



# July – September 2018

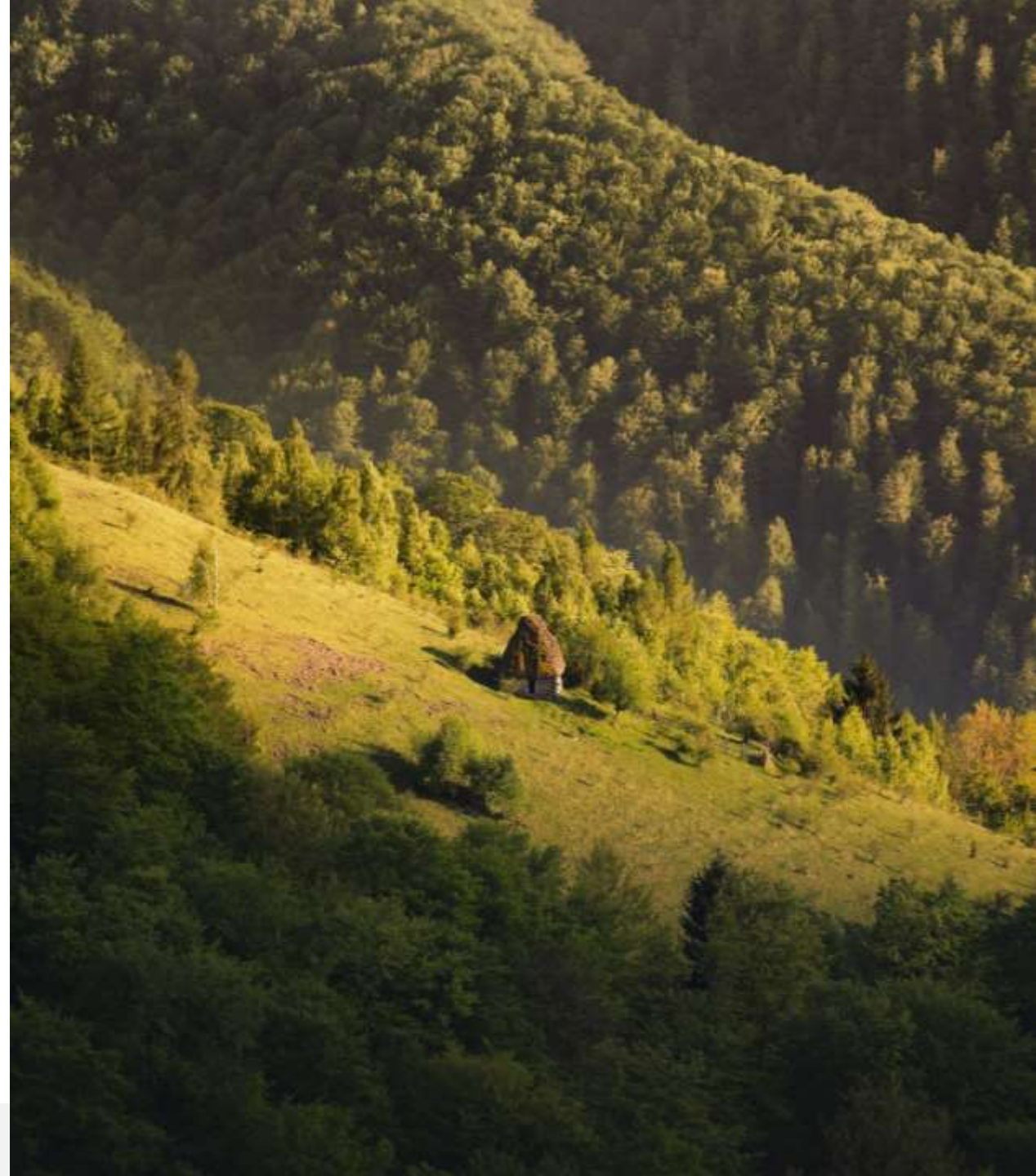
## Field report





# Main activities summary

- 01 Forest conservation and management
- 02 Ecological restoration
- 03 Wildlife conservation
- 04 LIFE+ project 2012 – 2018 finalised
- 05 Cobor Biodiversity Farm
- 06 Communication & community outreach





# 01

## Forest conservation and management:

Purchase of 520 ha of forests for full protection

Patrolling to prevent illegal activities

Scientific research





# Activities

## Râul Târgului – Argeşel – Râuşor Natura 2000 site

Evaluation of the conservation status of the species and habitats:

- Two new important habitats 4080 Sub-arctic Salix SPP. Scrub and 6150 Siliceous Alpine and boreal grasslands, and one new plant Serrate Bell (*Campanula serrata*) identified, which will be included in the standard form of the site
- two species of Rosalia Longicorn found

The field study on amphibians and invertebrate is finalised.

