
CARPATHIA®
NewStories from the Făgăraș Mountains
August 2026
FOR COMMUNITIES
FOR NATURE
carpathia.org
©Gabriel Dudu

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. Communication
7. Community Relations
8. Conservation enterprise programme

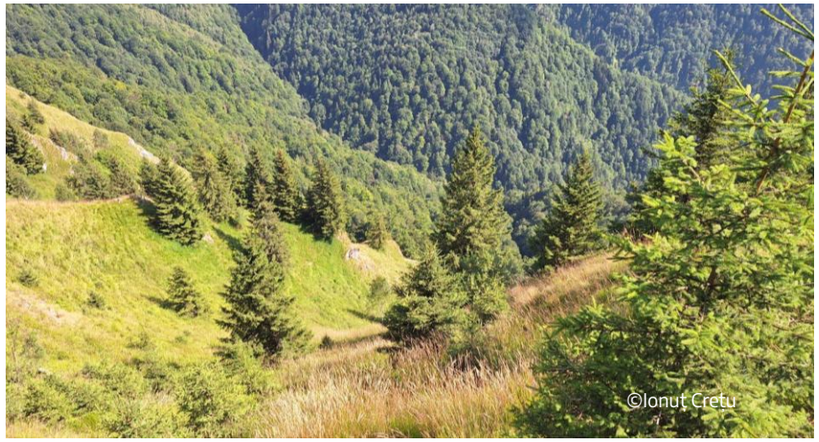


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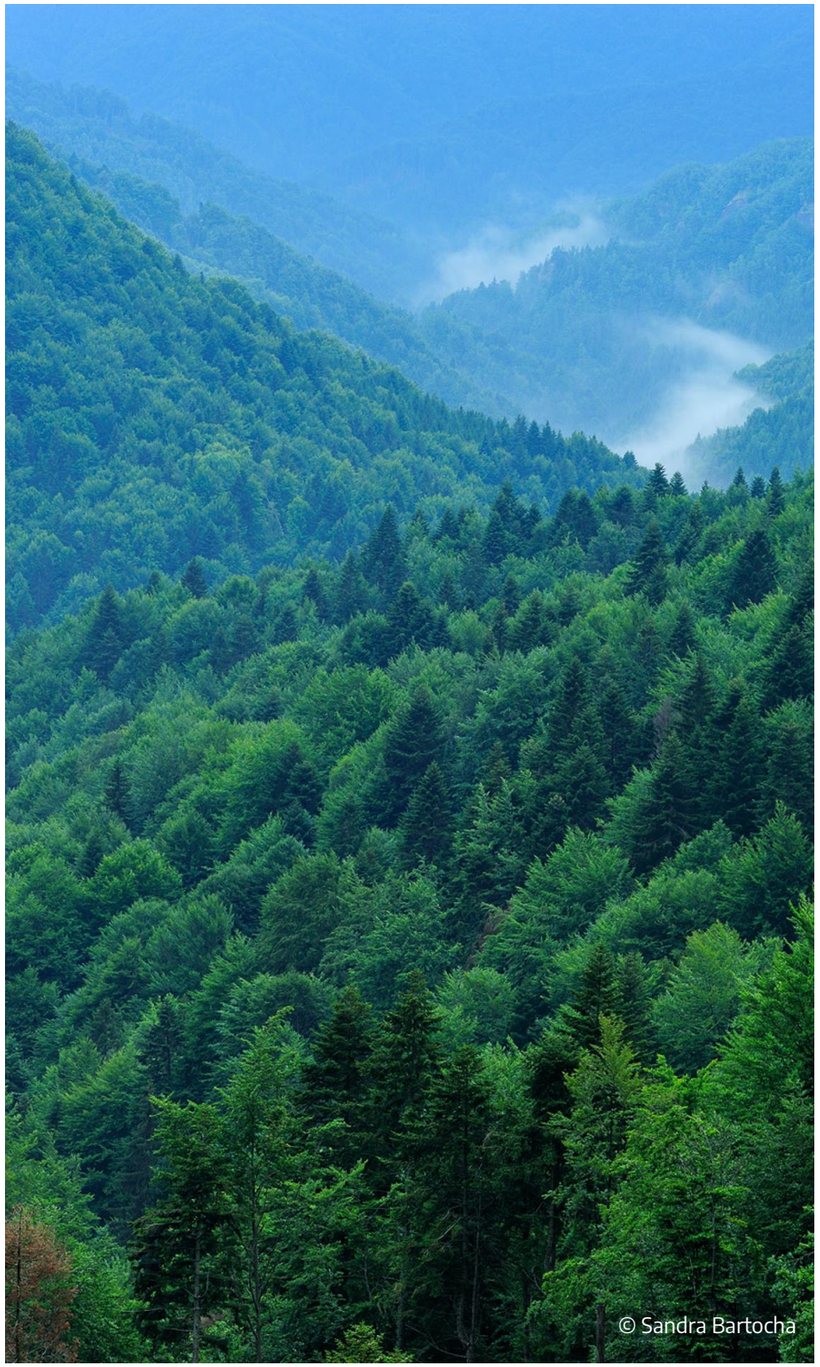
Forest Conservation and Management

