



NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

September 2025

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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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© Dan Dinu

Healthy forests are more resistant to extreme events and bring greater benefits to communities. That is why we aim to maintain the natural balance of ecosystems and protect biodiversity

Conservation would not be possible without rangers. Among the responsibilities of Liviu, our ranger in the area of Lerești:

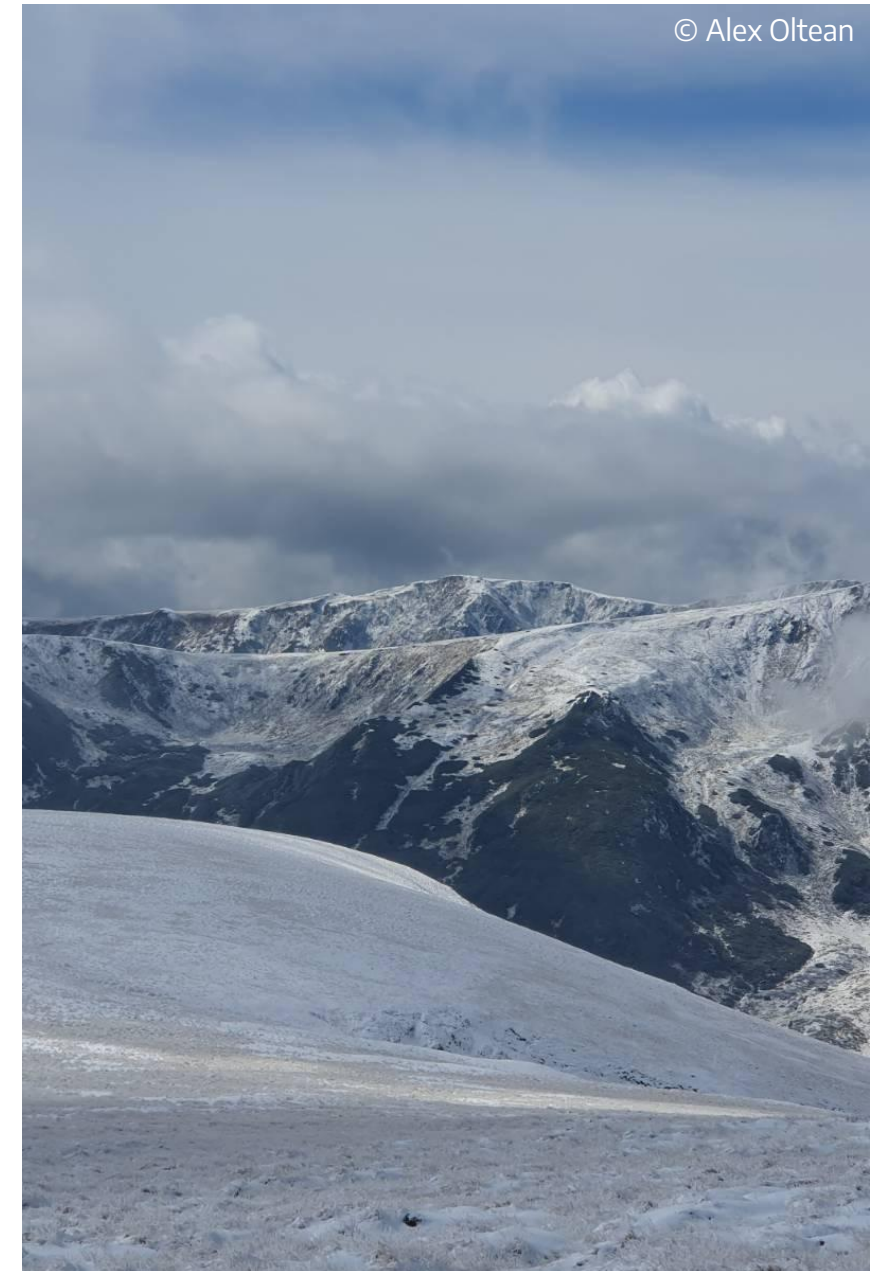
-  Patrol and ensure that there has been no illegal logging.
-  Monitor animals and plants, notes any changes in the forest, and assists in collecting samples for monitoring studies.
-  Maintain trails and shelters so hikers can enjoy clean and safe routes.
-  Provide information to tourists and show them how to respect nature.
-  Intervenes when necessary, whether it's an accident, a fire, or an injured animal.



