



# Field report

January 2024

Creating Europe's largest forested wilderness National Park









# 2023 in the Făgăraș Mountains

A glimpse back through 2023. Life in the Făgăraș Mountains as it is. Wild and fabulously interesting.

One year, four seasons, a story of life in harmony with nature. We hope that in a few years' time, this unique beauty will still be here, and that nature will continue to run its peaceful course. To protect it, we need a National Park in the Făgăraș Mountains.





# Main activities summary

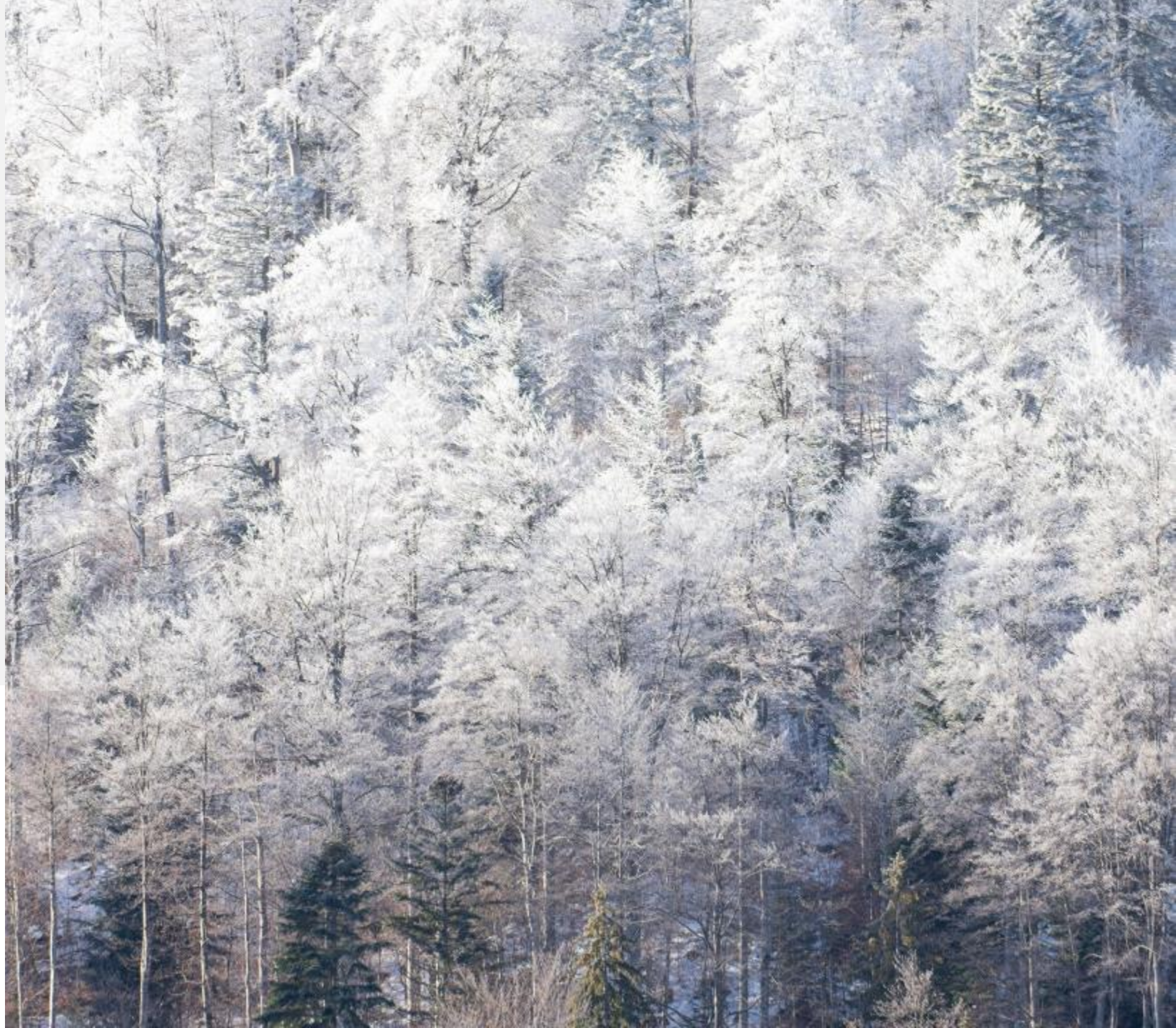
- 01 Forest conservation and management
- 02 Ecological restoration
- 03 Wildlife conservation
- 04 Conservation enterprise programme
- 05 Communication & community outreach





