



Field report

March & April 2022

Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe





- We respond to the need to help our neighbours working in the protected areas of Ukraine.
- Together with Frankfurt Zoological Society and other partners, we have organised another three convoys with generators, gas stoves, tents, mattresses, pillows, duvets, sleeping bags, medicines, food, a lot of clothes, even wool sweaters knitted by women from the Făgăraș Mountains, hygienic products. Sameday generously helped us with transporting everything all the way to the Ukraine border, and many others from our team, volunteers, and donors made it all happen.
- A big thank you to everyone involved!

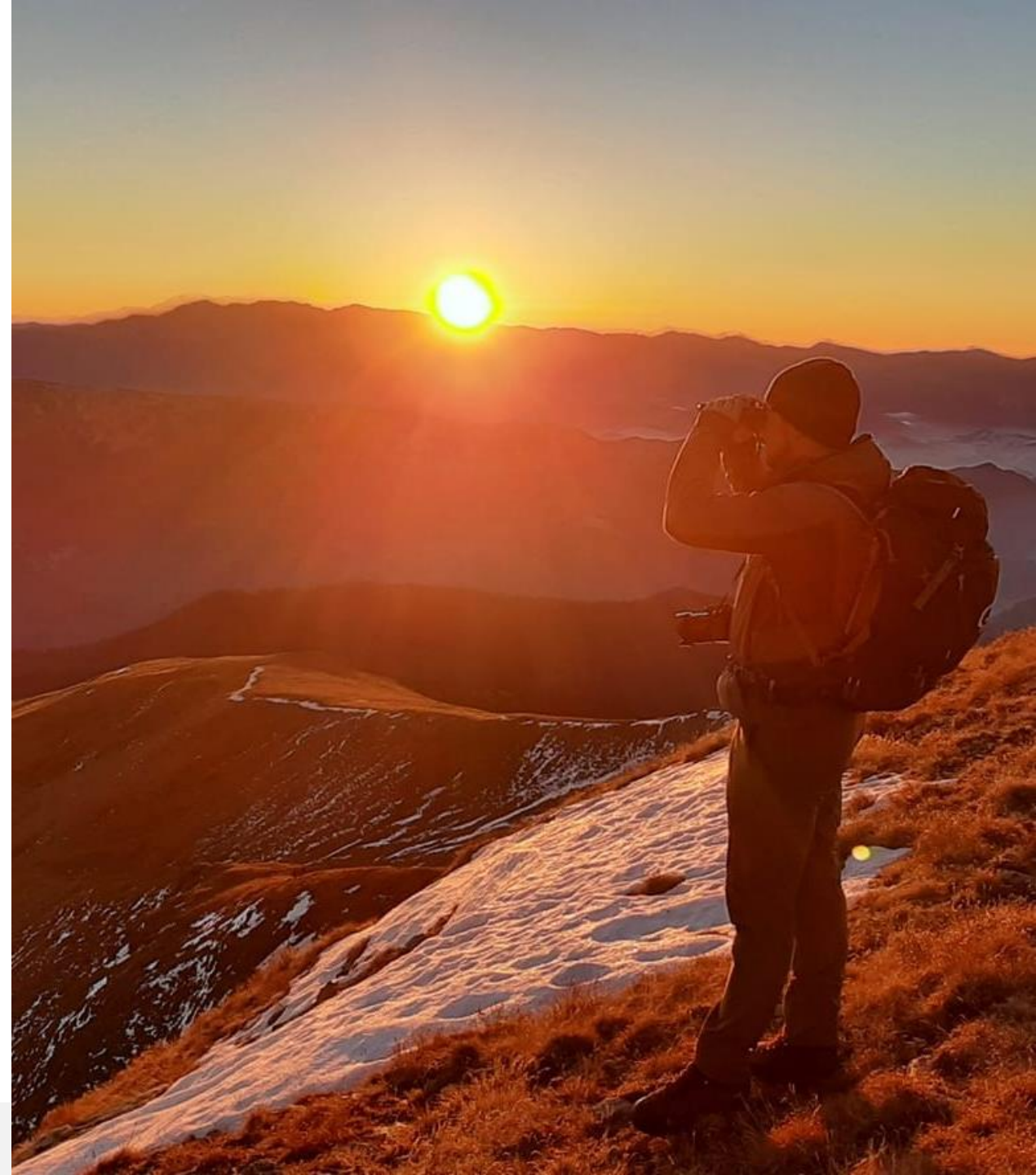


Aid Ukraine



Main activities summary

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

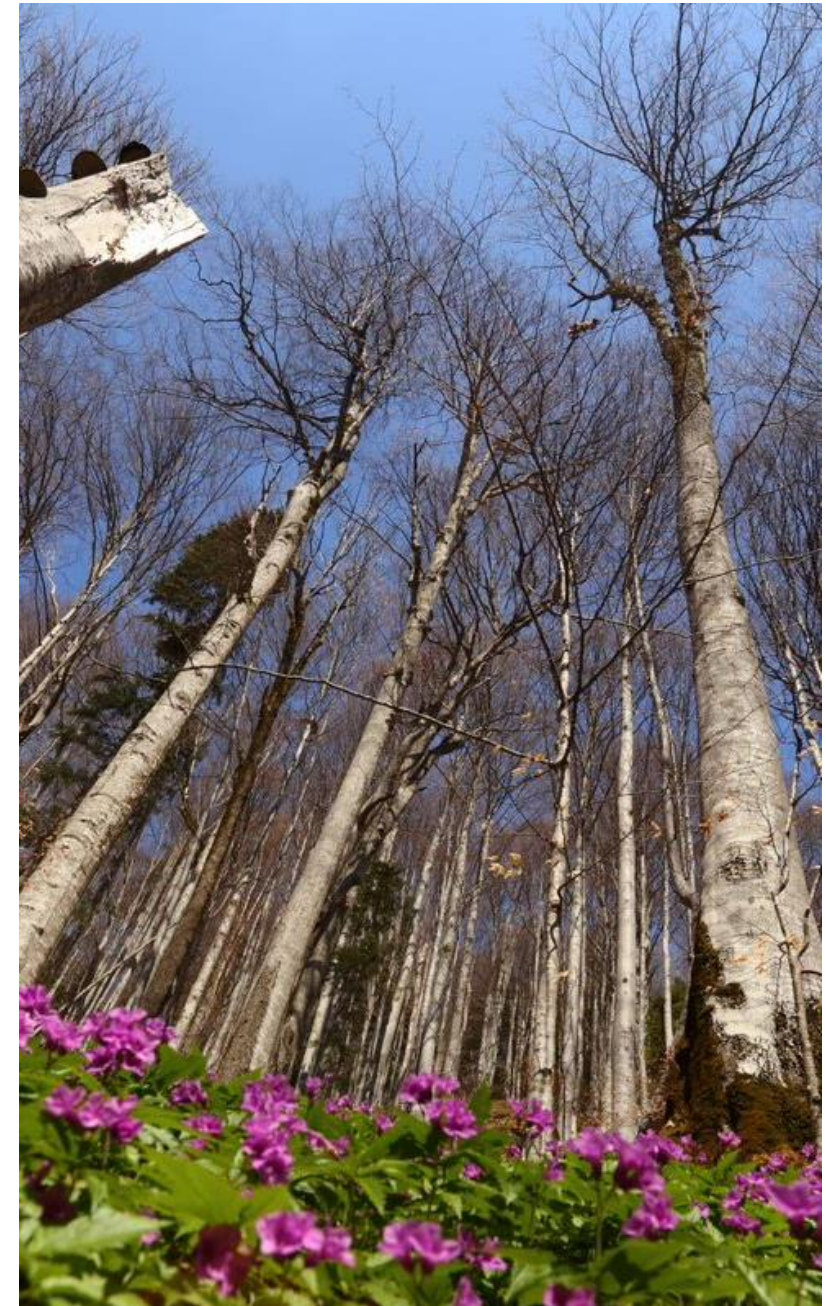


01

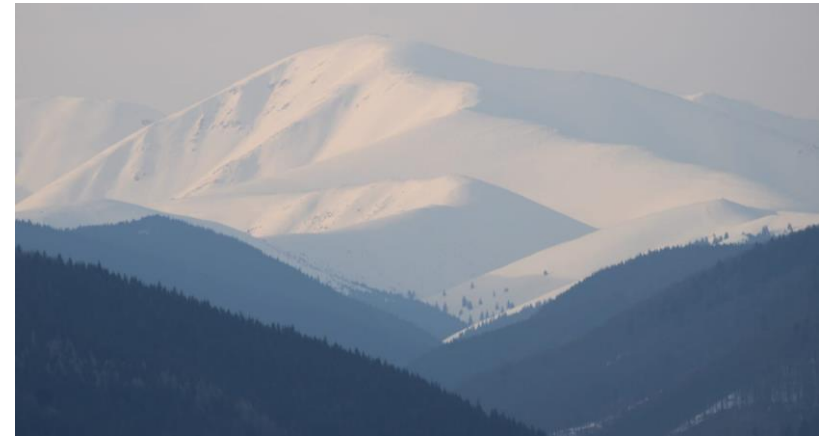
Forest conservation and
management



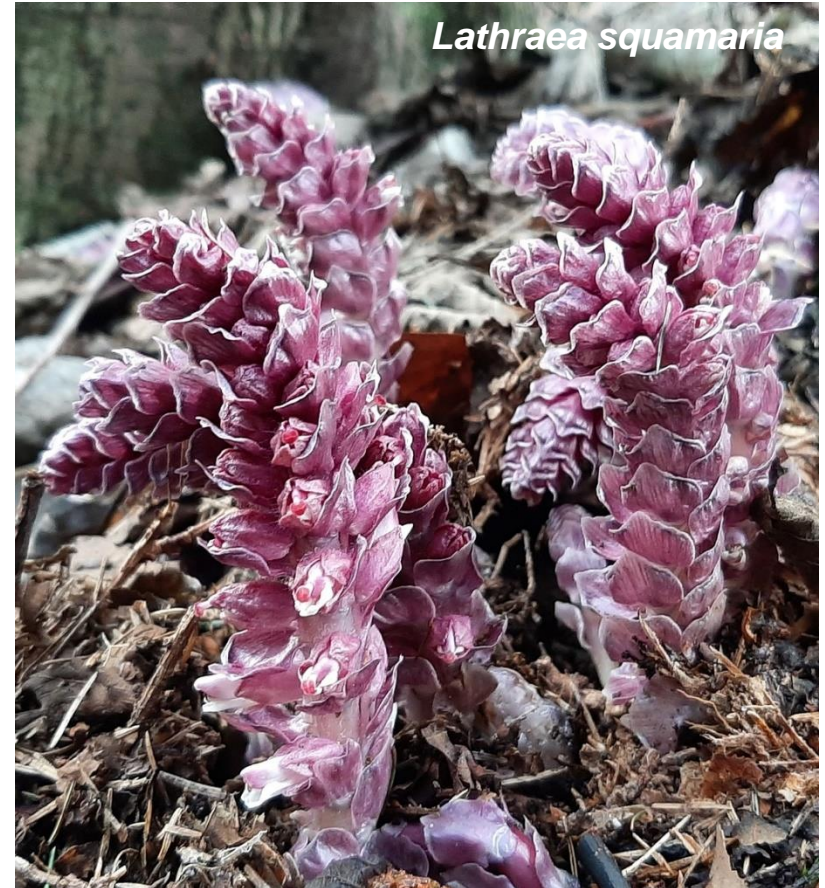
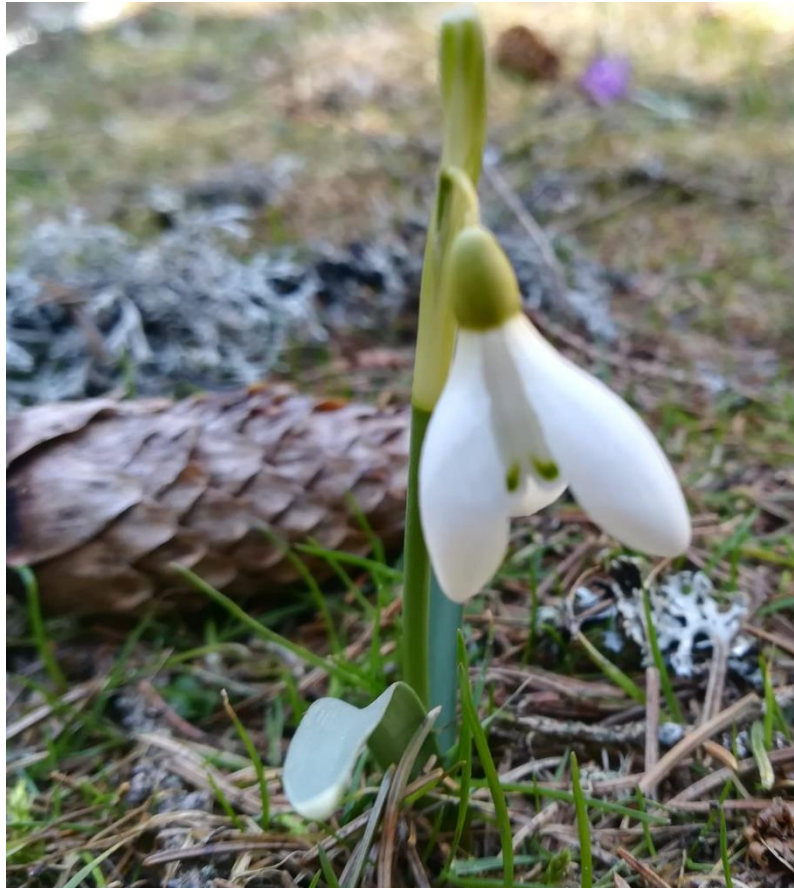
- Half winter – half spring. Late, heavy snows like those we have seen in recent years. Winter seems to want to occupy other months in the calendar.



Images from the project area



Images from the project area







02

Ecological restoration



- As the snow started melting in the lower altitude areas, we started working in our tree nurseries:
- Ploughing the land to extend the planting area in the existing tree nurseries
- Taking young dwarf pine and spruce saplings out of the greenhouses and replanting them in the tree nurseries for another 2-4 years until they are fit to be planted.
- Taking out the saplings ready to be planted for the spring restoration activities and transporting them to the mountains
- Public funding together with your [donations](#) made this possible.
Thank you!

