© Dan Dinu

CARPATHIA®

# NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

May 2025



FOR COMMUNITIES

FOR NATURE

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




1

# Forest conservation and management

© Liviu Ungureanu




Sometimes, the most effective way to protect nature is not to intervene at all – to observe from a distance and let natural processes take their course. We do this as often as possible, but we watch closely to learn and to be able to take action if necessary.

This May surprised us with later snowfalls than ever before and heavy rains. Even though the usual rhythm of field activities was affected, we adapted, just like the forests do.

The middle of May brought snow to many places, including Stâna lui Burnei — the most popular starting point on the route to Moldoveanu Peak.




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia




Despite the cold, the forest went about its business – these beech seedlings, which grew naturally from beech nuts, are proof of that.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia






We have noticed a disease affecting the leaves of young beech trees in the forests near Rucăr. This is a relatively recent phenomenon in our area, most likely caused by the fungus *Gloeosporium*. Our colleagues who patrol the area pay attention to such conditions and evaluate the health of the trees.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia






We have installed traps for *Ipidae* – the insect group that includes the spruce bark beetle.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia




2

# Ecological restoration

© Ștefan Lungociu

Planting activities in the Groapele area, at an altitude of over 1,600 meters, started late due to rain and low temperatures. We caught up along the way: in May, we planted here 17,650 juniper seedlings and about 4,000 spruce seedlings here.





© Claudiu Țoanță

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

For the planting activities in Dobroneagu, we were joined by Forests Without Frontiers, the organisation founded by Nico de Transilvania. We are grateful for this long-standing partnership: it was the 12th planting campaign carried out together in this area.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

The sycamore, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, has blossomed. It is a deciduous tree with a majestic appearance, essential in the forests of the Făgăraș Mountains.



© Flavius Răuță

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia




© Daniel Bădileanu

3

# Wildlife conservation

In May, our colleagues from the intervention teams were very busy checking electric fences and chasing away wild animals that had strayed too close to people's homes.






© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Robert Zeitz, our ornithologist colleague, attended a European conference suported by the LIFE programme. The topic? Dangers that poisoning represents to wildlife.




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

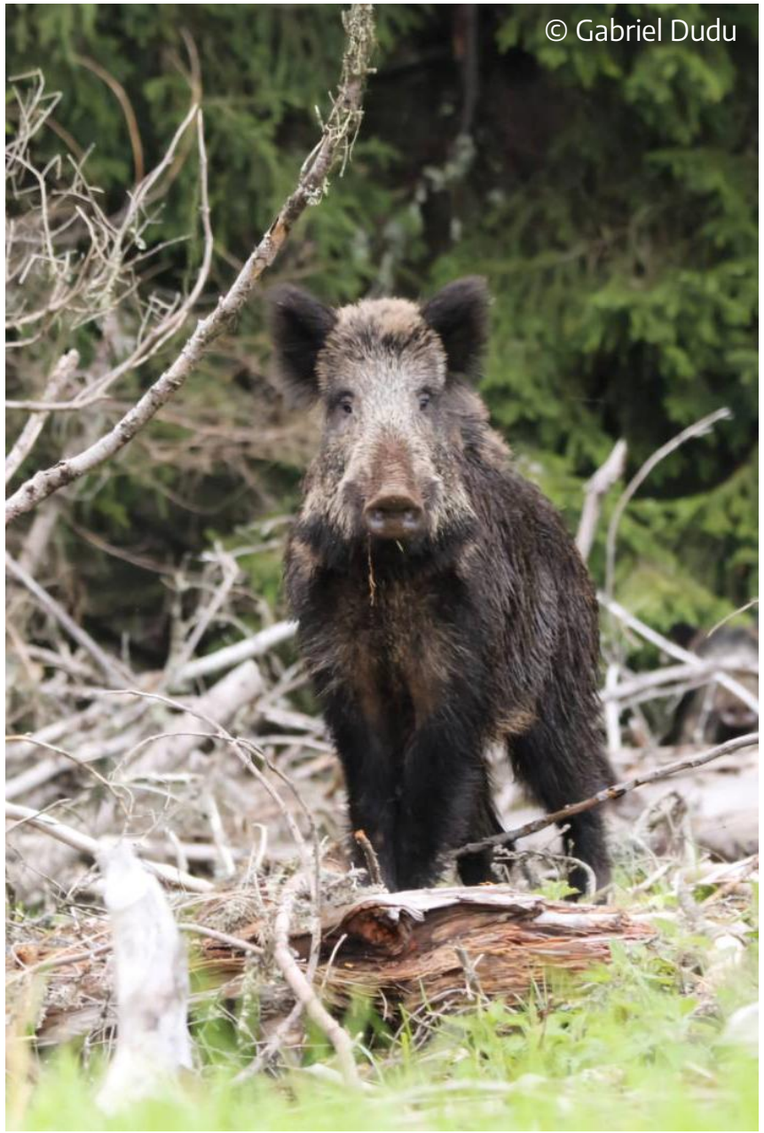
The study of ungulates and their impact on forest regeneration is progressing. We have covered about 150 of the 300 target areas established at the beginning of the project, where we measure how growth of young trees is impacted.



