



NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

July 2025

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FOR COMMUNITIES

carpathia.org

Main activities summary

1. Forest conservation and management
2. Ecological restoration
3. Wildlife conservation
4. Conservation Enterprise Programme
5. Communication and community outreach

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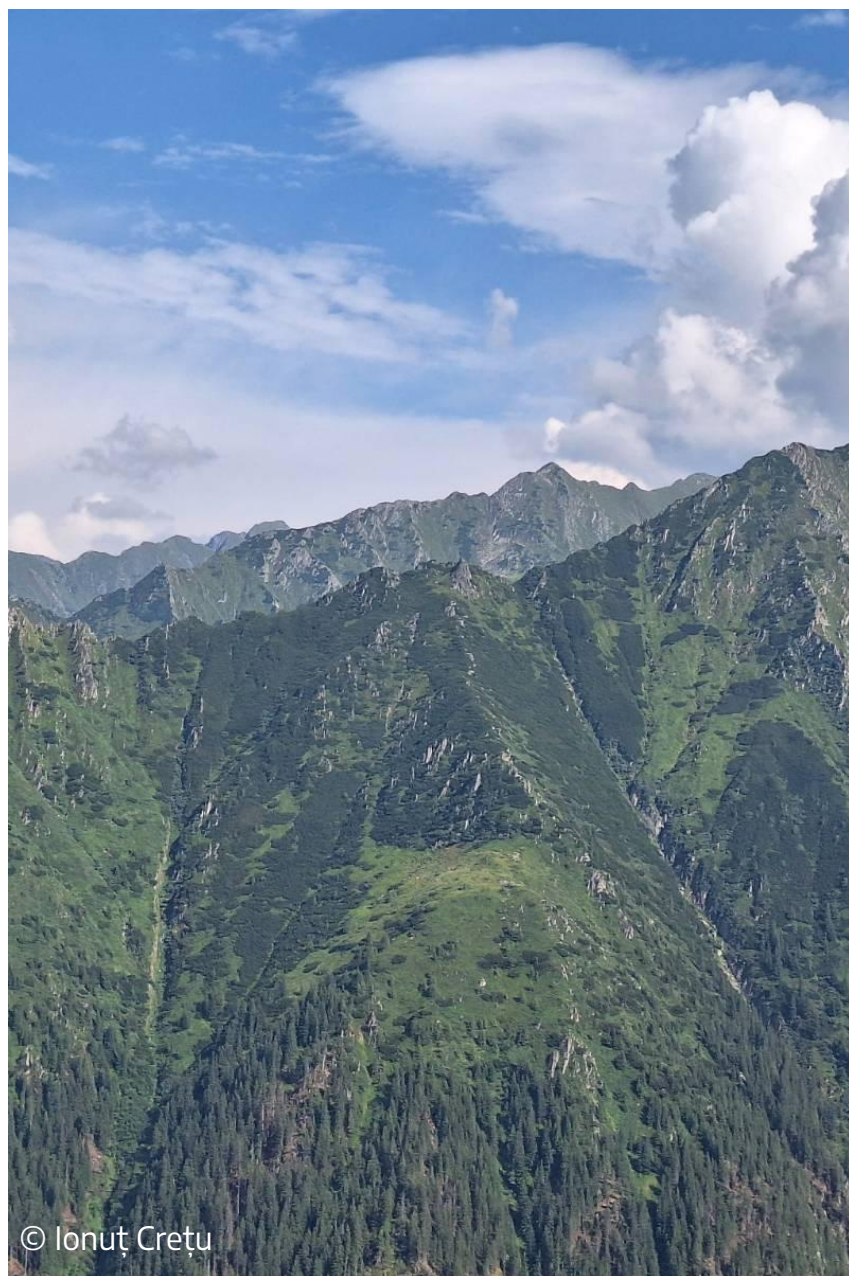
Forest conservation and management

