



# Field report

July 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

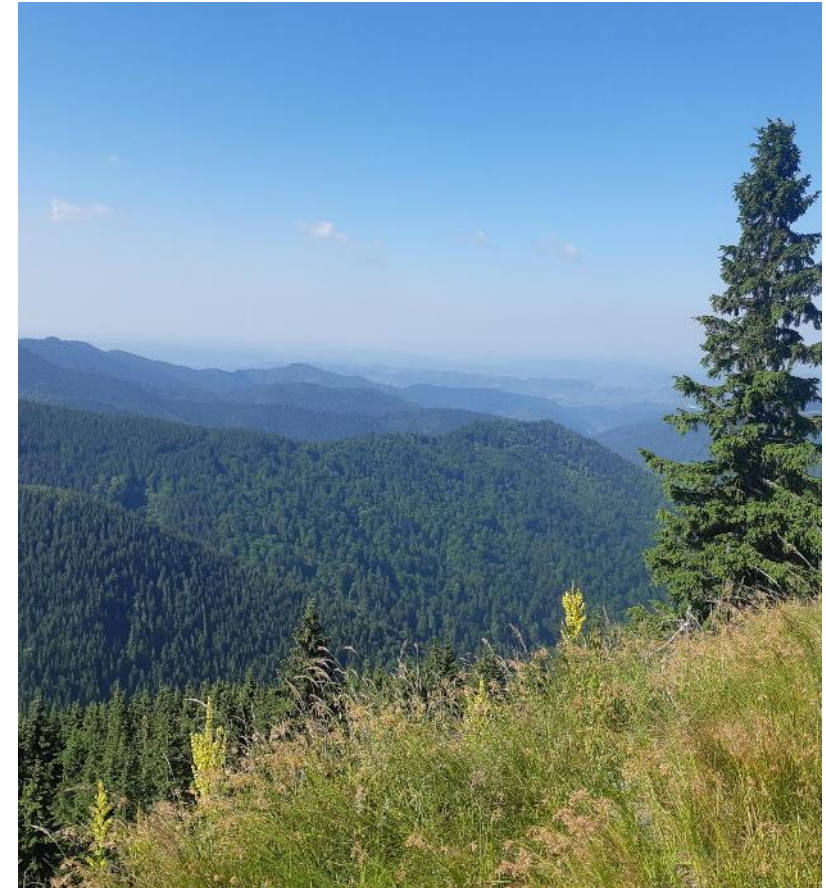




During July, we have purchased 26.7 ha of forests for full protection.

Our rangers are constantly patrolling and monitoring the forests to ensure their safety and protection.

Preserving them is vital to our continued efforts to solve the pressing challenges of climate change and ensure a healthier future for all.



