

# Field Report

May 2024

FOR NATURE,  
FOR COMMUNITIES

[carpathia.org](https://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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# Protected forests

In the forest, trees are sprouting and blossoming, animals are working to build dens and nests, preparing for the next generation of offspring. While patrolling, our colleagues frequently spotted wild animals.





# Not all is green

Out of the almost 500,000 saplings planted in the spring of 2023, a small percentage seem to be suffering. Possible causes are mice and excess heat.





© Ionuț Crețu

# Leaota

It makes us sad to report that sometimes our rangers find tree stumps, like this one, left after a sycamore tree was cut. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is already a rare species, making up for less than 5% of all the trees in the forest. We have alerted the authorities.

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**Ecological  
restoration**



# Replanting sites



The Groapele area in the south of the Făgăraș Mountains is one of the most challenging replanting sites.

It is situated at a high altitude, which makes access difficult; because it has been clear cut in the past, it presents eroded areas with no trees left to protect the new saplings.

We have been planting here since 2019, and in May we completed our target of 100,000 saplings planted for this spring, with the final 25,000 being spruce saplings.







Work is peaking in our nurseries. We watered and weeded saplings of all ages, preparing them for the sun and the mountain that awaits.



©Flavius Răuță



A group of students from the Northeastern University in Boston, USA, visited and volunteered for field activities. To help them understand hands-on how we work, we involved them in tasks such as: eliminating foreign invasive plants and identifying plant species that are interesting for ecotourism – medicinal, edible or of conservation value.

During their visit, students also spent a field day with our Wildlife Monitoring team, learning about the local fauna and the methods we use to study them.



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**Wildlife  
conservation**



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# Red deer monitoring

After recording the activity of red deer for a whole year, in June our monitoring cameras will be brought back, the data will be retrieved and analysed. In May, after the snow disappeared, the team revisited around 30% of the camera traps, some placed at high altitude.







# A new study

We are preparing an acoustic study in collaboration with British Trust for Ornithology. The monitoring devices detect sounds in the audible spectrum but also ultrasound emitted by bats.

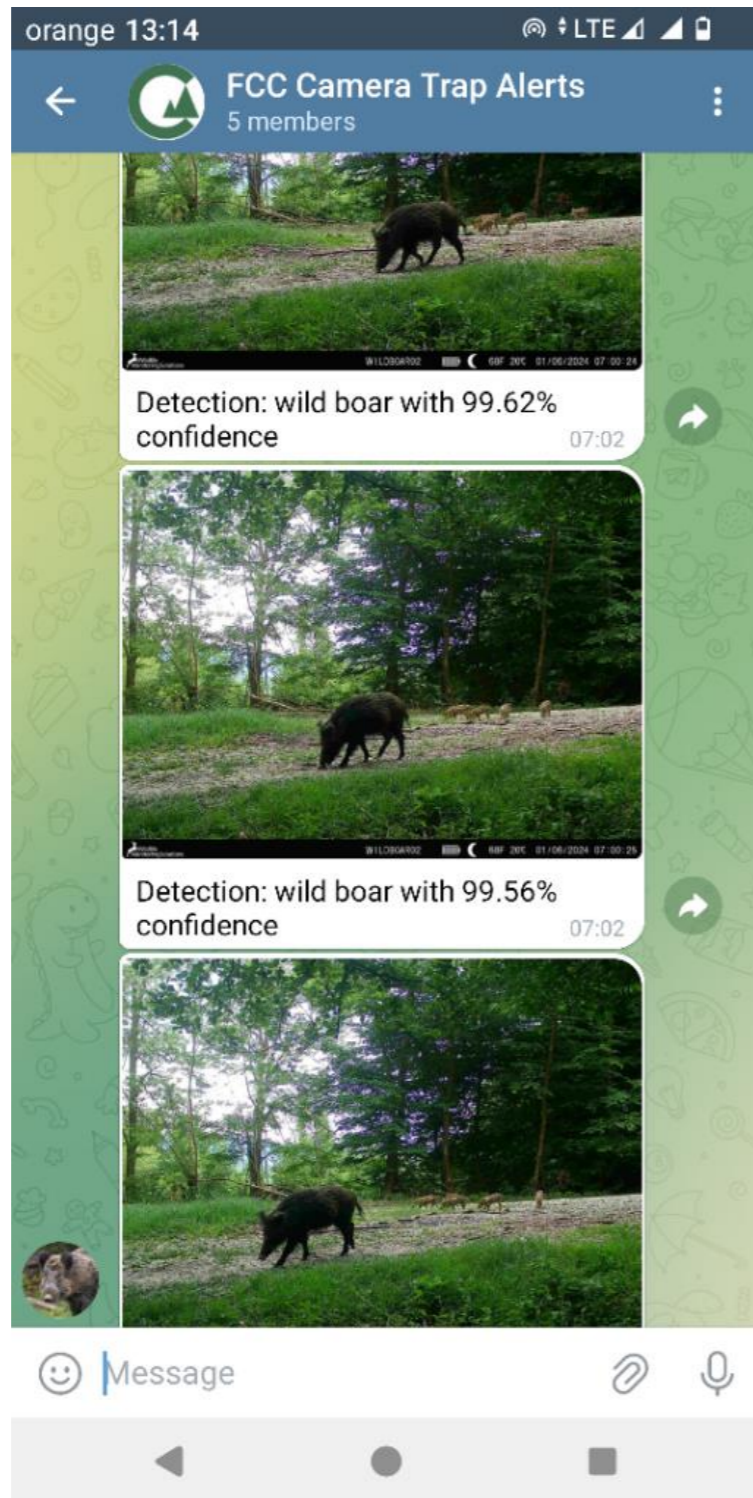
Through this pilot study we collect data about birds, bats and crickets from three types of areas:

- traditionally managed forests now included in a conservation regime
- former clear-cuts that are being reconstructed or in an early stage of growth
- virgin forests.

This way we can see the impact of our reconstruction work on biodiversity. We have installed 23 devices and are looking forward to seeing (or to be more precise, hearing) the data they collect.







# Wild Boar

The wild boar alert system developed together with Cambridge University is being tested. In May we installed four cameras in the area of Albești commune, situated in the south of the Făgăraș Mountains. The objective is to have a functional system that alerts our rangers about the presence of wild boar and their number.



Happy news from the beaver homes: we noticed signs that two of the beaver families, which we have relocated in Dâmbovița valley, in the eastern part of the Făgăraș Mountains, have cubs now.



©Liviu Ungureanu



Bears have noticed one of our camera traps and taken it off the tree.  
Fortunately, all cameras are protected by a solid case, so it was not damaged.  
Our colleagues could pin it to a different tree, in a discreet place.



©Remus Munteanu



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# Conservation Enterprise Programme

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# Roadele Munților



In the beginning of May we celebrated Orthodox Easter. The local producers baked a local type of sweet bread and honoured the orders placed through the Roadele Munților food hub.



We are prepared for summer: artisanal syrups made with local ingredients are ready to be mixed with ice-cold water and become a delicious refreshment.

**Roadele Munților** is a food collection and distribution centre (Food Hub) through which we bring the products of small traditional producers from the Făgăraș Mountains to your tables. Some of the products are already available at Ferma Cobor, but the full range can be found on the [website](#), where you can order online.



# Meet Dieter's bread



Dieter's bread is one of the local producers in the Roadele Munților food hub. Located in Câmpulung Muscel, a small town in the south of the Făgăraș Mountains, it is famous for the bread and sweets baked in the wood-fired oven, that gives it a unique taste.



The bread is made with quality flour and a lot of love. Our guests who tasted it at the Richita Centre for Activities and Nature Exploration, at Poiana Tămaș or at the Cobor Farm have been impressed by the richness and authenticity of the taste.



Dieter's bread also bakes an exquisite 'cozonac', the local sweet bread, full of flavours and guaranteed to bring you back, asking for more!



## Visit to Sibiu with local producers

We visited the Ecotourism National Fair which took place in May at the Astra open-air Museum, in Sibiu. We were accompanied by some of the producers in the Roadele Munților food hub. Seeing their interest in connecting with the public and learning how to expand their businesses makes us proud!

We also discussed with some of the producers who were present at the fair the opportunity to collaborate and tasted their local products.





Our activity at the Roadele Munților food hub is an inspiration. We were present at the Food & Beverage Innovation Camp in Sovata, Mureș county, in a dual role: as providers and as speakers.

As providers, we catered with Transylvanian Grey cattle meat for the traditional dish, goulash, and with Carpathia eco-certified beer.

As speakers, we talked about our activity to encourage all producers, but also to spread the news about our products to a greater public.







# Cobor Biodiversity Farm

More than 65 calves were born this year in the Transylvanian Grey cattle herd. It counts 280 heads at the moment.



# Travel Carpathia

Besides tourism, we also offer the possibility for university groups to visit, learn about the rich nature of the Făgăraș Mountains and exchange knowledge in a fairytale landscape. A group of students and teachers from Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development visited us. Our skilled guides took them on nature hikes and offered their in-depth knowledge about the local biodiversity.







