



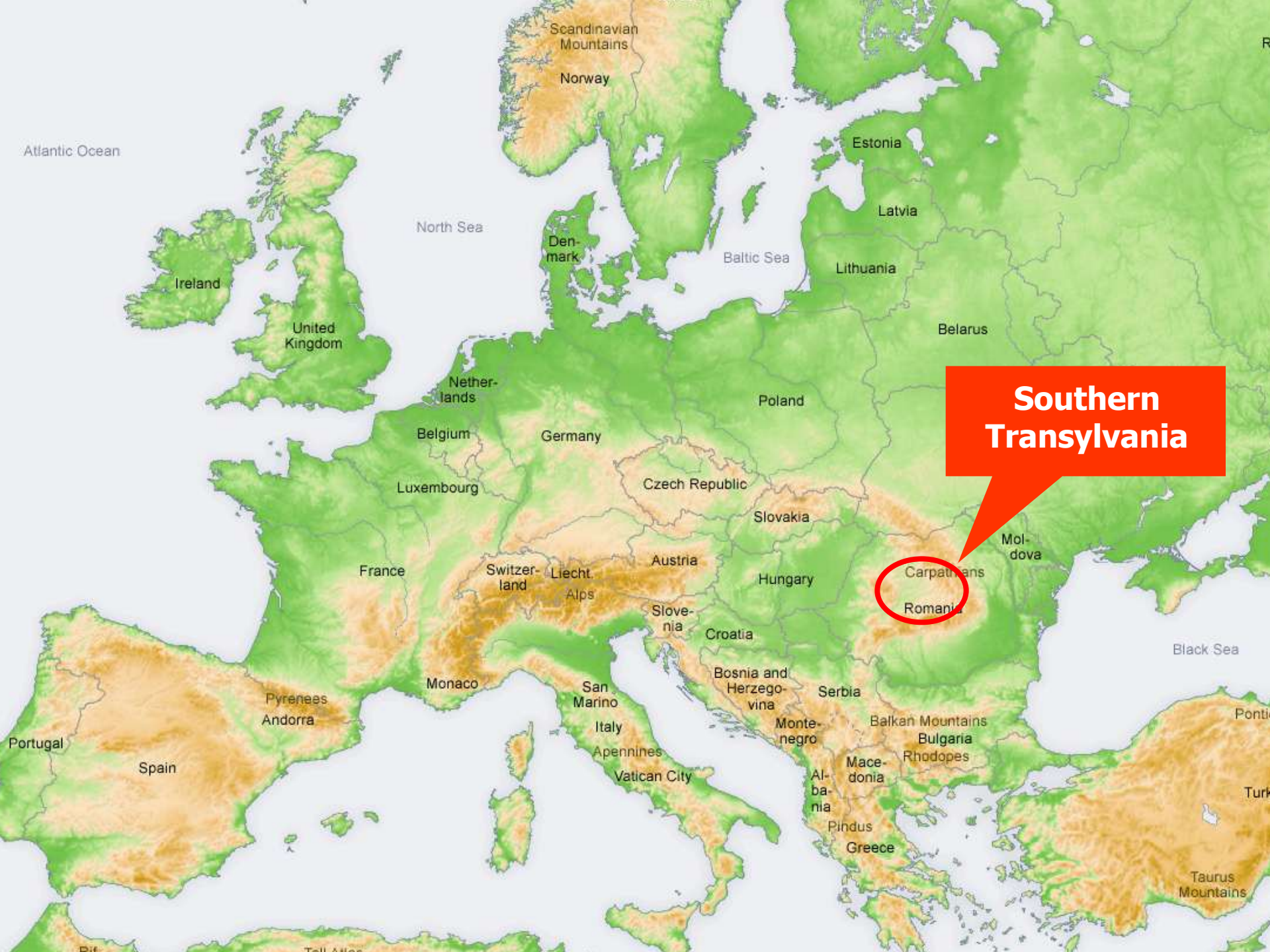
Ensuring the Provision of Public Goods: Subsistence/Semi-subsistence Pastoralism in Romania

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Brussels, 10 December 2010

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Sally Huband, Fundatia ADEPT, Raluca Barbu, Emil Pop & WWF Romania





