



Field report

August 2023

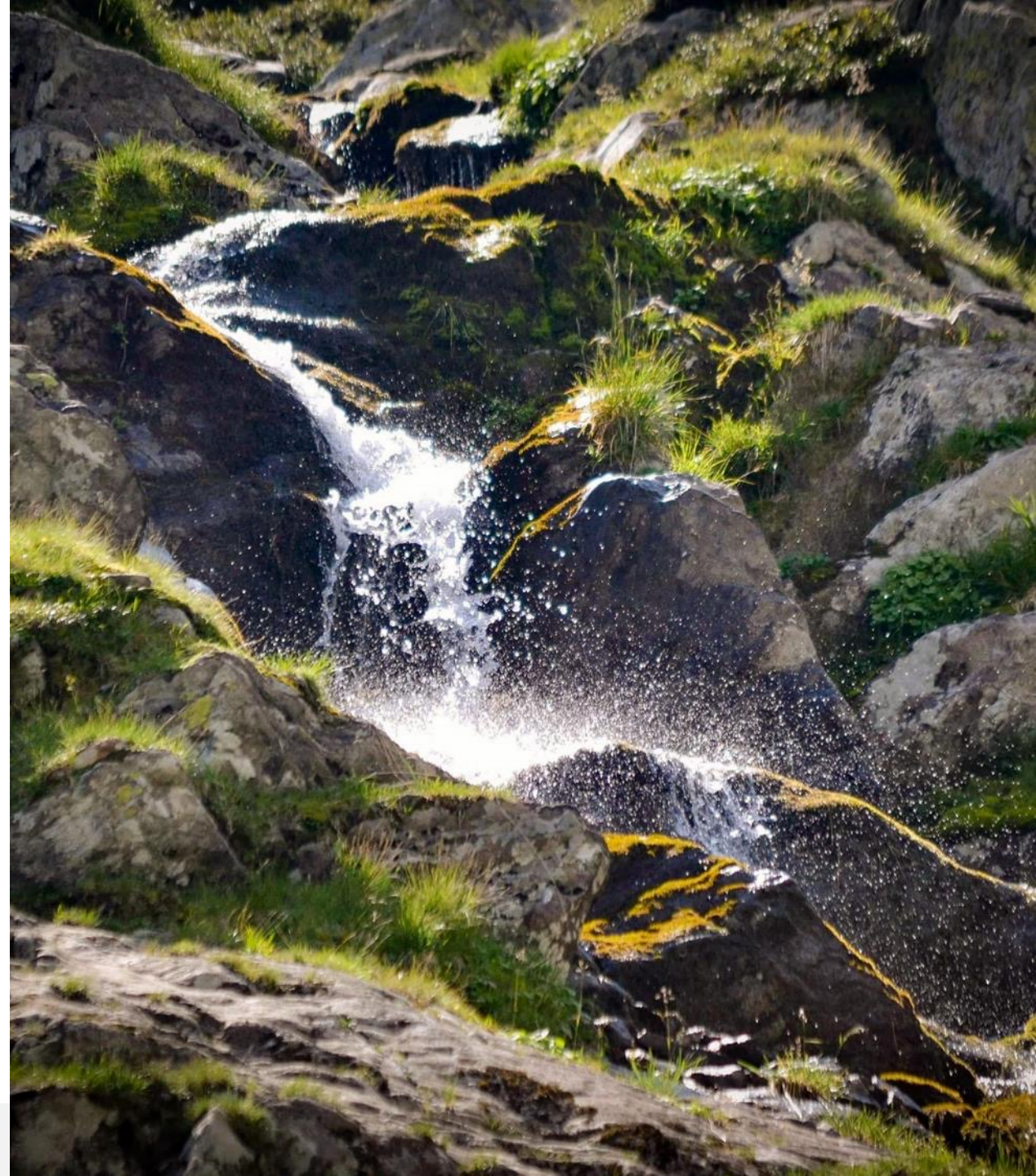


Creating the largest forested National Park in Europe



Main activities summary

- 01 Forest conservation and management
- 02 Ecological restoration
- 03 Wildlife conservation
- 04 Conservation enterprise programme
- 05 Communication & community outreach



