



Field report

July & August 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

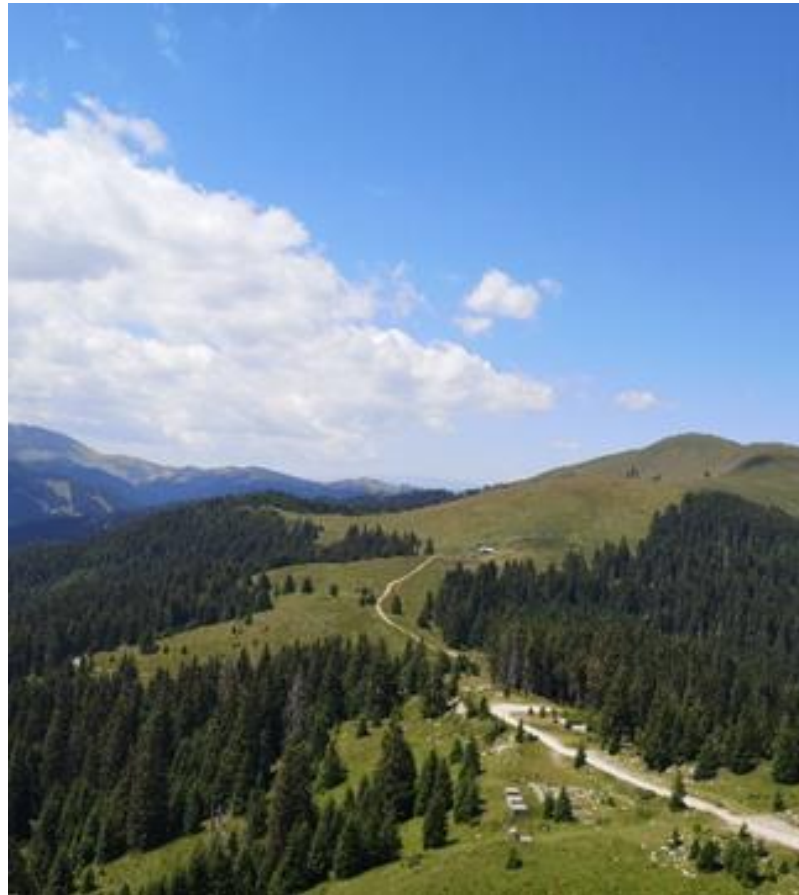


01

Forest conservation and management



- In July and August, we were able to purchase an additional 1.2 ha of forests for protection.



Flowers of CARPATHIA







02

Ecological restoration



- The ongoing work in the tree nurseries and greenhouses is intensive as we prepare the next generation of forests: weeding and watering are the most important tasks.
- July and August were exceptionally dry, so we had to water the plants regularly to avoid them dying due to lack of water.



