



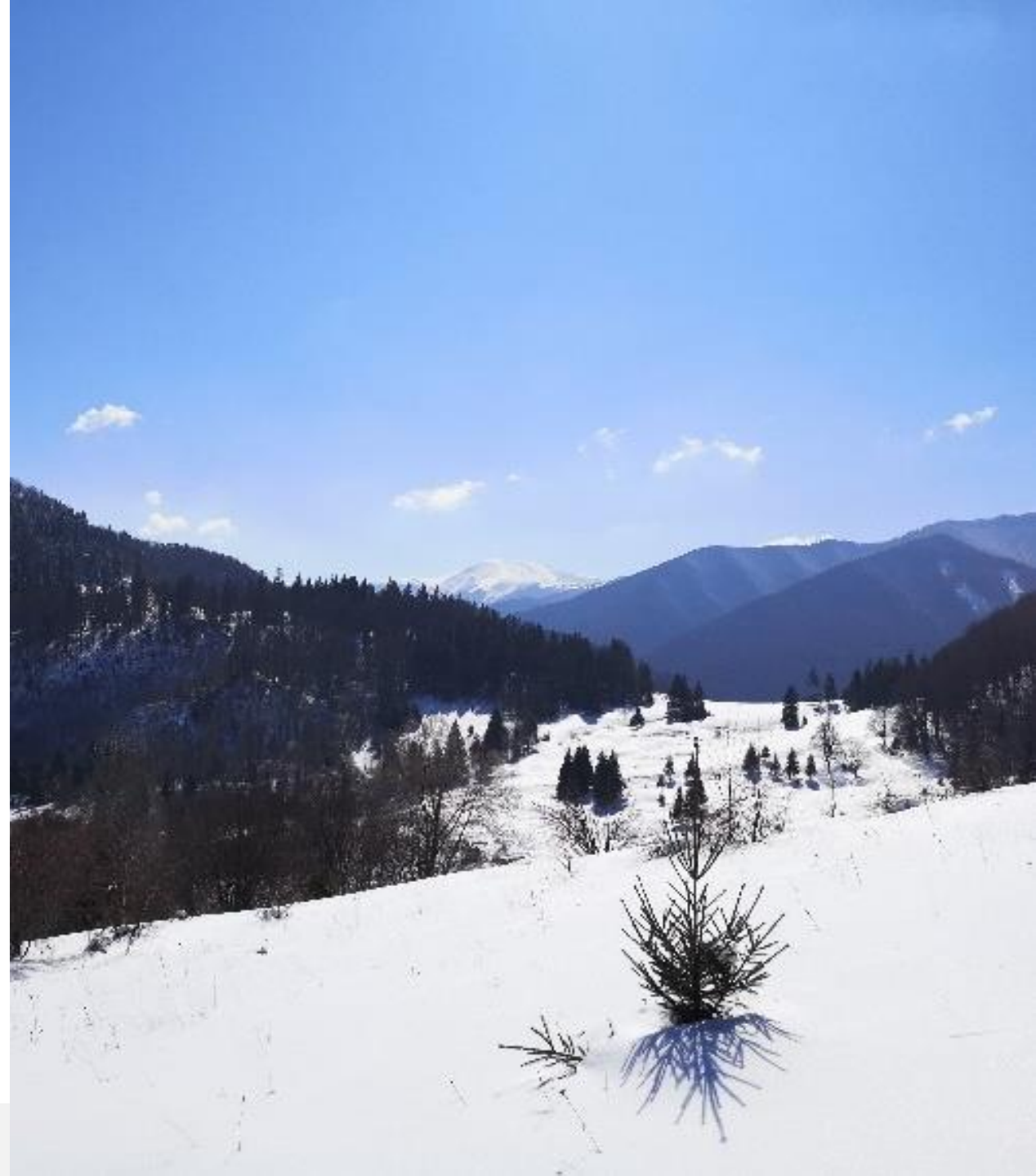
March 2021

Field report



Main activities summary

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

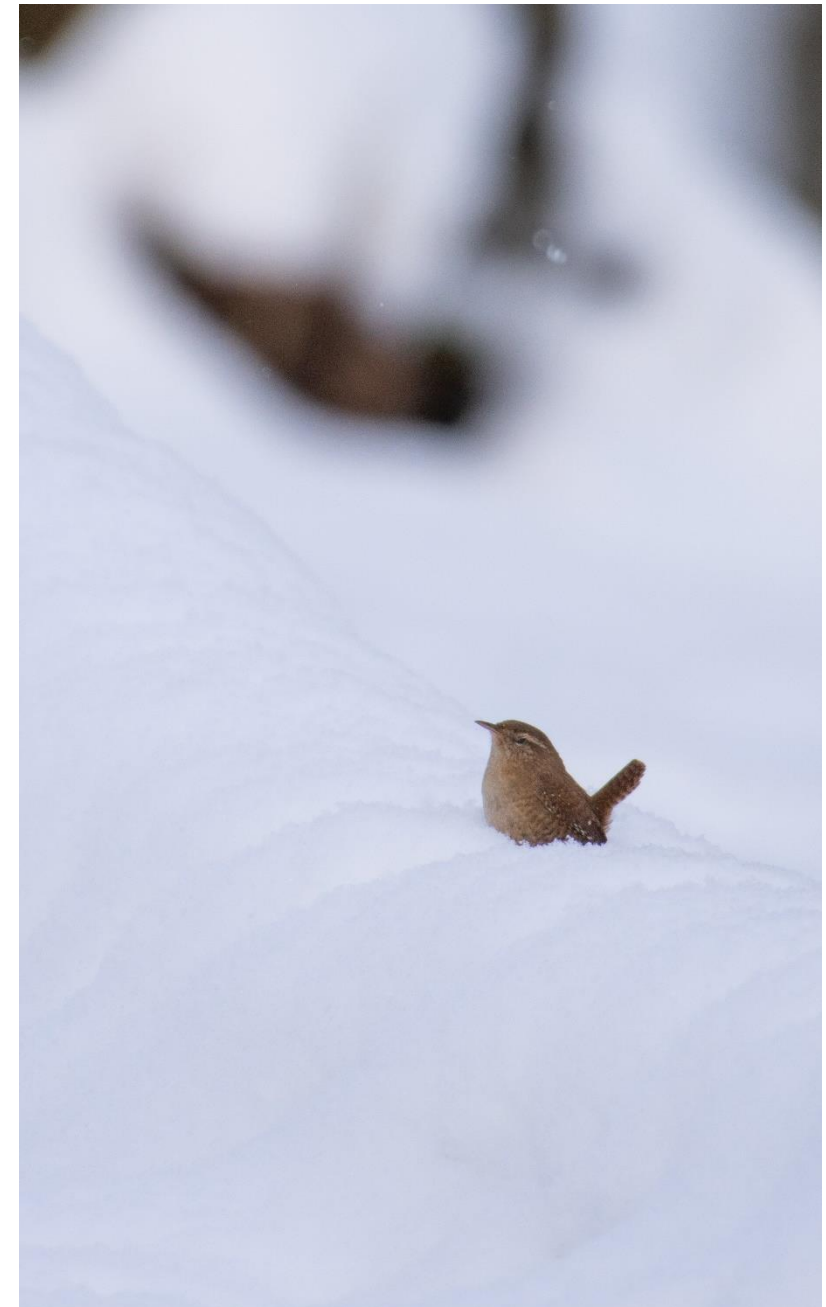


01

Forest conservation and
management



- In terms of weather, March was a month of contrasts with lots of fresh snow followed by days with temperatures above 15°C and then more snow again. Don't be surprised about the mixture of pictures showing both deep winter and spring, they are all from the same month.
- We were able to purchase an additional 160 ha of land for full protection.









