



September 2019

Field report



Main activities summary

- 01 Forest conservation and management
- 02 Ecological restoration
- 03 Wildlife conservation
- 04 Cobor Biodiversity Farm
- 05 Communication & community outreach



01

Forest conservation and
management



Activities

- 342 ha of additional forest secured for full protection.
- New forest management and conservation plans for part of the Foundations' forests submitted to the environment authorities.
- Several spruce trees were illegally cut and stolen from our properties. Some of the perpetrators were later identified, and legal action was taken. Our rangers patrol to prevent such illegal activities.
- We have started to assign fire wood to the local communities from our neighboring forests.
- Part of the future restoration areas were checked in the field for their condition.





02

Ecological restoration



- Grass cut around the saplings to avoid suffocation during winter on planted areas, involving 70 local people as seasonal workers and one local contractor. Results so far: 200 ha eastern Făgăraș Mountains, 22 ha in Leaota, 50 ha southern Făgăraș Mountains. This year is more difficult as the grass is over 1 meter tall.
- Alpine dwarf pine restoration sites completed in spring were monitored and the results are pleasing.
- Dwarf pine cones were collected – the fructification is unfortunately poor this year.
- Juniper fruits were also collected for spring restoration activities.
- Beech nut fructification was checked, very poor again this year in our area and also in the whole of Romania.



Juniper



Juniper monitoring



Cutting the grass around the saplings

- Inventory prepared on our seven tree nurseries to centralize saplings available for planting in spring 2020.
- Saplings ordered from external Forestry Districts to supplement the quantities needed for spring planting.
- Restoring forests on on more than 5 km of eroded tractor tracks. The erosion was in some parts deeper than 2 meters in some areas.
- Reintroduction of the initial mixed forest initiated within 10 hectares of spruce monoculture by cutting holes into the forest for replanting with beech, fir, sycamore and other species. The resulting wood from this activity remained debarked in the forest as dead wood.
- You can join our ecological restoration campaign, donate or adopt clear-cut parcels at: <https://www.carpathia.org/donate/>



Ranger checking saplings in a tree nursery



Eroded road taller than a man



Erosion restoration team & chief ranger

03

Wildlife conservation



Activities

- First seven puppies of pure-bred Romanian Carpathian shepherd dogs donated to local farmers that graze livestock on the pastures managed by FCC in the Făgăraș Mountains. Breeding these dogs and donating them to local shepherds is part of the Foundation's strategy to prevent the damage caused by large carnivores among livestock.
- Management measures: The wildlife rapid intervention team continues its efforts to keep wild boar and bears away from the villages. The 6 electric fences installed in the local communities work well, but despite this and other measures implemented, problems are still reported.
- Different methods employed to scare another problem bear away proved ineffective. It continued to cause problems and posed a threat to local people. Despite reluctance to do so, eventually the bear, a 4 year old female, had to be killed.



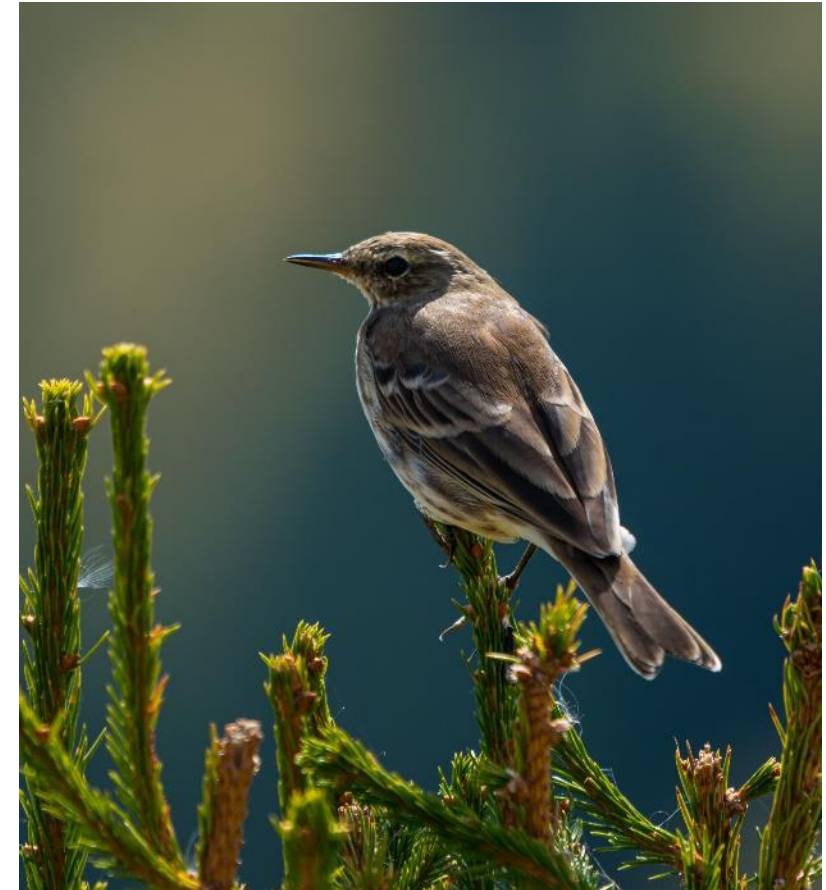
Activities

- Consultancy was offered to the villagers that asked for FCC's expertise on how to secure their property against the wildlife damages.
- DNA sampling of deer continued. A total of 190 samples have been collected so far.
- Equipment prepared for the winter monitoring of lynx and wolves.
- Preparing for the arrival of the first bison for reintroduction.
- Rangers patrolling to prevent poaching and illegal fishing.



