



# Field report

October 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





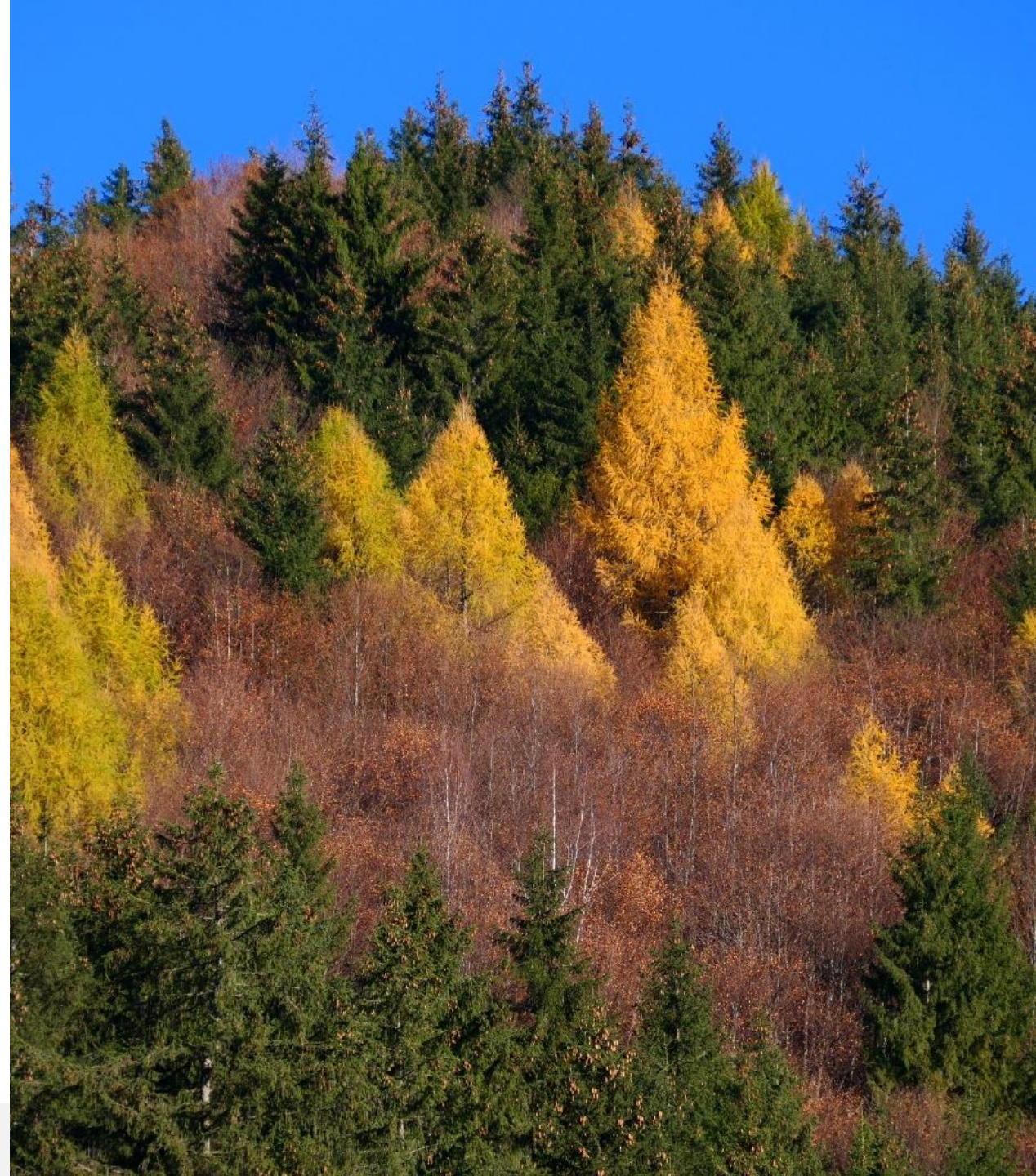
# 01

Forest conservation and  
management





- October is here, one of our favourite moments of the year! Autumn has arrived and the forest is stunning.
- But climate change is taking its toll, as last month was the warmest ever October in Europe, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), after a summer of record temperatures.
- We were able to purchase an additional 2.9 ha of forests, safeguarding them for future generations to face the years to come. Not much, but a piece of virgin forest, which is invaluable.