02

Ecological restoration

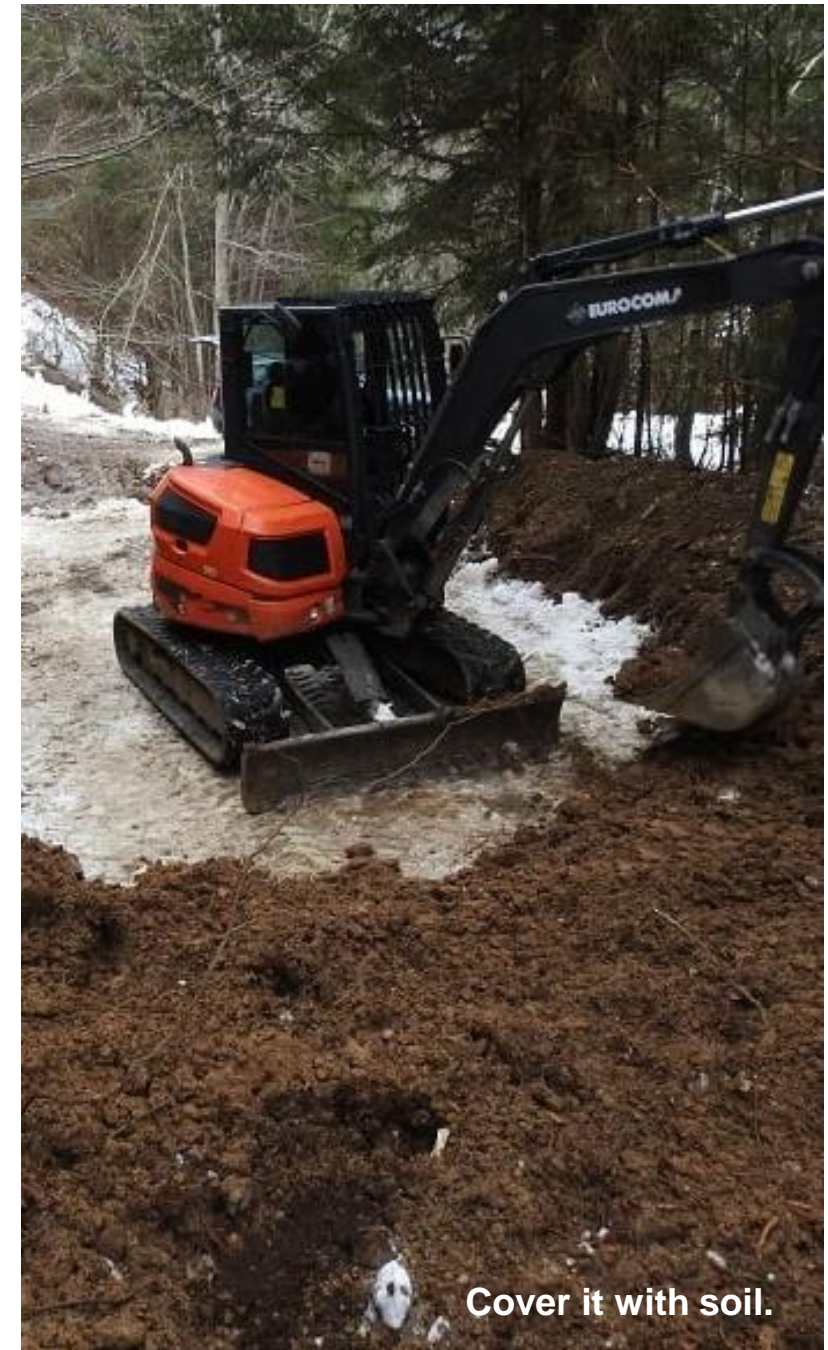


- It will be a hard year for our team, but we will continue to provide fairness to the forest! Two severely degraded areas in the heart of the Făgăraș Mountains (Groapele and Valea Lungă) will gain the appropriate trees back! These are the two most difficult restoration sites we have had to deal with so far. And the largest clear-cuts as well, both over 10 years old.
- Wish us good luck, good weather and good people to give life to 100 ha of new forest this year!

If you want to join our efforts in restoring the Carpathians, please donate [here](#).