## Făgăraş Natura 2000 site – CARPATHIA protected forests

- Monitoring sample plots on alpine meadows following grazing abandonment
- Organising together with the Romanian Academy an international conference about the importance of the Fagaras Mountains, 10/11 December 2018, Bucharest

## Leaota Natura 2000 site

- Study on the status of alder corridors and *Myricaria germanica* habitats along the rivers
- Study of wild medicinal plants - the conservation and sustainable use of wild plants is of high importance







*Rosalia Longicorn*

Livia U.©



Fairy primrose, Snow rosette (PRIMULA MINIMA)



Heartleaf Oxeye (*TELEKIA SPECIOSA*)



# Leaota Forestry

- Work in the Wildland zone: In the frame of a EU financed environmental forestry programme we convert spruce monocultures into natural forests
- Thinning in Wildland beech forest, to produce firewood for disadvantaged members of the local communities





# Legislation

- The National Agency for Protected Areas announced its intention to take over custody of all Natura 2000 sites from conservation NGOs. Since there are over 100 sites without any administration, it feels this is less of a move to strengthen the protected area system but rather to ease permits for infrastructure investments, which so far have been blocked by the custodians due to ecological risks.
- As a member of the “Coalition Natura 2000” in Romania, FCC participated in legally opposing this directive proposed by the Ministry of Environment and the National Agency for Protected Areas.







02

Ecological restoration





# Activities

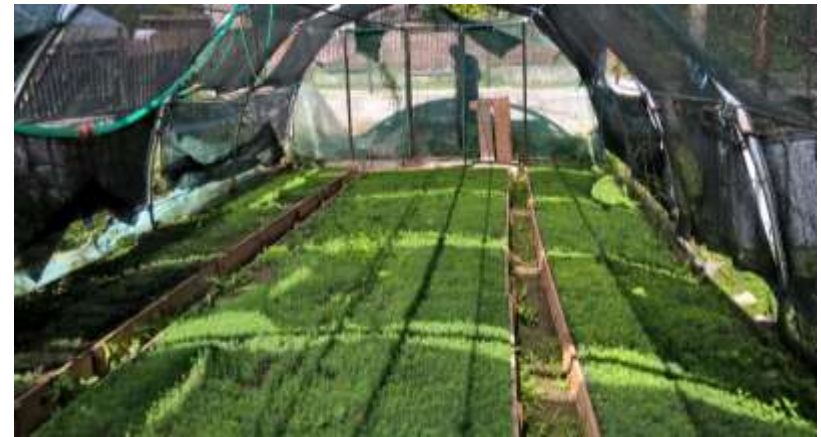
- The 4 km electric fence installed on upper Dobroneagu Valley successfully prevents livestock grazing on the replanting site.
- Results of spring replanting are excellent with more than 80% of the saplings doing well despite the very dry spring.
- Weeding in all our 8 tree nurseries has happened with a local team of women.
- Work in the greenhouse, new saplings are growing fast.
- Cutting of high grass around saplings, which haven't grown tall enough to be above the grass, to avoid suffocation in winter
- All activities involve seasonal workers hired from the local communities







Cows grazing just outside the fence





# 03

Wildlife conservation





# Activities

- African swine fever crisis: Together with other environmental NGOs of the Coalition Natura 2000, we have expressed publicly our concern regarding the proposals of the Ministry of Forests and Waters to prevent the spread of the disease. The proposed measures foresee large-scale culling of all wildlife and contradict the EU PPA strategy.
- Assessment and compensation of wildlife damage, especially of wild boar on private meadows
- Anti poaching patrols
- 2018 DNA sampling for bears to determine population numbers has started again in August