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Ecological restoration

One day autumn crocuses bloom, the next day snow falls. A rather normal occurrence for autumn, this unpredictability makes it challenging to plan tree plantings or other ecological restoration work.



In September, with the help of community workers, we removed the weeds that could suffocate the saplings planted in previous years in the Nucșoara area. Working on these very steep slopes is hard, but it is rewarding to see these degraded habitats come back to life.



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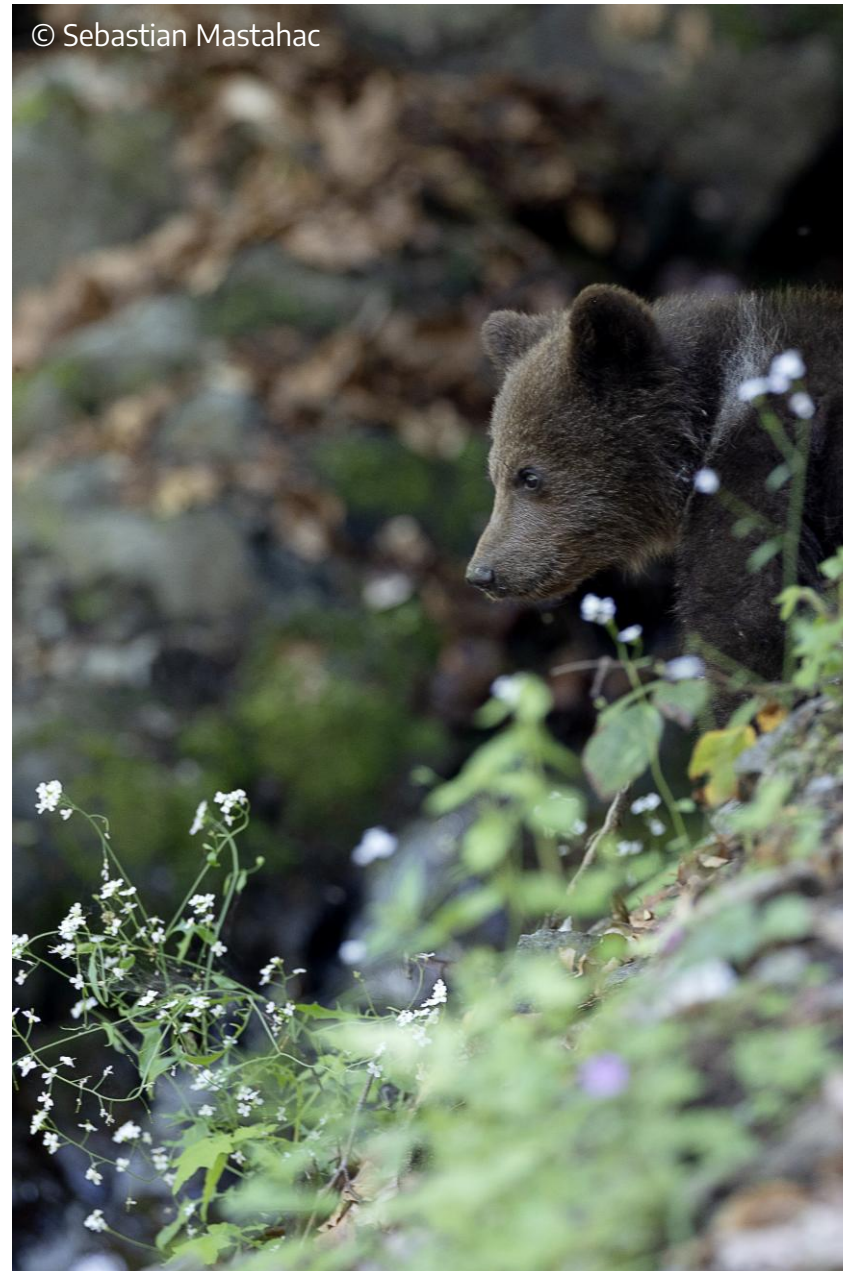
Wildlife Conservation

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Forces from different departments were put together to give our bear diet study another push – we have managed to collect 345 scat samples up to now, which are already on their way to the lab for further analysis.