© Dragoș Duruian

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia





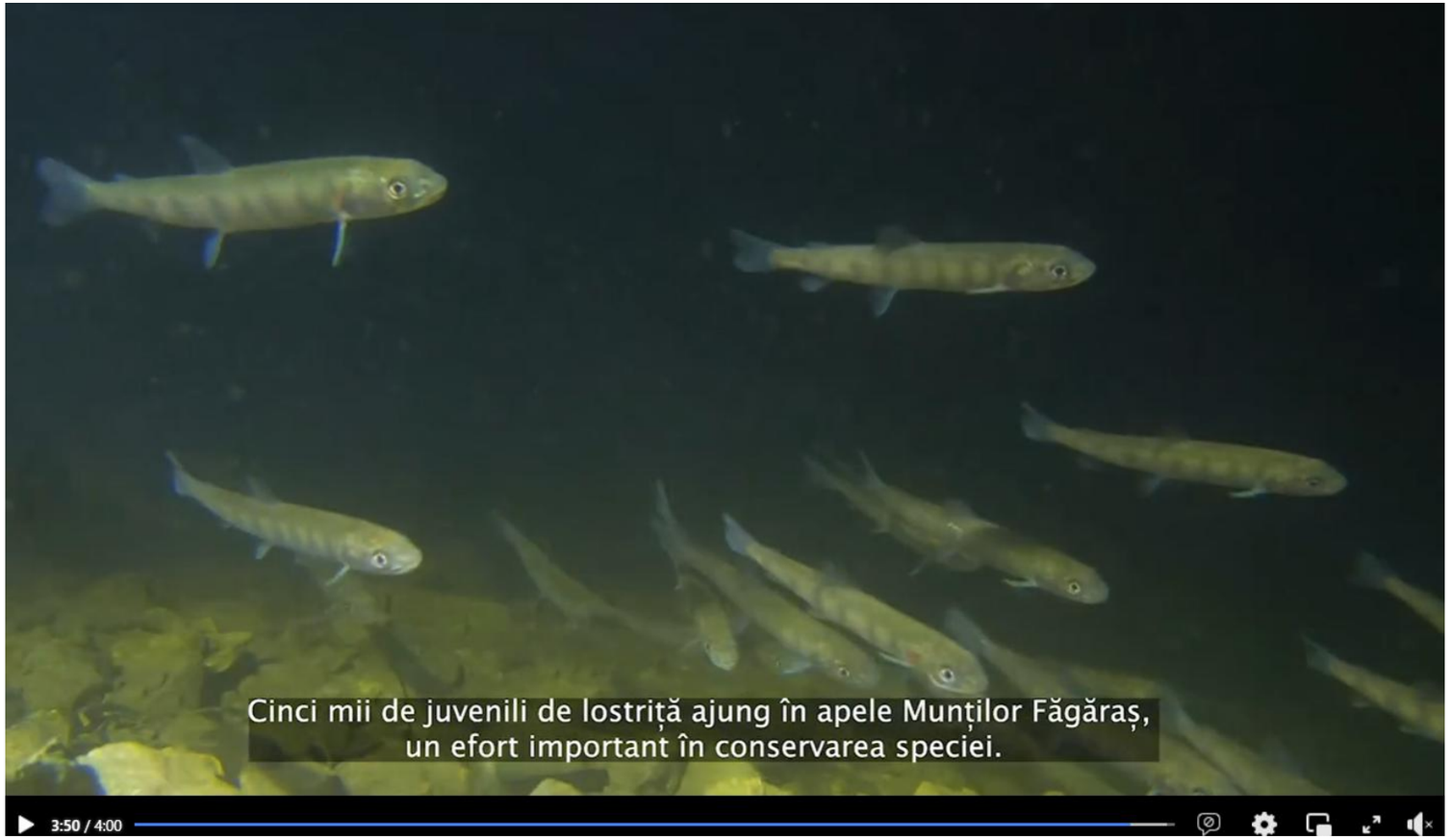

Busy searching for food, the wild boar (*Sus scrofa)* allows itself to be photographed even though it hasn't had time to groom its coat properly.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

# Huchens in the Pecineagu lake

The huchen, *Hucho hucho,* is a predatory fish that is becoming increasingly rare in Romania's freshwater lakes and rivers.