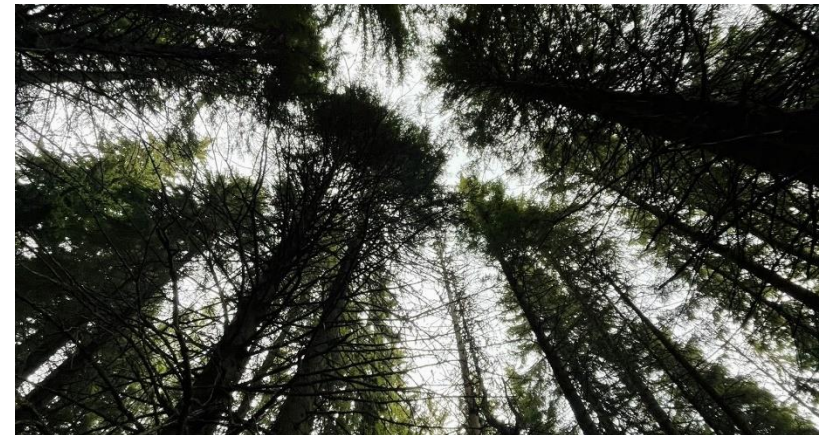
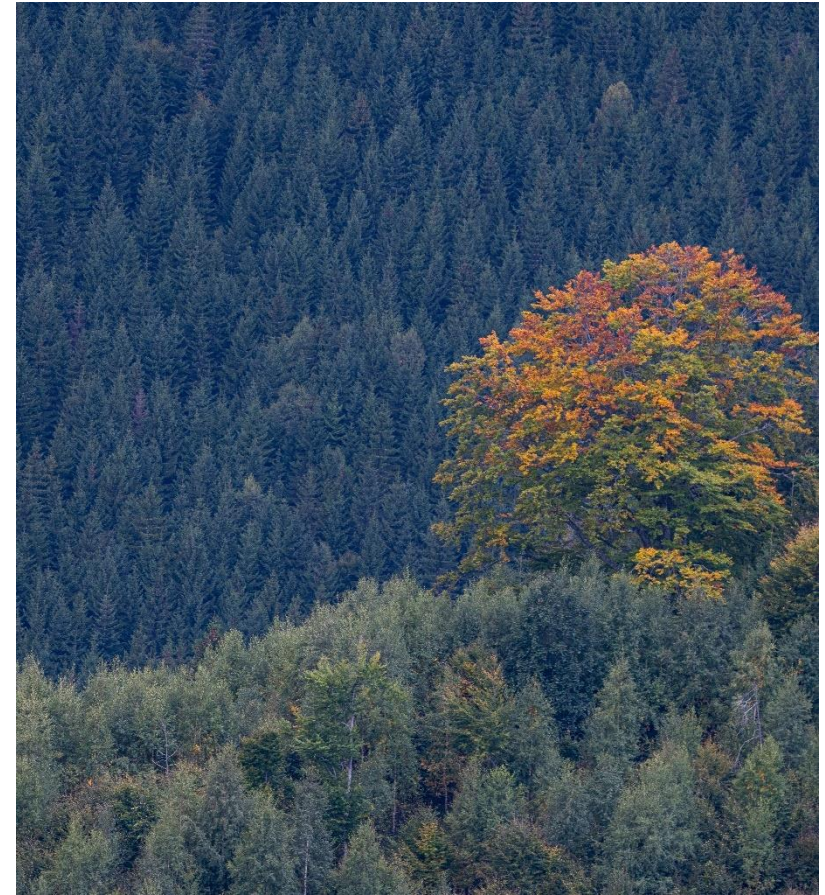


## Images from the project area





## Images from the project area







European Larch (*Larix Decidua*) branch, conifer that loses its leaves in winter





02

Ecological restoration









- We have cultivated and prepared over 150,000 saplings from our nurseries for planting in the restoration sites in the Făgăraș Mountains: fir, spruce, sycamore, beech, juniper, elm, rowan.