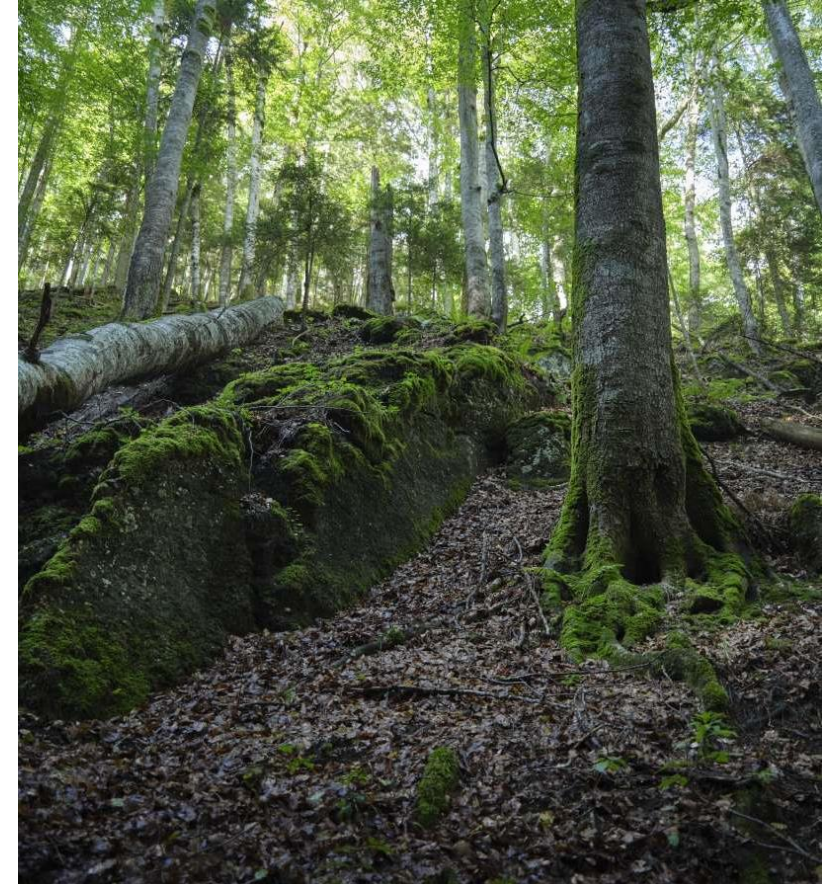
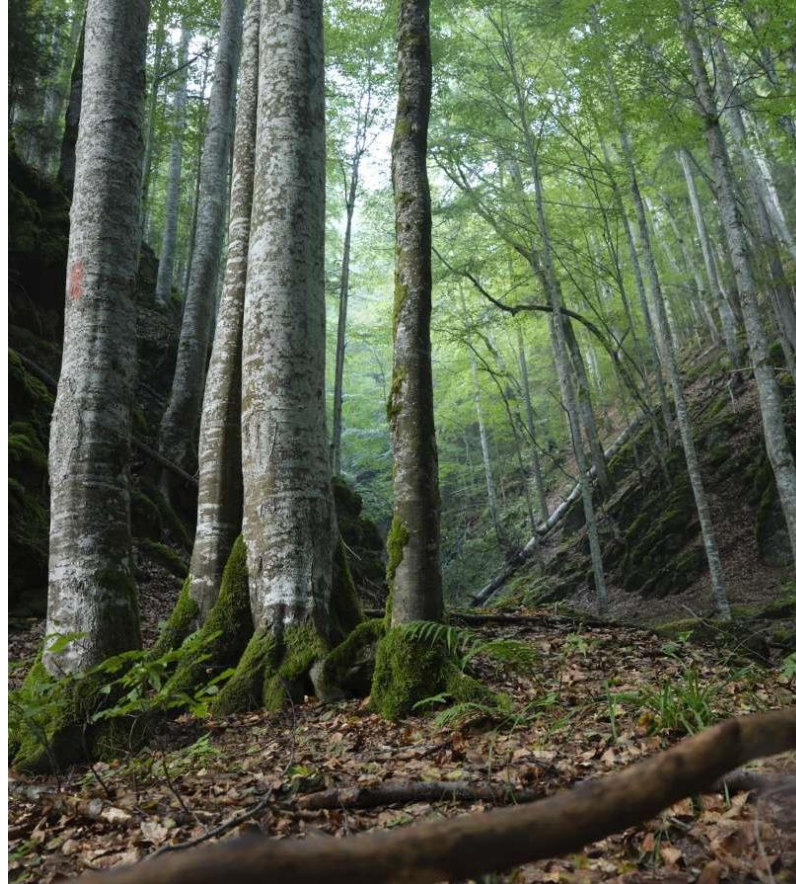


# CARPATHIA Forest Carbon Project

Our forest experts are measuring and quantifying the value of our forests for the CARPATHIA Forest Carbon Project.

We are currently preparing for the audit and on-site visit – the final step required before carbon credits can be issued.

We will hopefully soon receive our credits under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) programme, the world's most widely used voluntary carbon credit standard.











02

Ecological restoration





- We have initiated the conversion of spruce monocultures within the SUPERB project (Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest-related biodiversity and ecosystem services), the largest transboundary forest landscape restoration project in Europe.
- We are working in two different areas and are gradually restoring the natural mixed forest that existed here through ecological restoration measures, replacing spruce monocultures with mixed forests and developing a scalable model.
- As part of the LIFE Carpathia project, we also work on the conversion of spruce monocultures in some areas and we are using the timber removed from there for the development of the CARPATHIA infrastructure.





