



Field report

November & December 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

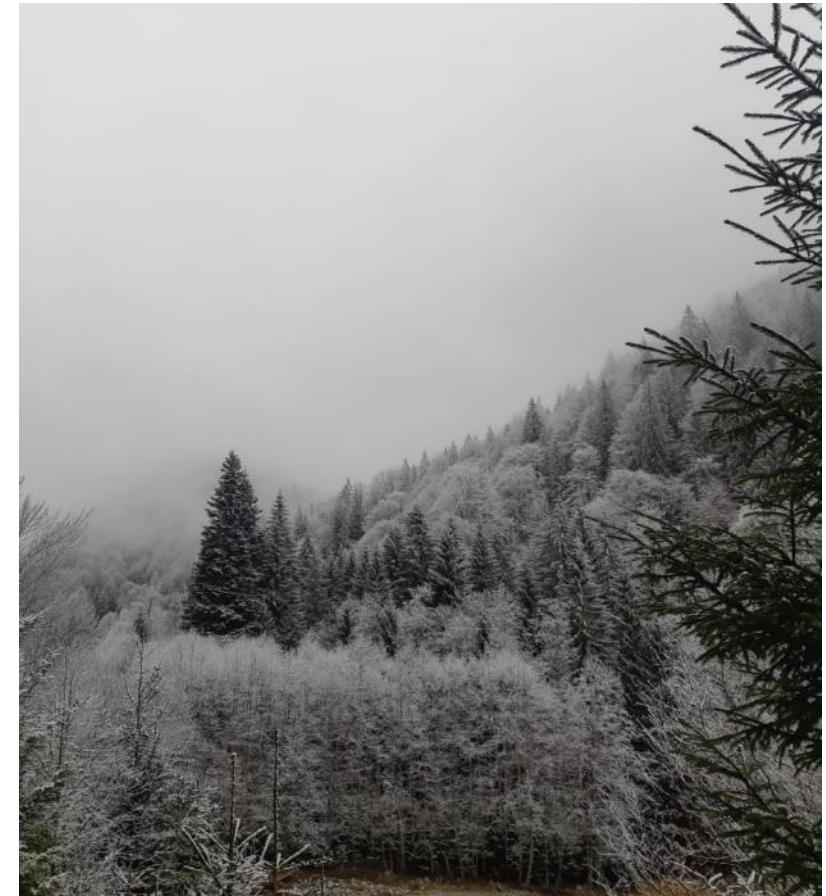
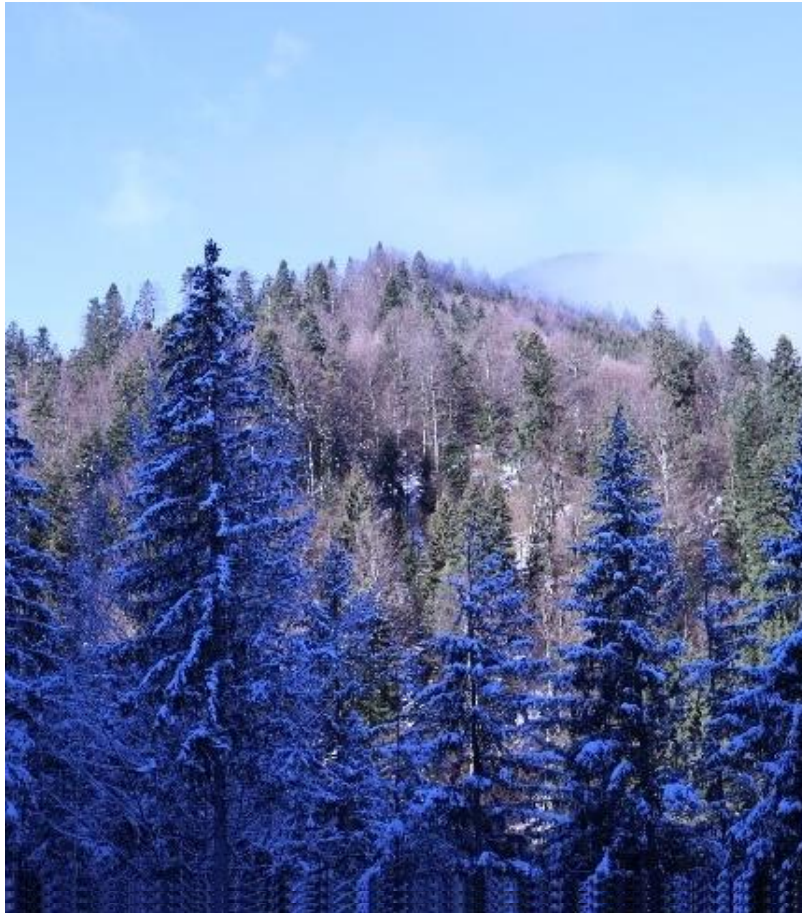