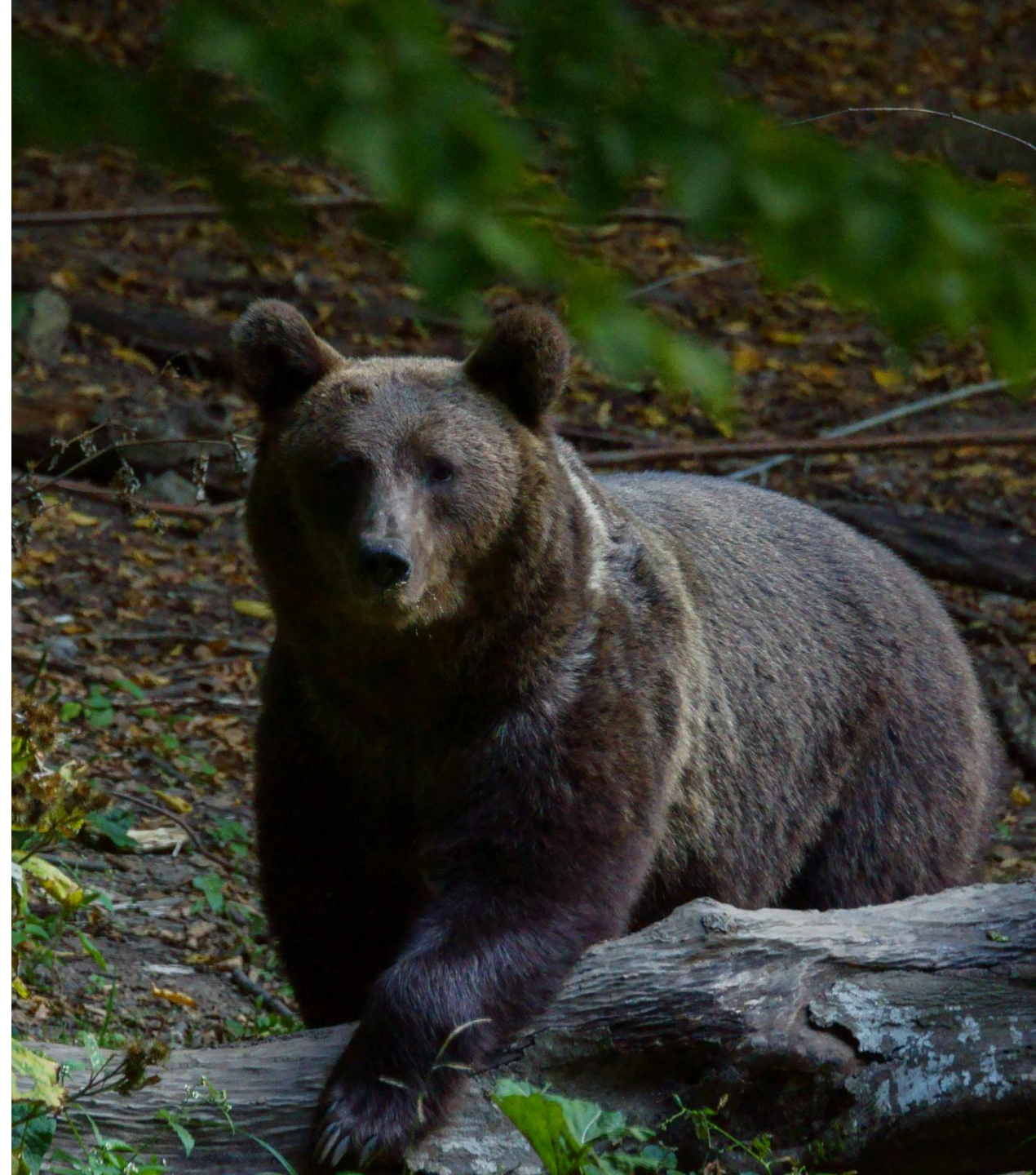


03

Wildlife conservation



- We manage 78,000 ha (five wildlife management concessions) in the southern Făgăraș Mountains, and we are creating a model of human-wildlife coexistence based on *prevention – intervention – compensation*.
- **Prevention** involves the donation of Carpathian shepherd dogs and the installation of electric fences to reinforce night-time security around the households or farms. So far, we have donated 51 dogs and the programme continues. Livestock farmers grazing animals in the Făgăraș Mountains can sign up to receive dogs at a.aldea@carpathia.org. The 40 electric fences provided free of charge to local farmers, who have experienced conflicts with wildlife, have proven effective.
- The **intervention** involves the *rapid intervention teams* acting to resolve direct conflicts between wildlife and locals. Since May 2019 to date, the two teams have responded to 508 referrals.
- Innovative **compensatory measures** involve real-time replacement of domestic animals killed by large carnivores. The organisation has voluntarily donated 38 sheep and nine cows in exchange for those lost by 22 local residents as a result of the attacks.