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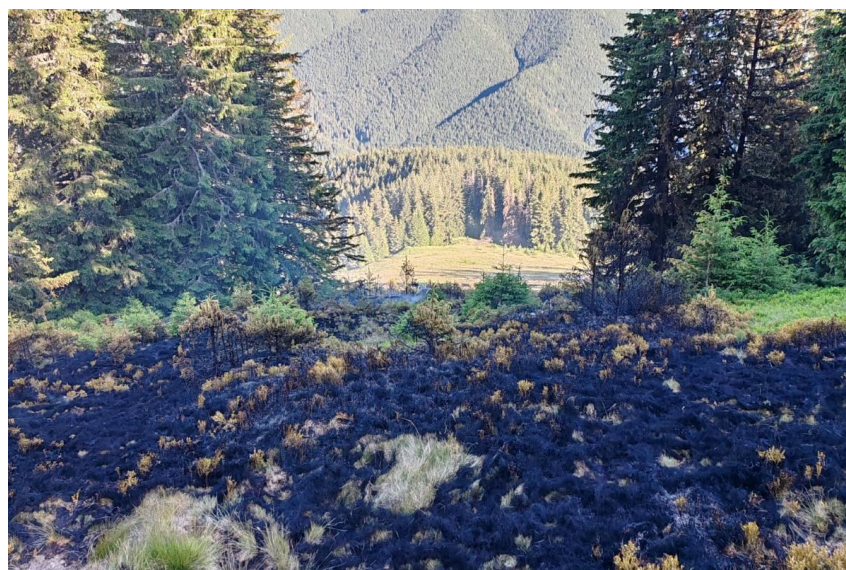


In July and August, the forest is already getting ready for the cooler season. The fruits are ripening, and the trees are gathering reserves for winter. Leaves capture all the available light, transforming it into energy that will help life in the forest continue when autumn arrives.





The life of a ranger isn't always easy,
but it's always accompanied by
spectacular landscapes.



Forest fires are becoming a challenge for us. We faced a fire in the Berivoiu area, and the operation was extremely difficult. Access in the area is very difficult, as there are no roads.

For two days, our rangers, colleagues from the tourism department, and firefighters struggled to locate and extinguish the fire.

Most forest fires are not caused by natural factors, but by human activities: an abandoned, unextinguished campfire or a discarded cigarette butt. An aggravating factor is the high proportion of spruce trees at altitudes below 1,500 m. These were planted by foresters throughout the last century, but climate change and rising temperatures can easily lead to droughts and forest fires in spruce monocultures.

The beehives of Dobroneagu



We are delighted to see how people and nature work together for the benefit of all! The beehives recently installed in the Dobroneagu area, near the village of Nucșoara, are a telling example. We encourage entrepreneurs – in this case, we are talking about Honey Colonia, a producer that is part of the Roadele Munților initiative – to create responsible, nature-conscious products.

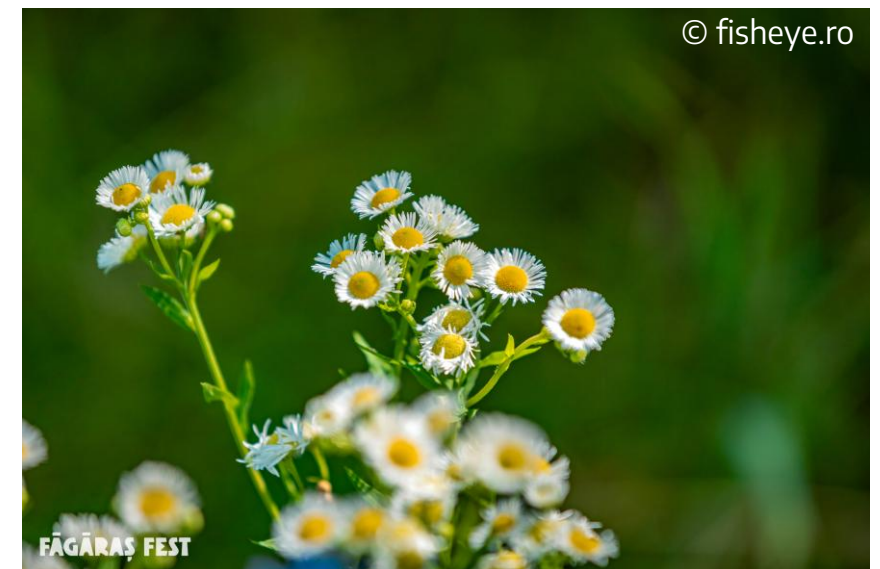
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Ecological restoration



In the nurseries, we encountered a dangerous intruder: the daisy fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*), an invasive alien plant that can easily be confused with chamomile or common daisies.





© Tudor Georgescu

We welcomed a new group of students to the Sătic nurseries. With their help, we removed weeds from the mountain pine sapling plantation.



Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) is an invasive alien plant that is difficult to stop. It can break through asphalt, but it is also a threat to the nature of the Făgăraș Mountains.

