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CARPATHIA®
NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains
FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE
carpathia.org
November - December 2025

Main activities summary

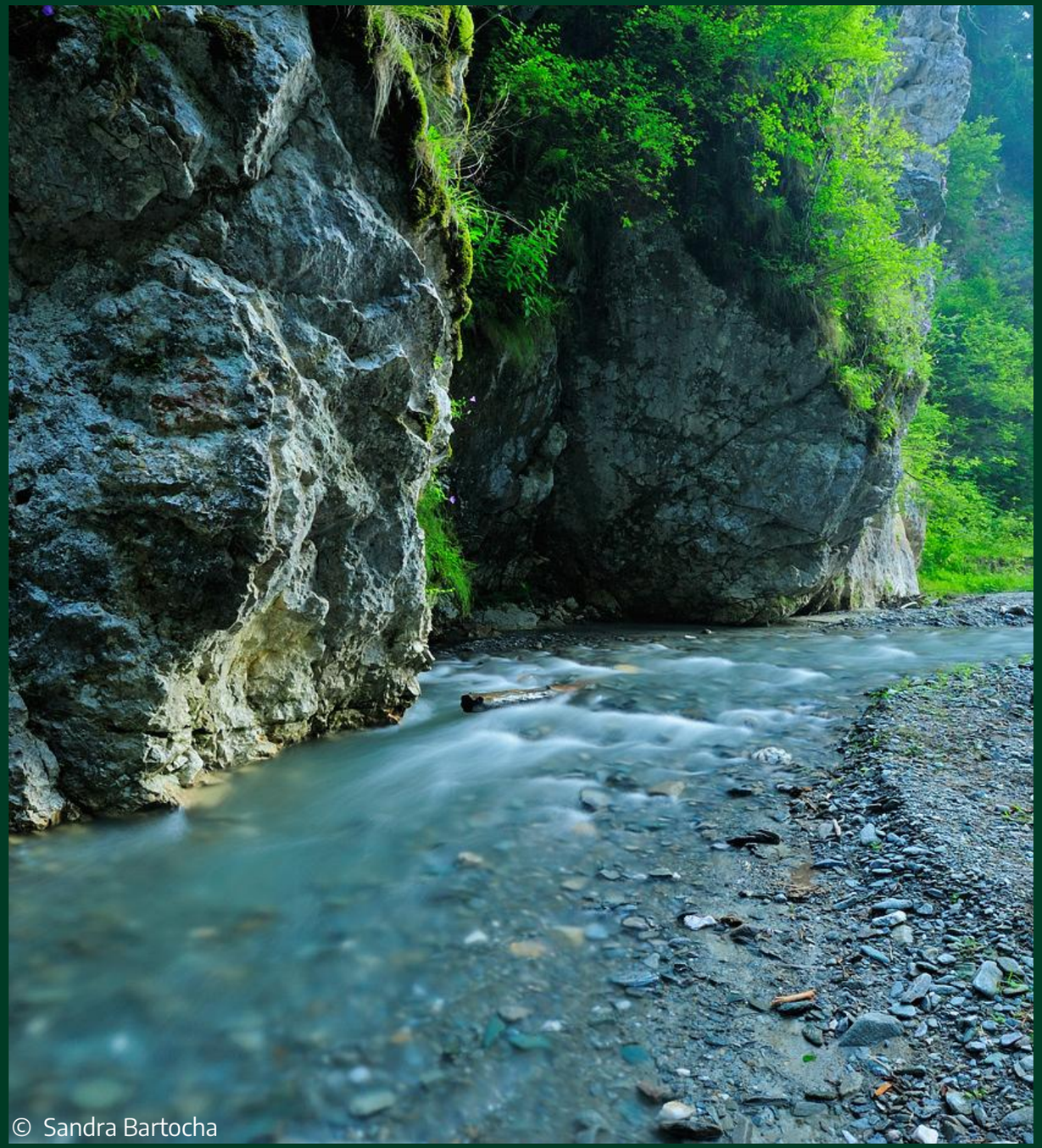
1. Forest conservation and management
2. Ecological restoration
3. Wildlife conservation
4. Conservation Enterprise Programme
5. Communication and community outreach



1

Forest conservation and management

© Cornelia Doerr



Forests in mountainous areas are closely connected to large cities, even if they are tens or hundreds of kilometres away. In the context of climate change, securing water for communities is becoming an increasingly difficult challenge.

