



March 2020

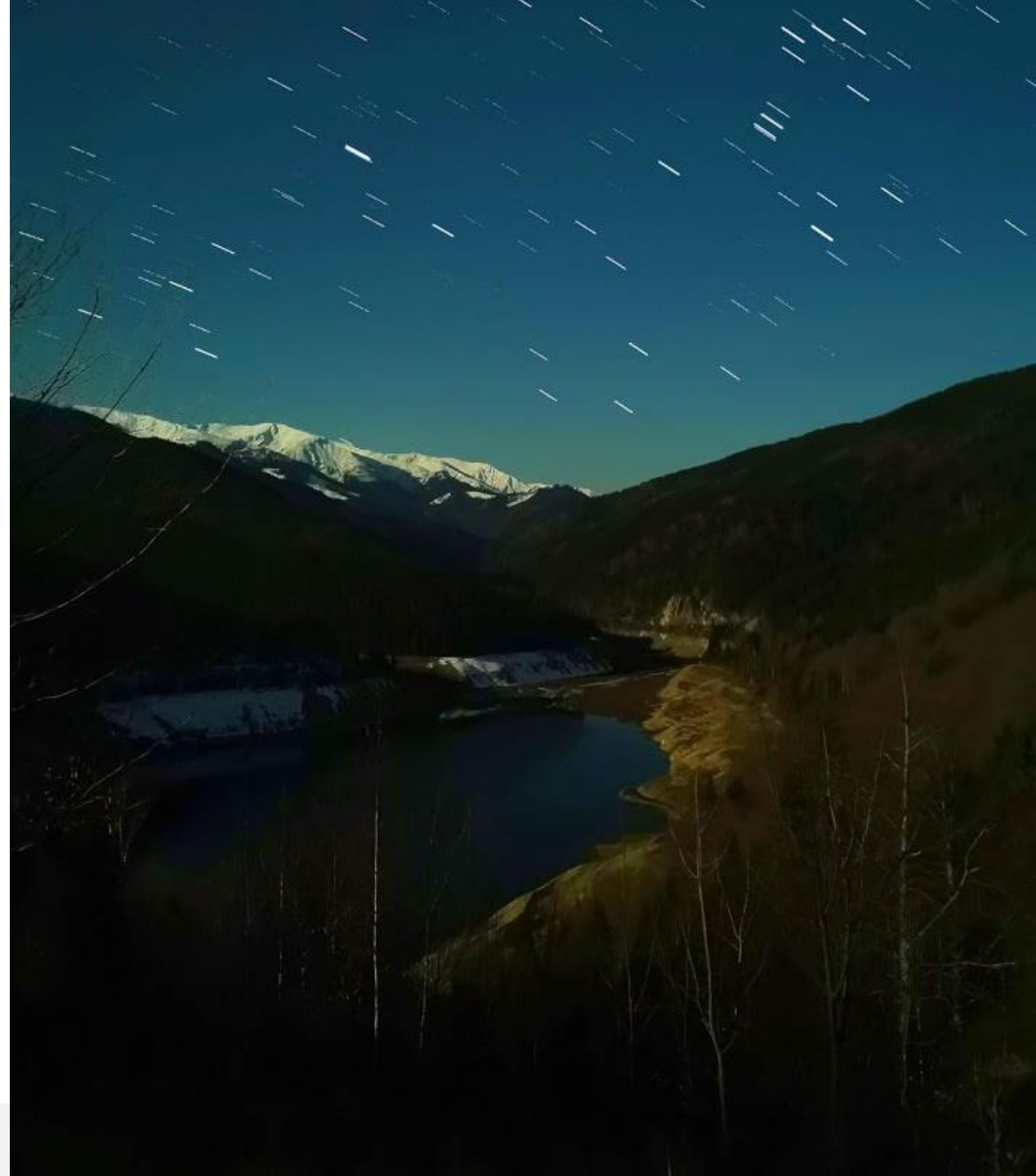
Field report



Pozky Lángó

Main activities summary

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



We continue working!

We are facing the challenge in continuing our conservation work despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Obviously, the risk is lower in the rural areas in the mountains, but remains high in the cities.

The shutdown affects all and everything, but at the same time our activities are needed more than ever, for **NATURE** and for **PEOPLE**. This is why March has been one of the busiest months ever and many of us have been involved in many different parallel activities.

