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CARPATHIA®
NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains
FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE
carpathia.org
April 2025

Main activities summary

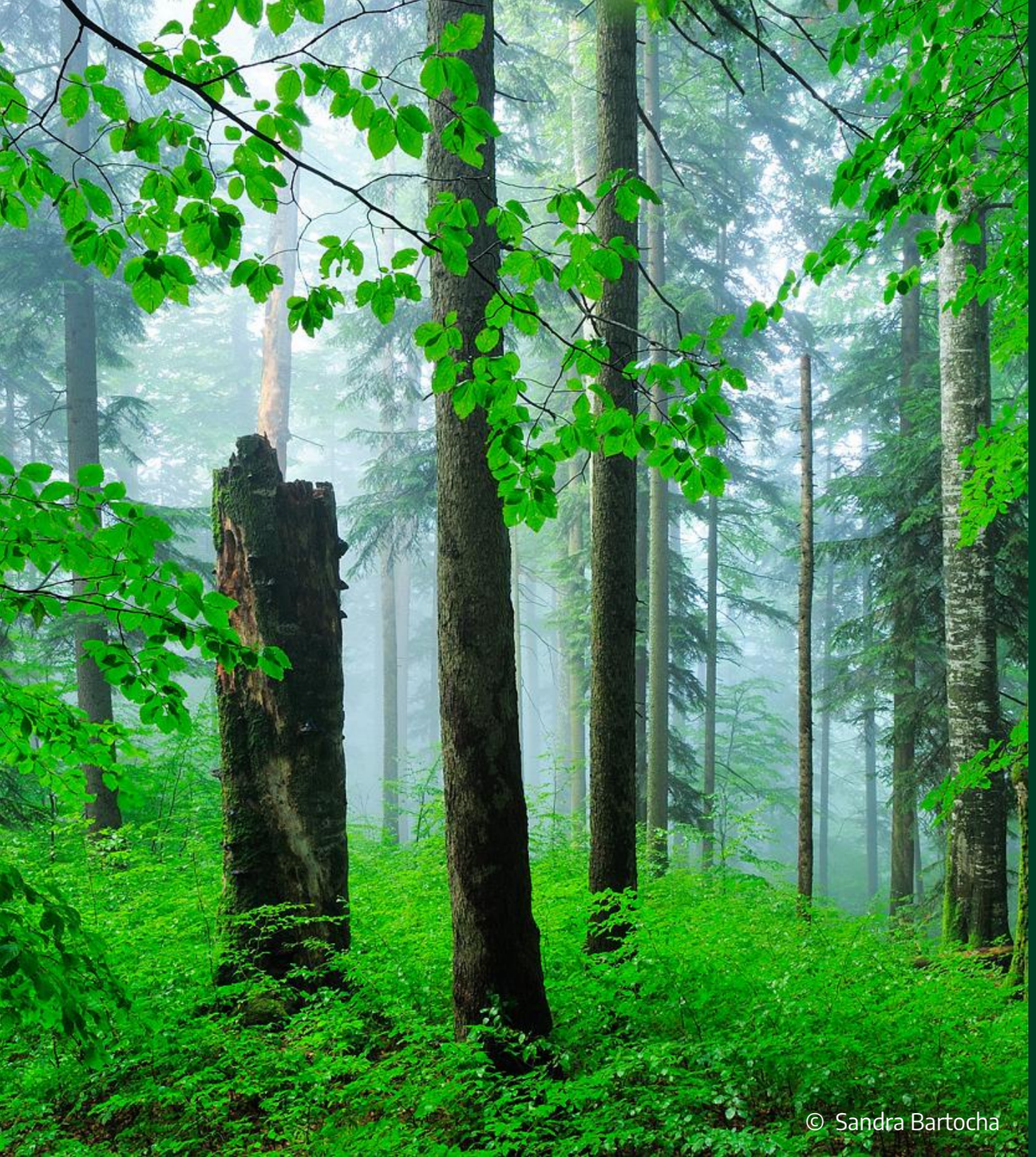
1. Forest conservation and management
2. Ecological restoration
3. Wildlife conservation
4. Conservation Enterprise Programme
5. Communication and community outreach



1

Forest conservation and management

© Roxana Sava



April kicked off the big show in the forest! The vegetation came out of hibernation, the birds resumed their rhythms, and all the deer have shed their antlers. The hustle and bustle is now at its peak, every creature has a job to do. But just when everything was getting going... the snow returned for a few days.

