

NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains

May 2026

Main activities summary

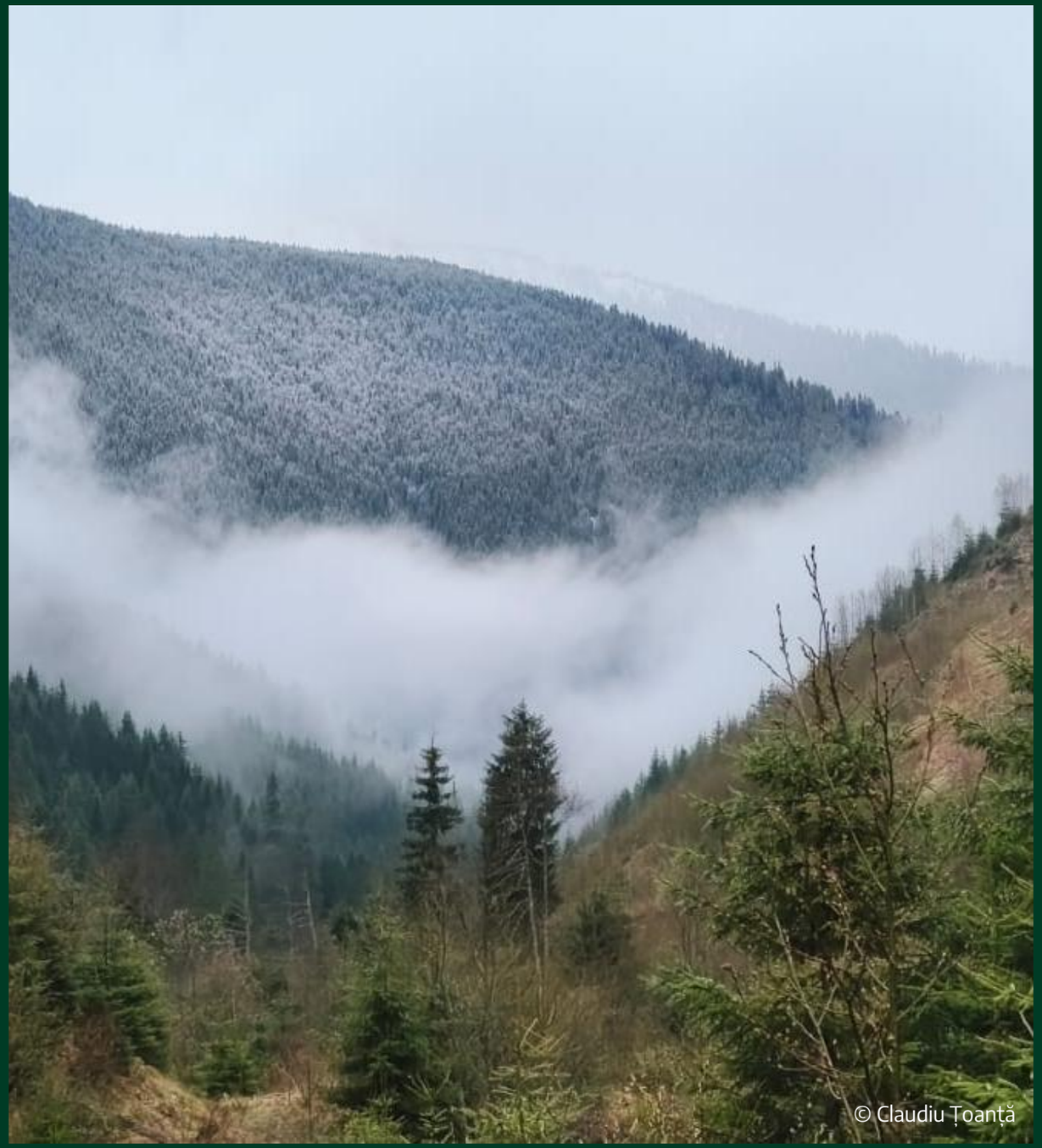
1. Forest conservation and management
2. Habitat restoration
3. Wildlife reintroductions
4. Wildlife conservation
5. Human-wildlife conflict reduction
6. Research and impact monitoring
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Forest Conservation and Management

©Alex Popa



Natural forests are one of our strongest allies in a changing climate, providing resilience against extreme weather events and safeguarding ecological stability for future generations.