- Building a natural ice cooler to deposit the saplings in until they are planted.
- When the time comes, we will bring the saplings here and place them into this “fridge” and then take them out gradually, as the planting season takes several weeks.



- We have taken the one year old saplings from the greenhouses and deposited them safely until the snow melts from the tree nurseries. We will then be able to plant them there, for a further two years, until they are matured enough to be used in the reforestation activity.
- We covered the green houses with foil and also covered a few lots in the tree nurseries, to protect germinated seeds from frost.





03

Wildlife conservation



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Wildlife monitoring:

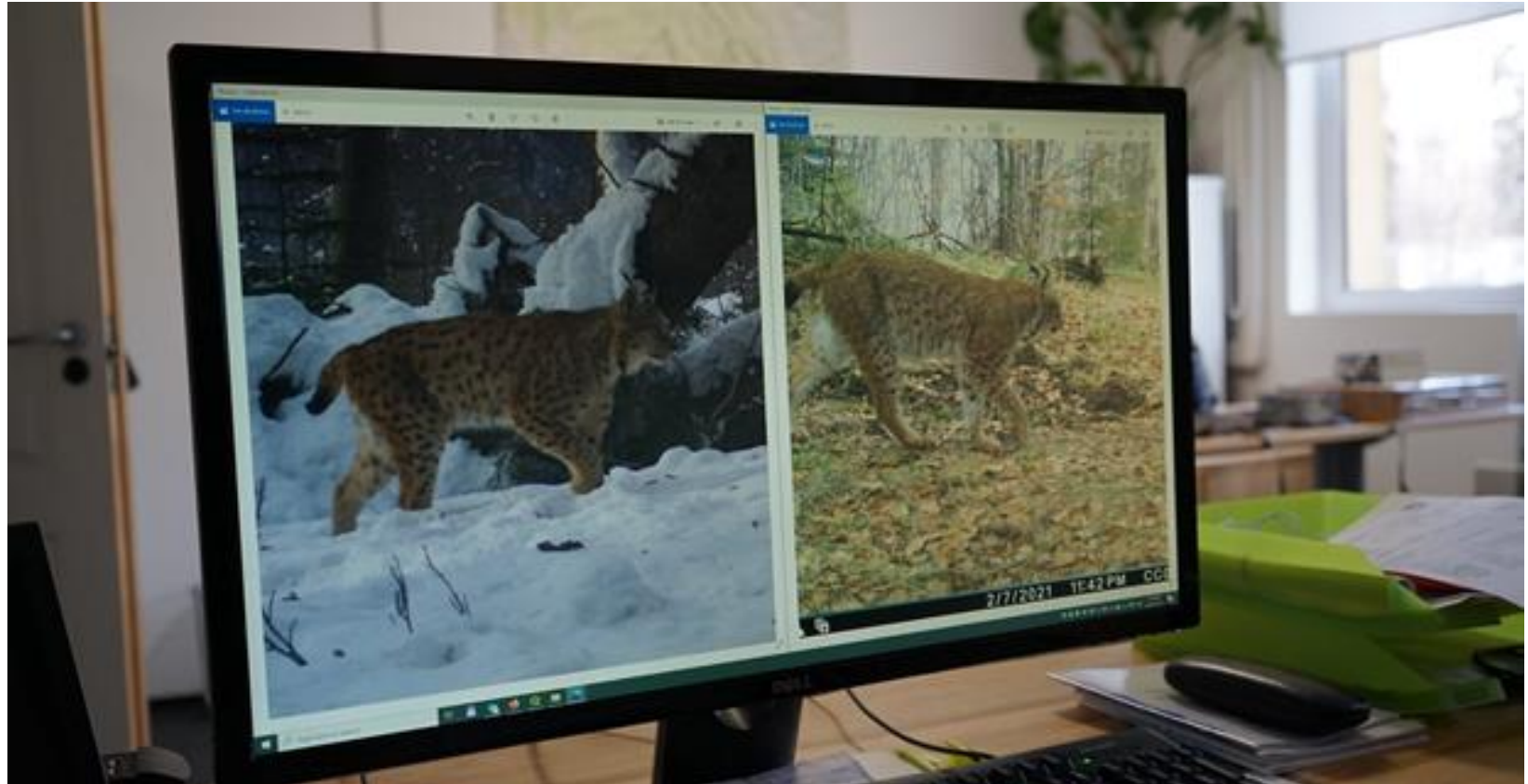
- At the end of March, only 7 camera traps remained installed in the field. All the rest had been taken back to the office for analysis of the data.
- Did you know that each lynx has a unique fur pattern and we can identify individuals this way? Here is the [complete study](#) for the species. Now we are rechecking the results, to see if we can discover new individuals.
- We also collect genetic samples for DNA analysis, for other species, such as [bear](#).



