



# Field report

September 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



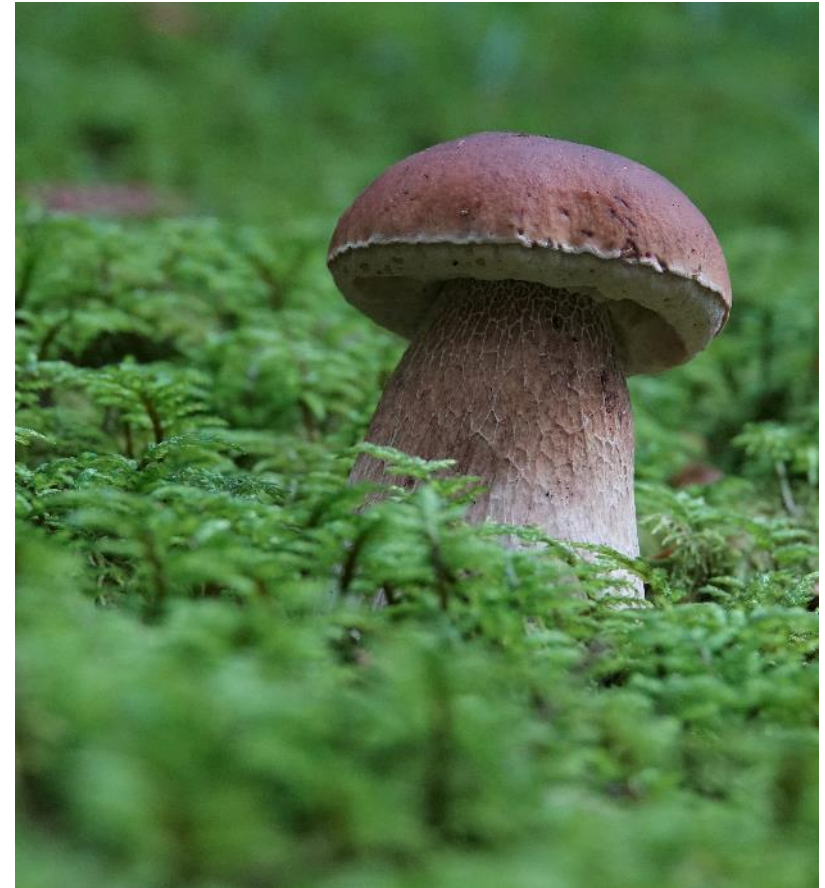
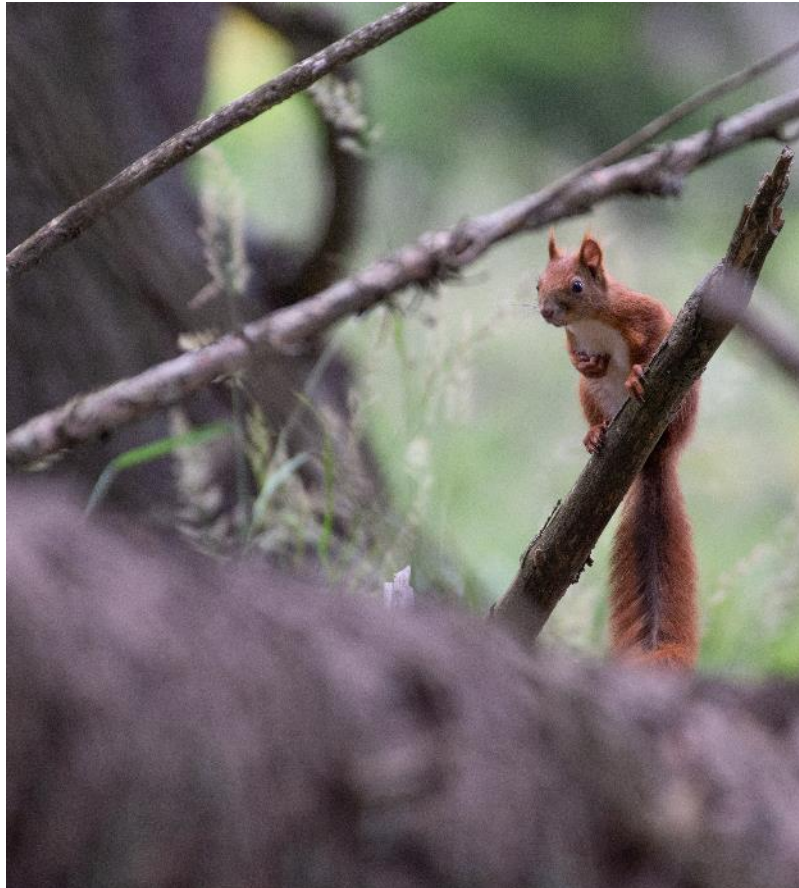


