



Field report

March 2023



CARPATHIA®
European Wilderness Reserve



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



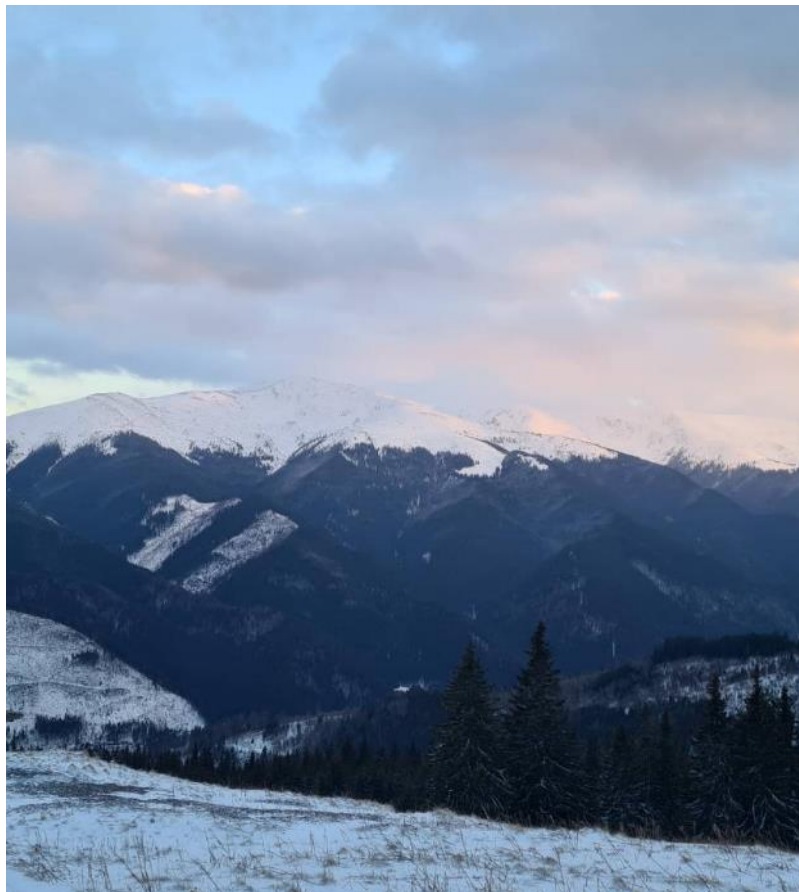
Every year in March, the whole world celebrates the International Day of Forests.

Millions of people around the globe have used it as an opportunity to celebrate all types of forests and taken action to protect them.

At Carpathia, we celebrate forests every day by restoring and protecting these priceless natural resources.



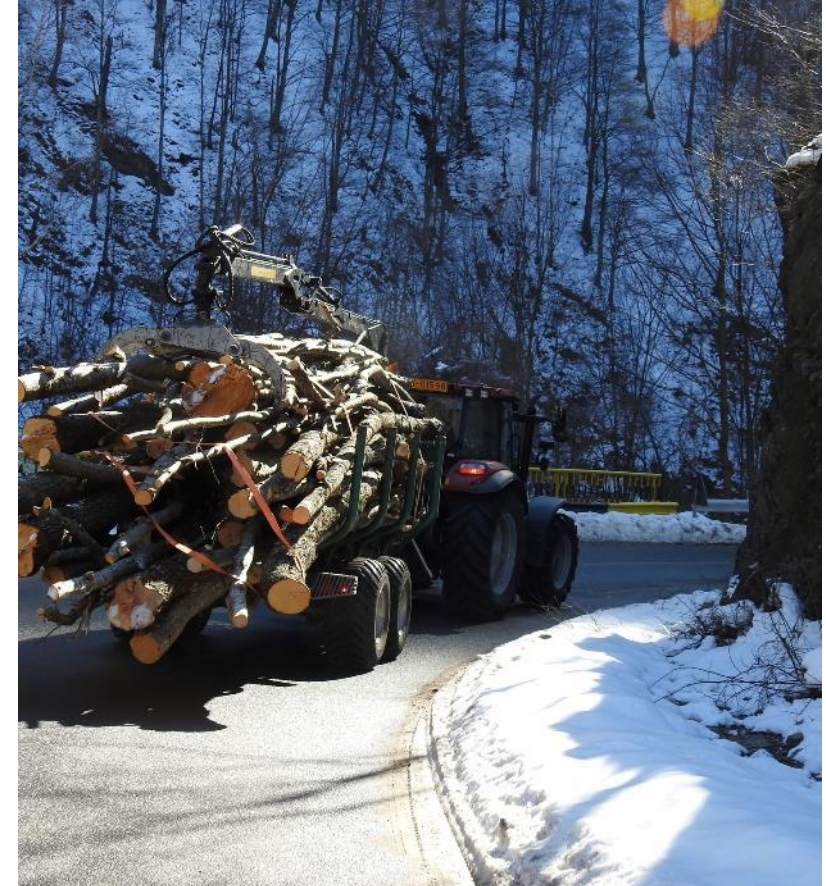
March brought unexpected weather to the Făgăraș Mountains, with spring seemingly in a bad mood and two seasons making an appearance.



