



November & December 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

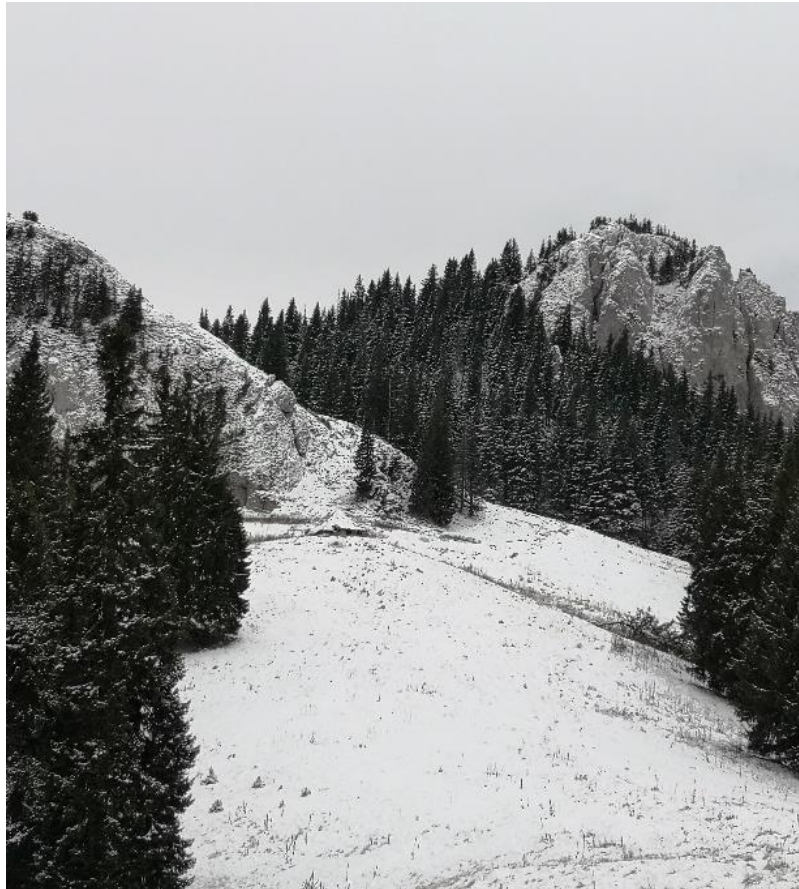
Forest conservation and
management



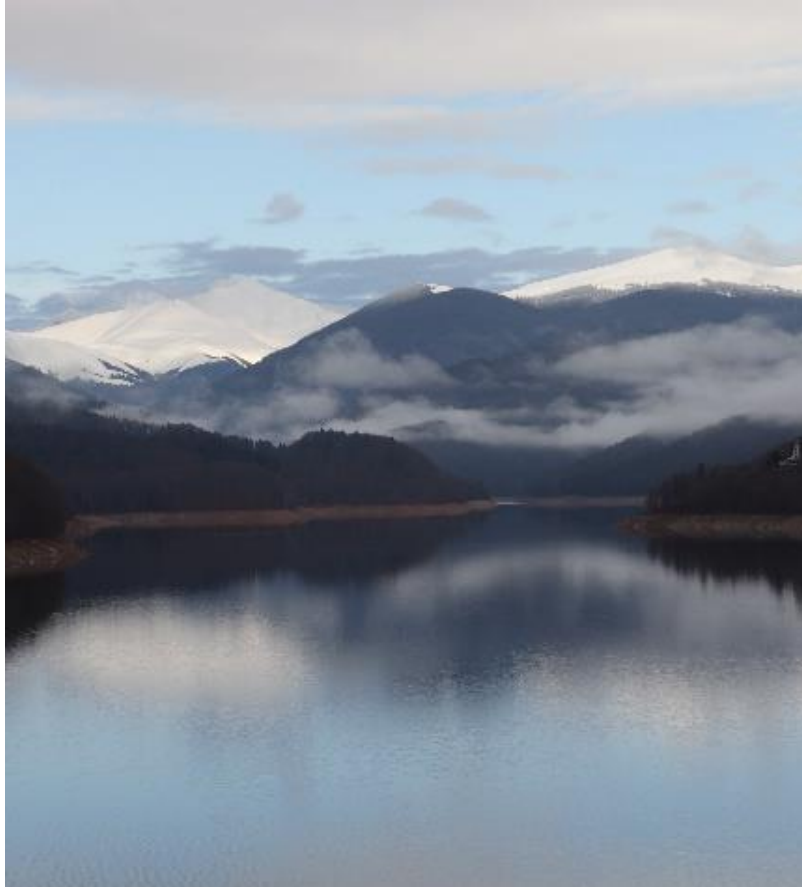
- We were able to purchase an additional 299.5 ha of forests, safeguarded for future generations.