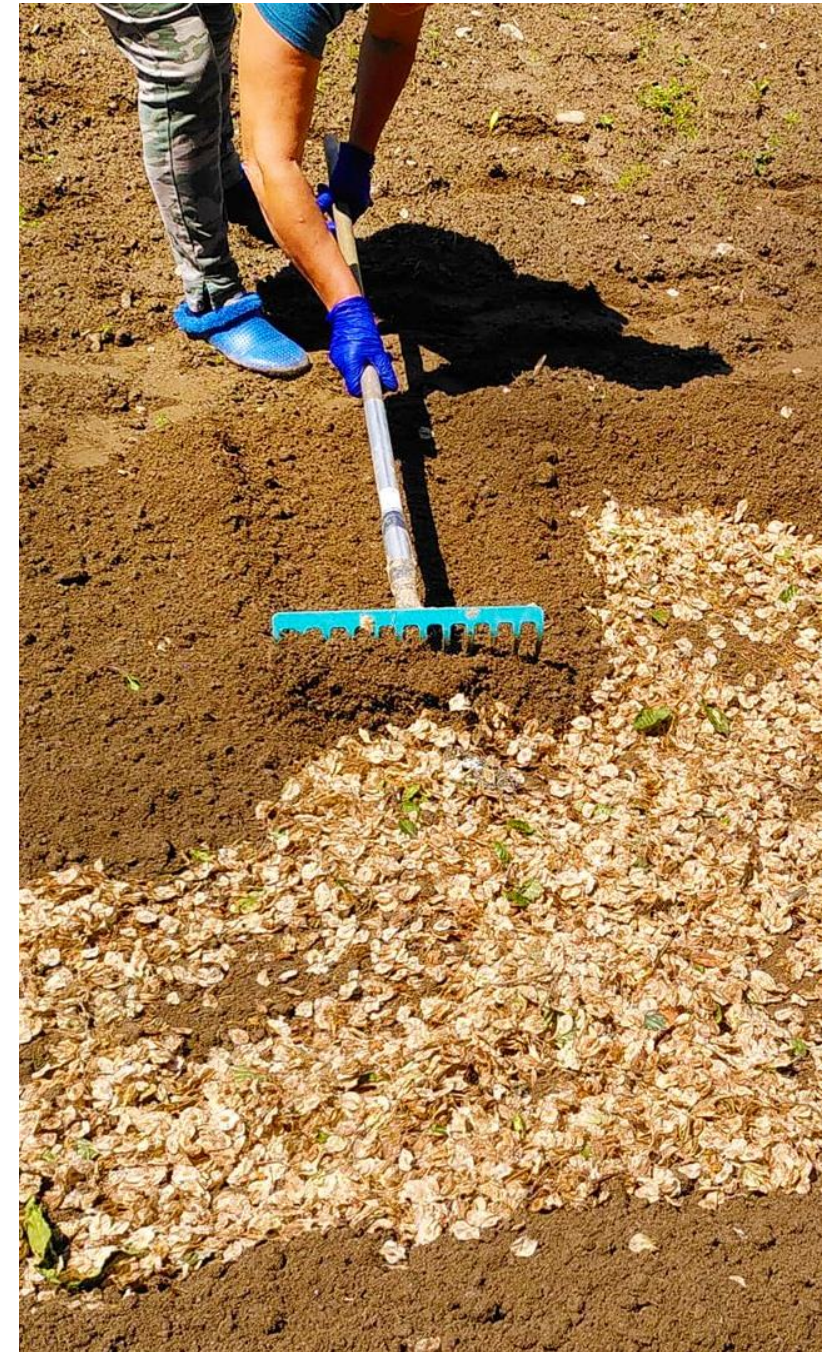
- We have continued the activity of eradicating invasive alien plant species (IAS): *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane), *Conyza canadensis* (Canadian horseweed) and *Impatiens parviflora* (small balsam).
- We selected 28 sample areas in which we took fixed-point photographs (FPP) accompanied by botanical surveys to monitor the evolution of invasive alien plant species following their removal in Cumpăna, Vâlsanului, Otic, Doamnei, Dâmboviței and Dragoslovenilor Valleys.



- 30 plots across Zănoguța, Băsa and Valea Lungă areas were monitored for the impact of the restoration activities on degraded habitats.



- Elm seeds are germinating in one of our tree nurseries. This year's seeds are not as good quality as we would like and we are not too hopeful about the results. Despite this we are attempting to grow a new generation of elm trees for the forests we hope to restore.



Volunteering

The story of a new forest starts from the seeds, gathered and sown in our greenhouses and nurseries.

Volunteers from our partner company Zentiva helped with the weeding around 16,000 mountain ash saplings, which will grow in strength until autumn when we will plant them higher up in the mountains.

Mountain ash is an important species for biodiversity and its round red fruits are a vital source of food for the birds during winter.