In May, our partners at Aqua Crisius carried out a large-scale operation to repopulate lake Pecineagu in the southern Făgăraș Mountains with huchen. 5,000 young fish were released into the area.




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

4

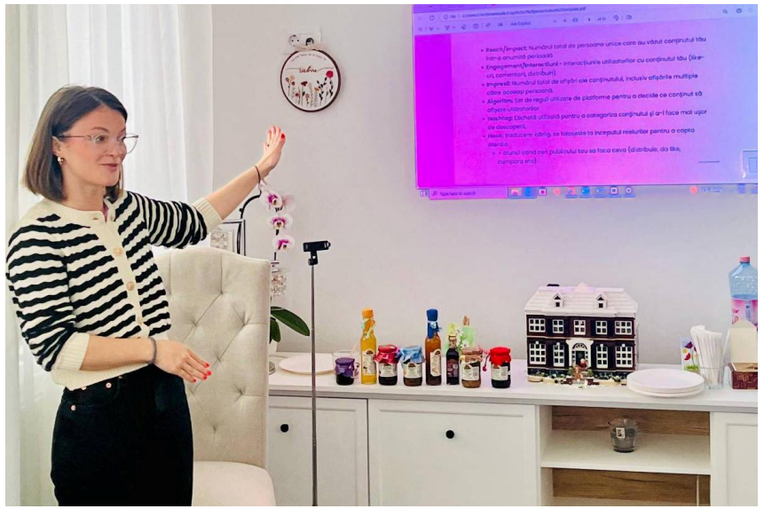



# Conservation Enterprise Programme

© fisheye.ro

We often organise workshops to help the small entrepreneurs in communities around the Făgăraș Mountains promote their products and services.

In May, we addressed social media communication. Mika Niță, social media consultant and content creator, shared valuable information that will help producers tell their story better and reach a wider audience.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

© Roxana Niculescu

# Event at the British Embassy



We were particularly honoured to talk about our work at the invitation of the British Ambassador to Bucharest! The event aimed to present Foundation Conservation Carpathia's mission to protect nature, wildlife, and local communities, but also to show how ecotourism can directly support these efforts.

Guests had the opportunity to discover our project in all its complexity, and also to taste the delicacies made by the small local producers we support through Roadele Munților - people who preserve the traditions and pure flavours of the Făgăraș Mountains.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

# 7 muscele



**7 muscele** is a small family business in Câmpulung Muscel, in the south of the Făgăraș Mountains. They transform fresh milk into delicious cheeses: urdă, telemea, smoked caș, as well as varieties that are matured for months.



The longer the maturing process, the better the cheese tastes, making it worthy of the most refined feasts. The varieties are named after the local mountains: Crețișoara, Hodor, Bilcești.

At 7 Muscele, love for nature and tradition tastes good, but it also means being open to the public. At the micro farm, children can come to see domestic animals, make crafts, and learn the joy of living and working in nature.

We are proud to have the entrepreneurs from **7 Muscele** in the Roadele Munților Făgăraș community!

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia




May snow, view from the Comisu wildlife observatory.

Discover more about this Travel Carpathia location at https://travelcarpathia.com/

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia


© Claudiu Postelnicu
5
FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE,
Communication and community outreach

There's no signal on the mountain, but there's a call! Come to Făgăraș Fest, a festival for a national park, between 11th and 13th July, and you'll find:

- Live concerts with bands that are making history in Romanian music, Subcarpați and VAMA.
- Trails waiting to be discovered, guides with wanderlust and many stories about nature, cool forests, and air you will want to take home.
- Challenges, exercise, and outdoor workshops for all ages.
- Products made with soul and tradition.

Tickets are available at https://fagarasfest.ro/.

If you choose to stay in a tent, you should know that we are setting up a camping area especially for Făgăraș Fest, ready to accommodate 300 tents. Hurry up and reserve your spot!




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

The winners of the ‘Adopt a Corner of Nature’ contest have been announced.

Fifteen children who are passionate about nature have won an unforgettable trip to Germany.

Between 3rd and 9th August, they will explore the Bavarian Forest National Park, the largest national park in Germany.

