

Volunteer on Wildlife monitoring project

Terms of reference

BACKGROUND

Foundation Conservation Carpathia is a Romanian conservation NGO with the goal to create a world-class wilderness reserve in the Southern Romanian Carpathians for the benefit of biodiversity and local communities.

WILDLIFE MONITORING

Foundation Conservation Carpathia has developed a scientific monitoring scheme for wildlife inhabiting the Southern Romanian Carpathians. Besides bear, wolf, and lynx, we recently extended this monitoring towards red deer as well. The main monitoring methods used are genetic monitoring through collecting non-invasive DNA samples (scat, hair, urine), and systematic camera trapping. Both methods are used to identify individuals in the population and estimate various population parameters (size, genetic structure, sex ratio, etc.).

Further reading resources can be found at:

www.storymaps.arcgis.com

[www.carpathia.org/ Report-on-monitoring-brown-bear-using-non-invasive-DNA-sampling-in-the-Romanian-Carpathians](http://www.carpathia.org/Report-on-monitoring-brown-bear-using-non-invasive-DNA-sampling-in-the-Romanian-Carpathians)

www.carpathia.org/Foundation-Conservation-Carpathia-Report-on-monitoring-wolf-using-non-invasive-DNA-sampling-in-the-Romanian-Carpathians

www.carpathia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FCC-Report-on-monitoring-Eurasian-lynx-using-camera-trapping-in-the-Romanian-Carpathians

POSITION

The Volunteer reports directly to the Wildlife biologist (volunteer coordinator) but will work directly with the Wildlife monitoring experts and rangers (depending on the project). The position is needed during all seasons - will accept volunteers for a minimum period of 8 weeks.

PRIMARY ROLE

- Participation in the collection of biological samples (scats, urine, hair) of large carnivores and selected herbivore species;
- Participation in periodic camera trap surveys for estimating population size of Eurasian lynx, and possibly other species;

- Participation in large carnivore snow-tracking activities;
- Participation in data management activities on both camera trapping and biological sample data.

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS

- Education in biology, ecology, wildlife management, environmental sciences, or training as game warden beneficial but not obligatory;
- Strong interest and good general knowledge about wildlife and wildlife conservation is required;
- Physical and mental fitness;
- Flexibility regarding working hours and travel in mountain conditions (including during the winter);
- Interest in wildlife monitoring techniques such as snow-tracking, scat identification, camera trapping, radio telemetry;
- Some work or volunteer experience in the field of wildlife conservation with recognised organisations/institutions is a plus;
- Data management skills are beneficial.

YOUR APPLICATION

If you are interested, please send your application to info@carpathia.org. You should include a CV and a cover letter (less than 300 words). In the cover letter please also include contact details of 1-2 reference persons.