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Wildlife hides are well visited by those who love adventures off the beaten track. Some guests already enjoyed great experiences and sightings, including the UK Ambassador for Romania.

It is one more proof that the nature of the Făgăraș Mountains is valuable beyond our dreams and deserves to be known and protected by all.



FOR NATURE,  
FOR COMMUNITIES

Communication  
and community  
outreach



# Cobor between the Oaks



‘Cobor between the Oaks’ is close. It will take place over the Orthodox Pentecost holiday. The schedule includes cultural tours, hikes, music and films. This year there are also camping places available for participants who prefer this option. More details are available [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you on 22nd and 23rd June!



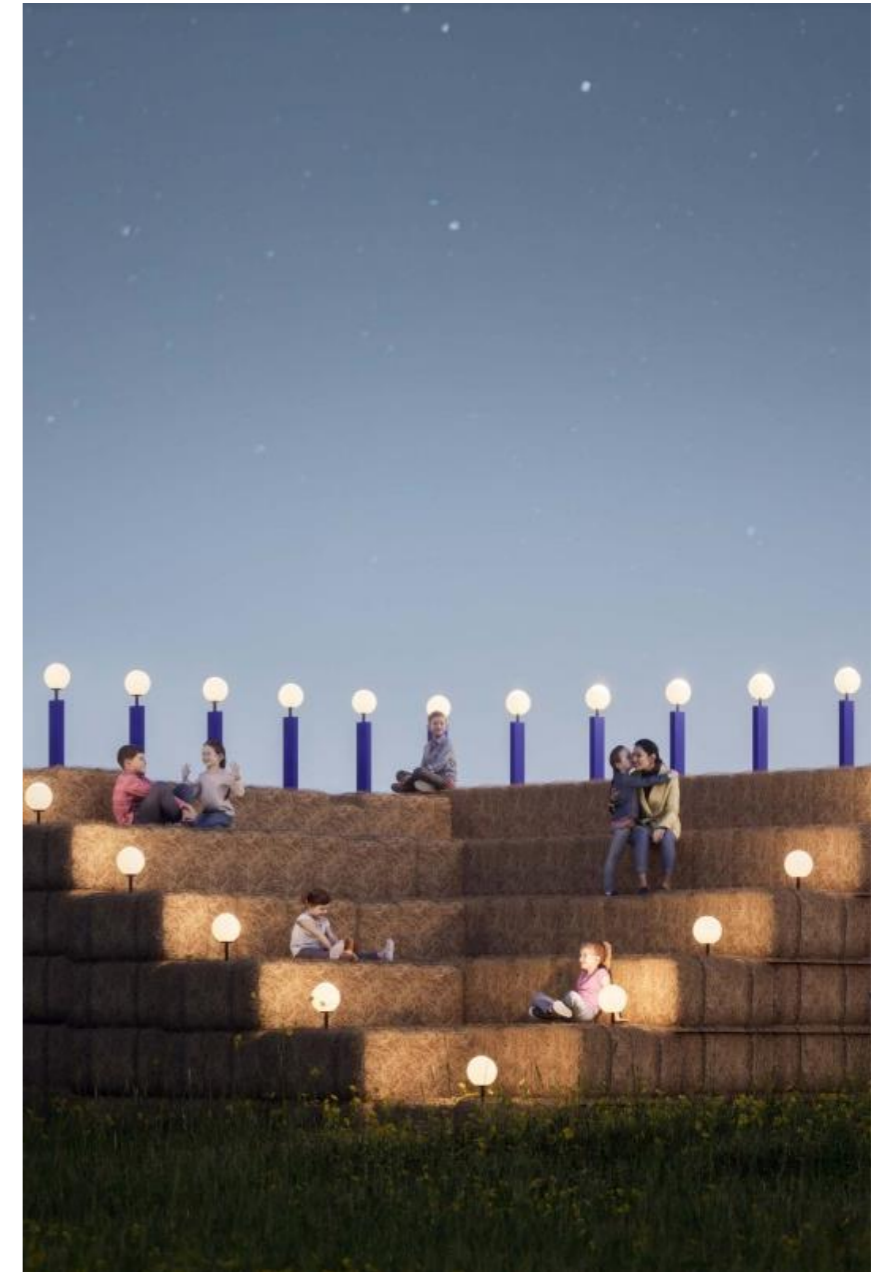
We are getting ready to offer a fantastic experience at Făgăraș Fest, between the **26th and 28th of July**. Nature is prepared to unravel before you. See you at Sebeșu de Sus!