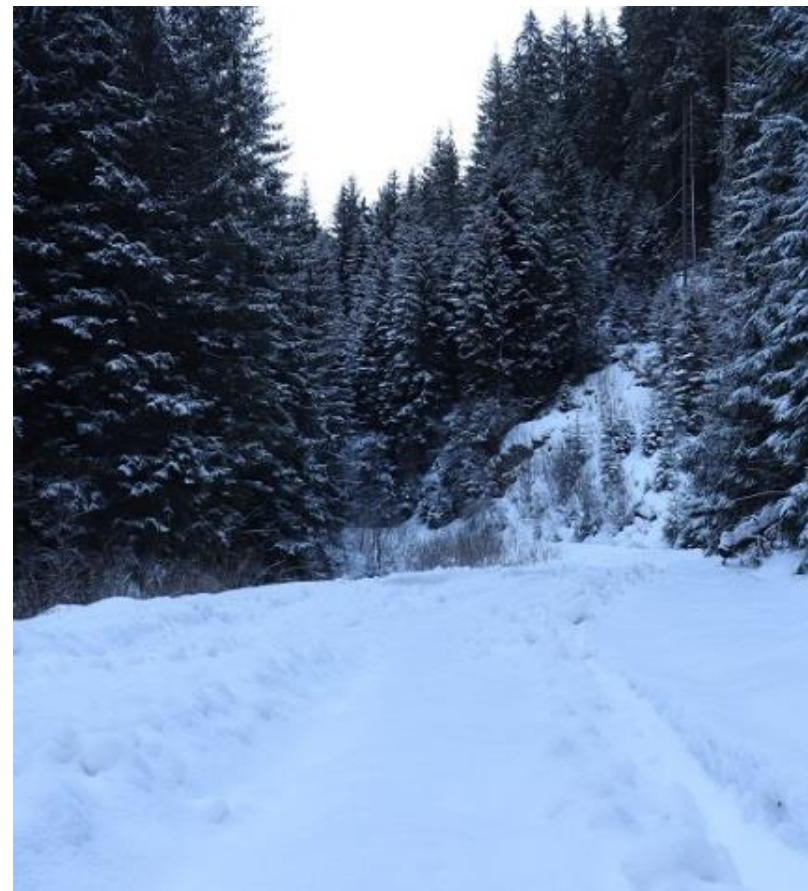
# 01

Forest conservation and  
management



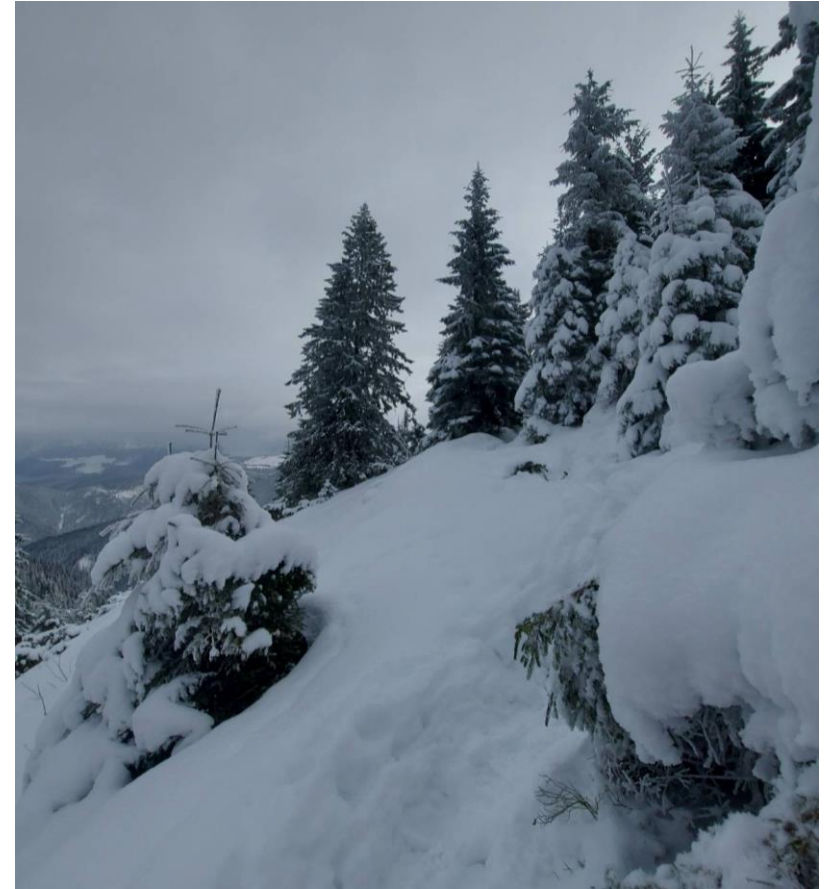
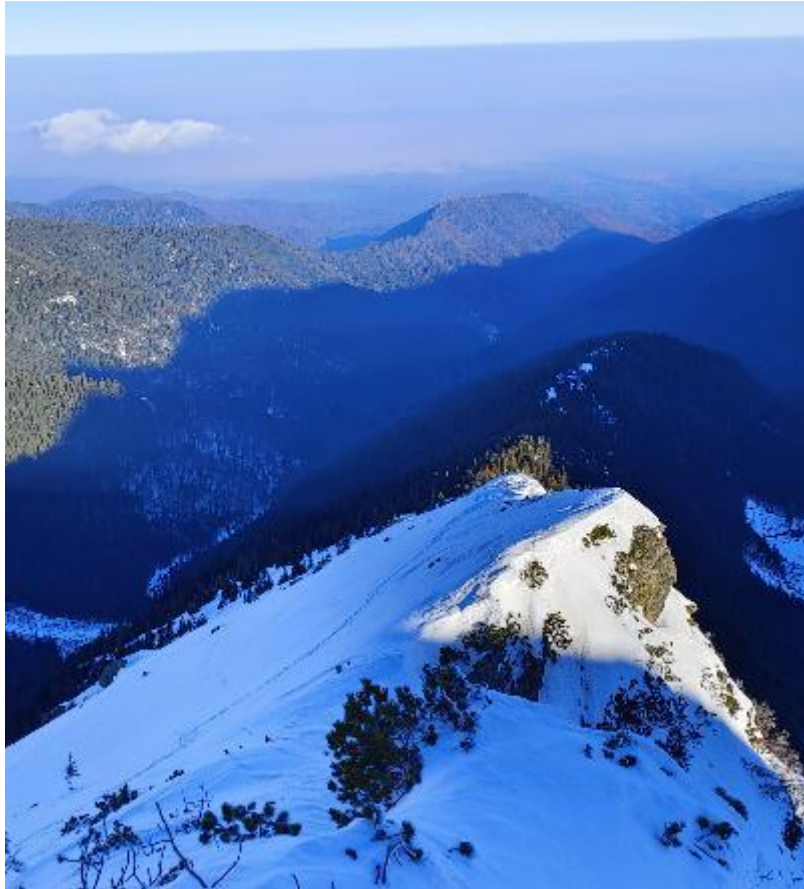