- We have restored the forest floor along over 700 m of logging tracks in the Groapele restoration site.
- We started the autumn planting season in five areas: Groapele, Dobroneagu, Basa, Zănoaga, Valea Dâmboviței.
- 75 seasonal workers, five rangers and a subcontractor company are up in the Făgăraș Mountains, 'creating' new forests. Public funding and also your donations make this possible.





We managed to collect mountain ash, sycamore, stone pine, rowan, beech and juniper seeds and we prepare the next generation of forests by planting them in our greenhouses and tree nurseries.



Sycamore seeds



Collecting sycamore seeds



Planting beech nuts



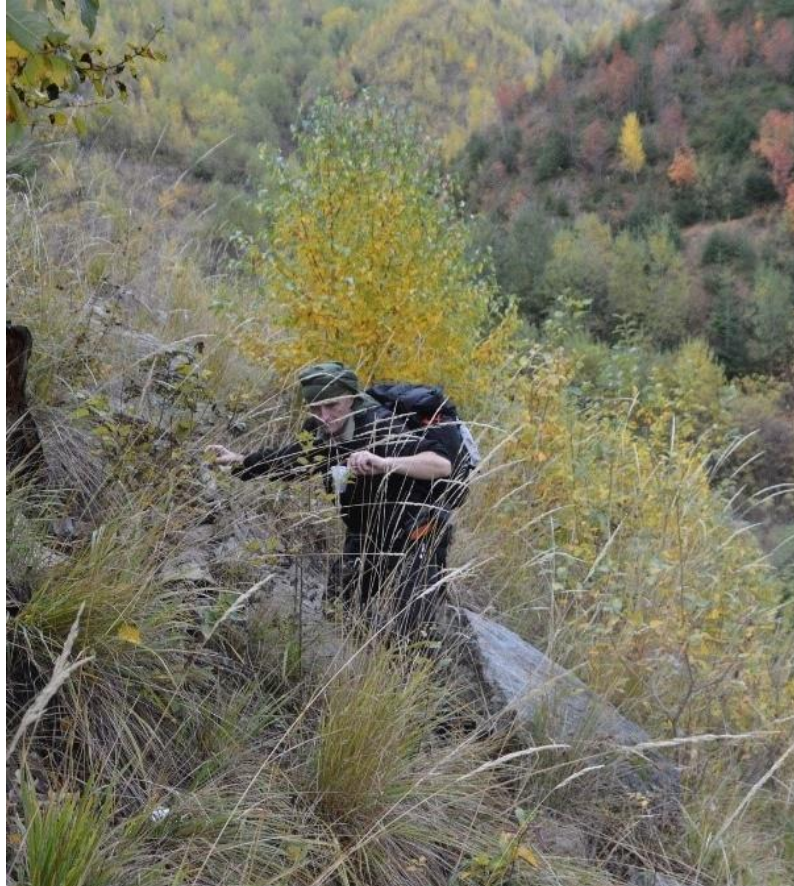
Collecting juniper cones



Rowan berries



- We have continued the activity of eradicating invasive alien plant species (IAS): *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane) in the Dâmboviței Valley.
- This year's invasive alien plant species eradication activities have been largely successful – we have managed to greatly reduce their presence in the targeted area.
- External specialists continued to monitor changes in the diversity and abundance of terrestrial arthropods in the project area.





