

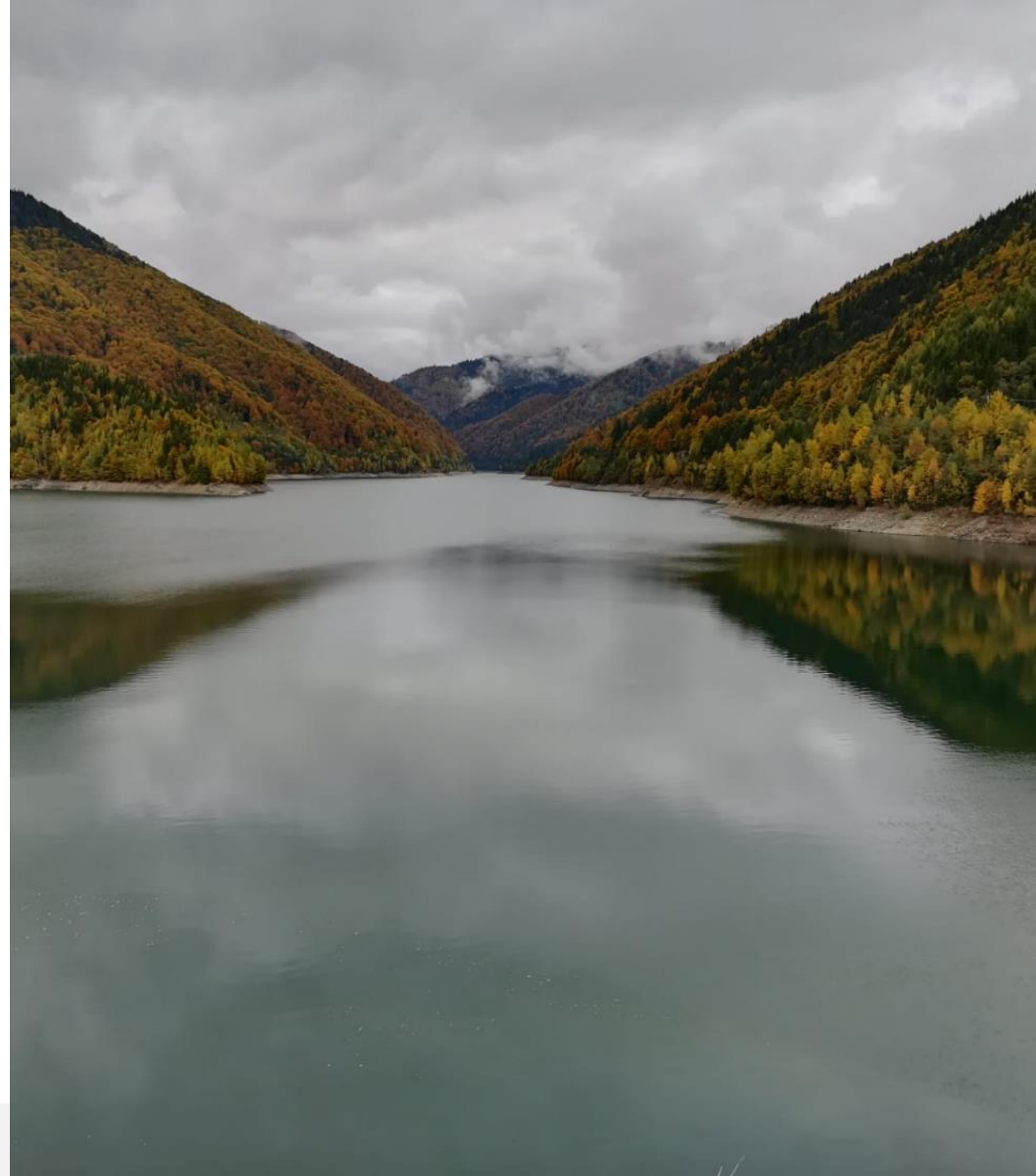
September & October 2021

Field report



Main activities summary

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



01

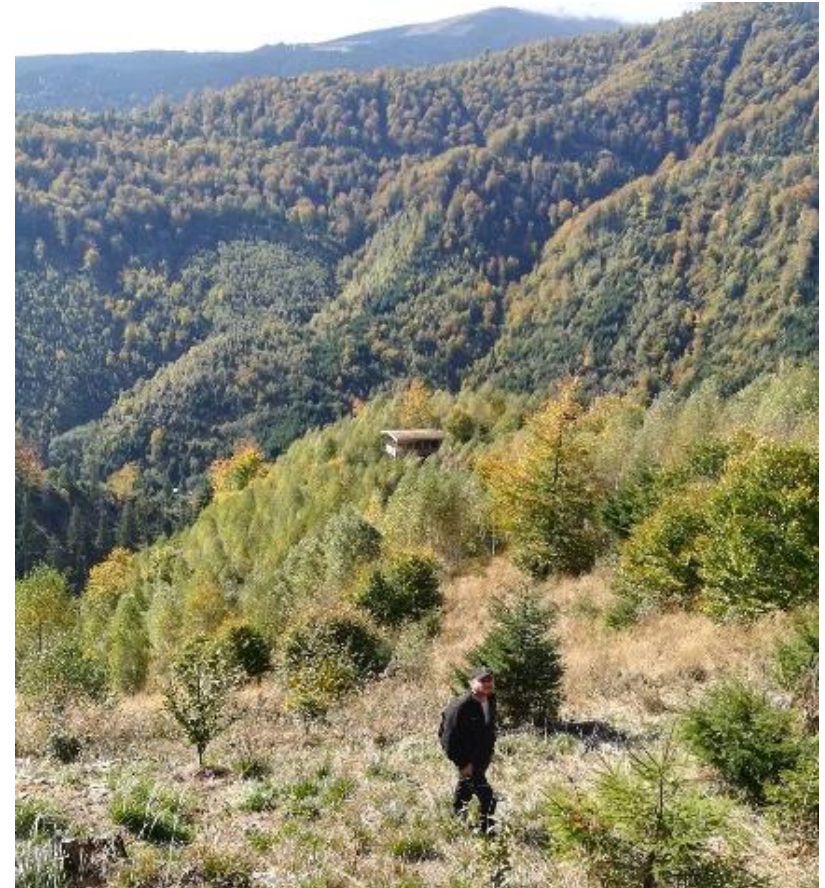
Forest conservation and
management



- In between seasons: one of our favourite moments of the year! As weeks pass the colours explode and contrast with the early snows. It is not yet the moment for winter's arrival, as there is still a lot to do in the field, but what a joy for the eyes and for the soul! Autumn.
- We were able to purchase an additional 919.7 ha of forests, safeguarded for future generations.



