



Field report

April and May 2023





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

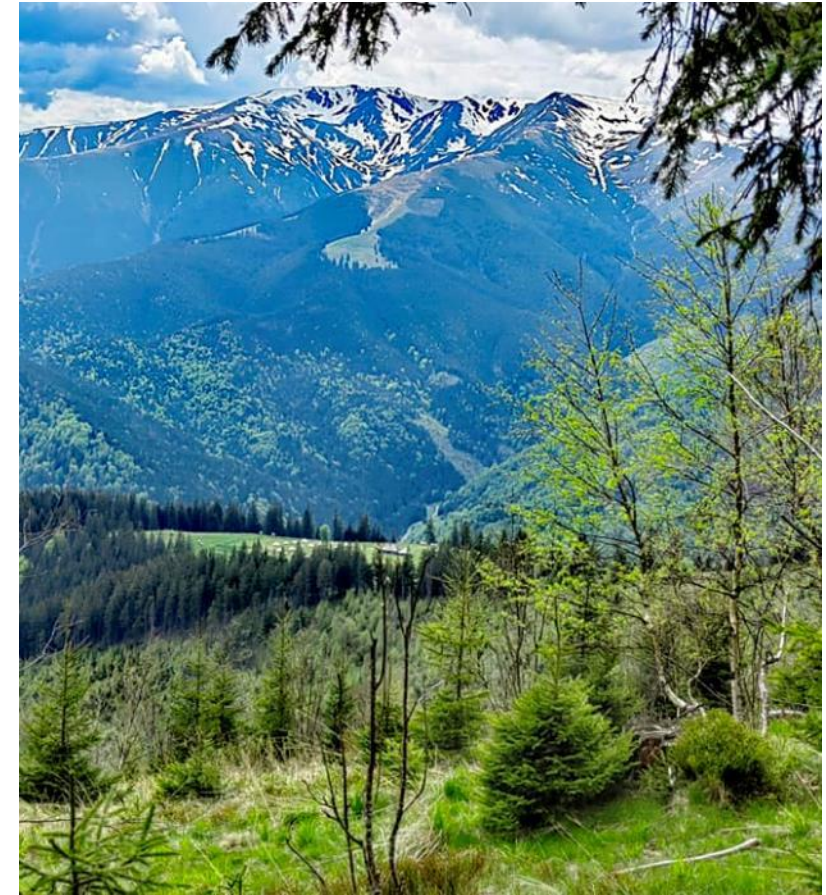
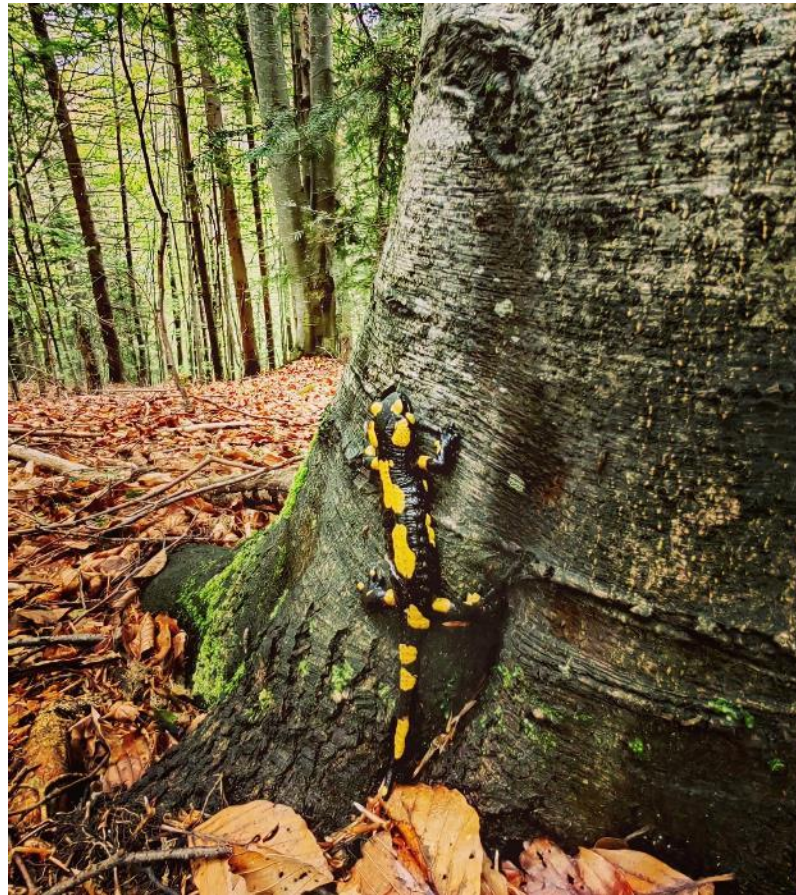