# Green houses and tree nurseries

- Summer is a busy time in our tree nurseries: weeding and watering are the most important tasks.



Weeding the silver fir saplings in Dragosloveni nursery



Weeding the dwarf pine saplings



Spruce saplings, Valea lui Ivan nursery



Mountain ash saplings



Weeding the silver fir saplings in Valea lui Ivan nursery



# Removing the invasive alien (IAS) plant species

- We continued the removal of the invasive alien plant species along mountain riverbanks: Râul Târgului, Richita, Dragoslovenilor, Dâmboviței, Vidraru Lake, Buda Valley.
- We have identified and removed numerous plants of *Erigeron annuus* and *Reynoutria japonica* along over 17 km of mountain riverbanks.
- We will continue to uproot or cut *Erigeron annuus* (daisy fleabane), *Conyza canadensis* (horseweed), *Reynoutria japonica* (Japanese knotweed) throughout August.





# Removing the invasive alien (IAS) plant species

We selected 20 sample areas in which we took fixed-point photographs (FPP) accompanied by botanical surveys to monitor the evolution of invasive alien plants in the Râul Târgului, Richita, Dragoslovenilor and Dâmbovița Valleys.

In all areas, the cover of invasive alien plant species has decreased by 50-70% compared to 2022 as a result of the removal work carried out by our team in previous years.





03

Wildlife conservation





# Wildlife monitoring

Intensive monitoring of red deer: the camera traps generate a remarkable volume of images, requiring frequent memory card changes, data downloads and analysis. And a lot of field work.

In addition, our focus is now shifting to the preparation of the camera trap monitoring for Eurasian lynx – marking yet another exciting phase in understanding changes over time.





Thank you to our dedicated volunteers  
– Erik Goto, Elena Ștefan and Viorel  
Rădescu – who joined our wildlife  
monitoring team in July.





# Wildlife reintroductions

## Bison reintroduction:

As autumn approaches, an exciting challenge awaits us: the transfer of 20 new bison, bringing us closer to our goal.

Three new calves born this year blend beautifully into the wild herds.

We were happy to have our wildlife management colleagues from the Bavarian Forest National Park visiting us.





## Beaver reintroduction:

The beavers have built a lodge at one of the reintroduction sites and their positive impact on the landscape is already visible.

We are monitoring all the reintroduction sites and have purchased a quarantine container for future translocations.