Images from the project area







02

Ecological restoration





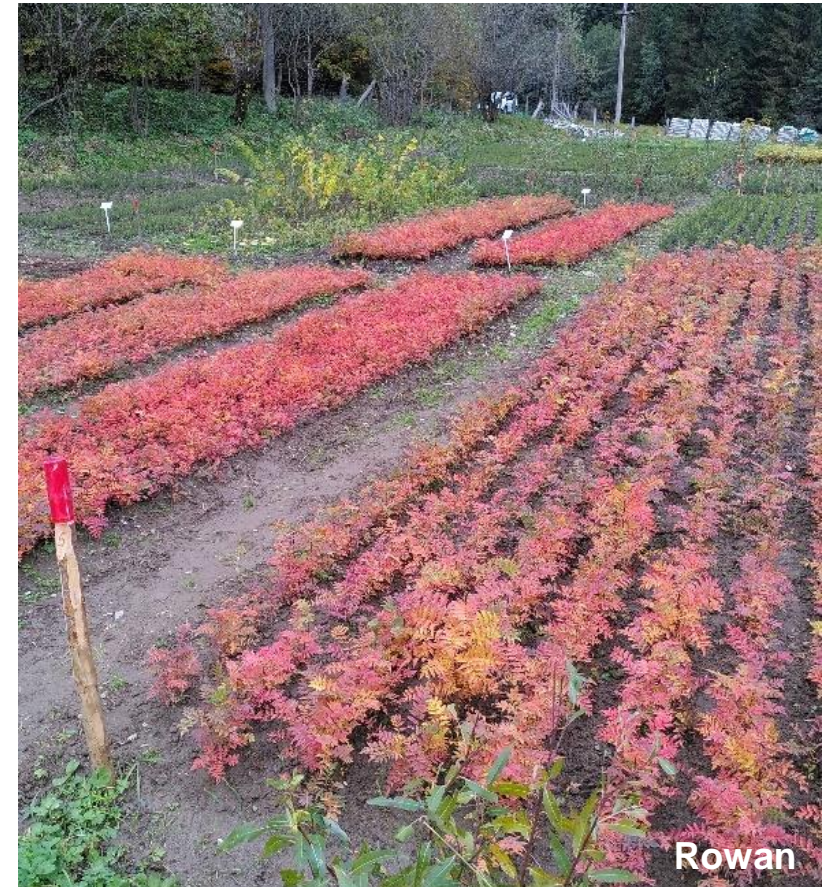
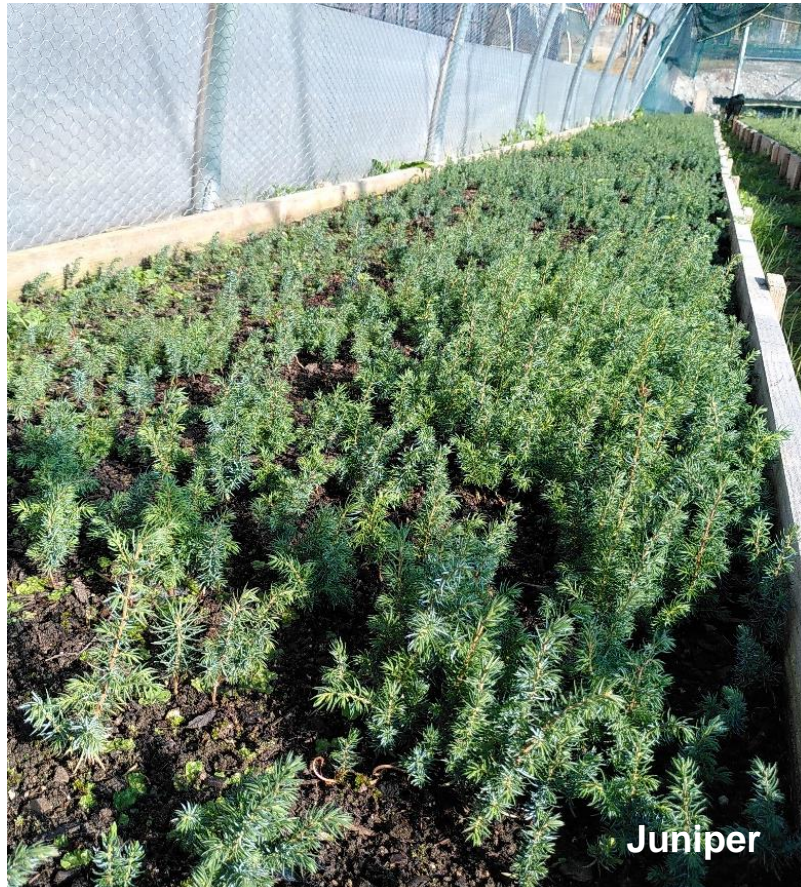
- Before the snow comes, we need to cut the grass around the saplings planted in earlier seasons in order that the fragile plants do not suffocate.
- We do this with the help of 25 locals and a subcontracted company and as such covered an area of 10 ha. Tending the plants usually has to be continued for about 5 years after replanting.
- As the sheep come down the mountain for winter the rangers take care the shepherds do not pass through the reforested areas. The saplings are too young.



- Due to torrential storms this summer, we had to repair the badly damaged access roads to the replanting sites.
- The seasonal local workers were busy with the last weeding of the season in the tree nurseries.
- We have collected sycamore seeds and planted them.
- We are now evaluating how many saplings grew enough to be planted out and how many we still need to buy from other neighbouring tree nurseries.
- Autumn planting is usually short. We hope to have around 15 days of good weather conditions and to restore the forest over an area of 20 ha.



Species in our tree nurseries



- Last week we took 17,000 spruce saplings from our tree nurseries and transported them to the replanting sites.
- We are used to early morning planting, but due to freezing temperatures, we can only dig the soil after 9 am.
- 20 seasonal workers, five rangers and a subcontractor company are up in the Făgăraș Mountains, 'creating' new forests. Public funding and also your [donations](#) make this possible.