After 16 years of work to protect the Făgăraș Mountains, 28,570 hectares of forest are now under full protection.

In these forests, nature is allowed to follow its natural course, with human intervention kept to a minimum and undertaken only when necessary.

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2

Habitat restoration

©Claudiu Țoanță

Late snowfall and adverse weather conditions shortened the spring planting season and made restoration work in the mountains even more challenging.

Despite these difficulties, we completed two major ecological restoration projects on schedule in the southern Făgăraș Mountains.

- At the Zârna restoration site, we planted 15,500 spruce saplings, while at the Dobroneagu restoration site we planted a further 42,200 spruce, beech and fir saplings.









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As an ambassador for the Foundation, Nico de Transilvania continues to support our work on the ground.

Through Forests Without Frontiers, she once again joined us at the Dobroneagu restoration site in the southern Făgăraș Mountains and visited the nurseries where we are growing the next generation of trees for future restoration efforts.

We are grateful for her continued commitment and for the years she has spent alongside us, helping to restore and protect the Făgăraș Mountains.

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Grow well, young sycamore!

This young sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is taking root in an area where we are transforming spruce monocultures into more natural, diverse and resilient forests.

To date, we have initiated this conversion process across more than 800 hectares of forest.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

#Upclose

Sycamore Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)



It is one of the native tree species we plant to transform spruce monocultures into more diverse and resilient forests.



In forests where nature is allowed to follow its own course, a sycamore maple can grow over 30 metres tall — roughly the height of a 10-storey building — and live for several centuries.



In spring, its flowers are a valuable source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinating insects.

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#OurFieldTeam

In the spring of 2012, Elena walked through a forest that was no longer there.

Richita, Tămaș, Pârâul Mănăstirii and Bălțatu were among the areas in the southern Făgăraș Mountains severely affected by large-scale logging, with bare slopes and the silence left behind by destruction.

Fourteen years later, these same places are gradually becoming forests again. Young trees are growing, wildlife is returning, and nature is reclaiming its place.

Elena has been there throughout this journey, working alongside her colleagues to help bring these forests back to life.

