

November 2020

Field report



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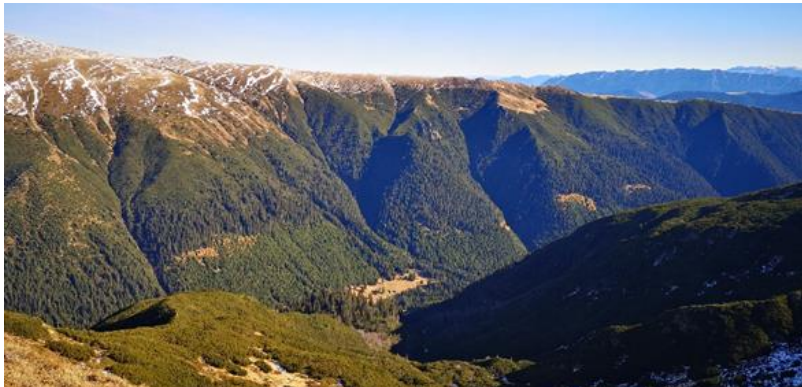
01

Forest conservation and management





- We have finalised our assessment of the invasive alien plant species within mountain drainage basins and we will start a programme to remove these alien invasive species from the vegetation of the valleys.





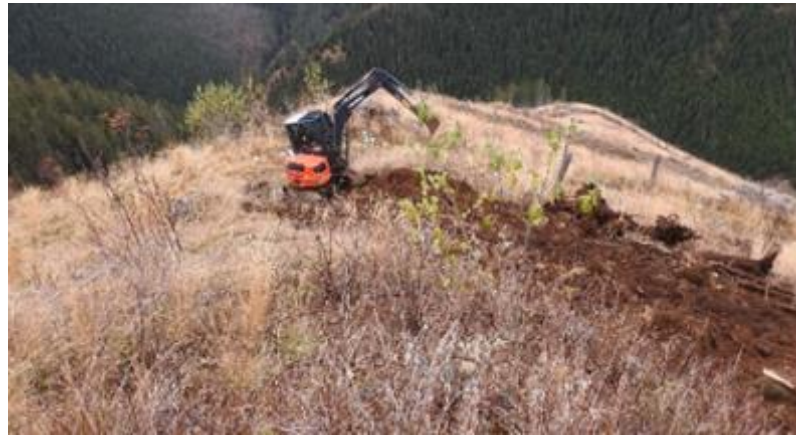


02

Ecological restoration



- If it's November, it's replanting time!
- Tough autumn conditions for the seasonal workers, volunteers and rangers working amid a recently purchased, appallingly bad, old 100 ha clear-cut.
- Fourteen hectares and 62,150 saplings planted and a few more years of hard work to go, to see this valley thriving with life again.
- Another 1,000 alder saplings were planted along the mountain rivers, in an attempt to restore the riparian galleries, which are very important for biodiversity.
- One of our small excavators has fixed erosion problems along 1,000 metres of old logging tracks.
- If you want to join our efforts in providing justice and fairness for the Carpathians, donate [here](#).



- Artificial spruce monocultures in low-lying altitudes, planted only for economical reasons after felling of the natural mixed forests, are poor in biodiversity. This is why we are committed to bringing back the original forests, where natural life is allowed to thrive.
- We create pockets of light and plant naturally occurring species such as beech, fir, elm or sycamore.



- We have seeded sycamore and checked the one-year-old juniper saplings. We are satisfied with their growth and will nurture them for one more year in the greenhouse. Juniper will be used in the LIFE Nature project to restore the degraded alpine meadows.
- We keep improving the conditions in our nine tree nurseries. Here is a line of birch saplings, to provide shade and protect the future saplings from the direct sun.



- We are renovating a mountain sheep fold that we use as a shelter for workers during the long seasons of replanting.