**Southern
Transylvania**

Carpathians
Romania

NUTS 2 'Centre Region'

Area = 34 100 km²
(14.3% national territory)

Population ~ 2.5 million
(12% national total)

Average density of
~ 75 persons per km²

Mixed origins – Romanian,
Hungarian & ethnic Roma

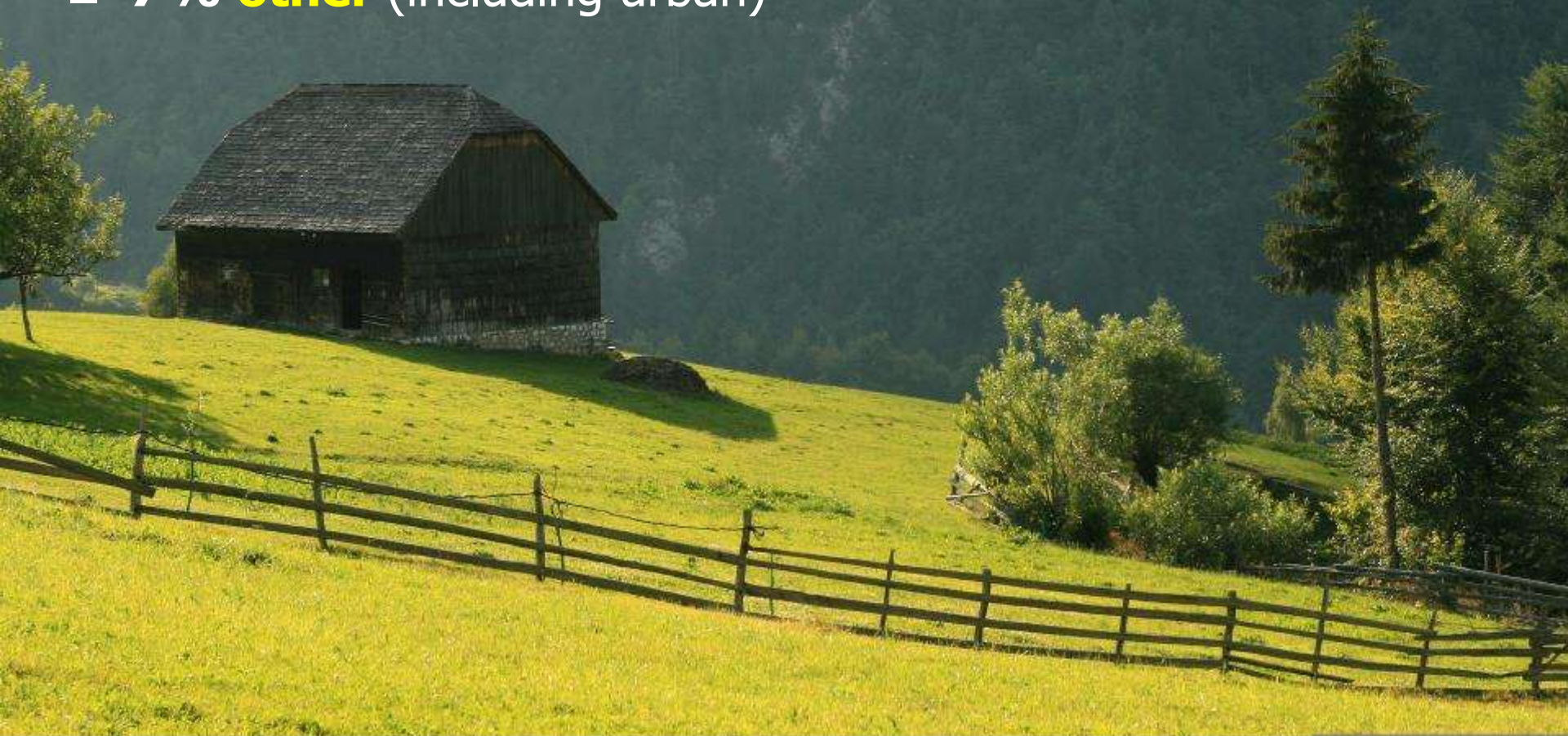
40% population in rural
areas

60% of communes are
"mountain LFA"