However, the forest is not giving up – it knows that spring is not afraid of a little white surprise!



The song *(hoop-hoop-hoo)* of the hoopoe is among the most recognisable bird sounds in the forest in April. It is not a shy bird: this image captured by our colleagues in the Dâmbovița Valley proves it.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

A forest fire in a hard-to-reach area near the village of Cetățeni alerted us. Although it did not directly affect the forests of Foundation Conservation Carpathia, our rangers mobilised to lend a hand. We are proud of our field teams, who demonstrate initiative and commitment every time.





© Dragos Duruian

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



2

Ecological restoration

© Liviu Ungureanu

In April, intensive work was carried out in the nurseries. Young spruce seedlings were moved from the greenhouse to prepared ‘open air’ nursery plots.

They continue to grow in the nursery until we move them to the mountains, where their survival depends on their capacity to adapt. Therefore, we avoid protecting them too much. It is important that these trees gradually adapt to the environment they will find themselves in.



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We started planting with the support and involvement of people from local communities. In the Dobroneagu area, at the southern foothills of the Făgăraș Mountains, nearly 50 day-workers from villages such as Dragoslavele, Stoenești, Cetățeni, Aninoasa and Valea Iașului joined us.





It was a lot of work and the weather was fickle. Snowfall in mid-April forced us to take a break, but at the end of the month we returned to the field with renewed strength and the same positive energy.





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Spruce and beech trees, two species we plant in the Tămaș Valley.

Here, between 1,400 and 1,600 meters, spruce trees are at home. Climate change brings with it rising temperatures, and conditions are becoming more favourable every year for beech trees — a deciduous main species that, in the past, was not found at altitudes above 1,450 meters.

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© Gabriel Dudu
3
FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE,
Wildlife conservation

What is the relationship between the number of ungulates (red deer, roe deer, fallow deer, chamois) and the growth of future trees? Is forest regeneration affected by how they feed?

That's what we're trying to find out by studying the feeding habits of ungulates. It's a demanding process: we have 300 sampling plots to cover. A team of two rangers can cover a maximum of two or three such areas per day, so a lot of resources are needed to complete the task.



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The diversity and number of birds is greater in old-growth forests: this is the hypothesis on which our acoustic monitoring study is based. Together with volunteer Felix Zimmerman, we have installed a series of audiorecorders that will capture the sounds of the forest, which we will use to make estimates of biodiversity.





© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



How do bears feed themselves?

Accurate data on bear diets helps us understand which are the best measures for preventing conflicts. That is why we have started a study to find out exactly how their diet varies depending on the availability of food sources.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Shhh, they're sleeping! They need lots of energy for their spring flights.



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4
FOR NATURE, FOR COMMUNITIES
Conservation Enterprise Programme

Event dedicated to conservation and ecotourism at the German Embassy

We were honoured by the invitation from the German Embassy in Bucharest to an event dedicated to ecotourism and nature conservation on 3rd April. We thank them for supporting our mission to create a protected area where nature and communities live in harmony.



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We participated in a working meeting at the Romanian Embassy in Vienna. We are grateful for the invitation and would like to thank both our hosts and Adrian Gasser, Director of International Relations and Tourism at the Austrian Ministry of Labour and Economics, who provided us with essential information about tourism in Austria. We were delighted to see such keen interest in ecotourism and nature-friendly tourism!





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In April, we organized a press visit to share the story of the initiatives we support through the Carpathia FUND — a financing mechanism for local community development.

In Rucăr, we stopped at **Wild Wolf Adventure**, where Bogdan Bălan has set up a hiking trail and a local food spot.

In Valea Mare-Pravăț, at the **7Muscele** farm, Andreea and Dorin Drulă prepare cheeses that mature slowly, at the pace of nature.

And in Bughea de Jos, in **Poiana Fermecata**, Ramona Pârvu and her family preserve tradition in jars of jam and in open-air culinary workshops.

Three small businesses with strong roots show that it is possible to live close to nature, and we support them as much as we can.