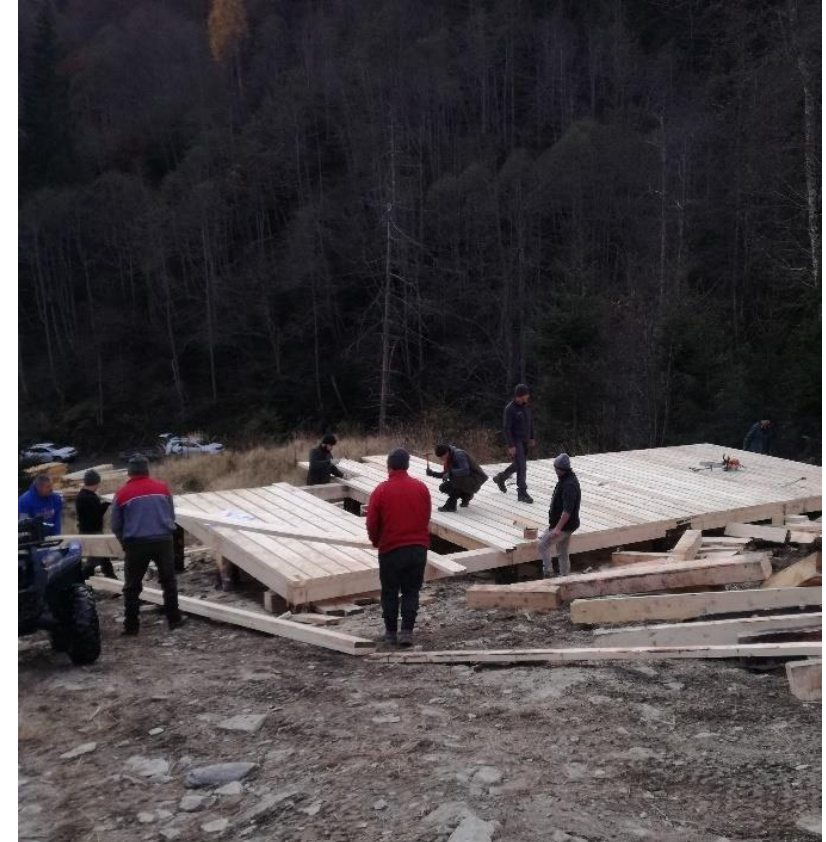
03

Wildlife conservation



Wildlife monitoring

- What a tremendous surprise, when our rangers saw the bison at the eastern tip of the Făgăraș Mountains: **the first bison calf was born in the wild for more than 200 years!** It is very rare that calves are born so late, but we found evidence in the literature that it does happen. Fingers crossed he will survive the winter!
- A few more bison will complete the initial group that lives in the Făgăraș Mountains. Two (a male and a female) arrived this month from Natural Park Vânători Neamț in northern Romania.
- We will also introduce several individuals into a second area in Lerești, where we have almost finished building the acclimatisation enclosure for this group.





Wildlife monitoring

- The lynx study was a success. To continue our work we have installed camera traps to supervise this species during the winter season.
- Autumn chamois monitoring provided positive signs that the species is slowly but surely increasing in number. Still a long way to go to reach the numbers we are looking for.



Wildlife monitoring

- In partnership with Aqua Crisius we manage a number of river courses in the Făgăraș Mountains, including part of the Vâlsan River. Recently, specialists have certified the presence of asprete – Romanian darter - (*Romanichthys valsanicola*), which is the most endangered fish species in the world. Excellent news for the Făgăraș Mountains and a positive impetus for nature conservation in Romania!
- Aqua Crisius has continued its initiative to repopulate the mountain rivers with indigenous trout and 3,500 one-year-old specimens were released in November into the rivers of the Făgăraș Mountains.



Wildlife management:

- Our rapid intervention teams have participated in a training course on animal interventions with tranquilization.
- We are constantly moving the electric fences: installing new ones at hotspots around the villages to prevent conflicts.
- We continue patrolling every day to prevent wildlife from getting close to the villages, with positive results.







04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



COBOR biodiversity farm

- As the year reaches its close, all the rush involving visitors fades away and we focus merely on the amazing horses in our livery, on more than 130 Grey Cattle and on all the other activities around the farm.



- This is a flower. A Carpatin puppies flower. Eating. 😊
- When they grow up and start defending the livestock of the farmers around the Făgăraș Mountains they won't be as cute as they are now, but they will be most helpful!



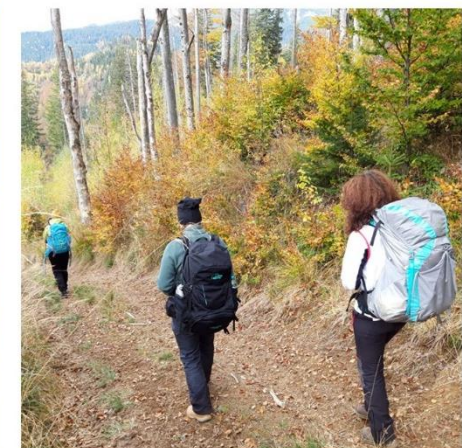
Wildlife hides

Book your wildlife experience

before 24th December and gain a **15-20% discount**, depending on group size.

Check out our [ecotourism programme](#) and drop us an email at reservation@travelcarpathia.com.

