



June
2021

Field report

- In memory of Markus Jebsen, FCC founding member and board member, who sadly lost his life in a car accident in South Africa on 13th June.
- Markus was an exceptional man who loved nature and supported us in our quest to protect the Făgăraș Mountains. He is the one to whom we owe the existence of the Cobor Biodiversity Farm where thousands of people have enjoyed this rebuilt corner of paradise. Markus also purchased 1,000 ha of land in Piatra Craiului and the Făgăraș Mountains for full protection and donated the land to FCC in 2016.
- He was an invaluable friend, comrade and partner.
- Thank you, Markus for all the good you did! We will never forget you!





Main activities summary

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

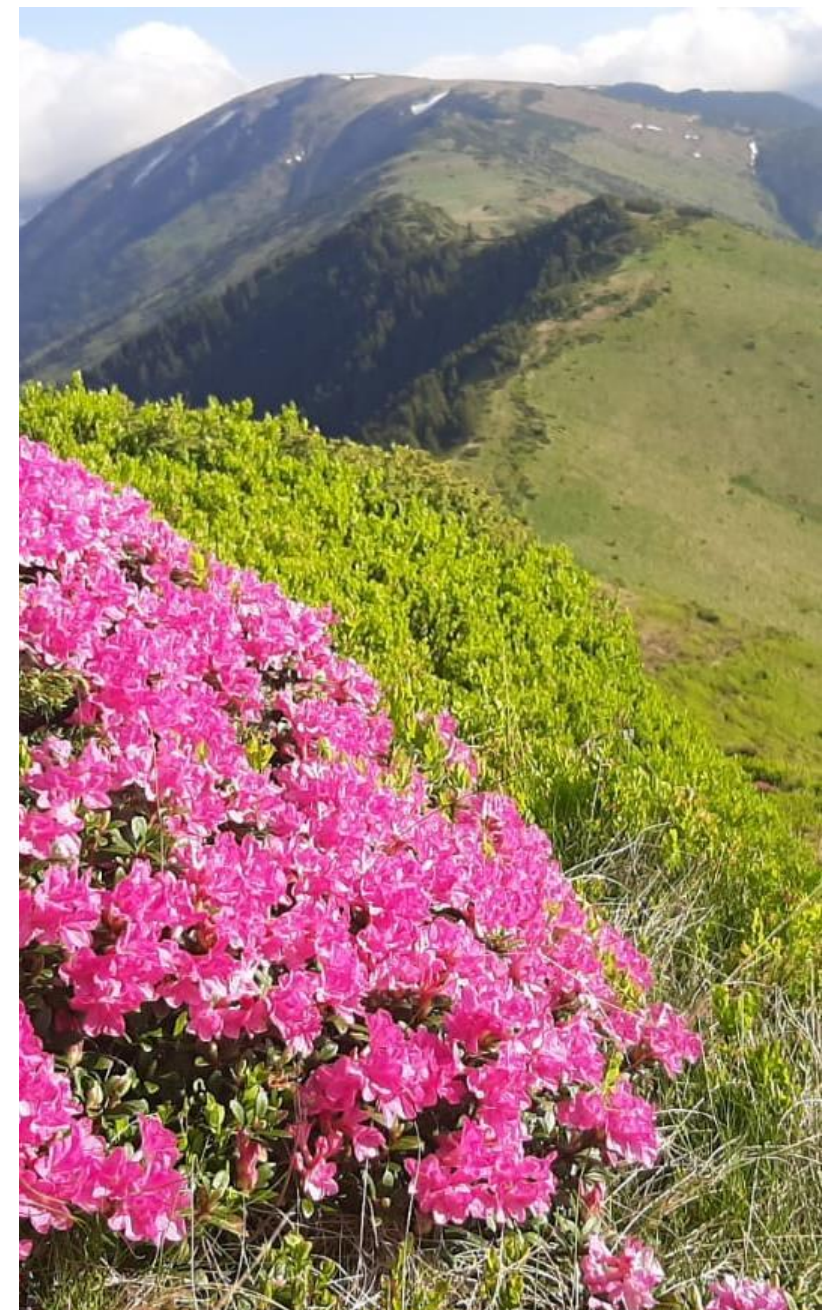


01

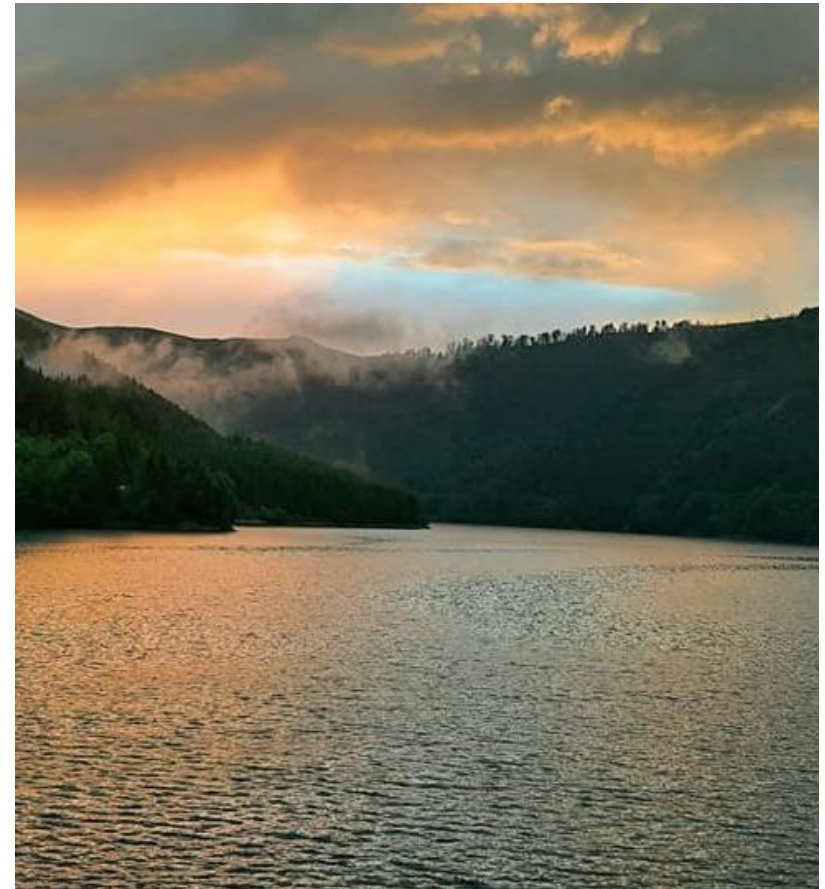
Forest conservation and
management



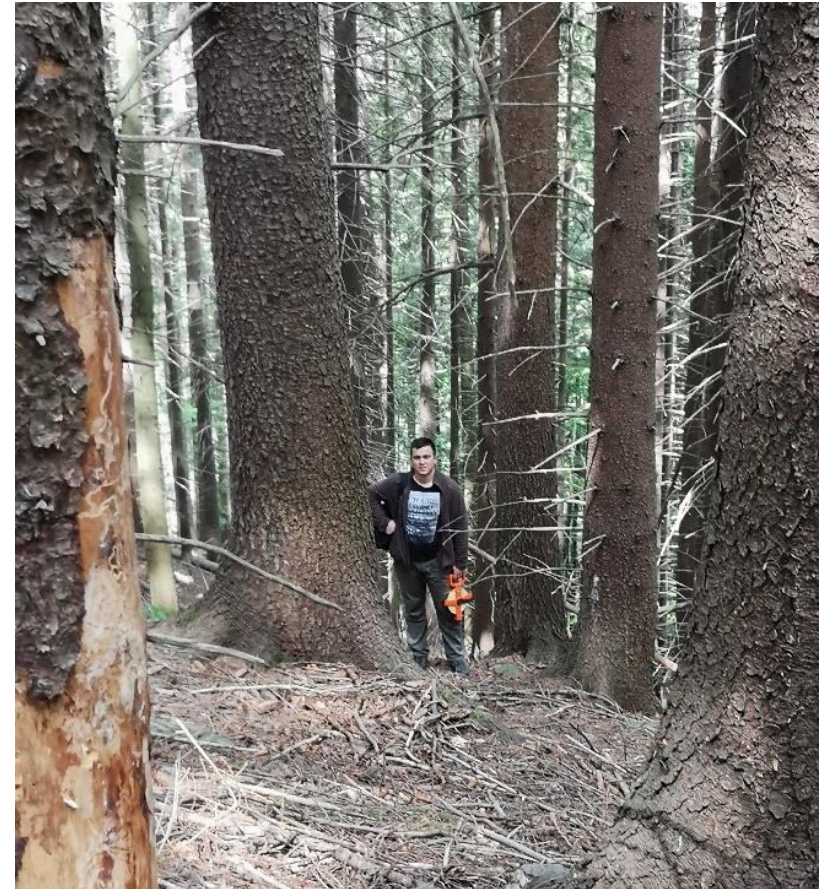
- We were able to purchase an additional 25.8 ha of land for full protection.