# 03

Wildlife conservation





# Wildlife monitoring

- From this autumn, the bison have a new (third) starting point in the Făgăraș Mountains – in Nucșoara, Argeș County. The first three bison arrived here from Slovakia, Germany and Sweden.





# Wildlife monitoring

- We have installed camera traps for monitoring the red deer rut, an impressive sight that red deer use to signal the start of the mating season.
- In addition, our rangers spent a lot of time monitoring red deer directly.





# Wildlife monitoring

- Our colleagues continue to pound the forests to collect biological samples for the new bear DNA study.
- Our second study covers an area of 120,000 hectares in the Făgăraș, Piatra Craiului, Iezer-Păpușa and Leaota Mountains.





# Wildlife monitoring





# Wildlife monitoring

- We keep monitoring golden eagles in the Făgăraș Mountains – we have now collected further information on the distribution of their potential prey: capercaillie and marmots.





# Wildlife monitoring

- We managed to monitor chamois across all our concessions.
- Despite our non-hunting policy, our results indicate only a slow increase in population. Chamois recovery from very low population levels (after significant overhunting) takes a lot of time, so we need to be patient.
- We estimate that the Iezer-Păpușa mountains are home 50-60 chamois.





# Wildlife management

- Our colleagues continue to install electric fences around the villages to prevent human-wildlife conflicts.
- Our rapid intervention teams patrol almost every night to prevent wildlife from getting too close to the villages. This year we have seen a significant decrease in human-wildlife conflicts, but we have also had favourable conditions with abundant beech nuts.
- Obviously, we can never avoid all conflicts, but we can try to keep them to an acceptable level.







04

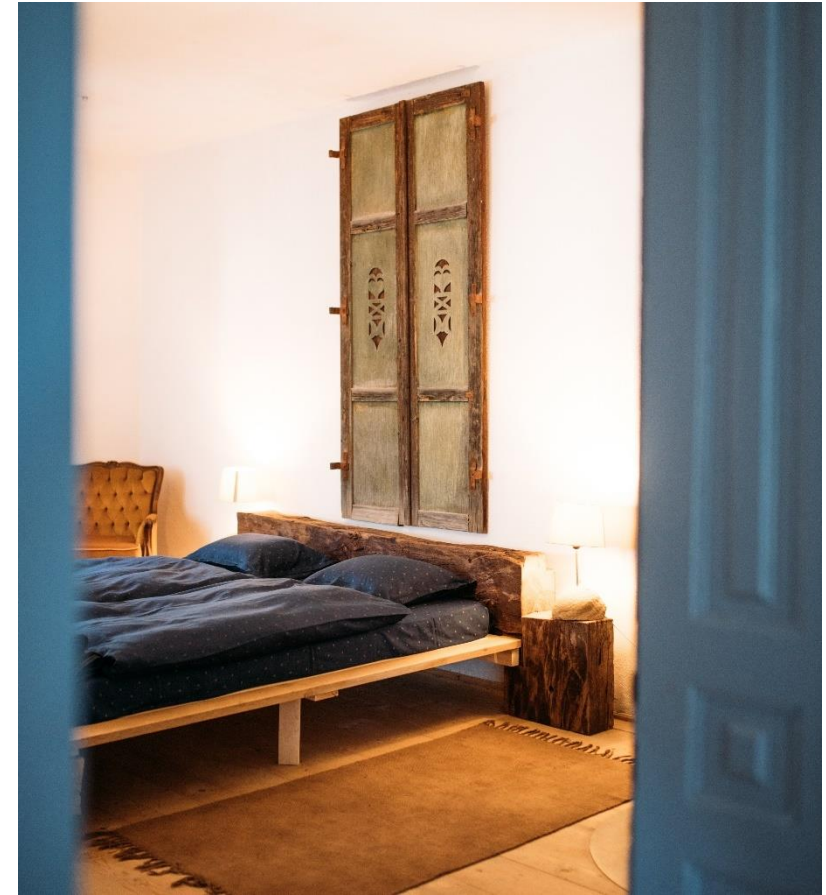
## Conservation Enterprise Programme





# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- Get ready for a trip to the kingdom of Transylvanian Grey Cattle surrounded by beautiful nature.
- The autumn is long, our guesthouses are warm and cozy – and the views are impeccable!
- Are you ready? Come to [Cobor](#)!