- In September, we were able to purchase an additional 11.5 ha of forests for protection.





Images from the project area











02

Ecological restoration









- Before the snow comes, we need to cut the grass around the saplings planted during earlier seasons to prevent the fragile plants suffocating.
- We do this with the help of 48 locals coordinated by our colleagues, on three ecological restoration sites. Tending the plants usually has to be continued for about five years after replanting.





- We have restored the forest floor along over 1400 m of logging tracks in the Groapele restoration site.
- Autumn planting is usually short. We hope to have good weather conditions and to restore the forest over an area of 45 ha.





- Assessment of degraded habitats in the Zârna Valley area with representatives of Ploiești Forest Guard and representatives of the National Agency for Natural Protected Areas, Argeș 📍
- Annual assessment of forest regeneration in the Groapele restoration site 📍





# Greenhouses and tree nurseries

- The ongoing work in the tree nurseries and greenhouses is intensive as we prepare the next generation of forests: weeding and planting are the most important tasks.
- This autumn's planting will be done with saplings exclusively from our nurseries.





We have collected beech nuts, rowan and sycamore seeds and planted them.



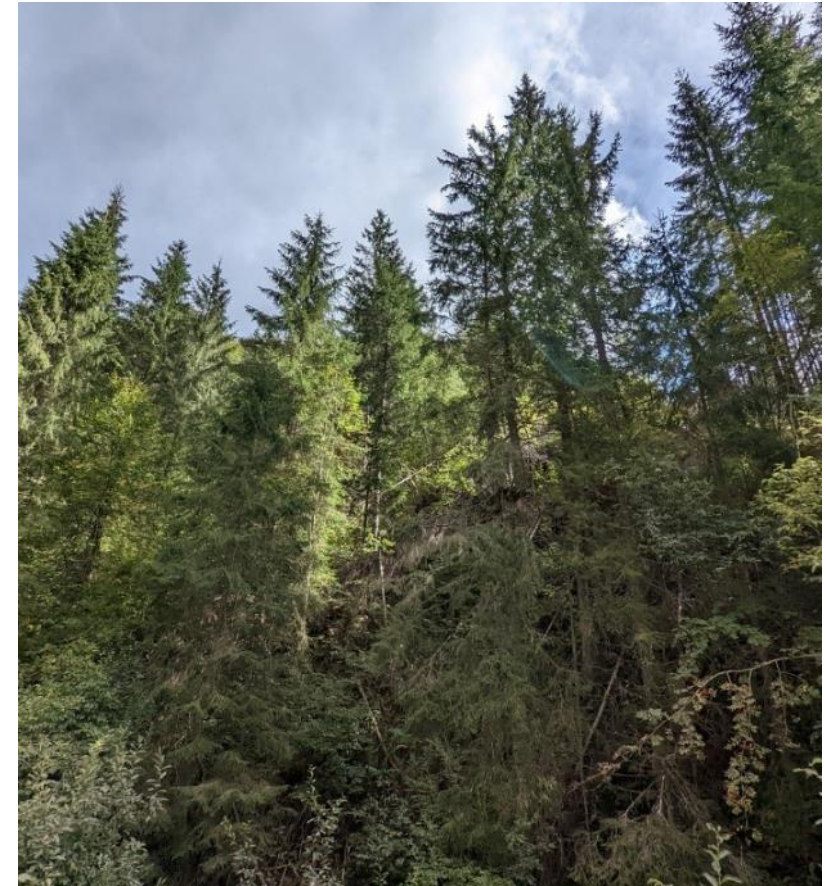


- Manual processing of rowan berries to obtain the seeds.





