CARPATHIA®

NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE

carpathia.org

March 2026



Main activities summary

1. Forest conservation and management
2. Habitat restoration
3. Wildlife reintroductions
4. Human-wildlife conflict reduction
5. Research and impact monitoring
6. Conservation enterprise programme
7. Communication and community outreach



1

Forest Conservation and Management

©Dan Dinu

First signs of spring



First snowdrops, ©Călin Șerban

Spring begins quietly.
Snowdrops and crocuses appear first, drawn by the light that still reaches the forest floor.



Early crocuses, ©Liviu Ungureanu

They feed early pollinators, when little else is available.



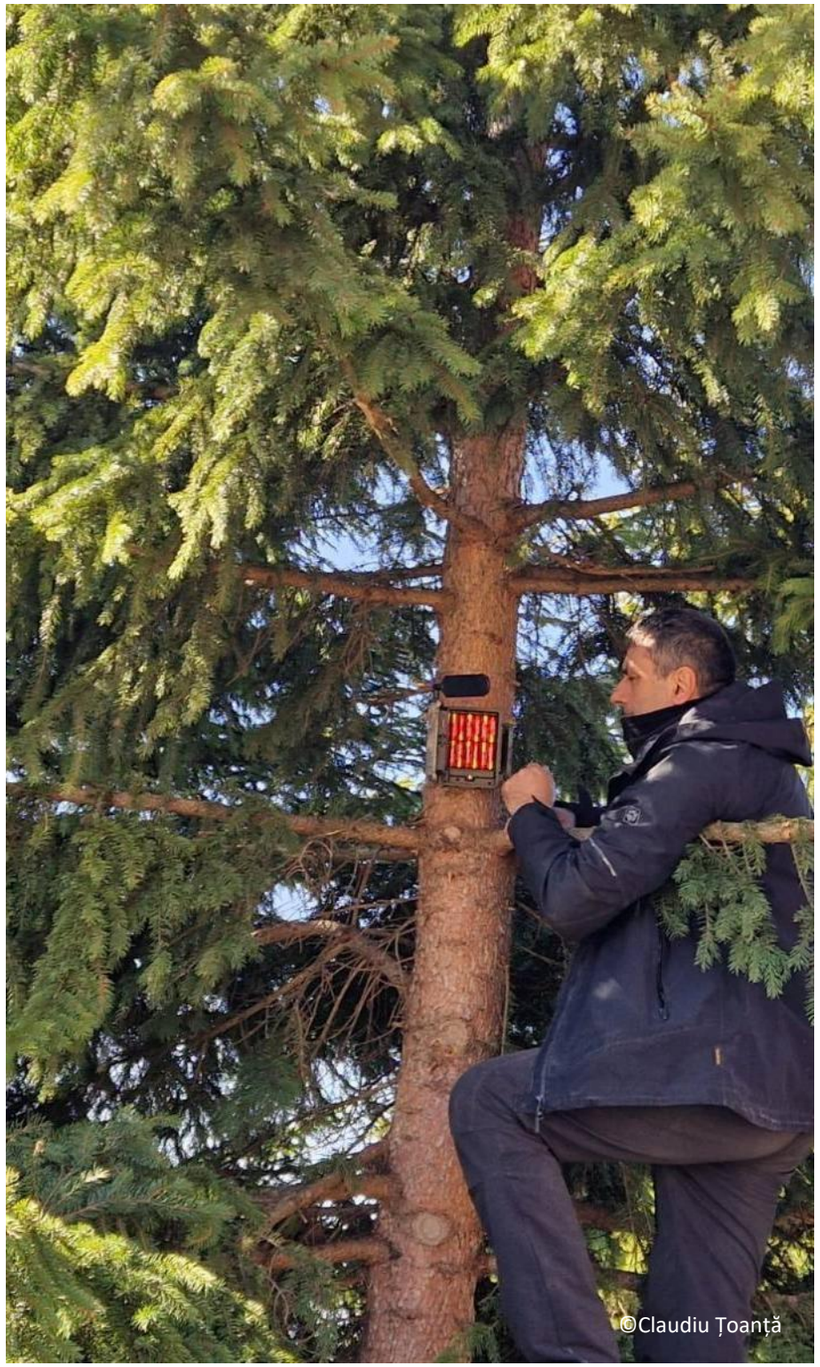
©Călin Șerban

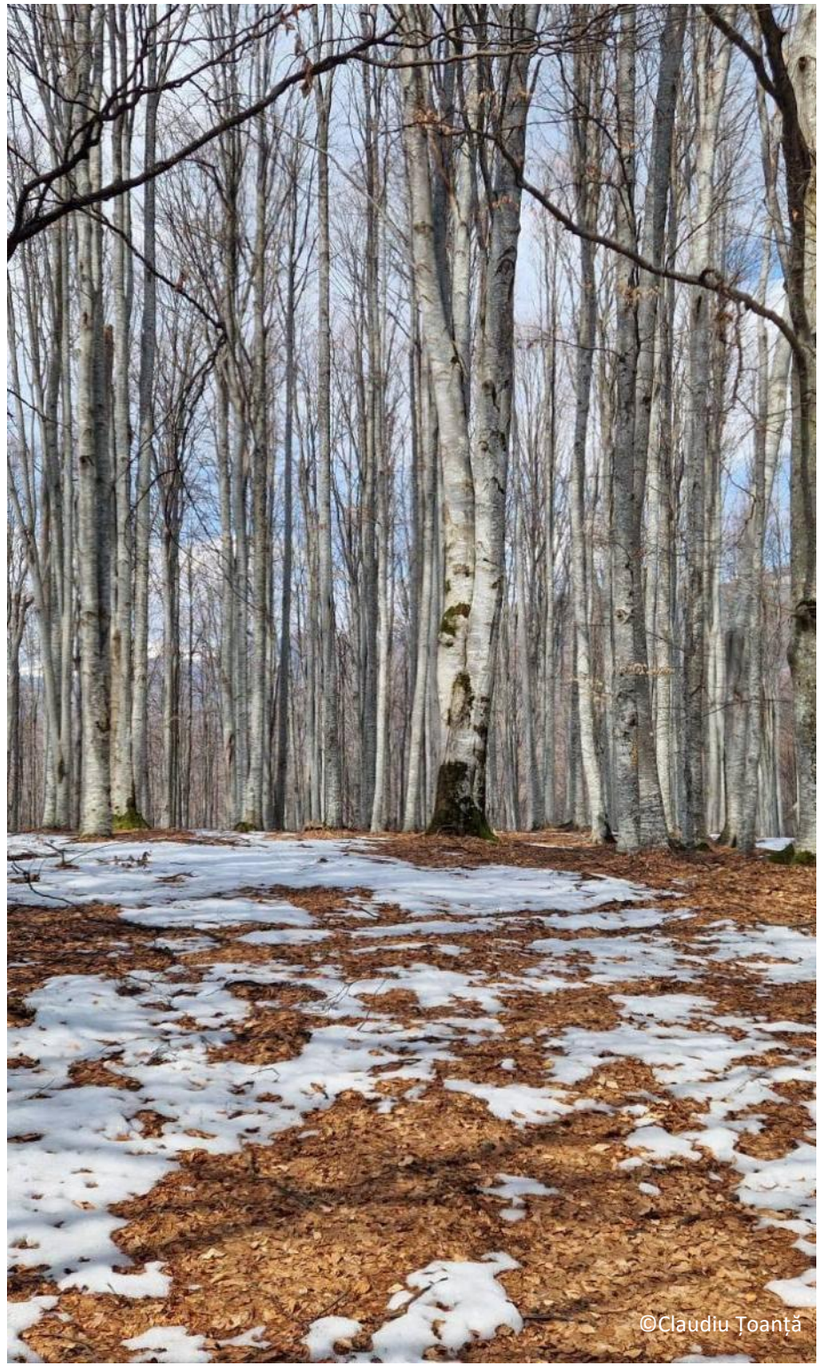
The forest is waking up.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

- Our team of rangers closely monitor and regularly patrol the forests; throughout March, no major security issues were reported.
- However, isolated incidents occurred in some locations. In the Lalu area (southern Făgăraș Mountains), 49 trees with small to medium diameters were illegally cut and stolen.
- The authorities have taken over the case, and monitoring in the area has increased.