01

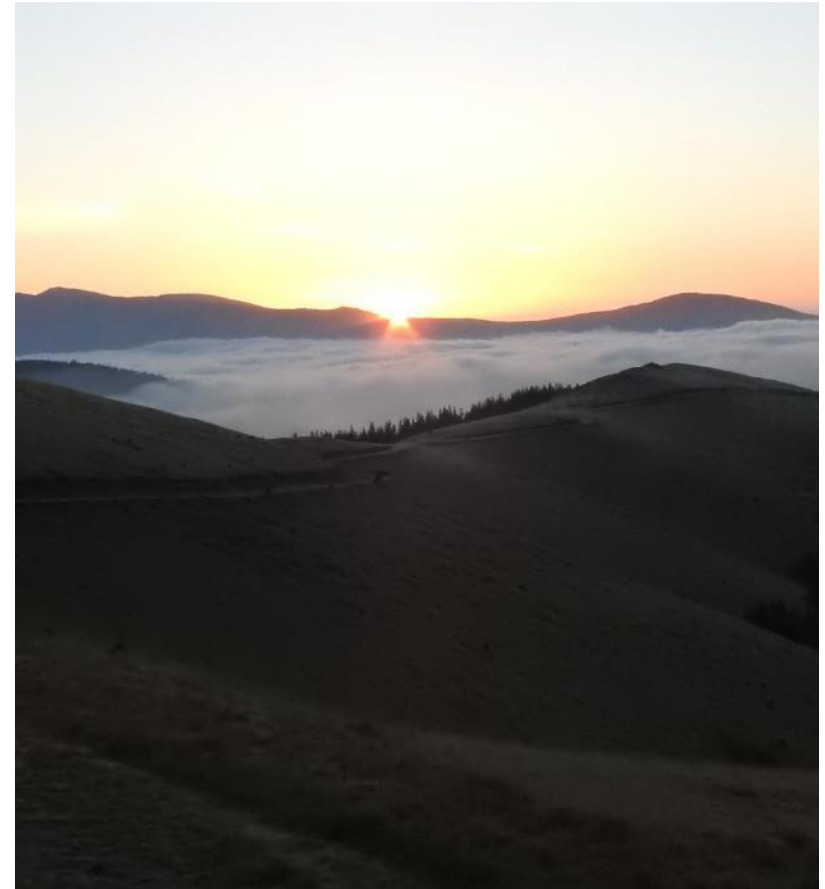
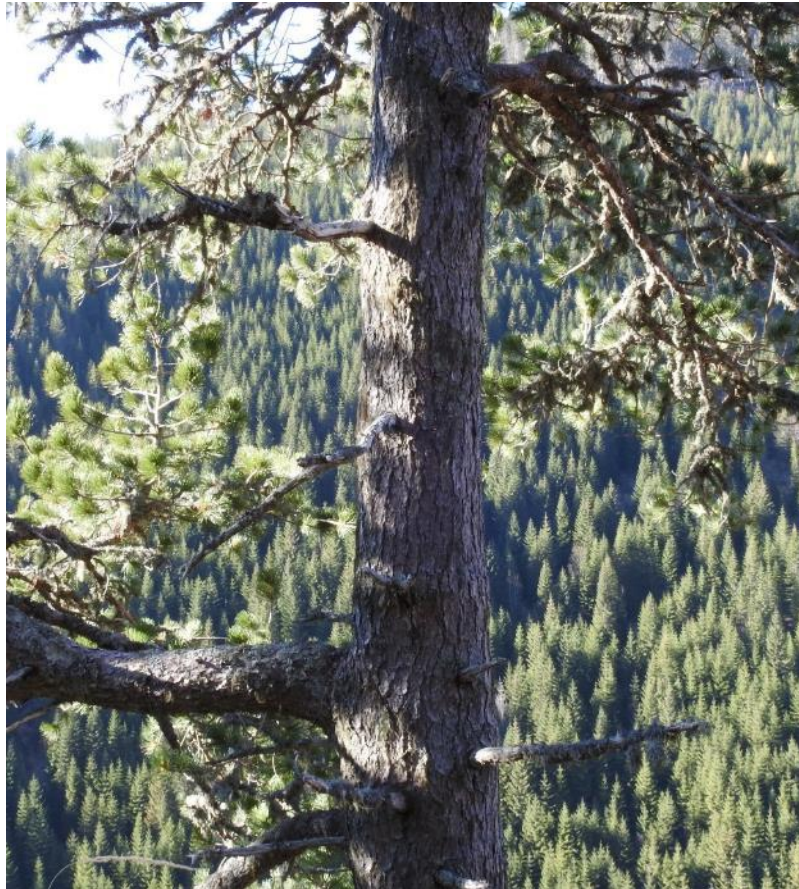
Forest conservation and
management