01

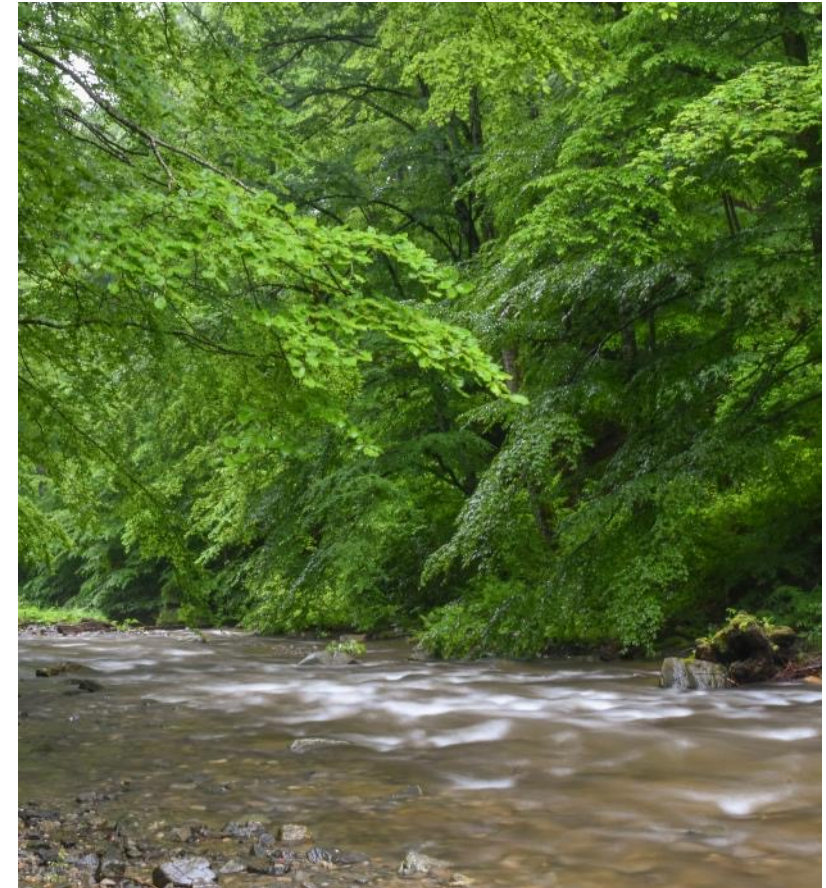
Forest conservation and
management



During August, we purchased another 100 ha of forest and thus have reached a total of 27,027 hectares, which we will protect permanently.

We do this, because we know that the future of our planet and our lives are in our hands, and this is a tangible response, especially in light of the alarming confirmation by scientists that the summer of 2023 was by far the hottest the world has ever seen.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report concludes that global temperatures are already 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels and are likely to reach or exceed the critical 1.5°C point by 2035.