Images from the project area



Images from the project area







02

Ecological restoration





- The two greenhouses and nine tree nurseries keep us very busy. Given the fact that we do not use any chemical fertilizers or pesticides as a principle, work is very labour intensive. But if something is wrong, it is wrong and there is simply no alternative.
- Our reforestation plans are ambitious and we need to produce more than 400,000 saplings per year.
- A positive side effect of our environmental policy is that we employ a lot of local workers for these ecological restoration activities.



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



- We have continued to remove invasive species from the subalpine pastures under our ownership (*Nardus stricta*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, *Urtica dioica*, *Rumex alpinus*). We have finished clearing the pasture on Dracsin and started this activity at lower altitudes, along the rivers.
- Invasive species often outcompete the native species and cause damage to the ecosystems.





03

Wildlife conservation



Wildlife reintroduction:

- We now have a total of 26 bison in the Făgăraș Mountains.
- Besides the supervision undertaken by our specialists, the bison are under the strict supervision of the local wildlife, who are curious about this new species. We are wondering if this [lynx](#) thinks he's on the National Geographic channel?! 😊



- During the monitoring of the area where the bison were released and their impact on local habitats we have discovered a rare plant, in a good state of conservation, *Tozzia carpatica*, included in the EU Habitats Directive.
- We have also selected a total of 50 monitoring areas for spruce monoculture conversion works, 50 areas for clear-cut plots and 50 for standard mixed forests to observe the changes of the understory vegetation.
- Biannual checks are the next stage in this process.



Images from our project area



- Our golden eagle monitoring programme has continued throughout June despite unfavourable weather conditions in the mountains. We know that the population in the Făgăraș Mountains is small, but it is great to actually observe some specimens.
- We work hard to discover eagle nests in order to properly protect them from any disturbance.
- We also monitor marmot populations, the main prey of the eagles.



Wildlife monitoring:

- We have collected 160 bear scat and hair samples for DNA analysis in order to estimate the number of the individuals in our project area.

Wildlife conflicts:

- Wild boar and bears are present around the villages at the border of the forest.
- We have installed two new electric fences, paid money for damage compensation, and compensated five sheep and one cow from our own herd for damage caused by bears in the villages of our project area.
- We have rented 30 ha of meadows on a ridge between Satic and Rucar as a place for wildlife to forage without disturbance. This has proven to be highly effective, our rangers document very high activities of boar and bears on these meadows, which otherwise would likely descend down into the valley and cause conflicts with local farmers.







04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



Taste of the Fagaras Mountains

- [The Food Hub](#) continues to collect and distribute food from local farmers to three cities.
- We have extended the producers' list and we grow this business for the benefit of small-scale producers surrounding the Făgăraș Mountains.
- We are happy that the first kitchen in the Argeș county received authorisation and is a [Local Gastronomic Point](#). More will follow and visitors can enjoy a modest, but tasty menu in the villages they visit.



COBOR Biodiversity Farm

- The news is that Transylvania is a wonderful place to visit this summer.
- Hurry! 😊
Book your stay - bring carrots and apples to feed the horses, please!

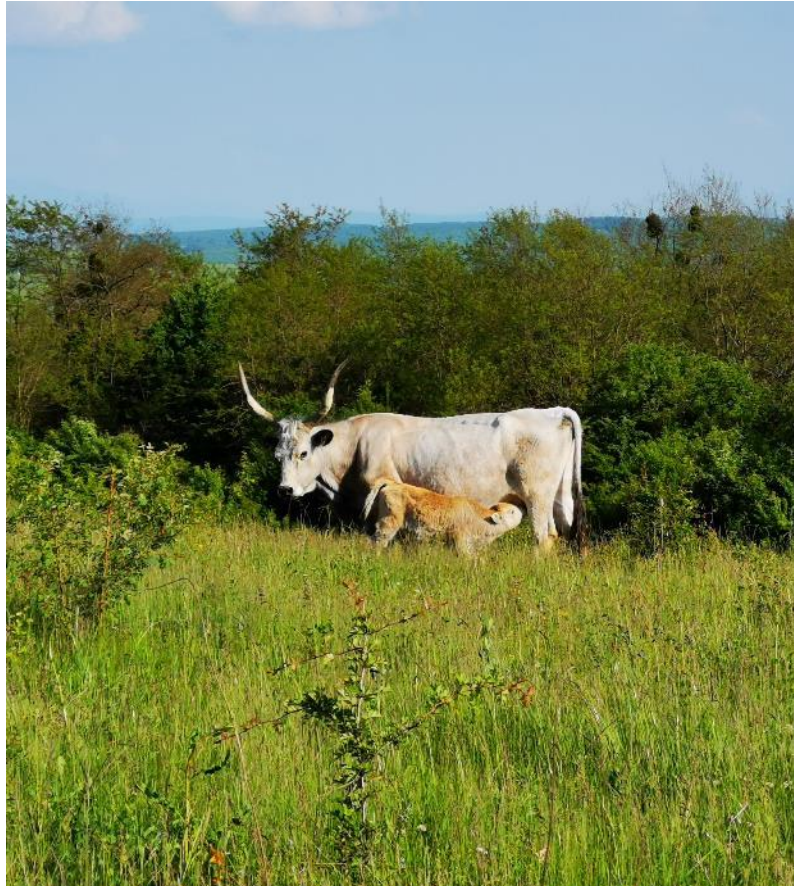
Come to Cobor!