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

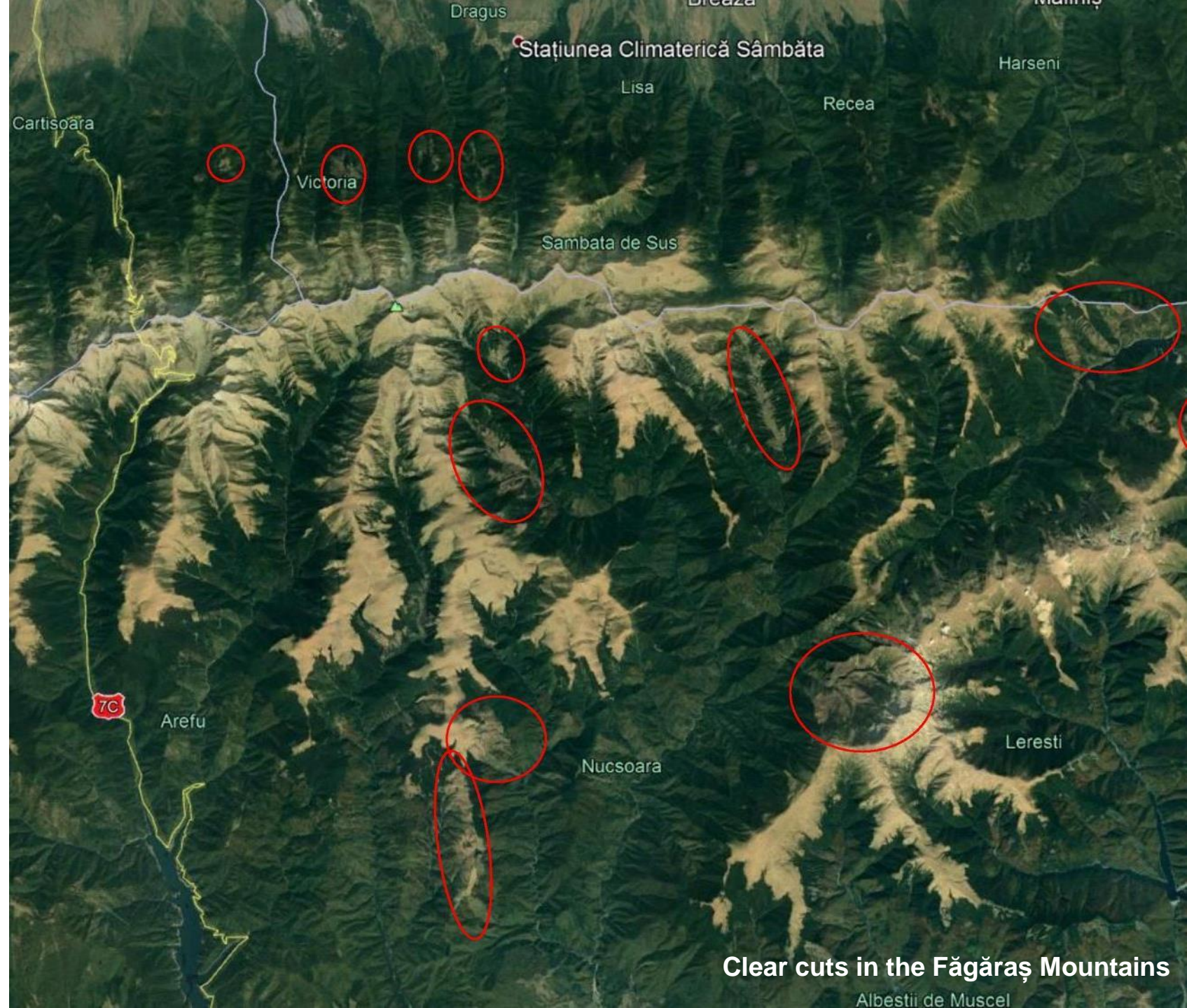


05

Communication &
community outreach



- Eighty-three members of the European Parliament responded to the call of the Natura 2000 Coalition to stop illegal logging in Europe's last old-growth forests, to manage protected areas, including Natura 2000 sites, and to stop abuses against those working to preserve forests in Romania.
- We are part of the Natura 2000 Coalition and after this event we, unsurprisingly, were attacked again by some Romanian entities that seem to believe that illegal logging doesn't happen in Romania. Obviously, someone should provide them with access to Google Earth...
- See the letter addressed to the European Parliament [here](#).



Clear cuts in the Făgăraș Mountains

- Due to the pandemic, the planned **Făgăraș Fest** had to be postponed, but we kept in touch online with those who love the Făgăraș Mountains. In November we invited them to take part in a photography contest: **‘Surprise us in the Făgăraș Mountains’**, to delight us with the most beautiful images captured in these amazing mountains: **‘Nature’**, **‘Species of Flora and Fauna’** and **‘Anthropic Landscape’** from the local communities around the Făgăraș Mountains.
- A combination of the public vote and jury vote (Dan Dinu and Daniel Mîrlea from the FORONA Association) decided the three winners:

Tibi Feczko, Nature
Johan Kessler, Flora/Fauna
Constantin Dinu, Anthropic Landscape
- The prizes of the contest were special: baskets with local products from the local communities of the Făgăraș Mountains.