- Together with a team from the Academy of Science, we identified and evaluated a large peatland in the Făgăraș Mountains:
- ‘7120 degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration’, which will be included in the report for the Habitat Directive.



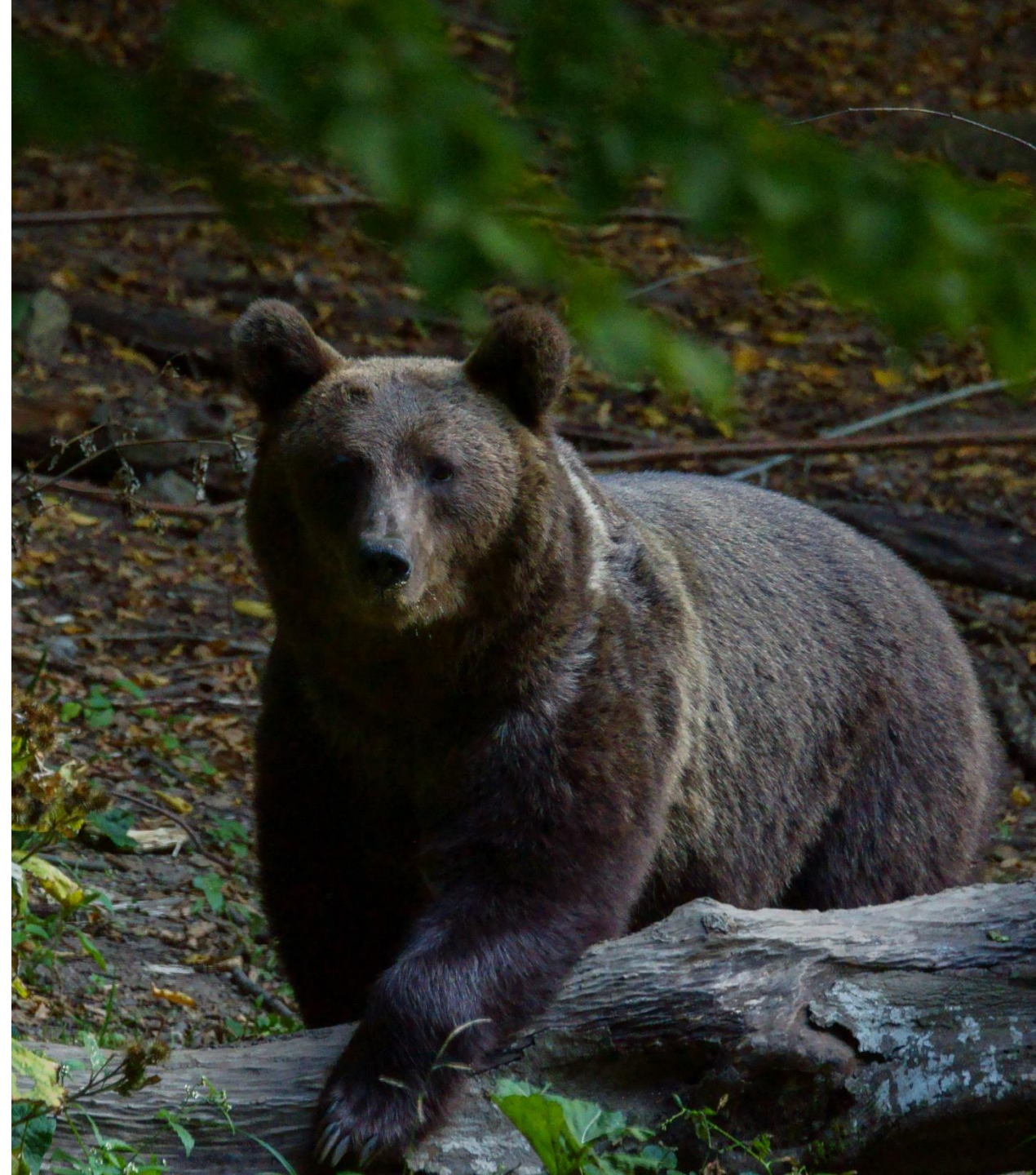
03

Wildlife conservation



Bear study

- We published the first genetic study in Romania, to estimate bear density in the east of the Făgăraș, Piatra Craiului, Iezer-Păpușa and Leaota Mountains.
- 1,426 biological samples were collected during the autumns of 2017 and 2018.
- We could identify 283 individual bears, of which 137 females and 146 males, and by statistical modelling the population density was estimated at 17-18 bears/100 square km (10,000 ha) - a good number, comparable to other areas with large, connected habitats.



