



February 2020

Field report

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Main activities summary

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- 05 Communication & community outreach



Forest conservation and management



- Our forests suffered severe damage caused by powerful storms!
- The artificial spruce monocultures were the most affected. These were planted some 50-100 years ago. Subalpine spruce forests and natural mixed beech forests were affected three times less.
- Often, we observed in a stand that all the spruce were blown down whereas the beech are still standing.



- We have asked the authorities to not make the mistake of requesting a clean-up of the wind blown trees. This would result in bare hills which would be prone to full sunlight and erosion, and where the next generation of trees would once more consist of only spruce – if anything managed to grow at all.
- Bark beetle is likely to attack the surrounding spruce forests, if the next summer is warm and dry. A massive bark beetle outbreak would be unavoidable, as the remaining spruce are now much more vulnerable and easily prone to attack by the beetles. Cleaning up and destroying the ecosystem even more will just increase the problem.



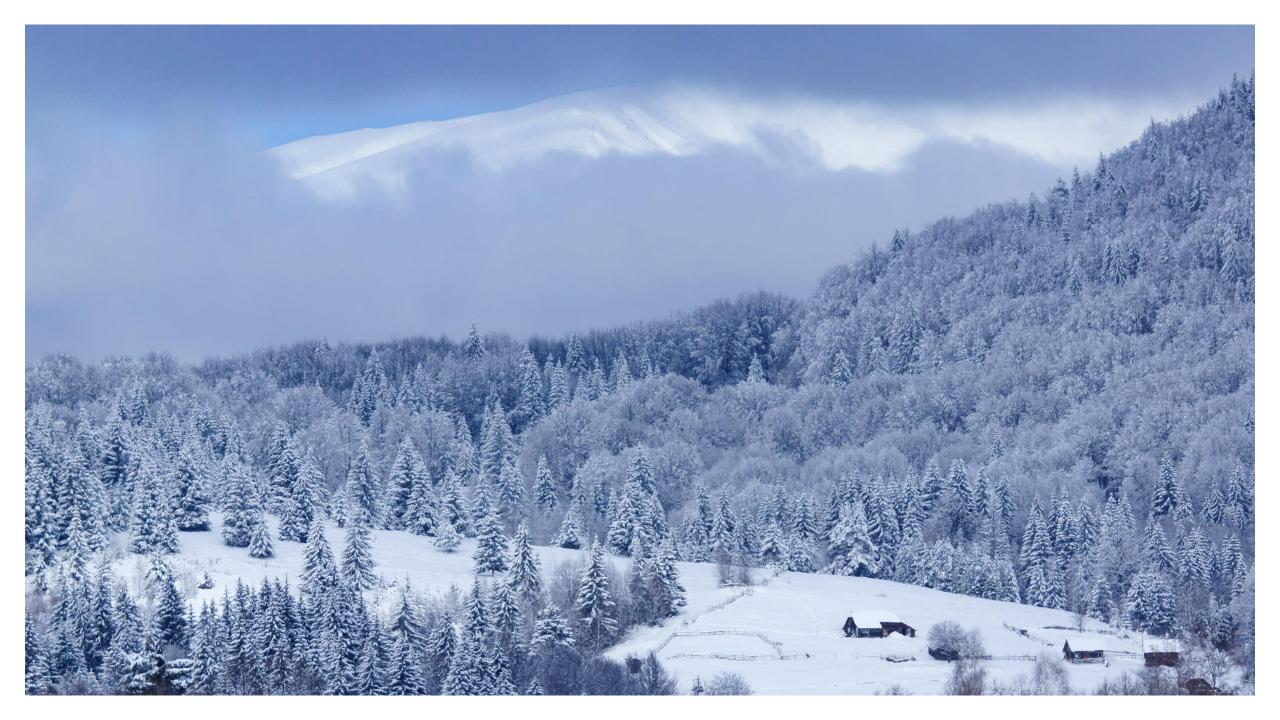
- We will remove the fallen trees that block forest roads as well as from nearby areas where they are otherwise likely to be stolen.
- Together with specialists we are working on a scientific study aiming to identify the minimum mandatory prevention measures against bark beetle attacks on neighbouring forests. For example debarking a certain amount of the trees near our forest borders, before de insect flies away.



Activities

- We have secured 102 ha of additional forest for full protection.
- The presence of FCC rangers, patrolling an area of over 65,000 hectares, has had a positive influence on the reduction in illegal logging in the neighboring forests as well.







Ecological restoration

- Tree saplings were checked and evaluated for viability for planting this spring. We determined how many more we need to buy from our neighboring forestry districts.
- The field team has evaluated the areas for setting up camp for the seasonal workers. Snow clearing of roads has started with the help of our excavator, so we can access the mountain slopes and prepare the deposits for the saplings.



