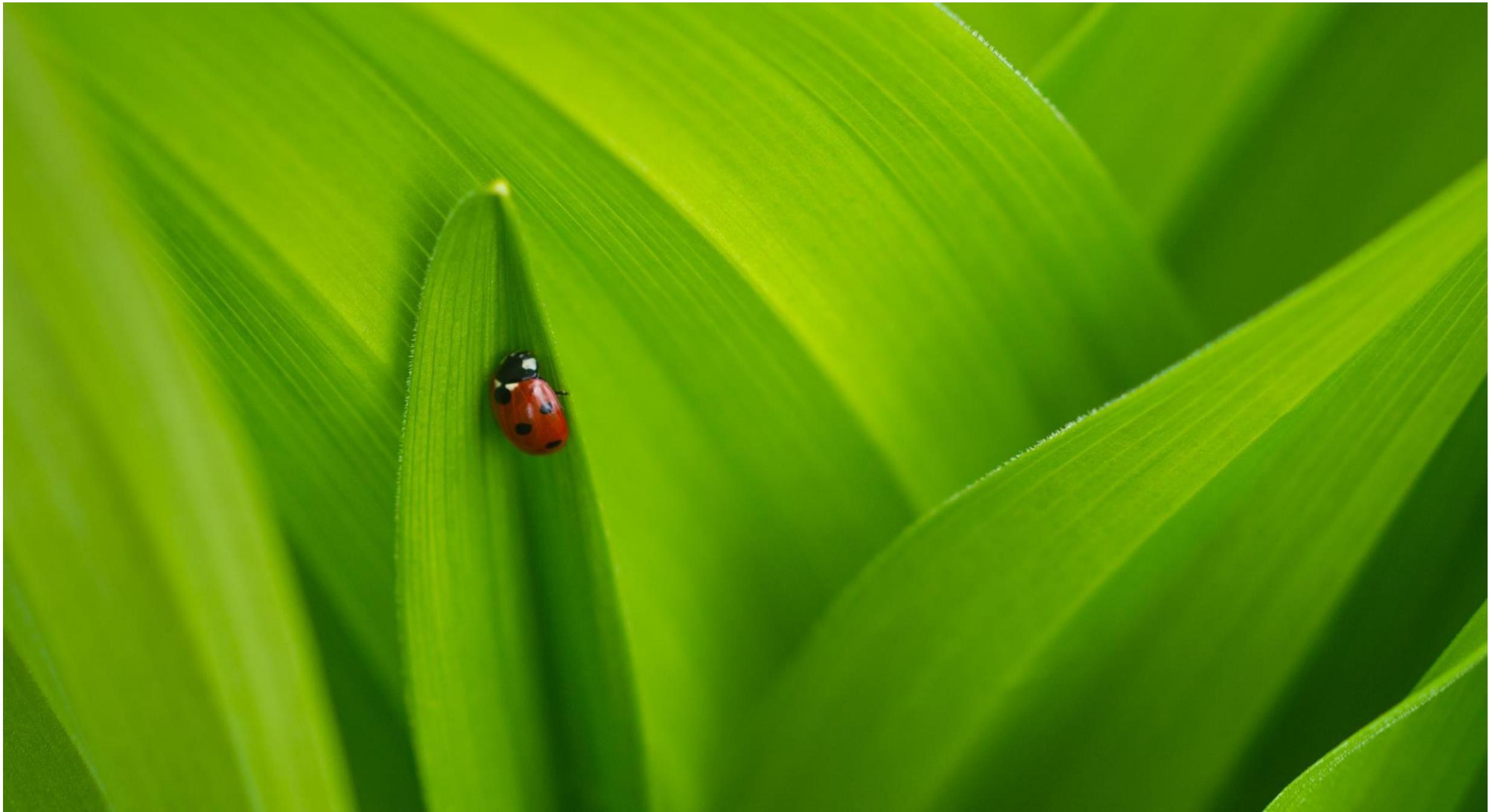




May  
2021

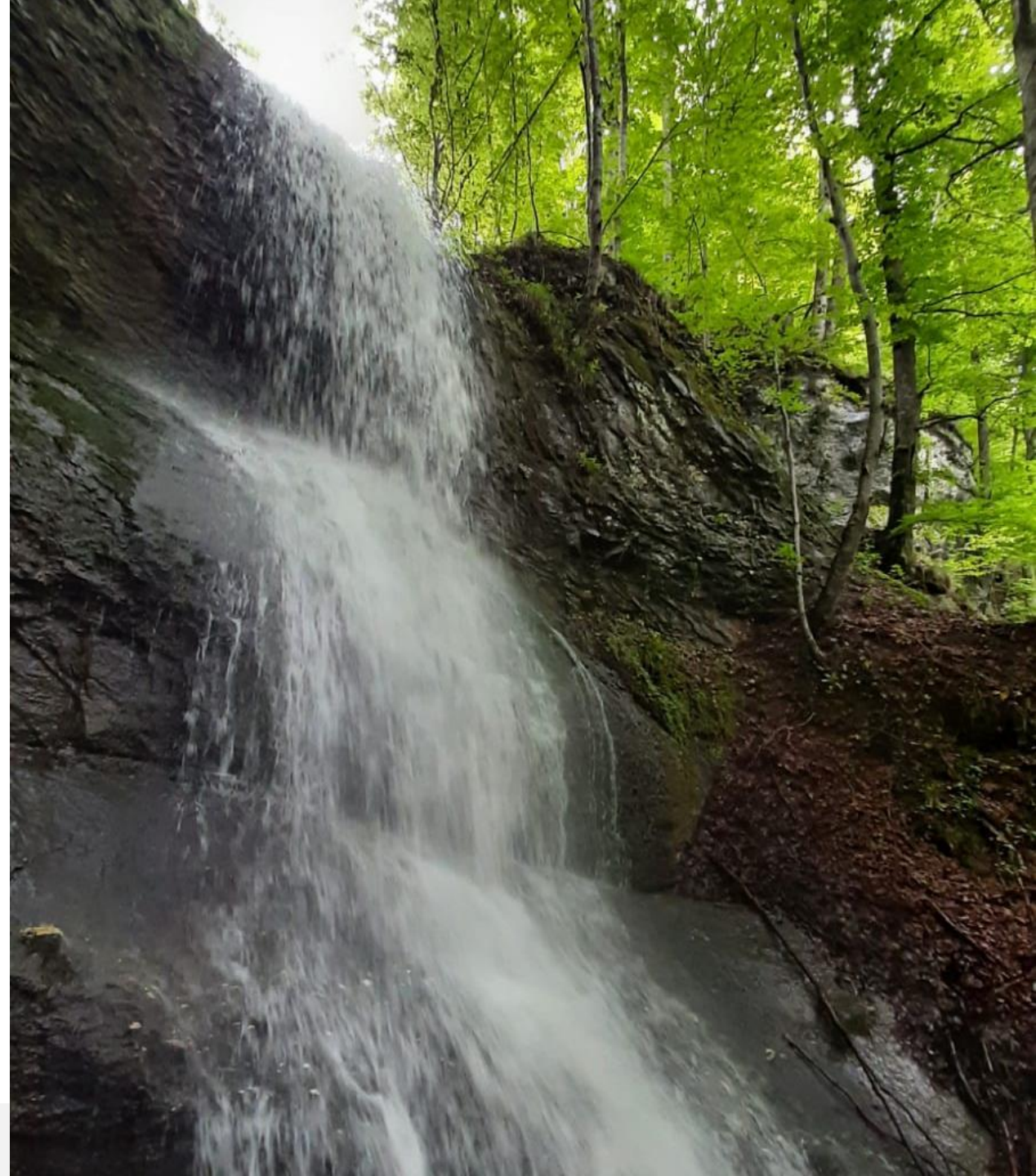
## Field report





# Main activities summary

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





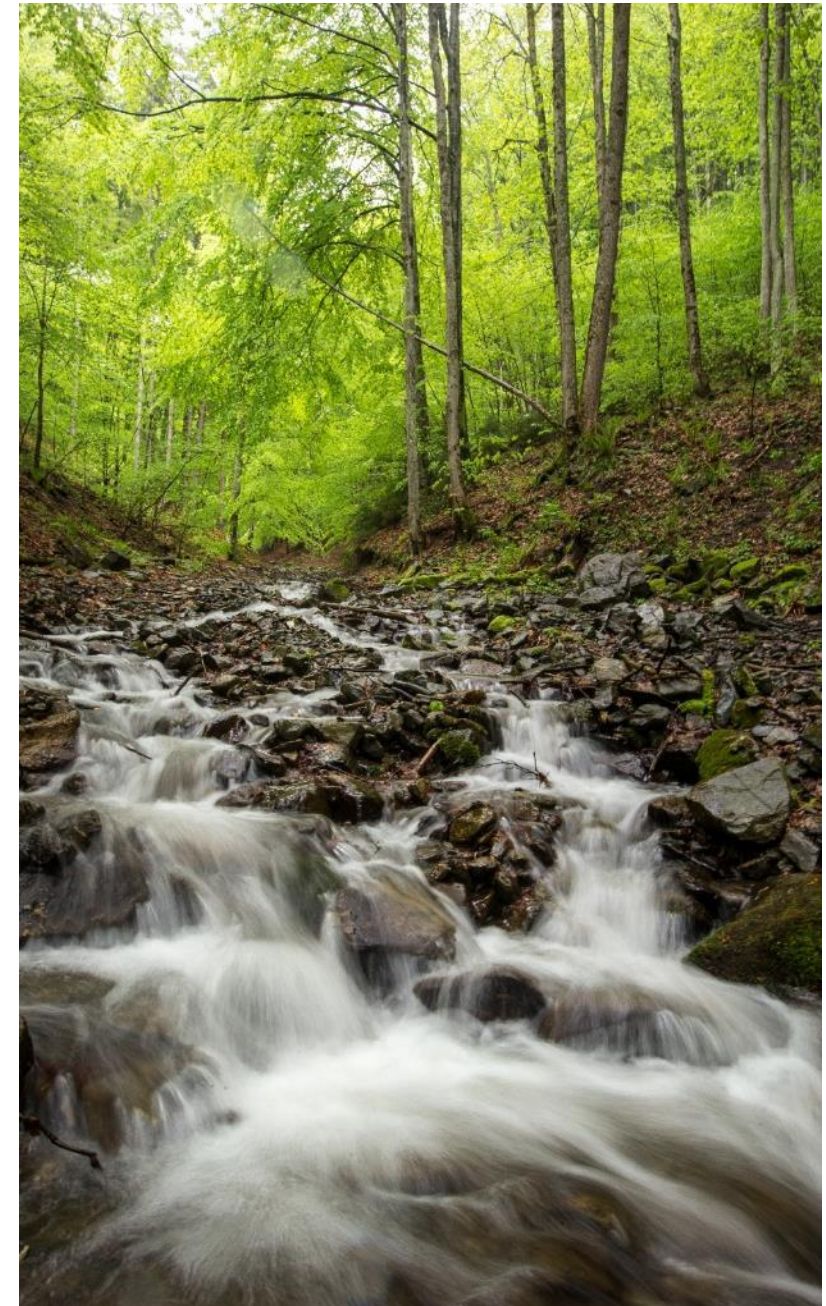
# 01

## Forest conservation and management



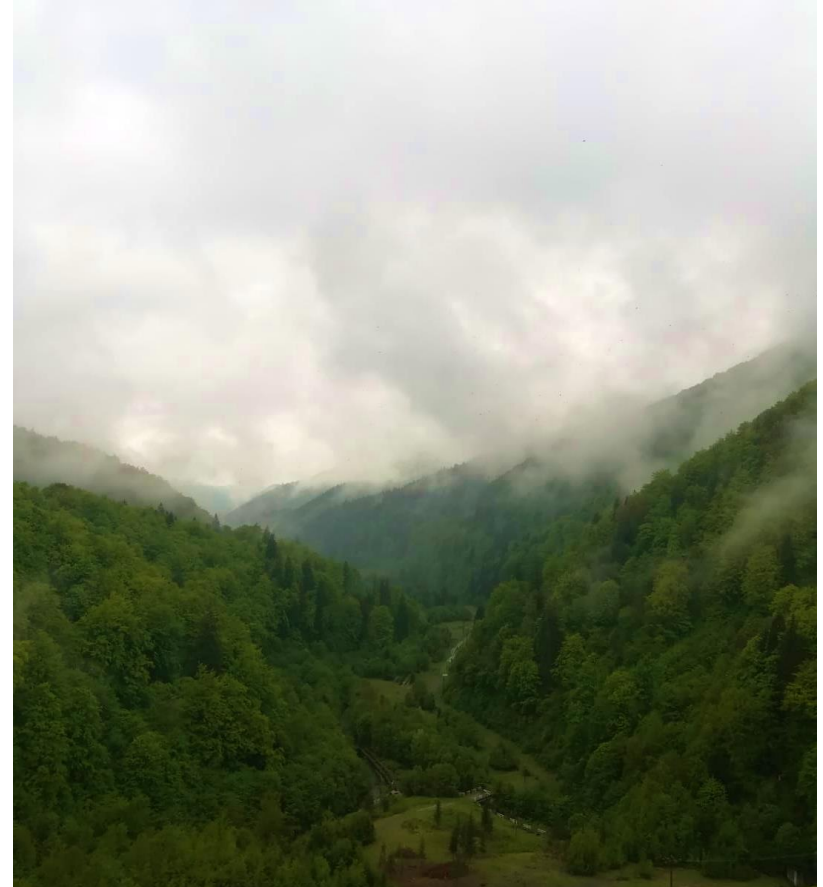


- We were able to purchase an additional 5 ha of land for full protection.
- We are working to include pristine forests under our ownership into the National Catalogue of virgin forests. So far, another 815 ha of forests have been identified, which may qualify for this category.





## Images from the project area











02

Ecological restoration









- Life in the mountains is tough. And it is even harder when you have to repair the mistakes of the past.