This year we started a long-term monitoring scheme on the beech nut fructification – the most important food source for bears before they go into hibernation. We quantify the amount of beech nuts produced from 147 selected beech trees taking into account factors such as altitude, slope, cardinal orientation, and age

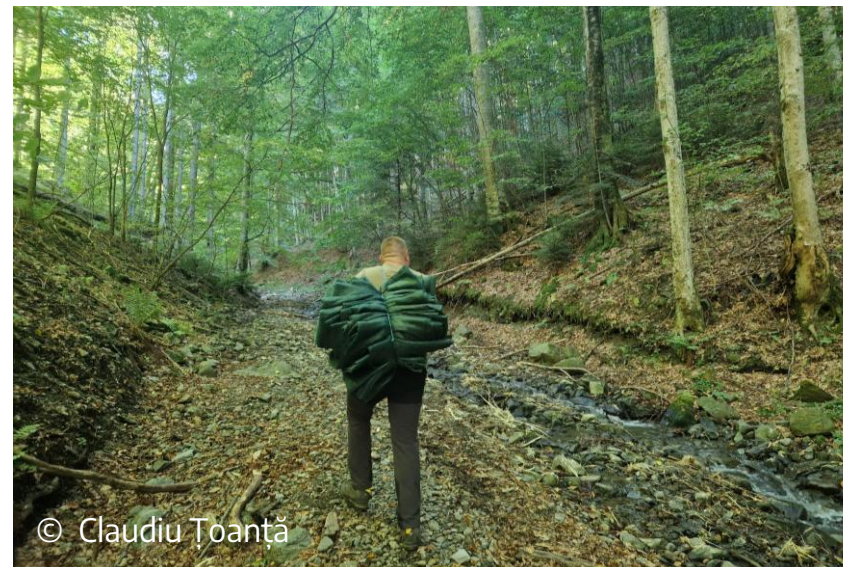
In the long run, this will help us to better relate the availability of natural food sources with potential conflicts.



Our rangers set up nets to collect the beech nuts.

Every two weeks, they weigh the nuts that have fallen into the nets, then place the nets back in place. We also try to estimate, out of all the beech nuts collected, the percentage of dry nuts, so that we have as clear a picture as possible of nut production.

A nice side effect of this activity: we also obtain lots of seeds for our nurseries.



Rutting season



In autumn, the stags become a true musician: they bellow as if giving a concert for the whole forest. The does are hard to impress, so the rival stags prepare for duels as if in an action movie.

The field team is on the lookout to prevent poaching during this high-risk period.



We noticed the beavers are preparing for winter in the Râușor dam area. Their family is building a new shelter and stocking up on supplies.



© Liviu Ungureanu

© Liviu Ungureanu



Conservation Enterprise Programme

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In September, the courtyard at COBOR Biodiversity Farm was filled with joy.

The sunny days provided a great opportunity to explore and play with the gentle horses or among the hay bales. If you want to enjoy the colourful autumn in the village, give us a call at +40 770 963 238.

