



MET NATURE CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Protected areas

The Breite Ancient Oak Tree Reserve

After successfully proposing the extension of the protected status to the entire 133-ha plateau, the MET and the Sighisoara Local Council received joint custody of the Breite reserve near Sighisoara. A full Management Plan was produced and approved, and is currently being implemented. For more details please see www.breite.ro

Laslea and Bunesti Nature Parks

With a view to establishing two Nature Parks (IUCN protected areas category V), the Trust funded and conducted detailed scientific assessment of two special areas of environmental and biodiversity value, with a combined area of over 80,000 hectares. The scientific proposals for Laslea and Bunesti Nature Parks have been approved by the Romanian Academy and are now waiting for the final endorsement of the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Bradeni fishponds: bird protection site

Research and documentation partly supported by the MET.

Natura 2000

The MET offered financial support and personnel for field research that contributed to the establishment of two Natura 2000 sites: pSCI Sighisoara-Tarnava Mare and pSPA Podisul Hartibaciului.

Studies entirely supported by the MET:

“The use of habitats for feeding by winter avifauna around the villages of Stejareni and Malancrav”

“Road mortality of amphibians during spring migration in the middle section of the Tarnava Mare Basin”

“The habitat use of *Lanius minor* in the Tarnava Mare Valley”

“Applying site occupancy models in studying the distribution and habitat use of animals”

“Adapting conceptual landscape models for the study of spatial patterns of biodiversity”

Financial contributions to research projects:

„*Habitat Use of Amphibian Communities in the Târnava Mare Valley, Romania*”, financially supported by the *Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force*, research grant for Tibor Hartel (in collaboration with Laszlo Demeter and Dan Cogălniceanu). The MET funded the continuation of this study between 2005 and 2008.

„*The situation of *Crex crex* populations in the Medias Plateau, Romania*”, financially supported by the *British Ornithological Union*, research grant for Cosmin Ioan Moga (in collaboration with Tibor Hartel and Alexandru Gota). The MET funded the continuation of this project in 2006.

„*An ecological and nature conservation assessment of the Saxon villages of Transylvania*”, funded together with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Monks Wood, grant for Owen Mountford and John Akeroyd.

Research papers partly funded by the MET:

Tibor Hartel, Faunistical and ecological studies of amphibians in the Tarnava Mare basin, PhD thesis, 2008, Ovidius University, Constanta. Scientific supervisors: Acad. Dr. Petru Banarescu and Prof. Dr. Dan Cogălniceanu.

Cosmin Moga, Ecological studies of bird species from the Medias Tableland, ongoing PhD research. Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Nicolae Tomescu, Babes – Bolyai University, Cluj - Napoca.

Kinga Ollerer, Vegetation dynamics in the Breite wood-pasture in relation to different management regimes, ongoing PhD research. Scientific supervisor: Prof. Dr. Marian-Traian Gomoiu, Romanian Academy.

Kinga Ollerer, Local and landscape determinants of breeding pond use by amphibians in the central Tarnava Mare Valley, Romania, MSc thesis, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala, Sweden.

General publications:

“*The Saxon Villages of Transylvania, Romania. A Future for the Medieval Landscape*”, by Kim Wilkie

“*Exploring Malancrav*”, a walking and wildlife observation brochure for visitors. “*Exploring Viscri*” is currently in print.

Scientific publications:

A. International refereed journals, proceedings, and journals covered by ISI

Hartel, T. 2003. The breeding biology of *Rana dalmatina* in Tarnava-Mare Valley, Romania. *Russian Journal of Herpetology*, 10 (3): 169-175. **Independently cited in *Copeia*, 2005, *Zeitschrift für Feldherpetologie*, 2005**

Hartel, T. 2004. The long-term trend and the distribution of amphibian populations in a seminatural pond in the middle section of the Tarnava-Mare Valley (Romania). *Biota - Journal of Biology and Ecology* 4/1-2: 25-36.

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- Hartel, T., and Sz. Nemes. 2006. Toe clipping and body condition at yellow bellied toads, *Bombina variegata*. *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, 52(4): 359-366. (IF=0.511). **Independently cited in *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 2008**
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- Hartel, T., K. Ollerer, L. Demeter, Sz. Nemes, C.-I. Moga, D. Cogălniceanu. 2008. Using a habitat based approach in mapping amphibian distribution in Romania: study case of the Saxon cultural landscape in the Tarnava Mare basin. *Italian Journal of Zoology*, in press.(IF=0.466)
- Hartel, T., K. Ollerer. Local turnover and factors influencing the persistence of amphibians in the permanent ponds in the Saxon landscapes of Transylvania. Submitted to *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*.
- Hartel, T., L. Demeter, D. Cogălniceanu and M. Tulbure. 2006. The influence of habitat characteristics on amphibian species richness in two river basins of Romania. In: M. Vences, J. Kohler, T. Ziegler, W. Bohme (eds): *Herpetologia Bonnensis II. Proceedings of the 13th Congress of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica*. pp. 47-50 (available online at: <http://www.gli.cas.cz/SEH/files/bonnensis/>)
- Hartel, T., Moga, C.I., David, A., Coroiu, I. Pond area - species richness relationships in amphibians and birds. *Community Ecology*, in press.(IF=0.604)
- Hartel, T., Nemes, Sz., and Mara Gy. 2007. Spatial and temporal dynamic of pond use by a hybrid fire-bellied toad population: the importance of pond availability and duration. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica* 17: 56-63. **Independently cited in *Journal of Wildlife Management*, 2008**
- Hartel, T., Nemes, Sz., Cogălniceanu, D., Ollerer, K., Moga, C. I., D. Lesbarreres, L. Demeter. Pond and landscape determinants of *Rana dalmatina* population sizes in a Romanian rural landscape. *Acta Oecologica*, in press. (IF=1.306)
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- T. Ziegler, W. Bohme (eds): *Herpetologia Bonnensis II. Proceedings of the 13th Congress of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica*. pp. 31-34. (available online at: <http://www.gli.cas.cz/SEH/files/bonnensis/>)
- Demeter, L., T. Hartel, D. Cogălniceanu. 2006. Notes on the spatial distribution and conservation status of amphibians in the Ciuc basin. *Zeitschrift für Feldherpetologie, Supplement 10*: 217-224.
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B. Romanian journals

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