LAND USE

- 37% **mixed forest**
- 33% **grasslands** (private meadows + communal pastures)
- 23% **cultivated arable land**
- 7% **other** (including urban)





Average farm size = 4.4 ha

Huge polarity in farm structure:

- **85% of farms < 5 ha and occupy 29% of UAA**
- **0.3% of farms > 100 ha and occupy 33% of UAA**

An aerial photograph of a rural farmstead. In the upper right, there is a large, two-story house with light blue walls and a dark brown gabled roof. To its left is a smaller, single-story wooden house with a brown tiled roof. Further left, there are two large, conical haystacks. In the foreground, a long, narrow vegetable garden is visible, enclosed by a wooden fence. The garden is divided into several sections, some with rows of plants and others with bare soil. A person is visible working in the garden. The surrounding area is a lush green field, and there are some trees in the background.

**Subsistence/
Semi-subsistence Small-holdings**

**42% of farms (0.5 million!) are < 1 ha and
occupy 3.7% of UAA**



What is the Farming System?



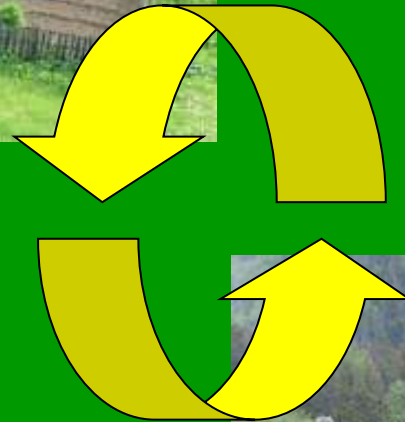


Subsistence/semi-subsistence pastoralism involves a functional relationship between two inter-connected land use systems





- Mixed “small-holdings”
- Limited sales of produce
- Fragmented land ownership
- Few animals per holding



- Communal grazing of livestock gathered from small-holdings
- Landless shepherds
- Short-distance transhumance
- Low intensity grazing





**Communal grazing (May to October) with shepherds
– including short-distance transhumance to mountain
pastures**





Hay-making on small-holdings (July to September)





**Livestock housed on small-holdings all winter
(November to April)**





What are the associated Public Goods?