CARPATHIA Forest Carbon Project

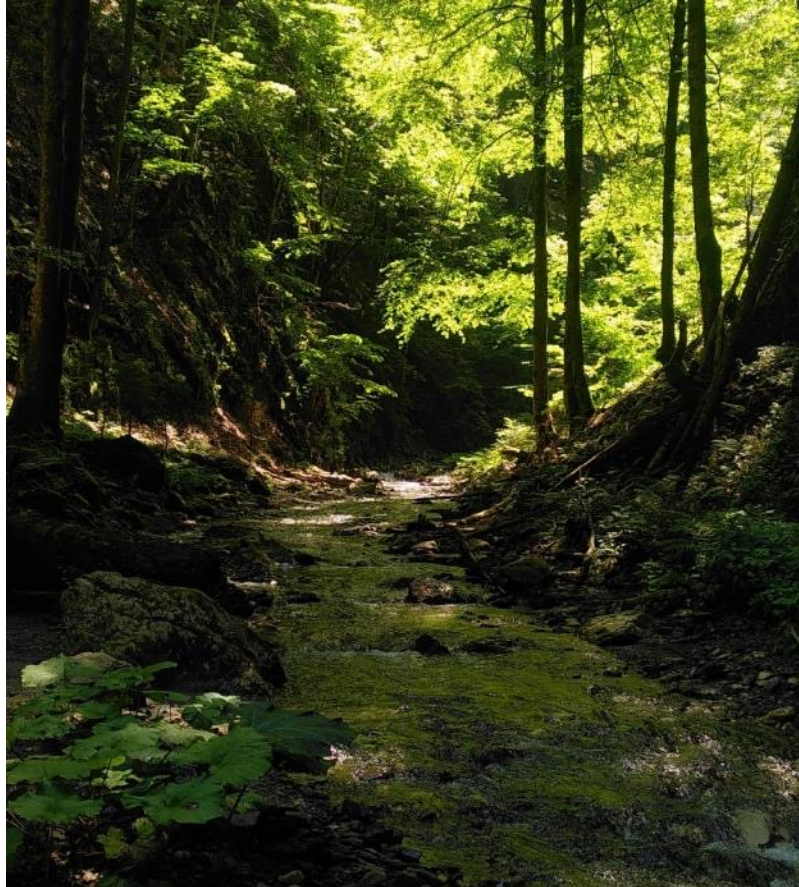
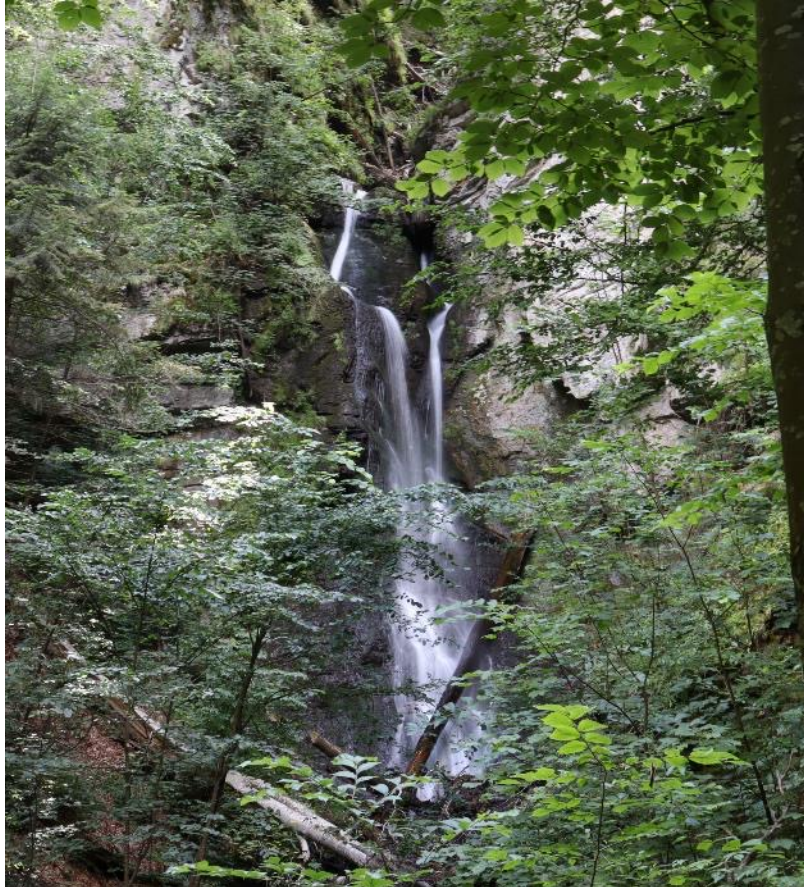
We are taking an unprecedented step in the fight against climate change with our [Carthia Carbon Finance Project](#), which is **currently in the validation and verification phase**.