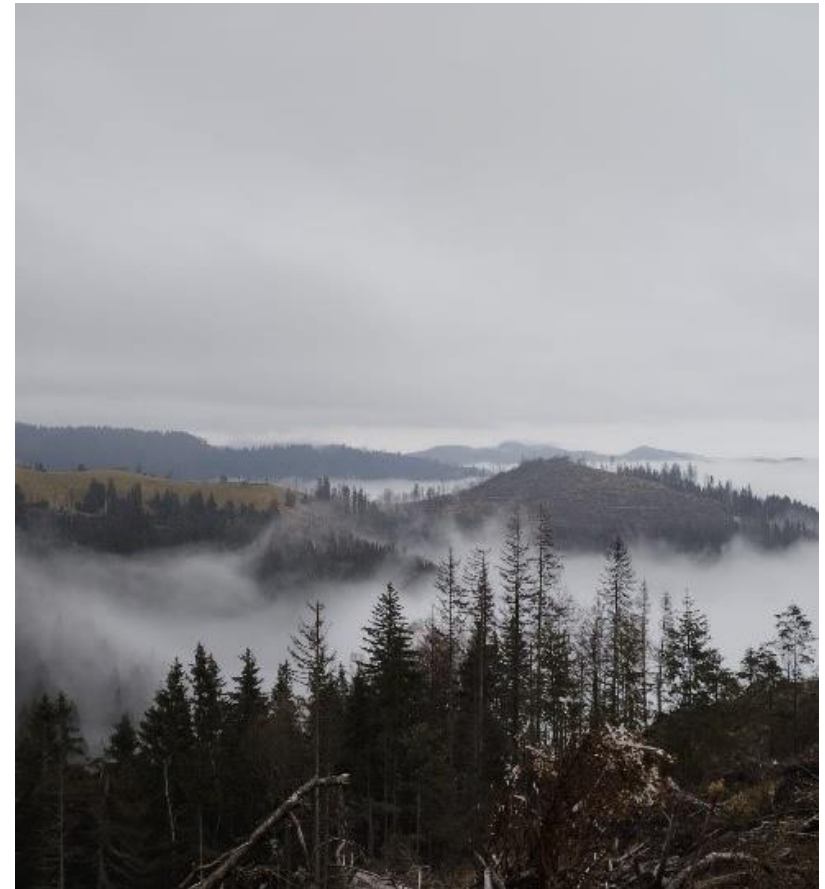
- Globally, 2022 is so far the fourth warmest year on record (since records began in the late 1800s).The planet continues to warm.
- We are continuing to safeguard the forests for the future in order to face the challenges of the years ahead.



Images from the project area



Images from the project area









02

Ecological restoration





- Autumn planting was very intense.
- With the 50.5 ha restored in October and November, we have reached a total of over 1900 ha restored and more than 3.7 million saplings planted in the project area during the last 13 years.

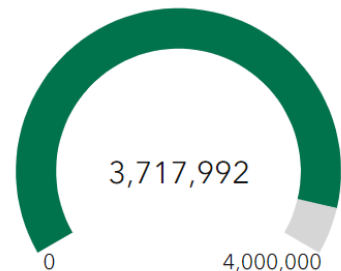


Area restored 1906.1 Ha

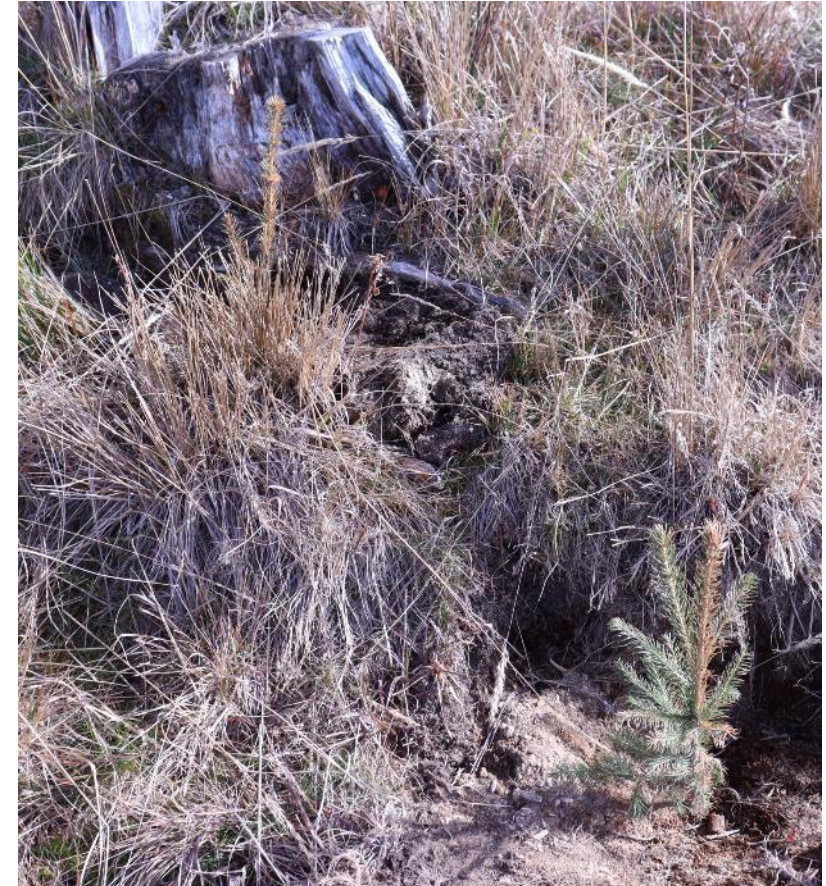
Includes clear-cut and alpine restoration, spruce monoculture conversion