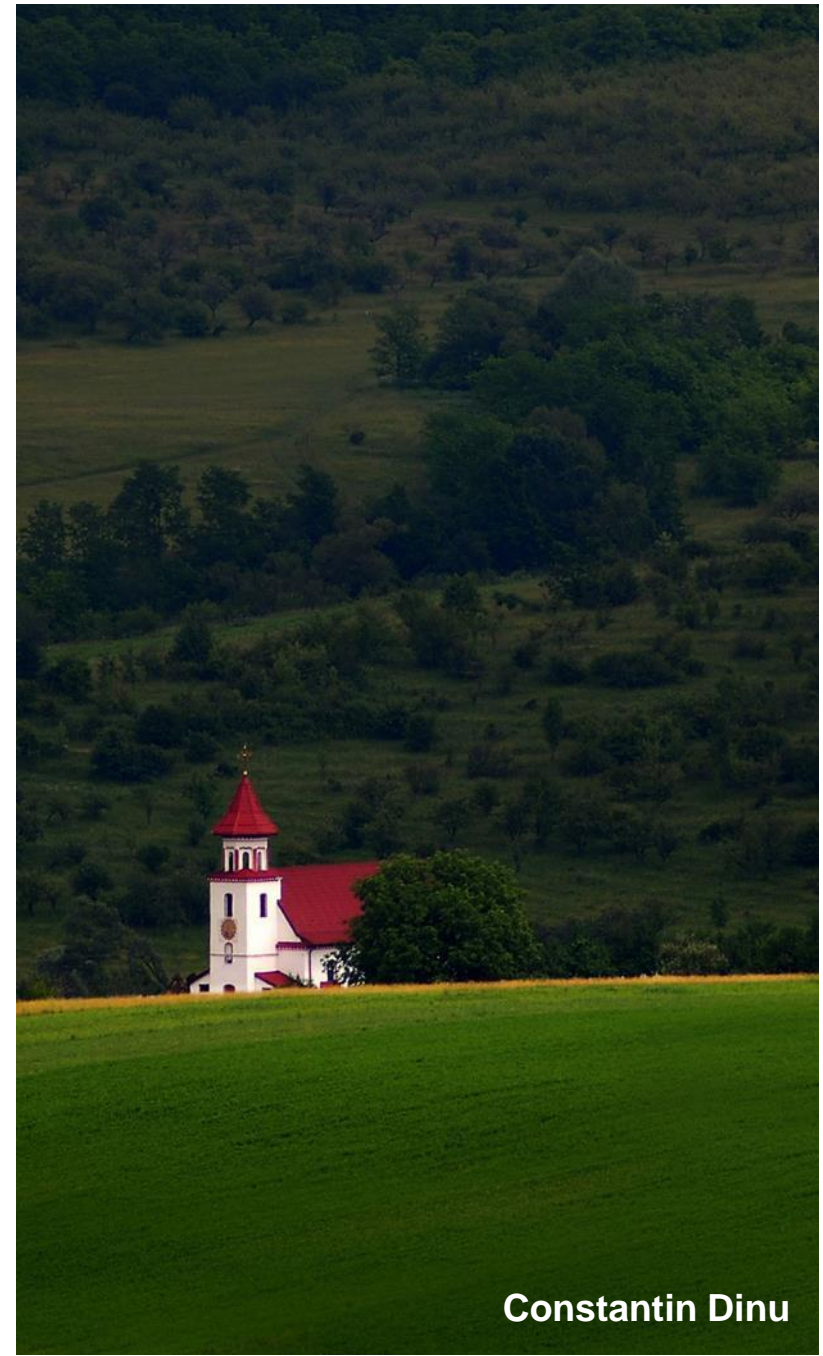




Tibi Feczko



Johan Kessler



Constantin Dinu

- We have taken part in a school project called 'Education at Height', which broadcasted live a biology lesson for 3 schools in Hunedoara County, from the Lespezi-Dobroneagu peak.
- Our chief ranger had a wonderful time explaining to the children about his work in CARPATHIA.





Join us in:

- Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe.
- Annual restoration of the original ecosystem of 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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PHOTO CREDITS: Daniel Bîrloiu, Georgiana & Mihai Cațan, Ionut Cretu, Constantin Dinu, Marius Druga, Tibi Feczko, Ruben Iosif, Johan Kessler, David Hub & Michiel van Noppen, Daniel Mirlea, Madalin Mocanu, Sascha Montag, Ioana Nicolae, Alexandru Oprei, Flavius Răuță, Constantin Simion, Codruț Șerb, Călin Șerban, Laviniu Terciu, Claudiu Toanta, Liviu Ungureanu, David Zânovan, Fundatia Alex Gavan, Andrei Togor, Marius Drimbea.