#24 May #European National Parks Day

The first national park in Romania was established in 1935, in the Retezat Mountains. Now we have 13 national parks and the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

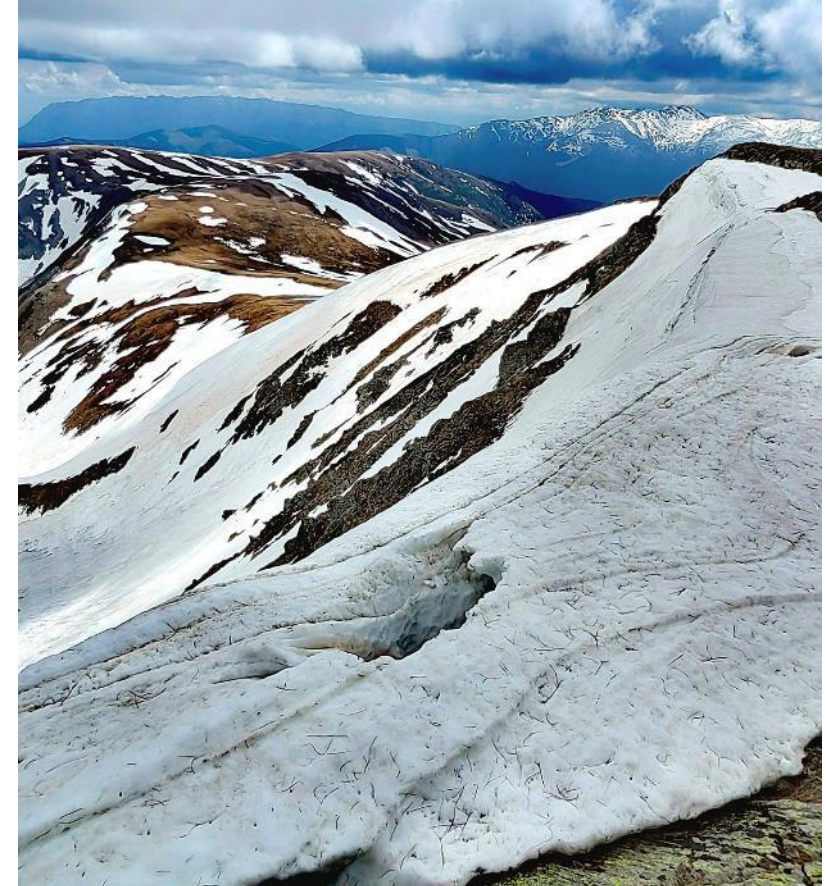
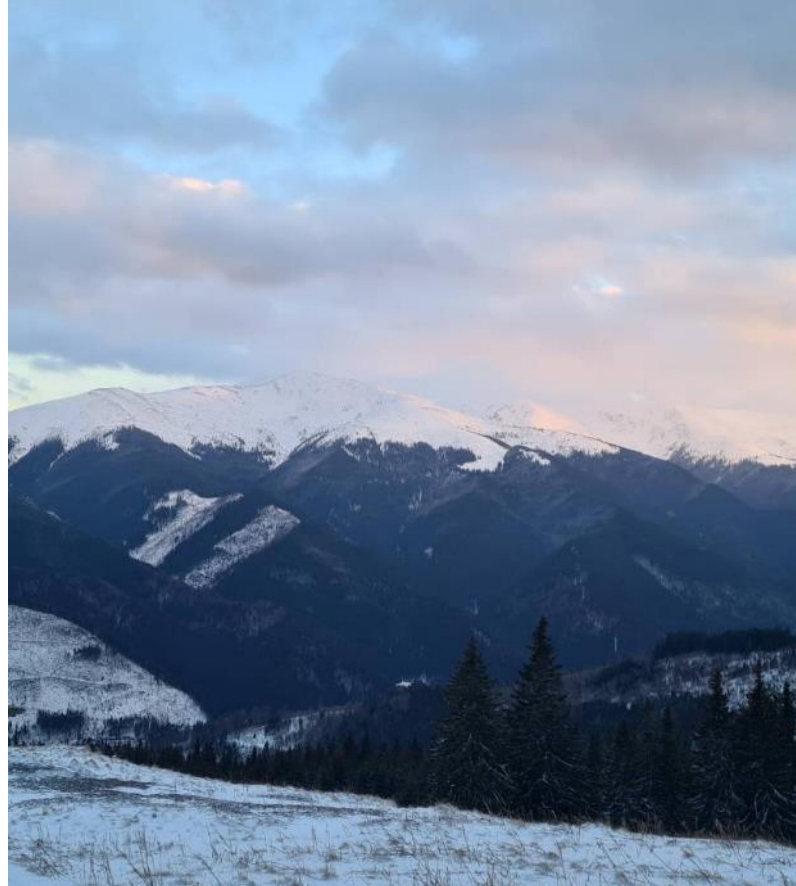
We hope to celebrate this day as soon as possible with a new national park, the most impressive forested park in Europe: the Făgăraș Mountains National Park.