We closed down our offices in Brasov in mid-March and moved to home-office working for our office staff. We will continue field work as much as possible with the highest concern for all involved, especially as the replanting season is coming up.

So far, we have managed to continue all the other activities such as wildlife management and monitoring, protecting the forests and our Food for Elders Programme.



01

Forest conservation and management



Activities

- Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, no more land purchase contracts have been signed as of early March. However, we are preparing the purchase of the next properties and as soon as the lock-down is lifted, we will be able to secure more land for conservation again.
- Apart from the field patrols of our rangers to prevent illegal logging and poaching, March was a month for planning future conservation activities and for writing - our new LIFE Carpathia project requires a lot of energy and team work - technical specifications, acquisitions, contracts and schedules for each task etc. It is challenging to implement such a huge project, but we become more enthusiastic with each step we solve!





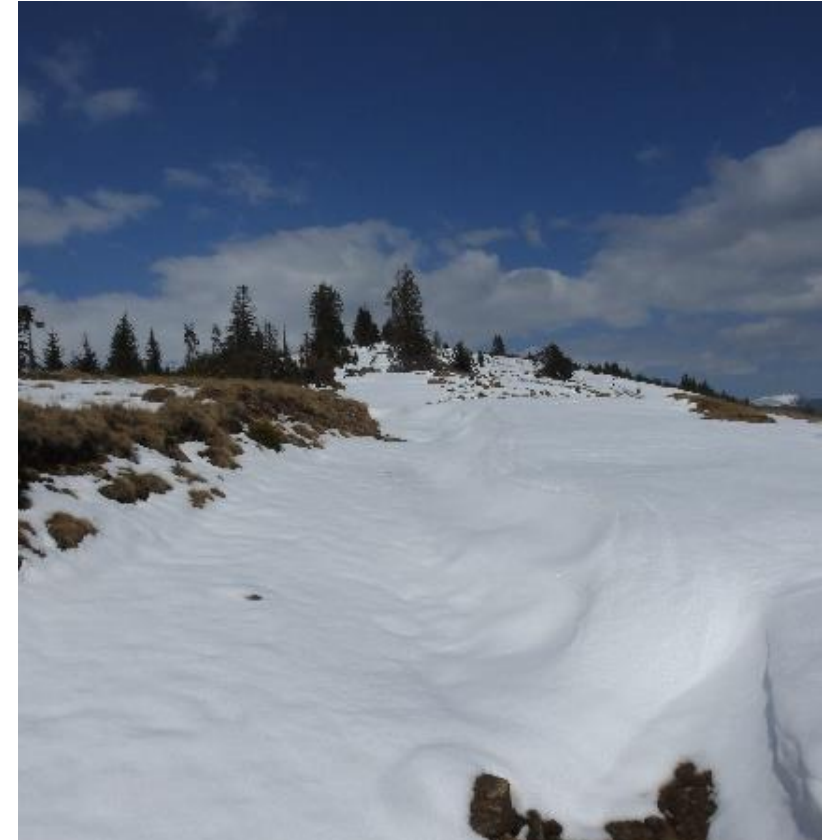


02

Ecological restoration



- We have cleared the roads of fallen trees and prepared the intermediate soil deposits for the saplings in the mountains.
- Once we had cleared access to the restoration sites, more snowfall blocked the roads again. We had planned to start replanting in late March, but it seems that the usual months of April and May will prove better for this activity.



03

Wildlife conservation





Wildlife reintroduction:

Plans to reintroduce the beaver to the Southern Făgăraș Mountains have been worked on together with the wildlife management team. While waiting for the paperwork to be done, our rangers started to prepare the grounds and planted three species of willow along the mountain rivers – tasty dinner for the future beaver families.

The bison were released from the quarantine enclosure to the acclimatisation enclosure. They are enjoying the larger space and now have to learn to deal with large carnivores.



Wildlife monitoring & management:

- The rangers continued the sampling of wolf scats and urine for DNA analysis. We have collected 237 samples, out of a target of 300. We have decided to extend the collection period until the end of April.
- Due to repeated attacks and livestock kills in the village, we were forced to eliminate a bear that was becoming increasingly dangerous to locals. Our rapid wildlife intervention team makes efforts to keep bears and boars away from communities.