Images from the project area



Images from the project area







02

Ecological restoration





300 ha of illegal clear-cuts at Groapele, Făgăraș Mountains

- Autumn planting was short, very cold and intense. With the 21 ha restored in November we have reached an annual total of 81 ha and 361,000 saplings.
- Public funding and also your donations made this possible.
Thank you!



- We have a lot to plant during the coming years and are thinking big when it comes to restoring illegally cut forests.
- Working in the green houses and tree nurseries is such a positive and engaging activity. It is fun to watch life sprout from the seeds sown.
- But it takes 2-5 years until the seedlings are viable to take their place back in the mountains. This period is challenging, but thanks to the experience of our local staff most seedlings survive this critical time.
- We managed to collect 15 kg of mountain ash seeds, which is important as in 2020 all the seeds were dry. We have placed seeds into storage and will seed them in spring 2022.
- We have also seeded rowan and beech.

Sweet hibernation... See you in spring!



Beech seeds



Seeded rowan



Mountain ash seeds



Mountain ash in deposit

03

Wildlife conservation



Wildlife reintroduction

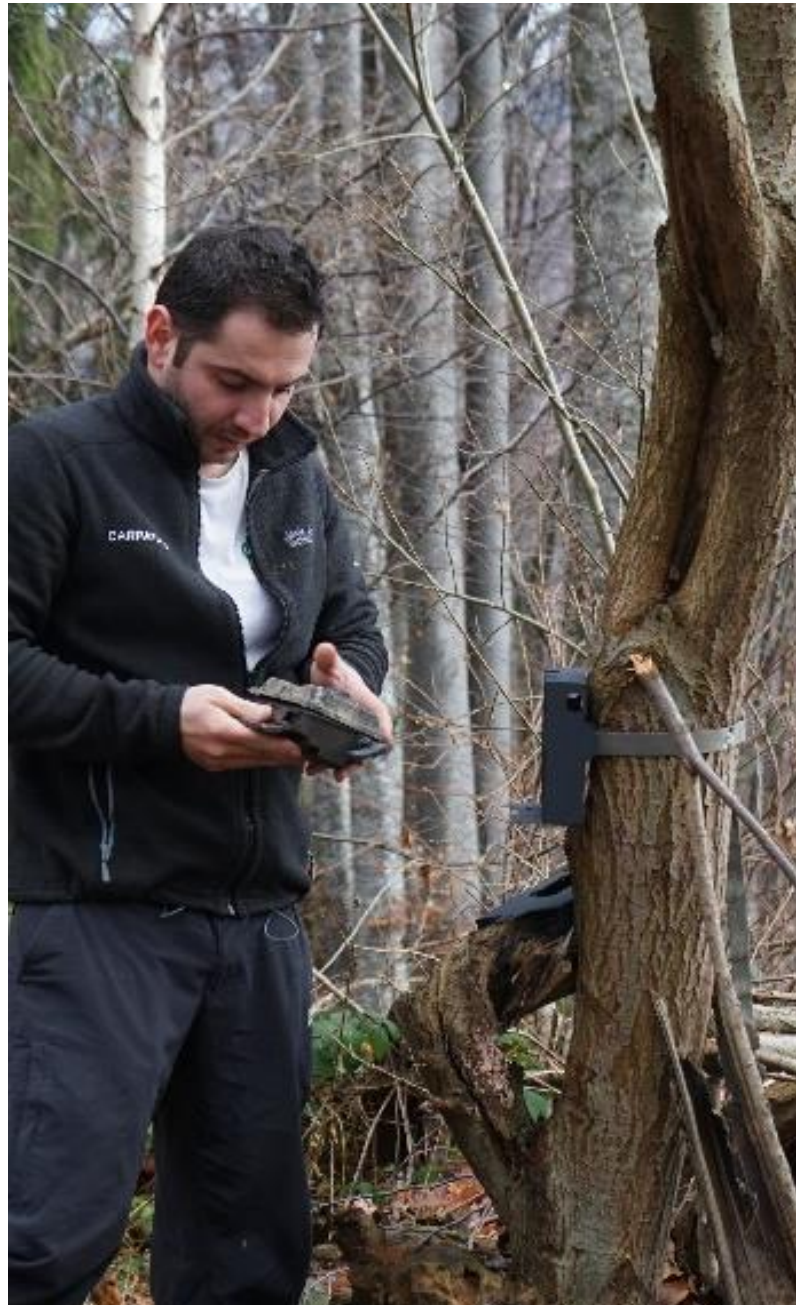
- This is an historic autumn for the southeast of the Făgăraș Mountains where, after more than 100 years, beavers return home to the riverbeds of the Dâmbovița, Argeșel and Târgului rivers.
- After two years of scientific and socio-economic studies and thousands of hours spent in the field, this autumn we started the relocation of the first beavers from the northern side of the mountains to the south. This activity will continue until 2024 and we plan to reintroduce 90 individuals.
- Benefits of beavers are enormous: they improve water quality due to purification and filtration of water, they increase the natural diversity of the area by creating additional wetlands, which provide food and shelter for birds, fish, insects, amphibians, and they stabilize the volume of water after heavy rains and thus mitigate the effect of flooding. Last but not least, they are touristic ambassadors as they are interesting animals to observe.