2

Habitat Restoration

©Liviu Ungureanu

In our nurseries and greenhouses, we are preparing saplings for this spring’s planting season.

Over 122,000 saplings are ready throughout our nine nurseries (beech, fir, spruce, mountain pine, rowan).

Forest restoration begins years before the actual planting.



Sătic Nursery, sapling storage

©Flavius Răuță



Dragosloveni Nursery, mountain pine saplings,

©Flavius Răuță



Stoenești Greenhouse, spruce saplings



Valea lui Ivan Nursery – spruce saplings

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

#UpClose

Mountain pine

We plant them in the Făgăraș Mountains in areas at and above the timber line, where the species is no longer present and consequently cannot regenerate naturally.

Mountain pine grows in the alpine zone, where only a few other woody and perennial species such as juniper or rhododendron can survive.

They protect the soil and provide shelter for many species.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



©Liviu Ungureanu

3

Wildlife Reintroductions

A historic moment: Griffon vultures return to Romania after more than 70 years

- On 9th March, the first 25 individuals have arrived in the Făgăraș Mountains from Spain.
- They will spend approximately six months in an acclimatisation aviary, located at around 1,150 m altitude in Rucăr on the southern side of the Făgăraș Mountains.
- They will then be released into the wild.





©Diana Bobeș



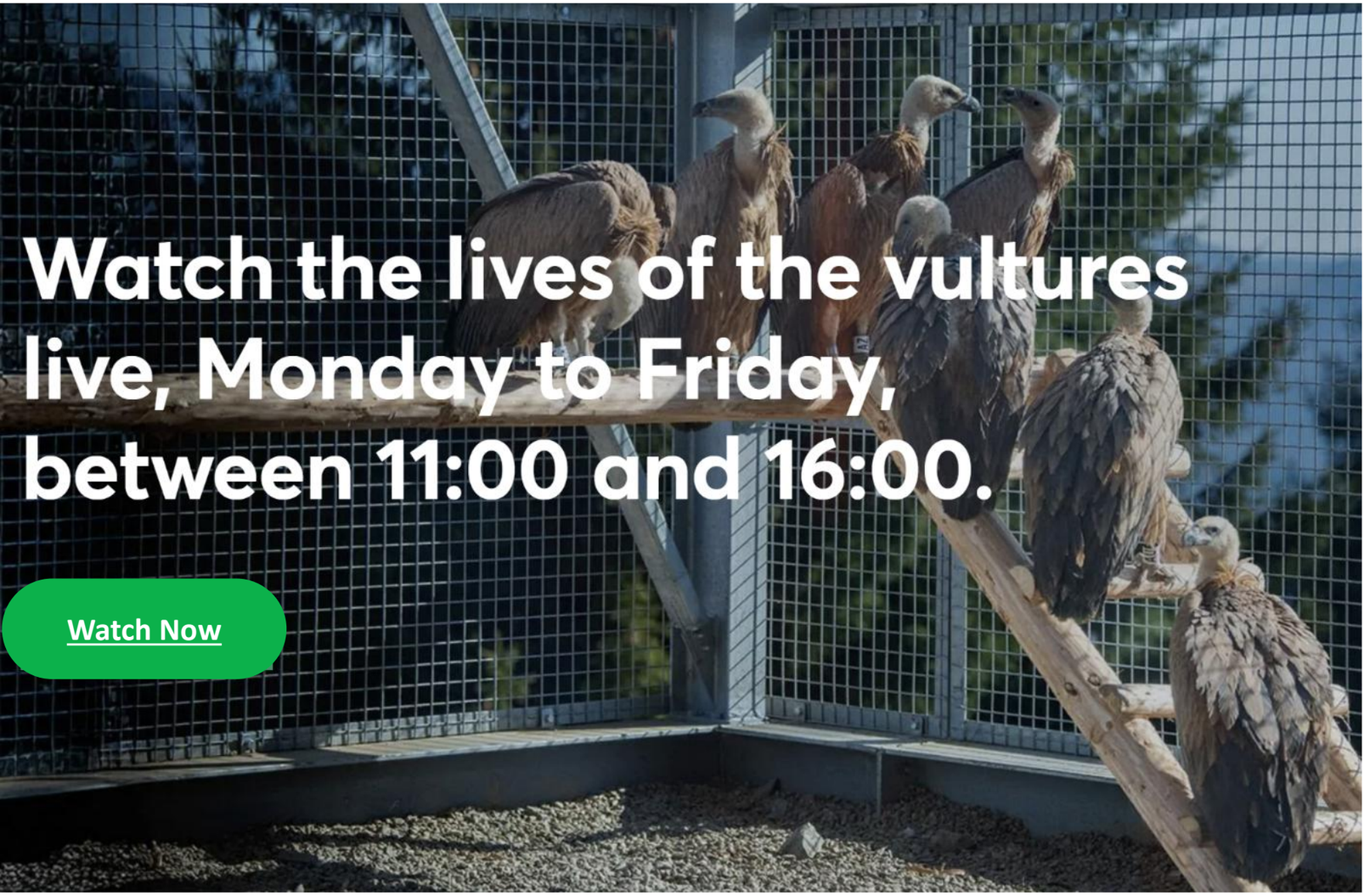


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- We thank our partners: ING Romania, Vulture Conservation Foundation, Milvus Group, as well as the local consortium of Lerești, Rucăr and Valea Mare Pravăț communes, together with the Argeș Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate.

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Watch the griffon vultures live from the acclimatisation aviary, Monday to Friday, between 11:00–16:00.

From 25th April, guided visits will be available by appointment, accompanied by a ranger.