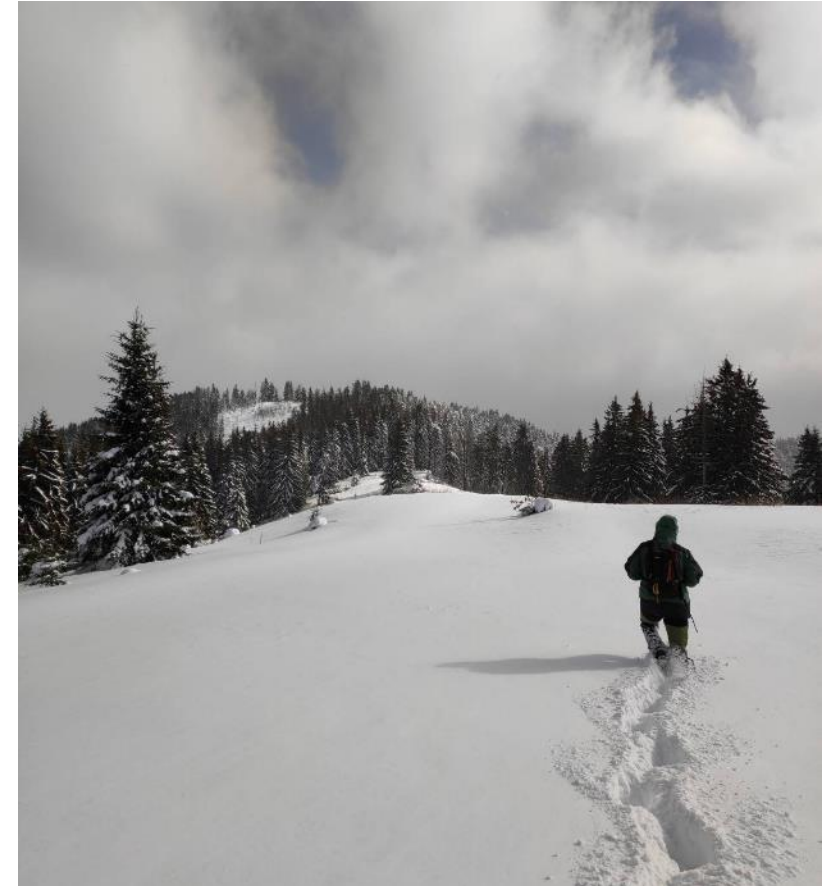
The weather caused several dangerous trees to fall on a road near Vidraru dam. But thanks to our Carpathian Forestry Association colleagues, the road was quickly cleared and made safe again.

We donated the timber (over 70 cubic metres of wood) to Arefu Town Hall to support families in need of firewood and local institutions in the Arefu commune.

It's just one way we're working to support people who rely on the forests.



No matter what the weather conditions may be, our colleagues are always out in the field, patrolling the forests to guarantee their safety and protection.







Fir seedlings from our greenhouse

02

Ecological restoration



- We wasted no time in rolling up our sleeves and getting to work in our tree nurseries.
- We've been hard at work taking young dwarf pine and spruce saplings out of the greenhouses and transplanting them in the tree nurseries.
- Here, they'll continue to grow for another 2-4 years until they're ready to be planted out in the mountains.
- We've also been busy selecting and preparing saplings to be planted during the restoration activities.
- You can join our ecological restoration efforts [HERE](#).



- We've started ecological restoration work at not one, but five different sites: Dobroneagu, Groapele, Valea Dâmboviței, Cumpăna and Pojarna. Our aim for this spring is to restore an area of 73.9 ha with a total of 240,000 saplings.
- As an experiment, in addition to our traditional seedling planting, we are testing the direct planting of seeds into the ground, and in hard-to-reach areas we will be using drones.