- We have continued the activity of eradicating invasive alien plant species (IAS): *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane) and *Conyza canadensis* (Canadian horseweed) in the Dâmboviței and Dragoslovenilor Valleys.
- We selected eight sample areas in which we took fixed-point photographs (FPP) accompanied by botanical surveys to monitor the evolution of invasive alien plant species in the Tămaș and Râul Târgului Valleys.
- 20 plots across the Dâmbovița Valley area were monitored for the impact of the restoration activities on degraded habitats (spruce monocultures).





- External specialists continued to monitor changes in the diversity and abundance of terrestrial arthropods in the Cumpăna and Vâlsan Valleys, and in the Groape area.





# 03

Wildlife conservation





# Wildlife monitoring

- The acclimatization enclosure is ready, and all procedures have been completed to receive bison in the Nucșoara area, the third reintroduction area of the Făgăraș Mountains. The bison will arrive here in October, from Slovakia, Germany and Sweden.
- 36 bison are now roaming free in the Făgăraș Mountains accompanied by six healthy calves and we continue monitoring the herds.





- We participated in the Bison Returned To Janoviskie Forest Conference in Poland, a great opportunity to talk about our results in the Făgăraș Mountains and to share best practices with other colleagues.





- All the CARPATHIA team contributed in collecting DNA from bear scat and hair, in order to reach our target to collect 900 samples for our brown bear census using genetic methods. We are nearly there, thanks to the efforts of our field team.
- We look forward to comparing the current results to the ones obtained in the [first study](#) in 2017-2018.





# Wildlife monitoring





- We have installed camera traps for monitoring the red deer rut.
- Due to the appearance of bears in village orchards and close to the communities we have installed several electrical fences to prevent damage.





# Wildlife images







04

## Conservation Enterprise Programme





# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- We spent a wonderful Open Day at Cobor Biodiversity Farm tasting the first Transylvanian Grey cattle goulash and enjoying a full day at the farm.
- Full photo album [HERE](#)
- Soon to be on the market, our Transylvanian Grey cattle meat has drawn national attention as a rare product in Romania. Video [HERE](#).
- If you wish to visit Transylvania, come to [Cobor](#)!





# Charity yard sale in Țara Făgărașului

- We took part in the yard sale of the charity Bikeathon Țara Făgărașului to promote our project in restoring the pastures dotted with ancient oak trees around Cobor Biodiversity Farm.
- The oaks raised many questions and issued challenges to donors and supporters attending the event.





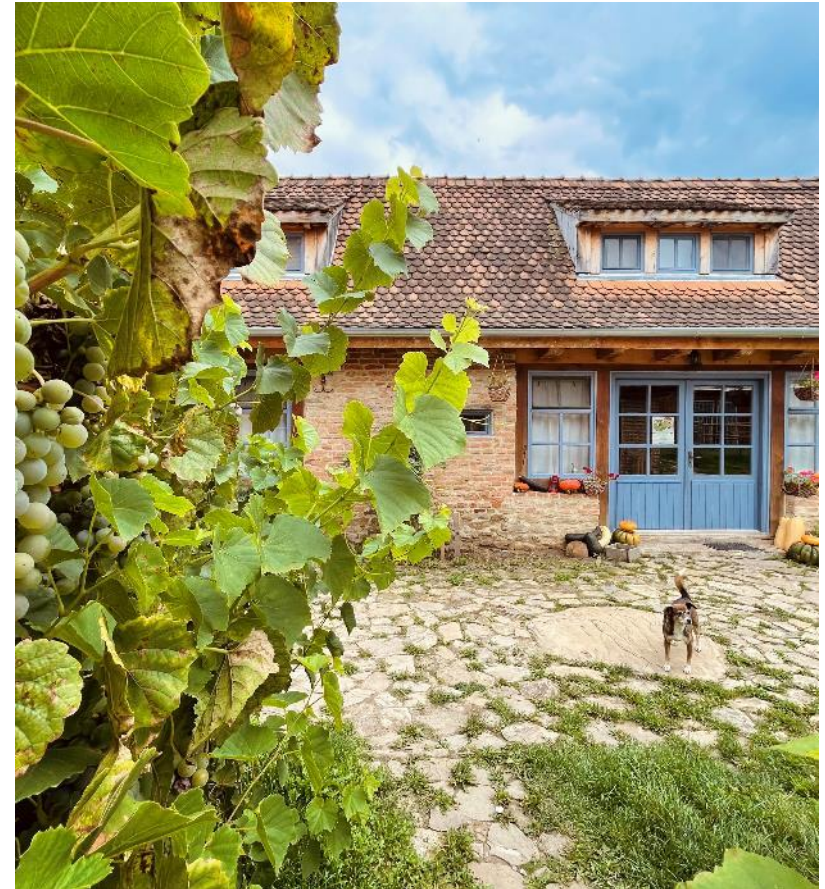
# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- The pastures dotted with ancient oak trees around the village of Cobor are among the most valuable natural pastures left in Europe. Due to the mismanagement (cutting or burning them without regeneration) of hayfields and the loss of traditional agriculture, these pastures began to lose their oaks and with them their natural value.
- A big THANK YOU to all the ambassadors of our project and to all the cyclists that chose our oak replanting project as a CAUSE at Bikeathon Țara Făgărașului!
- We are proud of our project manager, Daniel, who won 2nd place in the 40 km competition, and of our friend, Cosmin Dumitrache who won 1st place! A special thanks to Horia Zârnovean, who cycled for us for the third time at Bikeathon.





