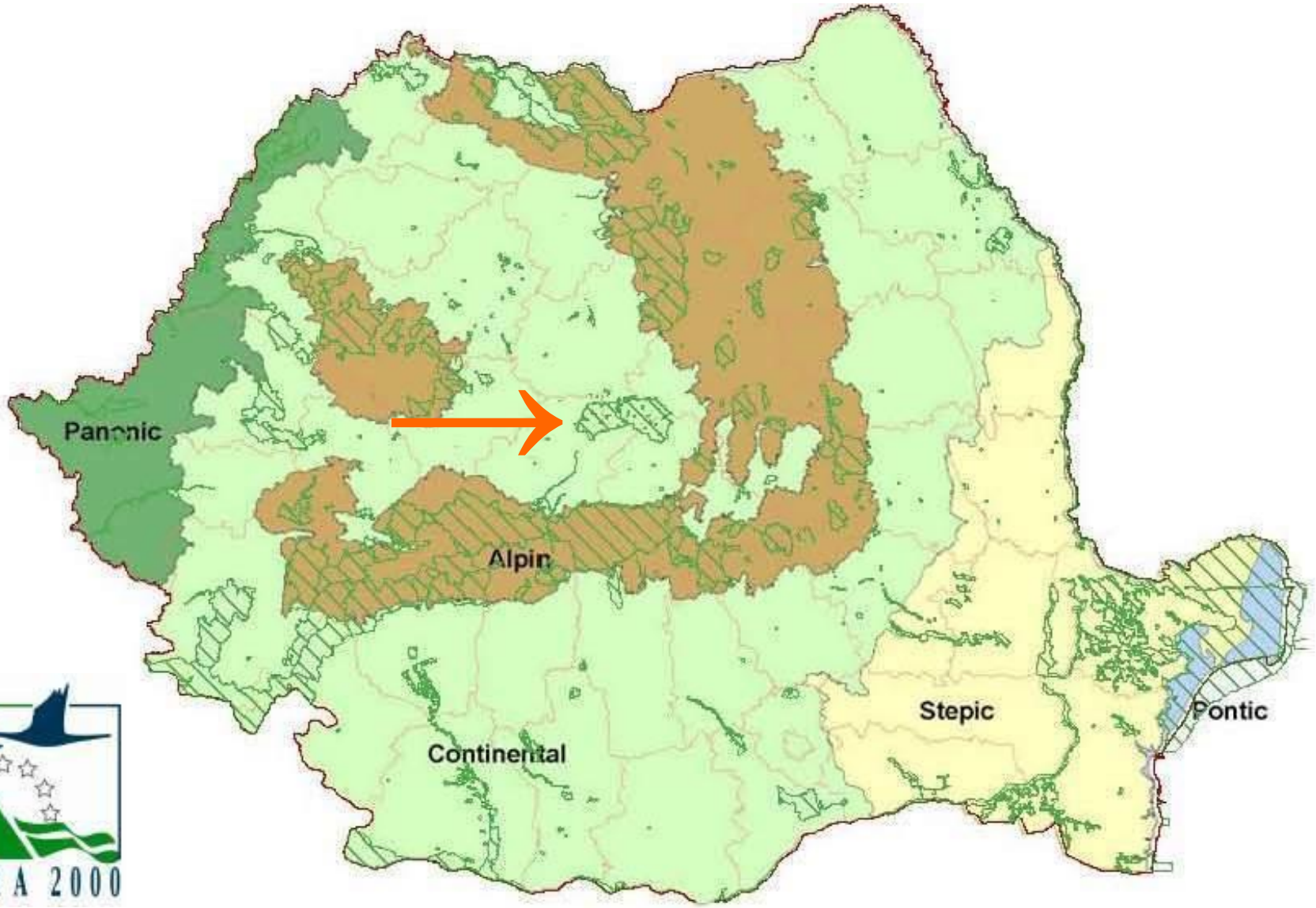
FUNDATIA ADEPT

Târnava-Mare, a lowland area of high biodiversity, 85.000ha farmed by 5000 families in small-scale farming communities

