



# Field report

June 2022

Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe









# 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 June, we were able to purchase an additional 4.42 ha of forests for protection.
- External specialists continued to monitor changes in the diversity and abundance of terrestrial arthropods.
- We have added three more species to the orchid inventory of FCC properties: *Neottia nidus-avis* (bird's nest orchid), *Epipactis atrorubens* dark-red helleborine), *Corallorhiza trifida* (yellow coralroot).
- We also identified a population of approximately 30 specimens of *Cypripedium calceolus*, a Lady's slipper orchid.





# Images from our project area





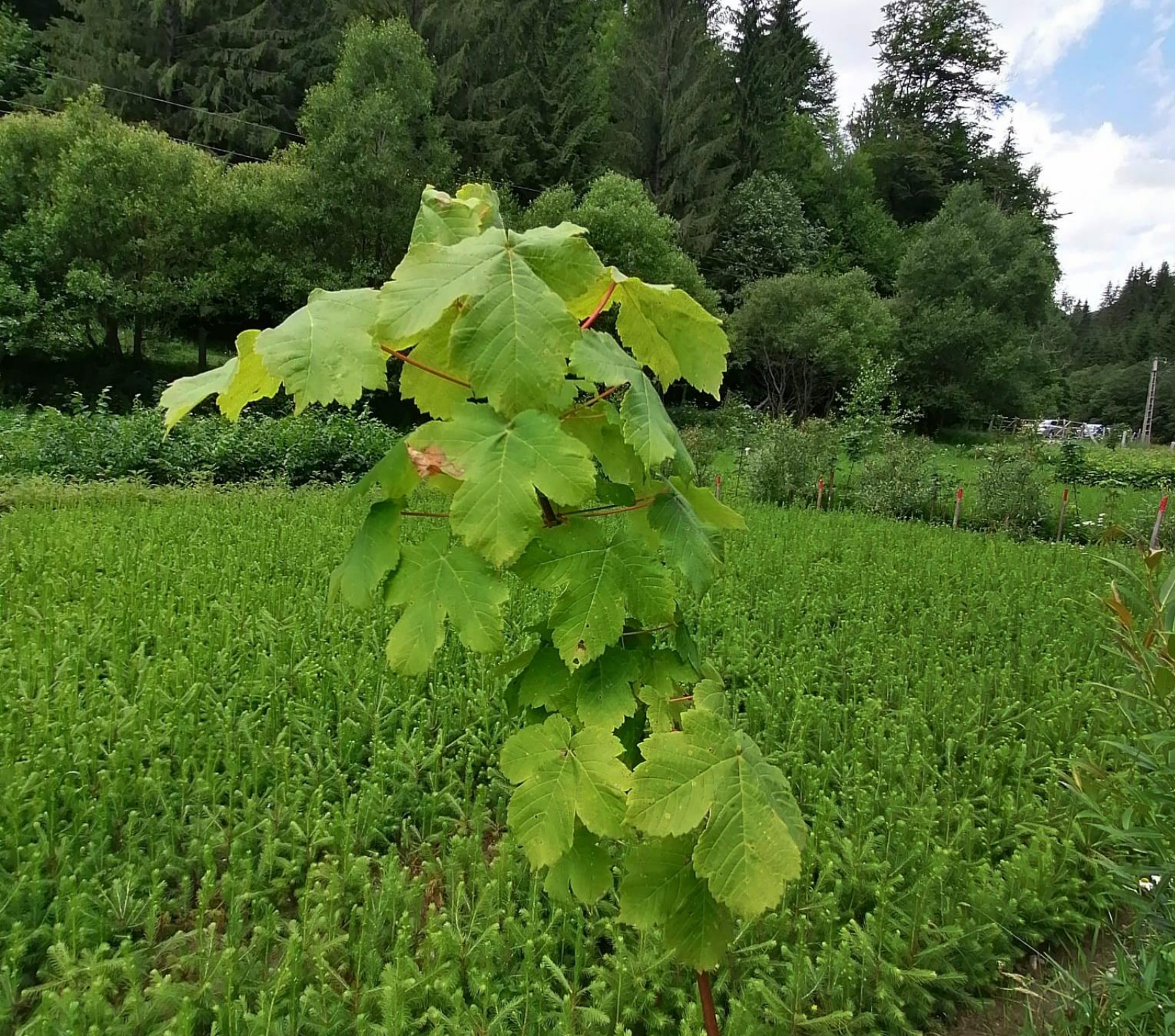
# Flowers of CARPATHIA











02

Ecological restoration





- Due to rainy weather as well as past removal activities, the abundance of invasive alien plant species (IAS) was low compared to previous years. We will continue to uproot or cut *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane), *Conyza canadensis* (horseweed) and *Impatiens parviflora* (small balsam) throughout July and August.
- IAS are often introduced unintentionally by humans, without knowing the impact on the natural environment in that area. They replace other native species, which is why it is important to eliminate them.
- Mowing grasses which became invasive following overgrazing on Găinașul Mare pasture.