Observations will take place from a specially designated point, to ensure minimal disturbance and support the birds' adaptation to the wild.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



4

Human-Wildlife Conflict Reduction

©BCP









Bison in Brăduleț village

Two of the reintroduced bison spent much of the winter in and around the village of Brăduleț, damaging fences and feeding on the hay of local farmers. After an initially unsuccessful relocation trial, after which the animals returned, we resumed capture and relocation in early March, which resulted in the animals leaving on their own.

We supported the local community by providing compensation for damages:

- 100 hay bales compensated
- 7 electric fences installed
- 35 m fence repaired
- Timber for fences repaired by locals.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

- In March, no emergency calls related to bears were recorded — a result of our teams' constant presence in the field and ongoing prevention measures.
- Among these, we installed a 500 m electric fence near the village of Lerești (southern Făgăraș Mountains), in an area where a bear had been frequently entering nearby settlements.





© Fundația Conservation Carpathia

- We are monitoring a wolf responsible for sheep depredation in Stoenești commune (Leaota Mountains), using patrols, drones and camera traps.
- We support local communities with in-kind compensation through our livestock compensation system.



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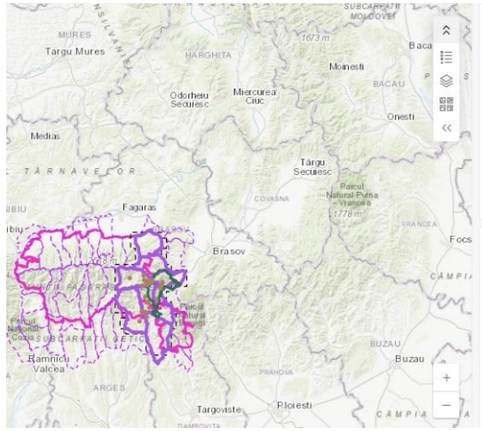
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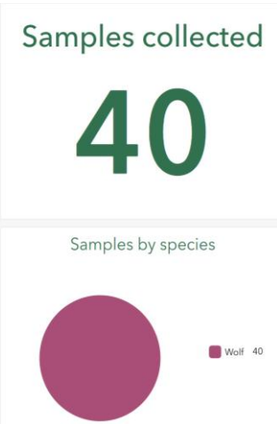
Research and Impact Monitoring

©Alex Popa

Monitoring studies

- **For the wolf genetic monitoring study**, we have completed systematic sampling of a total of 40 samples.
- Opportunistic sampling continues and we are working on data analysis and consolidation.
- **For the bear diet study,** we have sent 200 samples to a laboratory in Slovenia. The results will help us implement the most effective conflict prevention measures.
- Behind these results is daily fieldwork: time, effort and patience.

