

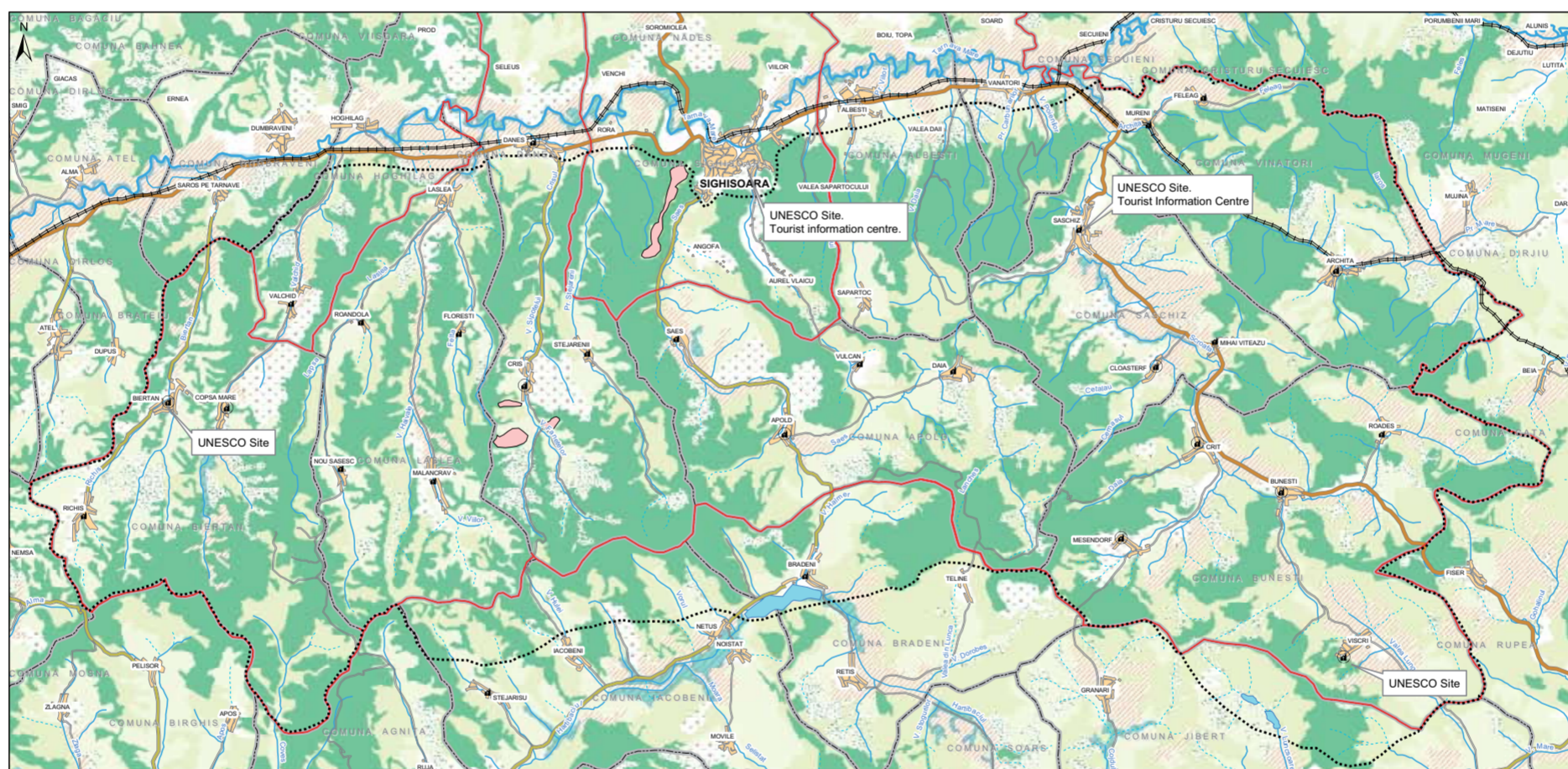
# Târnava Mare - Saving one of Europe's last great landscapes



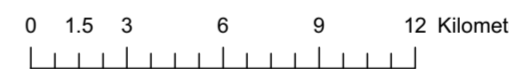
**Tarnava Mare, is one of the most important natural and cultural landscapes in Europe.**

Tarnava Mare has some of the most extensive flower-rich grasslands remaining in lowland Europe. This is a landscape essentially unchanged for hundreds of years, in which low intensity agriculture coexists with an rich wild flora and fauna - meadow-steppe grasslands, forested ridges of oak and beech, pasture and hay meadows on gentler slopes and terraces, and arable land and smaller meadows on the flat valley bottoms near medieval villages with fortified churches. Such landscapes have disappeared from most of modern Europe.

This rare, large-scale, farmed landscape is still managed traditionally and still intact and “working” as an ecological system - a man-made “semi-natural” landscape with wildlife of European importance, fitting perfectly into the European concept of High Nature Value farming.



Legenda / Legend	
— Curs de apa temporar / Temporary water course	⬢ Zona Natura 2000 propusa / Proposed Nature 2000 area
— Curs de apa permanent / Permanent water course	⬢ Zona LEADER / LEADER area
— Drum local / Local road	⬢ Rezervatia naturala / Natural reservation
— Drum județean / County road	⬢ Sat, oras / village, town
— Drum national / National road	⬢ Lac / Lake
— Limita administrativa / Administrative boundary	⬢ Biserica fortificata / Fortified church
	⬢ Biserica / Church
	⬢ Teren arabil / Arable land
	⬢ Livezi si pasuni impadurite / Orchard and wood pastures
	⬢ Pasune / Pastures
	⬢ Padure / Broadleaf forest
	⬢ Vegetatie arbustiva / Transitional woodland/scrub
	⬢ Mlastina / Inland marshes
	⬢ Zona umeda, lac / Water bodies



**Cloașterf** - a peaceful village away from the main road has a small but fine 15th century fortified church.

**Criș** is a picturesque village to the south of Saschiz. Here you can find some well preserved Saxon houses and a fortified church perimeter and gate-house. The church itself was rebuilt in 1810.

**Viscri** – this internationally famous village has an iconic strongly fortified church on the hill above the village. In the walls of the church is a fascinating museum dedicated to the Saxon heritage. At the end of a 7 km dirt road, Viscri provides an ideal escape from the pressures of twenty first century life.



**Sighișoara** - One of the best preserved medieval towns in Romania. Explore the old citadel, visit the museums, climb the 14th century clock tower and relax in the old market place.

**Biertan** - In the west of the Târnava Mare area, Biertan is home to beautiful and impressive fortified church that is one of the largest in the region. Inside you will find an amazing piece of medieval engineering – an impregnable lock that has 19 bolting mechanisms.

## Community involvement in conservation

This is a landscape created not by conservationists or by landscape architects - but by farmers, the result of good husbandry over hundreds of years. Only continued management by local people can conserve this unique area successfully. It is the source of income today for 25,000 farmers in small villages. Its survival is under severe economic threat.

Biodiversity conservation measures will only be effective if designed in close cooperation with local people, so that local people feel that they are directly involved in the conservation of their landscape, and that conservation contributes to, and does not threaten, their future prosperity.

Fundatia ADEPT is therefore working to integrate economic development measures and community benefits with biodiversity conservation measures. LEADER is an ideal tool for inspiring local involvement in this process.