Bear hair for DNA



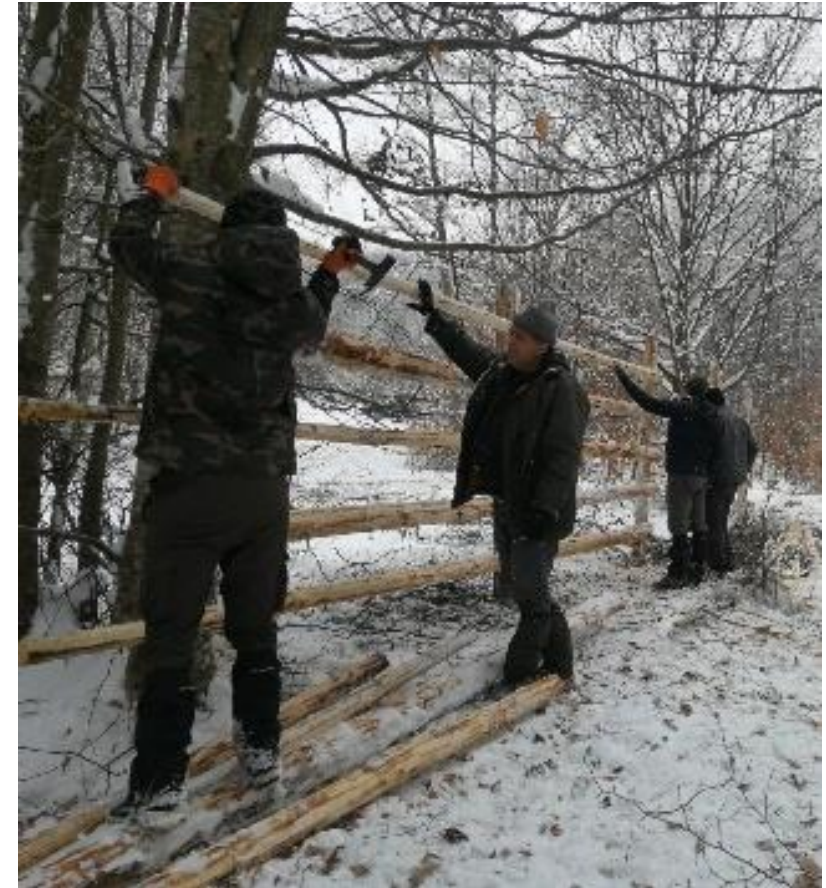
Bear hair on a tree





Wildlife monitoring:

- The bison are well. We have brought three more individuals to Lerești and we keep working on the third enclosure.
- We never get tired of observing these mighty herbivores!
- The rangers and the rapid intervention teams are present in the field and keep a close eye on the forest. Wild boar and bears make their presence known near the villages and we want to prevent possible damage.





- As in the previous years, we were happy to help our partner organisation Aqua Crisius in repopulating the rivers with fish.
- In the first few months of 2021, they managed to place 23,000 eyed eggs of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) in four incubation systems.
- The alevin hatch directly into the river into which they will continue their lifecycle, and the fish, not being accustomed to being fed with granules, have an increased ability to adapt.