- In the Făgăraș Mountains, Dobroneag, Valea Lungă and Groapele are three of the areas which are most damaged by abusive logging. We have purchased these areas to bring them back to life.
- This spring we have succeeded in planting a total of **276,370** spruce, beech and sycamore saplings - over **69 hectares**.
- Weather was not very helpful, with heavy late snowfall which was followed by sudden warming. Hopefully autumn will be kinder and we will reach the 100 ha planting target for 2021.





Thanks to LIFE Carpathia project financing and other donors & volunteers such as Endangered Landscape Programme, Mossy Earth, Forests Without Frontiers, Zentiva, OAK foundation, Agent Green, SNK Association, One Tree Planted and individual donations we are generating once again forests in the Făgăraș Mountains, for generations to come!





You can join our ecological restoration efforts [here](#).





- Due to human interference, species which are not originally native to an ecosystem have been voluntarily or involuntarily introduced. The non-native species within these ecosystems, which aren't adapted to their presence, often outcompete the native species and cause damage to the ecosystems.
- We have started to remove invasive species on the subalpine pastures we own (*Nardus stricta*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Urtica dioica*, *Rumex alpinus*). Under the coordination of our biologist, the first hectare in Dracsin has been cleared by our rangers.
- It will be an intensive summer with lots of activities involving the removal of invasive plants.
- In our tree nurseries and greenhouses activities continue at a good pace. Seeds are coming to life, saplings are growing (including endangered species such as yew and stone pine), locals are hired for weeding and planting trees in our nurseries to provide natural shade for the saplings – a surge for the new forests we plan to give back to the mountain!







Planting trees for natural shadow



Beech seeds



Yew saplings



Stone pine







# 03

Wildlife conservation





## Wildlife reintroduction:

- Four bison from Germany reached their new home in the Făgăraș Mountains. Now we have a total of 24 bison.
- Two of the newcomer bison (male and female) have been equipped with radio collars. Once they are released into the wild, we can track the location of the herd.