- To ensure the success of our restoration efforts, before planting, we built three natural refrigerators in the mountains of Văsălatul Valley, Alunu and Dobroneagu to preserve the saplings.
- Basically, we built three storage areas out of snow or ice and soil to keep the seedlings of spruce, beech, sycamore and fir in.
- However, due to low precipitation this winter, we've made a tremendous effort to bring the snow and ice from other areas.



Collect snow and transport it



Spread it on the dug area



Spread it on the dug area and cover with soil



We put the seedlings in the fridge



To protect the seedlings, we build a natural sunshade

- We have started conversion work in areas of artificial spruce monocultures.
- We're creating pockets of light and planting deciduous species, such as beech, sycamore, rowan, and elm.
- This will brighten the interior of these forests and create space for the natural regeneration and planting of saplings.

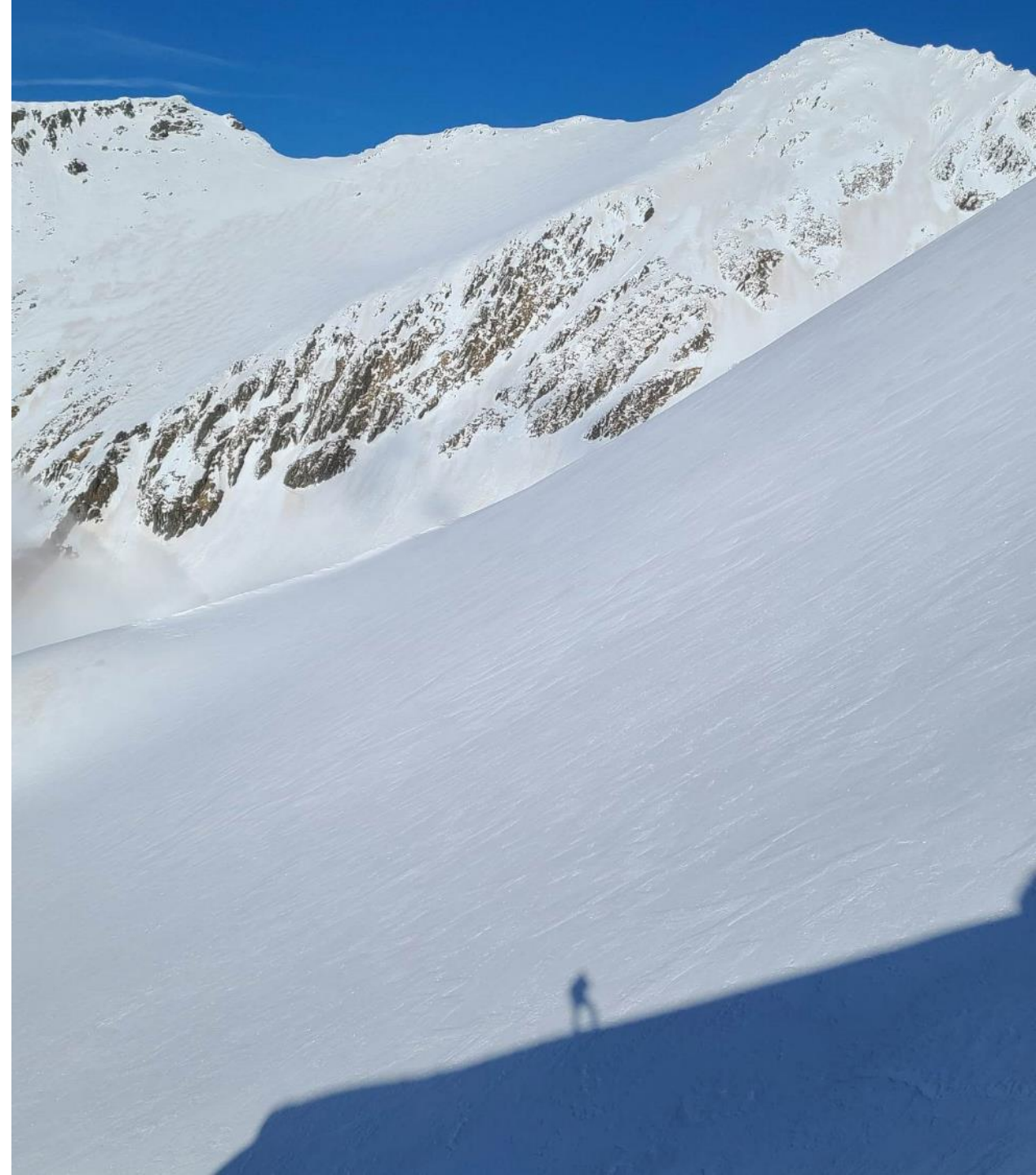


Media trip

- Journalists from various national publications accepted our invitation to come and see how we're restoring the Făgăraș Mountains, which have been devastated by illegal logging.
- They visited the 200-hectare Dobroneagu restoration site, which was affected by logging in 2008-2010 and a storm in February 2020 that caused the loss of 160 hectares.
- On average, more than 40 people work on this ecological restoration site for 3-4 weeks each season.



- During the last week, winter returned to the Făgăraș Mountains and we've had to stop working for now. As soon as the weather improves, we'll be back to continue our restoration efforts with the help of seasonal workers from the local communities.



03

Wildlife conservation



Wildlife management

- As the sun sets over the Făgăraș Mountains, our rapid intervention teams are ready to go.
- Whether it's a call about a wild boar causing trouble near villages or the presence of a bear, our teams work day and night. We're proud that the locals trust us to handle these situations, instead of putting themselves in harm's way.



- The intervention teams are actively engaged in a range of activities, including:
- anti-poaching patrols
- installing and checking camera trap data
- installation and maintenance of electric fences
- testing of a real-time monitoring and signalling system for detected sounds, such as chainsaw, vehicle and gun noise, to help combat poaching and illegal activities.



We launched consultations for the 'Bear Smart Community' programme, in partnership with the Argeş Regional Environmental Protection Agency.

We had the first meeting with key institutions in bear conflict management in Argeş County.

This programme promotes collaborative efforts to reduce human-bear conflicts, recognizing that all parties share the responsibility.

The participation of authorities, municipalities and citizens is crucial for its effectiveness.



Wildlife reintroductions

- We are preparing for another bison release. This spring, 12 bison will make their way to the Făgăraș Mountains from our third acclimatisation enclosure near Nucșoara in Argeș County.