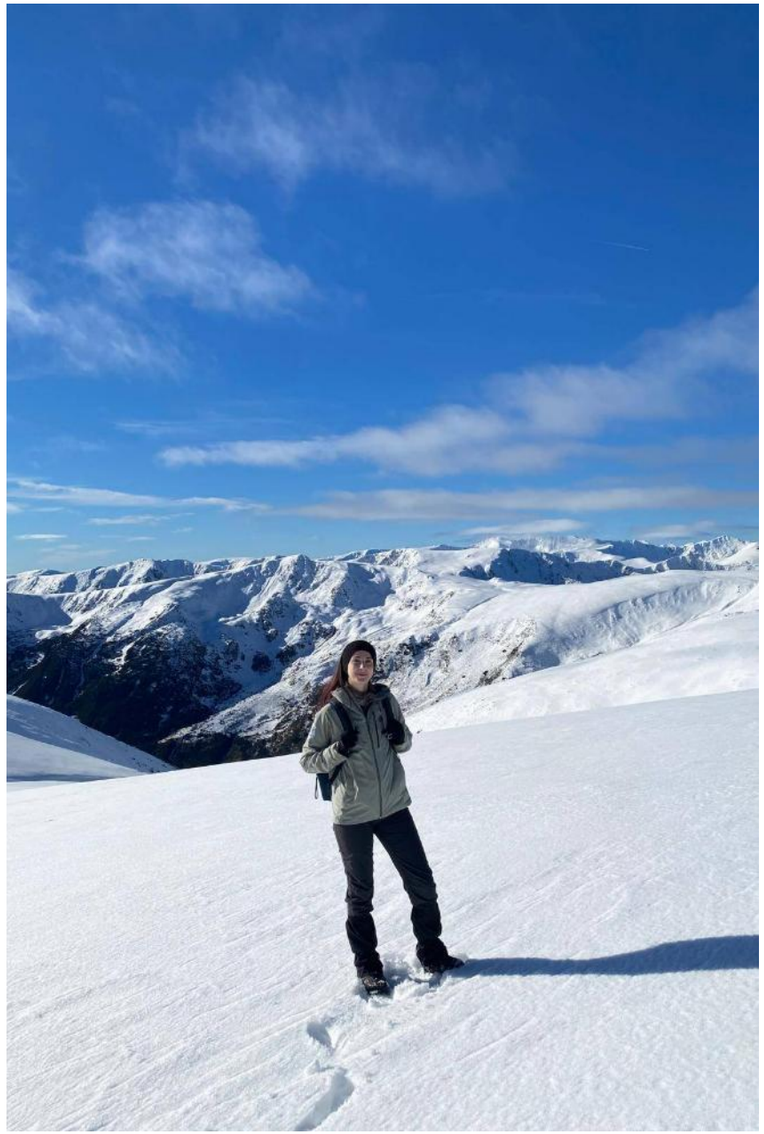








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#FieldTeam

Ștefania Iancu, Ranger

Day by day, she works where the forest and mountains become her office.

“For me, what I do at Carpathia is not just a job, it’s already a way of life: fieldwork, encounters with wildlife, and working with inspiring people. ”

“I work alongside volunteers from all over the world and I’m part of a team where I feel valued and safe. ”

“Beyond the work itself, it has opened up a whole new world —one I discover day by day.”

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

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Conservation Enterprise Programme



© Andrei Popa









The Făgăraș Mountains on the global tourism stage

- The Travel Carpathia team took part in ITB Berlin, one of the world's leading tourism trade fairs.
- We promoted the ecotourism potential of the Făgăraș Mountains and connected with partners and visitors from over 180 countries.
- Our stand was visited by H.E. Adriana-Loreta Stănescu, Romania's Ambassador to Germany.
- The Foundation's projects were also presented at the Romanian Embassy in Berlin.