Healthy forests help regulate the flow of mountain streams, reducing the risk of both droughts and floods, while also improving water quality. This is the hypothesis we seek to test through a long-term study in the Făgăraș and Piatra Craiului Mountains.

We have selected three different areas so that we can compare the results: a protected area with forest that has not been touched for two decades, an area that was completely and destructively cut down in the past, and an area with active and intensive forest management. Using micro-hydrological stations, we monitor the streams in the Dragosloveni, Groapele, and Valea Vâlsanului areas in terms of water level and precipitation, but we also track water and air temperature and solar radiation.

The project is just getting started, but we believe that in a few years, we will have valuable data for use in forest management.





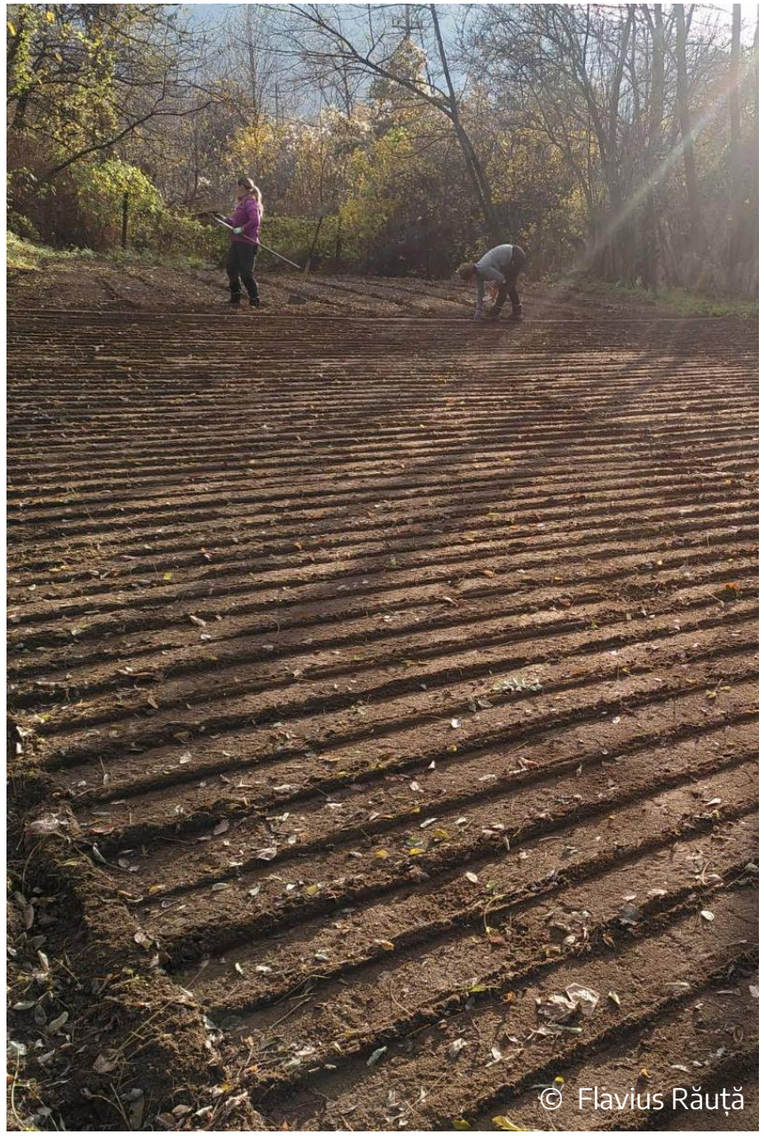
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2

Ecological restoration

© fisheye.ro





After gathering beech nuts for several weeks, it was time to sow them. We drew precise furrows to make it easier to maintain the seedlings later on, and laid the foundations for the next generation of beech seedlings.