Bear and cattle kill



Wolf and wild boar kill



Bear on a surveillance camera





04

Cobor Biodiversity Farm



- Finally spring! Green pastures for the horses in our livery centre! Whoops, not yet! Playful weather in March!
- Cleaned up the pastures, trained the horses and started planting wild bushes (dog rose and hawthorn) to separate the pastures with hedgerows and to provide future shade for our four legged guests. Fruit trees will follow in April.



- The farm's greenhouse and garden will provide tasty vegetables: radishes, onions, garlic, spinach and lettuce leaves for the moment. We will continue with other vegetables in April, when the weather is warmer.
- Starting from next year, the newly planted raspberry trees will delight us with their fragrant fruits.
- We have been thinking about how best to support the farm during the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides taking all necessary health & safety measures for our employees, our concern is also for the financial situation of our farm and the local, small producers that count on us. As eco-tourism is on hold, we plan, before Easter, to salvage the situation by launching a programme "From farm to table": delivering local food products from our village to the neighbouring cities – Făgăraș & Brașov, in order to earn some income for our employees.



- The Carpathian Shepherd dog breeding programme is going well. The puppies are growing and soon they will be donated to the farmers around the Făgăraș Mountains to protect their livestock.
- We have nine newborn puppies!



- The first Grey Hungarian cattle products are tasty! We look forward to our visitors trying them, together with our other healthy farm products.



- As part of the protocol signed with the Technological high school in Făgăraș we received our first farm experience student for only a week, unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation. We will resume the programme once this emergency situation finishes.





05

Communication &
community outreach



Food for Elders programme

- Within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, Foundation Conservation Carpathia came to the support of ten communities in our project area (Făgăraș and Leaota Mountains).
- We started with 500 packages per week (food and hygiene products) donated to the most vulnerable, elderly people of the villages.
- An emotional campaign for our rangers who are the messengers of good will for the next eight weeks or so, as long as the state of emergency lasts.
- If you wish to contribute and help to support the possible extension of the package delivery period, please donate here:
<https://www.carpathia.org/donate/>



- We have been invited to participate in the Esri Conservation Programme and were kindly offered an ArcGIS for Protected Area Management package, containing a variety of fantastic tools and apps that will help us to optimise data collection, analysis and transparency in our conservation efforts.



Ecology Solution



- Our Environmental Education Centre is no longer a dream! It is coming to life as the months pass by! We plan to inaugurate our eco-green building this summer, when the COVID-19 pandemic has settled down.
- The centre is designed to accommodate volunteers and students of all ages from Romania and abroad that will participate in nature-based educational activities, to understand and learn applied conservation.
- The reconstruction of this old mountain lodge would not have been possible without donations from the Temperatio and Pancivis Foundations! Thank you!
- We continue our infrastructure development plans with a second mountain cabin that will become a field research centre for our biologists, rangers, and volunteers.



- Aqua Crisius Association and our project are partners in managing the southeastern rivers of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- In November, 4,000 specimens of native (indigenous) trout were released and in March 10,000 embryos of the same species were placed in two incubation systems in the clear river waters of the Southern Făgăraș Mountains.
- Read the entire news and watch the campaign video [here](#).



- Some of our staff participated in training in the use of statistics. These skills will help us improve the use of our scientific data in our work.



- FCC was present at the conference "European travel and its role in Wildlife Conservation" organized by The European Nature Trust in London, UK.
- There were presentation movies, panel discussions and Q&As in front of an audience (approx. 150 attendees) consisting of journalists, bloggers, reputable travel companies and passionate nature travelers. Overall, we received a lot of questions and very positive feedback from the audience, who was interested to find out more about our work and conservation journeys.