Recently, we noticed that it is spreading in the forest, where it threatens the development of small plants.

We went into the field with a team of young people and volunteers from Rucăr to remove this plant in an area on the edge of the forest. We know it's just a drop in the ocean, but it's also a step towards raising awareness of the danger.



In the Dâmbovița Valley, we have identified a new alien species with invasive potential - *Oenothera biennis*, or evening primrose. Brought to Romania as an ornamental plant, it escapes from gardens and spreads rapidly, posing a threat to native species.



© Olivi Pop



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Wildlife Conservation

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© Robert Zeitz



We are continuing our forest audio monitoring programme. As part of this project, developed in collaboration with the British Trust for Ornithology, we have installed 22 devices that 'listen' to and record sounds in various types of forests: old-growth forests, managed forests, or newly restored forests.

The recordings are then processed using artificial intelligence software, which helps us identify the species of insects, birds, and mammals (including bats) present.

What do red deer, roe deer, and wild boar have in common?

They are all ungulate species, meaning they have hooves.

Our study monitoring ungulates in the Făgăraș Mountains covers all these species. For a year, 127 camera traps captured images of these species. In total, we obtained 1,842,283 photos.

We are currently in the data processing stage. With the help of our partners from several national parks in Germany, as well as the University of Freiburg, we are filtering the images and identifying the species observed by the cameras.



We have collected more than 300 samples for the bear diet study so far. It is a season of abundant food for them: berries are available in significant quantities, and beech trees have produced more beech nuts than usual. It remains to be seen what correlations exist between food availability and the diet of this famous omnivore.



Small, but essential



In the forest, every species has its role. Ladybirds feed on aphids (also known as ‘plant lice’), thus contributing to the health of the plants. Our colleagues have identified their presence in the forest, which is good news for the ecosystem.

© Flavius Răuță

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Conservation Enterprise Programme

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It's still the perfect season for a bike ride across the gentle hills of Transylvania. If you feel the trails calling you, know that at Cobor Biodiversity Farm you can catch your breath, tune up or repair your bike, and enjoy a well-deserved rest.

We are certified as Velopopas: we have the necessary tools for your bike and, in addition, we can prepare an excellent lunch to recharge your batteries for the next few kilometres.

If you are thinking of stopping by, give us a call at +40 770 963 238.





It was a good summer for the Transylvanian Grey cattle in Cobor. Thirty-seven calves were born!

We know we have enough to feed them: we have made 3,915 small bales and 933 large bales from the hay we have mown so far.

© Liviu Ungureanu



Scenario for your morning coffee: admire the light that envelops the mountains while waiting for wild animals to cross the clearing on their daily journey.

This is what tourists who choose a wildlife observation tour at the Bunea Observatory experience.

All details are available at www.travelcarpathia.com

Students go on 'life-changing' 15-day expedition in Romania

STUDENTS from The Challenge Academy Trust have returned from a 15-day conservation expedition in Romania.

A total of 42 Year 12 students took part in a conservation experience in the Carpathian Mountains, a region known for its biodiversity and dramatic landscapes.

The expedition was funded by taxpayers via the Government Turing Scheme and included students from Priestley College in Latchford.

Chris Hillidge, STEM director at The Challenge Academy Trust, said: "This was a life-changing experience for our students.

"They didn't just study conservation – they lived it.

"They really stepped out of their comfort zones and reconnected with nature, each other, and local life.

"From tracking wildlife to collecting real data, they've returned with new skills, fresh perspective, and a real passion for the planet.

"We're incredibly proud of them."

The trip was delivered in partnership with Foundation Conservation Carpathia.

After arriving in Bucharest and



Forty-two Year 12 students took part in the experience

travelling through Brasov, the group hiked to a remote campsite at 1,500 metres in the Fagaras Mountains.

Over two weeks, students tracked wildlife, monitored biodiversity, and used tools such as camera traps,

drones, and eDNA sampling.

They studied reintroduced species such as bison and beaver, and examined how Europe's largest bear population interacts with human activity.

Students were able to observe both

bears and bison during their work in the field.

With limited signal and few modern comforts, the group immersed themselves in mountain life and Romanian culture.

Travel Carpathia takes you on more than just a vacation. Our experiences have the potential to shape a generation of nature lovers!

Every summer, we enjoy guiding groups of schoolchildren and students from around the world along the mysterious paths of the Făgăraș Mountains. The young people get involved in practical nature conservation activities and are often lucky enough to observe wild animals in their natural environment.