# The farm in photos





# Food HUB

- Roadele Munților Făgăraș are small local producers and family businesses who care about ingredients and recipes, who value nature and farm responsibly.





# Local Gastronomic Points around the Făgăraș Mountains

- Local Gastronomic Points bring local tastes to guests, but also income to local entrepreneurs.
- Opposite to official restaurants, which require significant investments and paperwork, LGPs are an option for entrepreneurial families who want to offer local food to guests in their living room without a huge amount of bureaucracy.
- We have launched a new free consultancy programme to help residents get their Local Gastronomic Point authorisation.
- The project is carried out in partnership with the Argeș Veterinary Health Department.
- The programme runs from October 2022 to March 2023 and will support entrepreneurs with free technical support in the process of authorising a Local Gastronomic Point.



Transformă bucătăria ta într-un  
**Punct Gastronomic Local**  
și bucură turiștii cu gustul de la munte



În parteneriat cu Direcția Sanitară Veterinară și  
pentru Siguranța Alimentelor Argeș



# Wildlife hides

- A wonderful wildlife watching season is coming to end, full of wildlife and great experiences. Bears, wild boars, deer, bison and many other inhabitants of the Făgăraș Mountains have visited us, we have greeted each other and now we are saying a fond farewell. But only until spring.
- It is not too early to book your adventure in the Făgăraș Mountains for 2023!
- We look forward to welcoming you to [Travel CARPATHIA!](#)





05

Communication &  
community outreach





# VlogONcello in the Făgăraș Mountains

Together with cellist Radu Croitoru, we have created a unique exchange of experiences that brought classical music to the communities in the Făgăraș Mountains and highlighted the people and crafts of these places.

From 21-24 October, the cello was heard in Nucșoara, Sătic, Rucăr and Avrig, in unconventional spaces, but also in the workshops of local producers and craftsmen, as part of the project "[VlogONcello in the Făgăraș Mountains](#)".





# VlogONcello in the Făgăraș Mountains





## Numbers from the event

**950 km**

Travelled in three  
days

**10**

Events and exchanges of  
experiences within the  
project

**49**

Print, online,  
radio and TV  
appearances

**One**

Travel documentary film  
by Radio Europa Liberă  
Moldova



# Study visit to Aÿ-Champagne

- As part of the EU-LIFE project and together with our colleagues from ProPark – Foundation for Protected Areas, we went on a study visit to the region Aÿ-Champagne/France.
- A great opportunity to learn a lot about how conservation is being done in a rural, agricultural area.
- Its natural heritage is characterised by diversified environments: forest, agricultural areas, ponds and wetlands, hillsides and moors sheltering a varied fauna and flora, some of which are recognised as being of European interest.
- Our colleagues had the chance to visit La Montagne de Reims Nature Parc, established on the initiative of the elected officials of the forest communities of Germaine, St-Imoges and Ville-en-Selve in 1976.





# Study visit to Austria's largest National Park

- Another study trip in the frame of the EU-LIFE project was, together with representatives of local communities around the Făgăraș Mountains, to the National Park Hohe Tauern, Austria's largest National Park.
- The National Park Hohe Tauern was established on the initiative of local people, a relevant case study to generate ideas for sustainable development and education programmes for younger generations around the Făgăraș Mountains.
- During the visit, representatives of local communities in the Făgăraș Mountains met with the National Park management team, but also with local authorities and local entrepreneurs developing programmes in partnership with the park, thus getting to know the operating model and its impact on the local economy.





# Germany's largest national park supports Foundation Conservation Carpathia

We are happy and excited to announce that we have signed a cooperation partnership with the Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald (Bavarian Forest National Park) in Germany.