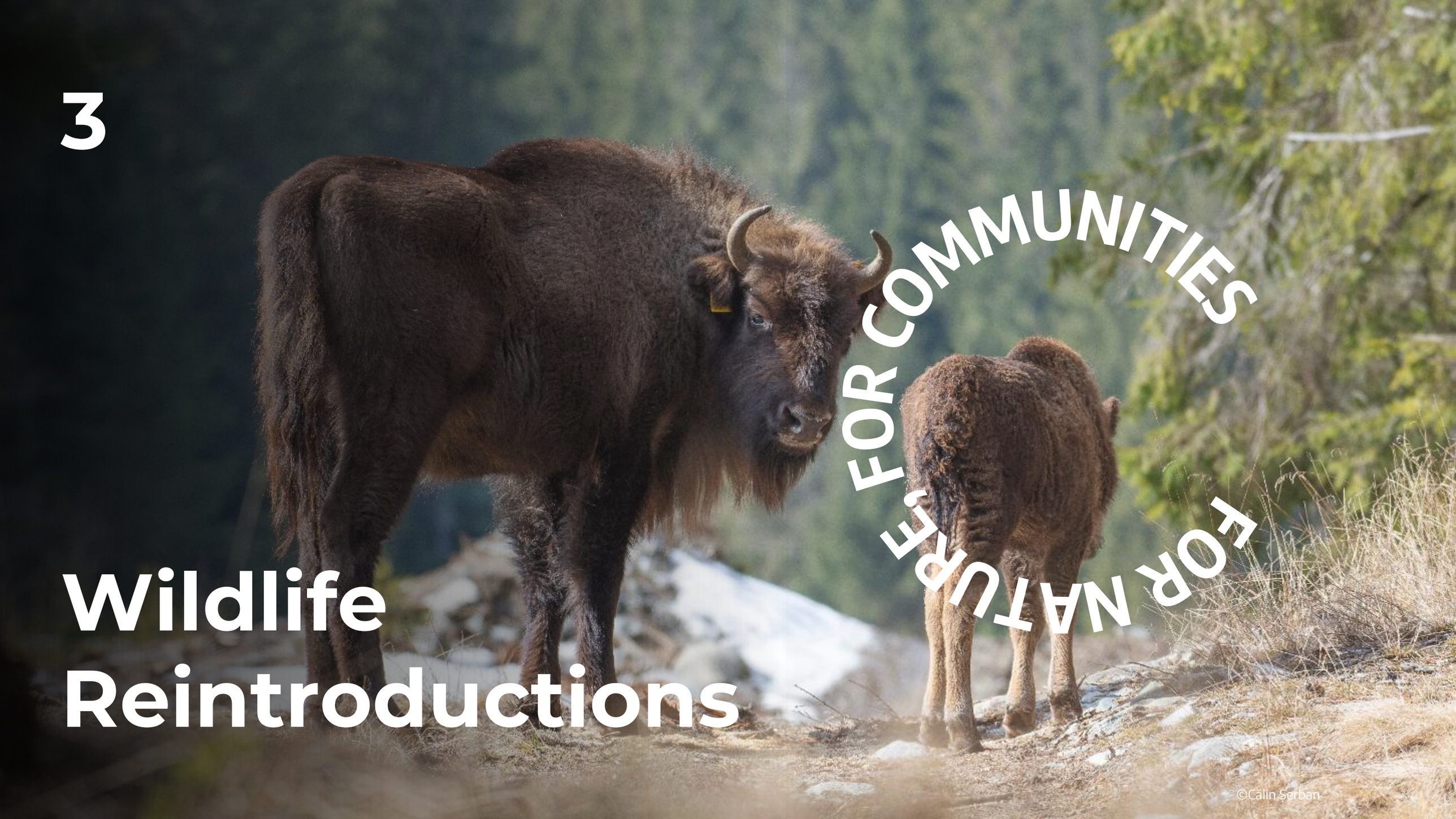
“*To plant a forest and watch it grow before your eyes — that gives you a tremendous sense of fulfilment.*”

Elena Șerban, Forestry Engineer

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Wildlife Reintroductions

FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE



©Călin Șerban





Meet the first bison calf of 2026!

Born in May, this little one was the first bison calf spotted in the Făgăraș Mountains this year.

More than 30 bison calves have been born here since Foundation Conservation Carpathia reintroduced the species, a sign that bison are once again making these mountains their home.

Discovered and photographed by our ranger, Adrian Idor.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