*Erigeron annuus*





- The tree nurseries and greenhouses need constant attention at this time of the year – especially weeding and watering.
- Permanent and seasonal workers are involved in growing deciduous and coniferous saplings for the new forests in the Făgăraș Mountains.





- Elm is the most difficult 'assignment' when it comes to growing saplings. Almost all the seeds are dry, so we might lose another season for growing this important species.





# Greenhouses and tree nurseries





03

## Wildlife conservation





# Wildlife monitoring

- We continue monitoring our three free-roaming herds. [HERE](#) is a first animated map of their movements.
- This summer another eight bison (now in the acclimatization enclosures) will enjoy the freedom of the Făgăraș Mountains, making a total of 36 individuals released.
- Photographer Alexander Turner came in search of Europe's largest land mammal with our rangers. Here is his story in [The Guardian](#).





# Wildlife monitoring – golden eagle and prey

- We continue collecting data to develop a golden eagle conservation plan under the LIFE Carpathia project, which is the basis for the long-term protection of the species, and which will contribute to a general, national conservation plan.
- So far, the nest locations we located last year remain empty.
- We study and evaluate the capercaillie population, which is one of the main sources of food for the golden eagle. Due to the habitat it prefers, the capercaillie can be considered an umbrella species that indicates a rich forest structure. However, in Central Europe it has decreased significantly, due to the loss or fragmentation of the habitat in which it prefers to live. The conservation status is unknown in the Făgăraș Mountains.
- We assess the marmot population, which disappeared and was reintroduced into the Făgăraș Mountains in the 1970s and today has a viable population. The study analyses the potential habitats for the presence of marmots, by using transects to delimit the distribution of the species.





# Wildlife monitoring

- We will have a hot summer and autumn and we are not talking about the weather. Repeating the brown bear census using genetic methods over 120,000 ha in one season will be a challenge. That's why we have trained/retrained all the field team so everyone can contribute in collecting DNA from bear scat and hair.
- We look forward to comparing the current results to the ones obtained in the [first study](#).





# Aquatic fauna

- Aqua Crisius Association continued its mission to restore the native aquatic fauna in the rivers of the Făgăraș Mountains: this spring they have repopulated them with another 1,500 one-year-old grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*).

Their overall results are very good:

- Reintroduction of 3,500 one-year-old grayling for three consecutive years in two rivers from which the species had disappeared.
- Repopulation, starting in 2018, with 10,500 native (indigenous) trout and 55,600 embryos of the same species.
- Dozens of missions to prevent and combat fish poaching.
- Participation in water sanitation activities, research, public debates, etc.