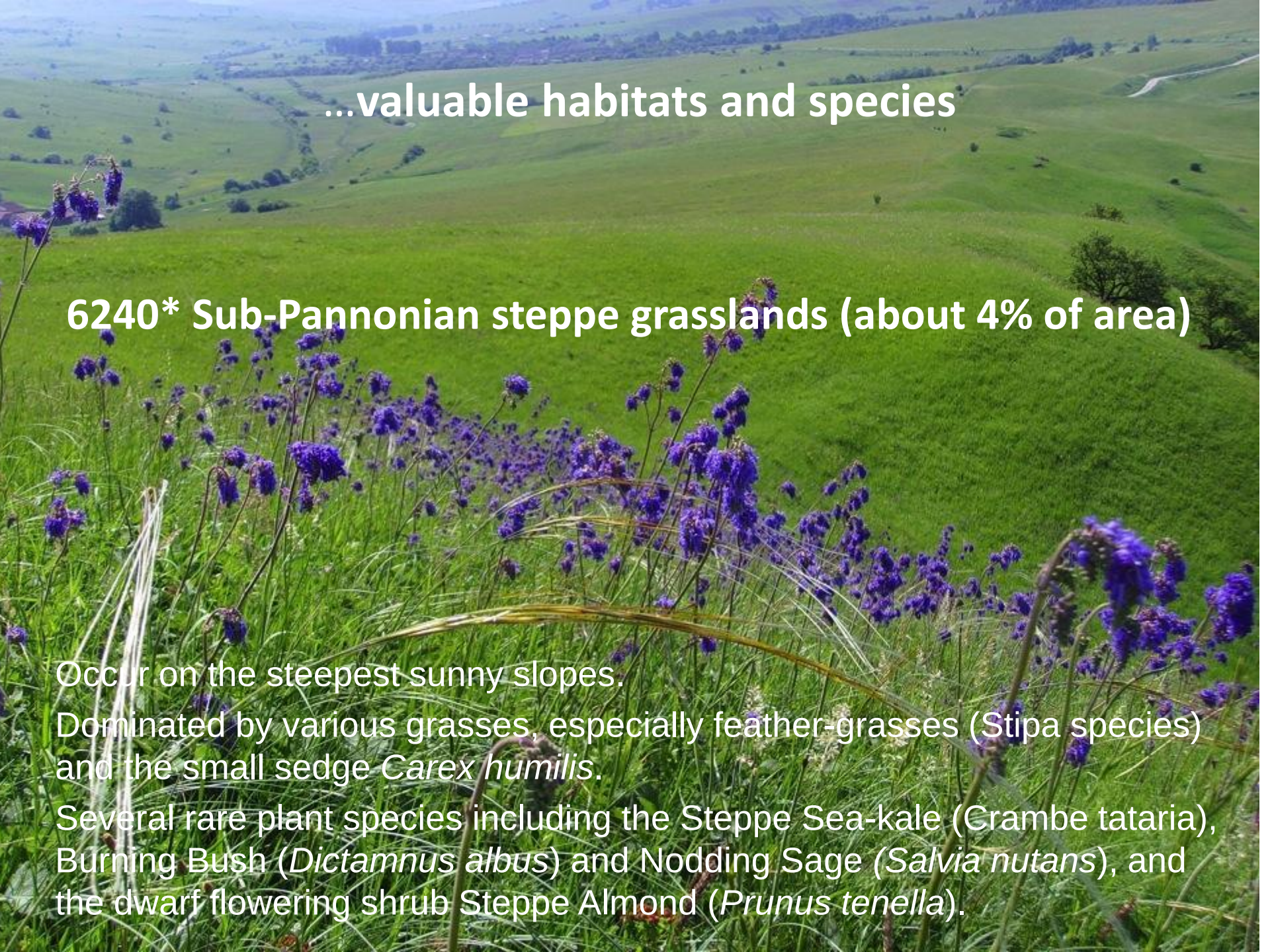


NATURA 2000

…. one of Romania's largest farmland SCI/Natura 2000 sites



NATURA 2000



…valuable habitats and species

6240* Sub-Pannonian steppe grasslands (about 4% of area)

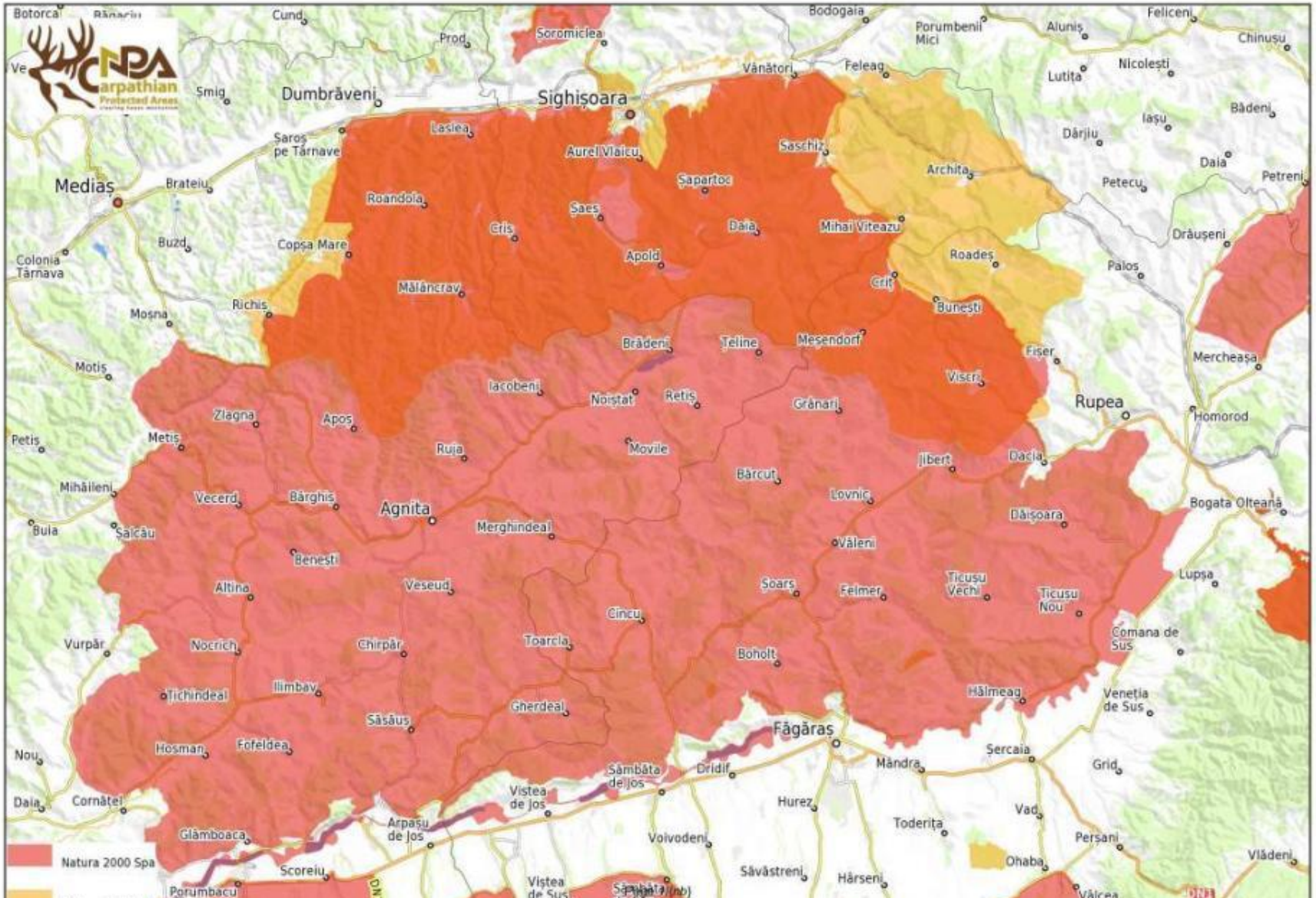
Occur on the steepest sunny slopes.