Wildlife reintroduction:

- 28 bison are roaming free, adapting to their new home.
- We keep monitoring the three herds with GPS and VHF technology. The herd released last year likes to roam in a beautiful virgin forest. The groups haven't met each other so far, but all are doing very well.
- Whenever we have the opportunity, we share good practices and experiences with other colleagues: we participated in the WWF Romania Bison conference in Armeniș, Caraș-Severin, and in the 'Bison in the Augustowska forest' meeting in Poland.



- We have installed camera traps for monitoring the [red deer rut](#).
- In addition, our rangers spent a lot of time monitoring red deer directly: compared to the rare occasions we heard stags' love calls in 2011, when we took over the first wildlife management concession, now the valleys are full of life, and hopefully soon more calves.





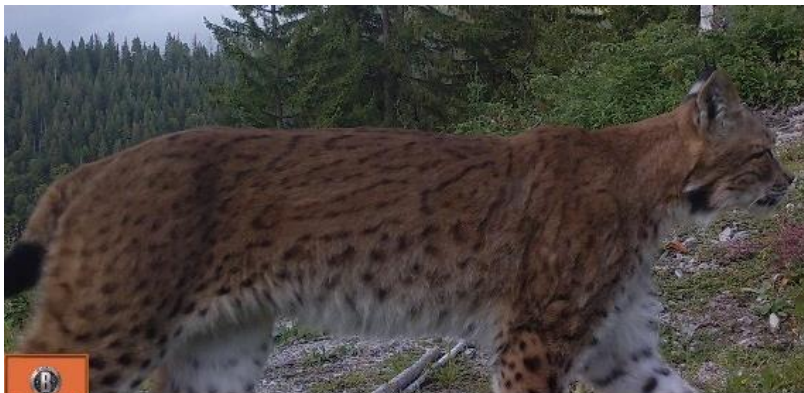
- After a long summer surveying golden eagles in the Făgăraș Mountains, we have now started to obtain more information on the distribution of their potential prey: capercaillie and marmots.



Wildlife management:

- Fourteen Carpathian shepherd dog puppies have found new owners in the villages surrounding the Făgăraș Mountains. They now have to learn what it means to be effective livestock guardian dogs.
- Due to the presence of bears in orchards and close to the communities we have installed several electrical fences to prevent attacks.





- The Aqua Crisius Association has continued to reintroduce specimens of native (indigenous) trout.
- This time the fish eggs were transferred during the embryonic stage to a farm at the foothills of the Făgăraș Mountains. They started their life in the vicinity of the rivers where they were introduced.







04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



- The '[Fruits of the Mountains](#)' Food HUB is initiated by Conservation Carpathia, as a means of supporting local producers in the area and in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- By [ordering](#) a basket, you help a local producer support their business.