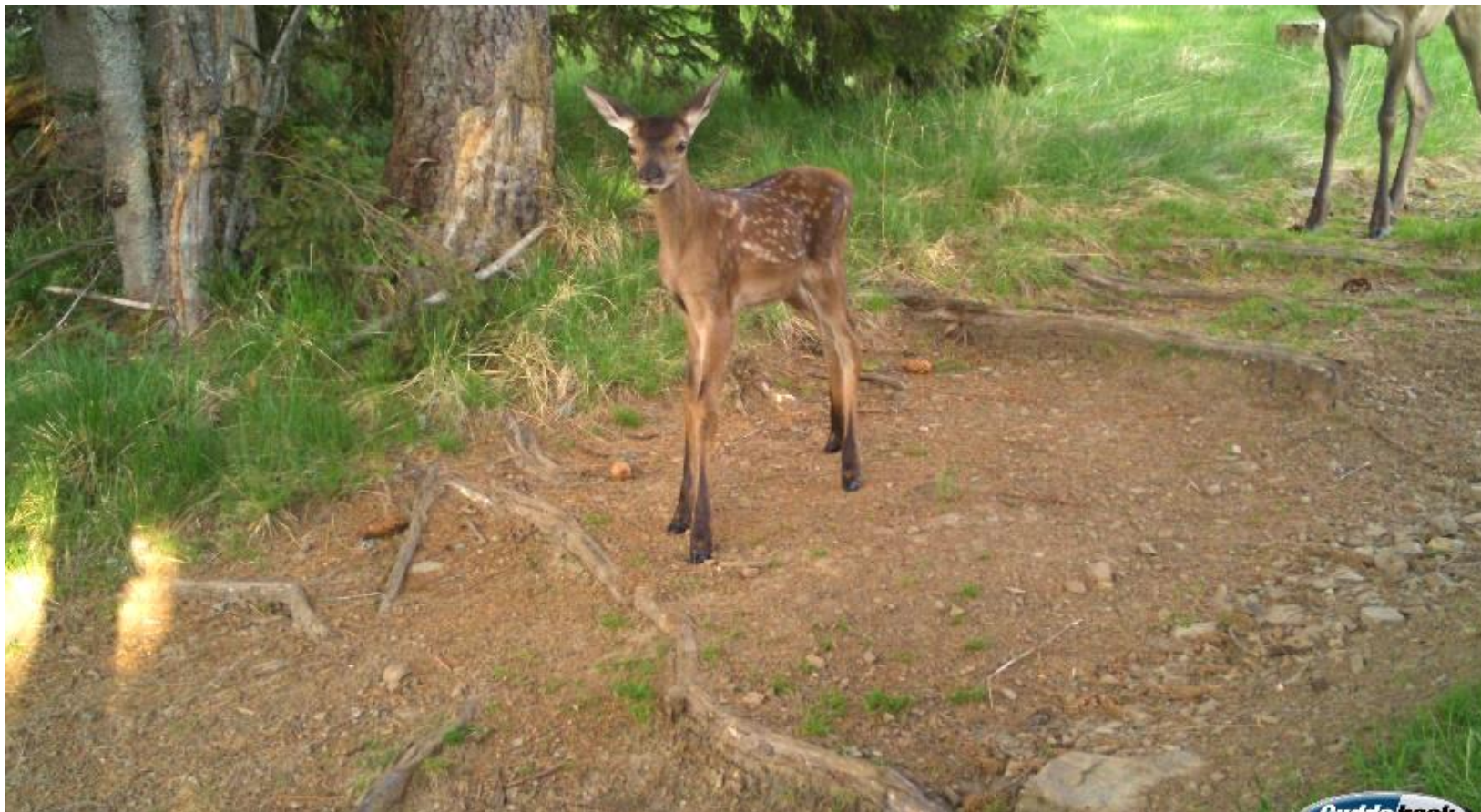
*\*Aqua Crisius Association, in partnership with the Carpathia Forest District, manages a number of river courses in the Făgăraș Mountains*





# Wildlife images & videos

- [Bison](#)
- [Bear](#)
- [Mixed wildlife](#)











04

## Conservation Enterprise Programme





# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

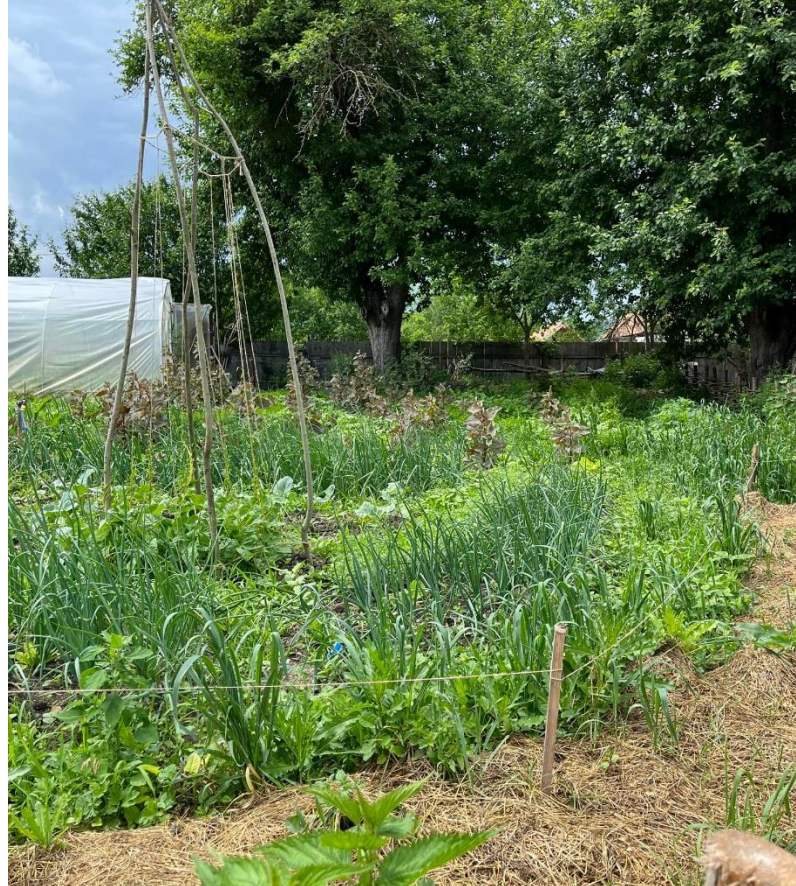
- Whether first-time guests, like influencer [Ruxandra](#) and her family, or return customers – we are always glad to share stories, good food and flavoured syrups with all their passionate countryside charm.
- If you wish to visit Transylvania come to [Cobor](#)!