Dominated by various grasses, especially feather-grasses (Stipa species) and the small sedge *Carex humilis*.

Several rare plant species including the Steppe Sea-kale (Crambe tataria), Burning Bush (*Dictamnus albus*) and Nodding Sage *(Salvia nutans*), and the dwarf flowering shrub Steppe Almond (*Prunus tenella*).

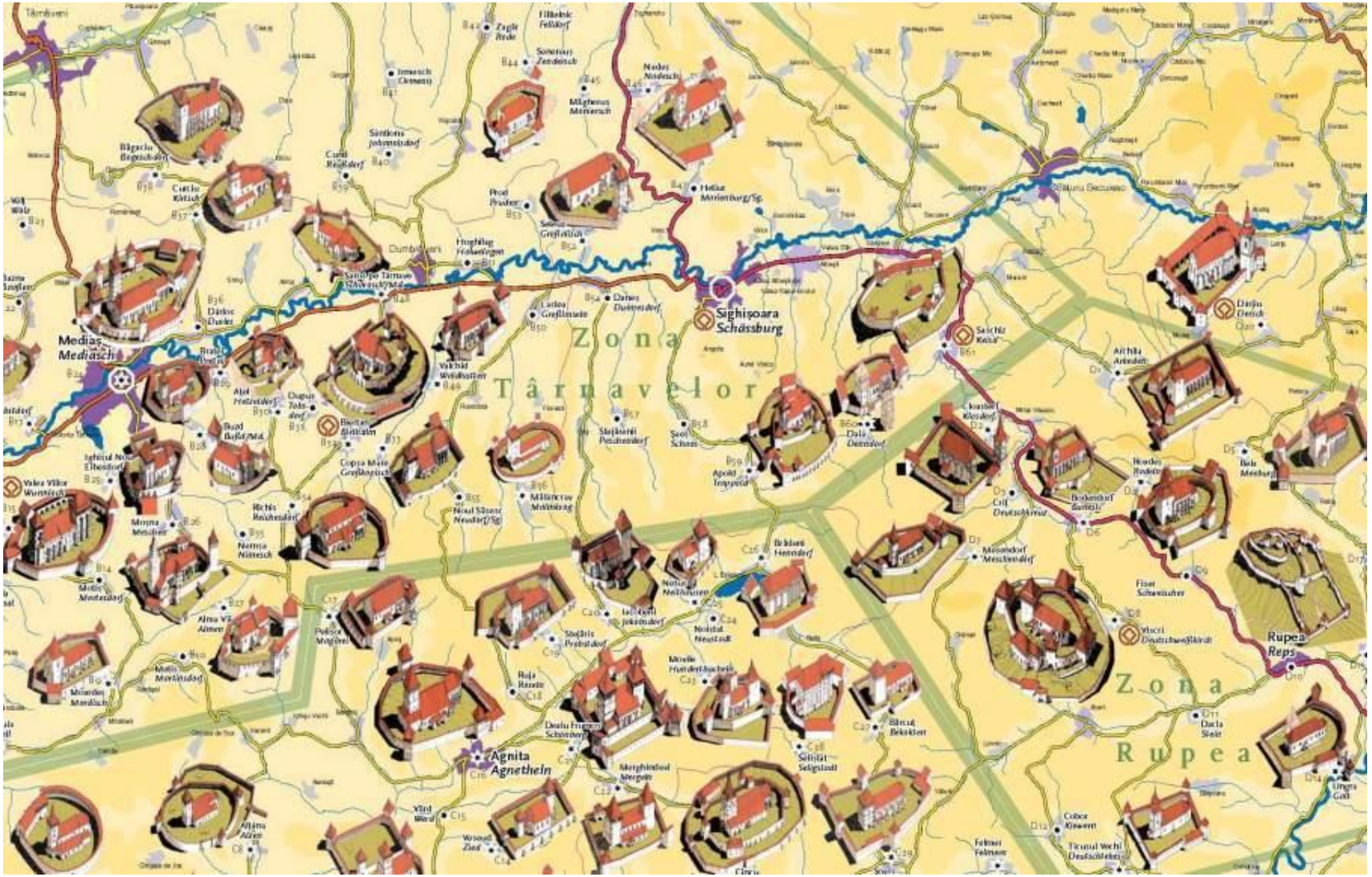
…with associated wildlife of European importance

ADEPT does wider work in grassland management and relationships with farmers in 250.000ha area,
44 communes, 240 villages, over 200.000 people