- The ultimate goal of our reintroduction project in the Făgăraș Mountains is to release a total of 75 individuals by mid-2024.
- We are conducting field analyses to find potential reintroduction areas for bison in the Leaota Mountains.



- ARTE TV recently visited our bison in the Făgăraș Mountains for a four-day filming expedition.
- The filming crew was captivated by the journey of the bison in this beautiful mountain range. It is an honour to see our conservation efforts highlighted and shared with a broader audience, as we work to protect and preserve this magnificent species. Thank you for the visit!



Media trip

We are excited that our bison are receiving national recognition for their unique and captivating journey in the Făgăraș Mountains.

12 journalists from various national and local media accepted our invitation to visit the third reintroduction point in the Făgăraș Mountains, at Dobroneagu, near the Nucșoara commune, Argeș county.



Wildlife reintroductions

Our beaver team has been busy all month:

- monitoring the released beaver population on the south side of the Făgăraș Mountains,
- obtaining authorisation for newcomers
- initiating collaboration with the Senckenberg Institute for the analysis of biological samples collected from captured beavers. This collaboration will help us better understand the health and behaviour of these animals and inform our conservation efforts moving forward.



- We have started monitoring the golden eagle population by installing feeding points and camera traps.



Wildlife monitoring

- The rangers continued the sampling of wolf scat and urine for DNA analysis. We have collected 134 samples, out of a target of 250. Due to a lack of snow during December and January, it was almost impossible to find wolf tracks and follow them.
- We have decided to extend the collection period until the end of May, as the spring turned back into winter in the mountains and is helping us a great deal.



Wolf track



- We installed camera traps in order to test a new method of estimating the population density of the wolf's main prey – the red deer.
- Our colleagues and our volunteers are installing and checking camera trap information and centralising the information in our database.



Wildlife images&video

White-throated dipper

Red deer Eurasian lynx

Brown bear Capercaillie





04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



Food HUB

- Exciting news from the [Roadele Munților Făgăraș](#) Food Hub!
- The family of local producers is expanding, offering an increasingly diverse range of products grown in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- Our colleagues have recently brought new producers of certified organic vegetables, milk, and eggs, as well as talented artisans who create beautiful knitted products from local wool.
- This is a great opportunity for consumers to access healthy and sustainable food options, while also supporting the skilled local producers in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains.



