



October 2020

Field report



Main activities summary

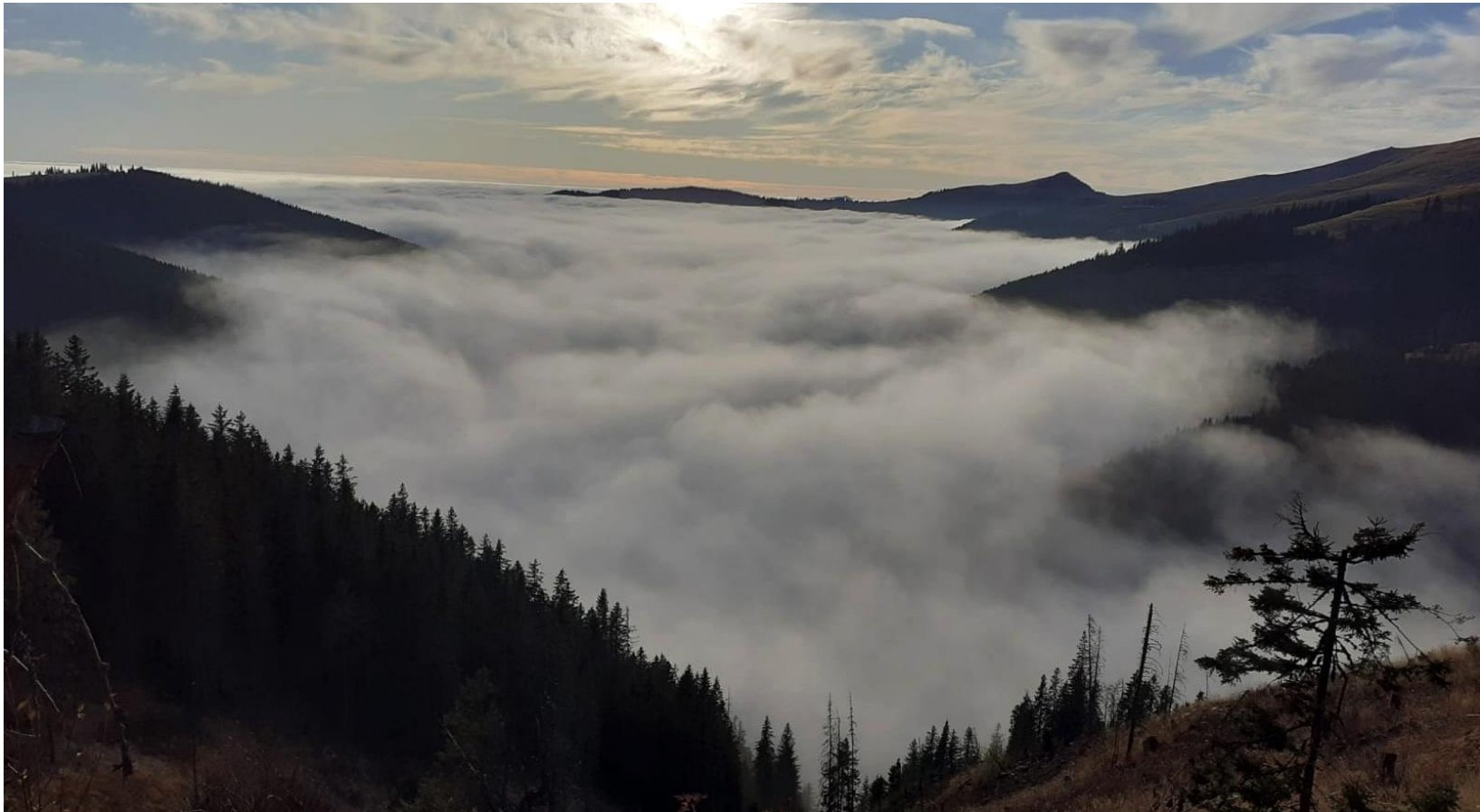
- 01 Forest conservation and management
- 02 Ecological restoration
- 03 Wildlife conservation
- 04 Conservation enterprise
- 05 Communication & community outreach



01

Forest conservation and management





- We were able to purchase an additional 18 ha of land for full protection.
- We have studied the grazing capacity throughout three of our alpine meadows to establish the optimum number of livestock that can be sustained.
- With the help of external experts, existing forest management plans, and satellite images, we have mapped all old-growth forest in our project area.