◀ Restored area ▶

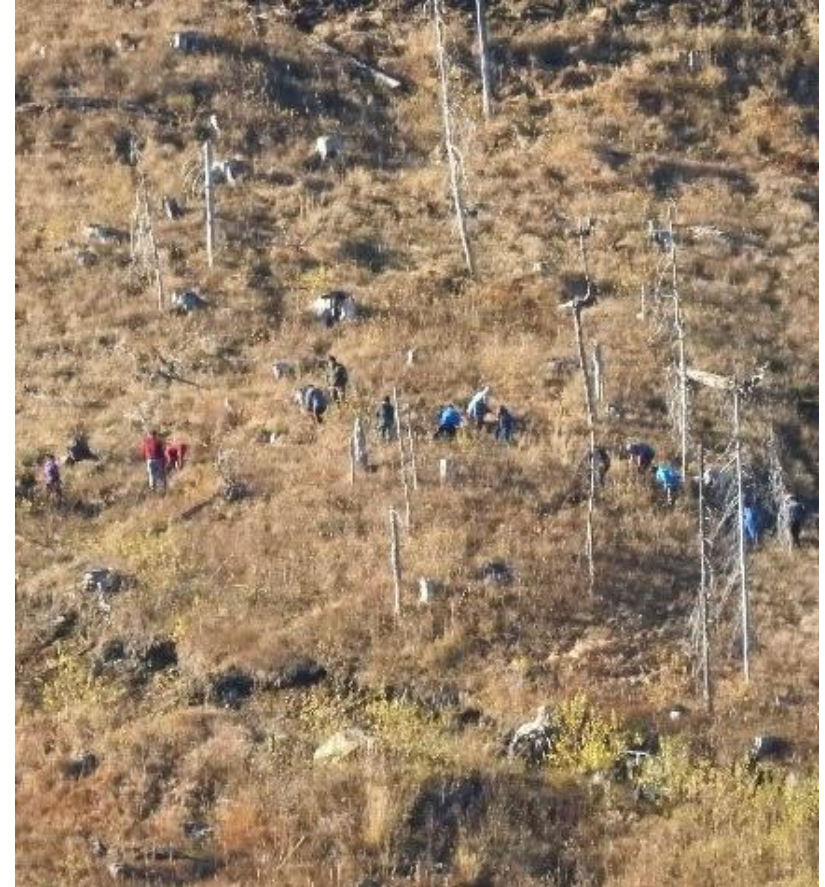
Total trees planted



◀ Trees ▶



Over 200 seasonal workers were employed from the local communities neighbouring the Făgăraș Mountains and over 50 rangers worked throughout the year for the future forests of the Făgăraș Mountains.



This autumn's planting was done with saplings obtained exclusively from our own nurseries.

Public funding and also your [donations](#) made this possible. Thank you!



We have carried out the first ecological reconstruction activities within the SUPERB project (Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest related biodiversity and ecosystem services), Europe's largest transnational forest restoration project.

We have planted 7,610 saplings in the upper Dâmbovița Valley, and we are restoring the natural forests of beech, fir and sycamore that were here before. After it was logged, the forests were replaced by an artificial spruce monoculture for purely economic reasons.



Greenhouses and tree nurseries

- We prepare the next generation of forests: planting and maintenance are the most important tasks.
- It takes 2-5 years until the seedlings are viable to resume their place back in the mountains.



- We organised a field visit with some of the most renowned research institutes in Romania.
- During the field visit the rare green shield-moss (*Buxbaumia viridis*) was found in Valea Vladului.
- The researchers from the Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy carried out a field trip to help us with the assessment of the Molivișu peat bog.



Buxbaumia viridis identified in our project area



- We hosted the first training course as part of a longer series being run in partnership with the Bayerischer Wald (Bavarian Forest) National Park in Germany.
- 13 rangers from the European Ranger Federation visited our project area to learn from our colleagues about wildlife monitoring, restoration, wildlife management, species reintroduction, conservation enterprises and eco-tourism in the Făgăraș Mountains.



03

Wildlife conservation



Wildlife monitoring

- Seven additional bison have been brought to the enclosure in Nucșoara. Our team worked hard to accommodate them properly.
- We started planning for more newcomers in 2023.