The farm activities go on:

- Gardening
- Relocating the horse feeders
- Building a roof for the diesel tank
- Taking care of the cattle and Carpathian shepherd dogs
- Trimming, shoeing, treating horses and cattle.





# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- This was the first Carpathia Bike Tour – Cobor edition: [video](#). More than 100 cyclists from all over the country cycled through the hills of Transylvania to our biodiversity farm.
- We look forward to welcoming you next year!

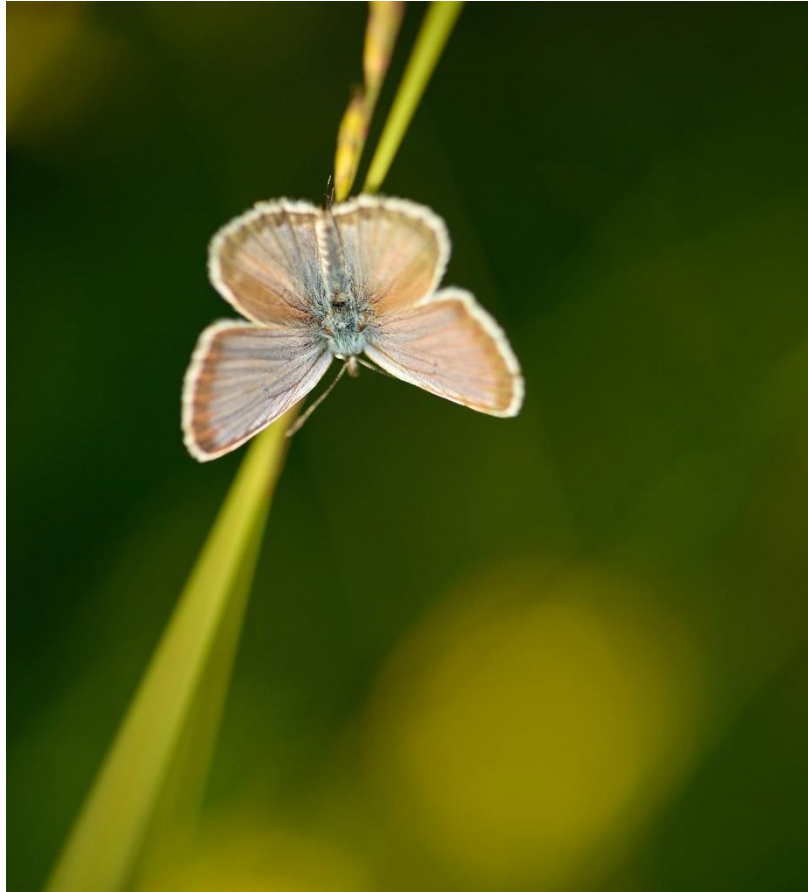
Full photo album [HERE](#).













# Food HUB

- Mariana (Casa Tanti Maria brand) is one of the 25+ producers that are part of the [Fruits of the Făgăraș Mountains](#) Food Hub.
- Tasty products are one click away – easy to pack in the checked-in luggage if you visit Romania. 😊





# Wildlife hides

Wildlife watching has never been better.