04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



FOOD HUB

- Creating a FOOD HUB was on our mind for several years and we are extremely happy to announce that our team has succeeded in launching this new project The Fruits of the Făgăraș Mountains (Facebook: Roadele Munților): selected products harvested from the mountains, a local food enterprise collecting and distributing traditional products from the Făgăraș Mountains to customers interested in obtaining fresh and healthy food.
- This project opens up new markets for local small scale farmers.
- So far, the feedback from the buyers is positive – now the challenge is to increase the sales in order to help more farmers.



COBOR

Biodiversity Farm

- In March the weather went bananas again! Just when we thought spring would come we got two more rounds of snow. Mud everywhere...
- More calves were born. The herd is getting bigger.
- We are working as fast as we can to get the mobile abattoir up and running.



- Feeding, watering, daily routines with the horses are all happening according to the plan.
- The vet came for the periodical deworming and medical check-up.
- The Carpatin shepherd dogs are doing well. So far we have three pregnant females and a waiting list of seven interested livestock breeders around the Făgăraș Mountains who want puppies.



- If you miss a good last minute travel and you don't find your country on [this list](#) (check the first document on the page) it means you don't need to quarantine in Romania, and we are happy to welcome you! Be aware the list is being up-dated roughly every 7 days. Our incidence in the commune is less than 1/1000 Covid cases.
- Come to Transylvania and fall in love with [Cobor](#)!



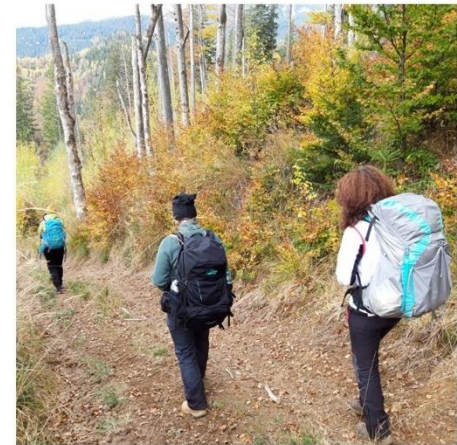
Wildlife hides

Do you want to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of the city? Escape with us, enjoy some fresh air, comfort and safety. Go to <https://travelcarpathia.com/ro/bunea-wilderness-cabin/> to find out what experiences we have prepared for you!

All the proceeds from [Travel CARPATHIA](#) are used for our forest and wildlife conservation project!

For 2021 choose to be a visitor in support of a cause!

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



05

Communication &
community outreach





- To be considered a successful reintroduction of a missing species, according to specialists, around 100 specimens are necessary to thrive and breed freely in the wild, without any human intervention.
- Since May 2020, the first 8 bison are roaming free as part of Conservation Carpathia project.

[Donate](#)

so that Făgăraș Mountains become home for another 20 bison this year!



- Being a pioneer environmental project in Europe, we attract international media. We are pleased to host visits of international television companies, journalists and photographers. Reading about our major forest conservation efforts through the experience of the visitors is always like an x-ray of our work and provides feedback that encourages us.
- Here is the impression and work of the British photographer Nicholas JR White (left), in [New York Times](#).

We are thankful to all the visitors that spread our story all over the globe!

Nature needs half!



- 13 teachers from our project area (Rucăr, Lerești, Valea Mare-Pravăț, Nucșoara) completed the first part of the training Educator for nature, organised by Propark Foundation for Protected Areas.
- They are enthusiastic and keen to apply alongside their classes all the games and concepts learnt during this first module.