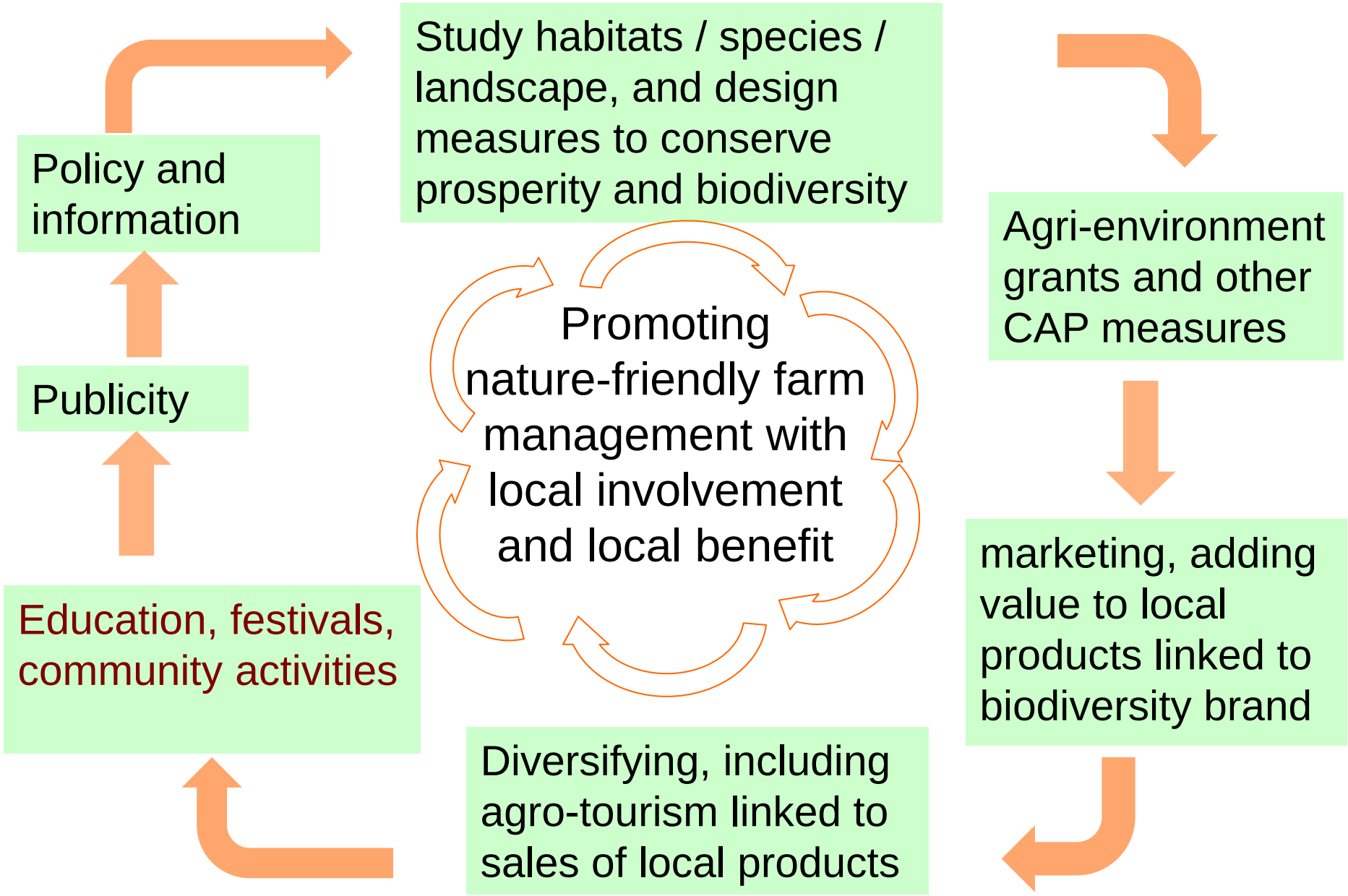


This is a cultural landscape also.

Villages, land management and nature have maintained their balance



How can we give a future to these landscapes and their communities?



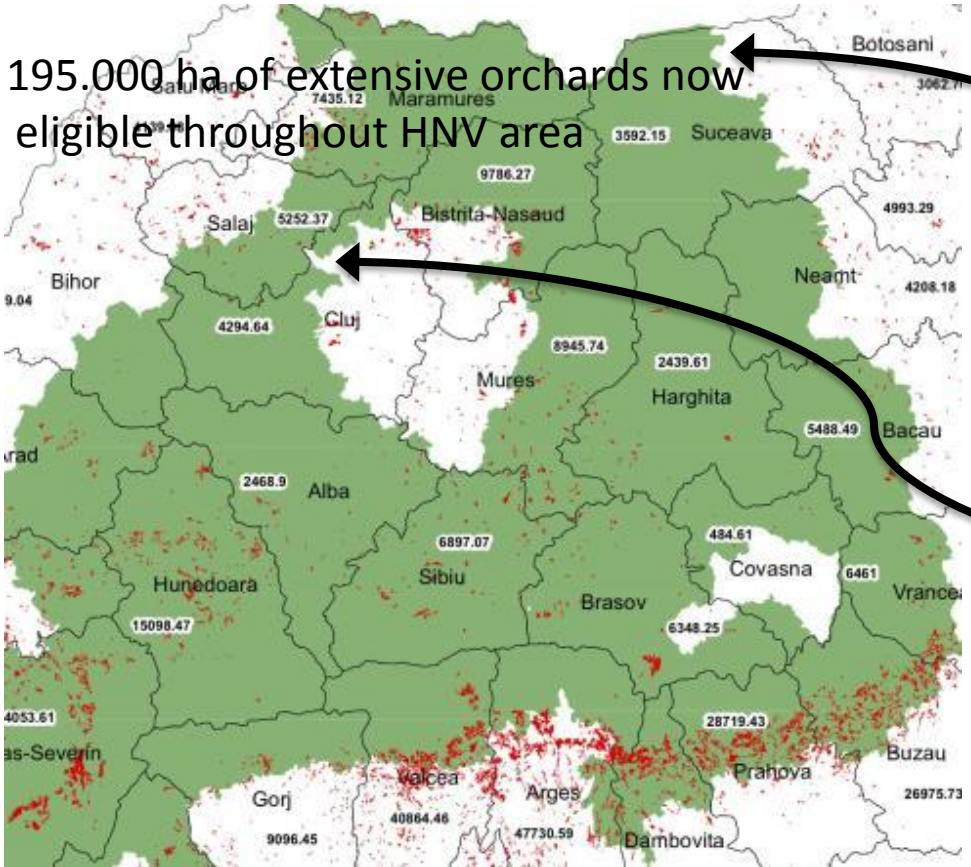
1. Policy development

Developing new agri-environment payments for small-scale farmers at national level

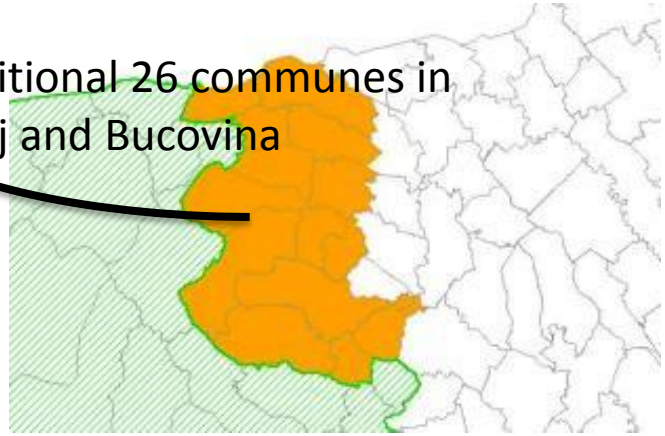
Working directly with the Ministry of Agriculture, we have successfully proposed new agri-environment measures effective from 2012.