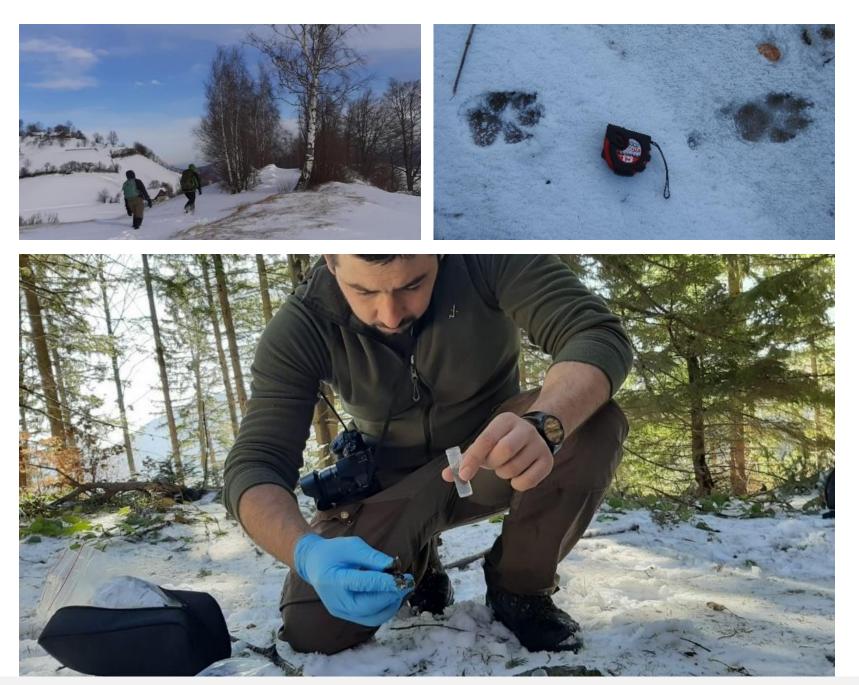


Wildlife conservation



Wildlife monitoring:

- The rangers continued the sampling of wolf scats and urine for DNA analysis and so far, we have collected 156 samples. We look forward to the results and having a much clearer vision of the number of individuals in our area.
- We have finished camera trap monitoring of lynx and started working on estimating abundance and density of the lynx population.
- Plans to reintroduce the beaver to the Southern Făgăraş Mountains are being drawn up with the wildlife management team.



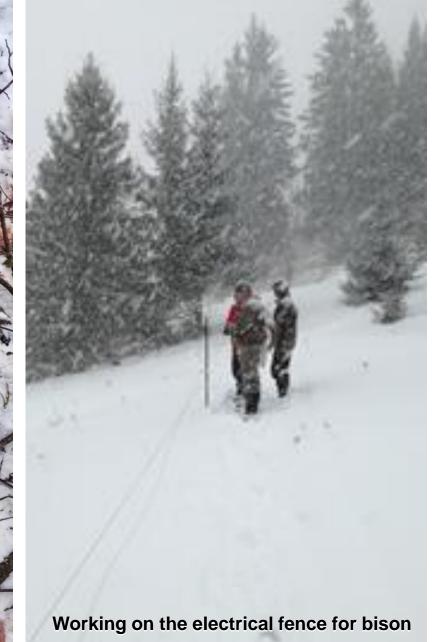
Wildlife management:

- The rapid intervention team has responded to local announcements regarding damage inflicted by wild boar/bear. Due to the lack of beech fructification in autumn, the animals roamed in search of food and entered inhabited areas.
- We continue to supervise the wellbeing of our bison herd in preparation for reintroduction as well as working on the fence for the acclimatisation enclosure.
- Rangers patrolling to prevent poaching of wildlife and fish.





Wild boar killed and eaten by wolves













Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- The horses seem to be the only ones enjoying the February weather: taking mud baths is their pleasure, grooming them is ours.
- We continue the winter schedule: exercising horses with health problems to keep them fit and in shape and feeding them alfalfa, hay and oats.
- Our new four legged guests Enya and Malga have adapted well to our horse livery. More details about our accommodation/ rehabilitation centre offers <u>here</u>.
- During the frosts we fertilised the alfalfa crop with manure. The lack of snow this winter may cause water shortages.



- Four Carpathian Shepherd puppies from our breeding programme were donated to farmers in Rucăr/ Făgăraş Mountains to help protect their livestock. Nine other puppies were born in February.
- An old horse drawn plough from the Austro-Hungarian times was found and used to plough the vegetable garden. Come to Cobor this summer and enjoy our fresh organic vegetables!
- The Grey Cattle are doing well!
- We are pleased that the protocol with the Technological high school in Făgăraş has been signed: students will be able to learn first-hand how a farm works.