- By protecting and fully conserving 27,027 hectares of mountain forests and alpine grasslands, we are actively contributing to a healthier future.
- Our team of 15 dedicated forest rangers patrol and protect these valuable forests, ensuring their conservation for future generations by preventing illegal activities both within and around the forests.





## Images from the project area







02

Ecological restoration





- We have a lot to do in the field this year, so January has been dedicated to planning. We will continue to restore the forest floor, weed, monitor and maintain last year's replantings and work on monoculture conversion sites. And of course, we will be looking after the nurseries and greenhouses so that we have seedlings for the restoration work.
- If you would like to support our efforts in the Făgăraș Mountains, you can make a donation [HERE](#).
- Thank you for your support!





# 03

Wildlife conservation





# Wildlife monitoring

- Our team is currently checking the camera traps used to monitor lynx. We have already collected 290 photos and the verification process will continue in the coming period.
- The monitoring of ungulates is also an ongoing process. Our colleagues have once again checked all the monitoring cameras. This has been a difficult task due to the heavy snow cover and difficult access to many camera traps.





# Out in the field with the wildlife monitoring team





# Wildlife reintroductions

- During this period we are monitoring the free-ranging bison that have descended into the valleys in search of shelter and food.
- Solitary males and small groups of males are now joining the herds.
- Preferring sheltered areas and old-growth forests, the bison find food in branches, saplings, tree bark, and loads of evergreen blackberry leaves.





# Wildlife reintroductions

- We monitor beavers and check areas around release sites for signs of their presence.
- Did you know that these engineers of nature regrow the habitat they depend on: willow, aspen or alder are pioneer species, they like wet areas, and once a dam breaks through after a few years, these fast-growing species are the first to re-appear where the water covered the ground. Like this, beavers create the perfect habitat for the next generations to come.





# Fish in the Făgăraș Mountains rivers

Aqua Crisius Association, together with our colleagues, repopulated the river Zârnulița with embryonated native trout (*Salmo trutta*) eggs.





# Wildlife management

- Our wildlife management and monitoring efforts are paying off, as evidenced by the quiet period since the beginning of winter.
- The three intervention teams patrol the areas where conflicts occur night after night to increase safety.
- We work in five wildlife management units and our priority is to prevent conflicts in the first place through an effective plan of management measures: rapid intervention teams to deal with potentially dangerous situations, donations of Carpathian shepherd dogs, electric fencing provided free of charge, non-invasive monitoring using DNA methods, an artificial intelligence-based alarm system to detect bear activity.