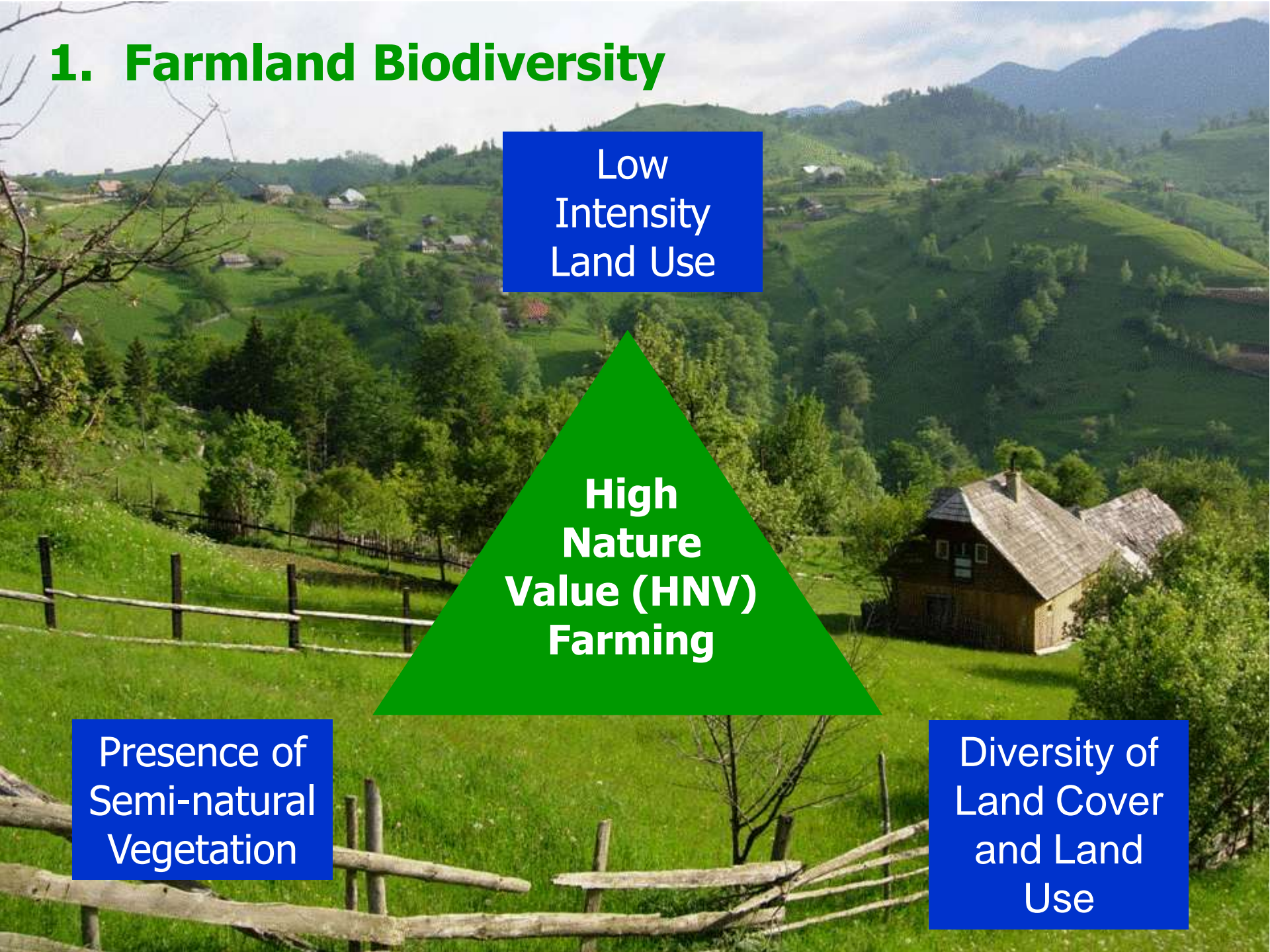
1. Farmland Biodiversity

Low
Intensity
Land Use

High
Nature
Value (HNV)
Farming

Presence of
Semi-natural
Vegetation

Diversity of
Land Cover
and Land
Use



Majority of pastures and meadows are **semi-natural** – very low productivity, but **exceptionally high** levels of floral and faunal diversity



...biodiversity benefits are further enhanced by **many subtle variations (time and space)** in grassland management



- **1 village**
- **230 small-holdings**
- **700 ha of hay meadow divided into approx. 1,000 parcels**



2. Cultural Landscapes



Traditional agricultural landscapes are deeply embedded in Romanian culture and the direct legacy of a **long history** of pastoral management....

....intimately associated with a variety of **locally-distinctive food products**....





...and providing the basis of a range of **agro-** and **eco-tourism initiatives**

3. Climate Stability

- High levels of carbon sequestration
- Low levels of greenhouse gas emissions
- Low energy farming systems/communities
- **RESILIENT** food production systems





4. Rural Vitality

Maintenance of
**farming
households
(gospodarii)**
through:

- Household food security
- A form of 'income support'
- Buffer against economic uncertainty



