



EXTERNAL STRATEGY 2023-2026

Introduction

ALPA's long term vision is to create circumstances which will support a regenerating bioregion, in which people and planet coexist in a climate-friendly manner and agroecologic food systems and biodiversity protection are the norm. We foresee resilient communities with vibrant social structures, agricultural lands that are commonly and agroecologically stewarded, ecological corridors, landscape integrated tourism, all within a healthy environment.

ALPA's main contribution will be to guide agricultural lands from private ownership towards common stewardship, from industrial to agroecological farming practices and from species extinction towards biodiversity enhancement.

We realise that in order to be able to plant these seeds of regeneration, we first have to prepare the soil. We will have to mobilise key local actors and stakeholders towards bioregional regeneration. Acquiring land for agroecology and biodiversity within a social landscape which lacks sufficient awareness and understanding of the current urgent needs of the ecosystems around us that are suffering (resulting in massive global climate disruptions) will most probably not result in the vision we have. A seed planted into a fertile soil, well-nourished and cared for, will have more chance to grow healthy and strong. Hence our 3 year strategy plan and the steps we foresee as foundational at this stage of our work.

Mission

The mission of ALPA is to contribute to a liveable planet for present and future generations through securing and stewardship of farmland, through bioregional regeneration efforts as well as the protection of extant biodiversity. ALPA's main focus is its own bioregion in Transylvania, Romania.

Vision and Values

The vision of ALPA is towards a bioregion in which farmlands are stewarded as new commons, nature is respected, biodiversity is enhanced, agroecological food systems are a norm and local communities are resilient, with all these converging in thriving and regenerating socio-ecological landscapes.

The main values around which ALPA revolves are: agroecology, the commons, regional culture, biodiversity and regeneration.

Target audience and stakeholders

The main beneficiaries of ALPA are the bioregional natural landscape and local communities. Specifically, ALPA sets out to work with current and future agroecological food producers within the bioregion.

ALPA collaborates with several emerging and established local and European networks, as well as with regional civil society and local authorities. Current and future donors in ALPA are acknowledged by the organisation as important stakeholders and partners in accomplishing ALPA's mission.

Local stakeholders are, among others, farmers, landowners, foresters, community members, policy makers, change makers, scientists and agro-tourism providers and consumers.

Our Priorities and General Strategy for the next 3 years

Based on a comprehensive analysis of the current challenges and opportunities, ALPA set out three main strategic priorities for the next 3 years:

I. Securing agricultural land for the development of agroecological food systems and the safeguarding of extant biodiversity.

The main stepping stones for this priority are:

- to understand the limitations and opportunities around the Romanian Agricultural Land Market Law - Law 17/2014 and its later amendments;
- accomplish a multi-layered mapping of our bioregion, which is focused on land ownership, environmental importance and socio-cultural dimensions;
- secure - via donation, lease or direct acquisition - farmland for both agroecology and biodiversity protection;
- support the setup of agroecological "future" farming businesses in the bioregion.

II. Setting the stage for bioregional regeneration.

The main stepping stones for this priority are:

- to have an extensive social mapping of the key regional actors and stakeholders;
- to achieve raised awareness on the issues and solutions for the regeneration of our bioregion;
- productive engagement with local and regional public authorities;

III. Upscaling ALPA as an organisation - increasing capacity and implementing strategic orientation.

The main stepping stones for this priority are:

- to upscale human capacity both in terms of permanent technical and administrative staff as well as expert collaborators of ALPA;
- accomplish diversified fundraising towards the outlined objectives;
- engage with established networks on a regional and European level, targeting;
- the exchange of ideas on innovative practices around access to land for agroecology and to solidify our common vision and impact.

IV. Engaging into localised education and knowledge-exchange on agroecology.

The main stepping stones for this priority are:

- securing and transforming a traditional rural farmhouse and annexes into an agroecological training center;
- securing farmland for the agroecological training center for a pilot farm/on-site educational purposes;
- Reaching out and connecting with future and existing farmers, local and research communities and educators and setting up educational programs.
- Developing and delivering an agroecological incubation program for the main stakeholders of our organisation.