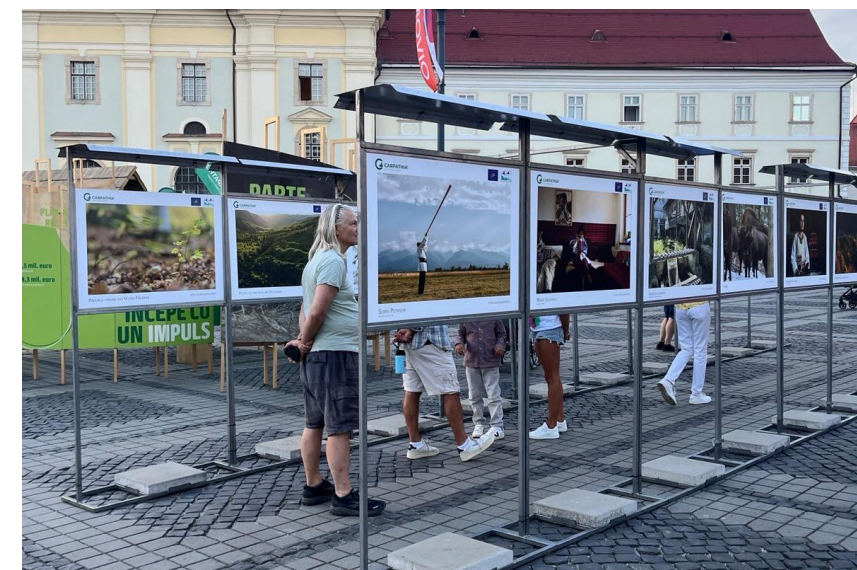
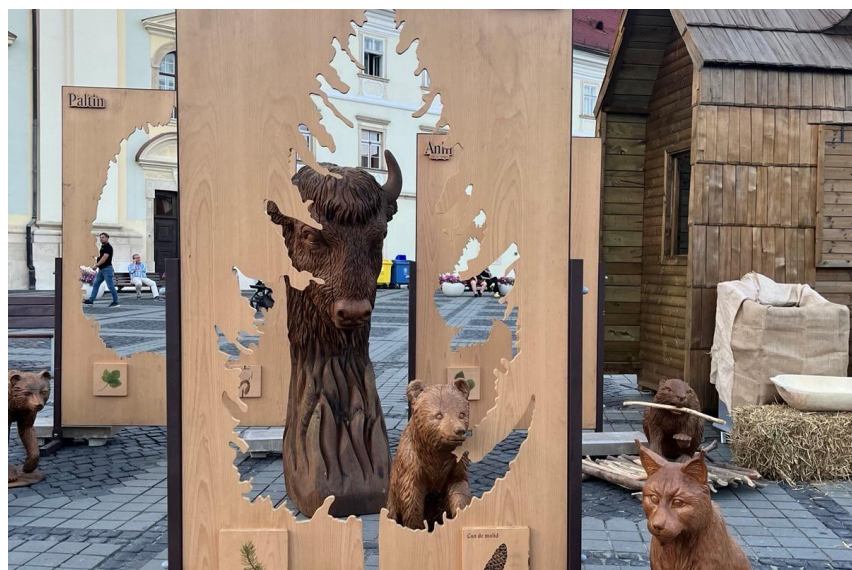


© fisheye.ro



We were present in the heart of Sibiu at the National Ecotourism Fair! Mayor Astrid Fodor visited us and reiterated that our work builds bridges between people and nature.

For people eager to discover the Făgăraș Mountains, we brought stories about nature, guided tours on beavers, demonstrations of traditional roof shingle making, and workshops for children to Sibiu.



Journeys in autumn can lead to unexpected adventures.

The end of September brought snow, but also exciting encounters with wildlife.



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Communication
and community
outreach



The pots boiled over at the 'Goulash Competition' and the courtyard at the COBOR Biodiversity Farm was filled with smiles, exquisite flavours, music, and dancing. We would like to thank those who cooked and those who ate, those who danced and those who admired them.

We celebrated #YouthinParkDay, a day dedicated to young people who put their energy and ideas into protecting nature, together with the young people from the Junior Rangers programme and the educators involved in the project.

We spent a day together in Lerești, filled with laughter, games, discoveries, and the simple joys of being in nature.

The future of protected areas is already in the hands of these young people, who dedicate their energy and time to protecting natural resources.