Until then, we will continue our work to protect the forests, to maintain wildlife habitats, reintroduce bison and beaver to the Făgăraș Mountains and develop community programmes and projects.



This is what many areas of the Făgăraș Mountains looked like in April, and the situation created difficulties especially for the restoration teams.

We have witnessed the arrival of late snowfall. It seems that winter is trying to extend its presence beyond its usual boundaries in the calendar and move into other months.



Images from the project area







02

Ecological restoration



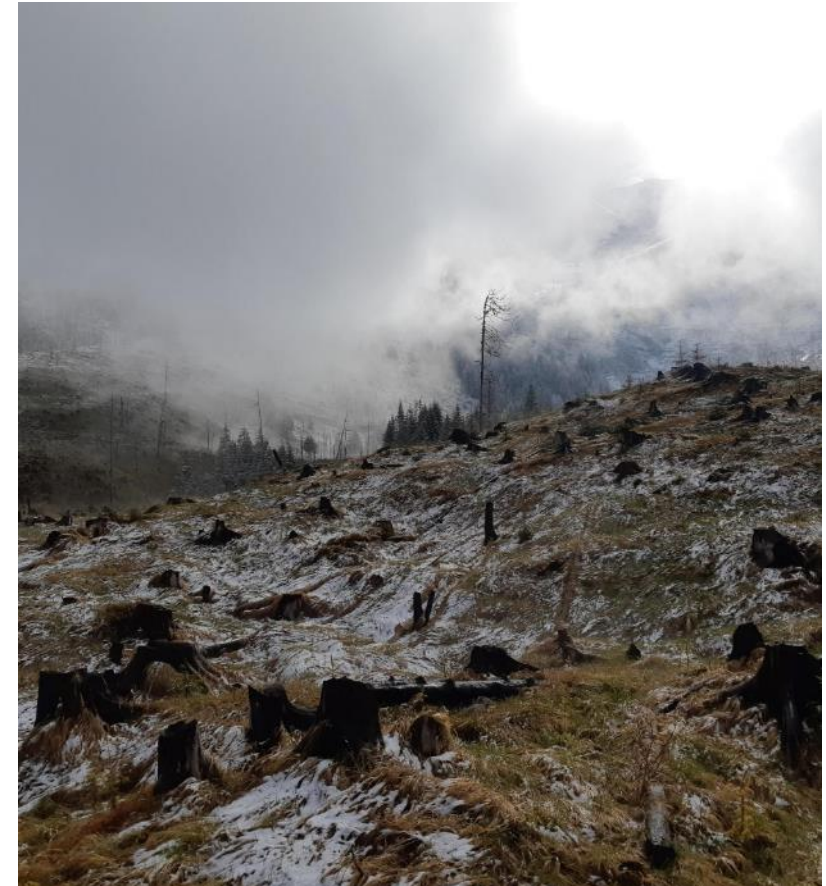
- Our team has achieved impressive results in the restoration work, despite challenging winter conditions.
- This spring, we were able to plant a vast area of **85 hectares** of forest.
- A remarkable total of **338,562** fir, spruce, beech, alder and mountain ash **saplings** were carefully planted.
- Your **contributions** and public funding have made these achievements possible.