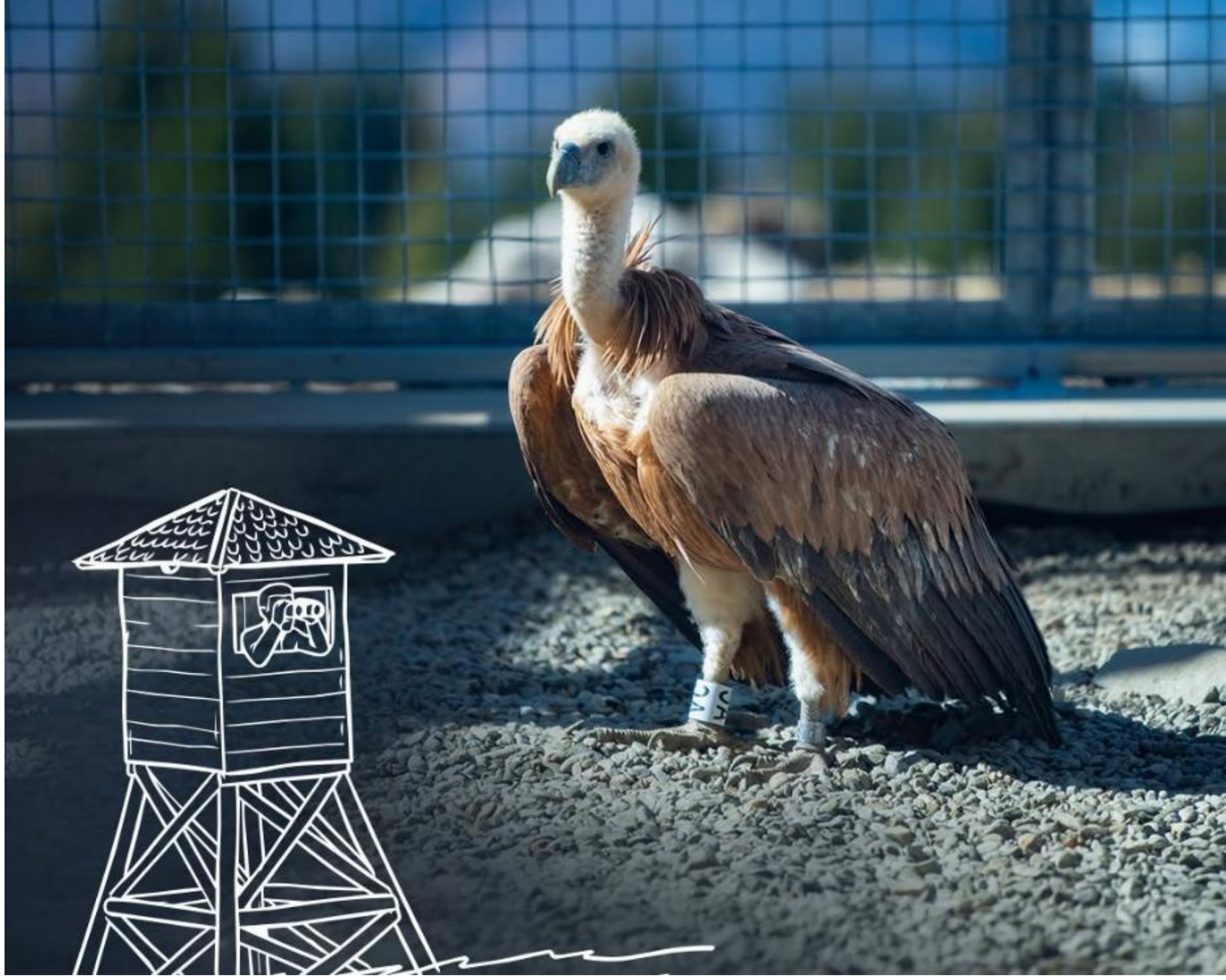
Guided visits to the griffon vulture acclimatisation aviary

Due to the great interest in these magnificent birds, we continue our guided visits to the griffon vulture acclimatisation aviary on Mount Căpitanu, in the southern Făgăraș Mountains.

Visits take place in small groups to minimise disturbance and support the birds' adaptation.

Locals are given priority access helping communities become part of the species’ return to the Făgăraș Mountains.

Live cameras allow us to follow the vultures' progress every day without disturbing them.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



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Wildlife conservation

©Dudu Gabriel

Every spring, the Făgăraș Mountains welcome a new generation of wildlife.

Young animals need healthy forests, connected habitats and space to thrive.

In Romania, National Parks provide full protection for wildlife and natural habitats. This is what we aim to achieve in the Făgăraș Mountains.


The chamois nursery. ©Elena Șerban


Wild boar piglets


European bison calf with its mother. ©Călin șerban


Eurasian lynx


Red deer stag



5

Human-Wildlife Conflict Reduction

© Michiel van Noppen









Throughout May, our intervention teams checked and installed electric fences and responded to wildlife sightings near homes and farms.