The Carpathia Carbon Finance Project is expected to prevent an average of 57,050 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) per year from entering the atmosphere.

Over the 40-year life of the project, this amounts to a remarkable total reduction of approximately 2,281,991 tCO₂e (excluding buffer pool contributions).



Images from the project area





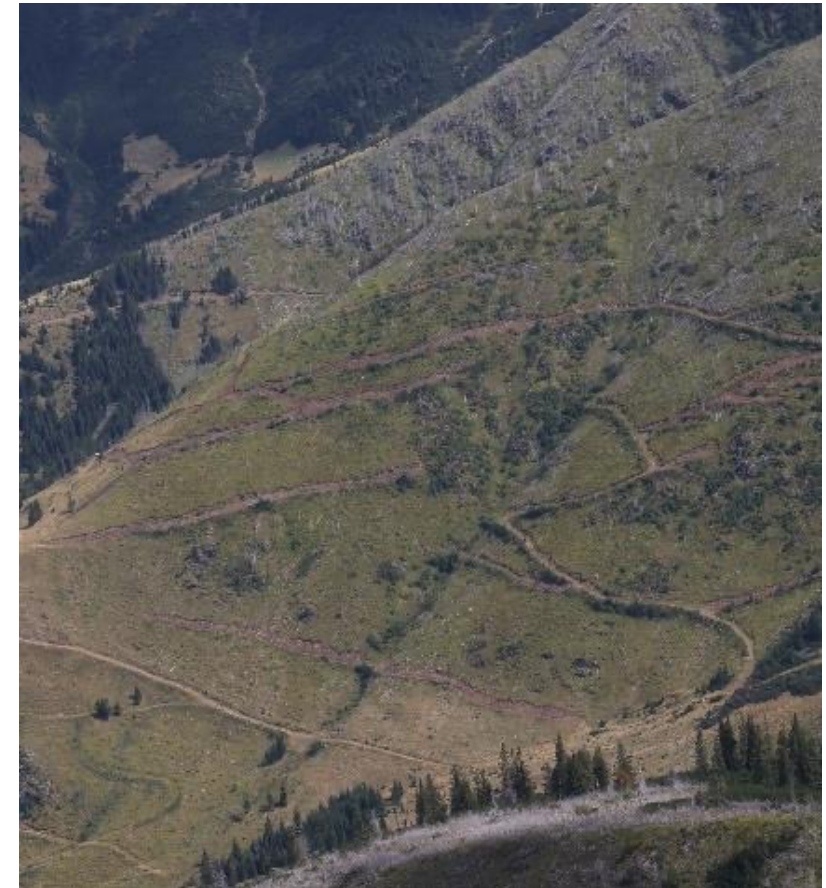


02

Ecological restoration



- In August we restored a further 2,988 m of eroded tractor tracks.
- Clear-cutting is associated with soil degradation and erosion, especially along tractor tracks. With each heavy rainfall, the ditches deepen, and the topsoil is washed away.
- To stop erosion, we fill these ditches with wooden debris and soil before planting saplings to hold them in place.



- We have started cutting the grass around the saplings planted during previous seasons, so that the fragile young trees do not suffocate in winter, when snow presses the high grass upon them.
- We do this with the help of two teams of local people and a subcontracted company at three restoration sites, Dobroneagu, Valea Lungă and Basa.
- Tending the plants usually needs to continue for about five years after replanting.
-



Green houses and tree nurseries

- In our tree nurseries, local seasonal workers have been busy watering and weeding.