Wildlife monitoring

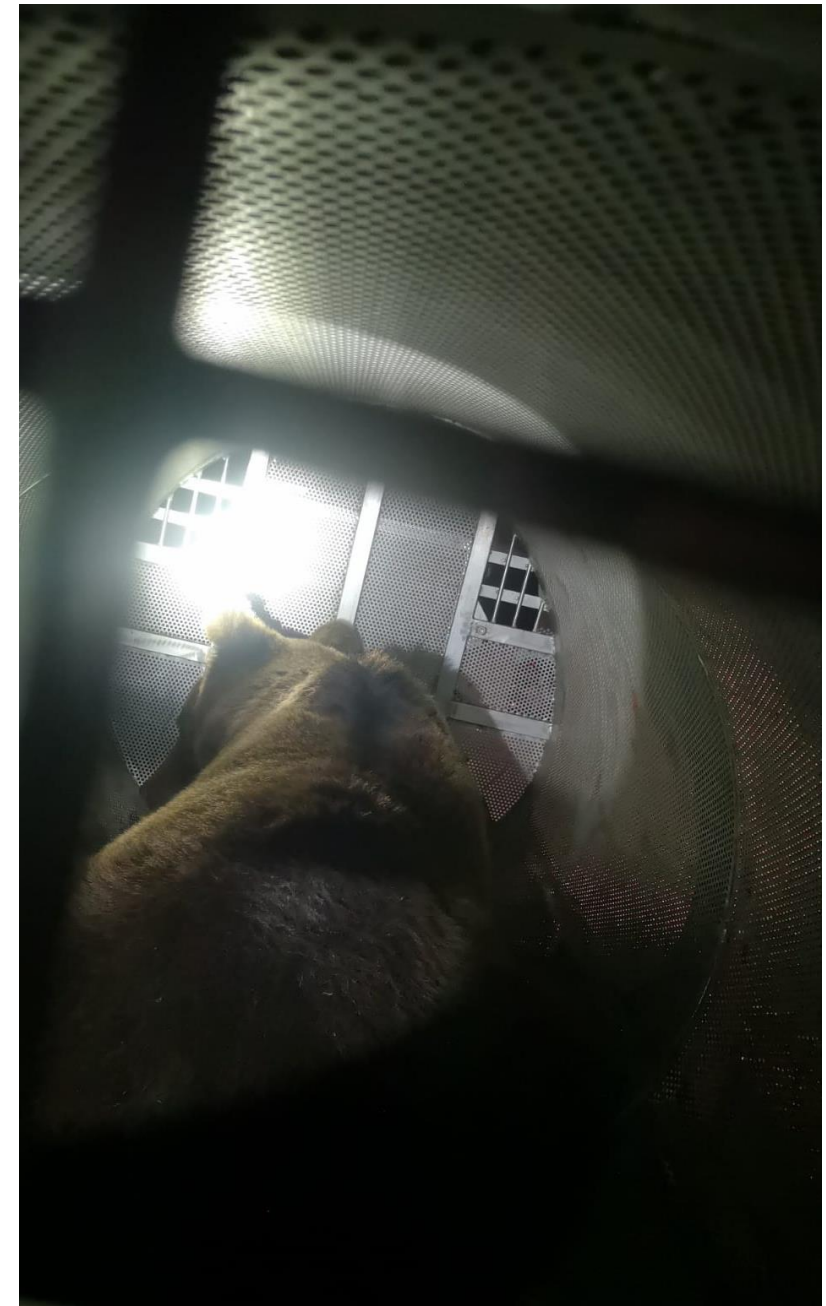
- This season we have collected 84 DNA samples from [wolves](#).
- Detailed knowledge of the populations of these species is particularly important, as it helps us to adapt our management decisions to ensure their coexistence in the future.
- Due to the media interest in the subject, we have organised a preliminary [info trip](#) communicating the results we have so far. The study will be finalised next winter.
- Our estimated density is somewhere around 2.35 wolves/10,000 hectares, significantly higher than in northern European countries, but also twice the density found in Yellowstone Park in the USA.



- We welcomed three new bison that came from Bad Berleburg and Bad Laasphe/Feudingen, Germany and we are making arrangements to receive others from Sweden.
- They will form another herd and we plan to release them this summer.



- We have relocated a bear that caused damage in the Lerești/Voina area.
- Unfortunately, some of the problems have been provoked by the inappropriate behaviour of villagers. Only in the last few weeks we have discovered two cases where dead livestock was dumped at the edge of villages, or where leftovers from an abattoir were deposited at the edge of farms as dog food. In all cases, bears were attracted by the smell of meat.
- Habituation is a sad consequence of this. In the end, everyone loses: livestock farmers face attacks on their cattle and sheep, and eventually these problem bears may have to be shot if they lose their fear of humans.