# 04

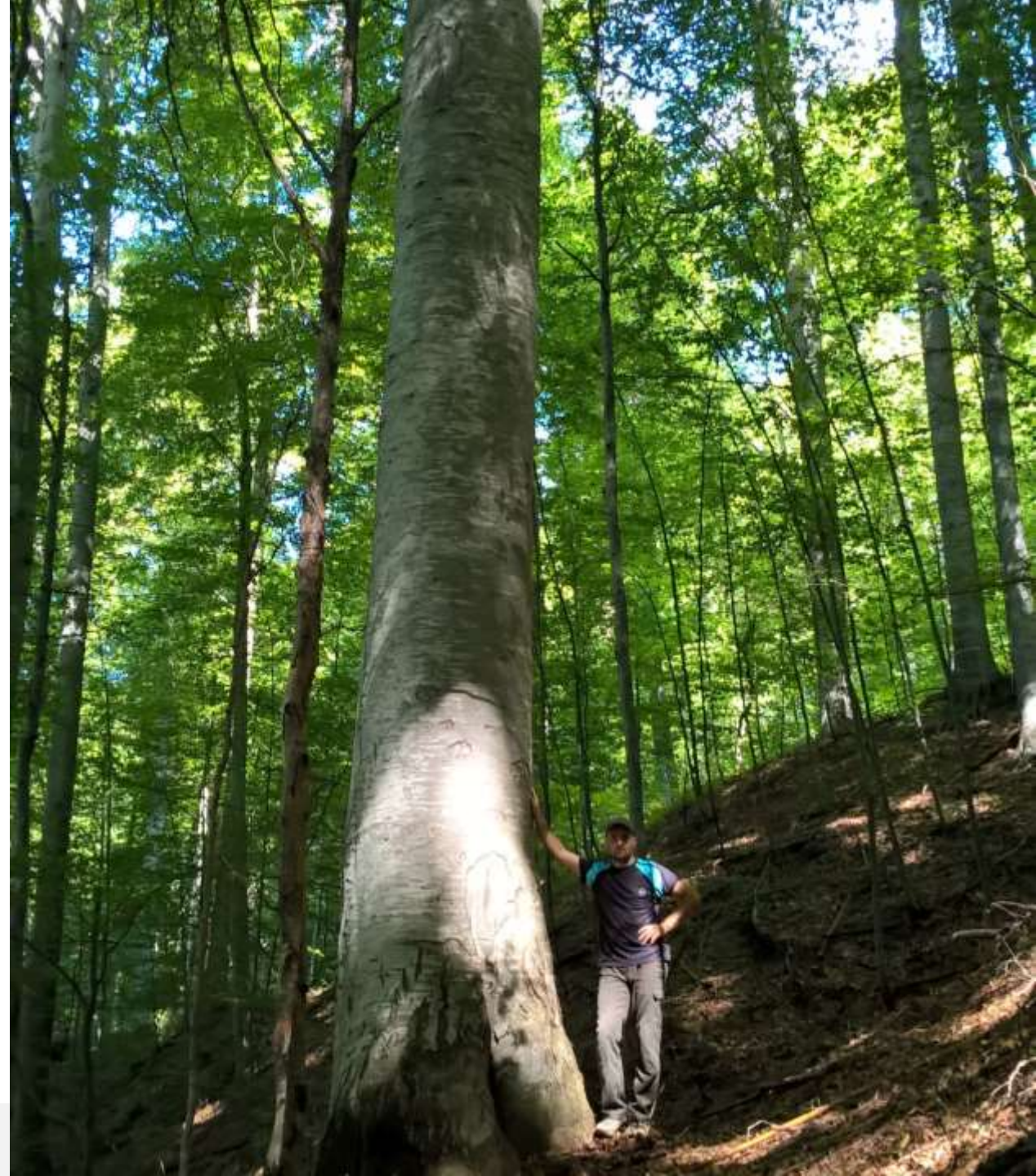
LIFE+ Project 2012 – 2018  
Ecological reconstruction of  
forest and aquatic habitats in  
upper Dambovită Valley,  
Făgăraș Mountains





# Final results

- Over the last six years, we have secured 293 ha of pristine forests in the upper Dambovita and Leresti Valley, and introduced it into the National Catalogue of virgin and semi-virgin forests
- Replanted 404 ha of clear-cuts, using 1,200,000 saplings
- Set up 3 tree nurseries for specific forest species
- Repaired and replanted 16,880 m of erosion tracks
- Started conversion of spruce monocultures towards natural forests on over 400 ha
- Restored 23 km (~46 ha) of water courses with *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, and *Alnus incana*
- Actions to elaborate and implement a river restoration plan, in close co-operation with the Ministry of Environment and the Administration for Water Management, to enable upstream fish migrations.
- Created 300 seasonal jobs for local communities
- Involved students in ecological education workshops
- Positive final audit and visit from EU Commission
- European Commission: 2,917,624 € (50 %)  
FCC and project partners: 2,917,624 € (50 %)









# 05

Cobor Biodiversity Farm





- On-going hay cutting, including alfalfa – great quality and quantity
- Harvesting vegetables from our garden
- Our livery programme has reached 25 horses, but we still have capacity for more
- The Hungarian Grey Cattle are now 32 females, 1 male and 18 calves, are adapting well, and become a tourist attraction. We plan to bring more to Cobor.
- Pastures flowering with Chicory (*Chicorium inthybus*) and Daisy Flebane (*Erigeron annuus*)