CARPATHIA_Careers

- We have several published vacant positions in CARPATHIA:
 - ✓ [Conservation Enterprise Manager](#)
 - ✓ [GIS expert](#)

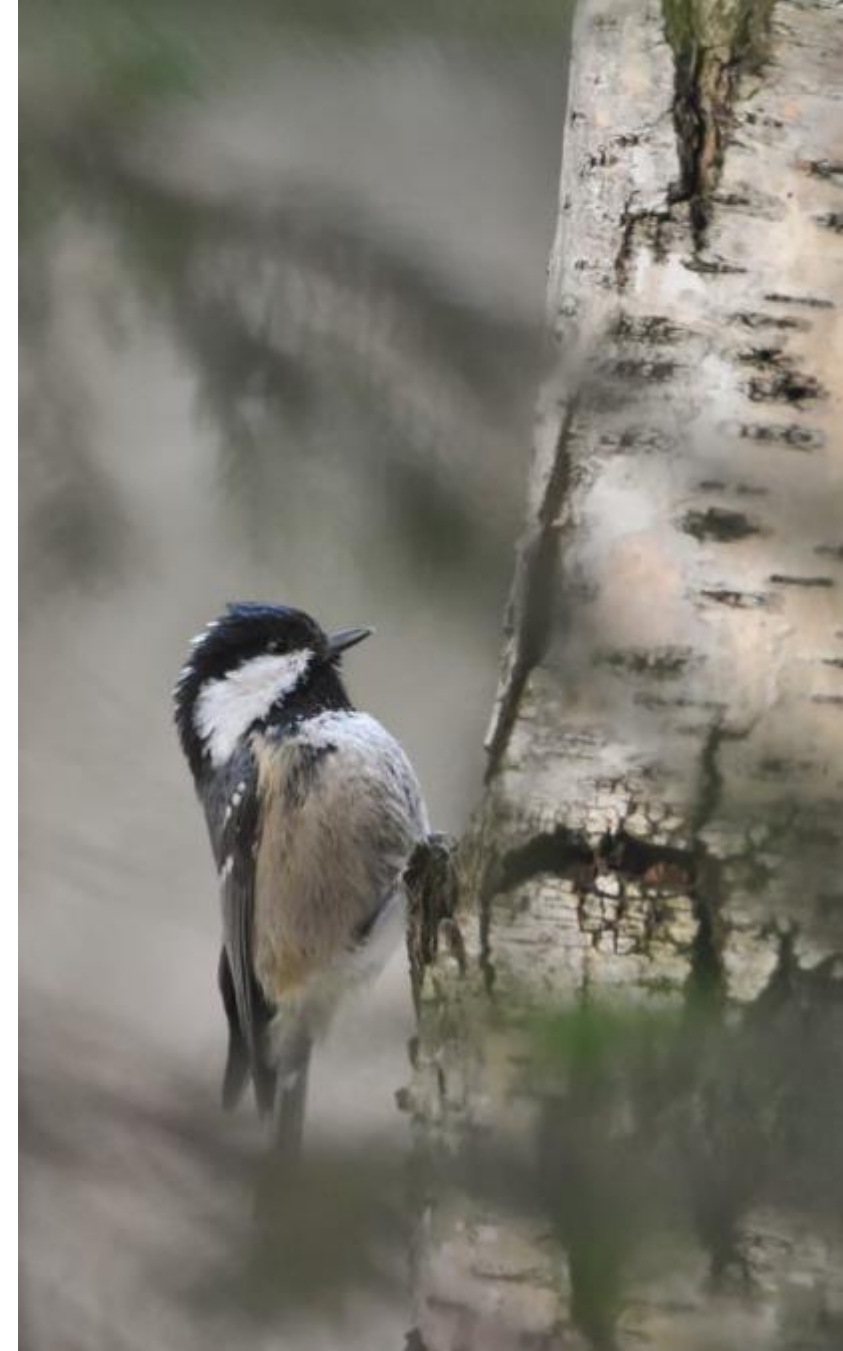
In the near future we will look for:

- ✓ Senior bison technician;
 - ✓ Junior bison technician;
 - ✓ Junior assistant for project coordination.
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- If you have expertise in the field and you are passionate about conservation, join our team.
 - Send an intend letter and a CV at jobs@carpathia.org.



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

- **This year, 2% become 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 [230 Form](#), available in Romanian, and send it to ANAF (the National Agency for Fiscal Administration) no later than 25th May 2020.
- If you prefer, please send the completed Form to our office no later than 15th May and we will send it on your behalf to ANAF. Contact us if you need assistance filling in the form.



Join us in:

- Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe.
- Annual restoration of the original ecosystem over 100 ha of illegal clear-cuts.
- Protecting wildlife over a total of 65,000 ha.
- Sustainable development of local communities.
- Environmental education projects.



**FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION
CARPATHIA**

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