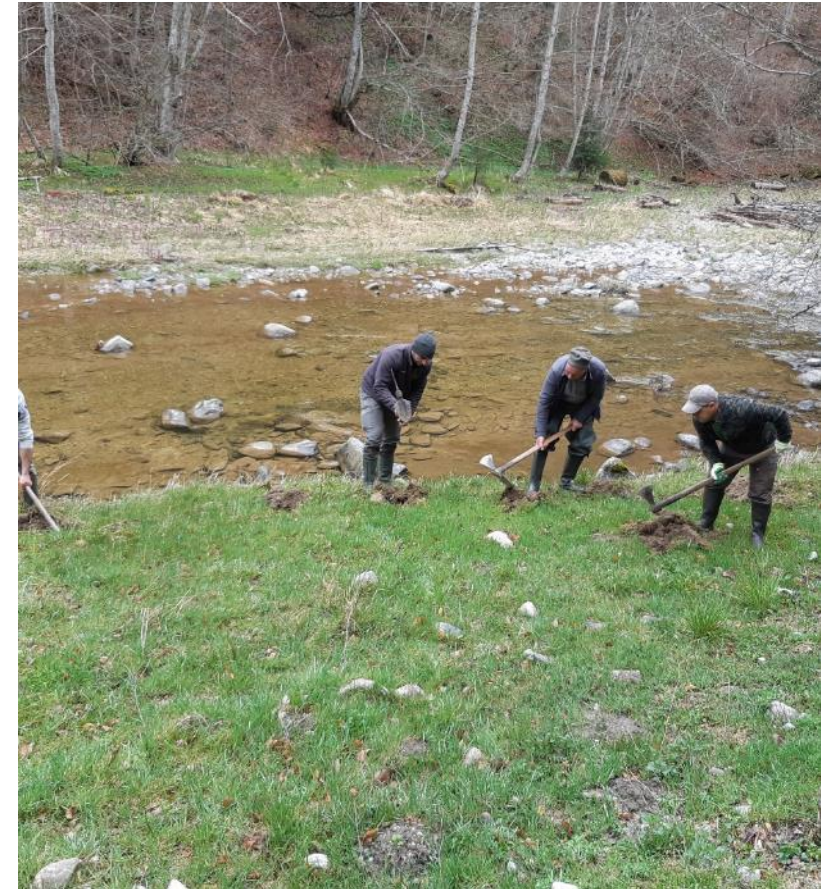
- These significant results bring us closer to the vision of tomorrow's forests in the Făgăraș Mountains, playing a crucial role in mitigating climate change.



- The help of the trusty donkeys has been invaluable in transporting seedlings to inaccessible areas where conventional vehicles cannot go.



- We continued to restore the alder corridors in the Doamnei River floodplain. We received direct support from the Argeş Forestry Directorate, Domneşti Forest Department.
- We are restoring the alder corridors that border the river valleys and play a very important ecological role, stabilising the banks against flooding and stopping their erosion.



- We would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who generously gave their time and effort to our restoration endeavors in the Făgăraș Mountains. Special thanks to the remarkable teams from Agent Green Association and Zentiva company, whose invaluable support made a significant difference.

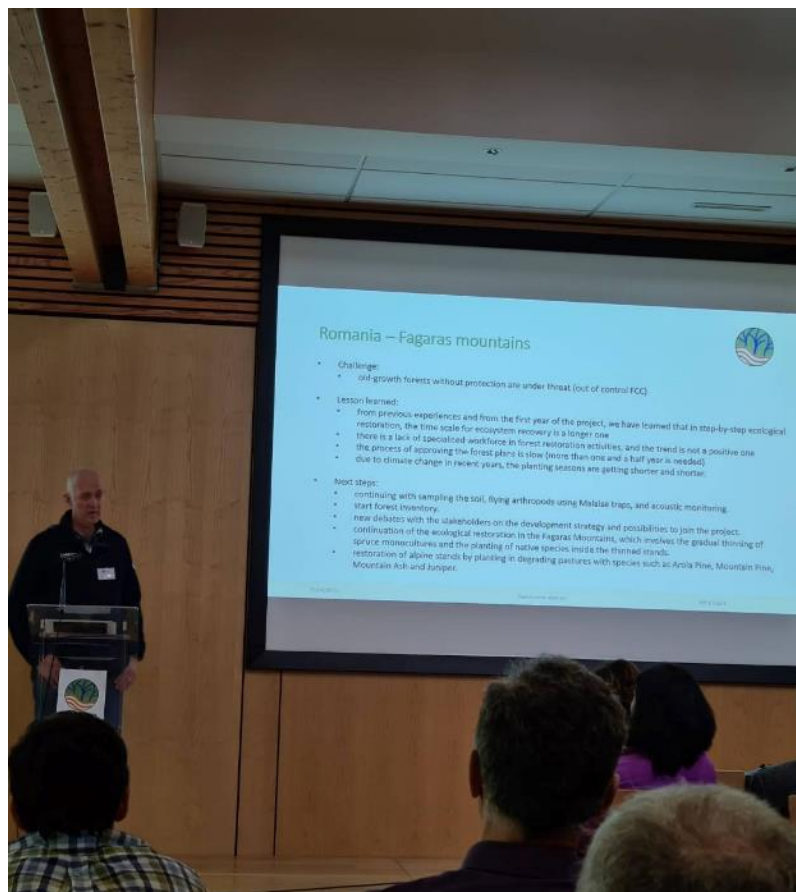


Green houses and tree nurseries

- Continuous care of the seedlings in the greenhouses.
- Seeding spruce trees.
- We've been taking young dwarf pine and spruce saplings out of the greenhouses and transplanting them into the tree nurseries.
- Irrigation of crops in the green houses.



- At the end of April, Mihai Zotta, our Conservation Director, attended the annual meeting of the SUPERB project in Bordeaux.
- SUPERB is the largest transboundary forest ecosystem restoration initiative in Europe.
- The event was a good opportunity for us to present the results of the past year and to talk about our plans for the future.
- Read more about our activities within the SUPERB project [HERE](#).



