



NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

January 2025

FOR NATURE,
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

FOR NATURAL RESOURCES,
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Forest conservation and management

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Snow is not just a winter decoration. It is vital for the forest: it protects tree roots from frost and temperature fluctuations, prevents erosion and provides a much-needed water supply when temperatures start to rise.

This January has been a bit atypical: it has brought us, in addition to the mesmerizing white landscapes, a few days with temperatures that were far too high. Our rangers watched anxiously as the first buds burst. Fortunately, the necessary cold returned before the trees and animals suffered.





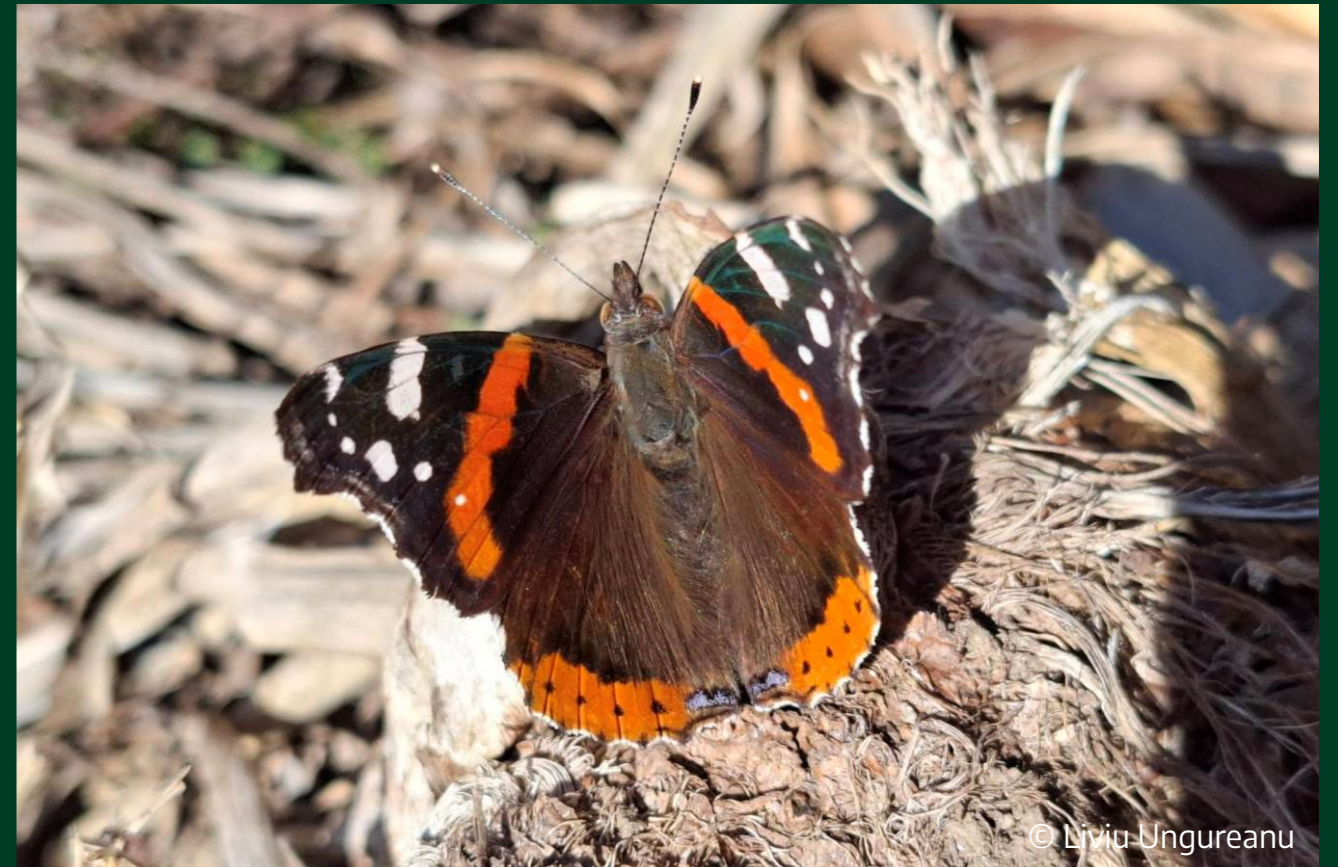
© Florin Nicolae



© Dragoș Duruian



Unusual for January: a Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) awakened by the early warmth. Image captured by our colleague Liviu Ungureanu on the banks of the Dâmbovița river, Stoenești area.



