



June
2020

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

- We were able to purchase 169 ha of land for full protection.
- June was a rainy month and field work was difficult for our team. We took this time to train some of our rangers in identifying invasive alien plant species and our biologist started a field assessment of these species.
- The regional Forest Guard was in the field, supervising the inventory of the forests we bought in 2019.









02

Ecological restoration



- Our ambitious plans to restore more and more old clear-cuts are reflected in our increasing need for more saplings each year. In consequence, we have hired a new colleague, a specialist in tree nurseries, to make sure we are able to extend the current network of nurseries.
- The seasonal workers hired from the local communities removed all the weeds that were outgrowing the saplings.
- Collecting elm seeds for our tree nurseries. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of the seeds are fertile. During the last three years fructification of deciduous species has been very low.
- The first fir seeds have started to sprout.
- We have finished installing the temporary fence to prevent grazing on the areas recently reforested.



03

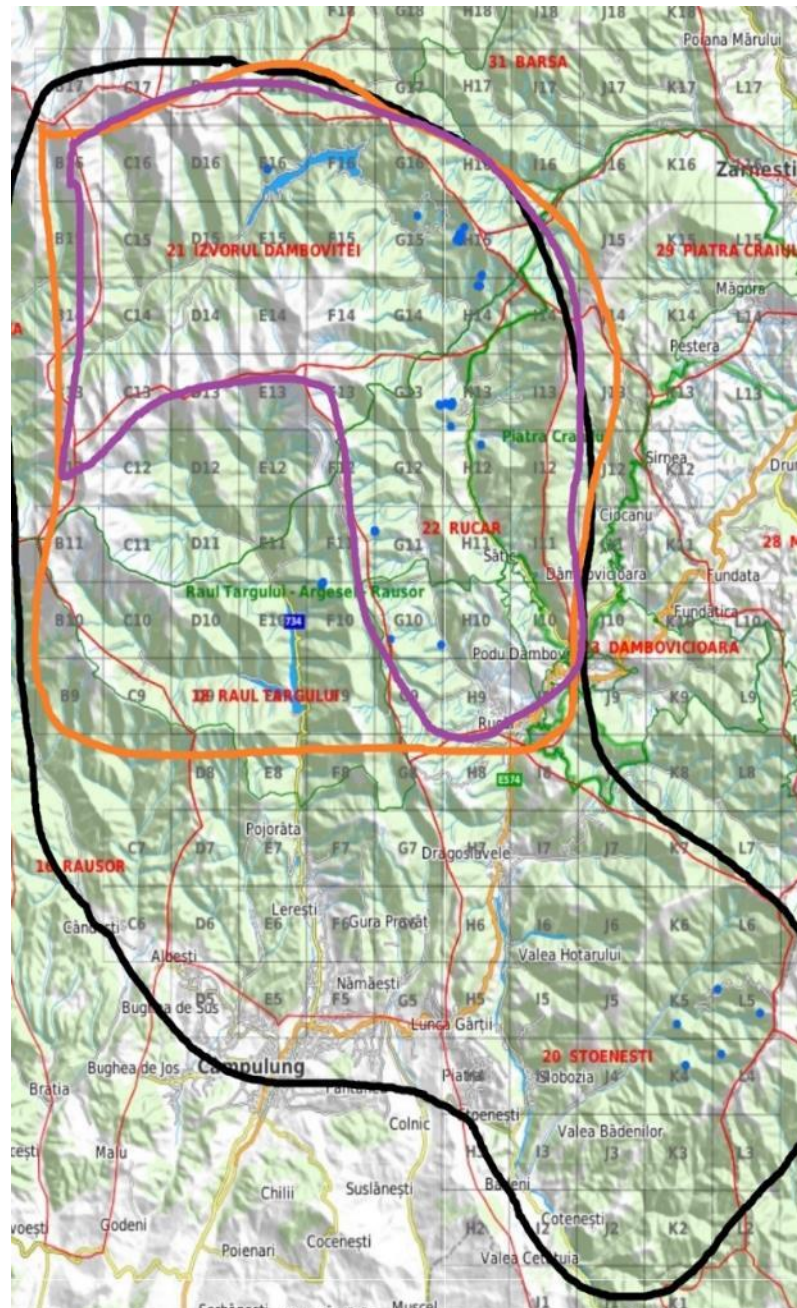
Wildlife conservation





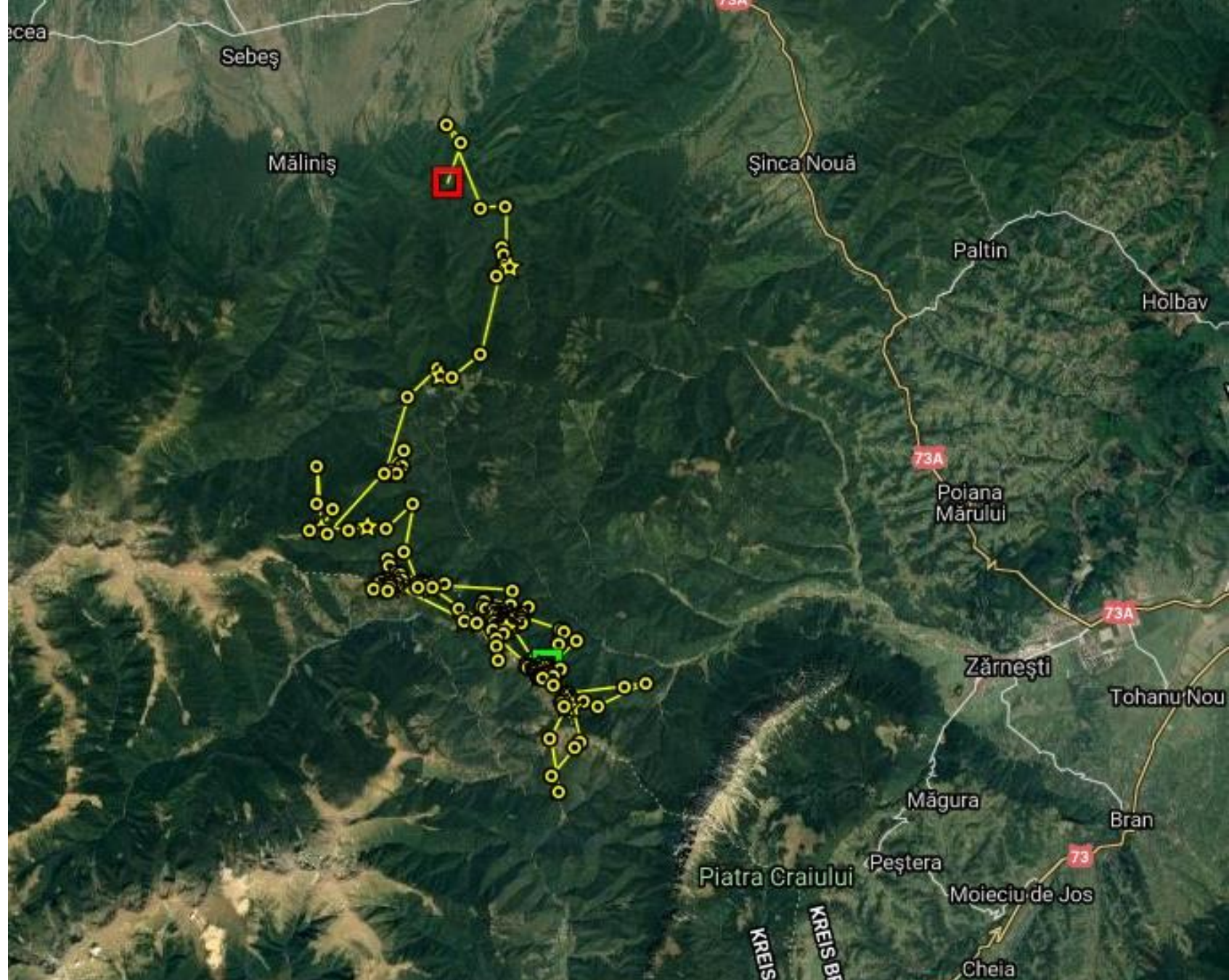
Wildlife monitoring

- We have started the red deer DNA sampling season. June was an extremely rainy month and thus, field work was very difficult: we managed to collect only 59 scat samples out of a target of 480. The area we planned to collect from is outlined in black (65,000 ha, see map) but we have another two scenarios of reduced areal extent, if the weather continues to hamper our work.
- We have participated in the chamois monitoring: positive signs – our rangers have spotted several chamois with cute little calves.