By taking preventive action, we help reduce the risk of conflicts between people and wildlife.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



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Research and Impact Monitoring

© Alex Popa

Preliminary results from our bear diet study: 194 species detected so far in the samples analysed

93 plant species

grasses, nettles and related species, raspberries, rosehips and beech mast

83 insect species

ant larvae, beetle larvae, flies and aphids

17 vertebrate species

wild boar, red deer, roe deer, dormice and mice

These are preliminary results that require further analysis and interpretation.

Studying the diet of bears helps us better understand the species' ecological needs and supports efforts to reduce human-bear conflicts.

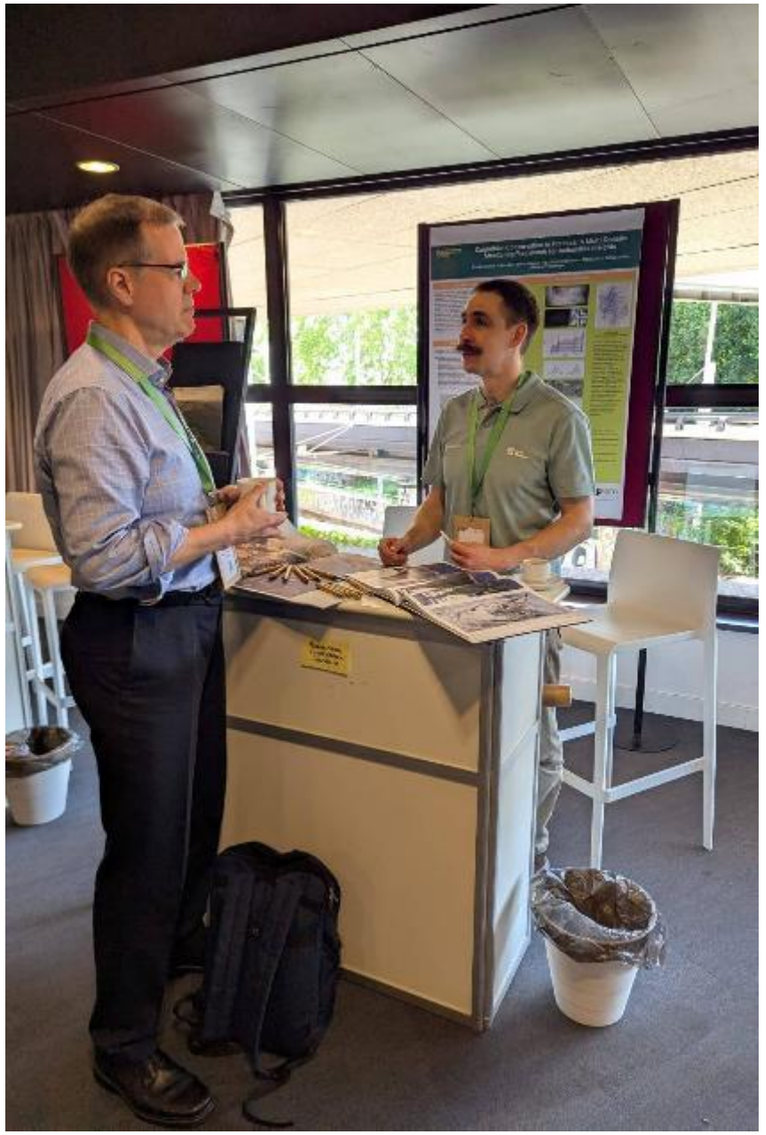


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Sharing our work at BioMonWeek

In May, our colleagues Costin Enache and Oliviu Pop took part in BioMonWeek, a European conference on biodiversity monitoring held in Montpellier, France.

They presented our research in the Făgăraș Mountains, including our work on monitoring and managing invasive plant species, and exchanged knowledge and experiences with researchers and practitioners from across Europe.





© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



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Communication

Everything you can't see, you can feel at Făgăraș Fest

- The cool shade of the forest on a hot summer day.
- The sound of waterfalls along the Moașa Valley.
- The scent of freshly cut hay.
- Sunsets over the mountain ridges.