06

Communication &  
community outreach





# Activities

- Press conference about the Management plan of Natura 2000 sit Raul Targului – Argesel – Rausor: update the local community and authorities on the progress of the project
- Carpathian MTB epic – the international bike competition passed through Leaota Natura 2000 site; as custodian we made sure the competition was eco-friendly and we used the opportunity to promote the CARPATHIA project
- Media trip for national TV stations, bloggers and print media about the uniqueness and importance of the Fagaras Mountains in Romania and Europe, challenges and opportunities of becoming the largest forested National Park in Europe. This got the project all over into the national news.







Caption text



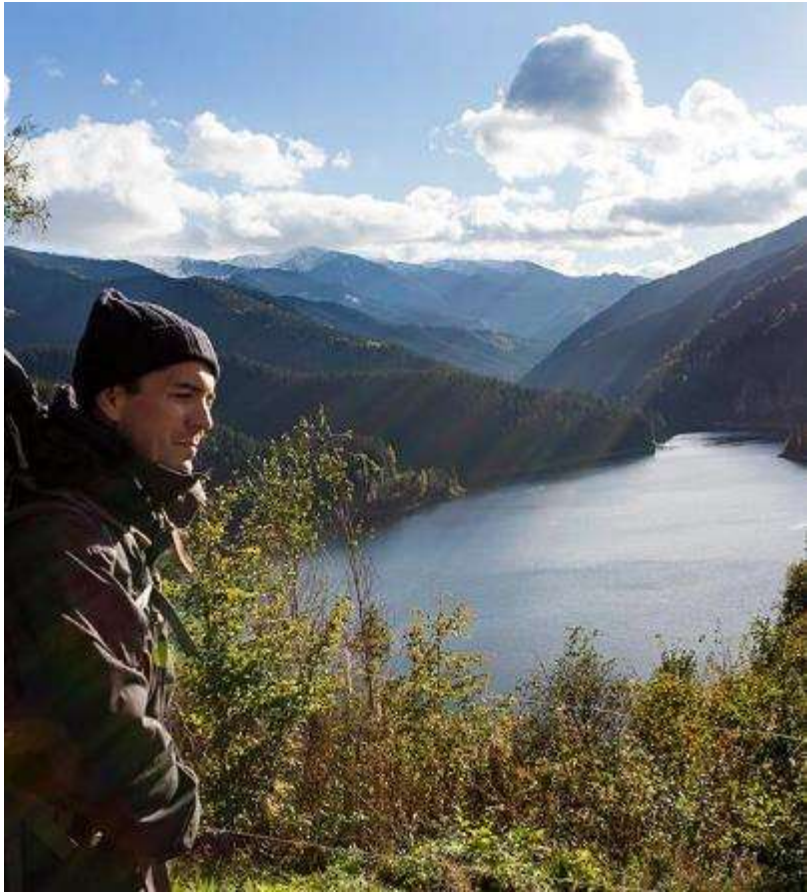


# Activities

- Media reports – visit from the Dutch newspaper Volkskrant for an extended report about the wildlife hides & Cobor Biodiversity Farm as a travel destination
- Communication in protected areas training for the CARPATHIA field team, part of the POIM project for Natura 2000 site Raul Targului – Argesel – Rausor management plan development
- Presentation of our initiative at a local event in Runcu (southern Leota), which celebrates the descent of sheep from the mountains
- Visit from and cooperation with [Conservation Atlas](#) for a documentary about our CARPATHIA project. Conservation Atlas is an organisation dedicated to promoting conservation through the inspiring lens of travel









Posters with the first series of 10 photos that reflect the uniqueness, high natural value and beauty of the Fagaras Mountains are being distributed in the local surrounding communities.









# NEW EXPEDITION!

- In September 2019, Biosphere Expeditions will organise an exciting wildlife programme in our project area, which is an interesting opportunity to join our conservation project and our field team.
- Wolf, bear, lynx, bison and beaver expedition to the Transylvanian Alps of Romania. Full details on: [www.biosphere-expeditions.org/romania](http://www.biosphere-expeditions.org/romania)









# Join us in:

- Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe
- Annual restoration of the original ecosystem on 100 ha of illegal clear-cuts
- Protecting wildlife on 2 hunting concessions with a total of 24,000 ha
- Sustainable development of local communities
- Environmental education projects



**FOUNDATION  
CONSERVATION  
CARPATHIA**

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