Wildlife monitoring - BISON

- After release, our herd of bison has started to roam around and explore their new territory. One female separated from the herd and has made a subalpine meadow with no livestock grazing her home, whereas the main herd with 7 animals has made long excursions to the East and to the North.
- The good thing is that they have very quickly adopted a natural behavior and are very shy towards human presence.



Wildlife management:

- In June we have donated the last five pure bred Carpathian Shepherd puppies to farmers in the Făgăraș Mountains. The next ones are due for autumn/winter. So far we gave 26 puppies to 10 different farmers to help them guard their livestock.
- We bought 20 cows and 100 sheep for our private compensation programme. Starting this year we will provide in kind compensation for livestock damage caused by carnivores. Our livestock is being looked after by a local farmer, with whom we started a cooperation.



Wildlife rapid intervention team:

- We continue the active wildlife management in the areas we are custodians of: scaring wildlife to stay away from the villages, installing electrical fences in areas exposed to attacks, participating in meetings with regional authorities regarding livestock damages, evaluating reported cases of conflicts, offering private compensations, and permanently patrolling to prevent conflicts and poaching.
- We have registered several conflict sites involving bears, wild boar and foxes. An action plan was drawn for each situation.







04

Cobor Biodiversity Farm



- Cobor experienced just a few sunny days in June. Still, the rain was much needed, after a dry end of year and almost no snow during winter.
- The horses were happy, taking as many mud baths as they wanted. We were busy with grooming. 😊
- Green everywhere! The farm is turning, as it does each June, into heaven: flowers, oak trees, pastures, birds, livestock and people!



- A bear has repeatedly visited the herd of Transylvanian Grey cattle. The herder, our Carpathian Shepherd dogs and the electrical fence proved a great triple combination, protecting the cattle. No damage.
- The Brielmaier sowing machines were checked and they are ready for the new hay season.



- The vegetable garden keeps producing. It seems it will be a good year for apple trees: deliberating the choice between apple palinka or apple pie? 😊
- The ducklings are enjoying their pool and we have new attractions for the visiting kids – rabbits.
- We are preparing the first brunch this year: Come to enjoy the [Transylvanian brunch](#) on the 2nd of August!



- We can once again welcome visitors from abroad and of course Romania.
- Have a look here <https://cobor-farm.ro/> and book your vacation at: reservations@cobor-farm.ro.



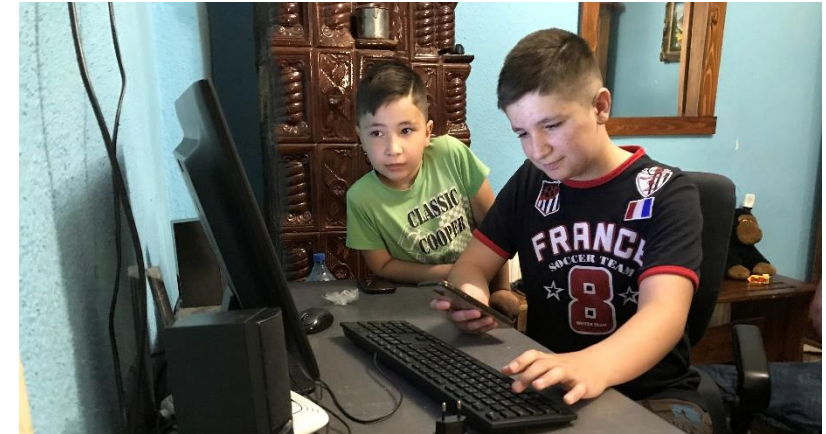


05

Communication &
community outreach



- We have intermediated in the donation of 95 computers. Children in our project area are now connected to the state on-line teaching system.
- Valeriu Nicolae from Casa Bună Association and his amazing team of volunteers have done a great job preparing and installing all the equipment and implementing a programme of on-line help for the students.





- We would like to thank the employees of a multinational company from Brasov that have prepared, from their personal budget, nice summer gifts for the 34 kindergarten and school children in Cobor.



- The work on our Environmental Education Centre continues.
- Take a look at the view and imagine yourself as a volunteer or participant in a conservation camp.



Travel Carpathia – experience the largest rewilding project in Eastern Europe

Travel Carpathia brings the FCC conservation projects to life through ecotourism.

Whether you wish to experience Carpathian wildlife by staying at our eco-friendly wilderness hides or see the charismatic Grey Cattle at our Biodiversity Farm in Cobor 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!





Join us in:

- Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe.
- Annual restoration of the original ecosystem over 100 ha of 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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