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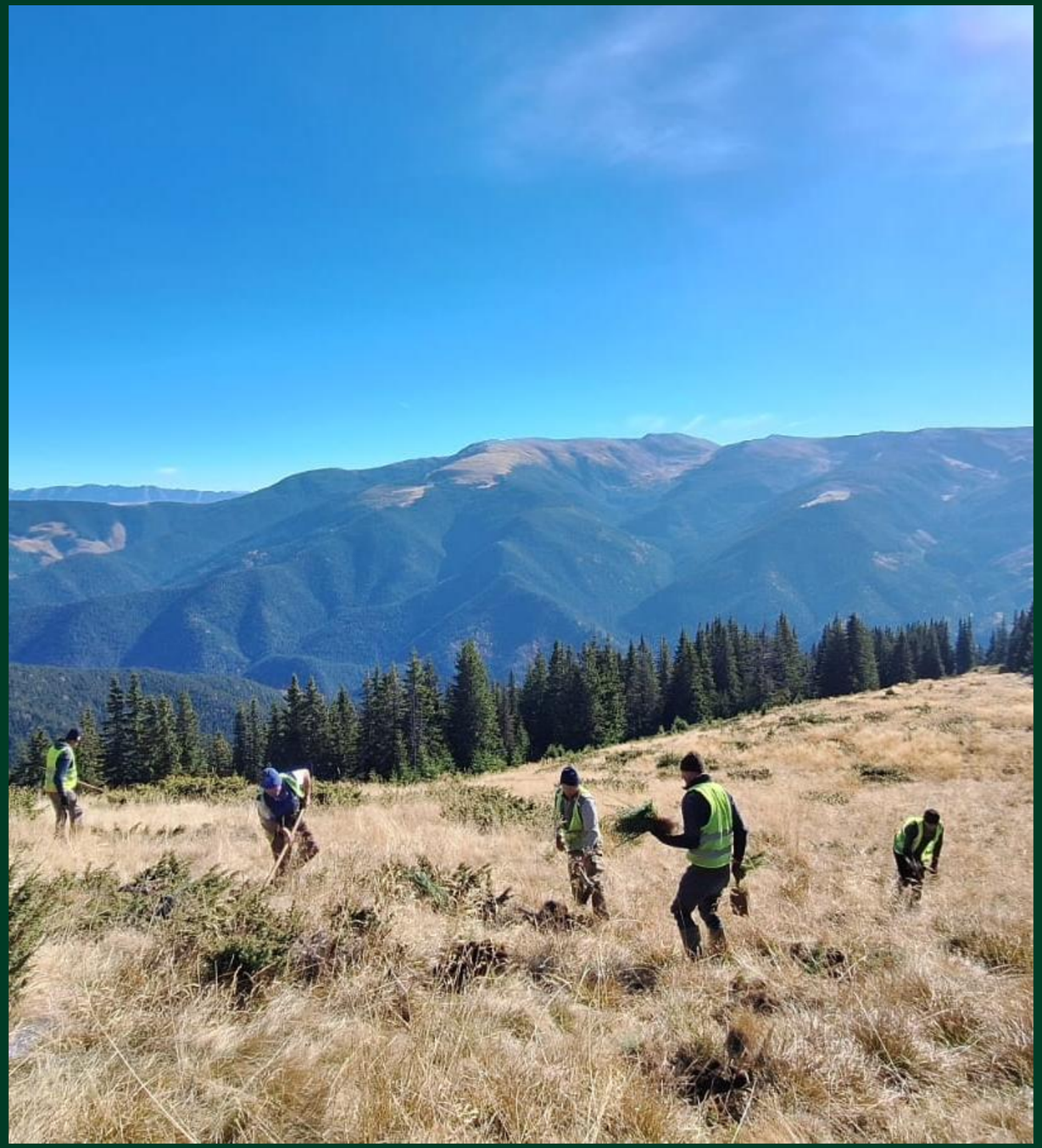
Late autumn is the time to assist the survival of saplings, planted in former clear-cuts. For our colleague Claudiu Țoanță, it was a good opportunity for reflection:

"We are beginning to see the results of all the efforts made to create these plantations. For me personally, the satisfaction is indescribable when I see a new forest emerging in these areas. I have participated in the work on most of the ecological reconstruction sites and I am happy to see what has been established."





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We strive to establish forests as close as possible to their natural state. Through the SUPERB project (Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest-related biodiversity and ecosystem services), which has just been completed, we carried out ecological restoration activities and monitored the link between forests and biodiversity using specific indicators: amount of carbon sequestered in the soil, variety of insect species, growth rate of plantations and regeneration, etc.

The project also included communication sessions with students, teachers, and forest managers, contributing to the transformation of the region into a European model for ecological forest restoration. The initiative is funded by the European Commission through the HORIZON 2020 programme.

Read more about what this project meant for us on our website.