The hazel trees thought spring had sprung and bloomed! The yellow catkins are made of male flowers, which produce pollen, and the reddish ones are female flowers - which will turn into hazelnuts.



© Liviu Ungureanu



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Ecological restoration



© Liviu Ungureanu

Getting ready for spring planting

A forest takes root quite slowly. That's why this spring we will come back to replace the saplings that didn't make it in the three restoration sites where we started to plant as early as 2011.

We will plant around 140,000 seedlings grown in the nine nurseries of the foundation.

In recent years, we have noticed that the high-altitude areas of Zârna and Groapele (near Nucșoara commune - Argeș county) are snowed in until late spring, close to summer, which means that we rarely have favourable conditions for afforestation in spring. These difficult sites are more suitable for planting in the autumn.



We continue to shed light into the spruce forests.

In these artificial forests, made from a single species of tree, no light penetrates. Without it, other tree species which would help make the ecosystem more resilient to insects, floods and strong winds can't grow.

In January, we went to the Richita forests and marked the areas where we will be thinning to help the forest return to a near-natural form. In the space created we'll be planting beech, fir, sycamore and other species that do well in the area.

The activities are being carried out under the umbrella of the European Union's SUPERB ecological restoration programme.



© Dan Dinu



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Wildlife conservation

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Wolf tracks in the snow don't go unnoticed. The snow helped us collect 100 new samples for the genetic study of wolves!

We are now in our seventh year of monitoring, the longest-running survey of this species in Romania.



© Ruben Iosif



© Alexandru Olteanu



© Alexandru Olteanu



We're keeping an eye on the bison! So far, they seem to be doing well, even though it is winter and food is harder to find. Tracks well imprinted on the ground indicate a healthy weight.



Do you see the beavers in the picture?
No?

Well, you couldn't have, because they're at home, inside the dam. They're consuming the supplies they gathered when the weather was friendlier. But if the picture had sound, you could hear the sounds of domestic noises inside.



© Liviu Ungureanu





The forest stays green and regenerates thanks to large carnivores. They limit the number of herbivores (such as red deer and roe deer), which in too large numbers would browse too many young trees and prevent forest regrowth. Not surprisingly, colleagues in the field sometimes find the remains of a feast alongside deer tracks.



© Alexandru Olteanu





In the Rucăr area we installed a new electric fence to prevent conflicts with wild animals.

We continue to support local people in the foothills of the Făgăraș Mountains to build a balanced relationship with the local wildlife.



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Conservation Enterprise Programme

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In January, the call of the Făgăraș Mountains was also heard in London.

Travel Carpathia was present at the DESTINATIONS travel show, the largest travel trade event in the UK.

We are glad that the precious nature of our project area arouses the interest of an experienced public!





True nature guides don't shy away from cold weather. In January the practical sessions of the Guides Academy took us to the Richita Nature Activity and Exploration Centre, which served as our base.

We went out in the field to identify and interpret forest tracks. Back in the warmth, we discussed tour structure, group psychology and other essential topics for tourism leaders.

The ultimate beneficiaries of these classes are our guests. When they choose the Făgăraș Mountains as their destination they receive more than a vacation: they enjoy an eye-opening experience in nature.



© Thea Codreanu



Hospitality in the Făgăraș Mountains



Two new ecotourism associations have been born in the south of the Făgăraș Mountains: in Nucșoara and in Sățic, Rucăr. We are happy to be at their side! We trust that these initiatives will not only help the economic development of the communities, but will also support nature conservation.

When you wake up at Cobor Biodiversity Farm on a clear winter's day, you feel like you're in a fairy-tale. Every detail asks to be admired leisurely: the reclaimed wood furniture, delicately refurbished, and traditional motifs invite you to relax.

After a hearty lunch, take your time over dessert. When the dark comes, it's a pity not to admire the star-filled sky: put on an extra layer and take a walk around the village, by night.