© Liviu Ungureanu

- We are protecting **28,679 hectares** of forests and mountain pastures in the Făgăraș and Leaota Mountains, an area that continues to grow as we succeed in bringing new forests under permanent protection.
- The forests we protect absorb more than 10% of the total CO_2 emissions of a city such as Brașov.







© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

- We allow natural processes to take their course, intervening only when necessary and in accordance with legal requirements. We identified several dozen trees infested with bark beetles. As the insects were still at the larval stage, the trees were felled and debarked to prevent the infestation from spreading to other trees.

- **66 m³ of firewood for the local community:** in the Moroeni area of the Leaota Mountains, we are preparing firewood for donation to vulnerable members of the local community. The wood comes from trees blown down by strong winds.









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Habitat restoration

©Liviu Ungureanu

Preparing for autumn work

At Dobroneagu restoration site, in the southern Făgăraș Mountains, we are cutting vegetation around saplings planted in previous years, giving them more light and space to grow. Since 1st September, 16 people from local communities have been working with us.

We also restored temporary access to four ecological restoration sites after this summer's heavy rains — Zârna, Valea Rea, Dobroneagu and Basa.









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Wildlife Reintroductions

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©Liviu Ungureanu

- The beaver population on the Dâmbovița River is growing: we discovered **a third site with kits** in the southern Făgăraș Mountains.

- Another good sign: the beavers have built a new dam on the river.

- We began reintroducing beavers here in 2021. Five years on, 10 beaver families live in the southern Făgăraș Mountains.









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Holiday activity: Alex Idoraș and Andrei Avram, two participants in our Junior Ranger programme, are lending us a hand in the Dâmbovița Valley, monitoring a beaver family alongside our team.

Andrei also sent us this photo 👉



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Providing food for griffon vultures in the aviary

- We continuously monitor the griffon vultures and ensure they have everything they need while in the aviary.
- We collect animal carcasses from farms in the area in collaboration with the Argeș County Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate (DSVSA), following the necessary veterinary health checks.
- We are compiling GIS databases of possible future feeding sites near the aviary.

The reintroduction of vultures to Romania is being carried out with the financial support of ING România, and in cooperation with the Vulture Conservation Foundation, Milvus Group, a consortium of local communes and the Argeș County Veterinary and Food Safety Directorate. The project is co-funded through the LIFE REFAG programme.

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Human-Wildlife Conflict Reduction

© Daniel Mîrlea

Prevention

+2000 km

covered by our colleagues on patrols across the five wildlife management units in August

10

electric fences installed or maintained around shepherds' huts and other vulnerable areas

3,585 kg

of animal waste collected and sent for incineration to reduce sources that attract bears near communities