- We really shouldn't do this, but we are the communications department and hopefully can be excused if we get a bit sentimental about the cuteness of wildlife in public! 😊
- Just look at this fluffy calf!
- The three herds of bison are thriving in the wilderness of the Făgăraș Mountains and we are obtaining the approvals for the next location for reintroduction.



- Camera traps are the best non-invasive way of monitoring wildlife.
- For the winter period we have installed seven pairs of camera traps in locations where we want to have more information about lynx.
- Here are a few samples of the wonders of our protected forests that we wish to share with you: check out some footage with [Wolves](#) and check out this video clip about [Bison](#).



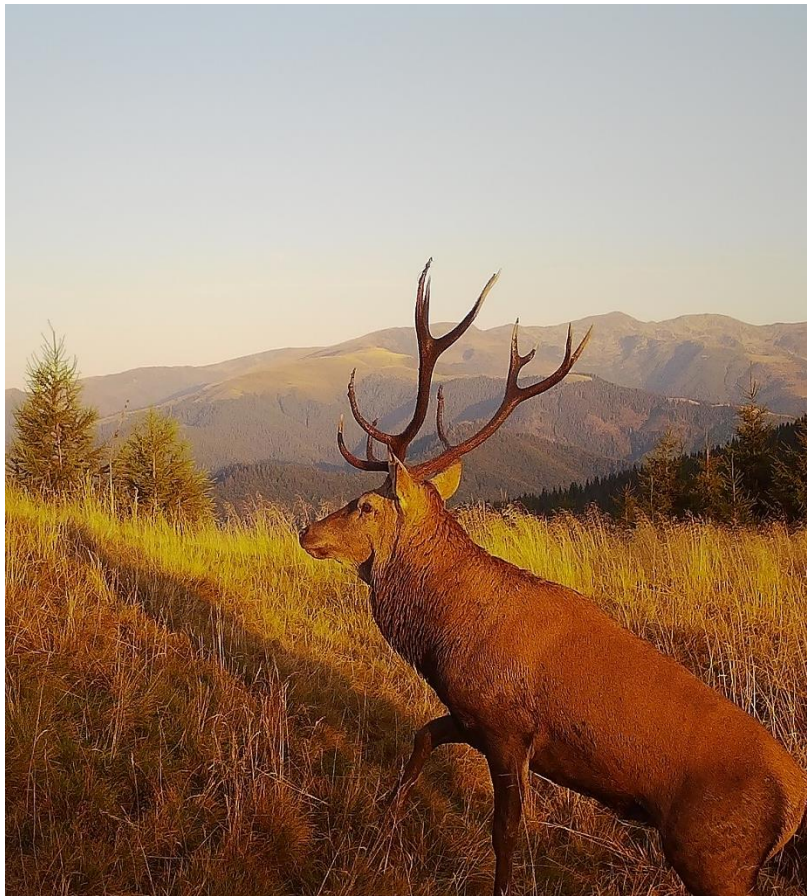
- We keep monitoring the main prey species of golden eagles and, as the winter comes, snow is just perfect for identifying tracks and leftovers of capercaillie.