© Victoria Donos

A mysterious new presence at the Cobor Biodiversity Farm awaits to be petted.

Call to book: 0770 963 238





Cobor Biodiversity Farm welcomed nine local accommodation owners from Rucăr. For them we organised a workshop on rural tourism.

We discussed nature and traditions, but also how to find nature-friendly solutions to the challenges of a tourism business.



Equus Silvania



In Șinca Nouă we are preparing for the riding season that will start in spring. From the second half of April the horses, in top form, will be ready to take you on less trodden trails in the heart of nature.

For reservations and details:
+4 0753 014 465

All the goodness of the wholesome fruits and vegetables from the Făgăraș Mountains is well preserved in the form of zacuscă, jam, syrup and other goodies.

Discover them on www.roadelemuntilor.ro and enjoy! We deliver anywhere in Romania.



FOR NATURE,
FOR COMMUNITIES

Communication
and community
outreach

It's heartening to see that wild nature, in all its splendour, is taking its course. The video '[A year in the Făgăraș Mountains](#)', posted on our social networks, has been viewed by over 250,000 nature lovers!



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AUGUST





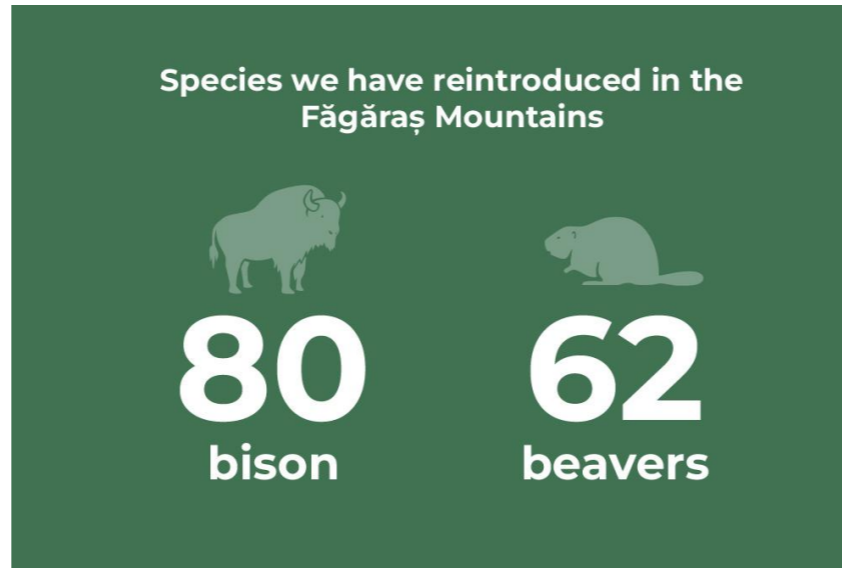
We turned 15. Is it a lot, is it a little?

We look back at all we've done and think we've grown up nicely.

We look ahead, at all that we plan to accomplish next, and realise that we're just getting started.



With the support of people, donors and volunteers we are building a world where nature and communities live together in balance.



We know the location of the next Făgăraș Fest

The following editions of Făgăraș Fest will be heard in Valea Moașei, Sebeșu de Sus village, Racovița commune. The locality won the call for projects launched in early January.

The competition was close between communities, which is all the more reason to thank the people who put their hearts and souls into the outstanding projects for this festival.

Let's get to work!



The project 'Good manners in nature' brought us, together with the **Academia 1,61** team, closer to high school students in Bucharest. Almost 2,000 young people had the opportunity to learn how to behave in the mountains, what to do if they encounter wild animals, how to enjoy hiking without leaving anything behind.



