



3 June 2025

Financing forest restoration

DANIEL BUCUR (Project manager) &
MIHAI ZOTTA (Conservation director)

LIFE CARPATHIA – Creation of a wilderness reserve in the Southern Carpathian Mountains, Romania

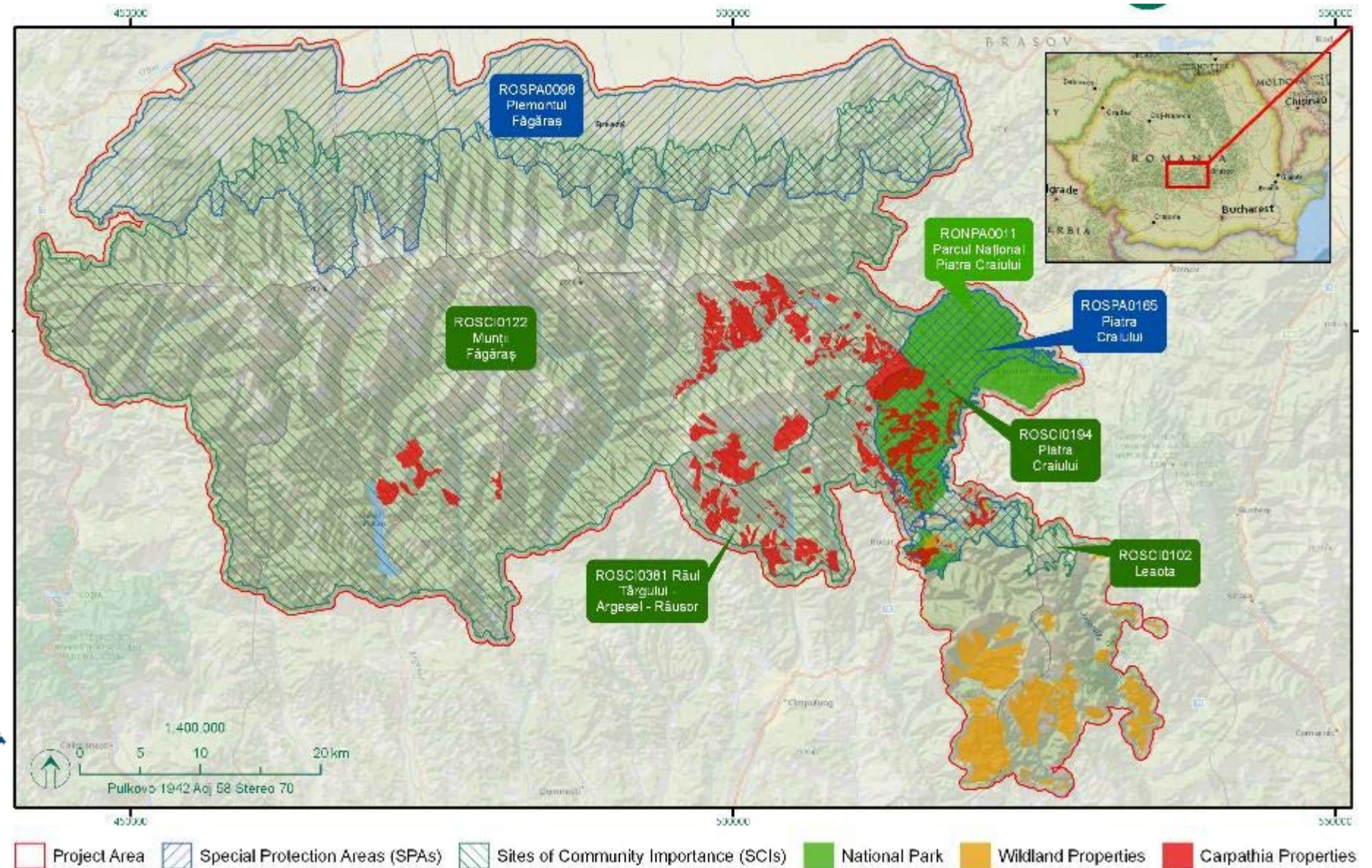
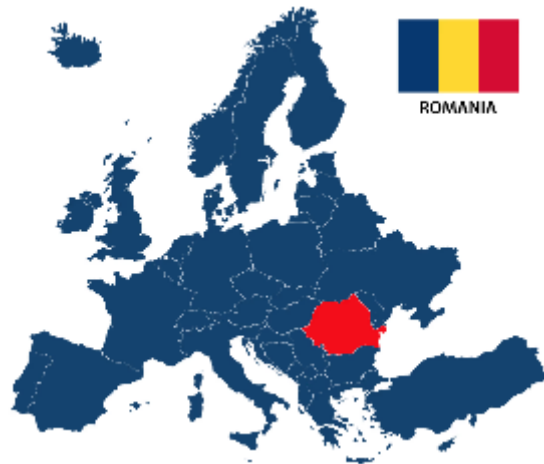
FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE

