



NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

February 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 COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE

Forest conservation and management



In February the forest rested quietly. The snow covered everything in a cosy, insulating blanket, giving us time to listen to the subtle rhythms of life. We planned our activities for when spring appears, aware that things could change in a single day. Our rangers faced the cold, constantly patrolling to prevent illegal logging, more tempting in the colder periods.



Winter view in the Piatra Mare Dragoslavele area by our fellow ranger, Gabriel Dudu



It snowed, but is it enough?

The water level in Lake Vidraru was at an all-time low, so the ruins of the village of Cumpăna, which stand on this spot, became visible.



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Ecological restoration



© Flavius Răuță



After sitting under the snow, the white fir saplings were unveiled as the sun began to shine. In total, there are 46,000 white fir seedlings in our nurseries ready to be planted in the mountains.



In the nurseries we have prepared the ground in which we will grow new seedlings as soon as the weather permits.



There will be a forest here again.

Since 2021, we have spent a lot of effort replanting at Groapele (a high-altitude area near the commune of Nucșoara) and now we can see on the ground that the forest is slowly recovering.

We don't know if the snow will allow us to plant here this spring, but we definitely know that we will continue our work to restore and preserve the forest.



3

Wildlife conservation

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We study wolves using urine samples, droppings and hairs.

In addition to this, we now have a new methodology that allows us to obtain cells from wolf tracks left in the snow. It is called Environmental DNA, DNA extracted from the environment.

The snow collected with a sterile scoop is melted and the resulting water is filtered and analysed in the lab to extract each wolf's DNA.



Our colleagues were joined by three volunteers (two from Germany and one from France). They were very helpful in collecting DNA samples.

The snow and the involvement of the volunteers were a great help: we obtained 230 classical DNA samples in February - close to our target of 250.

In addition, 12 samples were collected with the new method - Environmental DNA.

Thank you Nils, Maya and Marlene!



© Maya Lemarignier



© Nils Pithan

Apparently, Valentine's Day didn't really suit the two wolves, so they slept in separate 'rooms'.



© Zsolt Miholcea





We have captured five bison in Argeş county, to put collars on them – collars that allow us to track their movements via GPS. The data is helping us to better understand how the bison feed and move around in the Făgăraş Mountains!



© Gabriel Dudu

‘The apple doesn't fall far from the tree’ also applies to deer. Mother deer and son deer observed by our colleagues in the field confirm this proverb.

In the Strâmba Valley, near Șinca Nouă, beavers are busy and are not intimidated by the thickness of a trunk.

Even if they seem a threat to the trees, the vegetation will regenerate. Nature has evolved with beavers and biodiversity flourishes where beavers are present.



4

Conservation Enterprise Programme

FOR NATURAL
RESOURCES, FOR COMMUNITIES



The kitchen at the Cobor Biodiversity Farm was busy in February. The colleagues who take care of guests' meals attended a cooking workshop with chef Mihai Todea. We're gearing up to offer our guests not only sumptuous meals, but a more sophisticated local taste.



Easter preparations

For the Easter weekend, 18th-21st April, we have prepared a relaxed programme. If you want a homely celebration, but without the worries of the house, all the details can be found [here](#), by phone +40 743 195 333 or by e-mail: reservation@cobor-farm.ro

Celebrate Easter like
in the old days



The Guiding Academy continued in February with cool learning sessions. We went out in the field and identified wildlife tracks, collected fur samples and were reminded how much information is in every detail if you know how to 'read' it. We can't wait to share everything we have learned with Travel Carpathia guests!



In Poiana Tămaș, the old renovated sheepfold awaits the arrival of spring.



© Robert Lazăr



Carpathia Fund

We remain close to entrepreneurs who have benefited from Carpathia Fund financing. At the February meeting we were joined by a representative from Conservation Capital, the international financing instrument that supports projects for small entrepreneurs.



FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE

Communication
and community
outreach

The Junior Rangers had a special programme this school vacation because every day they went into the field with our colleagues.

Nature has spoiled us: we have seen bison, identified vegetation species, played with snowballs and admired winter landscapes. We also visited the nurseries, where we really understood why they say: 'winter is not like summer'!



The 'Adopt a corner of nature' competition is open until 30th March. It is aimed at 13-17 year-old students from the Făgăraș Mountains area, who are invited to find and adopt a corner of nature near them and develop a project for it.

The 15 most creative participants can win a seven-day trip to the Bavarian Forest National Park in Germany!



Adoptă
un colț de
natură

Concurs pentru elevi

Un proiect  **CARPATHIA®**
Pentru Natură și Oameni



NATURA LA CLASĂ

Caravană cu activități educative și
conpetiție de proiecte

The 'Nature in the Classroom' caravan is on the road again this year. We visit schools in the rural communities around the Făgăraș Mountains to tell stories about nature and how students can get involved in protecting it.

From February to April we will meet with students from 5th to 8th grades in a programme that includes interactive activities and open discussions.



CARPATHIA BIKE TOUR

Ediția a 4-a
31 Mai
2025

Un eveniment Fundația Conservation Carpathia și Ferma de Biodiversitate Cobor

90 km by bike

The launch of this year's edition of the Carpathia Bike Tour brought us a big surprise: the first 70 Early Bird tickets sold out in 12 hours! Thanks for your trust, we can't wait to pedal together on 31st May!

Details [here](#).

At the foot of Piatra Craiului, in the Brusturet area, a new mountain rescue base has been inaugurated, essential for mountain rescuers from Muscel.

From here, rapid interventions will be more effective, especially in the summer season, when the number of tourists in the area is at its peak.

We supported this project by supplying the necessary wood, building the wooden roof and purchasing interior fittings.



In February we launched, together with Țara Făgărașului Community Foundation, the third edition of Carpathia Fund. Through this project we offer grants to NGOs, initiative groups and scholarships to students from the communities of Țara Făgărașului. We are waiting for the final application forms up to 23rd March!



Susține natura să fie bine

Înscrie un proiect cu componentă de mediu până pe **24 februarie 2025** și te susținem să-l pui în practică!

Program susținut prin  **FONDUL CARPATHIA®**
Inițiat de Fundația Conservation Carpathia

Realizat de  **Fundația Comunitară Țara Făgărașului**



© Alexandru Crețu

The movie 'Nature's Architects' is on tour! At the end of February, we started a series of screenings of the documentary about reintroduced species. In Sibiu the room was full, the attention was alert, and the questions amazed even our specialists in the reintroduction of bison and beaver!



One snowdrop doesn't make spring. But more snowdrops mean more balance in nature.

The same goes for donations: each one counts. If you work in Romania, you can turn your tax into concrete action for the environment without taking a penny out of your pocket. Redirect 3.5% of your tax (already paid) to Foundation Conservation Carpathia and help us protect the Făgăraș Mountains, as we have been doing for 15 years.

It's not the only way you can get involved. Discover more [on the website](#).

**Help nature
be safe.**

**Donate
3.5%
from your
income tax.**



Results

4,528,254

trees planted

78,000 ha

protected for wildlife, with
no sport or trophy hunting

353 locals

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

27,890 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 Food
Hub



FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION CARPATHIA

Calea Feldioarei 27A, Braşov,
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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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or access [Donations – Carpathia](#)