- Our colleagues recently visited the Bieszczady Mountains in Poland, where the large population of free-roaming bison in the wilderness is representative of typical numbers.
- Our team learned from representatives of the State Forestry how they manage the bison, what challenges they face and we discussed the results achieved in the conservation of this species.



Images from the project area

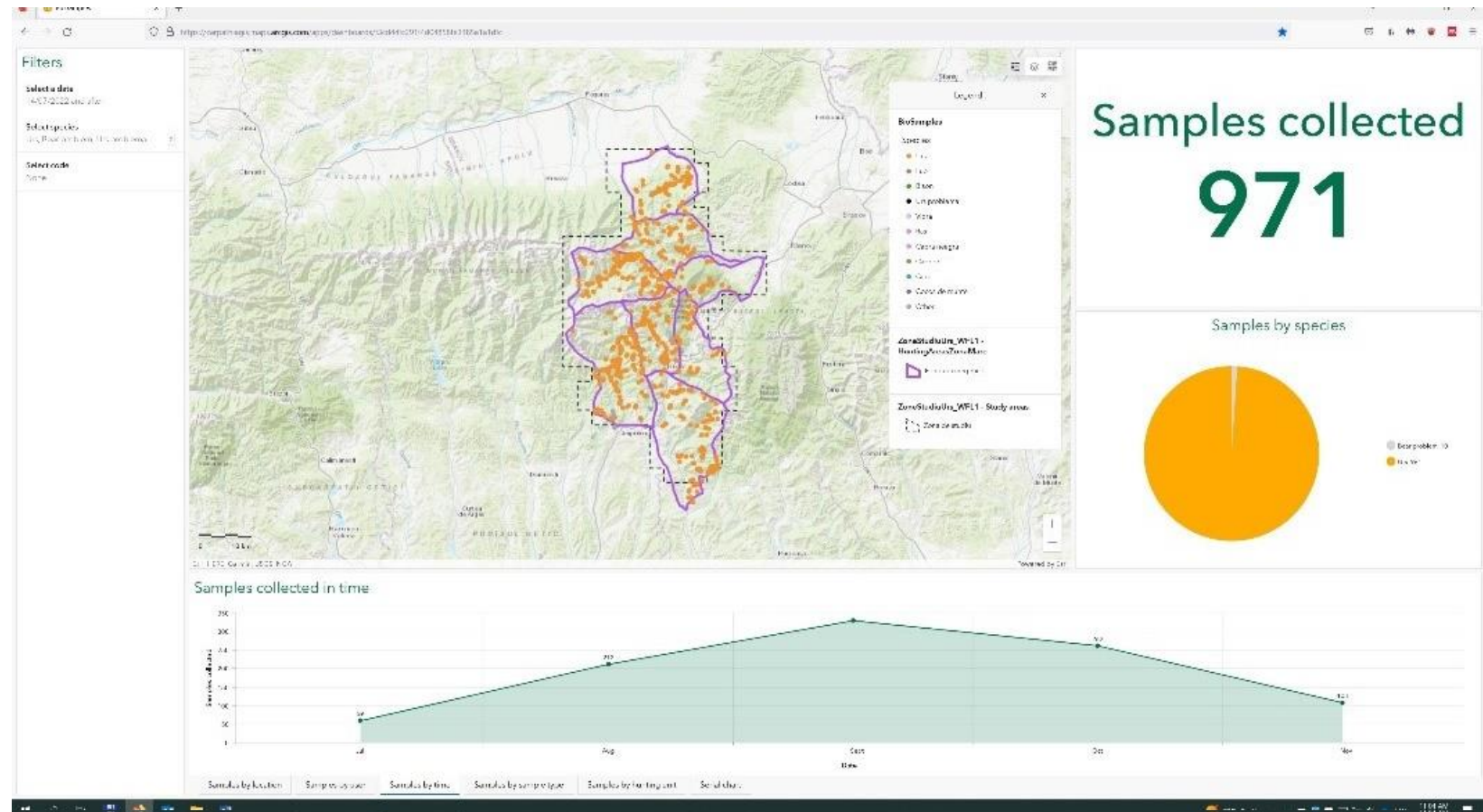


- We have relocated 16 more beavers from the northern side of the mountains to the southern side.
- We monitored the released beavers. They have already increased the natural diversity of the area by creating additional wetlands, which provide food and shelter for birds, fish, insects, amphibians, and other wildlife.



Wildlife monitoring

- We successfully finalised the sample collection for our second bear inventory with a total of 971 biological samples, covering an area of 120,000 hectares in the Făgăraș, Piatra Craiului, Iezer-Păpușa and Leaota Mountains.
- We look forward to receiving the results from the laboratory in Slovenia which will inform us how much the density of bears in this pilot area of the Făgăraș Mountains has increased or decreased during this five-year period since the last study.



The first 24 samples have already been collected.