# The farm in photos





# Food HUB

- Roadele Munților Făgăraș products are available for anyone who appreciates good food and good deeds.
- By ordering a basket, you help a local producer support their business.





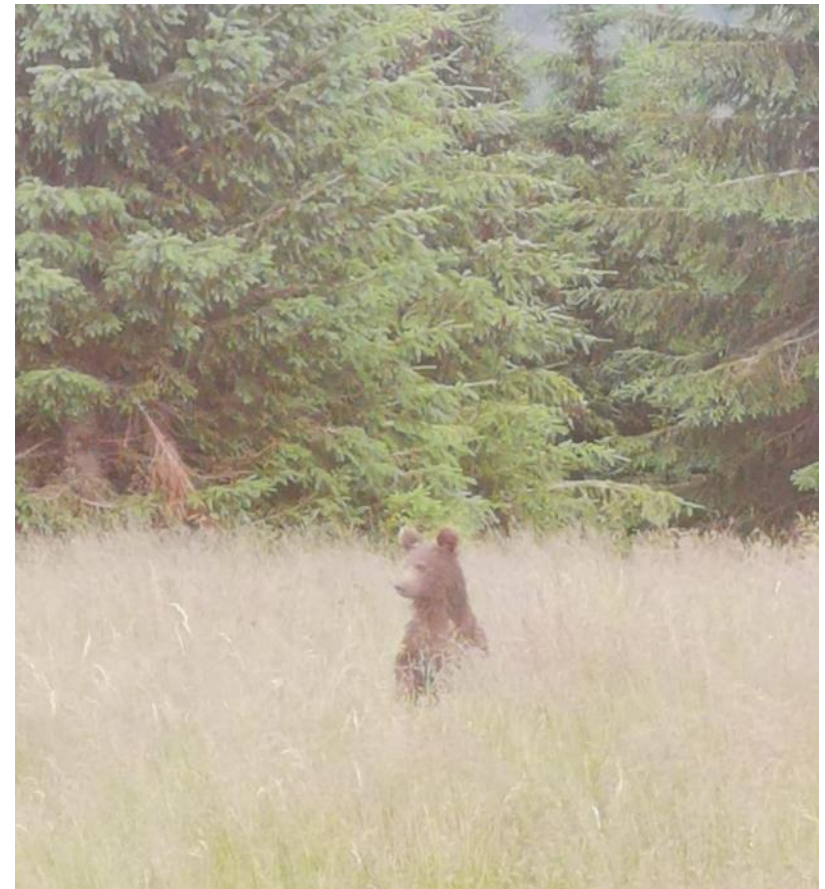
# Wildlife hides

- We prepared a sensational end-of-season [event](#) to whet your appetite for 2023.
- We look forward to welcoming you to [Travel CARPATHIA!](#)