- We are pleased to announce the authorisation of a new Local Gastronomic Point, within the framework of our free consulting programme for small entrepreneurs in the Făgăraş Mountains.
- The new Local Gastronomic Point, owned by the Dorcea family from Lăicăi village, in the commune of Cetățeni, offers authentic, slow-cooked food and local stories to guests who are eager for dishes made with raw materials from their farm.



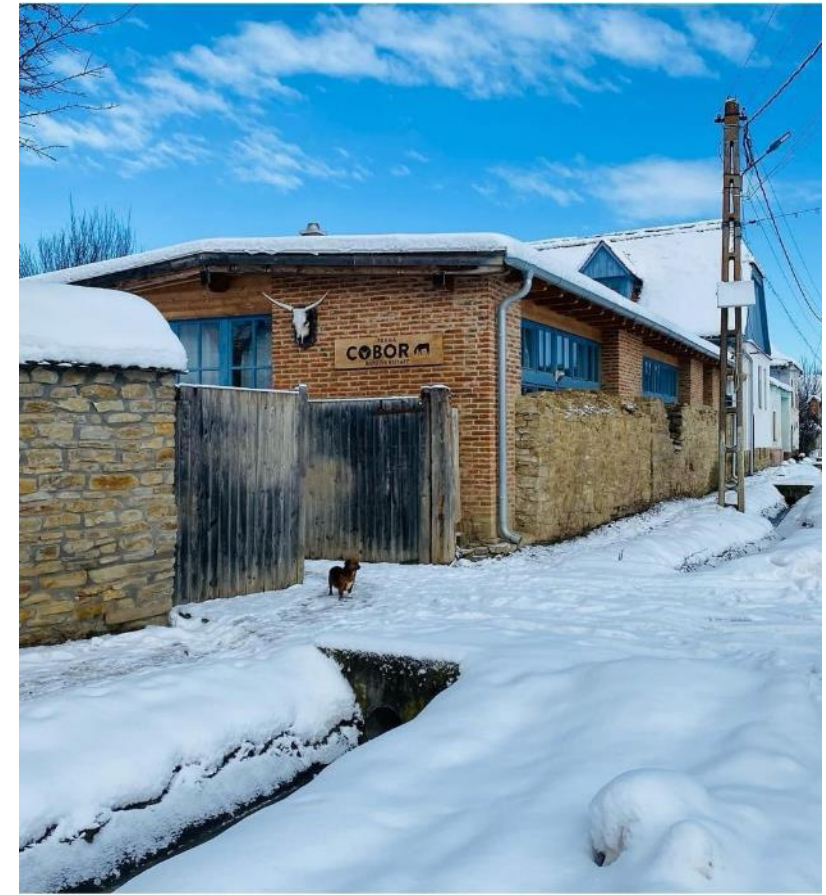
TUD Winter School on Non-timber Forest Products

- To ensure the success of our conservation enterprises, we seek solutions for developing local communities.
- To this end, our colleague, Cosmin Vorovenci, participated in the TUD Winter School on Non-timber Forest Products, Technische Universität Dresden.
- We exchanged best practices for the sustainable rural development of local communities and discussed the role of non-timber forest products from a social and environmental point of view.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- What is our life like at Cobor Biodiversity Farm? Busy and fulfilling 😊
- Our herd received routine check-ups and deworming treatments from the vet, ensuring their health and well-being.
- With many more adorable calves being born, our farm is bustling with new life.
- Our horses are eagerly awaiting the guests arriving with fresh carrots and apples.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