Wildlife management

- We have donated 18 sheep and 11 cows to owners that have lost their livestock due to wildlife attacks in Rucăr, Dragoslavele, Stoenești, Bughea de Sus and Sățic area.
- With this voluntary compensation we help local farmers in a practical and unbureaucratic way, which is the core of our wildlife management philosophy.



Wildlife management

- We have launched a new pilot research project to prevent conflict between bears and local communities by installing GPS collars on five bears.
- The study will be carried out in the vicinity of Rucăr, Stoenești, Dragoslavele, Lerești, Bughea de Sus, in Argeș county.
- We hope the study will provide more information about the behaviour of problem bears and the causes that led to their changes in habits.
- More details [HERE](#).



Wildlife images&video

Lynx Wolf Bison

Red deer Brown bear





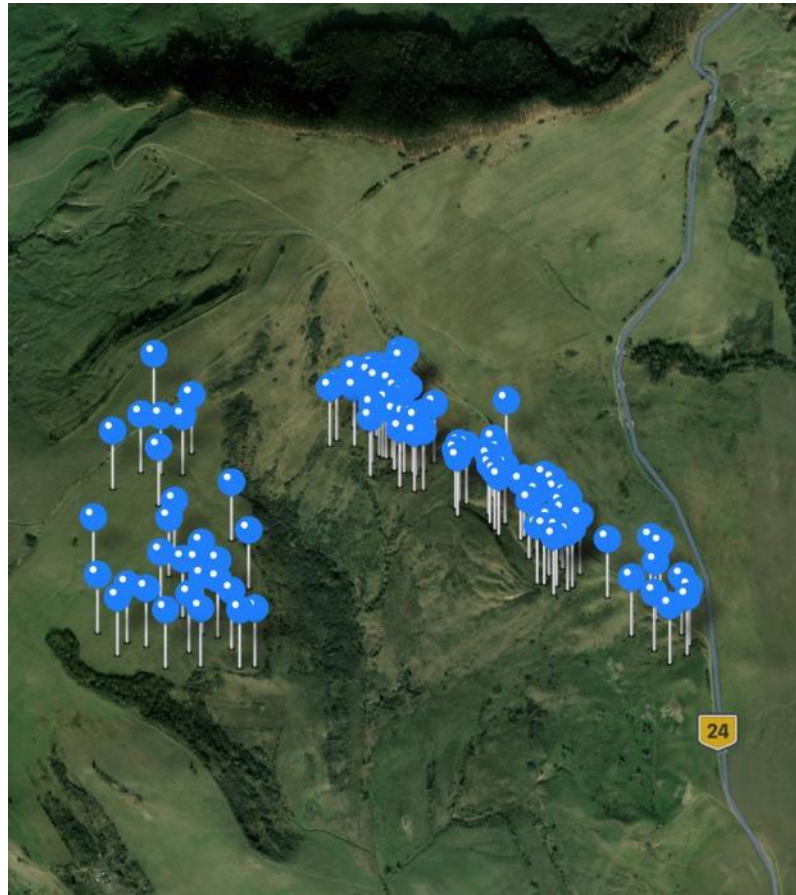
04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



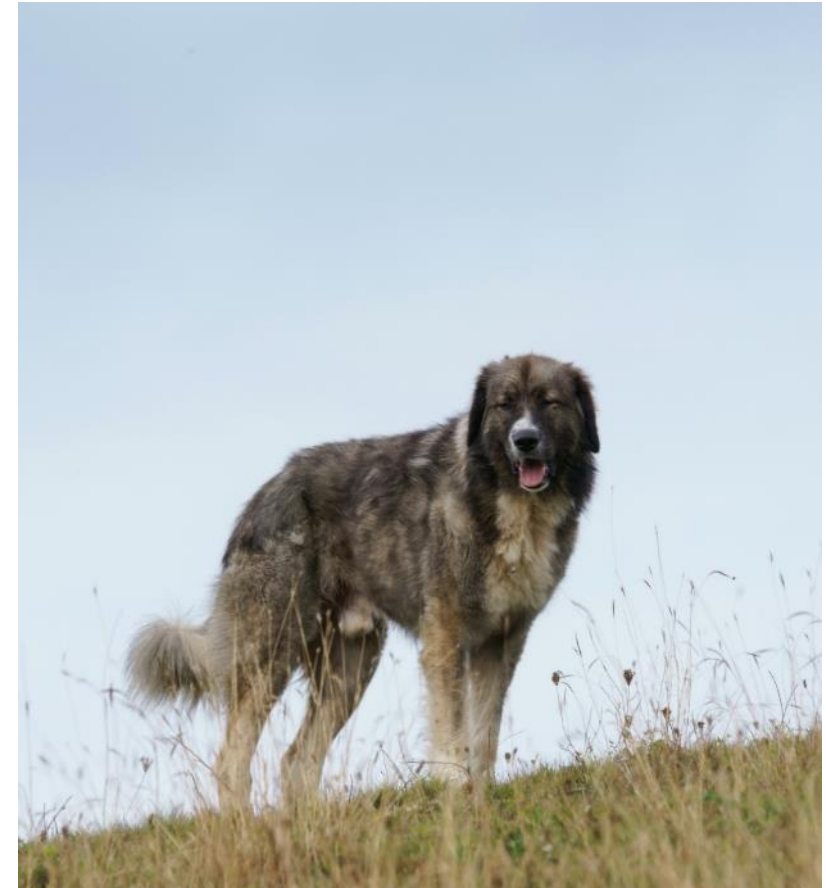
Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- We organised a new planting session on the Cobor pasture. Another 109 oak (*Quercus petraea*) saplings have found their place here in our efforts to restore the oak wood pasture.
- The summer was dry, so we started by checking and replacing the saplings that didn't catch on in the spring planting session.
- This activity wasn't particularly easy because each tree is planted in a specially chosen spot and surrounded by a sapling tree guard to protect it from animals.
- We are doing this project together with Transylmagica Association, and with all the supporters who donated to us at Bikeathon Țara Făgărașului,