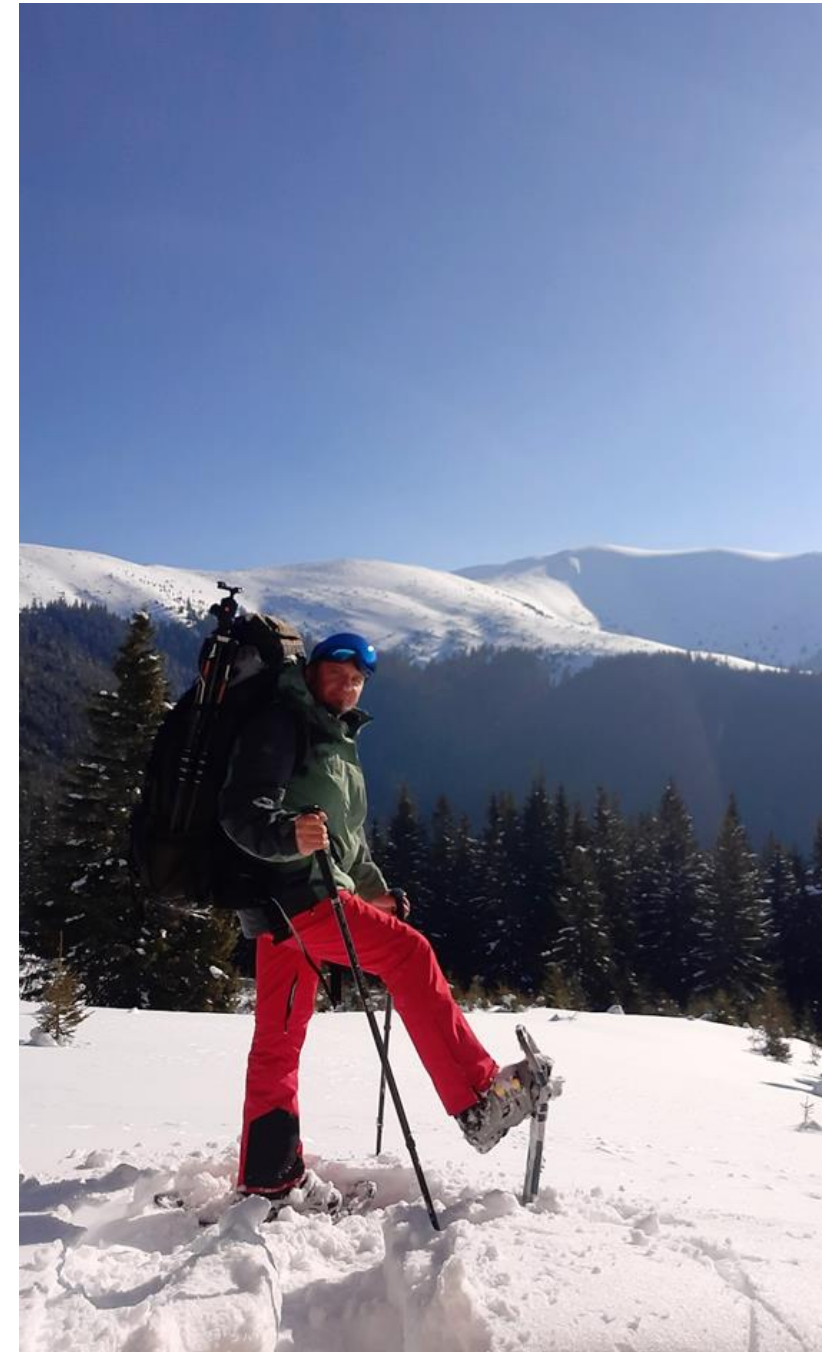
Wildlife management

- We continue to push wild boar back into the woods to avoid the destruction of meadows around the villages and we verify the maintenance of the electric fences in use that we have installed at local farms.
- As part of our preventative measures, we have established fields of over half a hectare with wildlife fodder at some abandoned grasslands above Satic and Rucar. These provide an attraction for wild boar, and keep them from descending to the meadows around the communities. We will also plant fruit trees on these meadows in order to create more diversity and autumn food for wildlife.



Wildlife monitoring

- We have restarted the monitoring of golden eagles. We will focus our efforts on certain areas based on the results of last year.
- It is very rare to find wolf tracks in winter at 1,900 m altitude, but our ornithologist found some.









04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



Busy life at the farm:

- Maintenance of the Brielmaier mowers before the start of the haymaking season.
- Cleaning up pastures .
- Rebuilding of woven twig fences.
- Building a new shelter for the caretakers of our horse livery area.
- Planting green fencing (local bush species) to partition horse pastures.
- Routine veterinary treatment of horses and cattle.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- Sprinkled with stands of ancient oaks, the pastures in the South-central Transylvania are among the most valuable natural pastures left in Europe. Romania's five largest oak pastures (some over 1,000 ha) are all within a 20 km radius of Cobor village.
- Over three years ago we started a project to restore these oak pastures at the Cobor Biodiversity Farm.
- This spring, together with our partner form Transylmagica Association and also with the help received from the Țara Făgărașului Bikeathon event, we have managed to plant 200 oak saplings, with a large participation of volunteers and village kids.



Guesthouses

- How many kids can we fit in our barn? :-)
- And how might your visit look? See [video](#).

We look forward to welcoming you to [Cobor](#)!