LICEUL TEORETIC INTERNAȚIONAL
DE INFORMATICĂ BUCUREȘTI

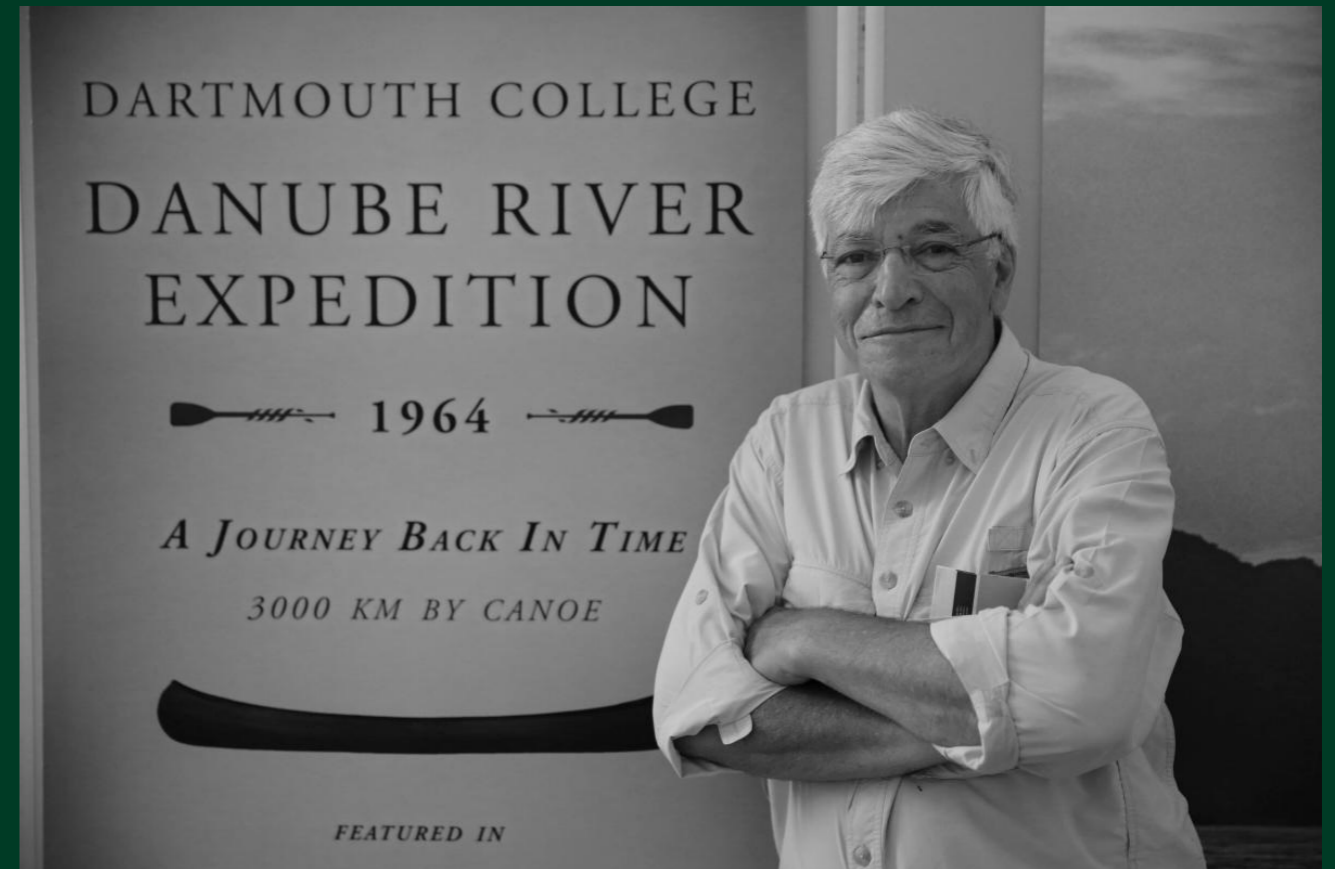


In memoriam

It is with great sadness and gratitude that we bid farewell to Dan Dimăncescu, member of the Board of Directors of Foundation Conservation Carpathia.

A former Honorary Consul of Romania in Boston, a remarkable entrepreneur and diplomat, he passionately and determinedly supported our projects, in particular the vision of creating a National Park in the Făgăraș Mountains.

We thank him for his dedication, perseverance and inspiration!



If you were employed in Romania in 2024, you can redirect 3.5% of your income tax and help the forests of the Făgăraș Mountains stay as they are: a home to wildlife, a source of clean rivers, a generator of fresh and cool air, a place to escape after tiring days.

It costs nothing extra, but we all win - you, nature and the future.



Help nature
be safe.

Donate
3.5%
from your
income tax.





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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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