These you can only experience by being there.

From 10–12 July, join us at Făgăraș Fest in the village of Sebeșu de Sus for three days of nature, music and community, with more than 30 guided tours exploring the landscapes, wildlife and stories of the Făgăraș Mountains.

We are building a festival for a National Park.

Tickets and programme: www.fagarasfest.ro



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

‘Nature's Architects’ reaches over 200 students in communities around the Făgăraș Mountains

For one hour, bison and beavers became the teachers for more than 200 students who joined a screening of Nature's Architects and a discussion on wildlife conservation and nature restoration in the Făgăraș Mountains.

Thank you for welcoming us with such curiosity.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



Our 2025 Annual Report is ready to read

A year of challenges, achievements and lessons learned — all brought together in one report.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We hope you enjoy exploring the impact we made together in 2025.

You can read the full report HERE.

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Community Relations



©Fisheye.ro

The fourth edition of Junior Ranger begins

We launched a new edition of our Junior Ranger programme for children from ten communities in Argeș County.

This year, the programme returns with a new structure and progression levels ranging from Roe Deer to European Bison.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

More than 120 children and parents join the School Table Tennis League

More than 120 children and parents took part in the third edition of the competition, organised through our school table tennis programme.

Special guest Bernadette Szőcs, European champion and one of Romania’s leading table tennis players, joined the event.

The programme continues to grow, inspiring more children to embrace sport and fair play.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Exchange visit to Šumava National Park

In early May, our Nature Education team took part in an exchange visit to Šumava National Park in the Czech Republic.

They explored the park’s nature education programmes, visited visitor centres and discussed activities designed for children and young people, exchanging ideas and best practices with colleagues from the Czech Republic and Germany.





© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



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Conservation Enterprise Programme

© Diana Alexe

Travel Carpathia

In May, we welcomed more than 200 visitors to the Făgăraș Mountains, from wildlife watching experiences and horse-riding adventures to visits to the Cobor Biodiversity Farm, where farming and nature work hand in hand.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Travel Carpathia

We also hosted the first group of students in our Conservation Camp, welcoming participants from Suffolk College and Moulton College in the UK.

The month also brought opportunities to share the stories of the Făgăraș Mountains with journalists from Germany and Austria, who joined us in exploring the region's landscapes, wildlife and conservation work.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Travel Carpathia through the eyes of Bea Adventurous

Traveller, blogger and storyteller **Bea Adventurous** left the Făgăraș Mountains with one feeling: the desire to return.

Read her full story HERE.



INSIDE EUROPE'S LAST GREAT WILDERNESS: ROMANIA'S WILD FĂGĂRAȘ MOUNTAINS

I arrived in Romania expecting beautiful scenery. What I didn't expect was for the Făgăraș Mountains to quietly dismantle everything I thought I understood about wilderness, tourism, silence, and the strange modern discomfort of simply being left alone with my own thoughts.