**only in Brașov, Bucharest and Pitești for the moment*



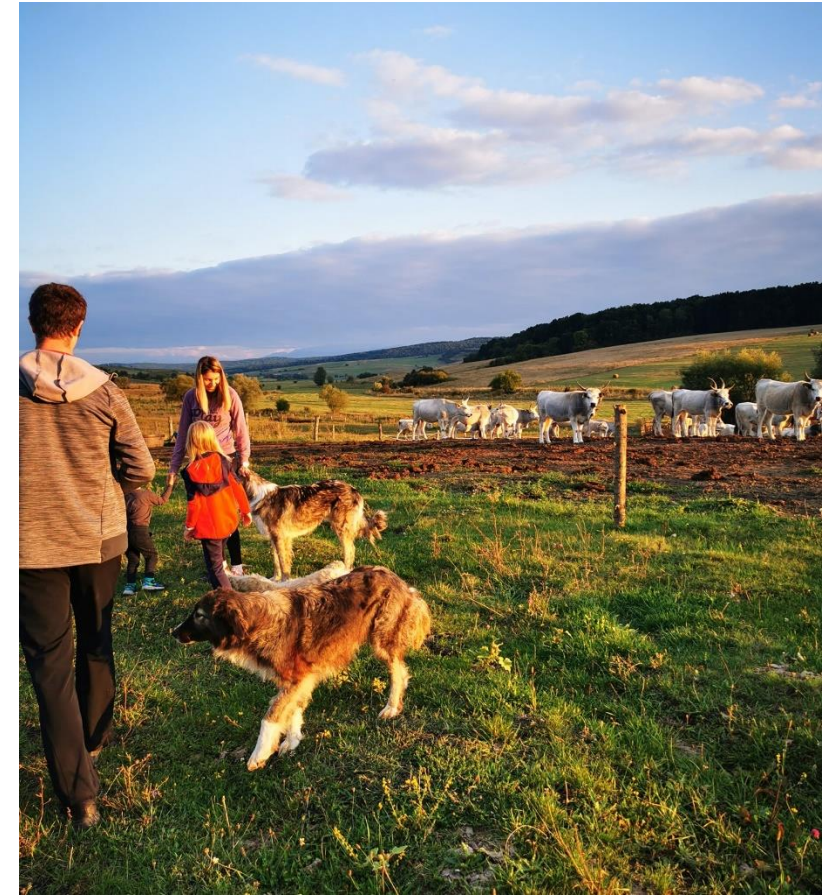
Bikeathon Făgăraș

- The pastures scattered with secular oak trees around the village of Cobor are among the most valuable natural pastures left in Europe. Due to the abandonment of hayfields and the loss of traditional agriculture, these pastures began to lose their oaks and with them their natural value.
- We would like to thank all the cyclists that chose our [oak replanting project](#) as a cause! We are proud of our project manager, Daniel, who won 3rd place in the 40 km competition.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- Days seem to run by when you coordinate a 500 ha farm: horse livery, guesthouses, Transylvanian Grey cattle, Carpathian shepherd dogs breeding programme, pasture management, rewilding activities, gardening, pickles and other preserves for the winter, chickens, ducks and exhibit of cats ;-)
- Come to [Cobor](#)!





Wildlife hides

- That's all folks! We have ended the wildlife watching season: 360 guests have enjoyed [Travel CARPATHIA](#) bucket list experiences.
- It is not too early to book your adventure in the Făgăraș Mountains! 53 nights are already booked in 2022.



05

Communication &
community outreach



Balkan by bike – cycling for reforestation

- Look who made it to Romania! ☺
- We were happy to spend a few days with [Theresa and Philipp](#). How many of us would dare, at the age of 18, to travel 3,000 kilometers by bicycle, to sleep in a tent, or to talk to strangers on the road, eager to be welcomed as guests? And to do that, both for the pleasure of an adventure and for a cause?
- [Here](#) they are, at the replanting site in the Făgăraș Mountains which they have pedaled for.
- They have raised 9,282 euros. If you want to help them achieve their dream goal of 10,000 euros, you can [donate](#) mentioning their project: Balkan by bike.



- Initiated in 2002, the Civil Society Gala is the largest project which promotes and rewards the activity of the associative sector in Romania.
- We are happy to be part of it again with our bison rewilding project which won the first prize.
- Well done, team CARPATHIA!



- In September, we met in the recreational area of Lake Noua in Braşov and cheered for the #Braşovheroes, at the 8th edition of Braşov Heroes 2021.
- Because we are part of the community, we supported Braşov Heroes 2021 by partnering in the family area.
- Over 900 participants ran for the 11 subscribed projects and over a thousand spectators came to support their favourites and spend time in the area specially designated for activities and relaxation.



- We were once again partner of the Alpin Film Festival, the first and largest event in Romania dedicated to mountain art and culture. The festival brought guests to Braşov from all over the country and abroad and showcased over 50 films from around the world.
- The most popular artistic project of the moment, the documentary Wild Romania (România Sălbatică) received the special award of the festival. The award is given annually to the documentary that best promotes the Carpathian Mountains, and this year it was offered by us.
- The Făgăraş Mountains could not have missed out, so we were present at the event with astonishing images from our fieldwork, with activities and outdoor nature games for children and parents, with all the results of our activities so far and with a bit of the taste of the Făgăraş Mountains, promoting the products we deliver through our Food HUB.