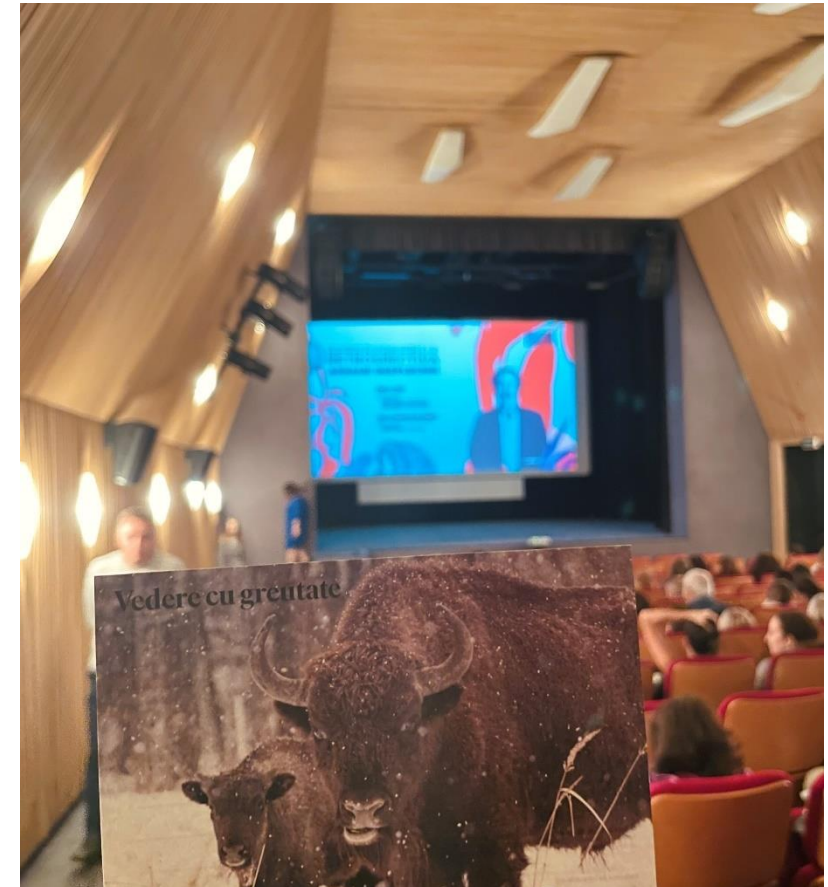
The partnership will run for five years and aims to transfer knowledge between the German and Romanian organisations in species research and monitoring projects, large carnivore management, development of educational programmes, creation of economic mechanisms for communities, tourism programmes, training and communication.





# Les Films de Cannes à Bucharest

- From 21st to 30th October we took the greatness of the Făgăraș Mountains to the 13th edition of Les Films de Cannes à Bucharest.
- On Friday 21st October, after screening the film La Montagne, Mihai Zotta, conservation director of our foundation and forest engineer with over 20 years of experience in the field of nature conservation, was present at the Elvire Popesco Cinema for an open talk with the director of the film, in thThomas Salvador, about Foundation Conservation Carpathia's plans e Făgăraș Mountains.





# Autumn feast in Rucar commune

- We support the initiatives of local communities and we want nature, landscapes and people of the Făgăraș Mountains to flourish.
- We were partners of the Autumn Feast in Rucăr, on 23rd October. The organisers, 'Reviving Rucăr' Initiative Group, prepared interesting activities, and good food, with local, seasonal ingredients.
- The event was [HERE](#).