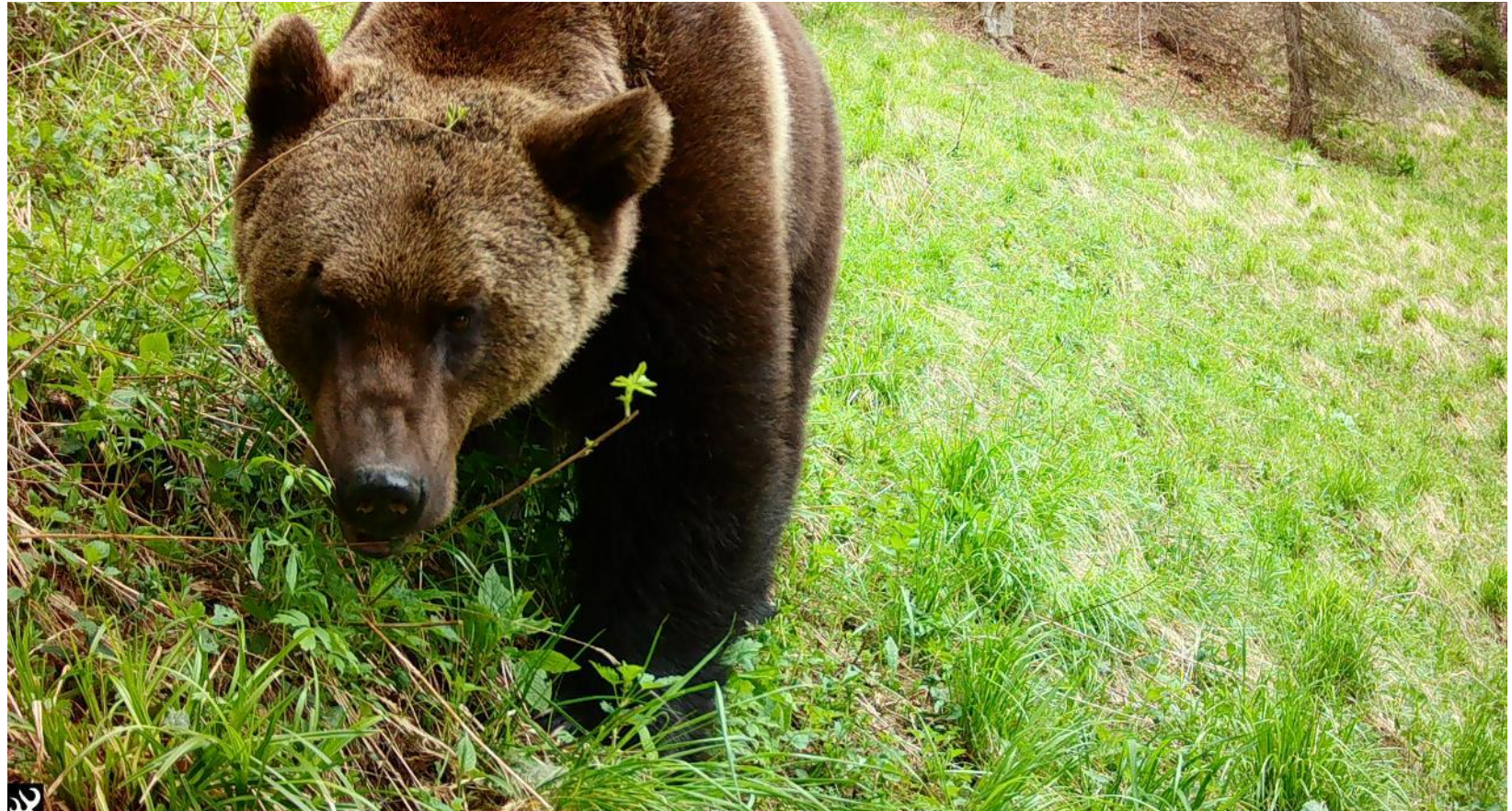
We are also working on a documentary about the species to explain the role of beavers for people and nature, especially in the context of climate change.





# Wildlife management

- July brought both challenges and progress.
- The intervention teams have been busy recording an increase in the frequency of bear presence in the local communities of the Southeastern Făgăraș Mountains.
- To reduce human-bear conflicts, the intervention teams have taken proactive measures such as installing electric fences and patrolling by night.





# Carpathian shepherd dogs programme

- A new generation of Carpathian shepherd dogs have been donated to their new owners in the Făgăraș Mountains.
- They will guard the mountain herds with great vigour while being gentle with the tourists who walk the mountain paths.
- All puppies are vaccinated and monitored by our team for one year after donation.





# Wildlife images&video

Bison

Red deer

Knock, knock: Are you there?

A lazy summer

Wildlife in the Făgăraș Mountains





# Wildlife images







04

Conservation Enterprise  
Programme





# Food HUB

- Blueberries, blackberries and delicious mushrooms are the colour of the landscape at this time of year.
- Local producers are now busy preserving these treasures using traditional recipes to ensure their availability throughout the winter months.
- This summer, try our selection of local delicacies with a refreshing CARPATHIA beer, our new organic beer made with water from the springs of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- Soon to be available at [Roadele Muntilor Foodhub](#), CARPATHIA's certified organic beer is artfully brewed in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains by a local artisan micro-brewery.





# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

At [COBOR](#), the essence of nature unfolds and offers a fascinating glimpse into the endless freedom of the Transylvanian hills.