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International recognition

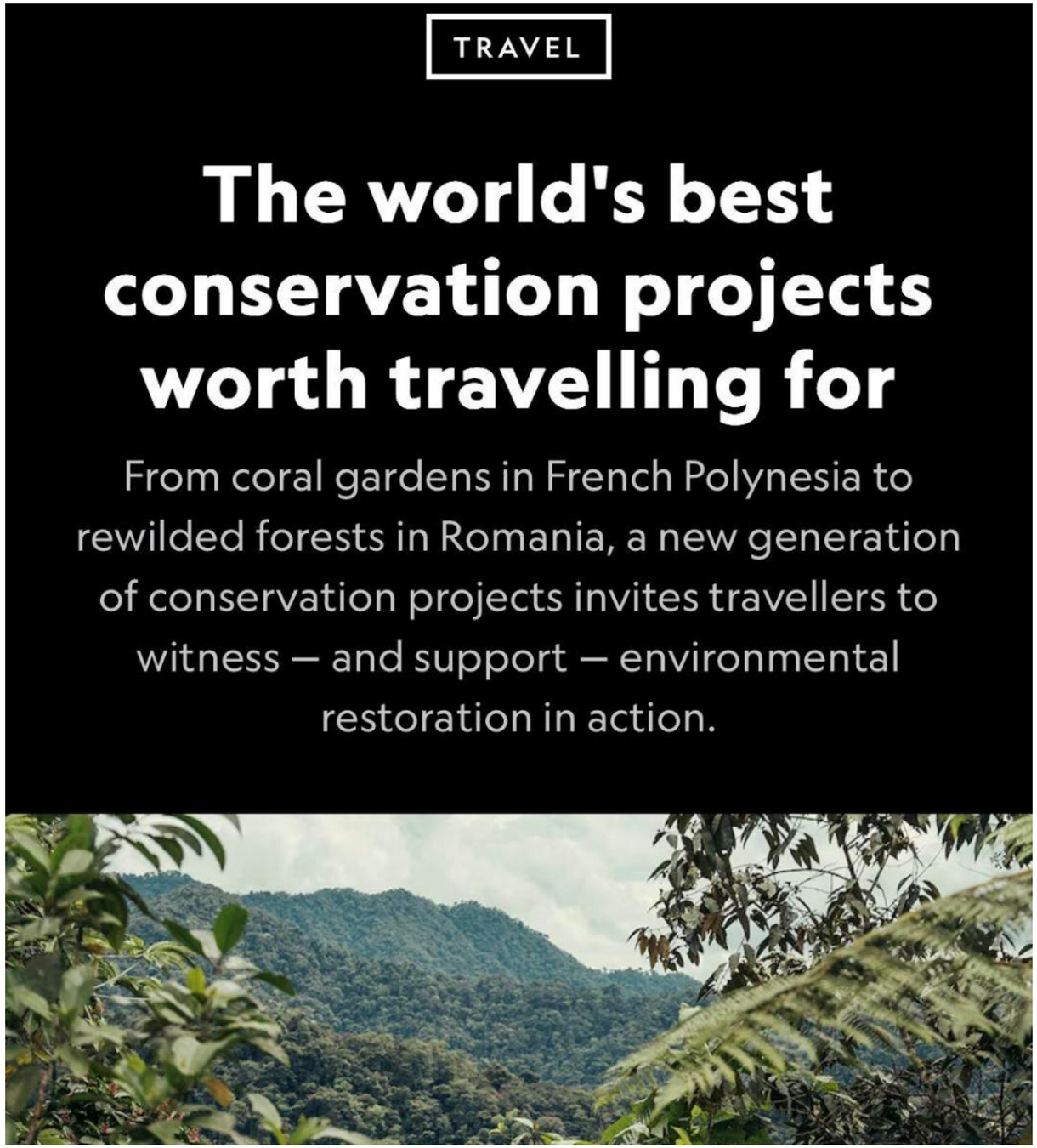
Travel Carpathia received recognition at the LUXlife Travel & Tourism Awards 2026:

- Best Ecotourism Operator
- Romania – Excellence Award for Wilderness Tourism and Sustainable Conservation

This highlights our contribution to the development of ecotourism in the Făgăraș Mountains.