This year in Poiana Tămaș we have hosted five student groups – 159 youths in total – who had a good taste of nature.

One such experience was recounted in July in an article in the British publication Warrington Guardian.





© Tudor Georgescu



© Tudor Georgescu



Pardon – craft beer



© Roxana Sava

Unfiltered and unpasteurised, Carpathia organic beer is produced by the Pardon craft brewery. Its rich taste, which combines the quality of Lerești water with respect for nature, is achieved through a slow and natural process.



Daniel Pană, general manager and brewer at Pardon, is involved in every detail of production. To ensure that the result is always impeccable, Pardon produces only five varieties of beer.

Pardon Brewery is a small family business in Lerești, south of the Făgăraș Mountains. They stick to the Bavarian Purity Law for making beer from 1516, which says that only four ingredients can be used for making beer: water, malt, hops, and yeast. Pardon doesn't add anything else, other than passion, craftsmanship, and respect for taste, for the process, and for the people who choose a drink with meaning.

Roadele Munților is the exclusive distributor of Carpathia beer and its non-alcoholic sibling. We are proud to be a partner not only in the production of the first Romanian organic beer, but also in a beverage that consumers find amazing.



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FOR NATURE

Communication
and community
outreach



Memories of the sixth edition of Făgăraș Fest still echo in our hearts. The Făgăraș Mountains resounded with the sound of music, and participants had a choice of many attractive activities.

Discover previous editions at www.fagarasfest.ro

Visiting rangers



Codruț, Cristiana, and Alex, our representatives at the International Junior Ranger Camp.



Foreste Casentinesi National Park in Italy.

Two junior rangers and one experienced ranger participated on our behalf in the International Junior Ranger Camp, alongside 15 other teams from Europe.

The event took place in Italy, hosted by the Foreste Casentinesi National Park. In this area, the first guidelines for forest conservation were drawn up by monks almost a thousand years ago. We always come back inspired and full of ideas from such trips!



In July, we enjoyed a visit from Her Excellency Angela Ganninger, German Ambassador to Romania, and Mr. Carsten Schneider, German Minister of the Environment.

We discussed our joint efforts in nature conservation, reviewed projects dedicated to local communities, and the role of ecotourism in protecting the environment.

Thank you for your visit and for opening up an essential dialogue!



The dreams of children who love nature come true in the Făgăraș Mountains. At the Junior Rangers camp at the Richita Nature Activity and Exploration Centre, 18 students, three educators, and six specialists from the Foundation enjoyed valuable lessons. Nature is the best classroom when we learn about footprints and ecosystems, about what we leave behind, about responsibility.

It's not just a camp, but the beginning of a journey that spans months. Maybe even a lifetime of leadership in protecting forests!





Annual report 2024

We have gathered all our efforts from 2024, expressed through projects, results, and emotions, in our annual report.