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





# Endangered Landscapes Programme (ELP) visit

- We hosted a visit of the ELP project colleagues/coordinators from UK, Belarus, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, Ukraine and Georgia.
- It was a good opportunity to show the results of part of our work: replanting, wildlife conflict management, conservation enterprises, local communities and educational programmes for children and teachers within the foothills of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- ELP [video](#) and details about [our activities](#).





# LIFE auditors visit

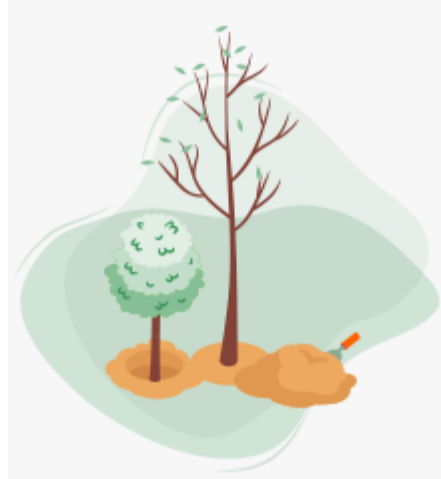
- We were pleased to share the results obtained so far within our LIFE Carpathia project with Mrs. Sylvia Barova (Project Advisor to EU LIFE Programme funded projects) and Mrs. Ioana Lucaciu (LIFE Monitoring Team/NEEMO GEIE Romania).
- Time was too short for the complexity of our project, but still we managed to show activities from each of the five pillars: conservation, ecological restoration, wildlife, community outreach and conservation enterprise.





# Partnership for nature

- A forest, a thousand stories... The forest is where we first saw a deer. Or where we went on the first school trip or walk with our grandparents.
- We are continuing the partnership we started last year with ING Bank – a campaign for the ecological restoration of damaged clear-cut areas in the Făgăraș Mountains.





# Partnership for nature

- This spring, together with a group of local decision makers from the Făgăraș Mountains, we visited the [Bavarian Forest National Park Germany](#).
- 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.
- Now it was our turn to show a group of specialists from the Bavarian Forest National Park the amazing natural and cultural heritage of the Făgăraș Mountains.





# Friends of the Făgăraș Mountains

- Nico de Transilvania – Music Without Frontiers, one of our friends, promoter of the Făgăraș Mountains and Romanian culture, came back to Romania to record for the [INTERBEING](#) project.
- It was as touching as it was beautiful, because the people in the villages of the Făgăraș Mountains are so special! Here is a [video of Silvia](#), a talented local from Nucșoara county.
- Interbeing is a project supported by the National Cultural Fund and Cambridge University.





# Friends of the Făgăraș Mountains

- The journalist Amalia Enache took a couple of days to visit again our project, this time to see [the bison](#), enjoy the playfull and educational activities at Richita educational centre, the simple, [tasty food](#) of the mountains and a [hike](#).
- Thank you for your involvement and love for the Făgăraș Mountains!





# SUPERB project

- SUPERB project, Europe's largest transnational forest restoration project, continues its activity with the [first stakeholder workshop](#).
- During the first out of four workshops planned in the project, the participants had a dynamic programme – presentation of the project, examples of demonstration areas in other countries, objectives of the project in Romania, working sessions, collection of data and information on issues in the field, opportunities for ecological restoration, questionnaire of ideas and feedback. In the field we visited a completed ecological restoration site and one of the organisation's nine tree nurseries.





# Running in a park or running for a national park? ;-)

- This year we were again partners of the DHL Carpathian Marathon, the 11th edition, a top mountain running experience in the heart of the Carpathians. Natural areas are ideal destinations for nature sports and the Foundation's activities support their proper management for the benefit of people and nature.
- Cristina ran the 21 km half marathon with 1000 m altitude difference and Ruben, Zsolt and Călin did the super relay team, on a 21 km route with 290m height difference.





- ProPark Adventure Race Family & Friends was great fun for the participants and also an opportunity to learn from our specialist about the trophic chain, during one of the competition tasks.





# Volunteering

- Chase is a student at the Colorado State University USA, with a BSc in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology.
- His contribution of 11 weeks as a vegetation survey/invasive alien plants eradication volunteer is most valuable. Thank you for helping the wildlife monitoring team as well!