02

Ecological restoration



- We are truly shocked by the degraded state of this huge clear-cut to the west of the Iezer-Păpușa Mountains, which we purchased last year for restoration. The forest was destroyed almost 10 years ago and yet our rangers found that natural regeneration had only occurred on 5 - 30% of the surface. It shows once again that forests which are cut close to the timberline regenerate extremely slowly.
- We have started levelling the ground on the old tractor tracks to stop the erosion of important topsoils.
- In November, we will start replanting this new site. Due to the extent of this clear-cut, however, it will take several years to accomplish this job.





Prepare sapling count in a clear-cut site



Fixed erosion track



Bringing saplings up into the mountain



Cutting grass around the saplings

- After a lapse of over 5 years, the beech trees had a very rich fructification again and we were able to collect huge amounts of seeds for our nurseries.
- Stone pine, sycamore, rowan, beech, fir and juniper – our tree nurseries are now full and seeds were even deposited for seeding next year.
- We have established a new tree nursery in Leaota and are now growing saplings in all 9 of our nurseries covering a total of 5,000m².



03

Wildlife conservation

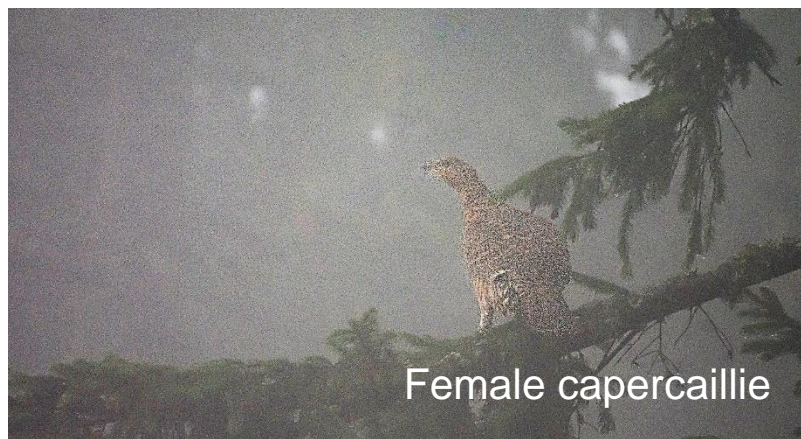
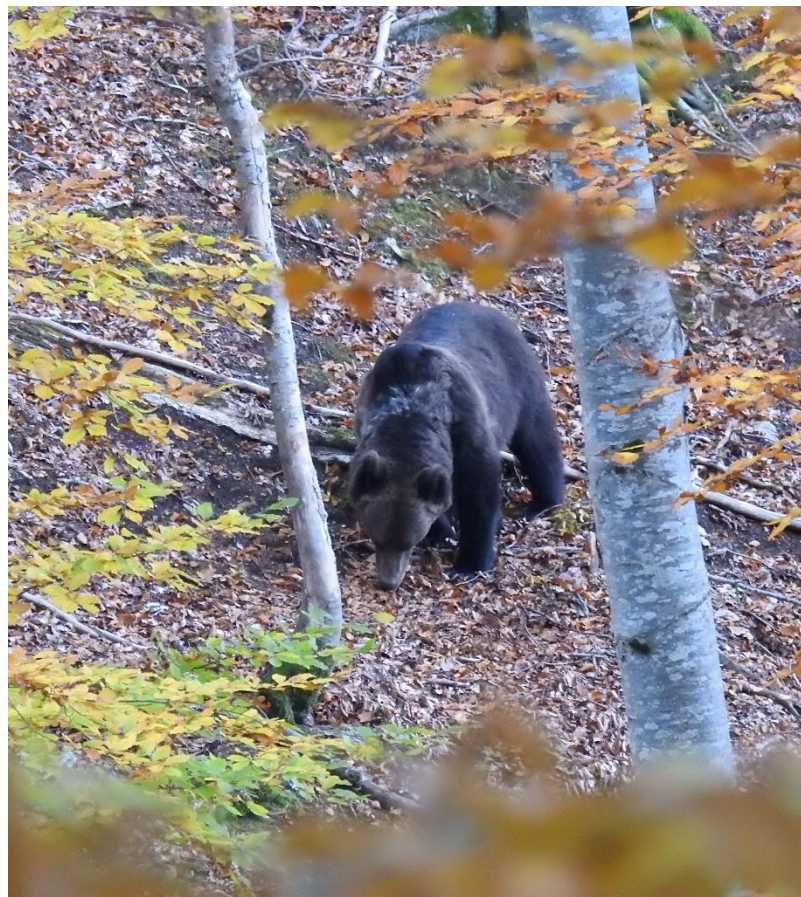
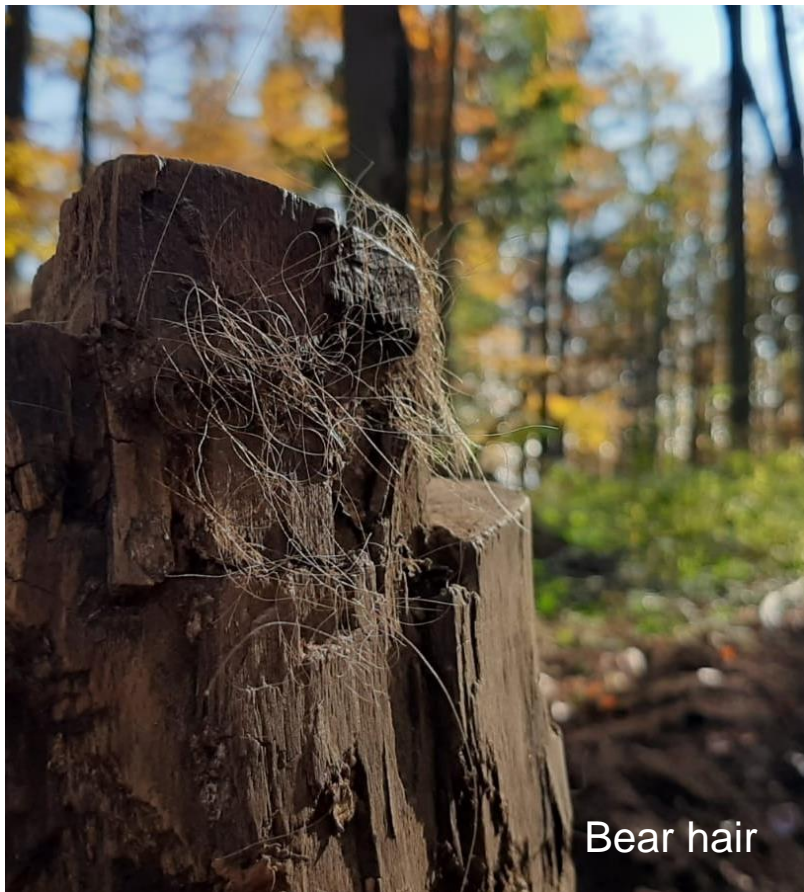


Wildlife monitoring

- We were pleased to be able to share with the scientific and non-scientific public the results of the [lynx study](#) we have just completed!
- After 3 seasons and more than 300 days of research, we were able to identify 23 adults and 9 kittens throughout an area of ca. 1,200 sq km (300,000 acres). This represents a healthy [lynx population](#) with a slightly higher density compared to other populations in central Europe (Slovakian Carpathians, Swiss Alps or Jura Mountains).

[Video.](#)





Wildlife monitoring

- Meet Damine, one of the female bison released this spring, who remained detached from the main herd and stayed close to the release area. She will soon gain the company of several other bison which we will introduce to the eastern Făgăraș Mountains.
- Radio collars which emit both GPS and VHF signals allow us to locate the herd at all times.
- Our team is building the quarantine enclosure for the second release site in Lerești.



In-kind compensations for wildlife related losses

- After bears were found to have killed several livestock in our wildlife management areas, we were able to compensate four local farmers with one sheep and three cows in exchange for their losses.
- This initiative has been welcomed by locals, as the state compensation programme doesn't work properly: with delays of over a year until compensations are paid and which are then insufficient to buy a new cow or sheep.