At Făgăraș Fest you will be able to interact with the art installation **It's oh so quiet** created by Atelier VRAC. It is designed to offer moments of contemplation as it will be oriented towards the Făgăraș Mountains.

The project has won the art competition 'Manifesto for Făgăraș Mountains' against 14 other proposals.



# Table tennis tournament



The sports programme we initiated last year in six schools around the Făgăraş Mountains has culminated in May with a tournament. The competition titled **Class league of table tennis** gave them the opportunity to test their abilities. The children's enthusiasm and engagement was contagious, and everybody felt the thrills of competition.



We were happy to take part in the Job Fair at the Faculty of Biology in Bucharest. We met promising students and talked to them about our projects, giving them an idea about what nature conservation entails.



- We organised a field workshop on ecologic reconstruction with highschool students from Rucăr.
- They learned about specific restoration activities and their impact.
- The surprise of the day was the presence of Ruben Valbuena, a university lecturer from Sweden, who presented new technologies for monitoring forests, like drones and 3D scanners.
- The event was organised as part of the SUPERB project (Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest-related biodiversity and ecosystem services).





When we meet with students ideas flow!

We met with first year students at the Faculty of Communication and Public Relations in Bucharest. Their assignment had been to solve a branding brief for our Conservation Enterprise department. The presentation of their branding and communication projects brought us some fresh perspectives and allowed us to see new opportunities!



# Education activities

One of our wildlife laboratory specialists, Mădălina, taught the youth in the Junior Ranger programme how to process and analyse biological samples.





## Fundraising workshop

At the National Fundraising Conference Barbara and Christoph Promberger, our executive directors, shared their expertise on attracting support for great causes with other NGOs.



# Partnership with Casa Bună

Foundation Conservation Carpathia and Casa Bună association have a long-term partnership. We support each other for the benefit of children and communities around the Făgăraș Mountains. At the semi-marathon for Casa Bună Sânpetru, funds were raised for the education of children who are at risk of abandoning school. We enjoyed the cheering and the energy along with the participants!





# Spirit of the Forest documentary



## Spirit of the Forest | WaterBear



Fundatia Conservation CARPATHIA

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'Spirit of the Forest' showcases the ancient beech trees of Nucșoara and the people of this community. The documentary is produced by WaterBear Network, the first interactive streaming platform dedicated to the future of our planet, in collaboration with Fou ...more

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'[Spirit of the Forest](#)' is now available on YouTube! Discover in this documentary the ancient beech trees of the Nucșoara commune and the close connection between the community and the trees.





©Paul Chiorean

# Make your story immortal

Access <https://arboricupovesti.ro/> and adopt a centuries-old beech tree! You will help protect some of Europe's oldest and most spectacular beech trees that grow on the meadows of Nucșoara, the commune closest to the highest peak in the Făgăraș Mountains.

Tree no. 206, for example, is available. Discover it virtually [here](#), then come to Nucșoara and see it in real life.



# Press

Our efforts to restore the former clear-cuts in the Groapele area receives national attention. Raluca Ion, experienced journalist, wrote about the challenges we face while trying to rebuild the natural ecosystem. The article in Romanian [can be read on republica.ro](https://www.republica.ro).



Raluca Ion  
Editor

Distribuie

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## Aici a fost o pădure. Cum se luptă natura să își revină la 12 ani de la o tăiere la ras

2024-05-25 08:17:00



Cu mai bine de 15 ani în urmă, acest teren de 300 de hectare din Munții Făgăraș, era acoperit de o pădure seculară. Mii de arbori coniferi, cu rădăcinile bine în pământ, au crescut până ce și-au ridicat vârfulurile la





# Results

**4,142,254 trees  
planted in clear-cuts,  
river banks and  
restoration areas of  
spruce monocultures**

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# Results

**27,434 ha**

of forest under permanent protection and safeguarded for future generations

**80,000 ha**

protected for wildlife, with no sport or trophy hunting

**353 locals**

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

**2,200**

students and teachers involved in environmental education projects

**>30**

local producers are part of the Roadele Munților Food Hub





## Please join us in:

- Creating the largest forested National Park in Central Europe
- Annual restoration of 100 ha of our native ecosystem over illegally clear-cut areas
- Protecting wildlife across a total of 75,000 ha
- Supporting the sustainable development of local communities
- Environmental education projects





FOUNDATION  
CONSERVATION CARPATHIA

Calea Feldioarei 27A, Brasov,  
Romania

[info@carpathia.org](mailto: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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