carpathia.org

Daniel Bucur

Project location

- 7 partners
- 200.000 hectares
- 30 communes
- SCI & SPA & NP



Problems

Logging of old-growth forests

Clear cuts

Spruce monocultures



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LIFE project results

5,000 ha saved

1,100 ha listed

1,150 ha

restored



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Mihai Zotta

LIFE CARPATHIA

27.6 mil EUR

EU 9.4 mil € / CO 18.2 mil €

6 years

Co-finance



Endangered Landscapes and Seascapes Programme (ELSP) – Arcadia Foundation



Additional funding



PNRR – National Recovery and Resilience Plan

Additional funding

**HORIZON 2020 SUPERB
(Demo area)**



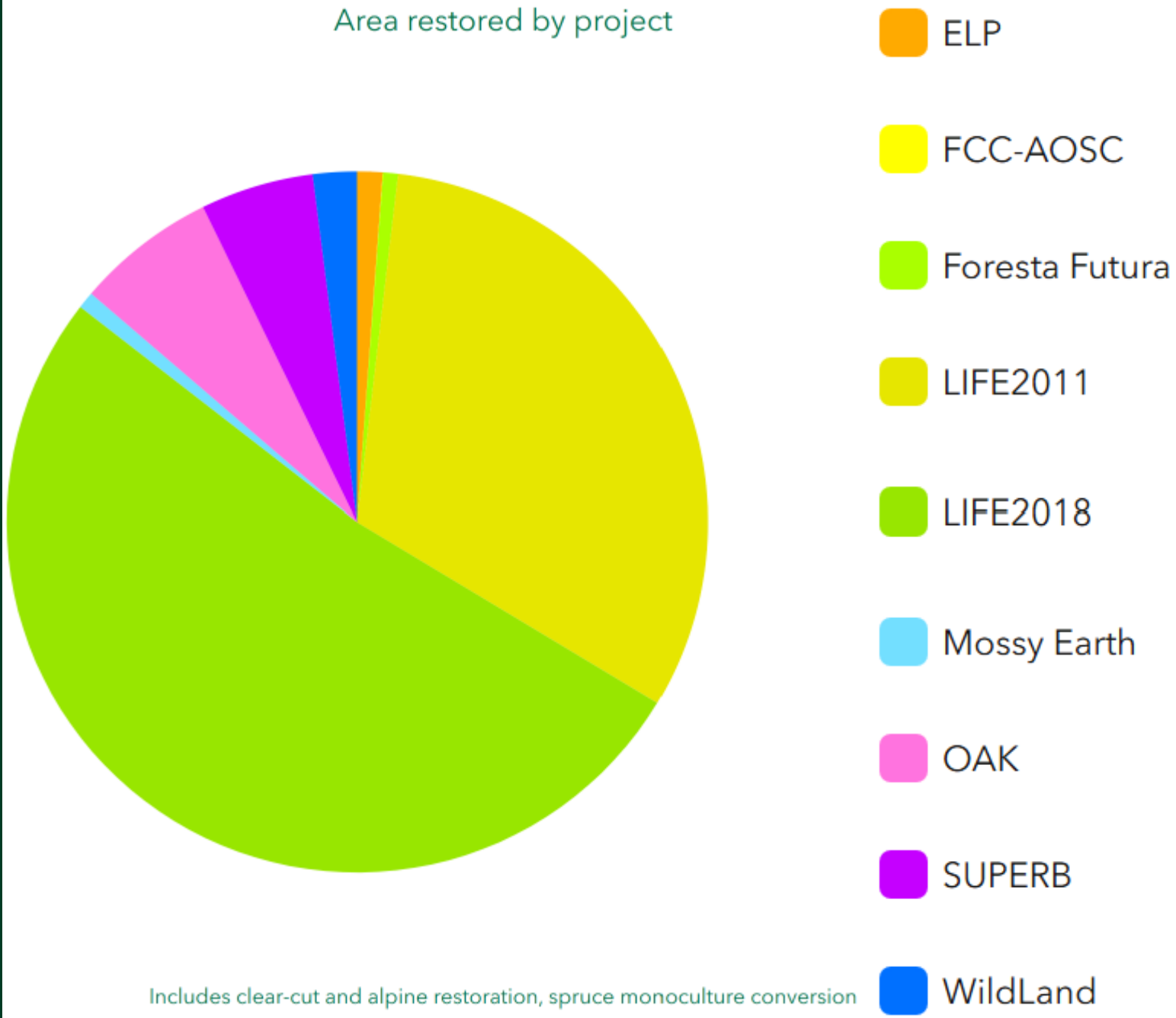
Additional funding

Carbon offset project

- 14.000 hectares
- Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standard (CCB)



Area restored by project



Additional funding

- Various donors
- Top donations go for afforestation (they get involved, comms impact)

Main challenges

1. Prices are normally going up from the restorations planning moment to the implementing one...almost every time
2. We estimate that finding good people to work in the Mountains is becoming a serious issue



Mihai Zotta & Daniel Bucur

Tips

1. Vision





Tips

1. Vision
2. **Grass root projects**



Tips

1. Vision
2. Grass roots projects
3. **Networking**



Tips

1. Vision
2. Theory of change
3. Networking
- 4. Deliver**



Tips

1. Vision
2. Grass root projects
3. Networking
4. Deliver
5. **Be transparent**

Join our dream

1. Create Europe's largest forest wilderness National Park in the Romanian Făgăraș Mountains
2. Restore degraded habitats and protect the wildlife
3. Support a new local green economy
4. Engage with local communities to become partners of the initiative
5. Support local communities through social and educational programmes



**FUNDATIA
CONSERVATION
CARPATHIA**

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