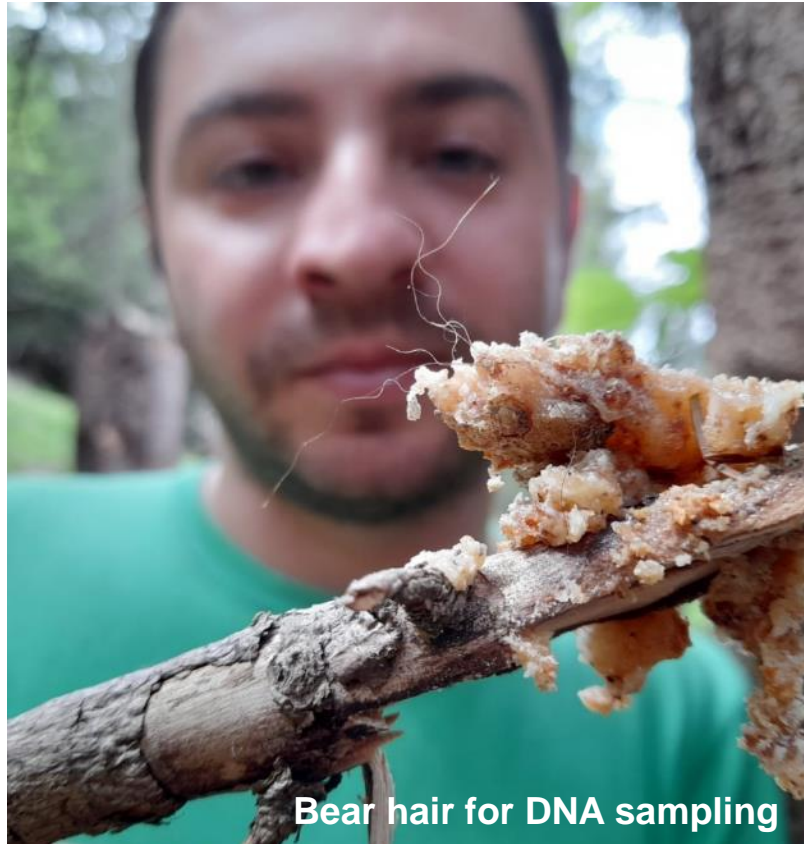




## Images from our project area



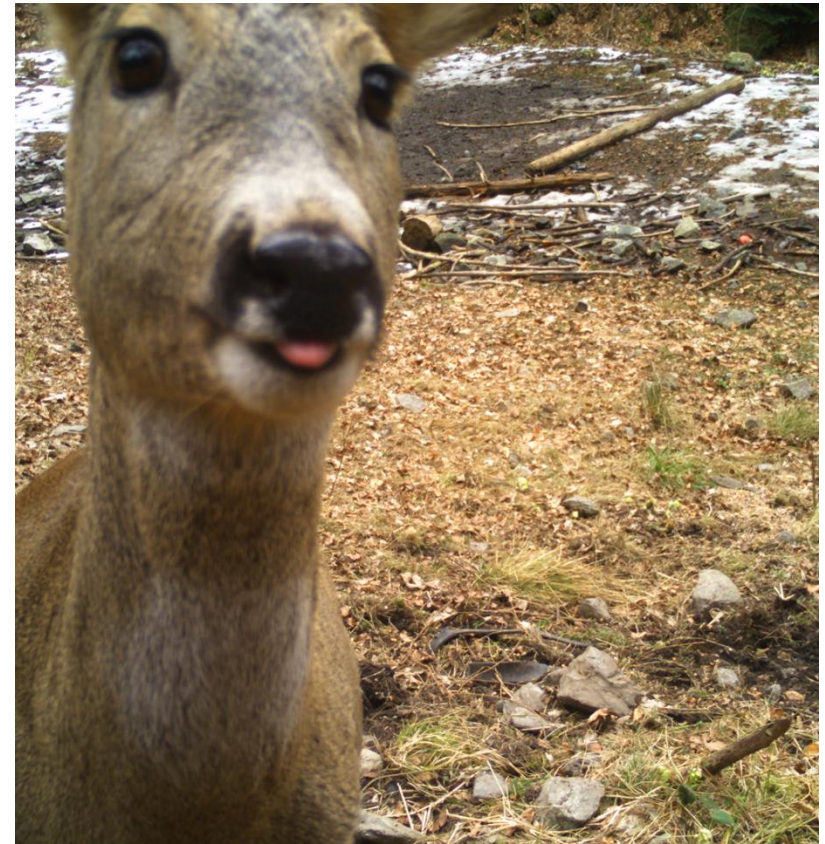
Bear scat for DNA sampling



Bear hair for DNA sampling



Bear track





## Wildlife monitoring:

- We continue collecting scat and hair from bears to establish, using DNA analysis, the number of individuals in our project area.
- A comprehensive bear study will be released by our team this summer.

## Wildlife conflicts:

- As custodians of four wildlife management units (65,000 ha) our rapid intervention team is back in full operation to keep wild boar and bear damage to a minimum.