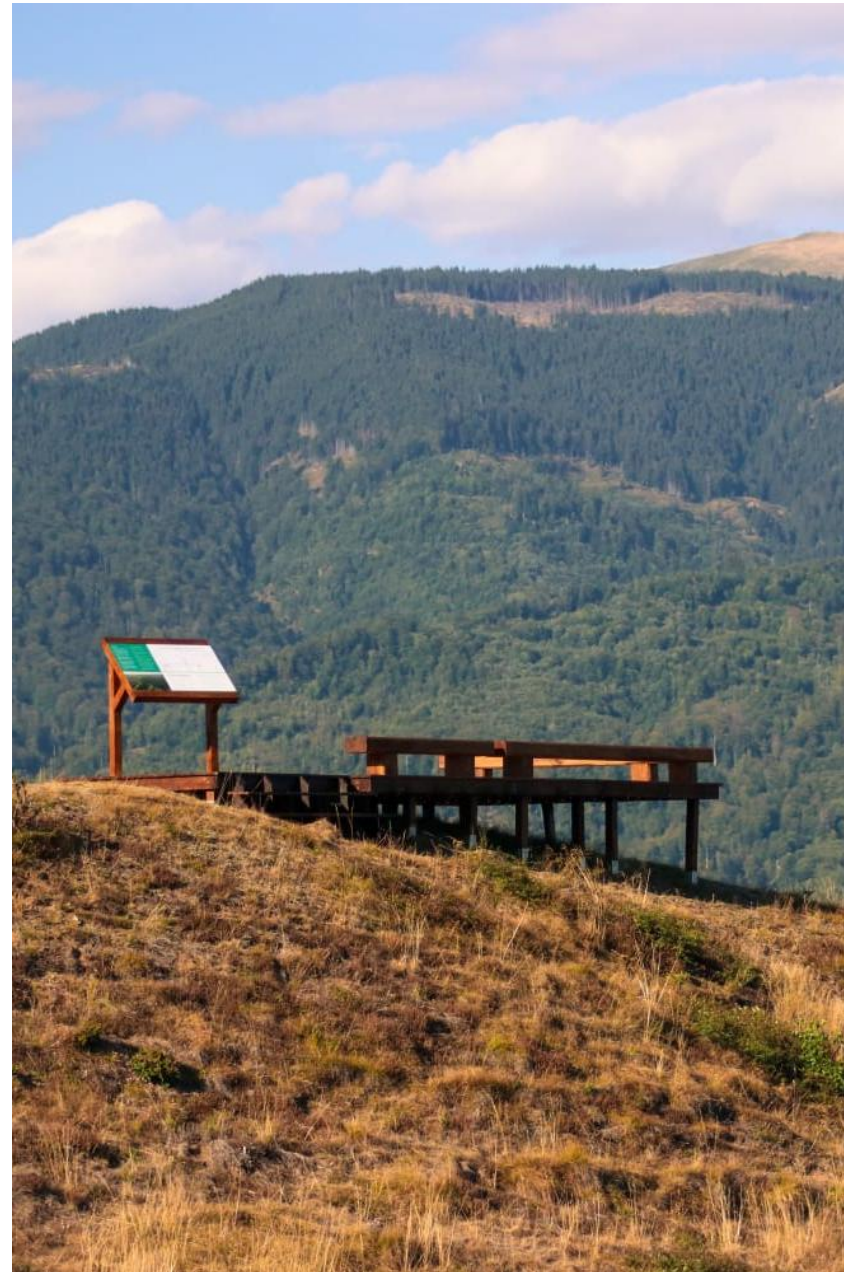
We invite you to browse through it. It is a story about nature and people and, above all, about how we can take care of each other.

Available [here](#).



Mid-August found us in Sibiu, at the Astra Rock Festival. We left with our hearts full: we listened to stories about birds from our ornithologist, Robert Zeitz, while craftsman Codruț Simene from Rucăr took home the prize in the ‘Golden Shingle’ competition, dedicated to those who make wooden roof shingles.





Nucșoara, a commune known for the fastest route to Moldoveanu Peak, has a new attraction since August. The 'Nature`s Architects` themed trail, accessible to visitors of all ages, combines hiking with stories of bison, beavers, and the people who shape the landscape.

On 27th August, in the presence of about 100 people (locals and representatives of various administrations), Ion Cojocaru, mayor of Nucșoara, inaugurated the new trail.

After the visitor centre in Lerești, dedicated to bison, and the one in Rucăr, dedicated to beavers, it is the next piece of the puzzle in our efforts to develop an eco-tourism infrastructure in the communes around the Făgăraș Mountains.



The 60-minute-long documentary 'Nature's Architects' was screened at the Summerwell music festival! The story of the reintroduction of beavers and bison aroused admiration among nature lovers and music fans alike.



© Iulia Aștefanei



Conservation and misinformation



Our work is visible and attracts a lot of sympathy, but our successes cause opposition from those who have other interests. Fake news has, unfortunately, become a common strategy, but we always respond to attacks and take legal measures against the originators.

The National Audiovisual Council agrees with us. In July, Realitatea Plus television station was fined 30,000 lei, and România TV received a public summons for programmes in which we were accused of having introduced beavers to the area of the Praid Salt Mine, with the goal of flooding it.

Results

4,528,254

trees planted

75,000 ha

protected for wildlife, with
no sport or trophy hunting

**353 people
from local
communities**

are involved in CARPATHIA
project's activities, receiving
a fair pay

27,906 ha

of forest under permanent
protection and safeguarded
for future generations

2,200

students and teachers
involved in environmental
education projects

>30

local producers are part of
the Roadele Munților
Făgăraș initiative



FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION CARPATHIA

Calea Feldioarei 27A, Braşov,
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info@carpathia.org

How can you help?

Get in touch and let's discuss ways that you can get involved, as an individual and/or as a company.

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or access [Donations – Carpathia](#)