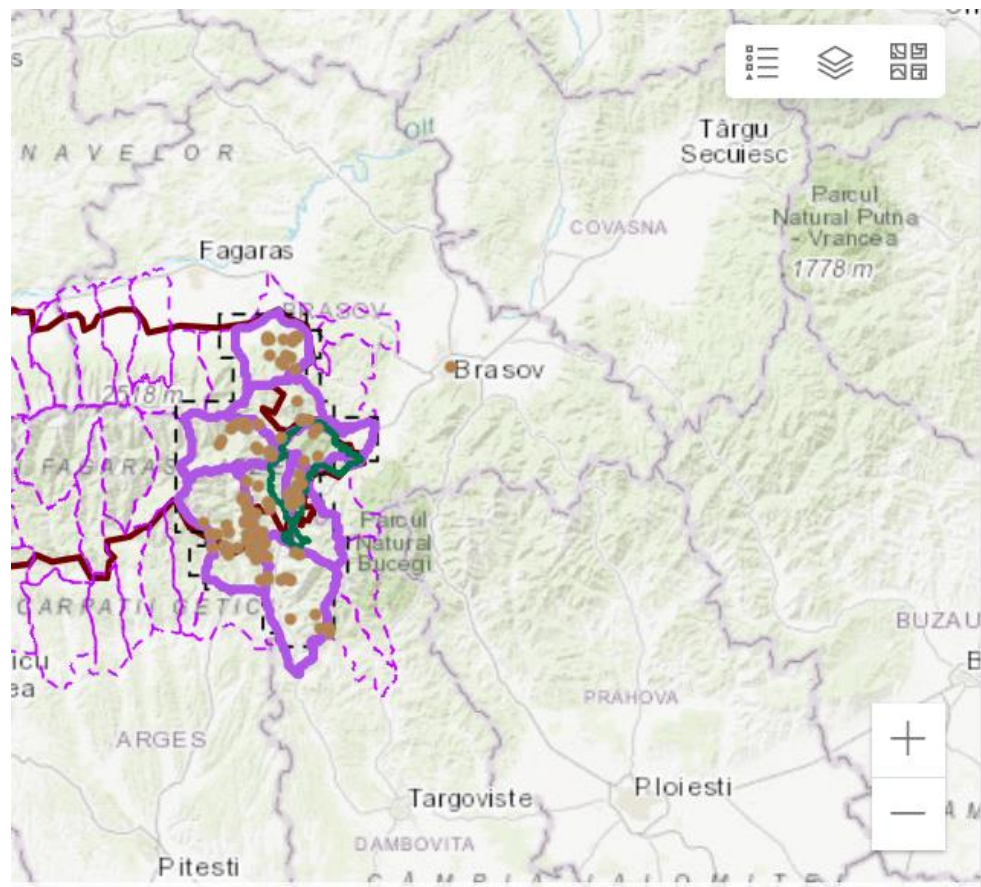
03

Wildlife conservation



Wildlife monitoring

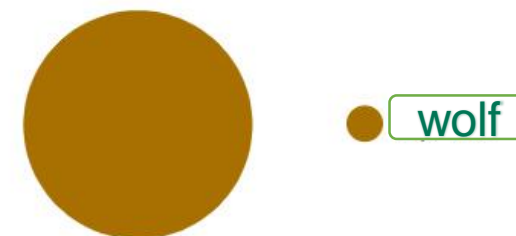
- Wolf Census 2022-2023: We have completed the systematic collection of field samples. Due to lack of snow during December and January, we collected 142 samples out of a target of 250 wolf samples (October-April). We will continue to collect on an opportunistic basis throughout the year.



Samples collected

142

Samples by species



Intensive ungulate monitoring: With 108 of 133 cameras installed, our teams are reaching new heights on the mountain.

Thanks to our dedicated team and volunteers, we've set up 4 teams to install the cameras and centralise the data in our database.



Goodbye to Guillaume Fruquiere, our French volunteer who spent five months with us.

As well as helping to collect genetic samples for the wolf census and setting up camera traps, Guillaume took beautiful field photographs and shared fascinating stories from the field with us.



We organised the on-site travel of the arthropod specialist team to the project areas. Their mission? To set the field traps for the epigeal fauna in the spruce monocultures and along the river banks, in the areas of Dâmbovița Valley, Richita, Tâmaș Valley, Cuca Valley, Valea Ursului, Râușor.



Wildlife reintroductions

Bison reintroduction:

We have released 20 bison in the Făgăraș Mountains from all our reintroduction points: Bunea, Lerești and Nucșoara. They now roam freely in the breathtaking wilderness of the Făgăraș Mountains.