- Tinkerbelle and Bandit's days in the barn and garden are over. They have been up-graded to the horse pasture.
- Bandit is a big boy now and needs to get to know his pasture neighbours. Let's see if he will learn some French from the beautiful stallion that just arrived in our [horse livery](#).



- The Transylvanian cattle got their mandatory periodical vet treatment and the new born calves got their ears tagged.
- Our herd has now grown to 165 cattle.
- In June, two of our female dogs had litters of nine puppies each. The farmers on the waiting list will be happy to receive them!



- Our local staff are always busy with the farm, but on this occasion we took the time to go with them to visit the forest conservation area.
- We are used to a green landscape, but it was great to see so many forests saved from felling and the work of the forest rangers in this unique, pioneering conservation project.





Wildlife hides

The hides are getting busy, if you are looking for an amazing experience in nature hurry up and go to [Travel CARPATHIA](#) to find out what experiences we have prepared for you!



05

Communication &
community outreach





- Under the coordination of the well-known nature photographer Dan Dinu and after a selection of participants through a viral photo contest on social media, we organised the CARPATHIA Photo Camp.
- Eight professional and amateur photographers spent four days at [Richita Centre](#) and caught the magic of the Făgăraș Mountains through their lenses.
- Thank you Dan, Daniel, Gabriel, Remus M, Remus C, Mark, Mircea and Doru for letting us use your great photos from this session for our field reports and other communication materials!



- Together with the people from Dâmbovicioara, we enjoyed nature, hiking and traditional customs at an annual event organised to promote and celebrate the beauty of traditional, hand-sewn costumes.



- We are present in the midst of the people and we keep them informed regarding our activities, results and vision for the future. Here is a town-hall meeting in Lerești where we help in the development of a sustainable development strategy.



- Peter Wohlleben is a well-known German forester and author who brought forests close to people in a popular language. He is the author of many books, which have been translated into almost 50 languages, amongst them the New York Times Bestseller “The Hidden Life of Trees”.
- We were honoured to have Peter and his team visiting CARPATHIA to experience our work on forest conservation. They came as guests and left as friends.
- Here are a few impressions from his stay with our team:
- <https://www.facebook.com/PeterWohlleben.Autor/videos/1406255426424257>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PeterWohlleben.Autor/videos/241977480699101>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PeterWohlleben.Autor/videos/4167730576652753>



- Children's Day (1st June) in Nucșoara was a unique experience: eye examinations for 30 children, balloon party, cakes and the spectacular visit of motorcyclists from Bikers for Humanity. The vouchers obtained after three days of blood donation were transformed by Bikers for Humanity Romania and Casa Bună Association into sports items and sweets for 70 children from Nucșoara, Argeș.



- June came with another surprise for 22 children from [Leresti](#), Argeş, with whom the volunteers of Casa Bună have been working online for over a year. They were invited on Sunday 13th June, to open the European Championship football match Austria – North Macedonia in the National Arena in Bucharest.
- On 17th June, 22 kids from Nucşoara opened the match Ukraine - North Macedonia, thanks to the Romanian Football Federation and UEFA EURO 2020.



- Whenever we find the time, we invest in our employees. Our rangers have participated in training delivered by ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas to extend their knowledge and for their professional development.



