



August & September 2020

Field report



Main activities summary

- 01 Forest conservation and management
- 02 Ecological restoration
- 03 Wildlife conservation
- 04 Conservation enterprise
- 05 Communication & community outreach



01

Forest conservation and management





- We were able to purchase an additional 75.8 ha of land for full protection.
- A team of biologists conducted field work in our project area to document moss species such as *Buxbaumia viridis* and *Dicranum viride*.
- Our new GIS specialist started working on maps of the riparian habitats and their invasive species.
- We have established 50 monitoring plots for ecological restoration and 50 monitoring plots for model natural forests. Also, we have inventoried erosion problems on tractor tracks for repair.



Deep erosion track

- Aqua Crisius Fishing Association and FCC are partners in managing the south-eastern rivers of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- This summer, a dream has come true: Aqua Crisius has released the first 500 specimens of Grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*), an emblematic fish species, which is again part of the ecosystem of the eastern Făgăraș Mountains!
- Grayling have been extinct in these waters for over 40 years.

Video

- Grayling have been a protected species in Romania since 2010 and we believe their presence in the Făgăraș waters is essential.





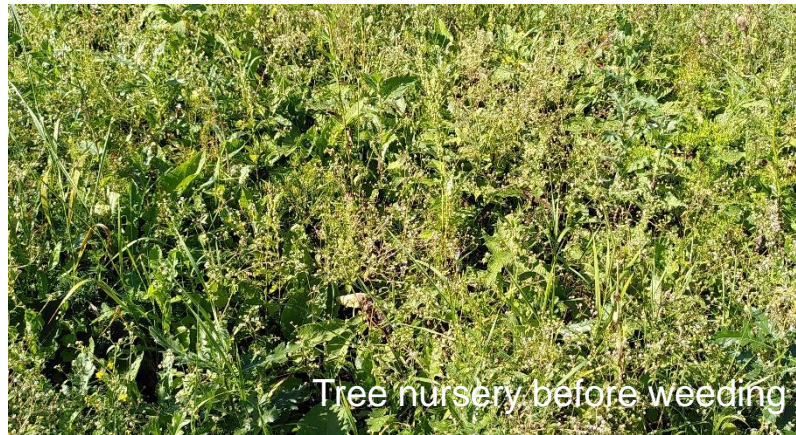


02

Ecological restoration



- After the final weeding of the season, we carried out an inventory of the saplings in our tree nurseries.
- Together with seasonal workers hired from the local communities, we have started cutting the autumn grass around the saplings to avoid suffocation during winter.



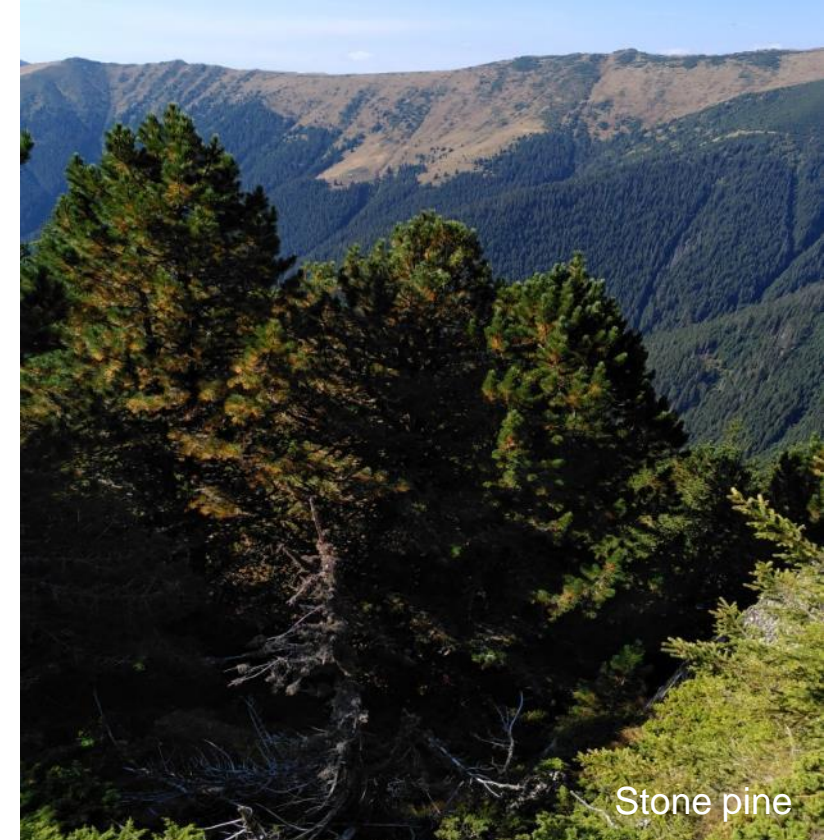
- We collected and prepared sycamore, rowan, and juniper seeds for seeding.
- Before reaching maturity, stone pine seeds are often taken by birds, so the amount of fruit we could harvest was relatively low. Still, we managed to collect enough seeds for our greenhouse.
- We took the cover off the greenhouse to accustom the saplings to lower temperatures.