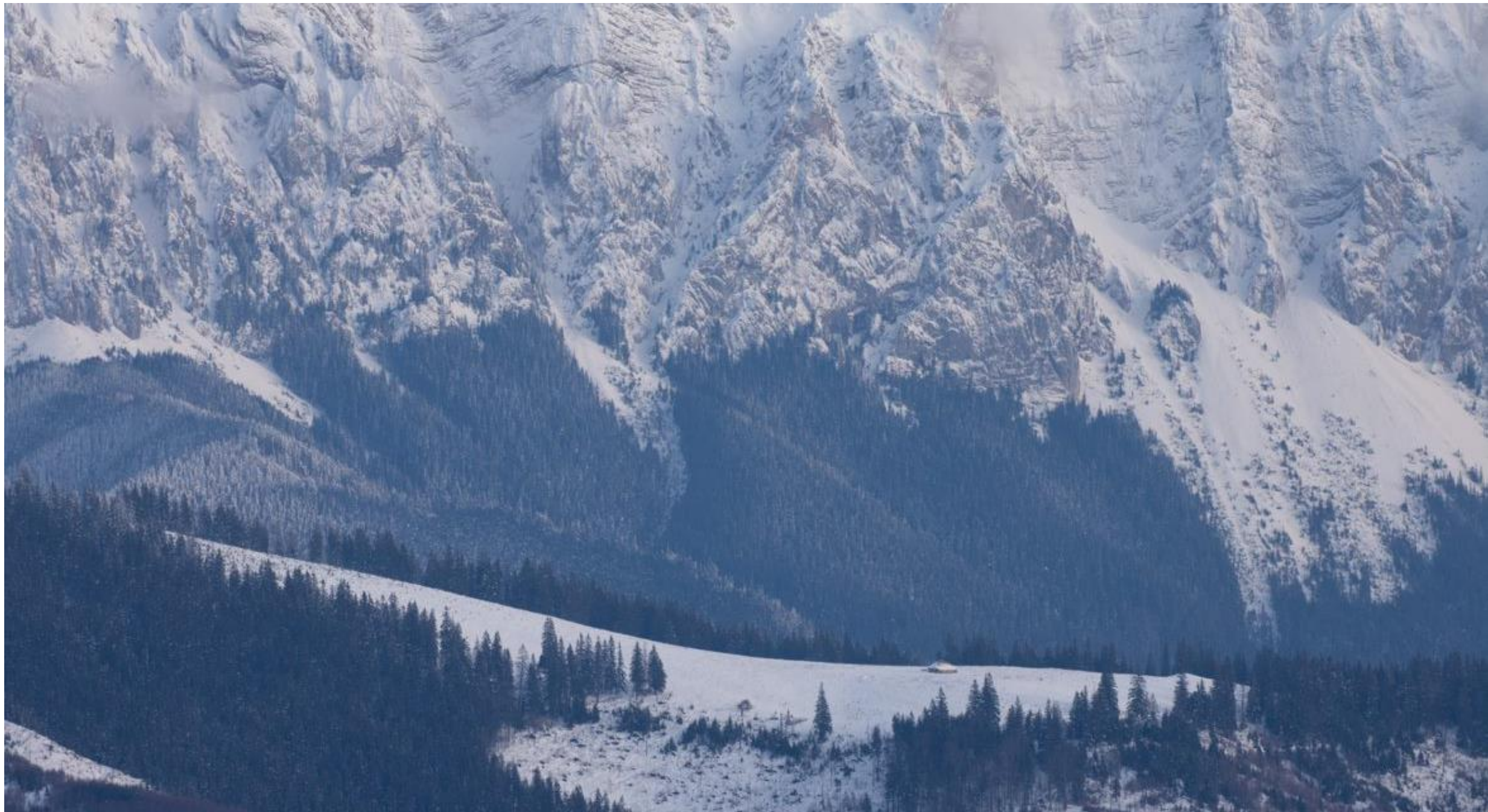
- In March we organized a working meeting on the authorization procedure of the [Local Gastronomic Points](#), with the participation of the representatives of the Argeş County Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate (DSVSA) and interested entrepreneurs from Dâmbovicioara.
- The Local Gastronomic Points are represented by private kitchens, where food is prepared according to culinary recipes specific to the area, which are served directly to the final consumer.



Volunteers

- Last year, due to known reasons, we couldn't really implement any volunteer programmes with larger groups.
- This year, we have adapted to the current conditions and selected a team of five international volunteers, who work alongside the wildlife monitoring team. Eric (on the left) has already started his field & office activity. 😊





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 across a total of 65,000 ha.
- Sustainable development of local communities.
- Environmental education projects.



**FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION
CARPATHIA**

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