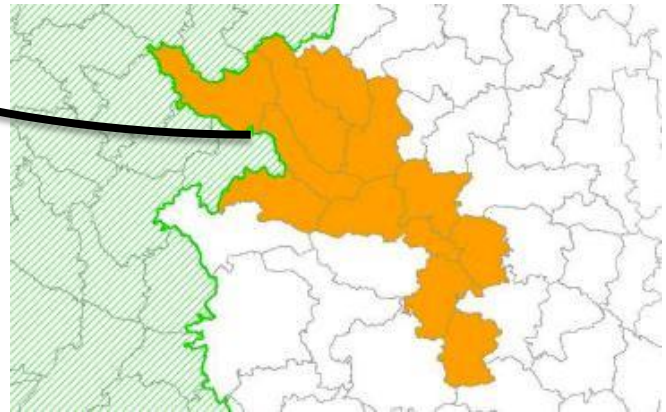
Impact: additional payments for HNV farmers (assuming 30% uptake):

- 195.000 ha of extensive orchards now eligible throughout HNV area

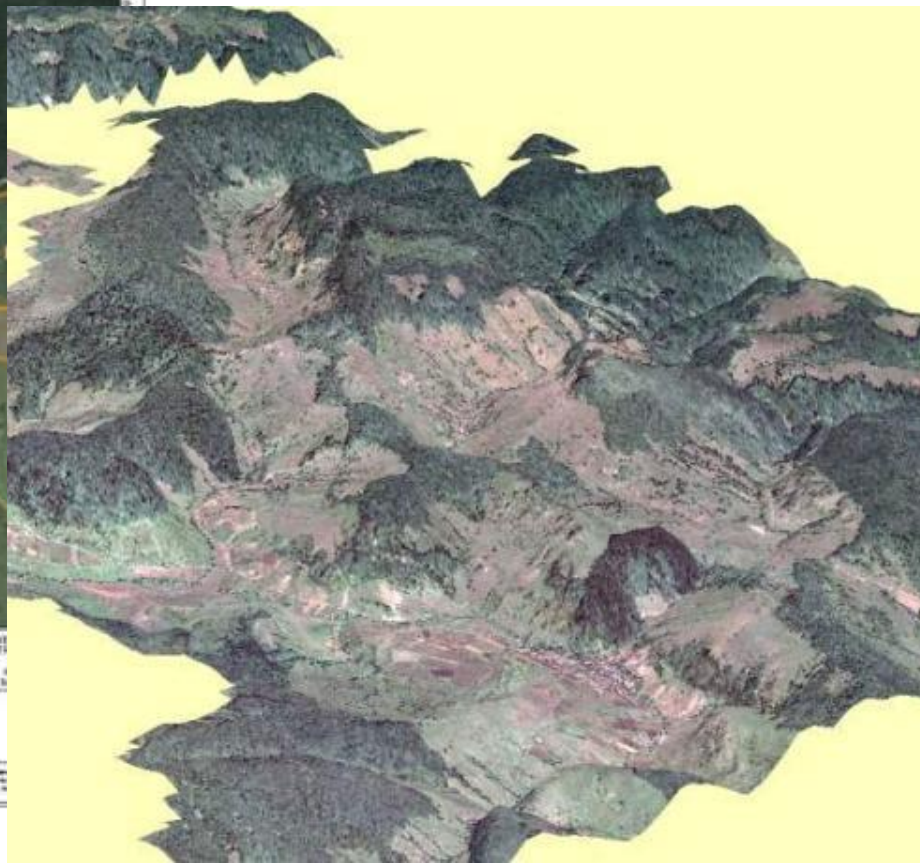


- Additional 26 communes in Cluj and Bucovina

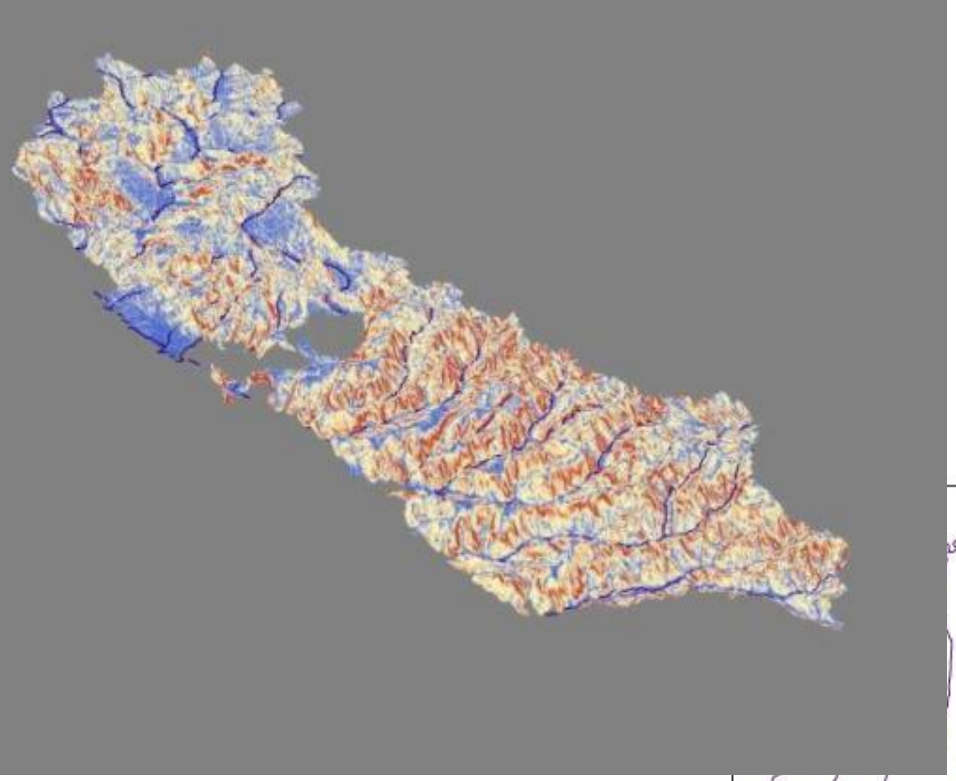




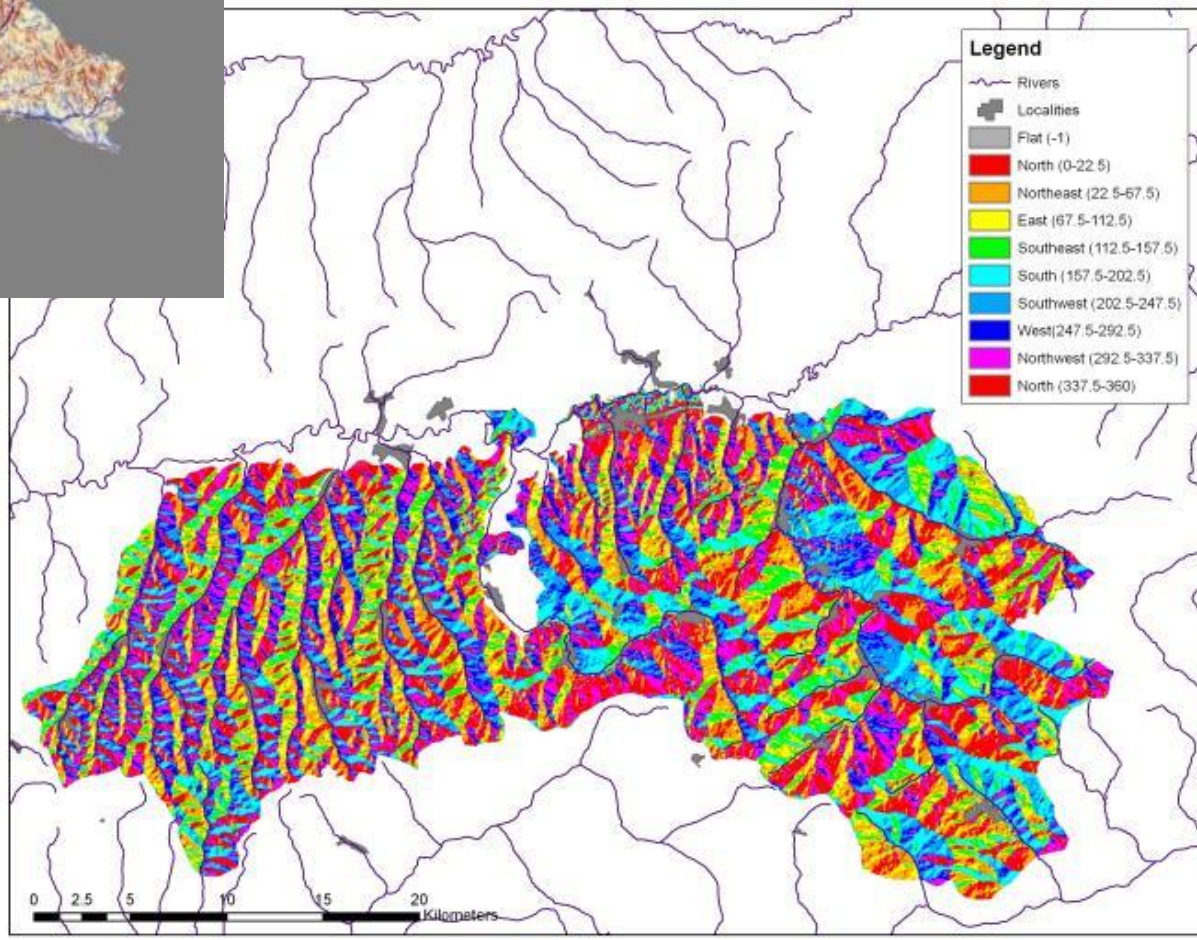
2. Field assessments of habitats 6210* and 6240*
- innovation trough scientific studies -



Mapping and assessment methodology developed.
Sources of mapping data identified, at different scales, including orthophotoplans and 3D mapping.



Maps prepared using contours of 30m and 5 m to assist location of target habitats based on aspect, inclination.