# Wildlife images&video

Videos from our camera traps:

- Bison
- Beaver
- Red deer
- Female red deer







04

Conservation Enterprise  
Programme





# Food HUB

- Who says we can't enjoy the taste of wild mushrooms in winter?
- We're being taken care of by an expert producer from the Roadele Munților food hub: Forest Garden.
- With more than 20 years of experience in processing forest products, Forest Garden delivers the most delicious dried wild mushrooms, as well as berries picked by local people.
- You can find them in our online shop: [www.roadelemuntilor.ro](http://www.roadelemuntilor.ro)
- 





# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

- At [Cobor Biodiversity Farm](https://cobor-farm.ro), we were eagerly waiting for the snow to fall, and everyone, no matter how young, enjoyed being surrounded by it.
- A romantic weekend at Cobor Biodiversity Farm in the middle of nature sounds so good in February: [reservation@cobor-farm.ro](mailto:reservation@cobor-farm.ro)





# Travel Carpathia

- In order to offer an exceptional ecotourism experience in the Făgăraș Mountains, we have created the **Travel Carpathia Guiding Academy**.
- In January, we met for the first time with selected future guides and presented the activities of Foundation Conservation Carpathia and our ecotourism programme.
- The Travel Carpathia Guiding Academy provides regular training and field specialisation for all guides, who take our visitors into the mountains, to ensure the highest standards in our ecotourism programmes.
- It's not too early to book your [adventure in the Fagaras Mountains!](#)





# 05

Communication &  
community outreach





# Junior Ranger programme

- The children of the Junior Ranger programme invited the extraordinary people of the Câmpulung Muscel Mountain Rescue Team, from Argeş Mountain Rescue.
- They learnt about safety on the mountain, how to be properly equipped, what to look out for before setting out on a route, what to do in case of an accident, how to intervene or when and where to ask for specialised help.





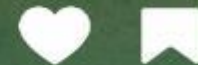
## 'Adopt a corner of nature' contest, second edition

- We have launched the second edition of the 'Adopt a corner of nature' competition.
- We are inviting students from communities around the Făgăraș Mountains to compete for a seven-day trip to the Bavarian Forest National Park,
- Children can submit their projects from 1<sup>st</sup> March.



**Adoptă un colț,  
de Natură ▲**

Concurs pentru elevi





# 'Cobor între Stejari' festival nominated for awards

- The enchanting 'Cobor între Stejari' festival has been nominated for the Debut category of the Braşov 2023 Cultural Awards, adding another layer of enchantment to its success.
- This nomination underlines the festival's increasing recognition and its significant contribution to the cultural landscape of Braşov and beyond.





# Carpathia Bike Tour, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

- We invite cycling and nature lovers to the third edition of the Carpathian Bike Tour on 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- This year's event features an extended route and an experience of life in the Transylvanian hills.
- The event promotes cycling and highlights the biodiversity, history and culture of local communities!
- More details on the event programme and recommendations can be found [HERE](#).





# The ancient beech trees of Nucșoara in the New York Times

- The New York Times tells the story of the Nucșoara ancient beech trees to the world in a moving report.
- What we have achieved together with the city hall of Nucșoara is to make these ancient beech trees known, to engage the community to protect them, and to ensure that their stories remain a link between generations.
- Read [the article](#) to find out how this project came to be and how you can be part of it.
- You can adopt and protect an ancient beech tree on <https://treeswithstories.com/>



The New York Times

## 'The Trees Saved Me'

In Romania, a walk in the woods blossomed into a mission to safeguard centuries-old beeches and the history that shaped them.



## The Guardian about the 'Forest of Immortal Stories'

- The ancient beeches of Nucșoara have further won the admiration of journalists from [The Guardian](#), who have named the Forest of Immortal Stories as one of the top travel experiences of 2023.
- Read journalist Jane Dunford's story about Nucșoara [HERE](#).

**Ancient beech and fern forests in Romania**





# Study Visit

- Together with representatives of various local administrations from the northern side of the Făgăraș Mountains, we visited Austria's largest national park, the Nationalpark Hohe Tauern.
- We were impressed by the park's infrastructure, its strong focus on educational programmes and the green business model it has developed.
- The park was set up on the initiative of local people and is a model for involving all stakeholders in the decision-making process. It is now creating jobs for the whole area.
- The Făgăraș Mountains have the potential to become an engine of economic development for all the surrounding communities.





# Results

27,027 ha

of forest under permanent protection and safeguarded for future generations

80,000 ha

protected for wildlife, with no sport or trophy hunting

1,991 ha

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

4,142,254

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 Food Hub Roadele Munților









# Join us in:

- Creating Europe's largest forested wilderness National Park.
- Annual restoration of the original ecosystem of over 100 ha of clear-cuts.
- Protecting wildlife across a total of 80,000 ha.
- Sustainable development of local communities.
- Environmental education projects.



FOUNDATION  
CONSERVATION  
CARPATHIA

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