We're closely monitoring the bison groups both in the enclosures and in the wild.



Beaver reintroduction:

We've been busy trapping beavers from the northern side of the Făgăraș Mountains. We're working to reintroduce these hardworking creatures to the southern side of the Făgăraș Mountains to help maintain a balanced ecosystem.



Vulture reintroduction:

The majestic vultures might return to the Făgăraș Mountains!

We're currently in the preparation phase, analysing field data to identify conditions and the best sites for their reintroduction.

We aim to provide the right habitat for these magnificent birds to be able to thrive once again in the Făgăraș Mountains.



Wildlife management

- Over the Easter period, we collected waste to solve the problem of animal waste being dumped on the edge of farms and villages.
- This practice attracts bears because of the smell of the meat.
- Since Easter, some of the farmers in Rucăr commune have been bringing their animal waste to the collection point we organised in cooperation with Rucăr Town Hall.
- A specialised company collected and incinerated the waste, with all the costs covered by us.
- In this way, some of the bear attractions in Rucăr have been removed.
- We hope that this is a significant step forward in the prevention of human-bear conflicts.



- To mitigate wildlife conflicts, we continue to maintain and monitor the electric fences installed on local farms, particularly in high-risk areas.
- Additionally, we've taken proactive measures by planting fields with wildlife feed.
- This strategy provides an alternative food source for wild boars, discouraging them from venturing into grasslands around communities.



- Our day and night patrols ensure the monitoring of areas frequented by bears. We've also installed camera traps across all five of our wildlife management units to monitor these areas.
- We intensified patrols in the Voina area following reports of bear presence and subsequent damage.
- Our intervention team chased the bear away several times.
- We are trying to catch this bear as soon as possible, but unfortunately and strangely, the owners of houses and cabins in the area do not call 112 when this bear appears...



Carpathian shepherd dogs programme

- We are excited to announce that Aspra has 8 puppies of that we will donate to local farmers that use the meadows of the Făgăraș Mountains area.
- Donating certified Romanian Carpathian shepherd dogs is part of the foundation's strategy to prevent the damage caused by large carnivores among livestock.
- Find out more about our programme [HERE](#).



Wildlife images & video

"Living like a wolf in the woods"

Red deer Eurasian lynx Wolf

Capercaillie Just... wildlife



Wildlife images





04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme

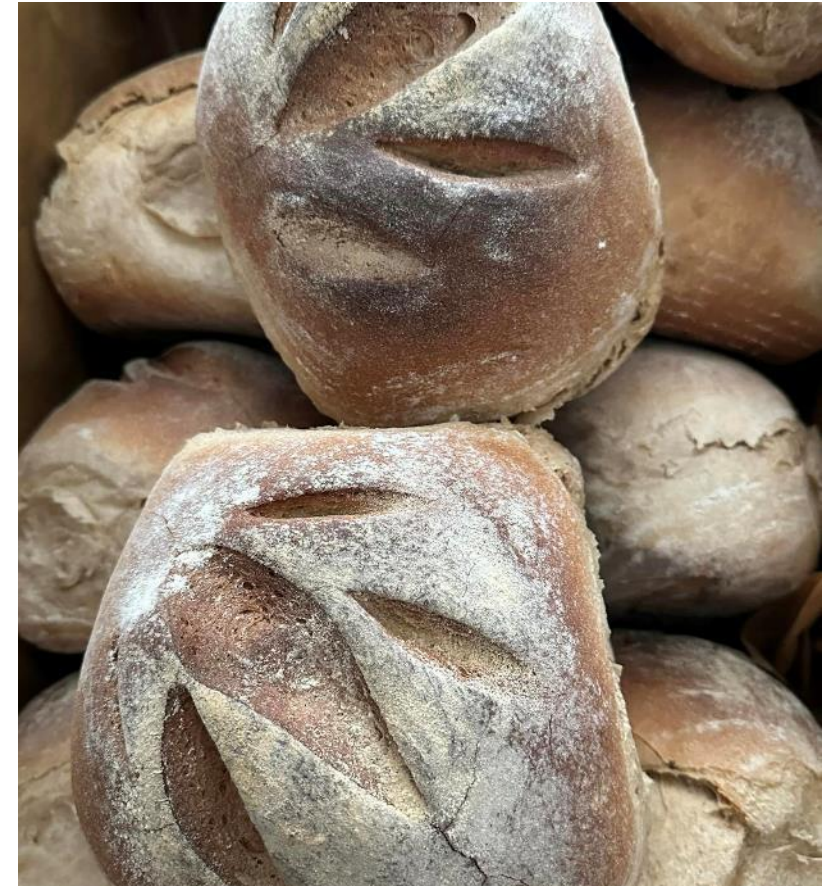


Food HUB

- Exciting news from the [Roadele Munților Făgăraș](#) Foodhub!
- We're preparing for new producers in our food hub.
- Knitted sweaters from the commune Corbii de Piatră and delectable Mangalița meat will soon be part of our diverse offerings.
- With over 20 producers already onboard, Roadele Munților Food Hub is actively supporting the local economy.
- Even in challenging times, these small, local producers create valuable economic opportunities for the community.