03

Wildlife conservation



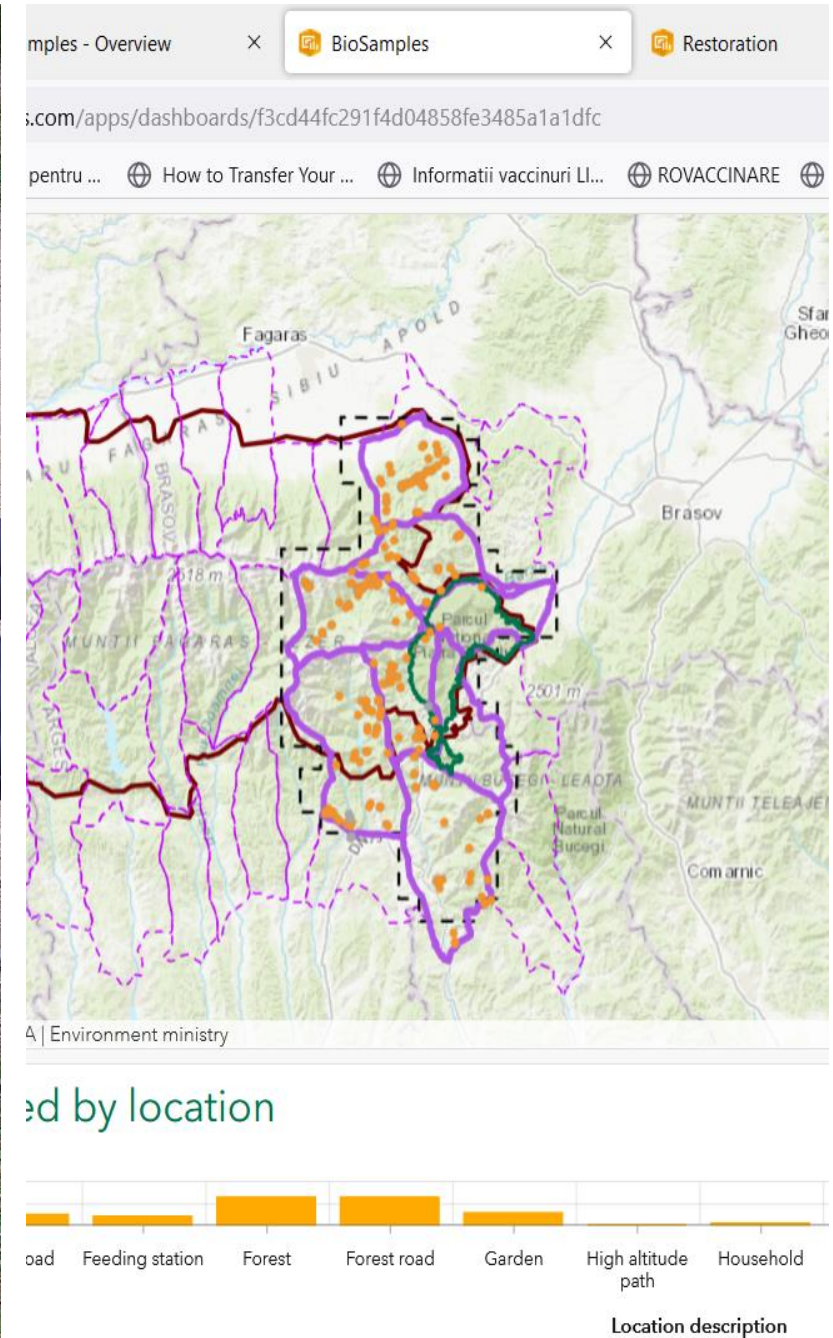
Wildlife monitoring

- 36 bison are roaming free in the Făgăraș Mountains accompanied by six healthy calves – one from last October and five from this year.
- Here is a [video](#) of the last three calves discovered while monitoring the herd, taken by our colleague Adrian.
- The bison were also featured in video documentaries such as this one made by our partner, Mossy Earth:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3o2tuN4rlQ>



Wildlife monitoring

- We have started repeating our brown bear census using genetic methods over 120,000 ha. By the end of August, we have already collected 267 genetic samples from scat and hair specimens. Our target is to collect 900 samples.
- We look forward to comparing the current results to the ones obtained in the [first study](#) in 2017-2018.



Wildlife images & videos

- [Red deer calf playing](#)
- [Bison family having lunch](#)
- [Mama bear](#)
- [Capercaillie](#)
- [Wild boars](#)



Bear management

- Some bears become habituated to human presence. This causes problems.
- When the results of prevention and intervention measures are not successful, sometimes we are required to take extreme decisions as a last resort.
- We now have one bear less in our project area. DNA analysis has demonstrated he was responsible for at least 16 lethal attacks upon livestock. The community is safer now, we have done our job, yet killing a bear is always a sad event.