3

Wildlife Conservation

FOR NATURE, FOR COMMUNITIES

Another species is preparing to return home to Romania: the griffon vulture *(Gyps fulvus)!*

How is this happening?

- We are building an aviary in an isolated, elevated area near Rucăr. Young vultures will be brought here and carefully cared for.
- The birds will initially be fed inside the aviary, and after release, both they and possible wild vultures passing through will be provided with food in a specially designed area, secured against bears.
- After about six months, the birds will be released, and in 2–3 years, we hope to see the first griffon vulture nests appearing in and around Piatra Craiului National Park.

The project is being carried out in collaboration with Milvus Group and with the support of ING Bank.



In November, a team from our Foundation visited the Green Balkans organisation in Bulgaria to learn from their 35 years of experience in working with vultures.

We saw various models of aviaries, the vulture rehabilitation and breeding centre, and visited an observatory and a visitor centre.









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In winter, bison are easier to spot. The vegetation no longer hides them, and they come down into the valleys, where the conditions are easier. The temptation to get closer to these gentle giants appears to be great for many people, but, after all, they are wild animals, capable of running very fast and reacting unpredictably.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Short Tail's Pack

"Short Tail" is one of the wolves we monitor and, for obvious reasons, an easy specimen to identify. We set up five cameras around Lake Pecineagu to monitor his family and better understand the habits of these animals. We know from experience that wolves are sensitive even to the faintest noises made by cameras or their LEDs, so we chose to place them higher up, on tree trunks, so as not to disturb them.



© Diana Bobeș

4



Conservation Enterprise Programme









In November, our Guiding Academy offered the Travel Carpathia guides an opportunity to explore the hidden world of fungi in depth! On a 3-day course, a mycologist provided deep insight into these tiny life forms, which keep the forests alive and connected beneath our feet.

From classroom discussions to forest walks, our guides searched, discovered, and learned to see nature with new eyes. Each mushroom told its own story, and now they are ready to share them with our guests in the coming season, adding even more fascination (and a few funny curiosities!) to every mountain adventure.

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World Travel Market tourism fair



The Travel Carpathia team presented our tourism offers in London at the World Travel Market, one of the most famous international tourism fairs.



Alongside other representatives of Romania, they delighted the audience with stories about the Făgăraș Mountains.



In London, we also discussed ecotourism and sustainable travel at an event hosted by the Romanian Embassy in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We were honoured by the invitation!

