CARPATHIA®

NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

FOR NATURE, FOR COMMUNITIES

carpathia.org

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© Liviu Ungureanu

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

© Daniel Rosengren



Although shy, signs of spring are visible in the forest in March.

Trees are budding. Small flowers colour the forest, indifferent to belated snows. Animals are preparing for a new mating season, foraging for food and preparing their nests.

Mindful of the weather, we are getting ready for planting activities.

© Andrei Becheru

Groapele is one of the areas most affected by illegal logging. Photographer Andrei Becheru is documenting the story, and in March he climbed up to the area and captured a clump of spruce trees that survived the chainsaws.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Although they have a lot of experience in nature, colleagues in the field are still impressed by the vitality of the first flowers appearing in the forest. Snowdrops, woody anemones, purple crocuses, and dogtooth violets are just a few of the many flowers blooming at this time. They are an important source of food for the first insects that have been awakened by the warmth of March.









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Spring scales



A common viper (*Vipera berus)* observed by our colleague Flavius in the Dragoslavele area.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

In the forest ‘witch’s broom’ is not a vehicle without GPS, but a pathological phenomenon. It presents as the abnormal growth of a group of short, dense, broom-like branches. Because of this, the tree weakens, grows more slowly and may even wither. Some of the causes include fungi, viruses or genetic mutations.

The pictures show an example of 'witch's broom' in fir trees, caused by rust fungus.





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2

Ecological restoration

© Liviu Ungureanu





Who broke into the Dragosloveni nursery?
We found a collapsed fence and noticed four pots of Swiss pine saplings had vanished. The mystery didn’t last long – large paw prints suggested our uninvited guest was a bear with a taste for landscaping.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



The forest saplings in the nursery are also tempting to hungry wild boar. To protect them, we've installed an electric fence that will keep the animals at bay.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

The spring work season has started!

The seedlings have already been brought into the field, shortly before planting, to keep them in the dormant phase (preventing them from vegetating too early before planting).

Once they are removed from the nursery, we keep them in cooler places at high altitudes - that is, we temporarily place them in ditches covered with soil and green spruce branches. They are protected from light and the vegetation phase is delayed.

This process also helps them to adapt better and more easily when they are planted permanently.









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3

Wildlife conservation

FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE

For the bison, the 'umbrella species' label isn't just a fancy name – it's something you feel every day in the forest.

Among the trees, you can spot tufts of their fur clinging to the bark. Birds find and use these to line their nests - especially in March, when preparations for spring are in full swing.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia


© Liviu Ungureanu





We know how beavers feed, but to make good decisions we need more than just observations - we need scientific data.

That's why we're preparing a study that will show us exactly which species of trees and plants they prefer. We want to understand what impact they have on invasive plants, how they influence habitat development and whether they compete with the bison for food.

We are just now at the stage of choosing the study areas and defining the method by which to obtain the most relevant information.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



Castor fiber

Beavers aren't just engineers, they're also a little bit like artists.

A trunk chewed by beavers can look like a string of strange beads.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



When roe deer stumble on the crocuses, it's the stuff of fairy tales. Photographers, pay attention!

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

© CroProject

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Conservation Enterprise Programme

The charm of rural Easter



An egg-carving workshop, a chocolate egg hunt, painting or a guided horse ride: which of the activities we have prepared for Easter at Equus Silvania Riding and Nature Exploration Centre will be the most appreciated? We wish you a peaceful and warm holiday!

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Travel Carpathia in Berlin

With 60 years of tradition, the international travel fair ITB Berlin is one of the most important in the world.

The Travel Carpathia team was present at the invitation of the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism to promote unique ecotourism and nature observation experiences in the Făgăraș Mountains.



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Roadele Munților Făgăraș social enterprise has new clothes!

We have kept the values that define us: respect for nature, support for local producers and the traditions that unite us, and we have given them a new visual identity. Now it is better aligned with the evolution of our project and the preferences of those who appreciate authentic products, that have good taste and a story.

You can admire the new visual identity on https://roadelemuntilor.ro/!

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



We believe that economic progress and nature protection can be mutually supportive. We are glad to see that people in the Făgăraș Mountains area have economic initiatives that bring change, inspired by nature, and become examples of success for others.

That's why we keep in touch with the beneficiaries of Carpathia Fund grants and analyse their medium and long-term impact. In 2024 we supported six nature-friendly local businesses in the Făgăraș Mountains with grants, each of them an example of initiative and dedication.

The CARPATHIA Fund is a funding mechanism for the development of local communities around the Făgăraș Mountains.



5

Communication and community outreach

Făgăraș Fest sixth edition

Făgăraș Fest, the festival of the Făgăraș Mountains, comes back this year, on 11-13 July !

It will take place on Valea Moașei, in Sebeșu de Sus, Racovița commune.

We can't wait to enjoy experiences at the foot of the mountains, in a place out of fairy tales, together with people who share with us the mission to protect and preserve nature.

Details and tickets on www.fagarasfest.ro!

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This autumn Romania will host, for a few days, the most important ranger meeting in Europe. Our Eastern European country becomes the place where those on the front line of conservation make their voices heard at the 6th European Ranger Congress.

The event takes place October 6-10, and the programme includes:

- Presentation of case studies;
- Field visits;
- Debates;
- Conferences.

We are pleased to be a partner in the organisation of this edition together with the **European Ranger Federation** and the **Romanian Ranger Association**. More details about the event and how to register here.



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They say the best way to learn is to live what you learn. That's why at the Richita Nature Exploration and Activity Centre we organised two camps with the children of the 160 employees of Foundation Conservation Carpathia.

For a few days the forest became their classroom and the Făgăraș Mountains, their teachers.

For us, but also for our children, nature conservation is not just a theory, but a way of everyday life.









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”How much milk does the female bison produce?” and ”How do you persuade a bison to move from one trailer to another?” are just some of the questions we received during the screenings of ‘Nature's Architects’ in Brașov and Sibiu.

We are grateful to the open-minded people who understand that bison and beavers are not relics of the past, but essential parts of a more balanced future.









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Help us to keep the Făgăraș Mountains as we know them – with clean air, clear water and free-living animals. Because in the end, everything here is part of our lives.

If you have worked in Romania in 2024, it's easy to redirect 3.5% of the tax you already payed, and it doesn't cost you anything extra. Support the conservation projects of Foundation Conservation Carpathia, which has been enabling nature and people to live respectfully together for 15 years.

In less than a minute, you can fill in, sign and submit form 230 online, without having to go to the tax office.

It's not the only way you can get involved. Find out more on the website.

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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

27,906 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 Food Hub

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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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