# Photos from the wildlife hides





# 05

Communication &  
community outreach



Rucăr commune, Făgăraș Mountains



# Carpathia Photo camp contest

- We launched the photo contest *2544 reasons to photograph the Făgăraș Mountains*.
- The public and jury of the contest chose four winners who will attend the CARPATHIA Photo Camp, in the south-east of the Făgăraș Mountains, from 20-23 October, a great experience with Dan Dinu, the coordinator of the event.
- Congratulations to the winners! You can see the winning photos [HERE](#).
- The theme of this year's CARPATHIA Photo Camp was Autumn Landscape.





# Alpin Film Festival

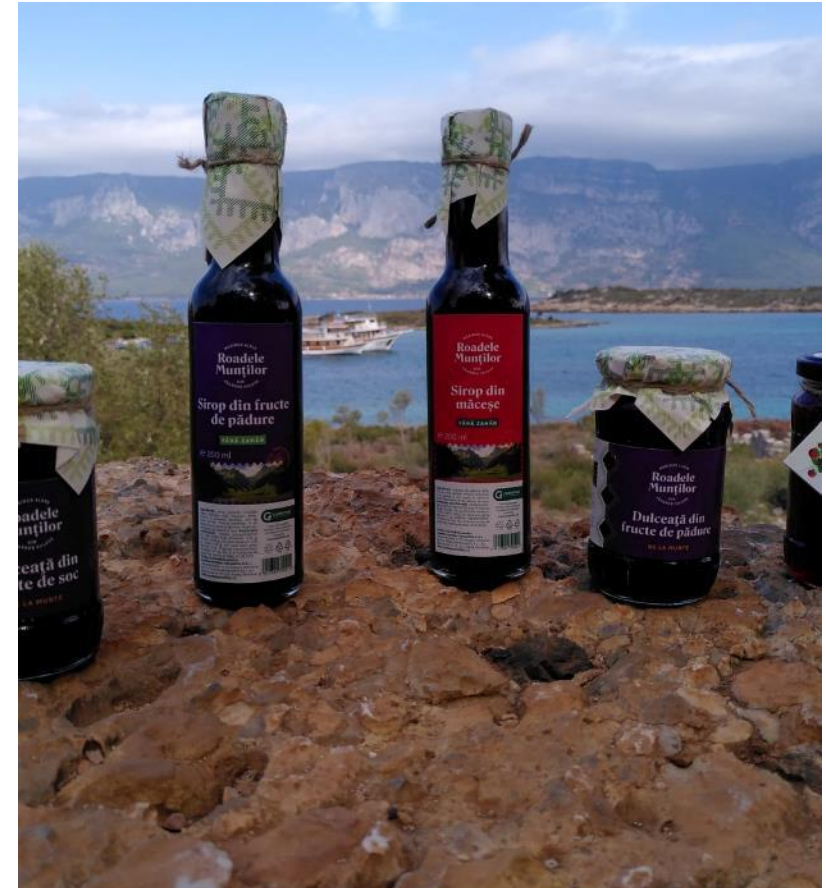
- We were once again partner of the [Alpin Film Festival](#), Romania's largest mountain film festival.
- We were part of the festival with the photography exhibition *Făgăraș Mountains* and the experimental documentary by Unfinished, *For Anyone to Follow*, directed by Felipe Griebel, documenting the largest conservation project in the Făgăraș Mountains and the story of the two people who make the Conservation Carpathia project possible: Barbara and Christoph Promberger.
- We were honoured to award the Carpathian Prize to the feature documentary, *Oamenii drumului - Terra Banatica*, directed by Mircea Gherase, produced by Tășuleasa Social and Mircea Gherase.





# Annual meeting: ELP – Endangered Landscapes Programme

- We attended the annual meeting organised within the framework of the ELP – Endangered Landscapes Programme, a programme funded by the Arcadia Fund and implemented by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative in the United Kingdom.
- The meeting was hosted by the Turkish Mediterranean Conservation Society. The main topics discussed were protected areas and nature-positive enterprises.
- We discussed innovative ideas on ways to support local communities and solutions to improve their economic situation.
- Thanks to our project in the Făgăraş Mountains, Romania is among the 30 beneficiaries of the programme, alongside countries such as Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine, Portugal, Scotland, Wales.