Stone pine seeds



Rowan



Stone pine

03

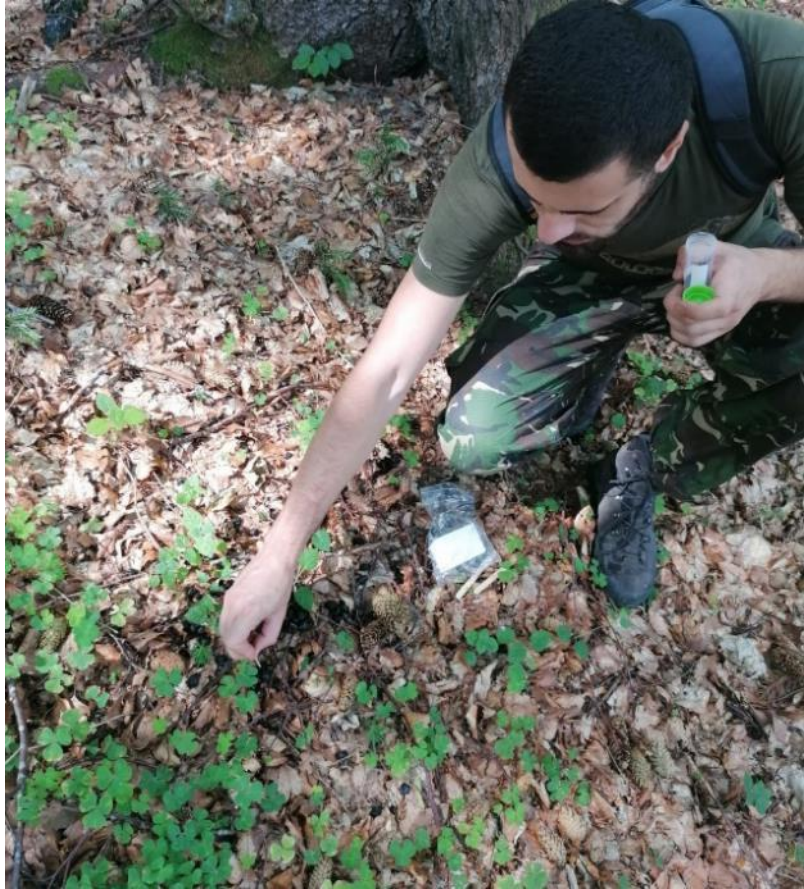
Wildlife conservation



Wildlife monitoring

- What an intensive summer! The **red deer** DNA sampling season was finished, with a total **410** scat samples collected.
- We appreciate the enormous effort of the wildlife monitoring team and the involvement of many other rangers from our team together with four volunteers.
- In late September we installed camera traps to help monitor the red deer rut.