- Have we told you that we, together with Casa Bună Association, plan to build a [day centre](#) in Nucșoara (Argeș County), to give the children in the Făgăraș Mountains a chance for a better future?
- It will be a place where, annually, about 200 children from rural areas will have an opportunity for education.
- Thank you, Banca Transilvania for being the first donor!
- If you care to contribute, we are one [click](#) away. *Please mention Nucșoara day centre.*



- Evan Fisher, a sociologist, came to visit us. He is working on the BENDYS project, which retraces the long-term trajectories of old-growth beech-fir forests in Europe.
- We are always happy to share our expertise with other specialists.

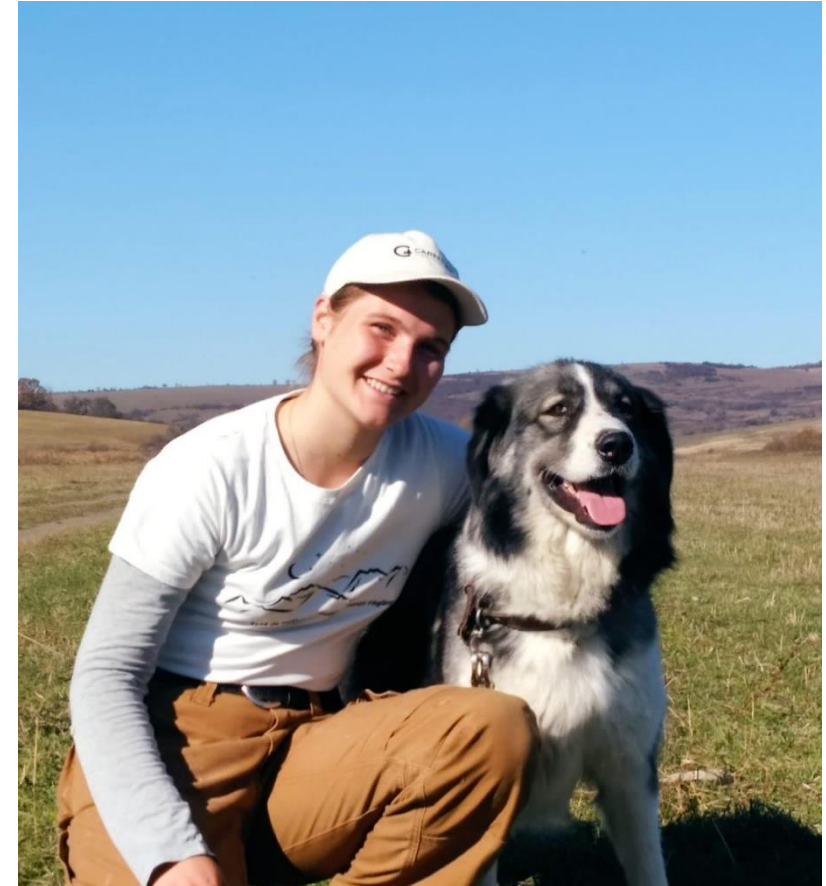


Volunteers

- Claudia is from Spain and Emma is from Germany. They came for three months to help us with the Carpathian shepherd dogs breeding programme and the horse livery we have at our biodiversity farm in Cobor. They are also involved in other farming and hospitality activities.

Volunteering is a great opportunity to gain work experience and to contribute to interesting projects. Their work and passion is highly appreciated!

Thank you for your time and effort!



Volunteers

- Juliana is the last one of this year's wildlife monitoring volunteers.
- Originally from Italy and with previous experience in monitoring and data management, she was selected to help the team mainly with bear monitoring, but she will assist the other wildlife specialists if necessary.
- On her first day she went chamois monitoring and woke up at 2 am. She doesn't seem too tired, does she? ;-)

Welcome & good luck!





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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PHOTO CREDITS: Georgiana Andrei, Anna Babes, Asociatia Casa Buna, Balkans by bike, Ionut Cretu, George Costan, Evan Fisher, Flavius Rauta, Calin Serban, Laszlo Jozsef, Emma Mayer, George Soare, Claudiu Toanta, Liviu Ungureanu, David Zarnovan, Jack Wolfskin, Marius Ursaciuc.