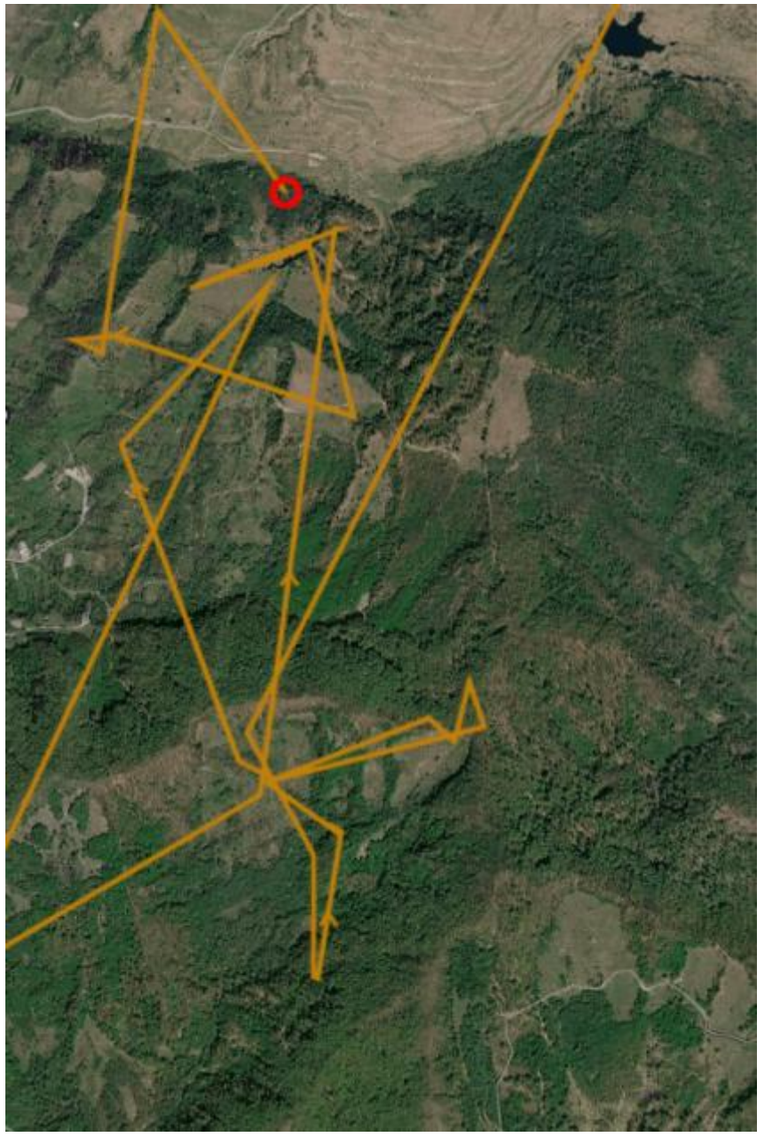
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Prevention

We continue to monitor a bear fitted with a GPS collar earlier this year.

In August, he travelled more than 70 kilometres, covering a straight-line distance of approximately 35 kilometres.

The animal moved between abandoned fruit orchards, blackberry patches, and corn fields. The radio locations help us understand the bear’s movements and track whether it approaches local communities, so we can take action to prevent potential conflicts.



Route of the GPS-collared bear.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia









Interventions

In August, our intervention teams:

- responded to 15 calls received via the emergency number 112;
- monitored and patrolled high-risk areas;
- took part in assessing damage caused by wildlife;
- implemented the legal measures required to eliminate a bear, which had repeatedly attacked shepherds in the Iezer-Păpușa Mountains and had injured one person; following a decision by the competent authorities, the bear was killed by our rangers during another attack;
- we eliminated six wild boar in the surrounds of villages, which caused severe agricultural damage.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia





© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

#OurFieldTeam

Gabriel Dudu, gamekeeper

We caught up with Gabriel Dudu as he was coming down from the mountains. He had been out to see whether the red deer rut had begun. He has been part of our team since 2019, but the mountains and wildlife have been his lifelong passion.

"*I love what I do. If I weren't passionate about it, I wouldn't be here. And I like that at Carpathia I don't have to make compromises.*"

The Iezer Mountains are his favourite place: in the autumn, when he monitors chamois during the rutting season; in spring, when bears come out onto the alpine meadows to graze; and later in the year, when he sees them feeding on bilberries.

After long, hard days of patrols and interventions, the mountains are still where he finds rest: "*I go up, see another wild animal. That's how I unwind.*"

Gabriel is also a passionate photographer, and many of our wildlife photos were taken by him. In fact, this month's report opens with one of his photographs.