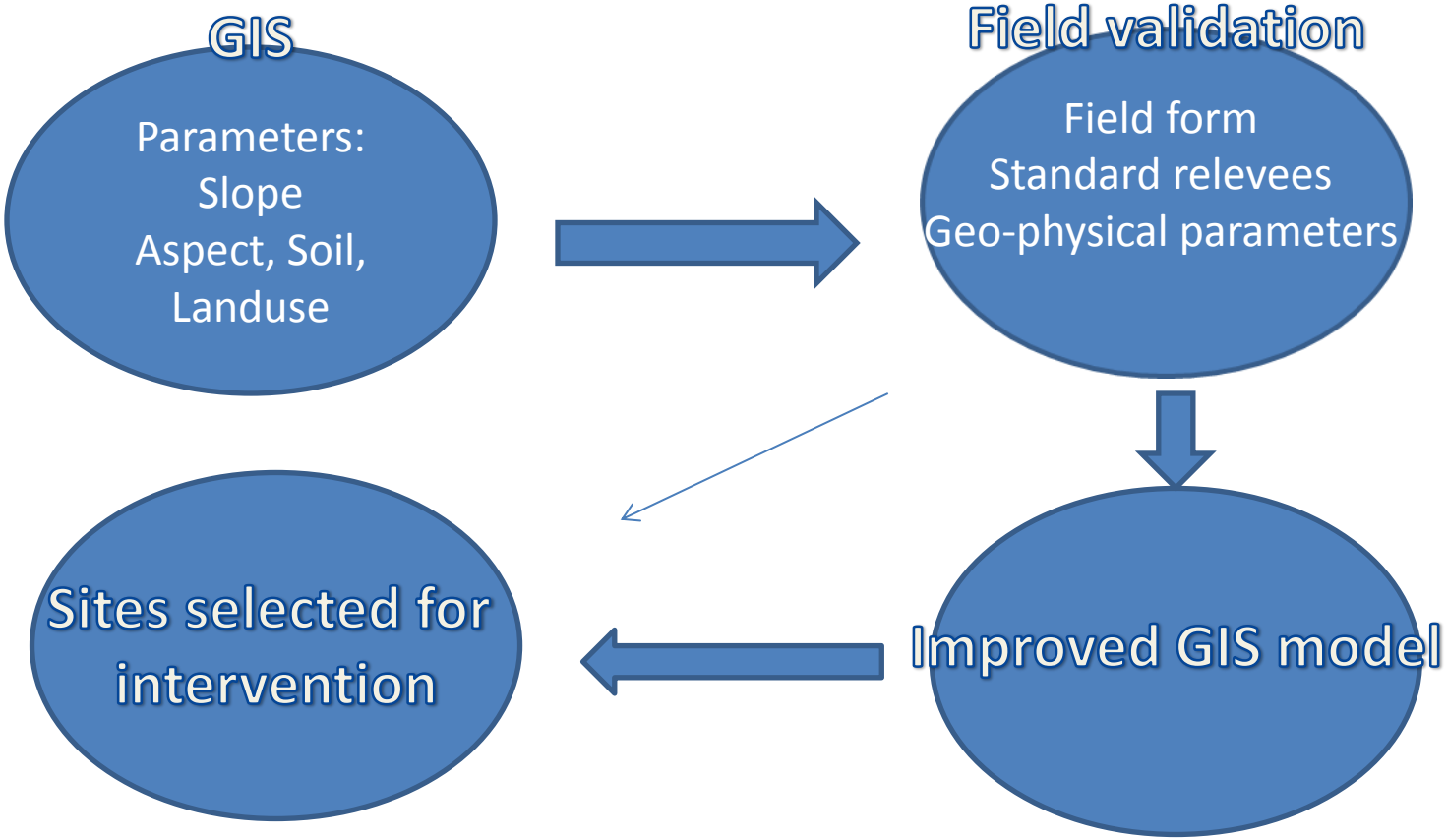


Detailed GIS mapping identified 5979 surfaces with correct aspect / inclination as potential target habitats. 5895 ha. Field testing shows 90% accurate

STIPPA –
Project methodology

GOAL: to improve the conservation status of two priority dry grassland habitats (**6210* and 6240***)

- Identification of target areas by GIS analysis
- Field mapping for validation
- Improvement of the GIS model
- Test sites for intervention

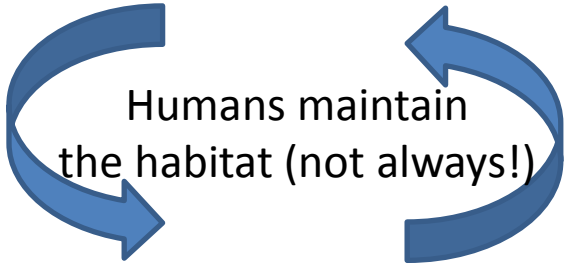


STIPPA active measures

- Both habitats are considered to be semi-natural bot sometimes they can be natural (higher declivity, southern slopes), resulting in a difficult identification trough automatic processing (mix of physico-geographical parameters)
- Might be to specific for general HNV identification

Before

After



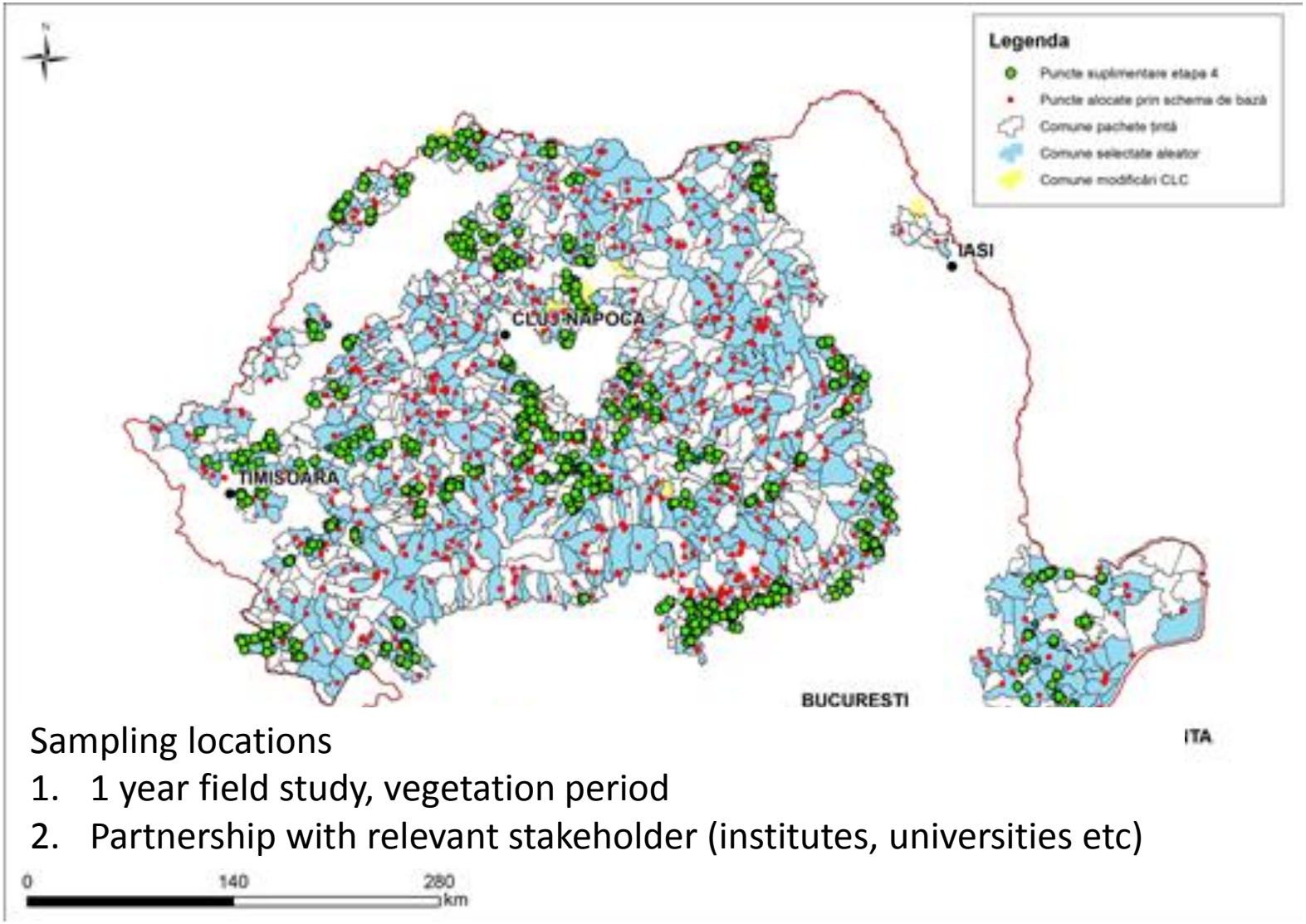
3. National approach, monitoring national policy trough scientific assessment