# 04

## Conservation Enterprise Programme





# Food HUB

- The Food Hub enterprise collects and distributes traditional products from the Făgăraș Mountains area and delivers them to customers interested in fresh and healthy food. With the passing of each month and each customer that wants to try the taste of the mountain area products, this project improves more and more.
- We work hard to grow this business into something which is of benefit to the small producers surrounding the Făgăraș Mountains.





# COBOR Biodiversity Farm

- The farm is like a beehive these days. The sun pumps energy and cheerfulness, and life in the village seems more beautiful in spring.

Come to [Cobor](#)!



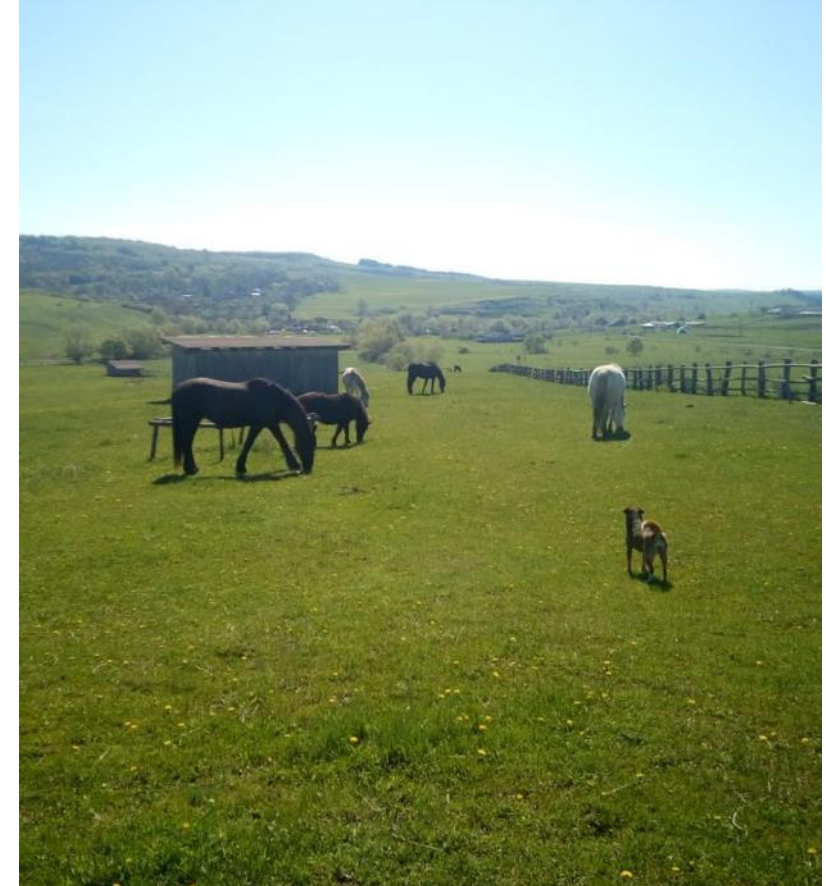


- The garden is full of juicy spring vegetables, the yard is full of life (whether it has a tail, lays eggs or not) and the flowers and grass provide colour all over the village!





- Lazy horses, great weather for spa treatment combined with mud bathing and human grooming. ;-)
- Transylvanian cattle are healthy and getting fat while Carpathian shepherd dogs stand watch.
- The hay feeding season is officially over.









If you are looking for an amazing experience in nature, go to [Travel CARPATHIA](#) to find out what experiences we have prepared for you!





# 05

Communication &  
community outreach





# Media trip LIFE Carpathia

- Funded by the EU LIFE programme, we have started to show journalists the progress of our activities. Ecological restoration was the topic of the first visit we organised with national and local media.





# Media trip LIFE Carpathia

- Local Gastronomic Points and the Food HUB were the subjects of the second media trip.