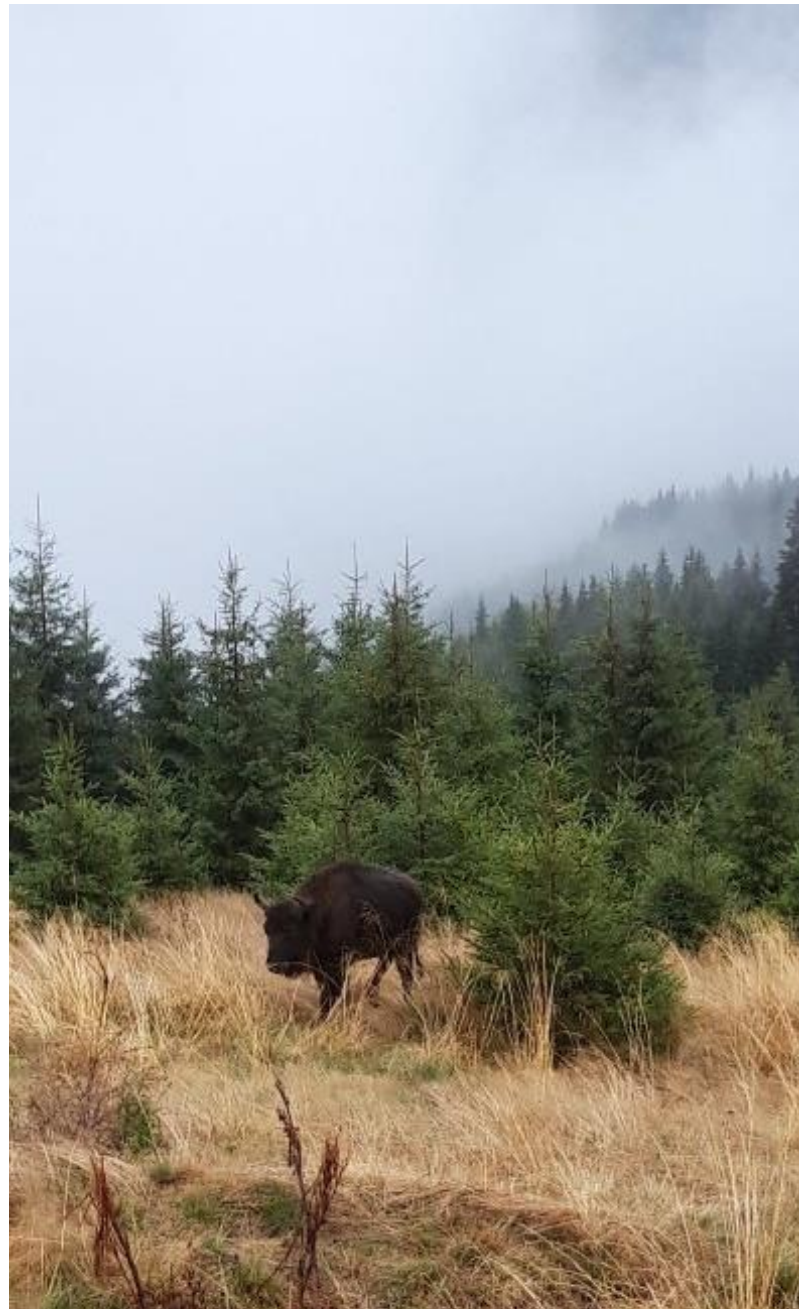




Wildlife monitoring

- The bison herd is doing well. We keep monitoring them and will soon bring more to the region for release.

Video



Camera traps



Marmots and eagle monitoring

- Golden Eagle and marmot monitoring has begun as a first step towards developing a conservation plan for Golden Eagles. The well-being of marmots, as one of the main prey species of eagles, is crucial for their survival.