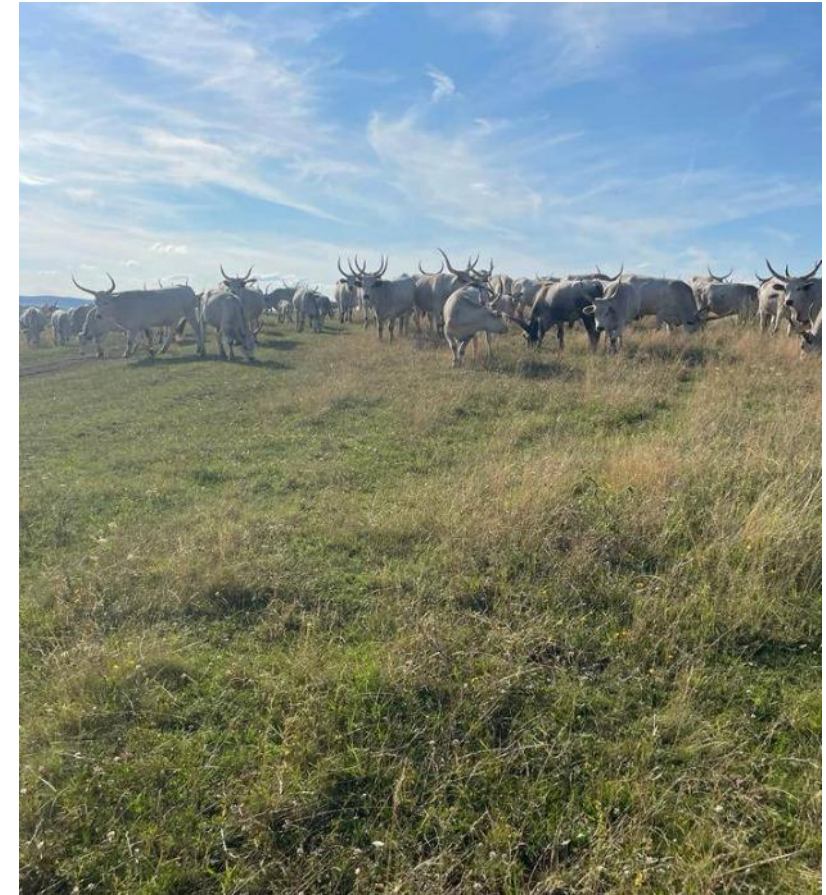
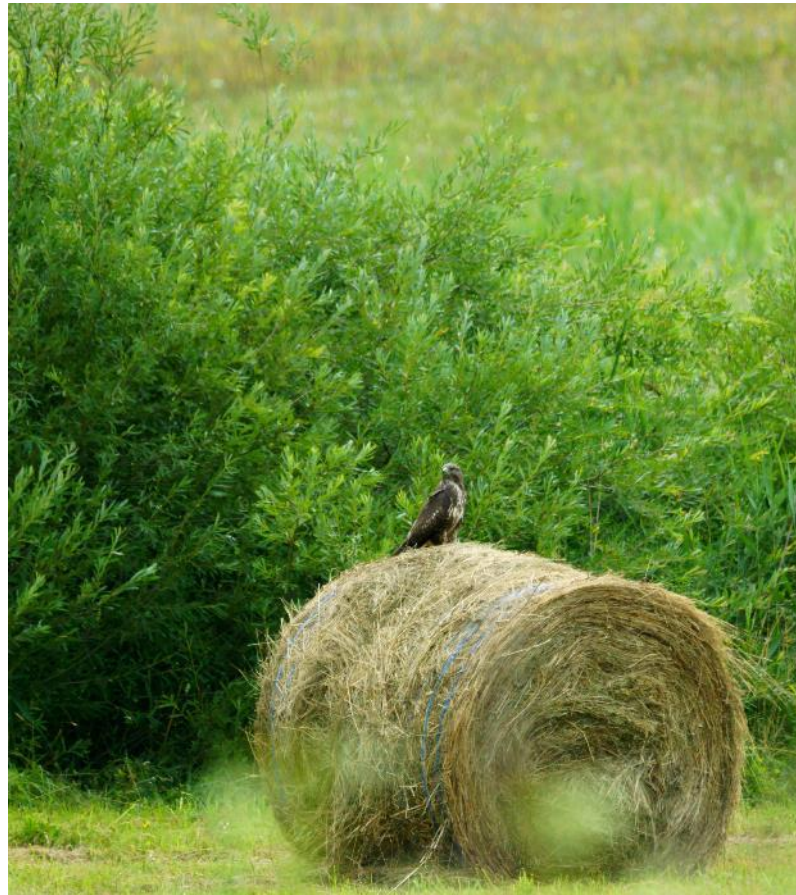
Start your summer journey at [reservation@cobor-farm.ro](mailto:reservation@cobor-farm.ro)!





# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- We're preparing supplies for the winter and have already prepared 700 bales of hay. We have a lot of mouths to feed with our horse livery and rehabilitation centre and our herd of Transylvanian grey cattle.
- We also have challenges as our vehicles often break down and need constant maintenance due to the rough terrain.
- We take care of the cattle and the Carpathian shepherd dogs.





# Wildlife hides

At [Travel CARPATHIA](#), we've curated a selection of must-have experiences in the stunning Făgăraș Mountains just for you.

When you book a [wildlife experience](#) with us, you're not only embarking on the trip of a lifetime, you're also making a positive impact on forest conservation.

Book your spot now and get ready to make this summer truly exceptional!





Following the Wild Strawberry Trail in the Făgăraș Mountains, you will [reach the Valea Vladului Chalet](#), where peace and calm reign at an altitude of 1248 metres.

The Valea Vladului Chalet is our invitation to the perfect setting for a relaxing experience in one of the last untouched wilderness areas in Europe.

For information and booking please contact [reservation@travelcarpathia.com](mailto:reservation@travelcarpathia.com)





# 05

Communication &  
community outreach





# Făgăraș Fest, Porumbacu de Sus, 7th – 9th July 2023

- Over 6,000 nature lovers connected with the energy of the mountains and nature at the 4th edition of the [Făgăraș Fest](#).
- This year we celebrated the Făgăraș Mountains at Porumbacu de Sus, in a fairytale setting, on a plateau with a spectacular view of Vârful Negoiu, 2,535 m, the second highest peak in Romania.
- We had three days and two nights of nature activities, walking along the forest paths at the foot of the mountain, discovering the secrets of the animals, birds and pollinating insects of the area.





# Făgăraș Fest 2023 in fine figures



**6000** festival participants



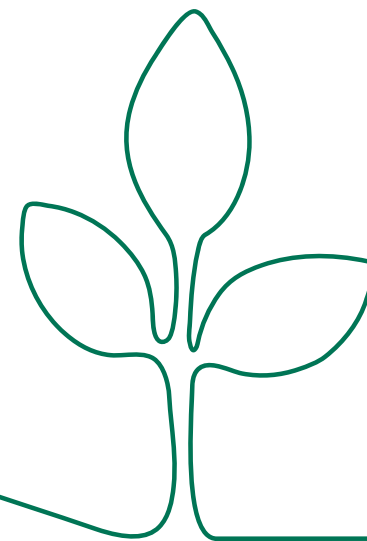
**485** participants in guided tours



**30** local artisans  
and producers



**70** volunteers  
and organisers













# We are rebuilding the refuges in the Făgăraș Mountains

- Together with the Carpathian Mountain Association and Argeș Mountain Rescue, we are rebuilding the refuges in the Făgăraș Mountains, and we have supported them by providing air transport.
- The first refuge installed this year is the Scara refuge, located in the place of the old refuge, in Șaua Scării, at an altitude of 2,146 m, near Vârf Negoiu (2,535 m) and Custura Sărății (one of the most exposed and difficult segments of the Făgăraș Mountains). The project is the result of the collaboration of a team of architects, engineers, mountaineers, NGOs, public and private institutions.
- Our aim is to rebuild at least one mountain refuge per year in the Făgăraș Mountains, thus creating a well-developed infrastructure for the future National Park.





# The Forest of Immortal Stories

- Discover the magic of Nucșoara commune: adopt your own beech tree and your story will live on in the Făgăraș Mountains.
- Believe it or not, hundreds of ancient beech trees are waiting to be adopted and enrich the community with meaningful contributions.
- Explore the "Forest of Immortal Stories" [HERE](#).