Communication & community outreach



- We were honoured to participate in one of the most important film festivals dedicated entirely to nature, <u>Alpin film festival</u> 2020, in Braşov.
- <u>The photo exhibition "Carpathia"</u> provided an invitation to dialogue regarding our conservation project in the Făgăraş Mountains.





- A <u>working meeting</u> on the virgin forests of the Făgăraş Mountains, as part of the LIFE18-NAT_RO_001082 project, was held at the headquarters of FCC in Brasov.
- Alongside representatives of NGOs such as Greenpeace and WWF, we also had the support of academic bodies such as Prague and Rothenburg Universities, and all the important forestry administrations (including Ministry of Environment, Forest Guard, Romsilva).



 At the invitation of the European Commission, we participated in the International Conference on Forests for Biodiversity and Climate, in Brussels, where we presented our forest conservation project and results.

ts as allies for climate change mitigation

naw Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and Lead Author of IPCC Reports, Boston

Director of the Masters Programme in Climate Change Science at Bristol University, Author of IPCC Reports

14.00-15.30

er Senior Researcher, Oeko-Institut, Berlin

- erger Executive Director, Conservation Carpathia Foundation, Romania
- Aaran Councilor for Urban Planning, Green and Agriculture, City Council, City of Milan

Moderation, Director European & International Carbon Markets, Directorate General for Climate Action, European Commission





- We were honoured to be visited by <u>NICOLAE of</u> <u>Romania</u> and his secretary at our headquarters in Brasov.
- We discussed a possible cooperation with the Prince Nicolae Association and will begin the reforestation of a clear-cut area this year as a first concrete act with the help of volunteers.



- Our field team much appreciated the assistance of Moritz Weber as a volunteer for the wildlife management programme, which involved putting up electrical fences for the bison. And we are sure Moritz appreciated the taste of our local food during the al fresco lunch breaks!
- If you are passionate about conservation and have experience in the field, check out our <u>volunteering programme</u>.



If you are employed in Romania, you can redirect last year's taxes to CARPATHIA!

- This year, 2% becomes 3.5%
- If you received an income salary in Romania in 2019, you now can redirect 3.5% of your income tax to support our cause to protect nature and wildlife. Fill in the <u>230 Form</u> available in Romanian and send it to ANAF (the National Agency for Fiscal Administration), no later than 25 May 2020.
- If you prefer, please send the filled in Form to our office no later than May 15 and we will send it on your behalf to ANAF. Contact us if you need assistance filling in the form.



Travel Carpathia – experience the largest rewilding project in Eastern Europe

We are very excited to announce the launch of our new website – <u>Travel Carpathia</u> – which brings the FCC conservation projects to life through ecotourism.

Whether you wish to experience Carpathian wildlife by staying at our <u>eco-friendly wilderness hides</u> or see the charismatic Grey Cattle at our <u>Biodiversity Farm in Cobor</u>, or go on a wilderness adventure or follow a tailor-made itinerary, there is a once-in-a-lifetime experience waiting for you.

We look forward to welcoming you to Carpathia!

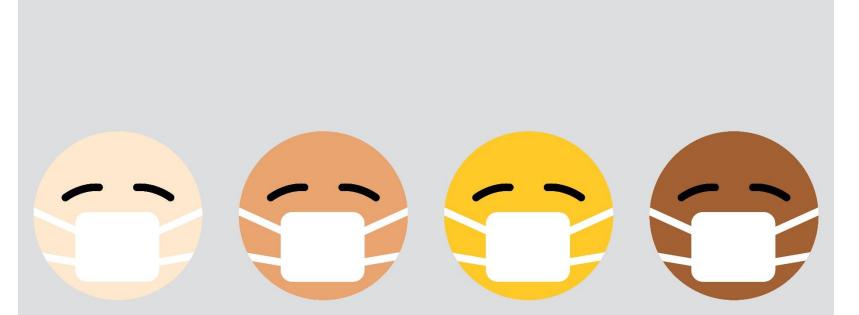




We continue our work!

We are facing the challenge to continue our conservation work despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Obviously, the risk is lower in rural areas at the foot of the mountains and in the mountains themselves, compared to a much higher risk in the cities.

As a consequence, we have closed down our office in Brasov in mid-March and moved to 'working-fromhome' for our office staff. We will try to continue the field work as long as possible with the highest concern for all involved, especially as the replanting season is coming up. We intend to continue all the other activities such as wildlife management and monitoring, and protecting the forests.





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 over a total of 65,000 ha.
- Sustainable development of local communities.
- Environmental education projects.



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PHOTO CREDITS: Jessica Brown, Ionuț Crețu, Orsolya Csakany, Marius Drugă, Valeriu Ganci, Karol Kaliský, Liviu Ungureanu, Alexandru Oprei, Răzvan Rohan, George Soare, Călin Șerban, Claudiu Țoanță.

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