MERINDE ALESE

Roadele Munților



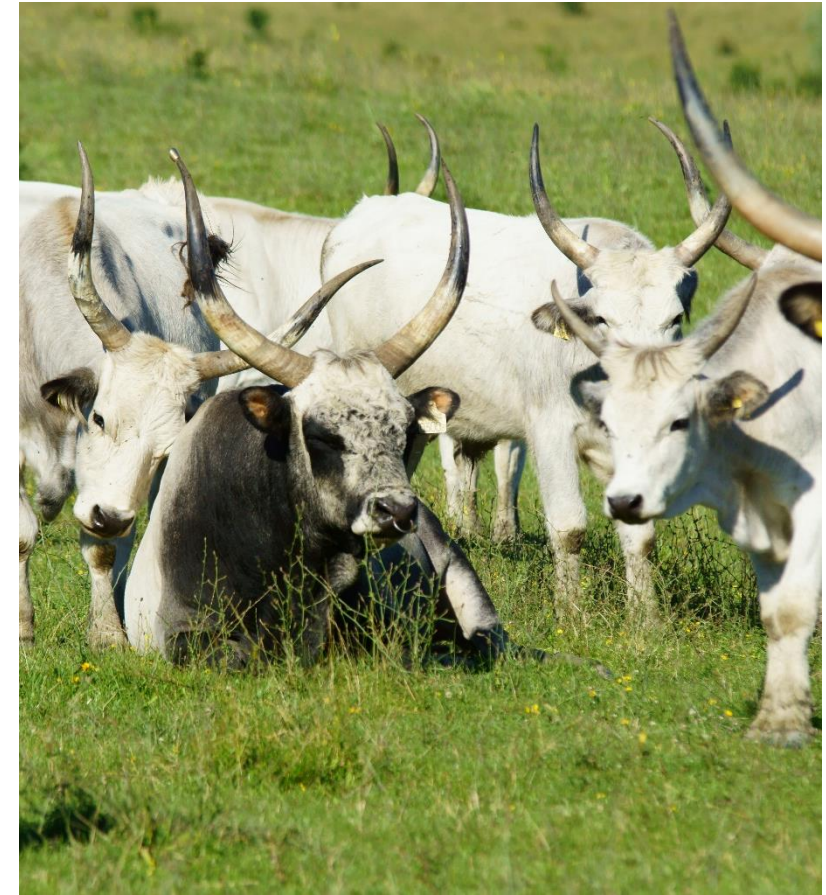
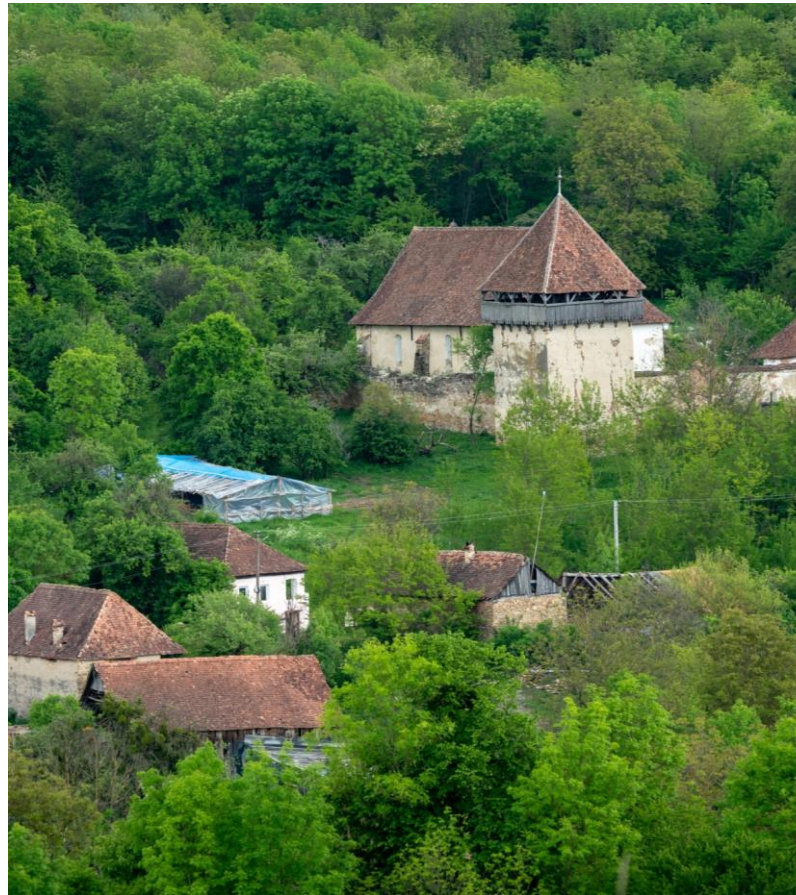
04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- If you wish to visit Transylvania, come to [Cobor](#)!
- On the 17th of September you have an extra reason to come – for a [brunch](#) with amazing beef as the main ingredient.
- Soon to be on the market, the Transylvanian Grey cattle meat is a rare product in Romania, to be found only on a few farms, not yet in the shops.



[DaddyCool](#) stopped at our farm. Blogger, vlogger and influencer focused on charity, [here](#) are Robert's [impressions](#) and adventures with his family.



[Laura](#) joined us for a couple of days. Blogger and translator, wherever she goes Laura gets good stories out of her experiences, and we are happy to have [a story of our own](#) in her blog about ideas for parents and kids.