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

You've made your list, and checked it twice - but have you added [Cobor Biodiversity Farm](#) to your wish list yet?



Food HUB

- Roadele Munților Făgăraș (produce of the Făgăraș Mountains) brings security and a chain of distribution to small producers in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- Over 20 small local producers have prepared Christmas gifts with a taste of the Mountains for this season.



Wildlife hides

- You've made your list, and checked it twice - but have you added a complete wildlife experience in the Făgăraș Mountains to your wish list?
- We look forward to welcoming you to Travel CARPATHIA in 2023!



05

Communication &
community outreach



IDOR REBECA-MARIA
IOSIVOIU ȘTEFANIA-ELENA
CLASA a V-a

Christmas gifts prepared by the students of "Nae A.Ghica" secondary school in Rucar
for the community Christmas fair

Carpathia Scholarships

- We launched the programme 'Carpathia Scholarships' in partnership with the Țara Făgărașului Community Foundation to support students passionate about nature in the Țara Făgărașului area.
- We have chosen candidates from eight schools at the foot of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- The programme is part of the Carpathia Fund for Education and Nature, developed together with the Țara Făgărașului Community Foundation, and its aim is to increase interest in the protection of nature and improve the quality of life in Țara Făgărașului by supporting initiatives in the field of education.



BURSELE CARPATHIA

Așteptăm
aplicațiile până la
25 noiembrie

Elevi din: Șinca Nouă, Șinca Veche, Drăguș, Viștea,
Sâmbăta de Sus, Lisa, Ucea, Hârseni, Recea, Arpașu de jos



- We support education in local communities in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains and we are happy to support children who perform well in sport.
- Three athletes participated in the 'Lerești Champions' Karate Club at the World Championship of Traditional Karate in Poland and won one gold medal and five bronze medals.
- Congratulations to the champions Stefania Codîrlă, Anastasia Cojocaru, Erika Popescu, but also to the coach Raluca Enache who made these results possible.



- Congratulations to the students from the 'Nae A. Ghica' Secondary School in Rucar who created gifts and sold them at the community Christmas Fair.
- With the money raised they will renovate areas of the school.
- We complimented them and offered small gifts to encourage their work.



Volunteering

- We are grateful for the help we received from the last three volunteers who joined us in our wildlife monitoring activities: Cătălina, Amber and Laurine.
- *"I've been volunteering since the beginning of October with the Wildlife Monitoring Team," says Laurine at the end of the volunteering programme. "I participated in collecting the samples for the bear study with the rangers, and it was really nice: I learned a lot of things with them, and I saw amazing landscapes! I'm so glad I volunteered with Carpathia team, it was a wonderful experience and everyone here is very nice! One thing is sure: I will be back in the Carpathian Mountains soon, it's such a beautiful place! And Foundation Conservation Carpathia is participating in keeping this beauty undamaged."*



URSUS breweries contributes to the protection of bear habitats in the Făgăraș Mountains

- Ursus support our efforts to restore the natural balance and maintain the valuable biodiversity of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- More details [HERE](#).