Wildlife management:

- We have registered several complaints concerning damage caused by wild boar destroying pastureland.
- Large carnivores have killed three cows and one sheep in our wildlife management concessions, which we have compensated with animals from our own cattle and sheep herd.
- Our rangers are out every day to prevent wildlife from getting close to the villages and to install electrical fences at hotspots for conflicts.



Wild boar damages



04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme

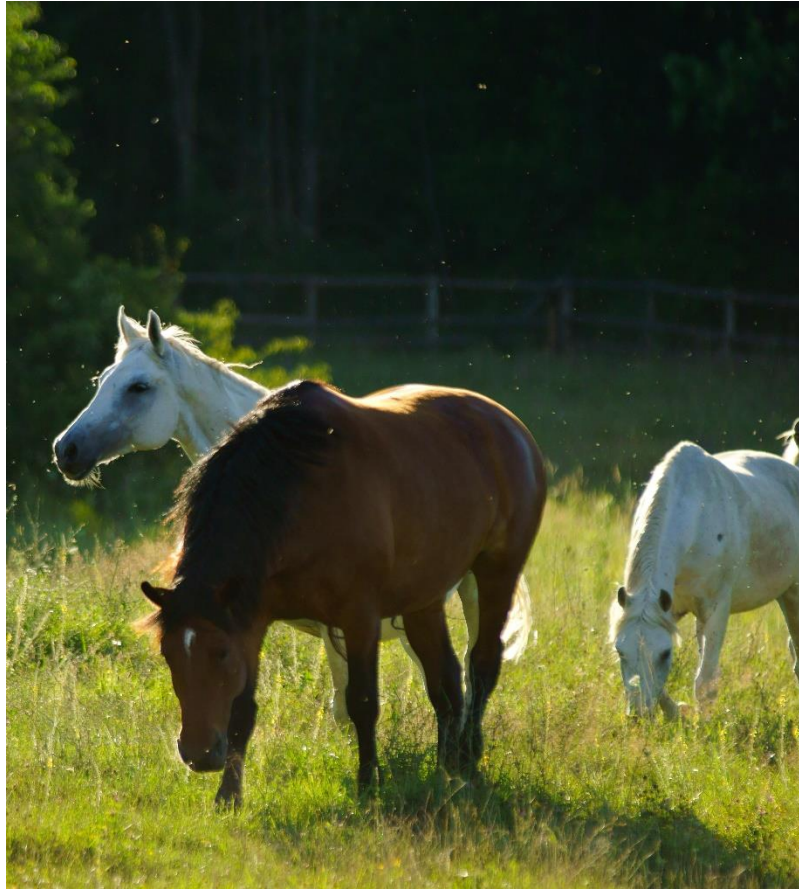


COBOR biodiversity farm

- This [project](#) has proven its viability.
- It is a perfect blend of high nature value grasslands, biodiversity conservation, organic farming, a cosy tourist and business destination, charismatic Transylvanian Grey Cattle, a breeding facility for the Carpathian shepherd dogs, and the best place for horse livery in the region.



- August and September were busy months at the farm: hay making, gardening, taking care of all the cattle, horses and Carpathian shepherd dogs and, of course, all our human guests.



- We want to preserve the sweet as well as the strong, sharp tastes of vegetables, so we have bottled tomato paste and braided the onions for winter.



- Our partners from a multinational company in Braşov have once again donated encyclopaedias, story and activity books, dictionaries, poetry and literature to the children that study at the local school in Cobor. Thank you!
- Details [HERE](#).



Wildlife hides

- During August and September, 47 guests visited our wildlife hides to observe bears, boars, bison, and deer. Up at the Comisu hides, the red deer rut was once again a spectacular experience.
- Check out our [ecotourism programme](#) and hope for better travel opportunities next year. ;-)

**Travel Carpathia –
experience the largest rewilding project in Eastern
Europe!**





Subscribe your idea or environmentally friendly business

- From 29th September to 9th October, we have invited interested members of the villages in the south of the Făgăraș Mountains to subscribe to our new business consultancy programme with the aim of developing nature friendly businesses, marketing, financing opportunities, etc.
- More details [HERE](#).