Volunteers

- Ema is a Geography masters student and is passionate about horses. She wanted to spend two weeks in our project area after getting to know the organization better as volunteer at [Făgăraș Fest](#).
- Anghel came to Cobor for gardening experience, as he is training in horticulture at [Concordia](#) professional school.
- They were involved in the Carpathian shepherd dogs breeding programme, the horse livery, gardening, planting oak trees and in other farming and hospitality activities.
- [Volunteering](#) is a great opportunity to gain work experience and to contribute to interesting projects.

Thank you, Ema and Anghel for your time and effort!





Food HUB

- The Fruits of the Făgăraș Mountains Food Hub is expanding its nationwide distribution network through a partnership with *Sameday*, one of the largest courier companies in Romania.
- Where small local producers can't reach, Sameday delivers.
- Each product speaks about a village and a family that maintains the tradition or improves it. In every basket, with selected goods from the Făgăraș Mountains, people will find the taste of the mountains and the skill of the villagers who prepared them.



Wildlife hides

- **Spring loading...** 😊
Soon nature will burst into the most beautiful green you have ever seen and our wildlife hides will be open again for visitors.
- Book a wildlife experience and your trip will contribute to forest conservation and to the wellbeing of the local producers.

We look forward to welcoming you to
[Travel CARPATHIA!](#)



05

Communication &
community outreach



**ÎN LUMEA CELOR MAI ÎNALȚI
DINTRE CARPAȚII ROMÂNIEI**



**EXPLOREAZĂ MUNȚII FĂGĂRAS
ÎN PRIMA GALERIE VIRTUALĂ
A NATURII**

- National Park Bayerischer Wald Germany became a study area for a group of local decision makers from the Făgăraș Mountains.
- This National Park covers 24,250 ha, attracts 1.4 million visitors/year and generates 52 million Euro/year income from tourism activities for the local communities.
- We had a lot to learn about its infrastructure, how education programmes are enrolled, how the logistics of such a park functions, what employment opportunities it offers, and how people can participate in the park's volunteer programmes. And a lot to envision for the area of the Făgăraș Mountains once it becomes the largest forested National Park in Europe.



- The Făgăraș Mountains are one of the richest areas in terms of nature and culture in Romania, including gastronomic culture.
- In 2021, we started a free consultancy programme for small entrepreneurs in the villages around the Făgăraș Mountains.
- The authorisation of several Local Gastronomic Points is a novelty for Argeș County, and we are pleased to invite you to the [first Local Gastronomic Point](#) in our project area, authorised with the support of our Conservation Enterprises Programme.
- Visitors can enjoy home-cooked food made from locally produced raw materials.



- Casa Bună Association continues its activities in Nucșoara and Lerești communes, in the Făgăraș Mountains.
- Packages with food, a workshop on child safety on the Internet and the periodical IT visit comprised the latest programme of the team. And, of course, on-line lessons with the volunteers.
- We are a few more 'bricks' away until we have all the funding for the day centre we want to build in Nucșoara.



Virtual gallery

- We make the Făgăraș Mountains more accessible and easier to discover from any corner of the world!
- You don't need to pack your bags, just go to our new virtual gallery to experience all the elements of the Făgăraș Mountains:
<https://www.carpathia.org/galerie-virtuala/>, use the **arrows on your keyboard** to move around. Turn the sound up and stop from place to place to discover the stories.





- Not only children from our project area and other visitors get to stay in our carbon-free Richita educational centre. Our field team has also stayed here for a two-week training course as Protected Areas Specialists, with ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas.