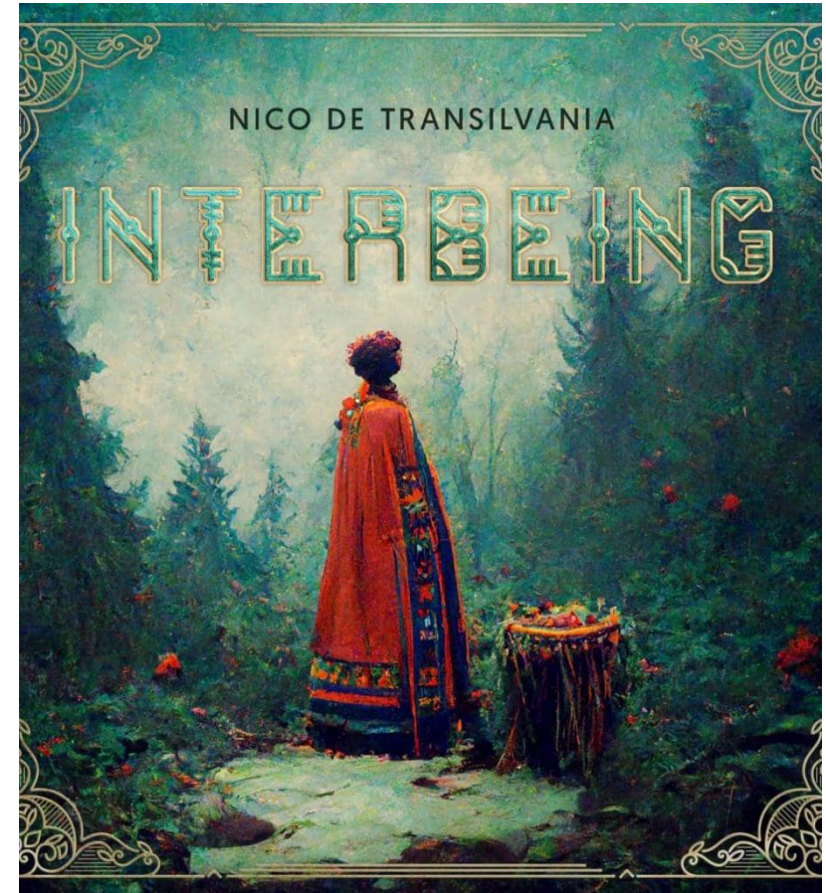


## Endangered Landscapes Programme Arts Prize

- Nico de Transilvania, FCC ambassador, friend and supporter of the Făgăraș Mountains, has won the Art Prize in the Endangered Landscapes Programme's Artist-in-Residence competition.
- Nico chose our conservation project in the Făgăraș Mountains and the people of Nucșoara village and told their story through the I N T E R B E I N G project. A special concept that interweaves recordings of Nucșoara villagers and traditional Romanian musicians with the sounds of the forest in a unique composition.



**Nico de Transilvania Wins  
Endangered Landscapes  
Programme Arts Prize**





# Ways to become involved and support the Făgăraș Mountains

- **Become a strategic partner:** get involved in several of our pillars of activity.
- **Become a corporate partner:** Companies can engage with us as part of their corporate social responsibility programme.
- For Romanian resident companies there is also the possibility of using the 20% income tax reduction facility.
- **Become a major donor:** choose to support us at a more substantial level.
- **Become a private donor:** contribute with regular financial support.
- There are various ways to contribute to fulfilling our mission. Please contact us here: [info@carpathia.org](mailto:info@carpathia.org)





