

Volunteering at Cobor Biodiversity Farm

Background:

Fundatia Conservation Carpathia (FCC) is a Romanian conservation NGO with the goal to create a world-class wilderness reserve in the Southern Romanian Carpathians for the benefit of biodiversity and local communities.

Biodiversity Farming:

Next to this forest conservation project, FCC has developed a 500 ha farm with breeding of autochthonous cattle breeds, horse-livery, and eco-tourism in the ancient hills of Transylvania. The concept of biodiversity farming puts the conservation of the century-old grasslands with all their richness of birds, butterflies and insects in the first place of all farm operations, but demonstrates at the same time the profitability of the enterprise to support a part of Fundatia Conservation Carpathia's running costs.

At current, the farm has 44 horses in livery, owns a cattle herd of 50 Hungarian Grey cattle (with increasing numbers), runs a breeding programme for pure-bred livestock guarding dogs, two guesthouses with a total of 12 rooms, a seminar building, and a small restaurant, and starts to develop the production of essences and oils from wild herb collection for an international nature-cosmetic company. A total of 9 persons (plus seasonably changing daily labourers) is currently employed for the farm, but we intend to increase the number of staff with the further development of the farm.

Intern Opportunity:

We are now offering volunteer positions (min. 4 weeks) for agriculture students/adults with a minimum experience in farming at the Cobor Biodiversity Farm during May - October. During these months, the volunteers can participate and will get insight into a variety of different farm activities such as

- hay making with modern environmental machinery,
- working on horse and puppies care,
- management of free-ranging ancient cattle breeds,
- farm maintenance activities,
- gardening,
- eco-tourism activities (guided tours, hospitality, catering)

Applicants should have the following attitudes:

- Experience in and knowledge about organic farming;
- Experience in handling livestock;
- Experience in operation of agricultural machinery;
- Well organised and structured personality;
- Willingness to work long hours.

The Cobor Biodiversity Farm offers free food and accommodation.

Applications

If you are interested in an internship at the Cobor Biodiversity Farm, please send your application with a letter of intent by email to o.csakany@carpathia.org and a.boghiu:carpathia.org.