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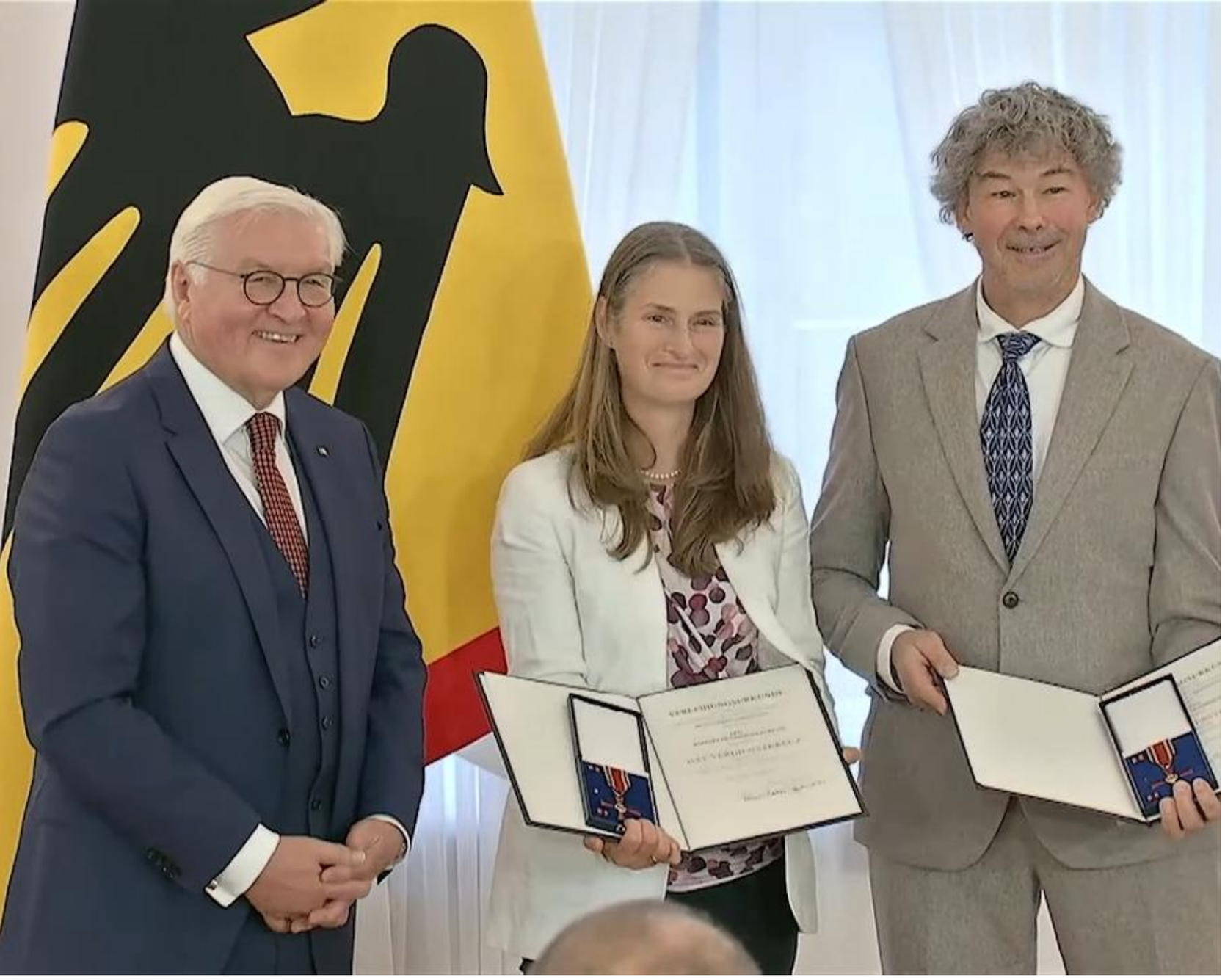
We spent two days with a team of Romanian Business Leaders (RBL), in particular their team of *Antreprenorești* (Entrepreneurial team) in an area close to Ploiesti, called Ținutul Stejarilor, and the south-eastern Făgăraș Mountains. We exchanged ideas about the well-being of rural communities, traditions, and nature, and developed a plan for joining forces to assist communities around the Făgăraș Mountains.

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5

Communication and community outreach



Our executive directors, Barbara and Christoph Promberger, received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, awarded by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The distinction honours our conservation project in the Făgăraș Mountains, which is one of the most comprehensive nature protection initiatives in Europe.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia





The Transylvania Mountain Festival awarded us with a trophy for all our work and mission to create the Făgăraș Mountains National Park. We are grateful for this recognition from the community of mountain lovers!

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Winners at the Romanian PR Award



A confirmation that our work brings people closer to the culture and nature of the Făgăraș Mountains.



Victoria Donos, communications director, alongside the SmartPoint PR team.

This year, we returned with another award from the Romanian PR Awards. The stories in the album "Memorable Encounters through the Făgăraș Mountains" descended from the mountains and were appreciated on stage for their authenticity.

We are delighted that these simple stories, collected from the Făgăraș Mountains area, have moved an urban audience. The album is a project carried out in collaboration with SmartPoint PR.

If you would like to discover it or share it with others, you can order it online.

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Sustainable leadership award



At the 2025 CARIERE Gala, our foundation received the award for **Sustainable Leadership**, a recognition that encourages us to continue striving to build a greener future.



Together with over 400 business and HR leaders, we discussed how to transform today's challenges into tomorrow's opportunities.