# 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 which make a living from the CARPATHIA project

2,200

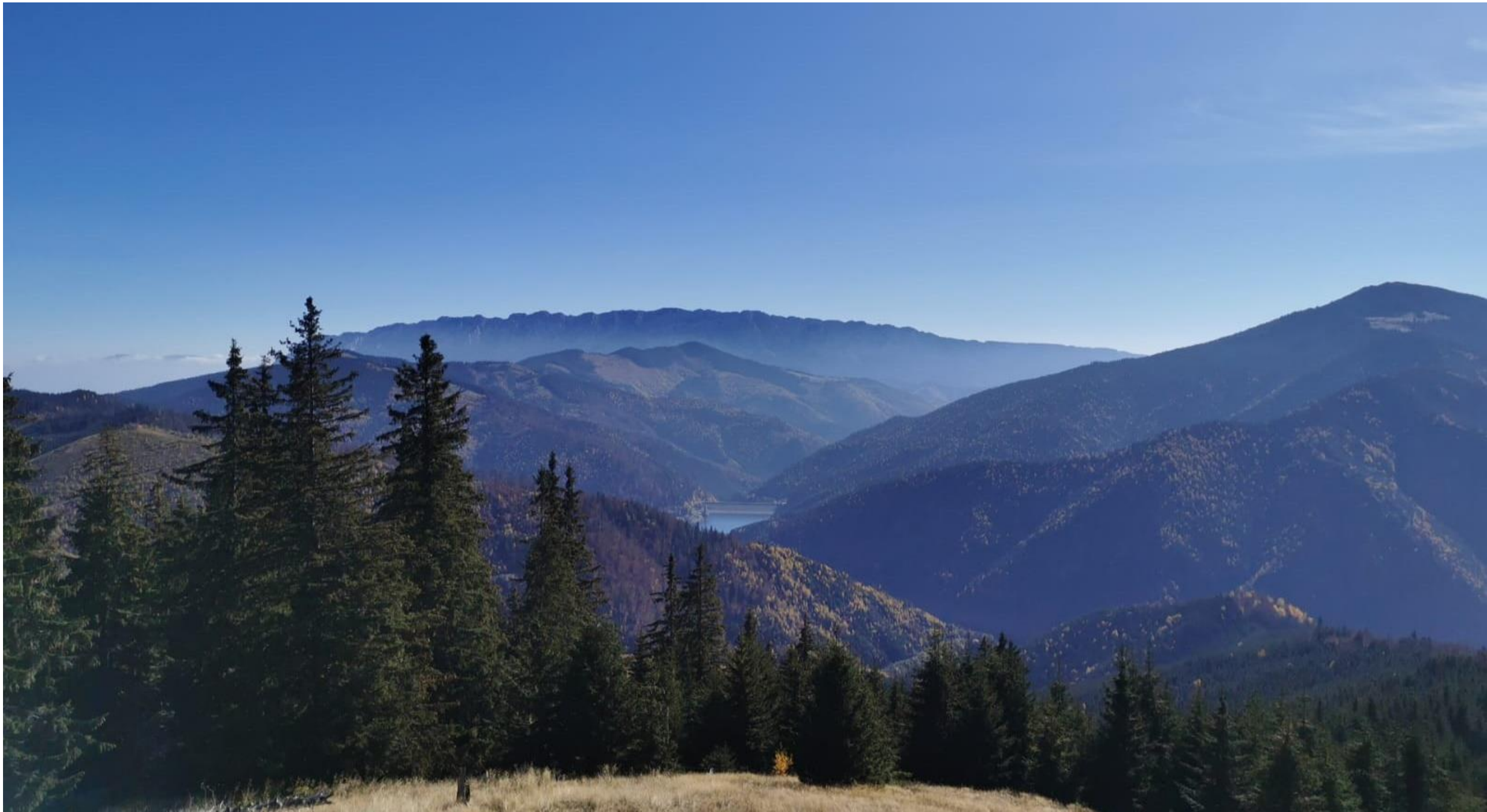
students and teachers involved in environmental education projects

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:** Mihai Zotta, Ionuț Crețu, Liviu Ungureanu, Dan Dinu, Constantin Simion, Ruben Iosif, Călin Șerban, Adrian Aldea, Oliviu Pop, Laviniu Terciu, Marius Drugă, Emil Ionescu, Daniel Rosengren, Alexandru R. Crețu, George Soare, Danil Mîrlea, Jack Wolfskin, Zsolt Miholcea, Claudiu Țoanță, Tudor Georgescu, Les Films de Cannes à Bucarest, Iulia Naum, Radu Croitoru

**Cover: Mihai Zotta**