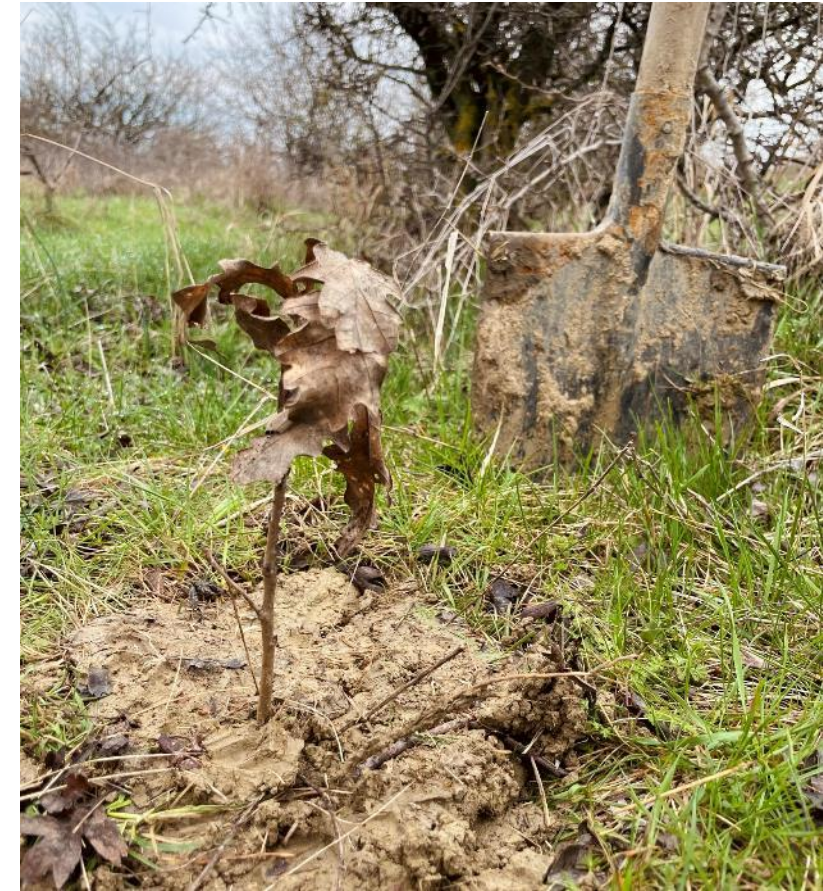
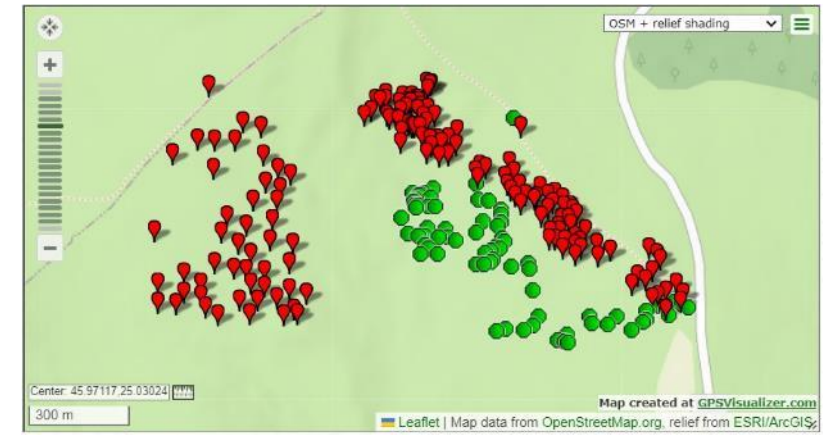
If you're looking for a quiet and relaxing retreat, [Cobor Biodiversity Farm](https://reservation@cobor-farm.ro) is the perfect destination for you.

Treat yourself to some of our delicious local recipes and other mouth-watering dishes. And don't forget that our facilities are also ideal for teambuilding events.

Book your Transylvanian adventure at reservation@cobor-farm.ro



- We are continuing to restore the historic oak pastures at Cobor. Thanks to our efforts, another 150 oak (*Quercus petraea*) seedlings are taking root.
- Each sapling is planted in a specific location, marked on a GPS map. It is surrounded by a 'thorn fortress' to protect it from animals.
- We are carrying out this project with the support of the OAK Foundation, together with the Transylmagica Association, but also with the support of our friends who donated to the Țara Făgărașului Bikeathon.



- See you in June at the [Oak Festival](#), when we will celebrate the centuries-old oaks from Cobor, but also the oak saplings that are getting ready to make history on the high nature value pastures.



UN EVENIMENT:
CARPATHIA
European Wilderness Reserve

**CEL MAI NOU FESTIVAL
TE DUCE LA STEJARII SECULARI**

**MĂDĂLINA PAVĂL
ȘI ORCHESTRA
SIMION BOGDAN-MIHAI
ȘI LĂUTĂRII DE MĂTASE**

TURURI GHIDATE PE PAJIȘTILE DE STEJARI SECULARI
CARPATHIA BIKE TOUR

Cobor între Stejari
ediția 1

CU SPIRIJINUL:
OAK
FOUNDATION

**FERMA DE BIODIVERSITATE
COBOR**
SATUL COBOR,
JUDEȚUL BRAȘOV
3 - 4 Iunie 2023

SUSȚINUT DE:
majorel

FERMA
COBOR
BIODIVERSITATE

Wildlife hides

We've continued to train our local guides and are delighted to announce that our programme has evolved into the Carpathia Guiding Academy.