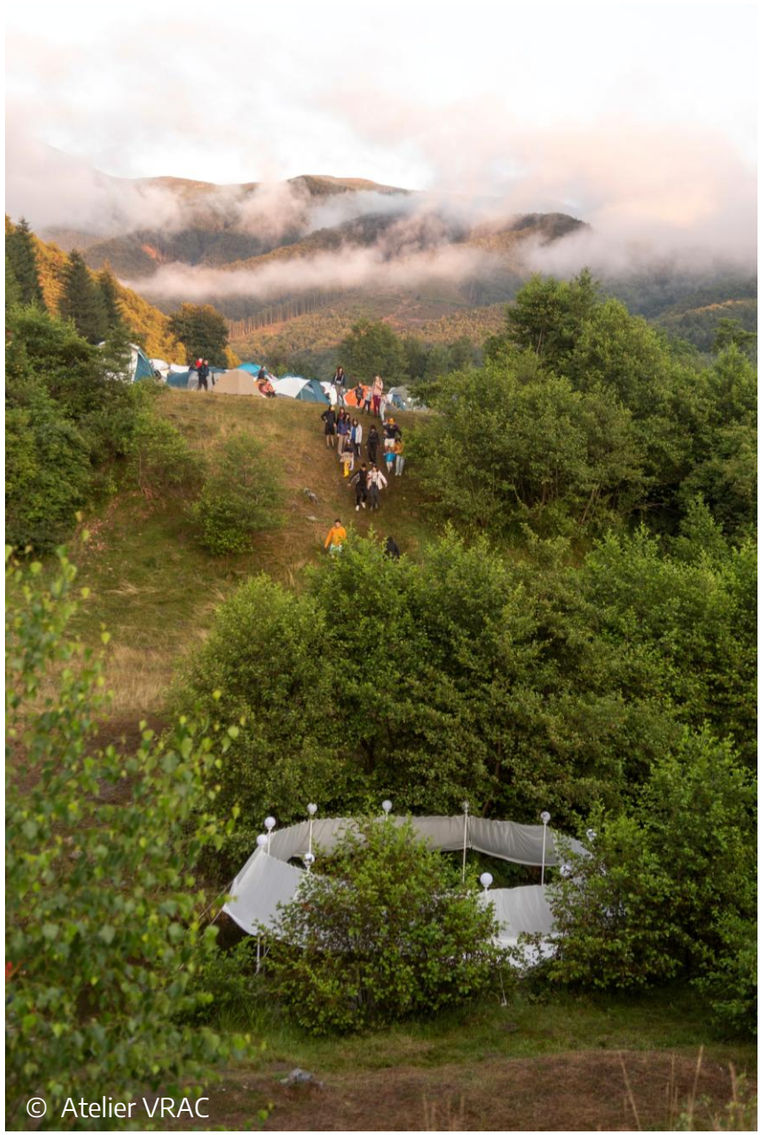
Thank you for your appreciation! We want to inspire as many leaders as possible to act with nature in mind.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Good deeds done for the community go a long way, even if they start with a small whisper. This is how the Moașei river in Sebeșu de Sus became known throughout Europe.

The art installation **Susur** (`whisper`), created by Atelier VRAC for this year's Făgăraș Fest and located on the riverbank, became one of the surprises of the event. And the even better news: it was nominated for the EUmies Awards 2026, one of the most important awards for contemporary architecture in Europe.





© Atelier VRAC

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

We gave seventeen children from our "Play Table Tennis with Class" project an experience that might be their highlight of the year. Accompanied by teachers and our community outreach specialist, they could visit the World Junior Championships in table tennis in Cluj-Napoca.

There, they watched matches, cheered on Romanian athletes, and experienced the excitement of a world competition from the stands. A memorable moment was the meeting with Iulian Chiriță, multiple Romanian table tennis champion, who provided them with autographs. Another surprise of the day was the visit of footballer Dan Nistor, who talked to the children.





© Andrei Iosivoiu





© Foundation Conservation Carpathia









To bring children closer to the world of birds, we organised a creative workshop at Richita and built bird feeders with the winners of the "Adopt a Corner of Nature" project bird feeders.

Each child personalised their own feeder and installed it in the corner of nature they protect. Now, they will make sure the feeders stay filled with seeds and can observe, which birds show up there throughout the cold season.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Together with photographer Daniel Mîrlea, we organised a photography course for some of the children of our education projects. For them, looking at nature through a camera lens was a totally new experience.

Special thanks to our colleagues in education, Liviu Ungureanu and Mihai Sorea, who took care of everything.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

We gathered over 150 colleagues for Christmas dinner - an evening when we left our busy schedules behind and simply enjoyed being together. We also had a nice surprise: the ACS Zimbrii Lerești soccer team made the evening even more special.

It has been a busy year, with a lot of work and challenges, but also with results we are proud of. In the Făgăraș Mountains, we managed to bring people and ideas together and protect what really matters. Thank you for being with us!









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

High above, on the Făgăraș peaks, resilience is quiet and constant. Thank you for being there for nature. Happy Holidays!



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Results

4,528,254

trees planted

78,000 ha

protected for wildlife, with no sport or trophy hunting

353 people from local communities

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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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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