Weeding spruce saplings in Dragosloveni nursery



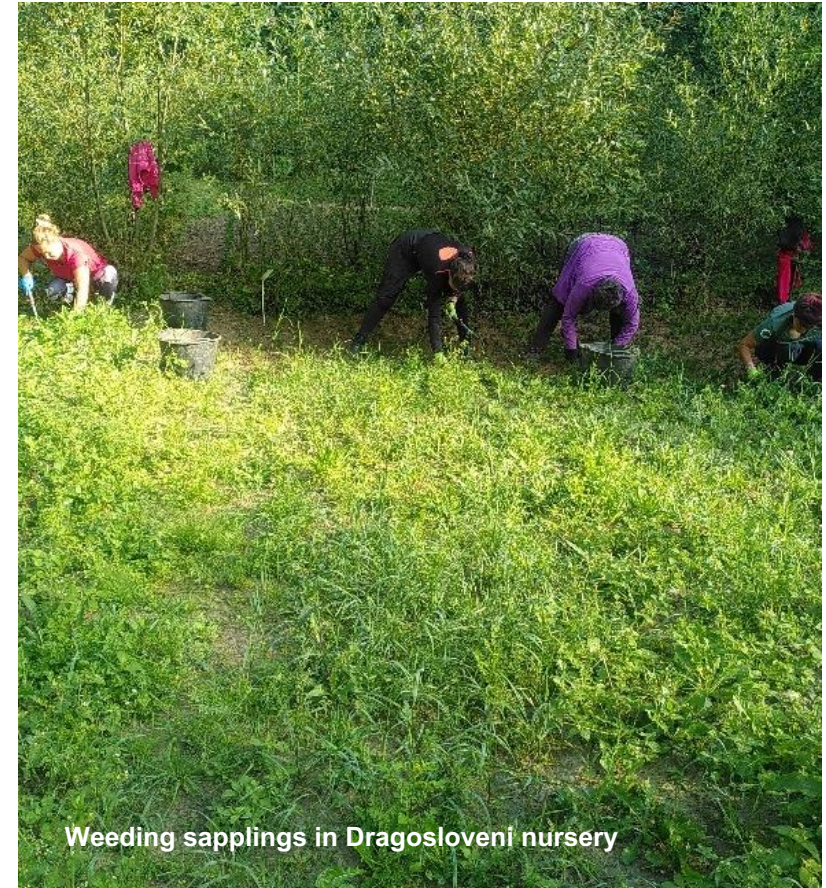
Weeding dwarf pine saplings



Dwarf pine saplings



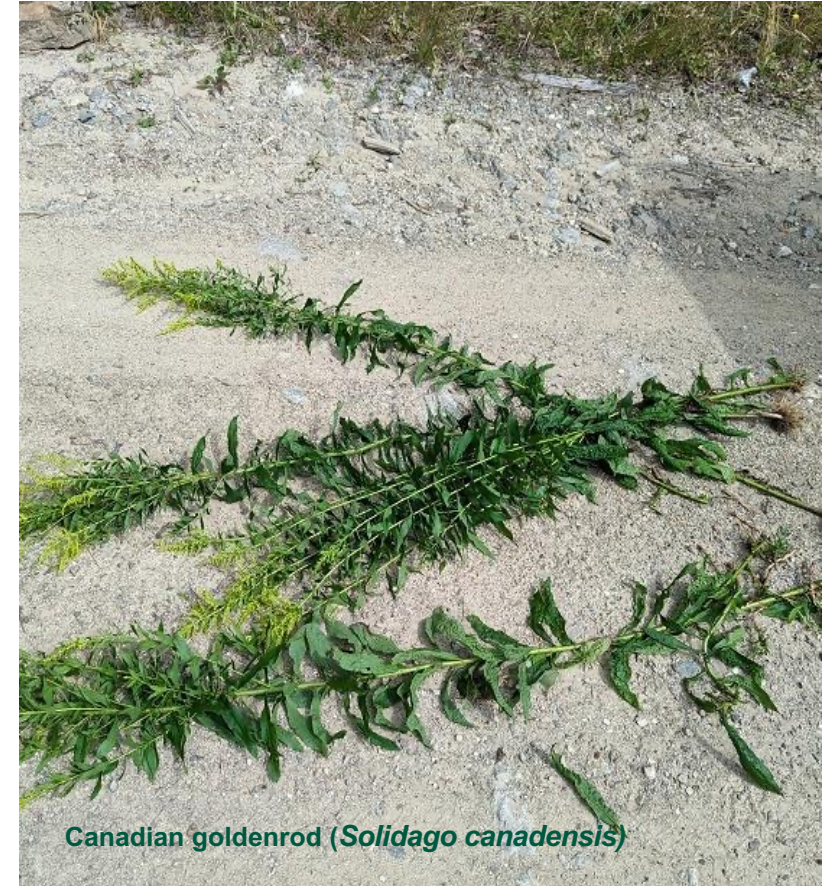
Fir saplings



Weeding saplings in Dragosloveni nursery

Removing invasive alien (IAS) plant species

- August was a busy month for invasive alien species removal.
- The combined efforts of our rangers, coordinated by our biologist, were impressive: over 10 km were cleared.
- We identified and removed numerous plants of Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*), Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Horsetweed (*Conyza canadensis*), Italian Cocklebur (*Xanthium italicum*) and Orange Daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*).
- Our biologist has identified a new invasive alien plant species in the project area, Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), which is extremely dangerous as it rapidly colonises large areas and almost completely displaces native grasses.



Canadian goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)

03

Wildlife conservation



European wildcat (*Felis silvestris*)

Wildlife monitoring

- Our wildlife monitoring team has grown with the recruitment of two new rangers from the local communities.
- Ștefania Iancu and Bogdan Fintoiu are already helping the team to check the 127 cameras in the ungulate monitoring study.
- We received a visit from the BBC Bristol film crew and intensified preparations for the next chapter of the Eurasian lynx monitoring study.



Wildlife reintroductions

Bison reintroduction:

- In a true sign of the triumph of our bison reintroduction efforts in the Făgăraș Mountains, six adorable new calves have graced the wilderness this year, thriving in their newfound habitat.
- With this, the total number of bison in the Făgăraș Mountains is now at 56 adults and 12 calves.
- We closely monitor the herds using GPS and VHF technology. The Făgăraș Mountains have become the bison's true home, where they roam freely, reminding us of their place in this magnificent landscape.



