CARPATHIA®

NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains



FOR COMMUNITIES FOR NATURE

carpathia.org

January 2026

© Călin Șerban

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

© Andrei Popa



In winter, strong winds may knock down trees and block important roads, such as the Transfăgărășan. Our colleagues in the field are there to lend a hand when needed.
Fortunately, these interventions are the only ones needed when forests are healthy and communities understand how important it is to preserve them. The fact that we have not recorded any illegal logging in District III Vidraru this winter shows us that our work matters. It gives us confidence that we are on the right track to protecting all the natural values of the Făgăraș Mountains.

#OurFieldTeam

Daniel Bădileanu is the youngest of our rangers. He has been fascinated by nature since he was a child, and once he became involved in the Foundation's activities, he began to take concrete steps to protect it. Today he says: "Working in nature every day, I understood that we are not above it, but completely dependent on it. Everything is connected, and every species, no matter how small, keeps this world in balance. It's not just a passion. It's a responsibility to which I have chosen to dedicate my life."



© Liviu Ungureanu



© Daniel Bădileanu

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2

Ecological restoration

In our nurseries, silver fir and beech seedlings enjoyed the protection provided by snow. This keeps the temperature around -1°C, which is more favourable for plants, even if the thermometers show it is -20°C in the air.





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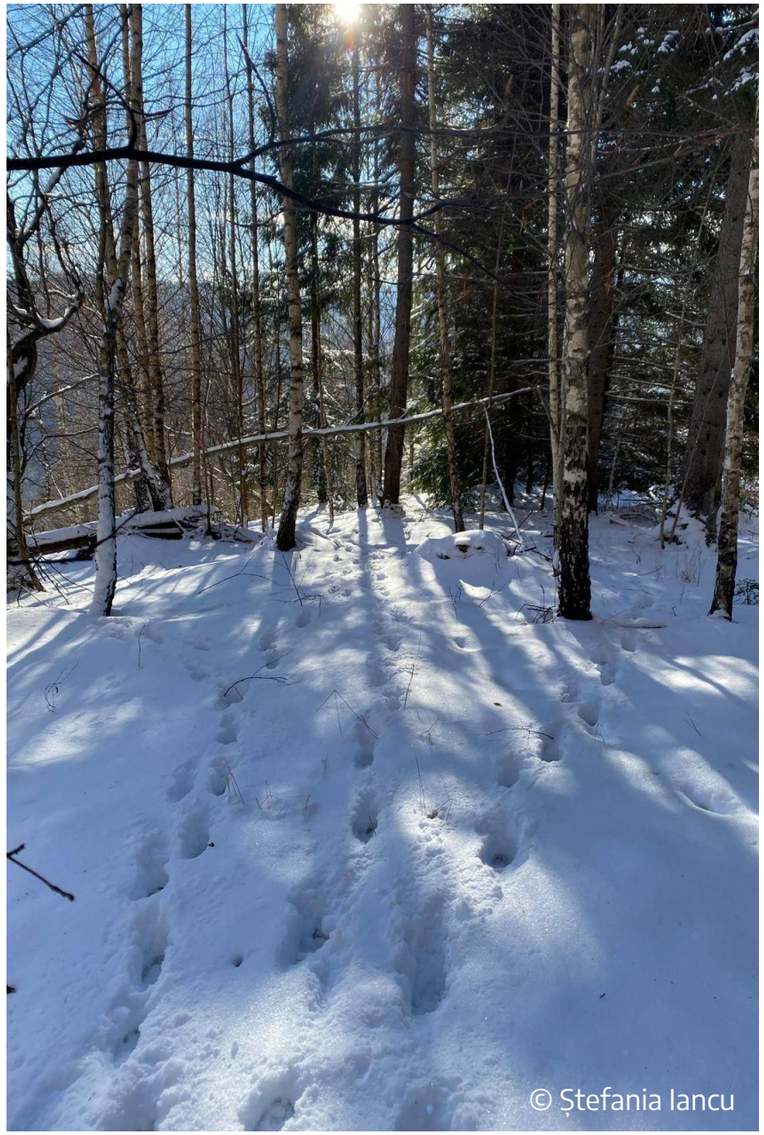

© Daniel Bădileanu
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FOR NATURE, FOR COMMUNITIES
Wildlife conservation

One with the landscape

How long does it take you to spot the lynx?