Wildlife management:

- We have donated 19 sheep to 6 owners that have lost their livestock due to bear attacks in Lerești and Stoenеști area.
- With this voluntary compensation we help local farmers in a practical and unbureaucratic way, which is the core of our wildlife management philosophy.









04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



- The 'Fruits of the Mountains' Food Hub is growing bit by bit each month. This conservation enterprise brings security and a chain of distribution to small producers in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- The good news we mentioned in the last report has materialized – you can find many of the products we promote on <https://www.freshful.ro/>, a national platform for online orders of goodies.
- December was our best month so far, we sold an additional 252 Christmas packages and we are thankful for all of the companies' and private orders.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- Winter is a good season to handle lots of administrative work
- Fixing the shelter for the calves and Carpathian shepherd dogs, repairing a tractor, works on the abattoir, building a small cabin for the colleagues that guard the Transylvanian Grey cattle, preparing for guests etc.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- Two of our female Carpathian shepherd dogs participated in a [national event](#) dedicated to Romanian breeds of shepherd dogs. Out of about 150 participating dogs, they took places 1 and 3!
- Congrats to Griva and Aspra and well done to all the colleagues involved in the breeding programme.
- So far we have donated 46 pure bred puppies to 22 different farmers in the Făgăraș Mountains, to guard their livestock and prevent carnivore attacks