# Foundation Conservation Carpathia Film Series

- We have launched five new episodes in the series dedicated to our efforts to protect the Făgăraș Mountains.
- Thanks for the narration to Prof. Dr. Laszlo Rakosy, Director of the Department of Taxonomy and Ecology – Faculty of Biology and Geology, ‘Babeș-Bolyai’ University; President of the Romanian Lepidopterological Society.
- Watch our new episodes about nature, people and good conservation practices [HERE](#).





# VlogONcello in the Făgăraș Mountains

- Together with the cellist Radu Croitoru we have prepared a unique journey to the foothills of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- From 21 to 24 October, the cello is to be heard in Nucșoara, Sătic, Rucăr, Avrig and Făgăraș, in non-conventional spaces, but also in the workshops of local producers and craftsmen.
- The whole tour is documented and presented by Victor Maxian, film director and video reporter Radio Free Europe Chișinău.
- The event is [HERE](#) and we'll be back in October with the entire musical journey.



## VlogONcello în Munții Făgăraș

O călătorie cu violoncelul în căutarea oamenilor cu poveste și meșteșug de la poalele munților

### Solist

Radu Croitoru

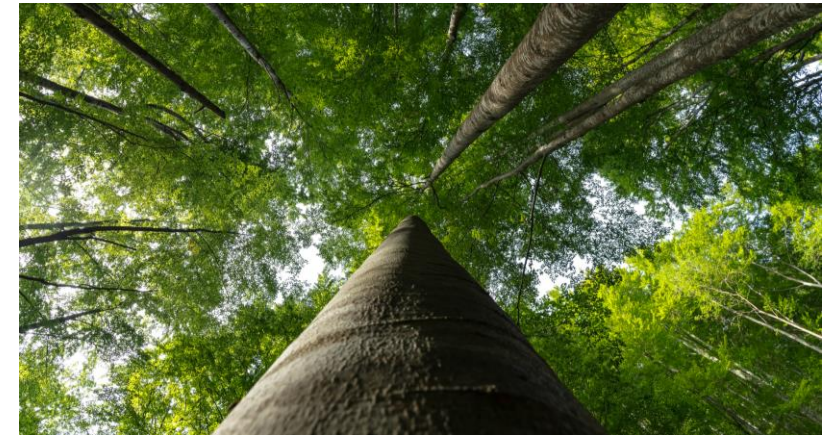
21 octombrie: Nucșoara  
22 octombrie: Sătic, Rucăr  
23 octombrie: Recital la Brunch-ul de toamnă din Rucăr  
24 octombrie: Avrig și Făgăraș





# The story of the Foundation Conservation Carpathia Webinar Invitation

- On 9th November we invite you to hear the story of Europe's largest conservation project from its founders: Barbara and Christoph Promberger, executive directors of the Foundation Conservation Carpathia
- Hosted by Journeys With Purpose, we'll spend one hour of live conversation diving into the story behind Foundation Conservation Carpathia and creating the 'Yellowstone of Europe' deep in Romania's Carpathian mountains 🏔️
- 📄 Free tickets are here:  
<https://lnkd.in/eKy-UUsJ>



## Journeys With Purpose: Wild Horizons Series

### IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Isabella Tree, Knepp Estate  
&  
Christoph and Barbara Promberger,  
Conservation Carpathia

WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER  
18.30 GMT / 19.30 CET / 13.30 ET / 10.30 PT

[Register Now](#)





# 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

1,819 ha

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

3,507,432

trees planted in clear-cuts, river banks and restoration areas of spruce monocultures