- A Visit to Dieter's Bread.
- This small, family-owned business operates with unwavering commitment and a no-compromise approach.
- The owners work hand in hand with their employees to create outstanding products.
- Their bread, crafted with polyfloral honey, organic flour, and a deep respect for health and nature, truly stands out.
- Stay tuned for their captivating story, soon to be featured in our Tasty Stories (Povești cu Gust) series on our social media page.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- Spring at [Cobor Biodiversity Farm](#) was full of the joyful presence of children!
- As part of the Green Week programme, we organised special farm visits for schools in Brasov County.
- More than 150 enthusiastic students joined us and immersed themselves in the wonders of nature.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

Here's a quick update on our ongoing farm activities:

- Removing dry vegetation from pastures.
- Maintaining roadside ditches.
- Preparing equipment for Alfalfa and hay production.
- Our horses from the Livery and Rehabilitation Centre received thorough checks and veterinary treatment to ensure their health and well-being.

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



- Mark your calendars! We kick off the summer events in Cobor with the adventurous [Carpathia Bike Tour](#) and the vibrant [Cobor între Stejari](#) festival.
- Join us on June 3rd and 4th for two unforgettable days when we'll escape from the outside world, revel in the beauty of this place, give thanks to nature, dance to the rhythm of history, music and good times.



Wildlife hides

Our wildlife hides are open to visitors again. The Făgăraș Mountains are incredible, teeming with wildlife and our guides are ready to delight you with the stories of these unique places in Europe.

Where would you like nature to delight you this season? From the [Bunea wilderness cabin](#) or from the [Comisu wildlife hides](#)?



We look forward to seeing you on our [Travel Carpathia blog](#), where you will find news from the Făgăraș Mountains, our ecotourism tips and recommendations, and news about our conservation projects.



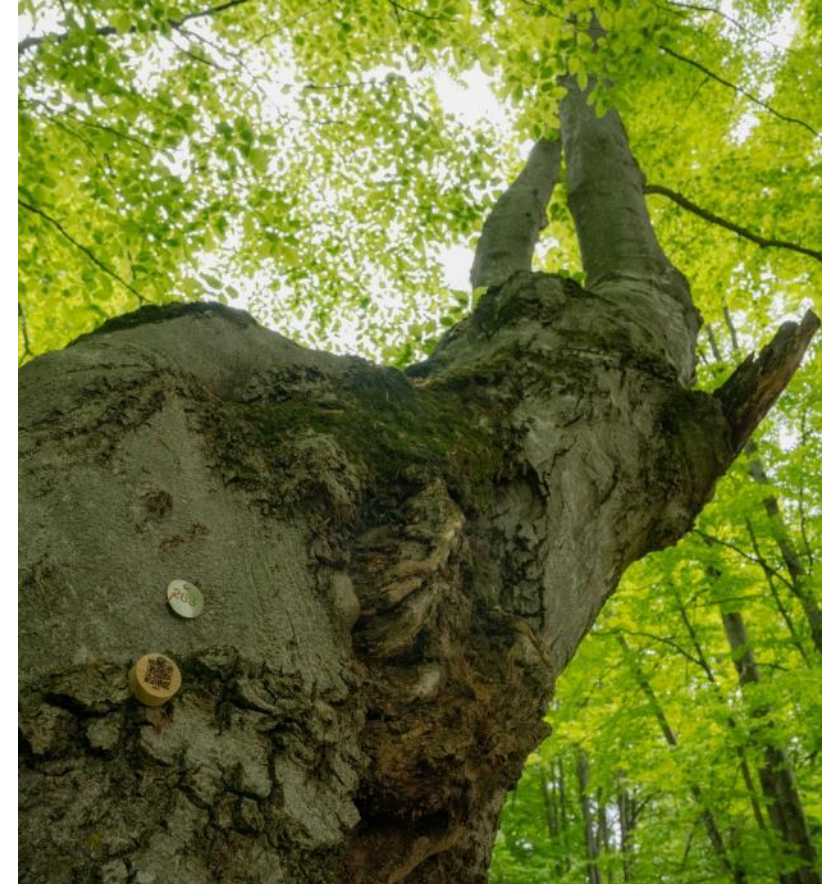
05

Communication &
community outreach



The Forest of Immortal Stories in Nucșoara commune

- We have launched "[The Forest of Immortal Stories](http://www.arboricupovesti.ro)", a project of the commune Nucșoara, in Argeș County, realized with our support.
- This unique initiative protects 2544 ancient beech trees in one of the most beautiful communes in Europe, nestled in the Făgăraș Mountains. You can be part of this fascinating story by adopting a beech tree at www.arboricupovesti.ro
- Your adopted tree will bear your name and your donation, ensuring its preservation and contributing to the development of the area. Join us in preserving these timeless treasures!