Discover all the winners here. (in Romanian)

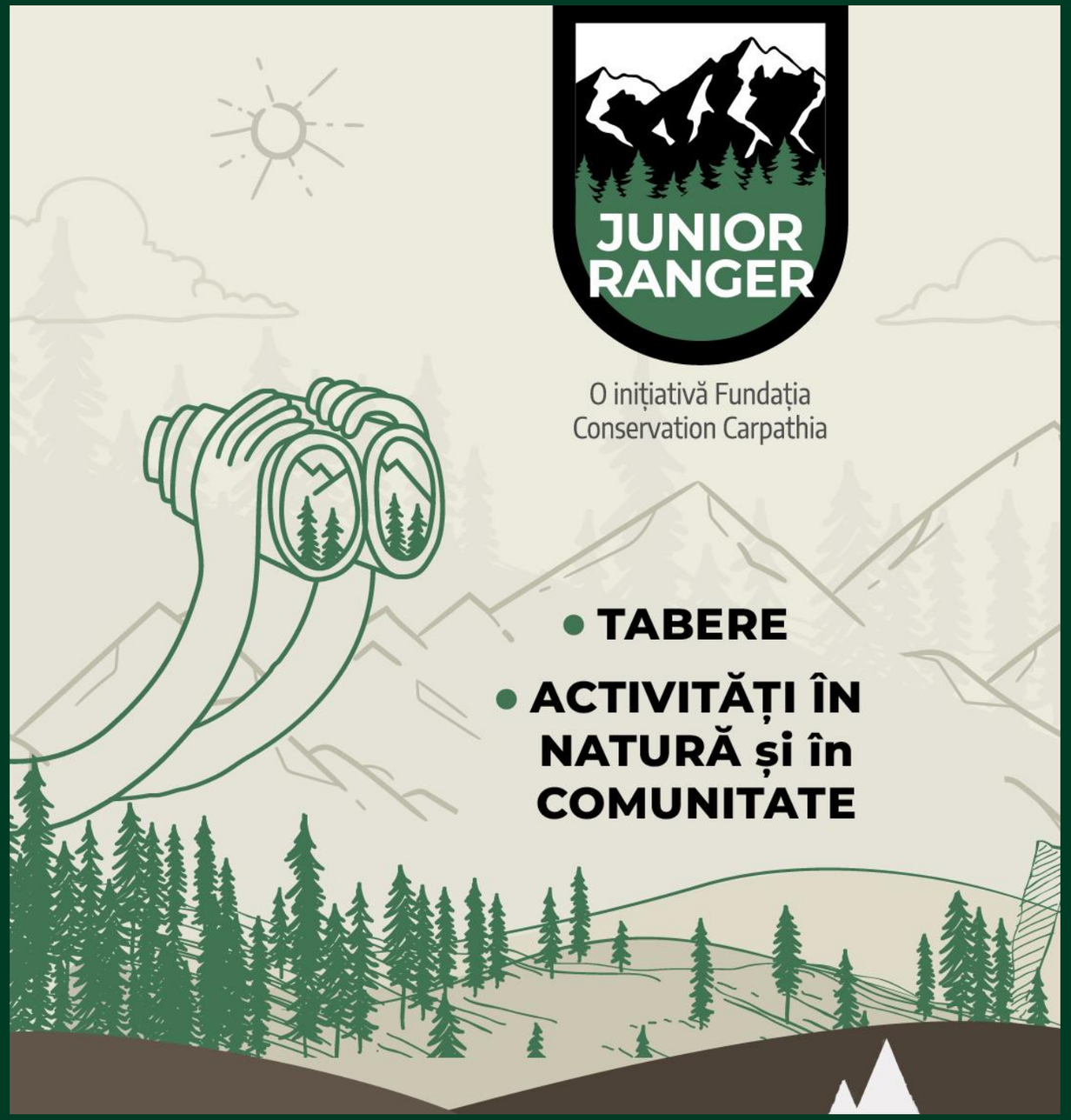





© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

# Junior Ranger programme continues!

We have launched the third edition of the *Junior Rangers* programme, dedicated to middle school students from 12 communes in Argeș county. The little ones will learn about nature directly in the field, alongside our rangers and educators, through interactive and energetic activities.




© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

100 children had fun and tested their reflexes and skills at the second edition of the ‘Table Tennis Class League’ competition, organized together with the Voința Câmpulung Sports Club, the Romanian Table Tennis Federation, and the ‘Carol I’ National Pedagogical College.

We are happy that this event has grown so much and that we were able to bring so much joy to the children.













© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

We were delighted to welcome members of the Board of Directors, who discussed challenges, solutions, and plans for the future with our team. Together, we visited key projects and talked about how a future national park could support community development.

The programme included a meeting with the Sibiu County Council, as well as with mayors from the area. It was an important opportunity to show who we are and what motivates us.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

# 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

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

CARPATHIA®

**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

or access Donations – Carpathia