200

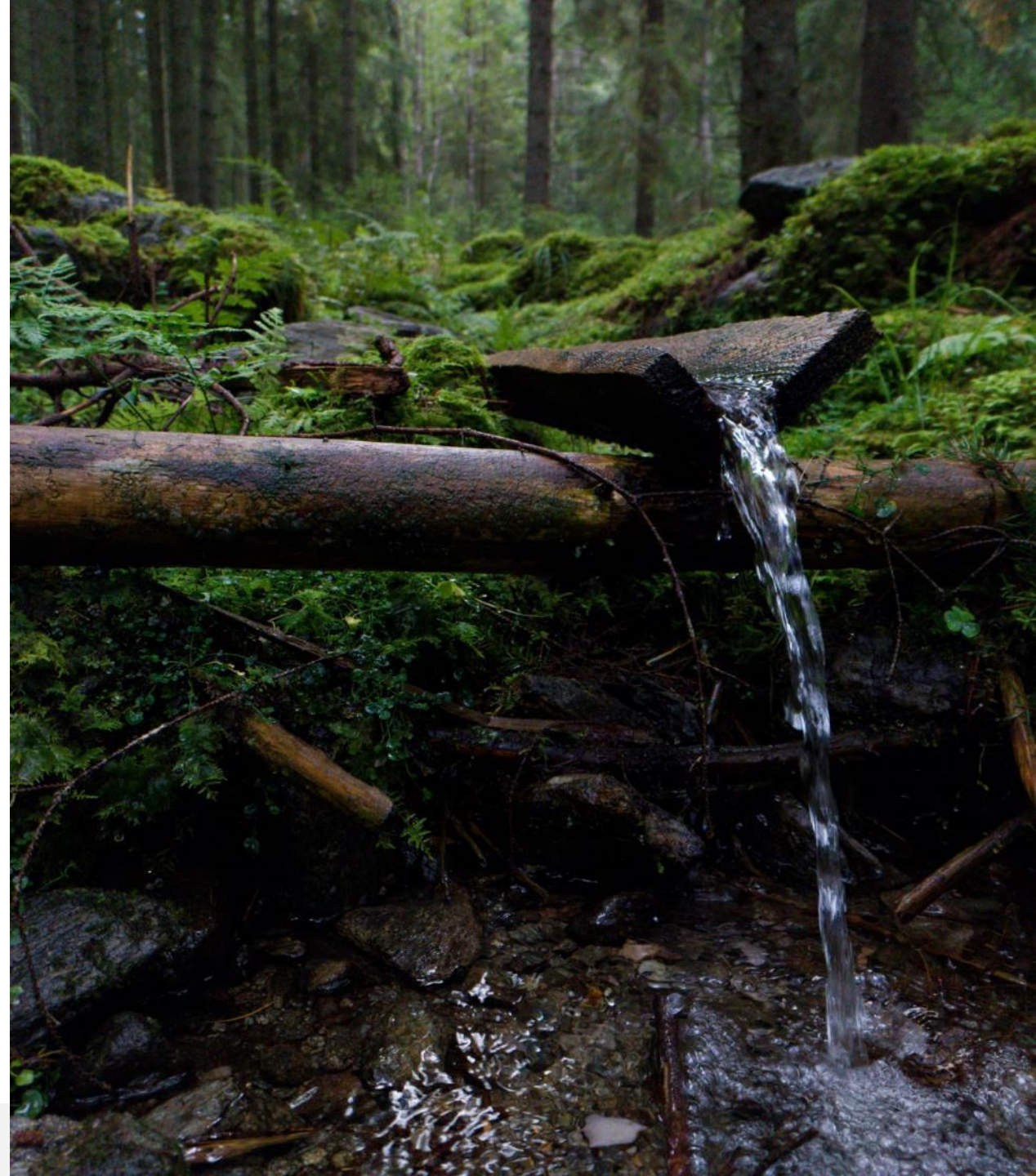
Locals, who make a living from the CARPATHIA project

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:** Robert Bulgaru, Liviu Ungureanu, Ionuț Crețu, Costantin Simion, Adelin Simion, Claudiu Țoanță, Oliviu Pop, Călin Șerban, Valeriu Ganci, Liviu Ungureanu, Flavius Răuță, Szolt Miholcea; Laviniu Terciu, Alex Popa, Alexandru R. Crețu, George Costan, Fam Ojog, Georgiana Andrei, Daniel Mîrlea, Iulia Naum, Cristina Antonescu.

**Cover: Robert Bulgaru.**