Wildlife management

- Due to the presence of bears and wild boar in the orchards and near the communities, we have installed 15 electric fences to prevent attacks.
- Intervention teams patrol day and night, especially in the most sensitive areas.
- The AI-based alarm system, which only emits a sound when bears appear, is in constant use. It immediately alerts the rangers to the bears' location and intentions.
- The responsibility for managing human-bear conflicts lies with all parties, and to be effective it is important to have everyone involved: authorities, communities and citizens.



Wildlife images&video

[Bison](#)

[Red fox](#)

[More bison](#)

[Beaver](#)

[Female red deer \(hind\)](#)



Wildlife images





04

Conservation Enterprise
Programme



Food HUB

- Did you know that the oldest organic blueberry plantation in Romania is part of the [Roadele Munților Food Hub](#)? It was founded in 1967.
- [Grădinile Hodor](#) goes beyond fresh berries to offer a delicious range of products, including organic blueberry jam and dried blueberries.
- Roadele Munților is a celebration of nature's gifts, a witness to the dedication of local producers and a promise of flavours that transcend the seasons.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- August was a busy month at the farm: hay making, gardening, taking care of all the cattle, horses and Carpathian shepherd dogs and, of course, all our human guests.
- Are you ready to embark on a journey into the heart of nature and sustainable living? [Cobor Biodiversity Farm](#) awaits, offering an unforgettable experience that connects you with the beauty of Transylvania.



Cobor Biodiversity Farm

Roxana Puriş-Topcirov joined us for a few days with her lovely family.

Blogger, architect, entrepreneur, influencer focused on sustainable living and travel and creator of @pur.clothing, Roxana Puriş became our Ambassador.