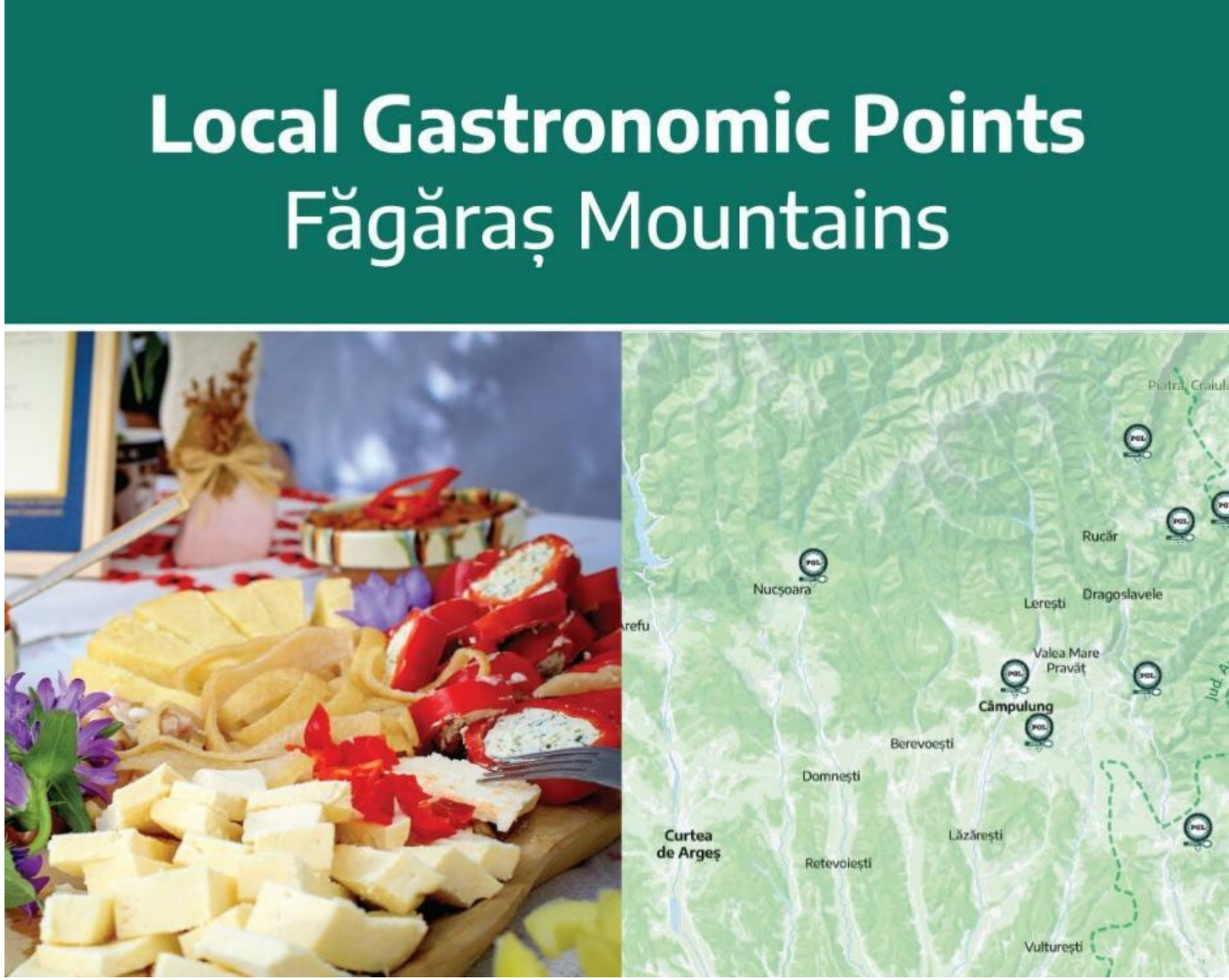
Because Romania's Carpathian Mountains are not dramatic in the way the Dolomites scream for your attention. They don't perform like the Swiss Alps. They don't arrive gift-wrapped with infinity spas, influencer swings, and

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Local Gastronomic Points

We invite you to discover the Făgăraș Mountains through their local flavours.

This month, we launched a map of the Local Gastronomic Points of the southern Făgăraș Mountains, family-run places we have supported in their development, where traditional recipes and locally sourced ingredients tell the story of the region and its communities.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



Roadele Munților Făgăraș

If you've made it this far through our monthly stories, you've earned a good beer.

Romania’s first organic alcohol-free beer was launched by Pardon Brewery, a microbrewery in Lerești and part of our Roadele Munților Făgăraș programme.

Made with pure water from the Făgăraș Mountains and crafted by a local brewer, it is a product that reflects both the natural richness of the region and the people who call it home.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Results

4,528,254

trees planted

79,000 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

8,000

students and teachers involved in environmental education projects

>30

local producers are part of the Roadele Munților Făgăraș initiative

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CARPATHIA®

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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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