Conservation status of grasslands in Romania - methodology

GOAL: To assess the current conservation status of grasslands in Romania; M10/NRDP

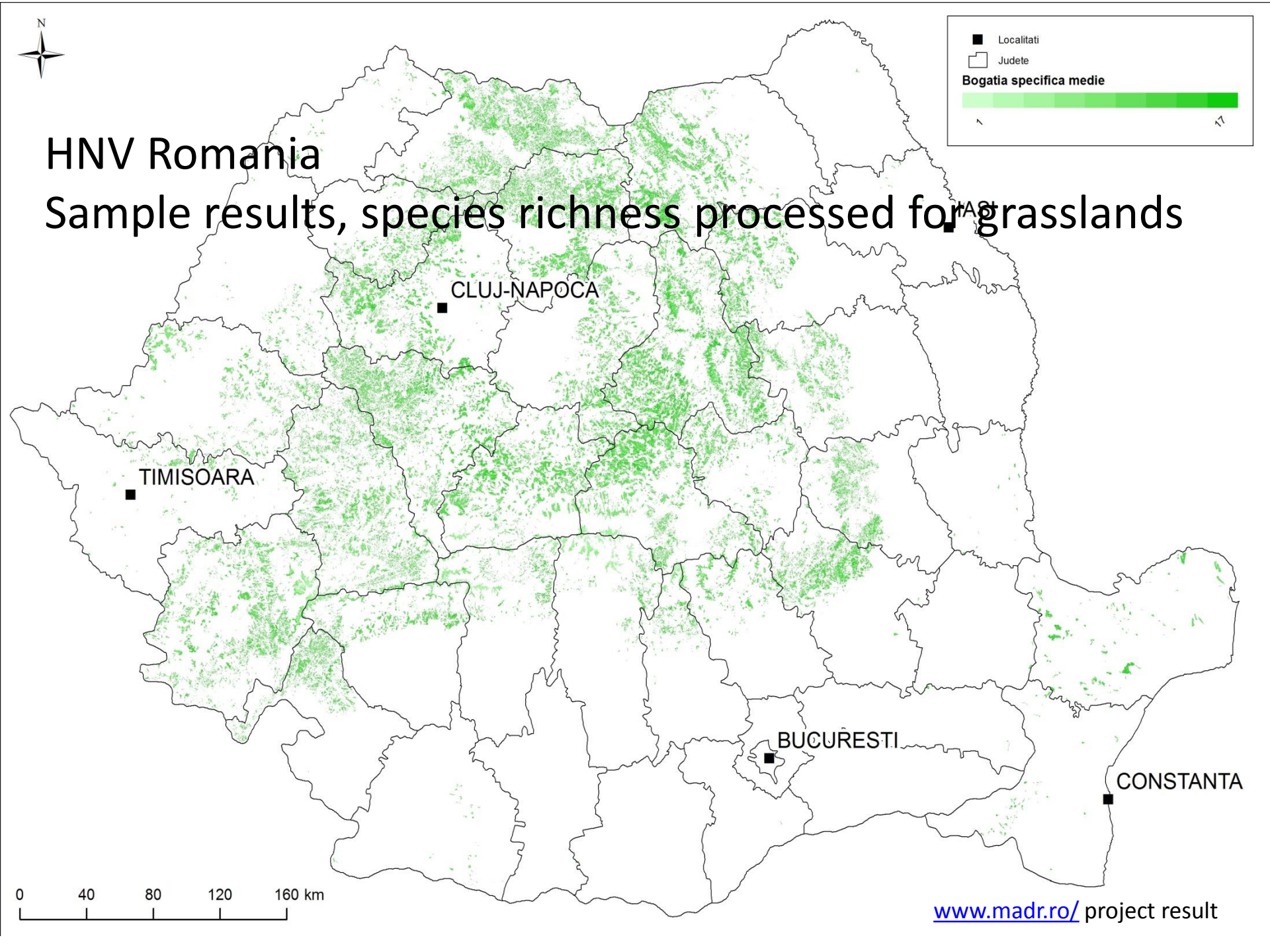
- Automatic part just sampling design not modelling
    - Random sampling in grasslands but with parameters (altitude, slope….)
    - 600 points to be assessed by biologists
- Field mapping of management and conservation indicators
- Spatial statistics in R for data analysis
- ..for the eligible HNV area (grasslands)

Conservation status of grasslands in Romania



Sampling locations

1. 1 year field study, vegetation period
2. Partnership with relevant stakeholder (institutes, universities etc)



www.madr.ro/ project result

Comparison between the two projects

STIPA

- More GIS
- Specific target – 2 habitats
- Includes direct measures (intervention) and asses this intervention

Grasslands

- Less GIS but more R-statistical processing
- Targeted all grasslands
- No intervention as it was a project covering the entire country

Fundatia ADEPT seeks to promote links between biodiversity conservation, continued traditional land management, and local incomes on scientific basis



Thank you!
www.fundatia-adept.org

FUNDATIA ADEPT