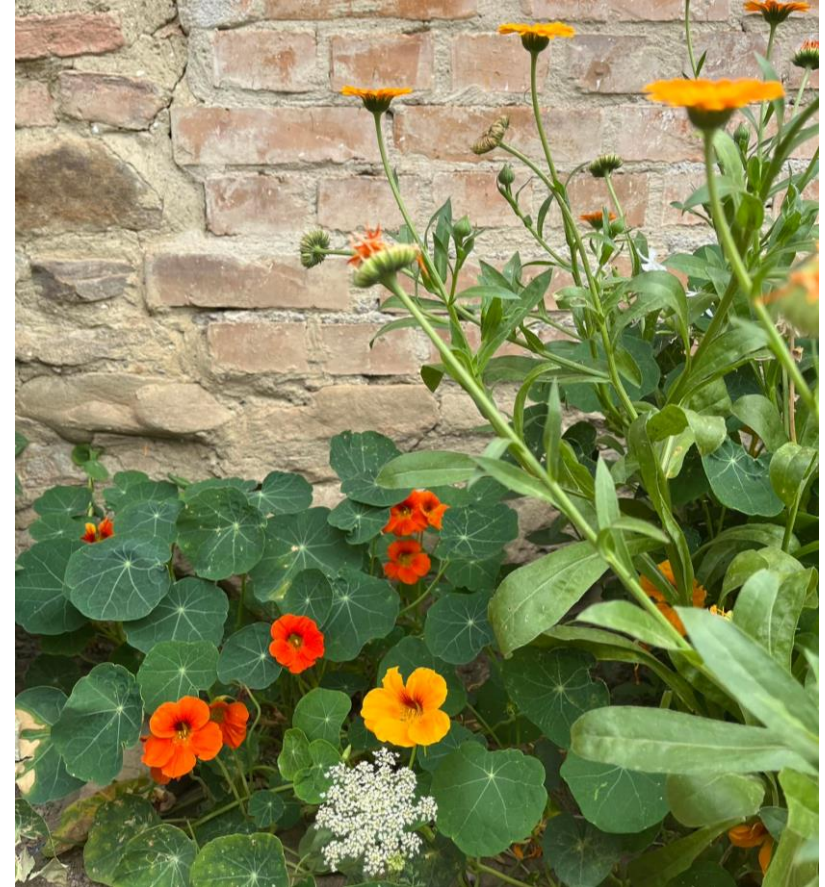


- Loooots of kids from PREMS International School were curious about the life on a biodiversity farm and they received their answers whilst visiting us.

**both the calf and the dog enjoyed the loving extra hands*



The farm in photos





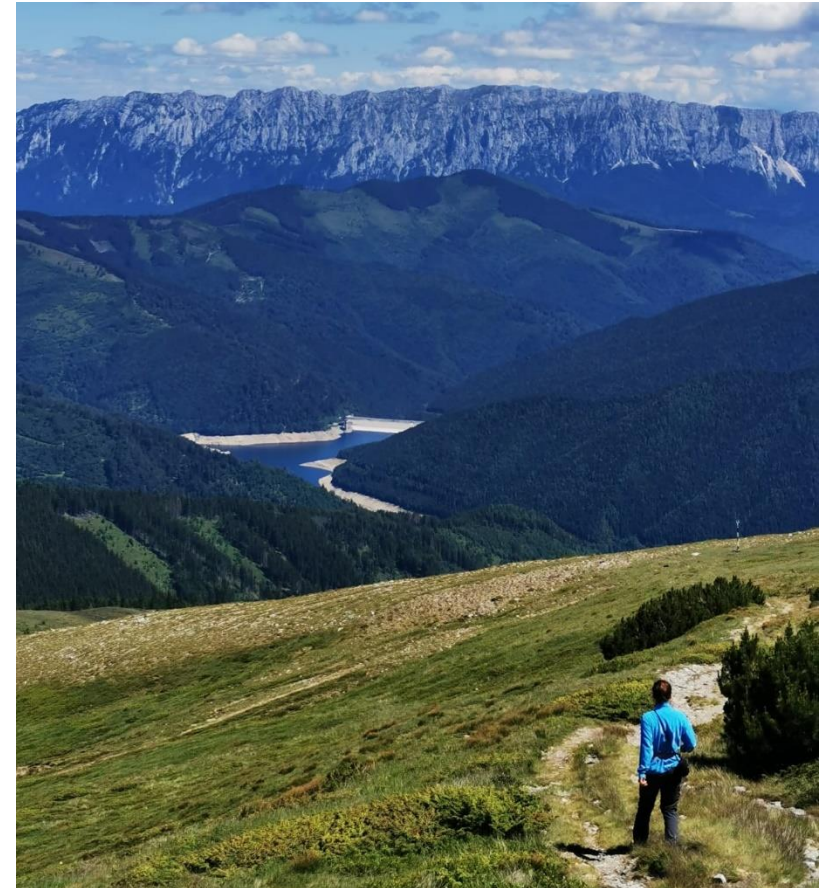
Food HUB

- Fruits of the Făgăraș Mountains are available for anyone that appreciates good food and good deeds.
- Supporting the local, rural economy is what we do!