# CARPATHIA education programme

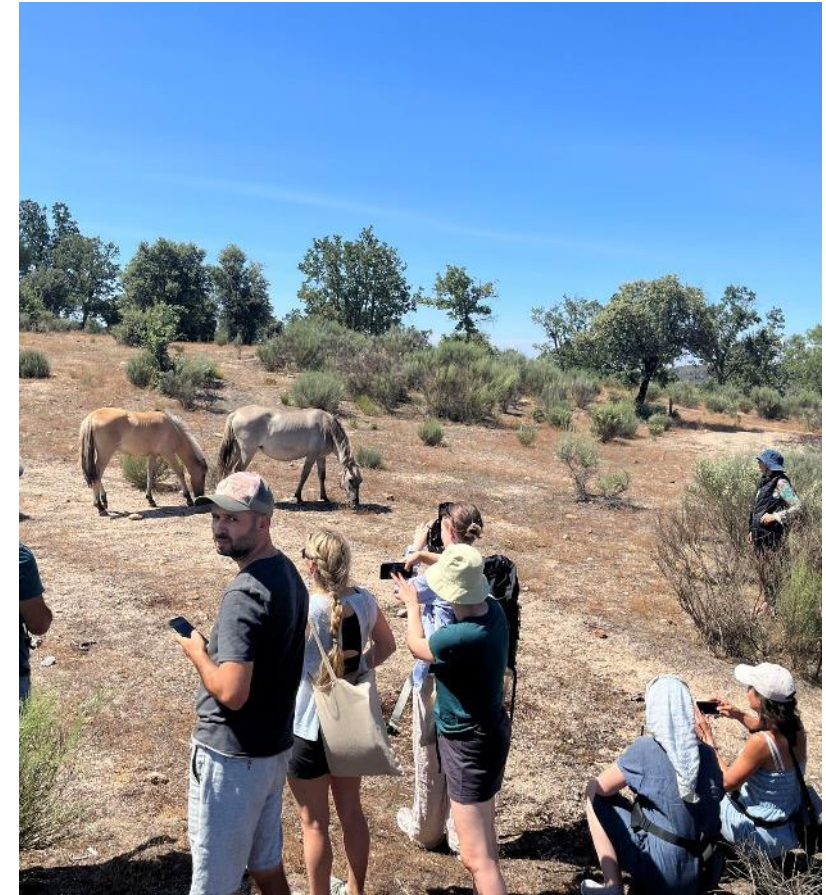
- 15 children from the local communities of the Făgăraș Mountains visited the Bavarian Forest National Park in July, where they learned and discovered new things.
- Like real naturalists, with their backpacks on and their eyes full of curiosity, they discovered the secrets of the park: how the protected area has evolved since its creation, what species live in this wild place, and what the philosophy of 'let nature be nature' means.





# Cross-border exchange on nature conservation

- Our colleagues took part in an exchange programme with Rewilding Portugal.
- The Portuguese team presented their conservation efforts in the Coa Valley.
- Our team presented our projects and initiatives in the local communities in the vicinity of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- This visit facilitated dialogue and knowledge sharing between projects from different countries.
- Organised by the Endangered Landscapes Programme (ELP), the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and the Arcadia Foundation, the visit brought together 24 conservation practitioners from 9 countries.





# CARPATHIA summer picnic

- In July, the CARPATHIA team gathered for a summer picnic in Poiana Tamas.
- It was a warming occasion to celebrate our achievements and engage in friendly games and team challenges that challenged our skills in the field.
- In the quiet embrace of nature, we celebrated our collective accomplishments.