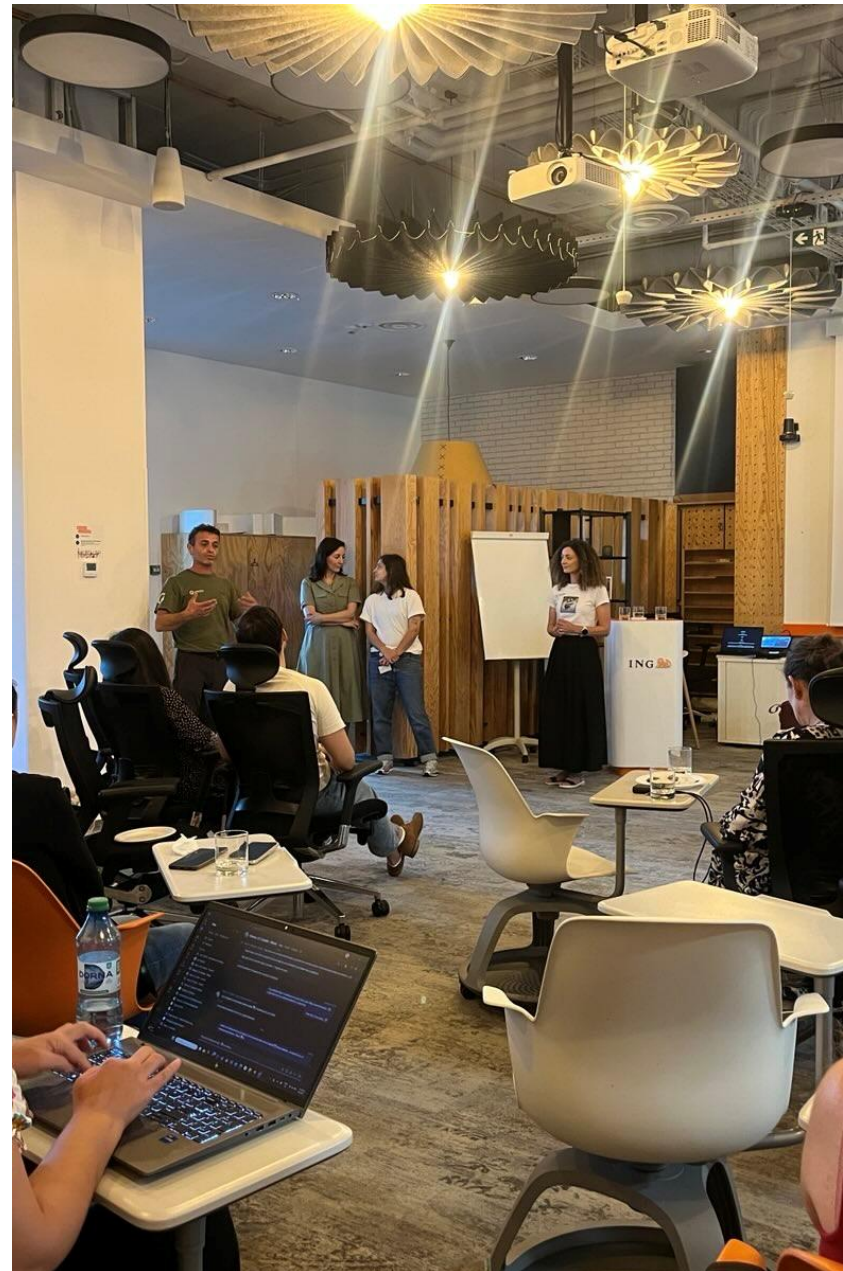
Ten days, 12 courageous students, and a marathon of emotions and discoveries — that's what the first edition of Conservation Bootcamp looked like. The intensive practical training programme gave participants the opportunity to understand what real conservation work means, from wildlife monitoring to communication and ecotourism.

We were impressed by their involvement, which filled us with optimism: their generation brings a breath of fresh air to nature conservation work!

We discussed the return of species to the Făgăraș Mountains ecosystem at the screening of the documentary "Architects of Nature," hosted by ING Romania.

A long-standing partner, ING supports our ecological reconstruction projects and the Roadele Munților Făgăraș (Fruits of the Mountains) community, and together we are preparing a new project dedicated to wildlife.

The event ended with a Q&A session accompanied by delicacies brought directly from the mountains.





© Victoria Donos



The Făgăraș Mountains symbolically moved to the centre of the city at Street Delivery Brașov, where we were present with stories about nature, interactive installations, and workshops. It was a wonderful opportunity to discover Brașov in a different way—curious, creative, and close to centuries-old forests.

The Springs of Dâmbovița at Dâmbovița Delivery

Part of the drinking water in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, comes from the Dâmbovița River (after being properly treated, of course). Its freshwater springs are located in our project area. Mihai Zotta, our conservation director, attended Dâmbovița Delivery in Bucharest and addressed the topic of protecting the forests that the river crosses on its way to the capital.



We were co-organisers of the sixth edition of the European Ranger Congress! 260 passionate rangers from around the world came to Romania for a few inspiring days of learning, sharing, and connecting. With conferences, field trips, workshops, and heartfelt messages from local officials, the event sparked new ideas and strengthened the global ranger community for a brighter, greener future.



On 24th October, from 17:00 hrs, we are hosting a talk on the role of forests in combating climate change. The event is part of Climate Change Week 2025 and can be attended in person at **Rezidența 9**, Strada I.L. Caragiale nr. 32, Bucharest.

Attendance is free, but prior registration is necessary:

<https://lnkd.in/djsasV5h>

The Climate Lifeline: Protecting Our Forests



Louis de Jaeger



Mihai Zotta



Florin Stoican



Iain Trewby



Moderator

Environment & Community Day
Community Event

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

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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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