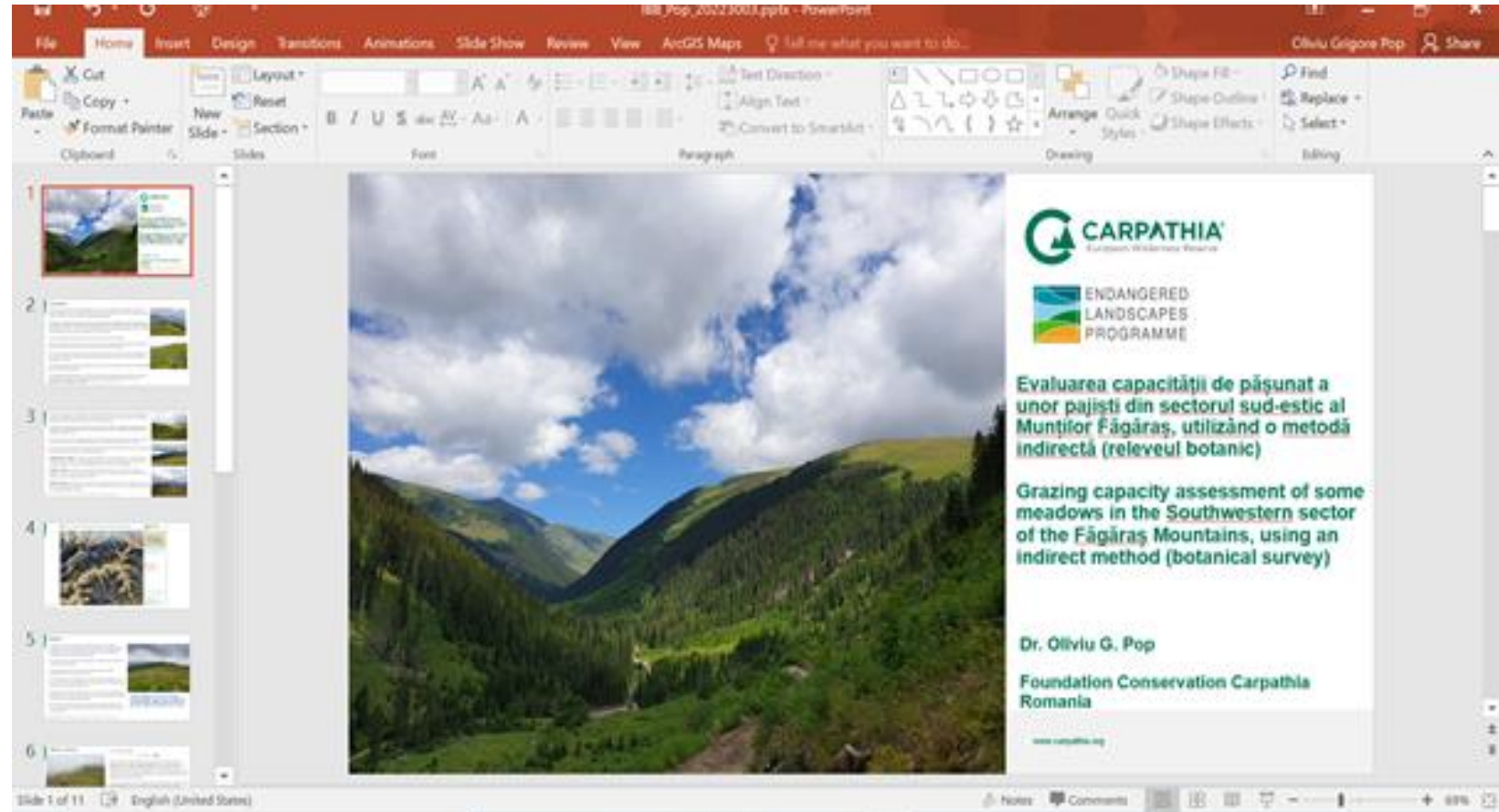
- 20 teachers from Braşov county have attended the training session *Educator for Nature*, organised by ProPark Foundation for Protected Areas.
- *Experiential education* is a relatively new concept for Romania and we are proud to have introduced it here.
- Five intensive days with theoretical information about the protected areas and the Făgăraş Mountains and a lot of interactive sessions including exercises that teachers may apply to their classes.
- With this course we have now trained 40 teachers for a combination of formal and informal education in Argeş and Braşov counties.



- We participated in the Annual Session of Scientific Communications of the Institute of Biology/Romanian Academy of Science with the presentation ‘Grazing capacity assessment of meadows in the south-eastern sector of the Făgăraș Mountains, using an indirect method (botanical survey)’.

trilor caracteristici stării de conservare a habitatelor și a speciilor de interes comunitar din bioregiunea stepică a României

5. **POP Oliviu Grigore** – Evaluarea capacității de pășunat a unor pajști din sectorul sud-estic al Munților Făgăraș, utilizând o metodă indirectă (relevul botanic)
6. **BÎRSAN Constantin-Ciprian, TAMAS Gabriela, ȘTEFĂNUȚ Sorin** – Restaurarea mlaștinilor și turbăriilor degradate din regiunea de Nord-Est 1 a României - prezentare de proiect
7. **CHIRIAC Luiza Silvia, acad. MURARIU T. Dumitru** – Zone urbane – evidențierea metodelor utilizate pentru remedierea solurilor poluate



Results

26,900 ha

of forest under permanent protection,
safeguarded for future generations

78,000 ha

protected for wildlife, with no sport or
trophy hunting

1,157 ha

clear-cut areas bought and restored

3,051,432

saplings planted in clear-cuts, riparian
galleries and artificial spruce monocultures

200

locals which make a living from the
CARPATHIA project

1,200

students and teachers involved in
environmental education projects

20+

local producers are part of the Food
HUB Roadele Munților





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 78,000 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, Daniel Bucur, George Costan, Ionut Cretu, Ema Dimitriu, Dan Dinu, Victoria Donos, Marius Druga, Gabriel Dudu, Valeriu Ganci, Irinel Gavrilu, Adrian Idor, Ruben Iosif, Karol Kalinsky, Laura Iosub, Jozsef Laszlo, Cosmin Mihai, Madalin Mocanu, Ionut Preda, Flavius Rauta, Daniel Rosengren, Calin Serban, Mihai Sin, Adelin Simion, Laviniu Terciu, Claudiu Toanta, Liviu Ungureanu, Mihai Zotta