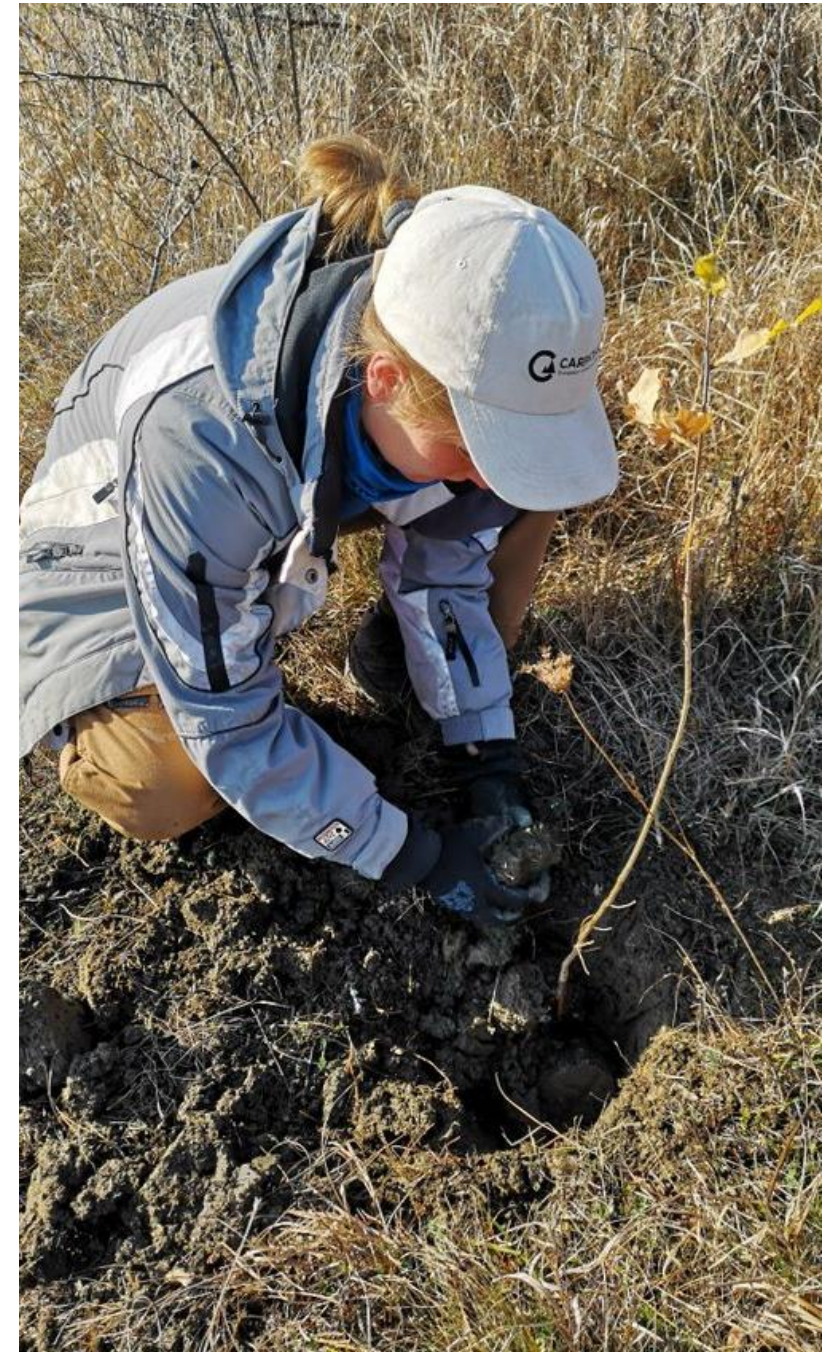




- Our Carpathian shepherd dogs breeding programme is popular not only amongst the farmers surrounding Făgăraș Mountains, but the puppies are the fluffiest attraction for farm guests as well.
- We had to train the hospitality coordinators to resist this 'can I pretty please take it home' look. :-D
- Snow is being much enjoyed in the village.



- With the donations raised at Bikeathon Făgăraș, we have covered the costs of planting 100 oak trees at Cobor, to restore the pastures with secular oaks and contribute to the preservation of this unique landscape in Europe.
- We are glad to see that many of the seedlings planted during the past years have survived.



- Due to the pandemic most of the tourism events went from crowded fairs to... nothing.
- We were happy to participate in the Eco-tourism fair in Sibiu, Romania. Travel CARPATHIA provides interesting options to more and more green guests.
- It is never too early to book your adventure in the Făgăraș Mountains!



05

Communication &
community outreach



To do good is contagious!

- [Six IT teams](#) visited the kids who participate in the online schooling programme run by Casa Buna Association in our project area – Nucșoara and Lerești. This is a periodic visit to solve technical problems and install more computers, but also very important for the wellbeing of the children.
- 170 kids are prepared for winter due to the [donation of winter clothing and boots](#) and Christmas gifts in December.
- These volunteers are doing amazing work and there is great involvement of those who support us with donations.
- Hopefully, next year we will raise all the money necessary to build a day care centre at Nucșoara. It will be a place where, annually, about 200 children from rural areas will have an opportunity for education.
- If you want to be part of it, please [donate](#), mentioning Day Centre Nucșoara, Făgăraș Mountains.





- The Richita educational centre took a break due to the the pandemic.
- We hope we will continue to welcome new groups of children and volunteers in 2022!



- The colleagues from WWF Europe/Spain were interested in our [bear monitoring study](#).
- We were glad to share with them the methodology and results.



- The workshop 'Conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the mountain area' organized by Pitești University brought together experts in the field of biodiversity conservation from the Institute of Biology of the Romanian Academy Bucharest, Foundation Conservation Carpathia, Buila-Vânturarița National Park, Argeș County Museum and the University of Pitești.
- We presented on the subject of the management of invasive alien plant species in protected natural areas.



New management colleagues

- Irinel has spent the last 30 years in France, working mostly in Environmental Health and Safety. He was keen to come back to Romania and became part of the CARPATHIA project as the manager of the Biodiversity Farm in Cobor.



New management colleagues

- Ciprian has over 10 years of experience in financial management, including in a Big Four company. He wished for a new challenge and joined us here at CARPATHIA as Chief Financial Officer.



Corporate appeal:

REDIRECT 20% OF YOUR COMPANY'S INCOME TAX

If you have a company you can directly support our work, without any costs for the sponsor-company.

The sponsorship is fully deductible if it falls within the limits of the law and if it is made before the end of the year on the basis of a sponsorship contract.

The simple gesture of redirecting 20% of your income tax to Conservation Carpathia is an opportunity to contribute to the protection of the Făgăraș Mountains - now and for future generations.

[Learn more about how you can do it](#)

We thank all [companies](#) that have already donated!





There are 107 of us, not all at this end of year dinner, but ALL wishing you all the best and thanking you for your support!
Happy holidays and a green New Year!

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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