This unique programme is designed to provide our guides with a comprehensive skill set to manage our wildlife hides, glamping sites and Cobor Biodiversity Farm ecotourism programmes.



Wildlife hides

Our programme consists of several stages, including wildlife tracking, nature interpretation, hospitality training, cooking classes, first aid etc.

Our Guiding Academy allows our guides to sharpen their skills and gain invaluable knowledge about the natural world.



Wildlife hides

Come and experience the magic of the Făgăraș Mountains through the eyes of our well-trained local guides!

We look forward to welcoming you to [Travel CARPATHIA!](#)



05

Communication &
community outreach



Carpathia Communities Fund

We launched the 'Carpathia Communities Fund', in partnership with the Țara Făgărașului Community Foundation.

The Fund will be implemented locally by the Țara Făgărașului Community Foundation and offers annual grants and scholarships to NGOs, initiative groups and students in the communities of Țara Făgărașului.





Fondul pentru
Comunități
CARPATHIA



Fundația Comunitară
Țara Făgărașului

Susține natura

să fie bine!

Înscrie un proiect cu
componentă de mediu și te
susținem să-l pui în practică!

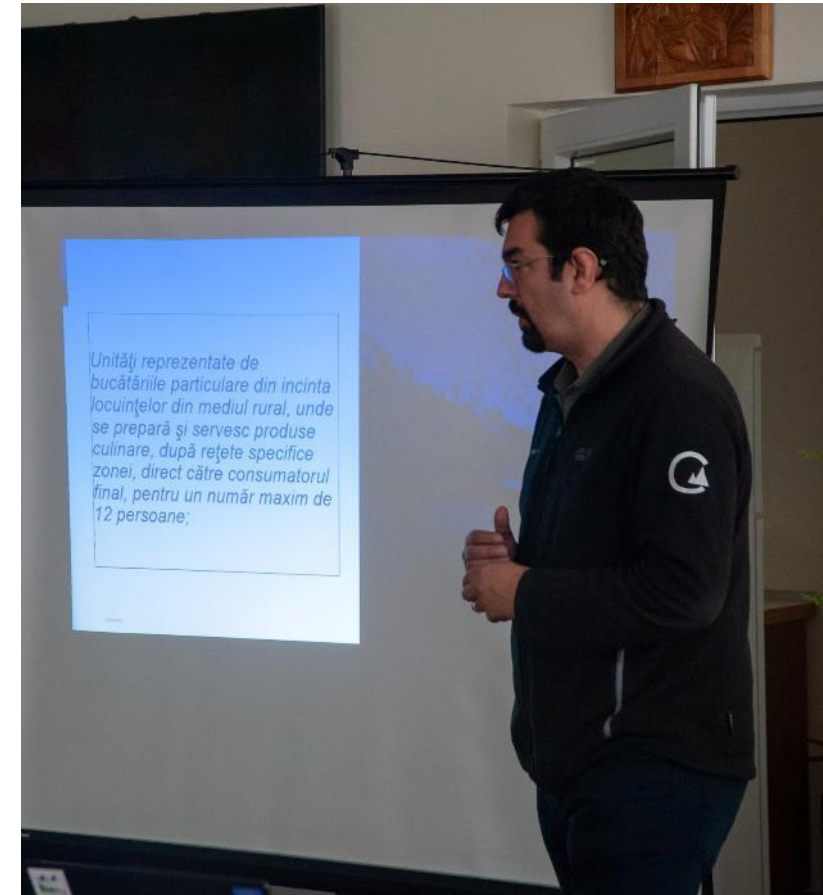
Program destinat ONG-urilor și grupurilor de
inițiativă din **Țara Făgărașului**

Adelina Iancu
coordonator program
0767938708
adelina.iancu@fundatiactf.ro

www.fundatiactf.ro

Meeting with the local communities

- 18 members of the Lerești community and small business owners gathered to learn more about the process of establishing a Local Gastronomic Point at our meeting organised for the Lerești commune.
- By authorising Local Gastronomic Points, we can help generate a steady income for local producers in the area and support long-term economic growth for the local economy.