Camera trap images









04

Cobor Biodiversity Farm



Activities

- We are approaching the end of the hay making season: 3,900 bales of alfalfa and 10,000 bales of hay produced.
- The dog breeding programme is going well, we still have 8 puppies left that will be donated to the shepherds in CARPATHIA's project area, to prevent the damage caused by large carnivores among livestock.
- Our garden provided a lot of winter supplies: our cellars and freezers are full with aubergines, onions, potatoes, tomato juice, pickles and jam.
- We are working to eco-certify the meat of our Grey Cattle. The first calves will soon be big enough to go on the market.





Visit [COBOR](https://cobor-farm.ro) and book your Transylvanian experience at: reservation@cobor-farm.ro



05

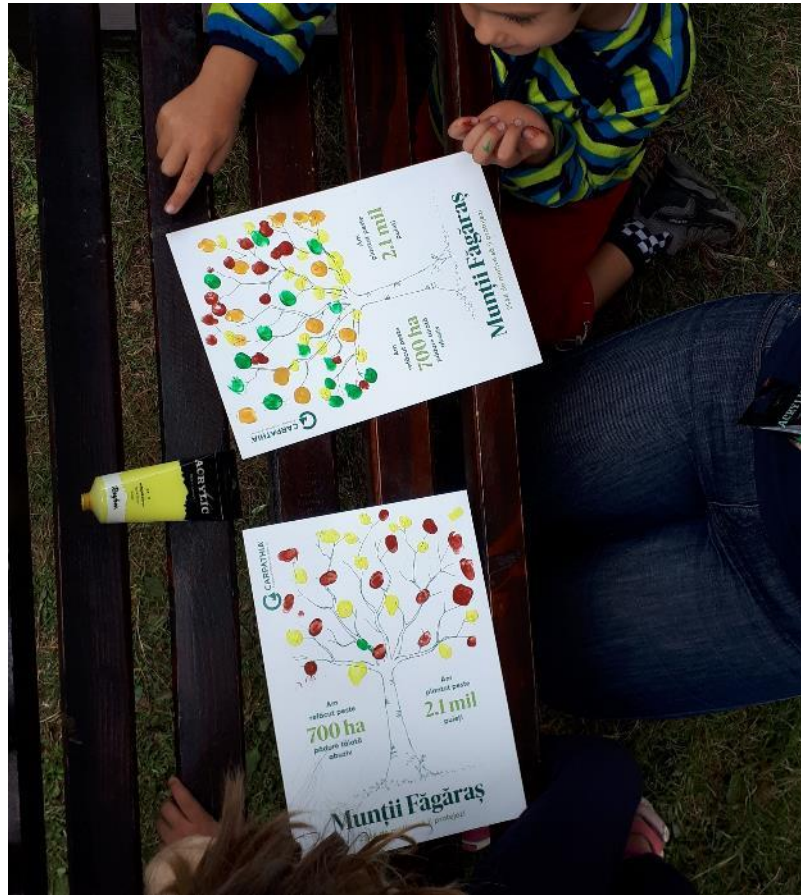
Communication &
community outreach



- In September we hosted the first edition of **Făgăraș Fest**, a national event dedicated entirely to the uniqueness of this place and to the local communities living in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- ProPark – The Foundation for Protected Areas was the main organiser, in partnership with Foundation Conservation Carpathia within the Endangered Landscape Programme.
- The participants were encouraged to discover the values and the surroundings of the festival, through guided tours in the forest, cart rides accompanied by a local guide, a fair with local products, a nature cinema or an adventure competition.
- We want to thank all the local supporters and media partners, and Wepack (<https://www.wepack.ro/>), for the complete sets of biodegradable cutlery and for being the supporter of biodiversity conservation projects in Romania and of the Făgăraș Fest 2019 edition.

More details about the event [here](#).