Our colleagues in the field have a trained eye: they can't miss such a presence, no matter how well camouflaged! They even realised that it was B053, a specimen that first appeared on camera trap footage in 2022.




© Ștefania Iancu


© Zsolt Mihalcea

Winter time is the best time to collect samples for the wolf study. Snow allows us to follow the tracks, so we can search more systematically and find more samples. Of the 90 - 100 specimens we aim to collect this winter, we have so far managed to collect 23. We are continuing our work and hope that the snow will remain long enough at high altitudes.

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Conservation Enterprise Programme

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© Andrei Popa









The Travel Carpathia team started the year with big plans.

At the beginning of January, we went to London to participate in the Adventure Travel Show, an event for those who want to travel to places where nature is still in its primary, untouched form and enjoy authentic adventures.

At the end of January, also in London we talked about sustainable experiences in the Făgăraș Mountains at the prestigious fair Destinations: The Holiday and Travel Show. Her Excellency Daniela-Laura Popescu, Romania's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, visited the Travel Carpathia stand and congratulated us on our work.

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The Travel Carpathia team of guides is constantly learning, step by step, exploring not only the trails and wilderness of the Făgăraș Mountains, but also the communities that bring these places to life. In January, we went out into the field to discover people, histories, crafts, and traditions, because nature cannot be fully understood without a deep connection to those who live here. All these experiences help us convey the joy of the place, its culture, and the story of a coexistence built over time between nature and man.

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Communication and community outreach

Over the radio, about the vision of the Făgăraș Mountains National Park



On Radio România Brașov we spoke about the connection between nature, communities, and education, through the voices of Victoria Donos and Istvan Szabo. It was a conversation about care, balance, and our efforts to support the establishment of the Făgăraș Mountains National Park. The recording of the show is available online (in Romanian).

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In January, Christoph Promberger, our executive director, discussed the foundation's projects and the real stakes of nature conservation in Romania on Radio România Cultural's EcoFrecvențe programme. The discussion touched on key topics: Romania's virgin forests and biodiversity, large carnivores, the pressures of deforestation, and the idea of a modern national park in the Făgăraș Mountains. You can listen to it here: link (in Romanian)

Radio remains an essential space for dialogue, through which we carry on the Foundation's mission and talk about the activities and values that guide us. In January, we were delighted to be on air, and the recordings remain available online for anyone who wants to better understand what nature conservation means in everyday practice.

The ‘Architects of Nature’ trail in Nucșoara is accessible even in winter time! Bathed in a fairy-tale light, it arouses tourists' curiosity about the two keystone species we have reintroduced in the southern Făgăraș Mountains: the beaver and the bison. The snow-covered landscapes reveal surprises for those who, properly equipped, decide to walk the themed trail.









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Before the first birds from the vulture reintroduction project arrive, we are trying to clear up some confusions. The polls have shown that in the communities around the Făgăraș Mountains the word ‘vulture’ is being used incorrectly for birds of prey like golden eagle, common buzzard or northern goshawk. Confusion goes even further and creates unnecessary fear that vultures might attack domestic birds or animals.

On our social media channels we are setting the record straight by explaining that these are different species, even if they may look similar from a distance. In Romania, vultures have long since disappeared, and their name has remained in common speech, often used incorrectly for birds of prey.

If you worked in Romania in 2025, you could redirect 3.5% of your income tax to help keep the forests of the Făgăraș Mountains just as they should be: a safe haven for wildlife, a source of clean rivers, a breath of fresh, cool air, and a place to recharge after long, tiring days.

It costs nothing extra, but we all win – you, nature and the future. It is quite simple: just fill in form 230. (in Romanian)

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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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#ConsciousTravels

Equus Silvania Guesthouse and Horse Riding Centre is the place to go if you want to admire the beauty of the Făgăraș Mountains in a unique way: from the saddle of a horse.

After a chilly ride in the foothills of the Făgăraș Mountains, everyone retreats indoors to warm up. Red cheeks, slightly cold hands, and fading daylight slip by unnoticed. You settle in for dinner, sip tea, and swap the day's stories.

For those who wish to explore this feeling, there's more information on www.equus-silvania.com









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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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