05

Communication &
community outreach



- 102 children in Nucșoara and Lerești were visited by our partner organisation Casa Bună. Valeriu Nicolae and his volunteers brought the little students school stationery, sweets, hygiene products and masks in preparation for the new school year.
- If you want to contribute, please contact us at info@carpathia.org.



- Journalists from various countries have visited our project to document the conservation activities of the CARPATHIA project.
- Another interesting project is a one-year botanical tour with two freelancers that are photographing and writing for Scena 9, Romania.



- We were honoured to be visited by his excellency Hans-Erich Tischler, the German Consul from Sibiu.
- He spent a few hours touring our biodiversity farm in Cobor, Braşov county, to see all the work we have done to revive the village and to maintain a high degree of biodiversity on the pastures.

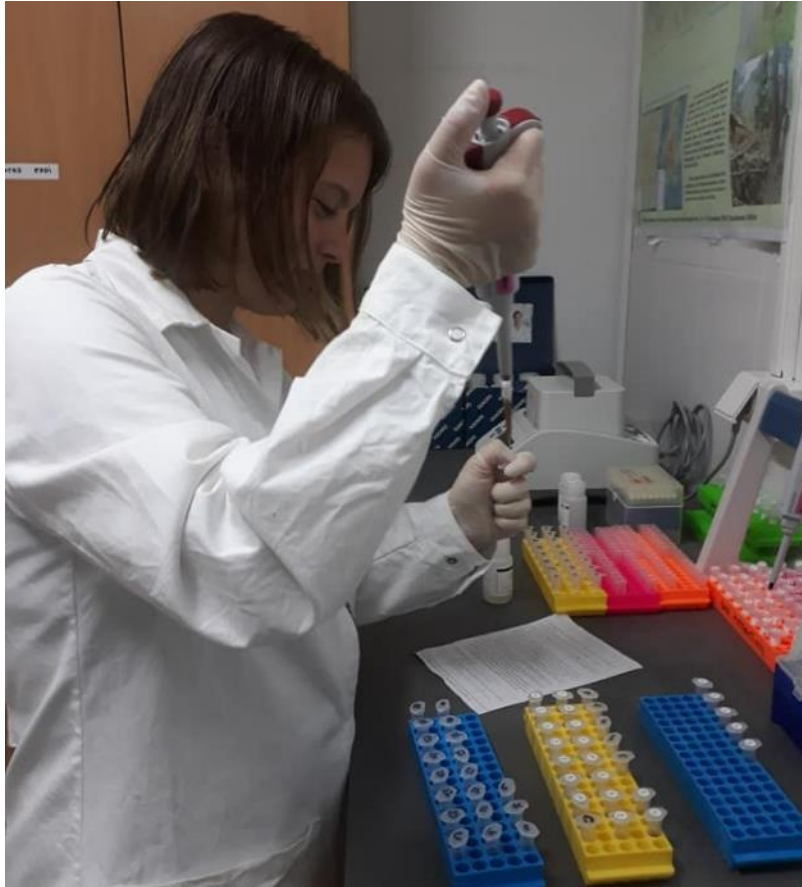


- In August, we hosted a visit of a number of Romanian environmental NGOs to our project area.
- Besides presenting the results of our work so far, we established a collaboration framework for the protection and conservation of the Făgăraș Mountains in the medium and longer term.



We have received help from three new volunteers:

- **Delia** joined our team for three weeks and helped with collecting samples, as well as with the basic preparation of the DNA samples in our lab.
- **Oana** helps the Communication department with the Lightroom photo database as well as the wildlife monitoring team in the field.
- **Andra** is a consistent and reliable help at our green house and Leaota tree nurseries and in addition helps the wildlife monitoring team whenever necessary.





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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