Tasty Stories from the Făgăraș Mountains

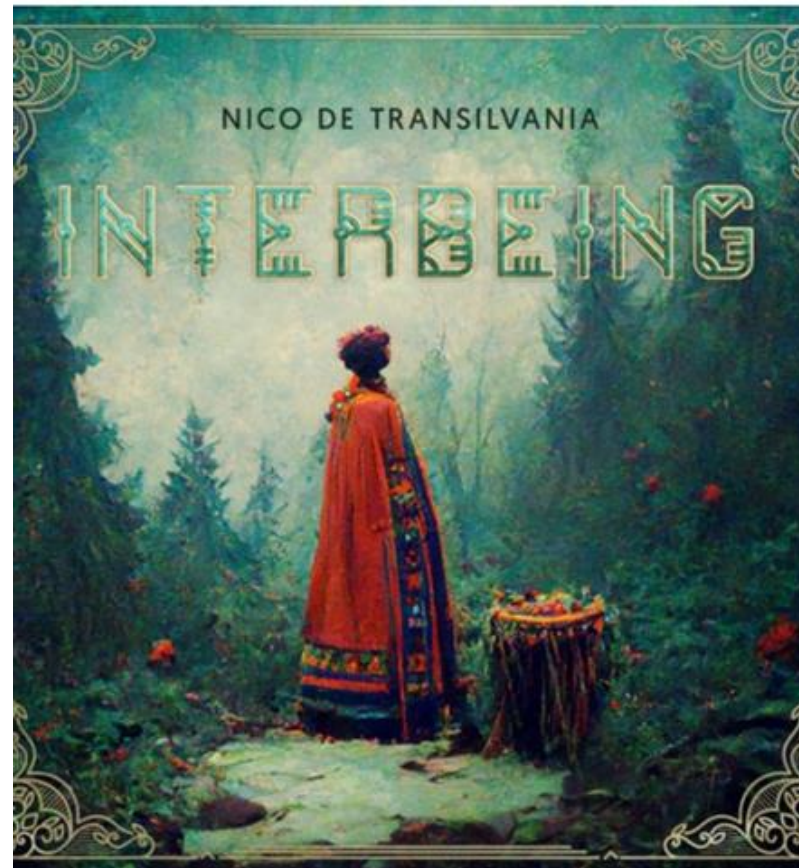
- Together with our colleagues from the Conservation Enterprises, we have started a video series to promote the small producers of the Roadele Munților Food Hub.
- As the cameras rolled, Tanti Maria, our first producer, shared her passion for traditional recipes and her inspiring journey to turn that passion into a thriving business.
- Stay tuned for more heartwarming stories and culinary delights from the Făgăraș Mountains!

Povești cu Gust

Casa Tanti Maria

Ambassador visit

- Our friend and ambassador [Nico de Transylvania](#) was our guest at the ecological restoration sites.
- Through donations and ongoing support, she is helping us in restoring the forests of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- We are looking forward to enjoying her new musical and cultural project Interbeing on the stage of our national event, [Făgăraș Fest](#) in July!



First prize at the Romanian CSR Awards

‘Listen to the bear in you and do good’, [the Ursus corporate social responsibility campaign](#) that supports our efforts to protect the bear habitat in the Făgăraș Mountains and the local communities, won the first prize at the Romanian CSR Awards.
Thank you, Ursus!



Good news

Our conservation project has been added to the list of approved environmental partners 1% for the Planet.

This means that business members associated with this global movement donate at least 1% of their annual sales to environmental solutions.

We are happy to be part of this global platform and thus maximize our impact in protecting the forests of the Făgăraș Mountains and stopping illegal logging.



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, 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 Roadele Munților Food Hub





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

Calea Feldioarei 27A, Brasov – Romania
info@carpathia.org



PHOTO CREDITS: Liviu Liviu Ungureanu, Călin Șerban, Ionuț Crețu, Dan Dinu, Constantin Simion, Victoria Donos, Claudiu Țoanță, Flavius Răuță, Elena Șerban, Mihai Zotta, Daniel Bucur, Ciprian Bodea, Daniel Mîrlea, Ruben Iosif, Georgiana Andrei, Karol Kaliský, Cosmin Vorovenci, Alexandru R. Crețu, George Soare, Georgiana & Mihai Cațan, Robert Lazar, Andrei Popa, Radu Micu, Istvan Szabo, Adelin Simion, Gabriel Dudu.

Cover: Liviu Ungureanu