Volunteers

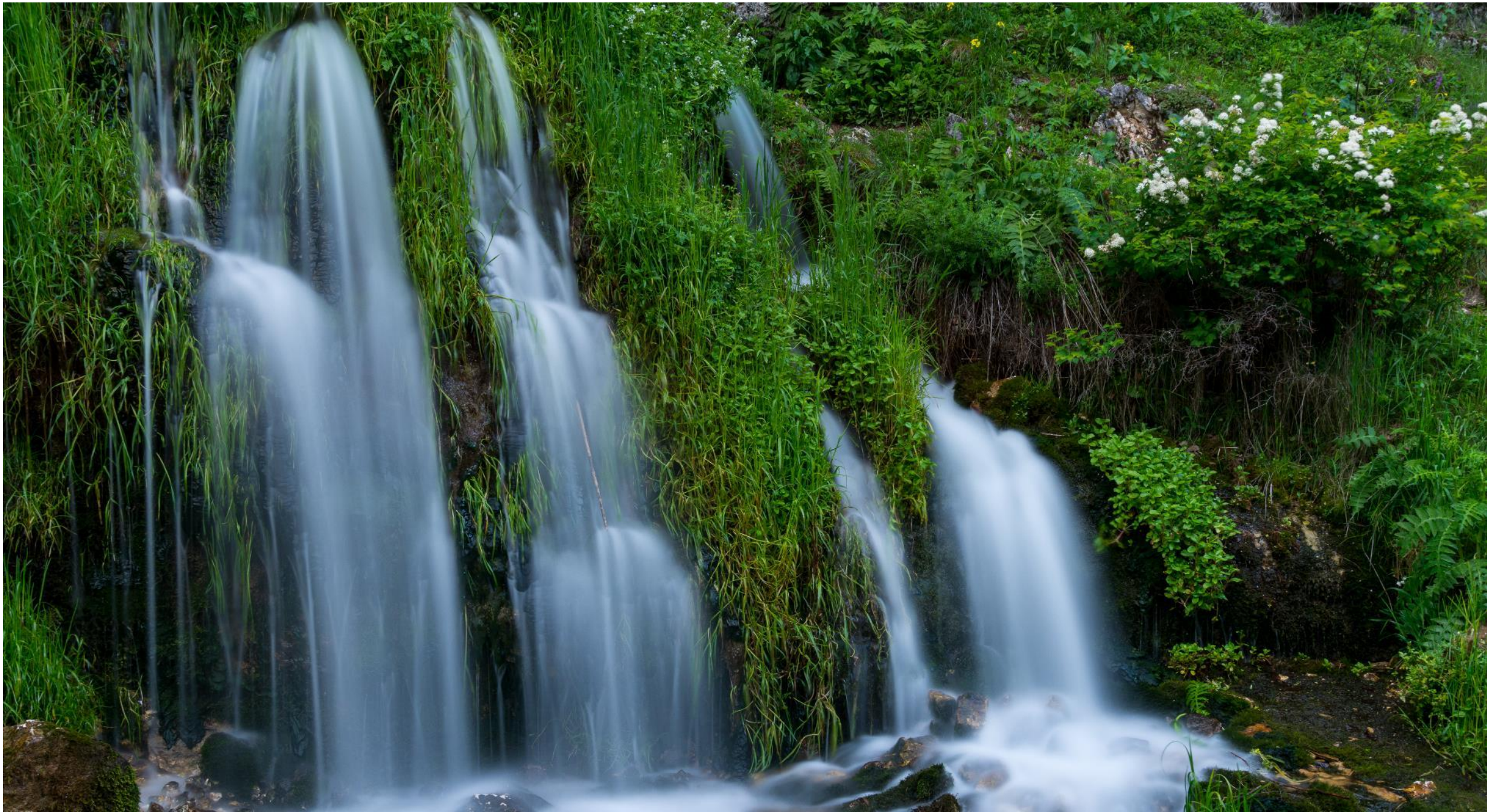
- Celine comes from France where she studies project management, ecology and agronomy at the French National School of Agricultural Science and Engineering.
- She will spend 12 weeks with our project, alongside our team and help with the beaver monitoring.



Volunteers

- Timothy comes from Ireland where he studies Environmental Science at the National University of Ireland, Galway.
- He will spend 11 weeks with our project, alongside our team and help with the bear monitoring.
- The [volunteering programme](#) is developed under LIFE Carpathia project.
- We are increasingly accepting volunteers to join us. If you are interested, please apply through the above link.





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**

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

PHOTO CREDITS: Georgiana Andrei, George Costan, Marius Cotirlet, Orsolya Csakany, Barna Csizar, Ionut Cretu, Remus Cucu, Constantin Diaconescu, Marius Druga, Gabriel Dudu, Mark Munteanu, Remus Munteanu, Florinel Nicolae, Răzvan Pascu, Doru Paunescu, Oliviu Pop, Flavius Raduta, Mircea Sasu, Calin Serban, Gabriel Serban, Adelin Simion, Constantin Simion, Petre Stacescu, Claudiu Toanta, Liviu Ungureanu, Peter Wohlleben.