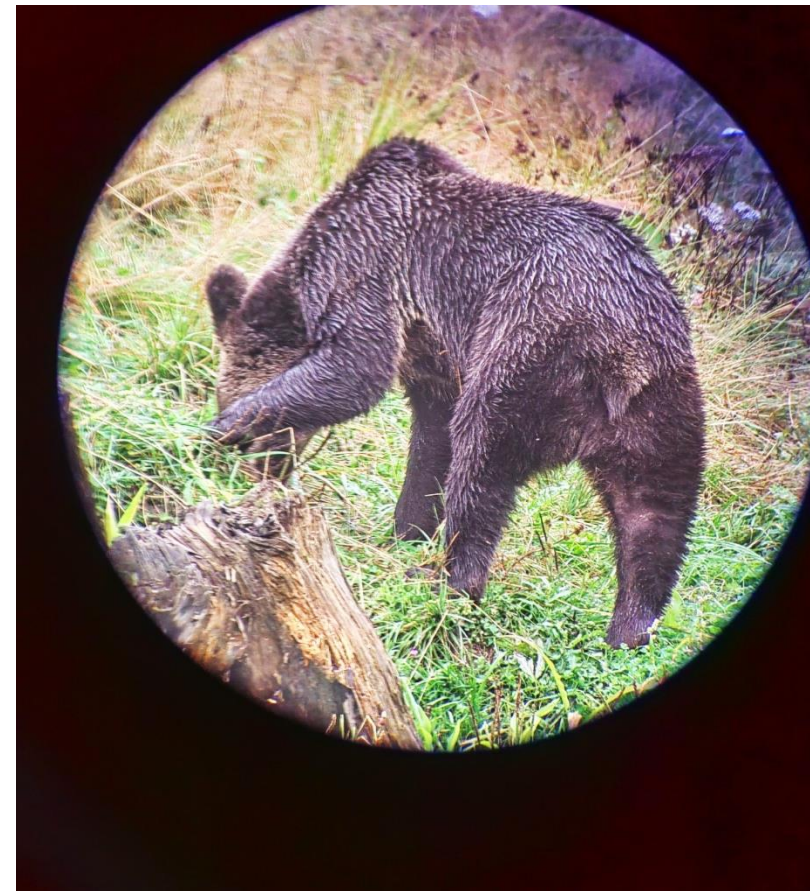


Wildlife hides

- September and October are the last two months you can still book a bucket list experience in one of our wildlife hides.
- This is how [Simon Reeve's journey](#) went.
- If you feel inspired, we look forward to welcoming you to [Travel CARPATHIA!](#)



Photos from the wildlife hides



05

Communication &
community outreach



Făgăraș Fest 5-7 August – the mountain as you've never experienced it before

Făgăraș Fest brought a different experience to our relationship with the mountains, with the public participating in hikes, guided tours, a film evening, photo exhibition, adventure competition and good music.

In 2022, Făgăraș Fest took place in Avrig, Sibiu county.



5-7 august | Avrig, Complexul Brândușa

**FĂGĂRAȘ
FEST**

MUNTELE CUM
NU L-AI MAI
EXPERIMENTAT

Film. Muzică.
Drumeții. Ateliere.
Gusturi locale.

The Mono Jacks
Taraful de la Vărbilău
UFe & Bully DJ Sets (VRTW)
Proiecție România sălbatică

Un eveniment: CARPATHIA PROPARK

Parteneri media: Tribuna Mesagerul Parteneri: PRIMĂRIA ORĂȘULUI AVRIG

Susținut de: EMAG

Evenimentul este organizat în cadrul proiectului "Căminul comunității și al turismului durabil în Munții Făgăraș", finanțat de Primăria Municipality Avrig, Sibiu County, în colaborare cu Carpathia și Propark. Proiectul este finanțat de Primăria Municipality Avrig, Sibiu County, în colaborare cu Carpathia și Propark. Proiectul este finanțat de Primăria Municipality Avrig, Sibiu County, în colaborare cu Carpathia și Propark. Proiectul este finanțat de Primăria Municipality Avrig, Sibiu County, în colaborare cu Carpathia și Propark.

Făgăraș Fest – Day 1

Wild Romania, one of the most beautiful and multi-award-winning films about nature, opened the festival in the Avrig Valley.

Afterwards, Dan Dinu and Cosmin Dumitrache stayed late to answer questions from the audience.



The Wild Romania team came forward with a complex experience through photo exhibition, booth activities, raffle with prizes and debate.

Day 1 in pictures



Făgăraș Fest – Day 2

Saturday was dedicated to nature and guided nature tours, on the trail of wild animals in the Făgăraș Mountains, bird and plant recognition at the foot of the mountains, meeting with the local community at the ‘Șezătoarea’ in Avrig, a local products fair, visit to the brewery, but also music, relaxation and dancing.



Taraful from Vărbilău



Local crafting



The Mono Jacks

The second day in pictures



Făgăraș Fest – Day 3

On Sunday 7th August, the experiences in the Făgăraș Mountains continued with interactive activities, guided tours, games and the energy transmitted by the local community.



Guided tours and excursions



The local community folklore moment



Guided excursion to Varului Cave

Day 3 in pictures



New in the festival

- **Mountain views**

Through the partnership with the Romanian Post, 600 postcards were sent all over the country from Făgăraș Fest.