FONDAT  •1878•

SUȚINEM PROTEJAREA HABITATULUI URȘILOR ȘI A COMUNITĂȚII LOCALE

În parteneriat cu



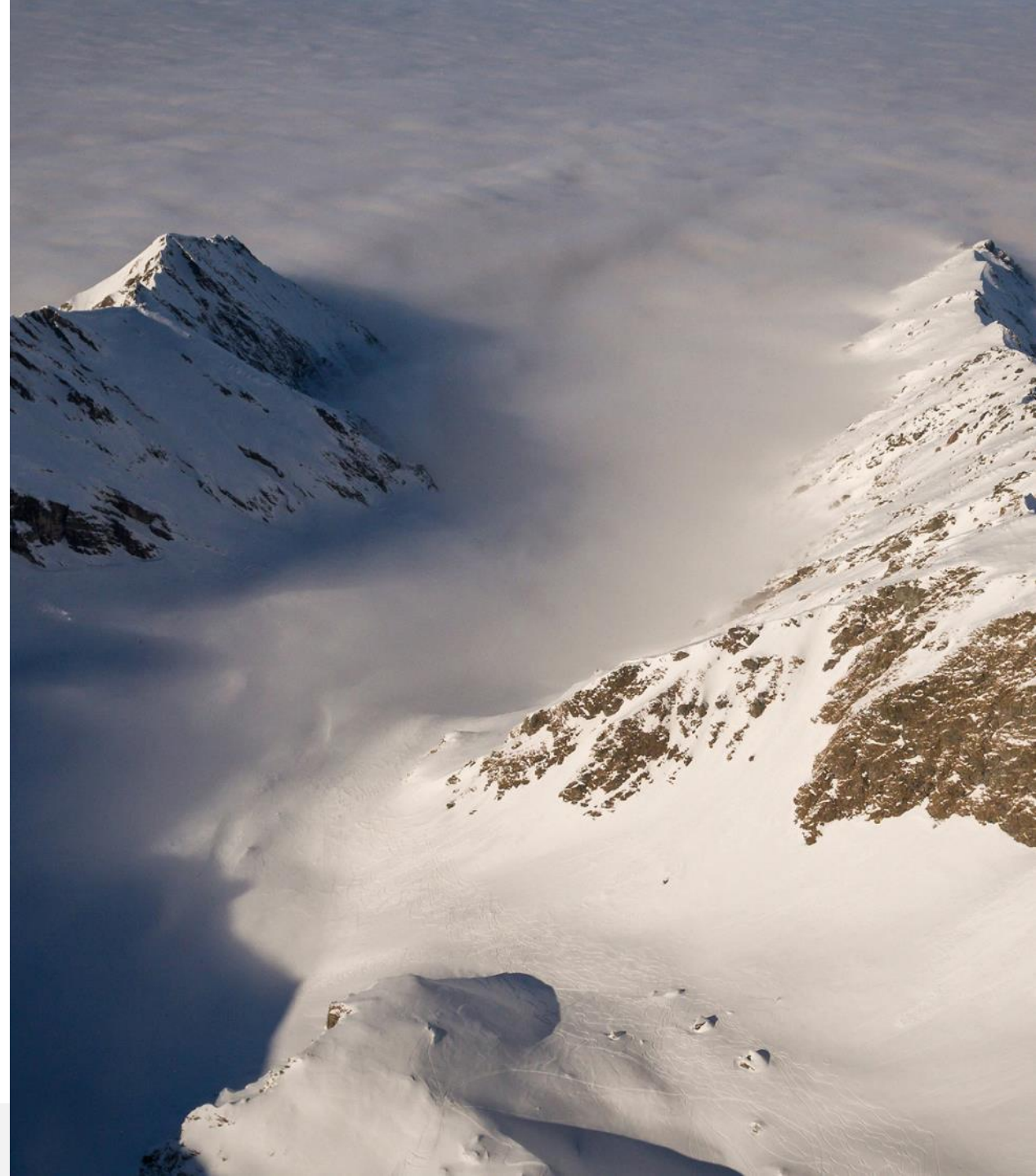
Făgăraș Mountains deserve to become a National Park

Romania's wilderness is fascinating.

You have to stop, see it, live an authentic ecotourism experience in nature and understand why we think the Făgăraș Mountains deserve to become a National Park.

At the end of autumn, we were visited by Christian Weiser and Michel Biel, with the support of JACK WOLFSKIN.

See how they discover our mountains and nature in the [VIDEO](#) story.



Corporate appeal:

REDIRECT 20% OF YOUR COMPANY'S INCOME TAX

If you have a company you can directly support our work, without any costs for the sponsor-company.

The sponsorship is fully deductible if it falls within the limits of the law and if it is made before the end of the year on the basis of a sponsorship contract.

The simple gesture of redirecting 20% of your income tax to Conservation Carpathia is an opportunity to contribute to the protection of the Făgăraș Mountains - now and for future generations.

[Learn more about how you can do it.](#)

We thank all [companies](#) that have already donated!



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

1,906 ha

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

3,717,992

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

200

Local residents who earn 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



Season's greetings

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are Foundation Conservation Carpathia!
A team of 120 people dedicated to conservation, wishing you all the best and thanking you for your support!
Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!



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: Zsolt Miholcea, Adelin Simion, Claudiu Țoanță, Cătălin Achim, Ruben Iosif, Liviu Ungureanu, Codruț Voinescu, BCP, Călin Șerban, Liviu Ungureanu, Adrian Aldea, Alexandru R. Crețu, George Soare.

Cover: Dan Dinu.