**But these local farming systems are also
under threat!**



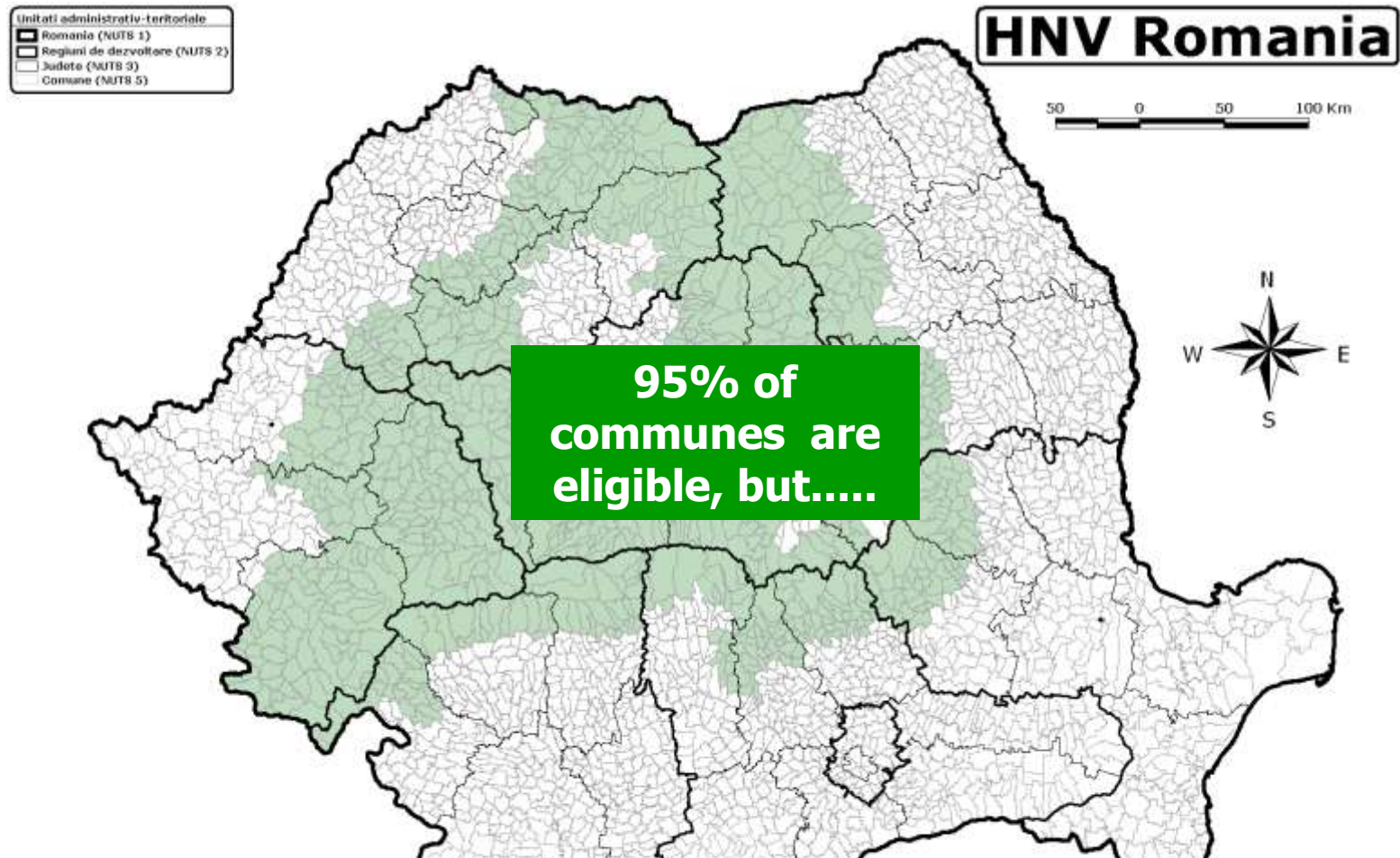
■ Collapse of traditional markets – especially milk





■ **Additional burden of EU food hygiene standards**

■ Limited accessibility to CAP support, including land management payments



Package 1: HNV Grassland – 124 EUR/ha/year

Package 2: Traditional Farming – 58 EUR/ha/year

■ Ageing
farming
community





■ **Poor infrastructure and limited accessibility to services and new markets**

■ Poverty and marginal social status of farmers





■ **Out-migration and the breakdown of local communities**

- Change of land use e.g. sale of grasslands for “development”





GUVERNUL ROMANIEI 	PROIECT FINANȚAT PRIN PROGRAMUL SAPARD Beneficiar, Editura Magister Group S.R.L Bucuresti	UNIUNEA EUROPEANA 
PROIECT:	PENSIUNE TURISTICA Sat Pestera, Comuna Moeciu, Jud. Brasov	
VALOARE	222.632 EURO	
TERMEN DE EXECUTIE	2007+2008 (18 Luni)	





In conclusion.....

- Wider recognition is needed of subsistence/semi-subsistence pastoralism as a 'supplier' of public goods
- Existing rural development measures have **some** potential to secure the supply of these public goods, but access to RDP funding is currently limited for the majority of small-holders



- Poverty alleviation is a **PRIORITY** for subsistence/semi-subsistence farming communities in marginal socio-economic circumstances
- There should be much better linkage between rural development and territorial/social policy to secure viable communities of subsistence/semi-subsistence farmers



Thank-you for your attention

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