Wildlife management:

- We keep moving the electric fences: uninstalling them from the mountain sheepfolds once the livestock has descended, and installing new ones at hotspots around the villages to prevent conflicts. In several cases, bears touched the electric fences and their attacks upon livestock were interrupted.
- Our rapid intervention teams patrol almost every day to prevent wildlife from getting too close to the villages and we have seen a strong decrease in human-wildlife conflicts.
- Nevertheless, wild boar continue to destroy some pastures. Obviously, we can never avoid all conflicts, but we can try to keep them at an acceptable level.





04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



COBOR

biodiversity farm

- Haymaking is finished, thank goodness!
Time to rest! ;-)



- We have nine new Carpatin puppies, which we will donate to farmers around the Făgăraș Mountains.



- After looking after the visitors, autumn gardening, taking care of the amazing horses in our livery as well as more than 130 Grey Cattle, at the end of the day our biodiversity farm remains a peaceful conservation haven!

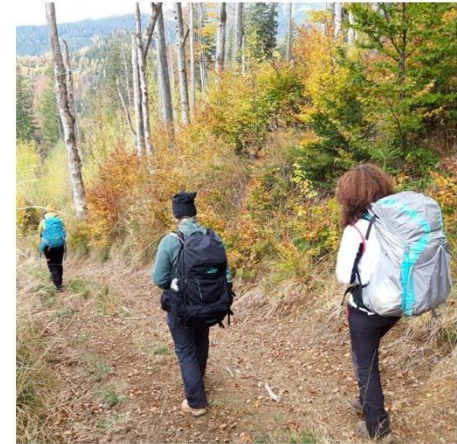
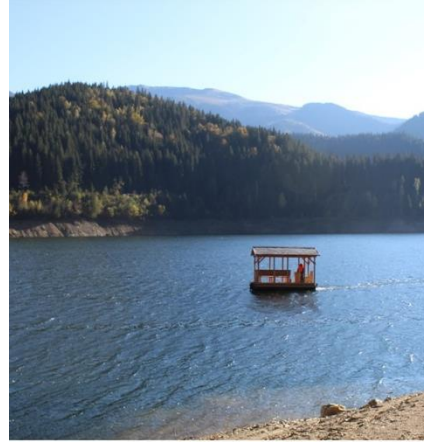


Wildlife hides

- We have now officially closed the 2020 tourism season at the Bunea and Comisu hides. During the last weekend in October both hides were booked. Last tour, first snow and very happy visitors!
- Check out our [ecotourism programme](#) and hope for better travel opportunities next year.

The [bears](#) at the hide say farewell until late spring 2021!

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





Consultancy for eco-businesses

- From 29th September to 9th October, we 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.
- We received a total of 23 applications from local entrepreneurs who are interested in receiving support and we look forward to helping them in the months to come.



05

Communication &
community outreach



- We produced a series of beautiful posters about the Făgăraș Mountains.
- From now until the end of the year, we will distribute them to all 28 communes surrounding the mountains, to beautify guesthouses, shops or personal homes.



- During recent years we have tried to celebrate the [Protected Areas week](#) by organising different activities.
- This year we opened our wildlife hides with an irresistible offer for our fellow conservationists and nature lovers – an adventure in the wilderness, seasoned with conservation stories. Ten nature lovers came and left as friends of Conservation Carpathia.





Join us in:

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



**FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION
CARPATHIA**

Calea Feldioarei 27A, Brasov – Romania
info@carpathia.org

PHOTO CREDITS: Adrian Aldea, Damiel Bîrloiu, Simona Bordea, Liviu Bulgaru, Georgiana & Mihai Cațan, Marius Coțîrleț, Ionuț Crețu, Adrian Idor, Ruben Iosif, Valeriu Ganci, Sascha Montag, Alexandru Oprei, Flavius Răuță, Constantin Simion, Călin Șerban, Codruț Șerb, Laviniu Terciu, David Hub & Michiel van Noppen, Liviu Ungureanu, David Zârnovan.