# Meetings and international visits

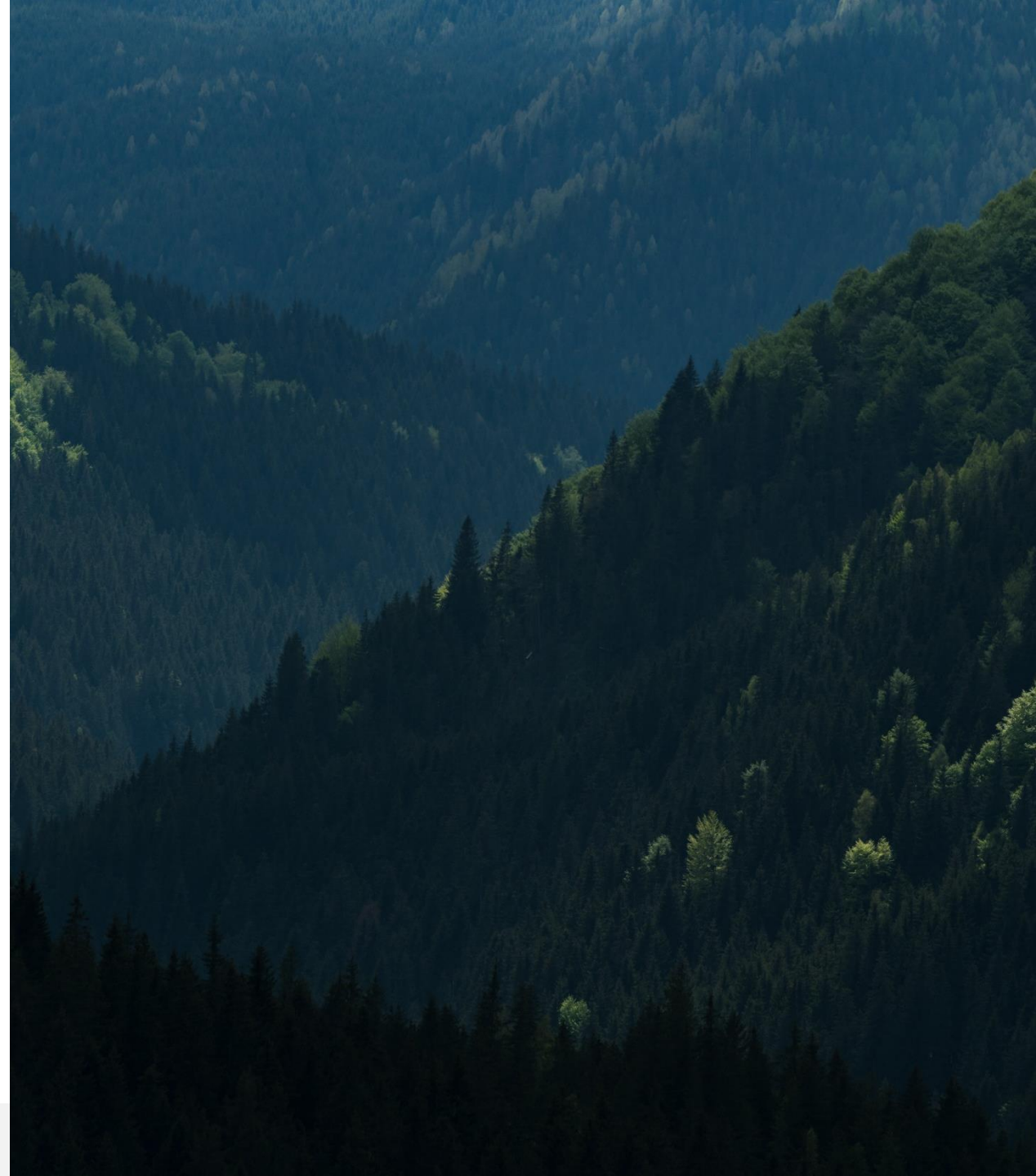
- In July, Christoph and Barbara Promberger, our Executive Directors, met with Kathleen Kavalec, Ambassador of the United States of America to Romania, on her diplomatic visit to Braşov.
- During the meeting they discussed the impact of our conservation project in the Făgăraş Mountains, the environmental challenges Romania is facing and the future National Park, which could be the economic solution for the rural areas around the Făgăraş Mountains and the engine for sustainable rural development.
- Her Excellency pointed out that a National Park in Făgăraş Mountains could be a source of pride for all Romanians, having the most important National Park on the continent.





# Meetings and international visits

- We were honoured to receive a visit from representatives of the Berchtesgaden National Park, which promotes international cooperation and knowledge sharing.





## Annual report 2022

- We have published our annual report for 2022. A year of hard work and significant conservation actions in the Făgăraș Mountains.
- You can read our annual report [HERE](#).

# Annual Report 2022

FOUNDATION CONSERVATION CARPATHIA





# Results

27,927 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









# 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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**Cover: Dan Dinu**