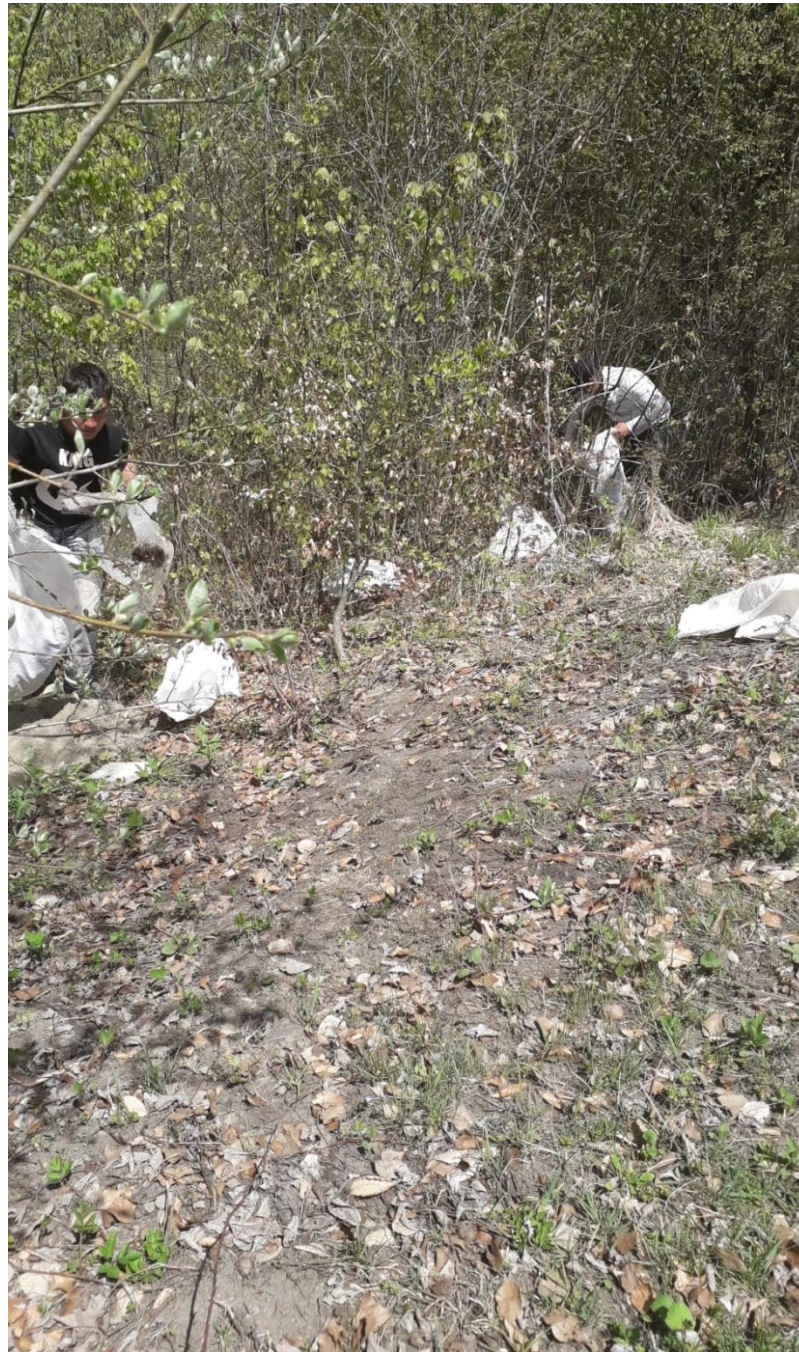


- Spring comes with a lot of requests from national and international media, as the public feels the need to immerse more into nature.
- New projects are being filmed and productions from the last few months are being launched, such as 3 op Reis (Dutch TV programme) <https://www.bnnvara.nl/3opreis/videos/564940>
- We have welcomed the VPRO crew from the Netherlands and the HotNews team from Romania <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odKyMO0CmWo>





- Our rangers clear the area every year from waste close to our forests.
- It is sad that people still throw their rubbish into nature. What disrespect for nature!





# Volunteers

- George comes from the UK where he studies Ecology & Wildlife Conservation at Bournemouth University.
- He will spend 11 weeks in our project, alongside our team and help with the riparian, subalpine and alpine meadows vegetation survey and monitoring.





# Volunteers

- Michiel van Noppen is a Dutch photojournalist specializing in issues encompassing ecology, conservation and natural history. We met in 2020, when he was curious to see with his own eyes and lens our wildlife management measures regarding bears.
- This year, whilst returning to Romania with a few days to spare, he wanted to catch up with us again. Thank you for the pro-bono photos of replanting, bear DNA sampling and food HUB products. You can see some of these in this report (slide 1, 9, 15, 21). 😊









# 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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