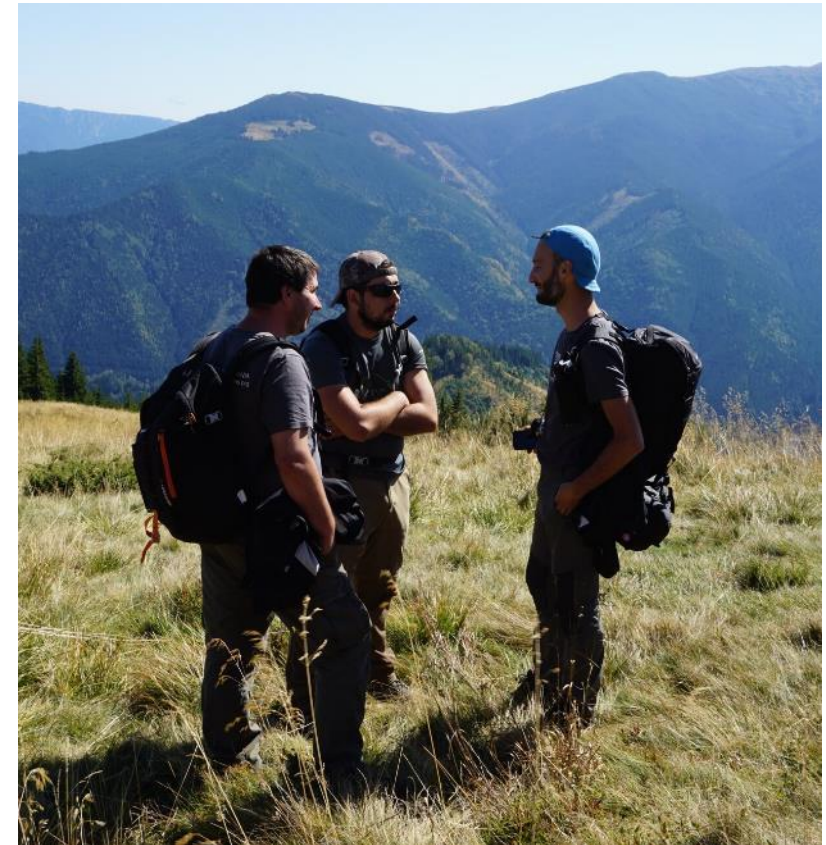
- Foundation Conservation Carpathia supports events in the local communities and their sustainable development.
- In September we celebrated with the community from **Leaota Mountain** the end of the pastoral year, the traditions, the people, the Romanian village and the beauty of the surrounding nature, at the 28th edition of 'Răvășitul Oilor' (**Sheep Descent**).
- We cannot speak of a healthy future, we cannot ensure prosperity, safety and balance, a good quality of life for people, if we have degraded forests and meadows, cleared of biodiversity, barren mountains and arid lands.

More details about the event [here](#).



- A citizen science travel programme organised by **Biosphere expedition** proved to be an interesting first experience for our team. Biosphere expedition, a non-profit, visionary, award-winning and ethical conservation organization, hosted this event for two weeks.
- 20 people from Europe and USA with no scientific environmental background in conservation came to experience conservation in action.

More stories about the Romanian expedition [here](#).



- We want to thank each of the 30 volunteers that donated a day of their personal time to help us with the final weeding of 8,000 saplings in one of our tree nurseries before winter arrives.
- The three years partnership with **Ursus Breweries** allows us to go forward with our conservation project and ensure a beautiful, safe habitat for the deer population in the area. And the employees come every year to help and to check for themselves the results of our work.

Check [here](#) an amazing stag filmed by our ranger, Călin, during rutting seson.





- We would like to welcome our new Romanian partner in conservation: “Plant a tree with I WOOD BE” is a campaign that supports the restoration of clear-cut areas in Făgăraș Mountains. For each sold product CARPATHIA will receive a donation.
- Alina has visited one of our seven tree nurseries and helped weeding the saplings.



- Our partners **Jack Wolfskin**, **Alpineschule Innsbruck**, together with a group of bloggers came to scout the CARPATHIA “Wolftrail” .
- We are happy with the positive feedback and look forward to read the materials they will promote for nature lovers around Europe, to come and explore the uniqueness of Făgăraș Mountains.



- We were in Bruxelles for a few days, participating at the “**Romanians work together**” fair to promote Foundation Conservation Carpathia and our existing ecotourism programmes - Cobor Biodiversity Farm, the wildlife hides network, as well as the wildlife tracking tours.



- The wildlife hides received 102 visitors in September and a meditation retreat was organized in one of our wilderness camps.

Visit CARPATHIA – ask about our ecotourism programmes at info@carpathia.org.



- Book a wildlife experience at one of our wildlife hides and your trip will contribute to forest conservation.

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Join us in:

- Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe.
- Annual restoration of the original ecosystem on over 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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PHOTO CREDITS: Biosphere Expeditions, Angela Boghiu, Simona Bordea, Daniel Bucur, Georgiana & Mihai Căţan, Orsolya Csakany, Ionut Creţu, Lorin Diaconescu, Dan Dinu, Ruben Iosif, Daniel Mîrlea, Photo Tase, Razvan Rohan, Constantin Simion, Bogdan Sulică, Călin Şerban, Liviu Georgian Ungureanu, Codruţ Voinescu, David Zărnovan.