New activities in the festival

- Făgăraș Fest beer limited edition - AuGustA**

In partnership with producer AuGustA, at this year's edition, we refreshed ourselves with a local beer. Beer, not story! And to see how a craft beer is produced, guided tours of the Avrig brewery were organised throughout the festival.



The Făgăraș Fest aftermovie



3 minutes showing what it was like at #FăgărașFest - the mountain as you've never experienced it before.

Numbers from the festival

2500

participants

24

**local
producers and
artisans**

68

volunteers

2544

**reasons to meet
again at
#FăgărașFest4**

Study visit to Montana

- Trust for Mutual Understanding, a US charity, enabled an excursion of some of FCC's senior staff to learn about three major conservation projects in Montana, USA: The Crown of the Continent Project, the American Prairie Reserve Project, and the Blackfoot Challenge Project.
- Our team has learned a lot about how conservation is being done in the American West.



The Crown of the Continent



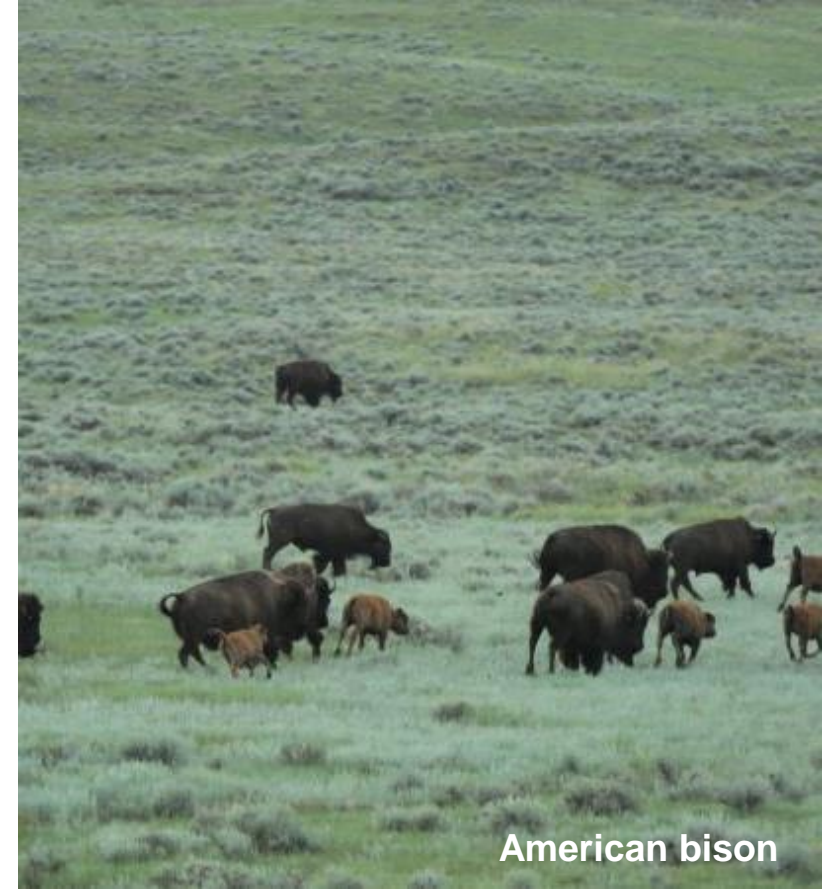
Blackfoot Challenge



American Prairie Reserve



Foundation Conservation Carpathia team



American bison

Friends of the Făgăraș Mountains

- The writer, psychologist and former journalist Petronela Rotar experienced the Făgăraș Mountains during a two day trip with our team. Details [here](#).
- Also Andreea Căpâlna, a well known infectious diseases doctor, fell in love with the landscapes and the stories of the communities. She would like to come back and help with health programmes.



Volunteering

- **Cătălina** lives in Braşov and she is an old friend of our project. She helped in the past with human dimensions research in the Făgăraş Mountains and now she has joined the wildlife monitoring team and helps collecting genetic samples from bear hair and scat for eight weeks.
- **Patrick** joined us from UK for just four weeks, having to cut his bear monitoring volunteering short due to a family emergency.
- **Amber** studied Anthrozoology at the Hartpury University UK and worked as a volunteer in Portugal, in a project concerning the Iberian lynx. Her contribution of 10 weeks as a wildlife monitoring volunteer is most valuable.