- The Făgăraș Mountains are included in a global list of conservation projects worth traveling for.
- With this, Romania, represented by our project, ranks second in a list published by National Geographic.
- Our conservation efforts in the Făgăraș Mountains are gaining more and more international visibility.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Silence, nature and wildlife

In March, we organised a guided tour for a visitor from Italy, in the area of our Dracsin Cabin, one of the newest locations in the Travel Carpathia portfolio.

Over four days, we explored less-travelled routes, covering up to 14 km per day, with open views towards the Iezer-Păpușa Mountains, Piatra Craiului and the Făgăraș Mountains.

We observed bison in the wild and numerous signs of wildlife.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

A new local producer joins Roadele Munților Făgăraș network

A new producer of cow’s milk cheeses joins our network of local producers.

Stâna lui Găbilă, in Rucăr (Argeș), is a place where simple mountain flavours are kept just as they are.

Part of a network that carries forward the taste of the place.





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Communication and Community Outreach

When nature becomes breaking news

The return of the griffon vulture to Romania brought nature into the public spotlight.

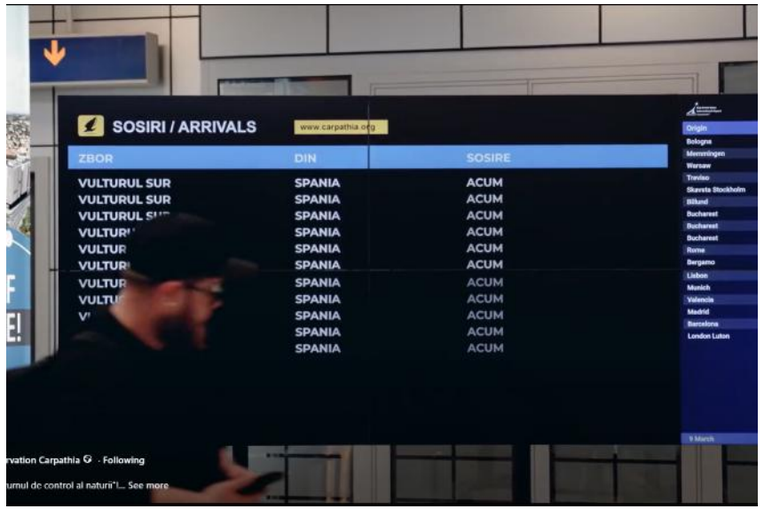
For several days, the moment received nationwide coverage, with a level of interest rarely seen for a conservation topic.

The communication campaign and arrival event generated an estimated audience of over:

5,000,000

estimated audience

The event was featured in almost all major prime-time news bulletins.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Făgăraș Fest 2026, a way to understand nature

July 10–12 | Sebeșu de Sus, Sibiu
7th edition

2026 theme: **Ecosystem services**, the essential benefits that the Făgăraș Mountains provide for people.

With over 30 guided tours, the highest number in the festival's history, participants are taken straight into the heart of this year's theme.

Not as a lecture, but as an experience: forests, rivers, waterfalls, insects, birds and alpine flora.

And thanks to the support of the Sibiu County Council, the Sibiu Philharmonic will for the first time ever give a concert at the Făgăraș Fest.

What cannot always be seen can be felt at Făgăraș Fest.

Details and tickets: www.fagarasfest.ro



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Mission: Following nature’s traces

- On 28th March, the nature of the Făgăraș Mountains reached the heart of Brașov, at Coresi Shopping Resort.
- With maps, clues and challenges, over 200 participants, children and parents, explored trees, wildlife and the connections between them.
- Through play and discovery, we transformed an everyday space into an experience about nature.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Education

A generation closer to nature

Over 1,600 students took part in a nature education marathon, alongside our team of educators and volunteers.

In schools and museums across Brașov, Argeș, and Sibiu counties, as well as in our visitor centres, ‘Beaver House’ and ‘Bison House’, children discovered ecosystems through play and hands-on experiences.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Results

4,528,254

trees planted

75,000 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

28,570 ha

of forest under permanent protection and safeguarded for future generations

7,491

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

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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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