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On the first day of June, we open the gates of our farm and feed your appetite for vacation. Our skilled chefs serve up local Transylvanian delicacies.

If you're in the mood for a wonderful Sunday, find details here: Brunch at Cobor | Facebook

Tickets are still available at iabilet.ro

Can't make it on 1st June? No problem. Give us a call on 0770 963 238 and make a reservation for when it's convenient for you.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Equus Silvania has reopened after renovation. Everything is ready to make guests feel at home after a day spent in the countryside.

The Equus Silvania Horse Riding and Nature Exploration Centre in Șinca Nouă is a Travel Carpathia location. For details and reservations, send us a message at reservation@travelcarpathia.com









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



© Andreea Sava

Spring is calling us to go on picnics. If you feel like joining us, visit https://roadelemuntilor.ro/ and order wholesome delicacies made at the foot of the Făgăraș Mountains. Plus, you can admire our new visual identity, which looks great.

We deliver throughout Romania!

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

© Ștefan Lungociu

5

FOR NATURE, FOR COMMUNITIES

Communication and community outreach

In April, we marked the completion of the largest environmental project in Romania carried out through the European Commission's LIFE program. We managed this project between 2019 and 2025, during which time we contributed €27.6 million to Romania's economy.

Under the concept ‘Făgăraș Pulse’, we shared the results of our work over the last years with members of local communities, colleagues, and representatives of the press. They joined us in Lerești for an event full of sunshine and good energy.

You can read more about everything we have achieved within the LIFE project here.









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Bison House Visitor Centre

We have inaugurated Casa Zimbrului (Bison House) in Lerești (Argeș) – a visitor centre dedicated to the most impressive inhabitant of our forests. Here you will discover the story of the European bison and its role in nature.

If you are in the area, don't hesitate to drop by!

Address: location pin

Open daily:
10:00–13:00
14:00–17:00
Closed on Mondays.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia







© Ștefan Lungociu

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

We enjoyed the visit of a delegation from the Sibiu County Council, along with mayors and deputy mayors from the county.

They came to learn about our projects for nature, communities, ecotourism, education, and our vision for a national park.

Meetings were also held with local officials from Rucăr, Lerești, and Nucșoara (Argeș), where ideas and examples of good practice were exchanged.

We believe that direct dialogue is the key to initiatives with real impact.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

It was a great pleasure to bring the documentary "Architects of Nature" to Cluj Napoca, to the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine.

We stayed up late telling stories with curious students who love the mountains, forests, and wildlife.

We were delighted by the warm welcome, the thoughtful questions, and the sincere enthusiasm of the audience. Thank you very much for hosting us and for the positive energy!



© Gianluca D'Amico, Constantin Nemțeanu







© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

A new edition of the album ‘*Memorable Encounters through the Făgăraș Mountains*’ is almost ready — the printing press is working, and the smell of fresh paper heralds stories that are just waiting to reach you.

We will let you know soon where you can purchase it.

The album is a tribute to the Făgăraș Mountains, their fauna, ancient forests, and the people who live in harmony with these places.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



It's going to be a memorable summer: the countdown to Făgăraș Fest has begun!

You can look forward to concerts by VAMA and Subcarpați, special moments, and a landscape whose beauty is impossible to describe in words.

Get your tickets while they’re hot at https://fagarasfest.ro/

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

The nature of the Făgăraș Mountains still tells its story in whispers of wind, animal tracks, and forests that breathe peacefully. To keep it that way, we need care, involvement, and conscious choices.

Did you know that you can decide what happens to 3.5% of your income tax – money that goes to the state anyway? You can redirect it to Foundation Conservation Carpathia and help us protect forests, wild animals, and continue our studies on life in the Făgăraș Mountains.

You have until 26th May to do this, but don't leave it until the last day – it's a simple gesture that can have a real impact.

This isn't the only way you can get involved. Find out more on the website.



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 Făgăraș initiative

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FOUNDATION CONSERVATION CARPATHIA

Calea Feldioarei 27A, Brașov, Romania

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.

ANA-MARIA ATONOAIE

PARTNERSHIP & CORPORATE RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Mobile: +40 753 956 452

E-mail: a.atonoaie@carpathia.org

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