Media trip

- Journalists from national and local publications accepted our invitation to explore the fascinating "Forest of Immortal Stories" in Nucșoara, Argeș County.
- During their visit, they witnessed first-hand our efforts to protect the ancient beech forests of Nucșoara commune. Our focus is on raising awareness, developing visitor infrastructure and incorporating these invaluable natural wonders into a tourist circuit, all aimed at promoting this remarkable area.
- Together, we strive to protect and showcase the beauty of these ancient beech forests, ensuring their preservation for generations to come.



Music, people and nature in the Făgăraș Mountains

- The trip "[VlogONcello in the Făgăraș Mountains](#)" has become the subject of a documentary film that captures the beauty of living in the midst of nature.
- Cellist Radu Croitoru has brought classical music to the communities at the foot of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- The bow of his cello has been heard in Nucșoara, Sătic, Rucăr and Avrig, and his playing has been rewarded with local handicrafts.
- It's a project that we have supported and that reminds us of the beauty of people and nature in the Făgăraș Mountains.



Adopt a corner of nature contest

- An exciting challenge for young nature lovers! We're inviting children from the Făgăraș Mountains to "adopt a corner of nature" for a chance to win a seven-day trip to the Bavarian Forest National Park.
- Students aged between 13 and 17 can take part by choosing a favourite piece of nature and explaining why it's unique and worth protecting.
- We're looking for creative actions they would take to preserve and enhance their chosen place. We also want to hear their ideas on how they can inspire others in their community to join this important mission.



**Adoptă
un colț
de natură**
Concurs pentru elevi

Făgăraș Fest 2023

- More than 50 volunteers will be with us again this year at [Făgăraș Fest, 4th edition!](#)
- We met with the team of volunteer coordinators to roll up their sleeves and organise an unforgettable edition.
- They are dedicated young people who are passionate about what they do, with love and respect for nature.
- The commitment of the Brasov volunteers is very important to us! Thank you for your support!



Carpathia Scholarship winners

- Carpathia Scholarship winners experienced an incredible camp, exploring ecosystems and protected areas while having fun at the Richita Nature Centre.
- This programme engages passionate students in the conservation of the Făgăraş Mountains.
- We are looking forward to continuing this opportunity and involving more young people in our conservation initiatives.



International visits

- In May we were privileged to host the Bavarian State Parliamentary Committee for the Environment and Consumer Protection.
- During their visit, we had insightful discussions on the conservation model developed by our Foundation, our approach to ecotourism, and our impactful educational programs. Very interesting for the Bavarian delegation was, how Romanians co-exist with large carnivores and what FCC does to keep conflicts on a low level.
- Together, we explored Tămaș Peak, delved into the nature-friendly conservation model implemented at Cobor Biodiversity Farm, and exchanged ideas on the educational initiatives at Richita Nature Centre.
- Sharing knowledge and learning from each other enables us to strive for the utmost excellence in biodiversity conservation.



International visits

- In May, we were delighted to be joined by our dear friends and enthusiastic supporters, [Journeys With Purpose](#), for an unforgettable visit to the enchanting Făgăraș Mountains.



Visits from Universities

We have received the visit of a great group of 70 students from the University for Sustainable Development Eberswalde in Germany. They enjoyed four extraordinary days in the wilderness of the Făgăraș Mountains.



Good news

- In May, Barbara and Christoph Promberger, our Executive Directors, travelled to California to talk about our efforts to create a national park in the Făgăraș Mountains!
- We were delighted to be among the guests at the David Brower Center in an event organized by the [Earth Island Institute](#), and to speak about our unique conservation project.



Partnership and training

- Sustainability goes beyond buzzwords and CSR campaigns.
- It requires profound changes at all levels of an organisation, transforming relationships with nature, people and business ecosystems.
- **We had an enlightening training session with the Ascendis team, engaging in practical exercises and discussions.**
- We are grateful for their generous two-day training, which provided us with the expertise to implement new processes in our work.



New friends of the Făgăraș Mountains

- New supporters embrace the Făgăraș Mountains!
- We're delighted to welcome seven influential figures from Romanian media, tourism and marketing who share our vision for a national park.



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

1,991 ha

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

4,056,554

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





Anacamptis morio, the green-winged orchid

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

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