Results

26,900 ha

of forest under permanent protection, safeguarded for future generations

96,500 ha

protected for wildlife, with no sport or trophy hunting

1,819 ha

bought and restored (clear-cuts, alpine pastures, spruce monocultures)

3,507,432

trees planted in clear-cuts, riparian galleries and restoration areas of spruce monocultures

200

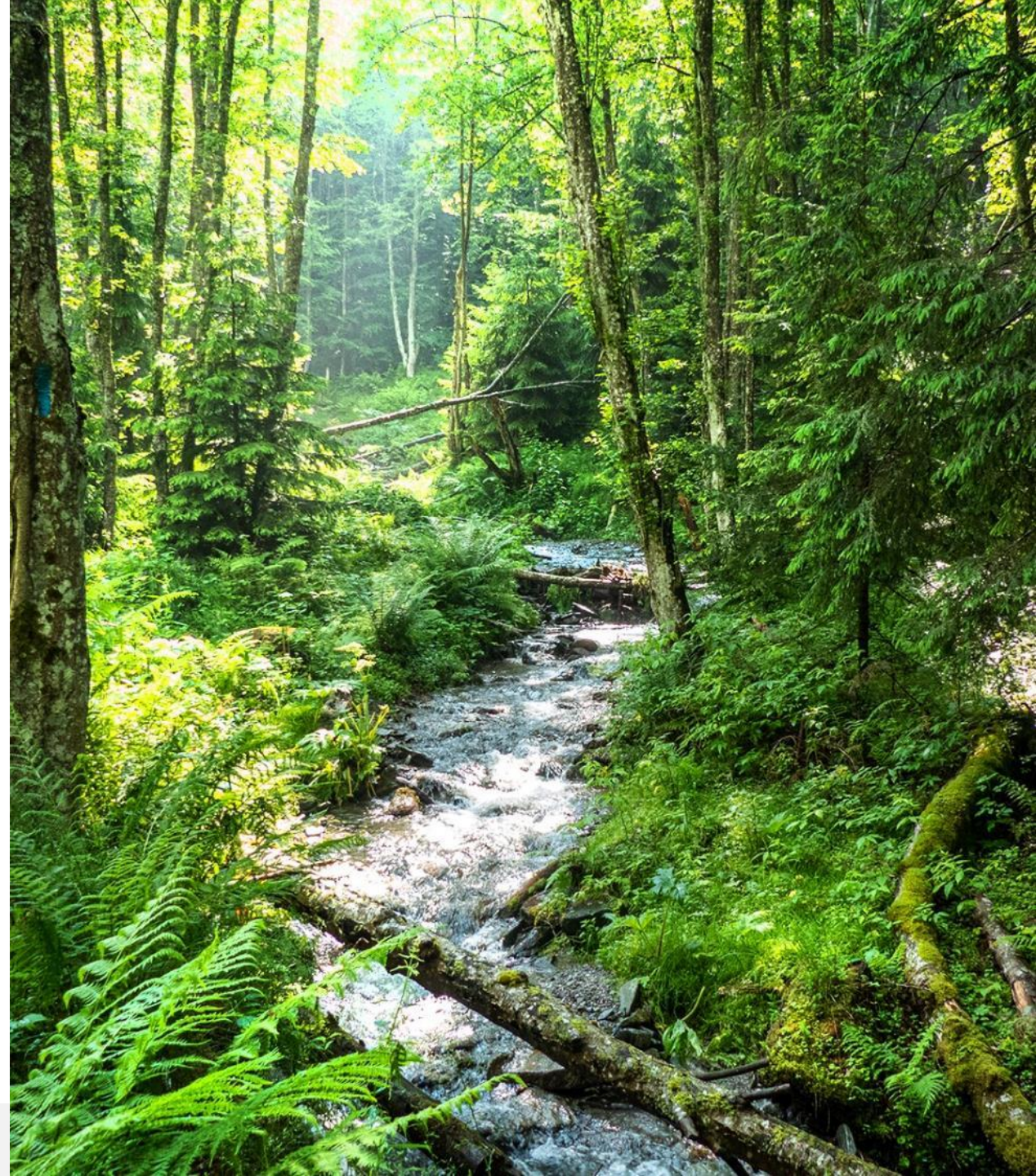
locals which make a living from the CARPATHIA project

2,200

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 96,500 ha.
- Sustainable development of local communities.
- Environmental education projects.



FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION
CARPATHIA

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PHOTO CREDITS: Angela Boghiu, Georgiana Catan, Ionut Cioaca, Alexandru Cretu, Ionut Cretu, George Costan, DaddyCool.ro, Dan Dinu, Victoria Donos, Marius Druga, Gabriel Dudu, Laura Frunza, Ruben Iosif, Radu Hera, Alexandru Oprei, Alex Popa, Flavius Rauta, Stefan Racila, George Soare, Călin Șerban, Laviniu Terciu, Alexandra Tenea, Claudiu Toanta, Liviu Ungureanu, David Zarnovan.

Cover: Liviu Ungureanu.