[Here](#) are Roxana's [impressions](#) and adventures with her family.

Thank you for visiting!



Invitation to the goulash cooking competition

- On Saturday 14th October, we invite you to count the goulash pots. And not just any goulash, but prepared with high-quality Transylvanian Grey cattle meat from the Cobor Biodiversity Farm.
- For one day, the farm will be transformed into a gourmet scene: goulash cauldrons will be fired up to compete in a special event for the whole family.
- Several teams will compete to make the tastiest goulash.
- Participants will spend a wonderful day in natural surroundings. In the afternoon, during a tour of the farm, we will visit the horses, the kennel of the Carpathian shepherd dogs and the herd of Transylvanian Grey cattle.
- We invite families with children to find the hidden clues around the village and discover the nature and history of the Transylvanian village of Cobor.



Ferma de Biodiversitate Cobor

Sâmbătă, 14 octombrie, ora 11:00 – 17:00

Întrecerea Gulașurilor

Eveniment de gătit și savurat gulaș din Sură de Stepă

Turul Fermei
de Biodiversitate Cobor

Treasure hunt de familie
prin satul Cobor

Organizatori: **FERMA COBOR** **CARPATHIA** Bilete: **ibilet**

Wildlife hides

With their secluded location overlooking the mountains, our wilderness hides offer more than just wildlife watching, they are an invitation to explore and reconnect with the untamed allure of the Carpathians. Join us for an unforgettable escape into nature's embrace!

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



- Discover our new chalet, Valea Vladului, nestled in the stunning Făgăraș Mountains, at an altitude of 1248 metres.
- Whether you are looking for tranquility, adventure or a peaceful escape, this mountain retreat offers an unforgettable experience.
- Originally a neglected forest cabin, it's been reborn as a symbol of sustainable design, using eco-friendly materials.
- For information and booking please contact reservation@travelcarpathia.com



05

Communication &
community outreach



Făgăraș Fest 2023: A visual journey

- As the summer fades away, we take you back to the heart of July and relive the vibrant moments of Făgăraș Fest 2023 at Porumbacu de Sus in a visual journey. Watch the video clip of the festival [HERE](#).



Livada cu Stele Festival

- We took part in the [Livada cu Stele Festival](#), an event organised by the Casa Bună Association in Nucșoara commune, Argeș County.
- During guided tours with the Nucșoara City Hall team we followed the tracks of wild animals, we told stories about the bison and we listened to the stories of the old beech trees in the Forest of Immortal Stories.
- During the festival, we were happy to see again people who love nature and understand its role.