# 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-cuts bought and restored

3,486,682

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

200

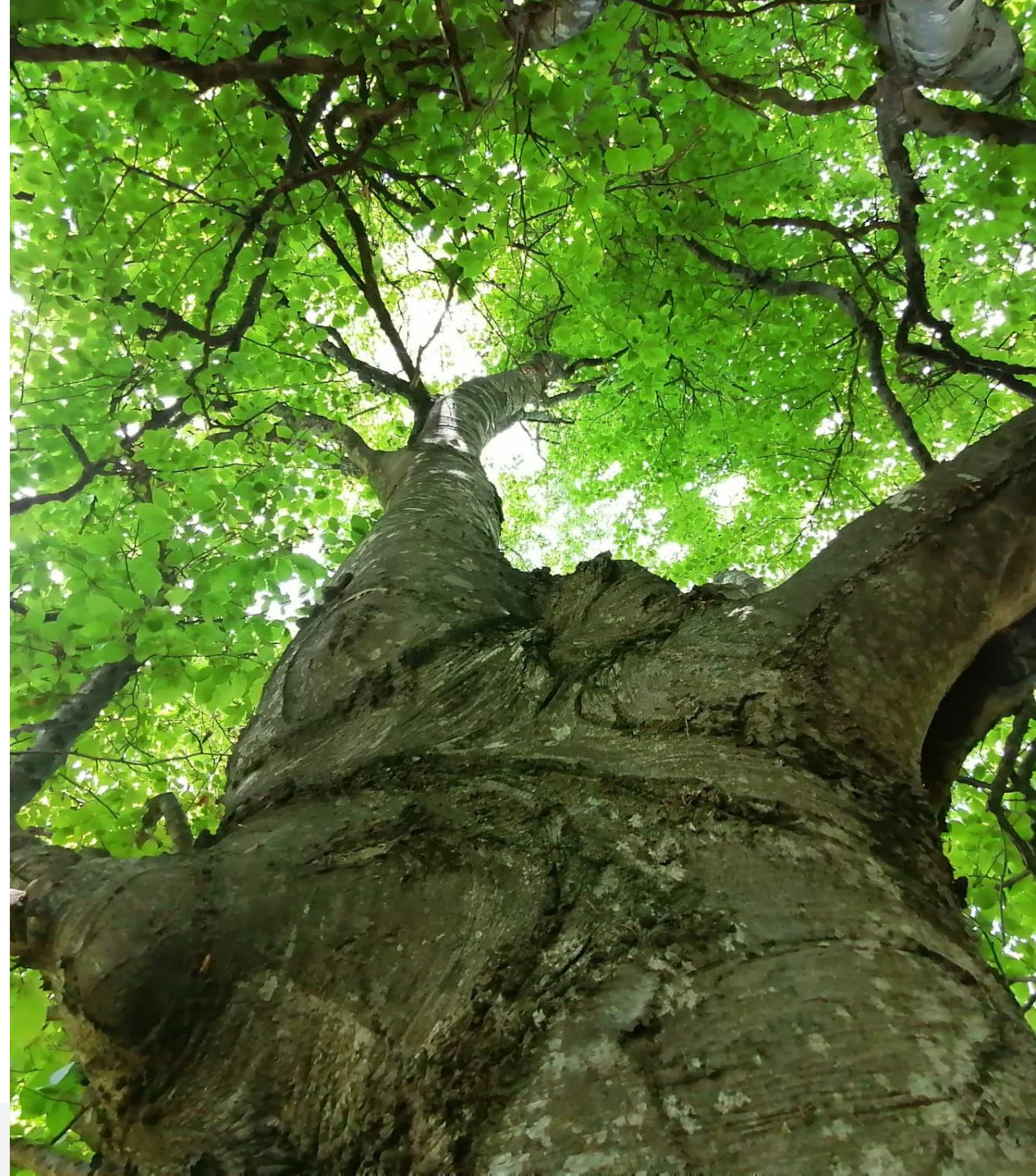
locals which make a living from the CARPATHIA project

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:** Cristina Antonescu, Ciprian Belu, Angela Boghiu, Georgiana Catan, Ionut Cioaca, Ionut Cretu, Dan Dinu, DHL Carpathia Marathon, Victoria Donos, Marius Druga, Irinel Gavrilu, Adrian Idor, Ruben Iosif, Robert Lazar, Ruxandra Luca, Zsolt Miholcea, Milvus (golden eagle), Oliviu Pop, Flavius Rauta, Călin Șerban, Constantin Simion, Marius Sumlea, Georgia Tarnea, Alexandra Tenea, Claudiu Toanta, Liviu Ungureanu, Raluca Vieru,

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