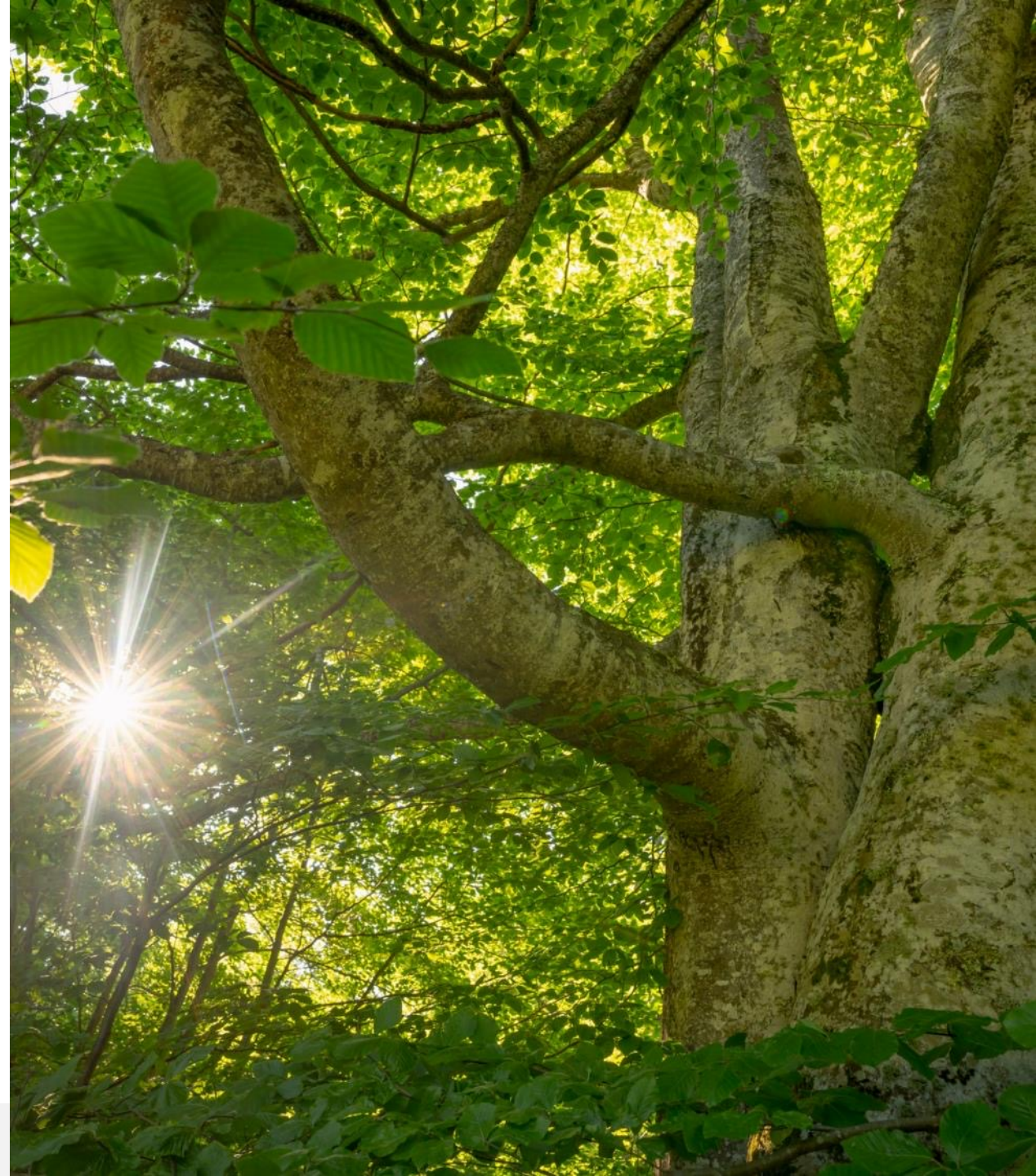
CARPATHIA education programme

- During August, 17 children from local communities took part in the Junior Ranger programme.
- The children enjoyed a long-term training programme of field activities with the Foundation's rangers, and were visited by a curious bison during morning exercises.
- We are raising a generation of leaders for nature and giving these children the opportunity to stay in their communities and take up one of the most exciting jobs of the future, that of ranger.



The Forest of Immortal Stories

- Surprisingly, there are thousands of majestic beech trees in the '[Forest of Immortal Stories](#)' waiting to be adopted, creating a lasting connection with nature, history and a local community.
- Be part of this incredible journey by adopting a beech tree today and make a meaningful contribution to our shared environment.
- Discover your Beech tree and become part of its timeless story by clicking [HERE](#).
- Your tree is waiting for you!



Results

27,027 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

250

locals who make a living from the CARPATHIA project

2,200

students and teachers involved in environmental education projects

30+

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

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PHOTO CREDITS: Barbara Promberger, Alex Popa, Călin Șerban, Liviu Ungureanu, Dan Dinu, Ionuț Crețu, Andrei Dumitrescu, Doru Păunescu, Claudiu Țoanță, Christoph Promberger, Daniel Mîrlea, Ben Pipe, Elena Mărgineanu, Roxana Puriș-Topcirov, Raluca Vieru, Alexandru R. Crețu, Marius Ursăciuc, Alex Popa, Ioana Duică.

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