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Research and Impact Monitoring

© Alex Popa



Lynx Monitoring Study

- We have begun a new phase of our lynx monitoring study.
- Together with our volunteers, we prepared motion-sensor camera traps and began installing them in the field.
- The images collected allow us to identify individual lynx by their unique coat patterns and track their presence and distribution in the area.
- By the end of August, **we had installed 44 monitoring stations.** Installation will continue in early September.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Bear Diet Study

In August, we collected **32 new samples**, bringing the **total number of samples collected to 127** since the study began on 1st April 2026.

By analysing their diet, we can better understand the link between seasonal availability of different food in the wild and how bears use the landscape.





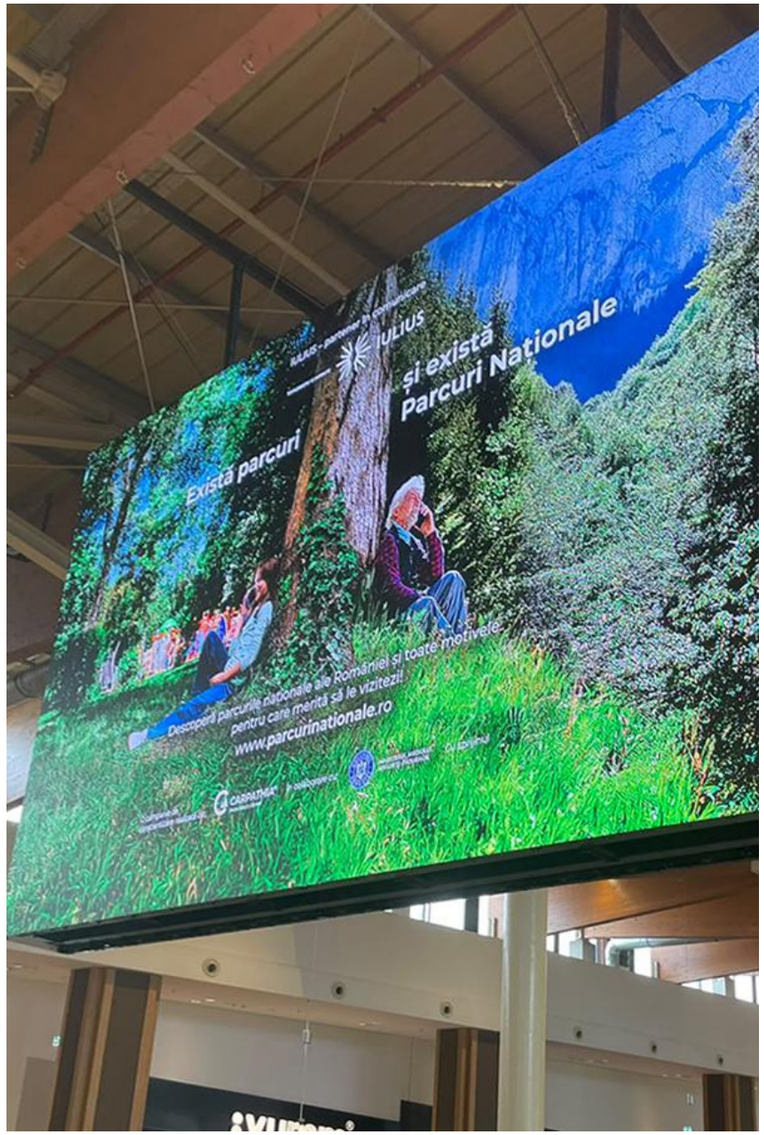
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Communication

© Fisheye.ro





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National Parks Campaign: Parcurile Generațiilor

Our campaign promoting Romania's 13 national parks is reaching people nationwide.

1.1 million people

saw the campaign spot on TV at least once, with TV reach exceeding initial estimates.

TV & radio nationwide

The campaign ran on major national and regional TV and radio channels.

The campaign also reached audiences through shopping centre screens and outdoor Movie Nights in four major Romanian cities: Iași, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara and Suceava.

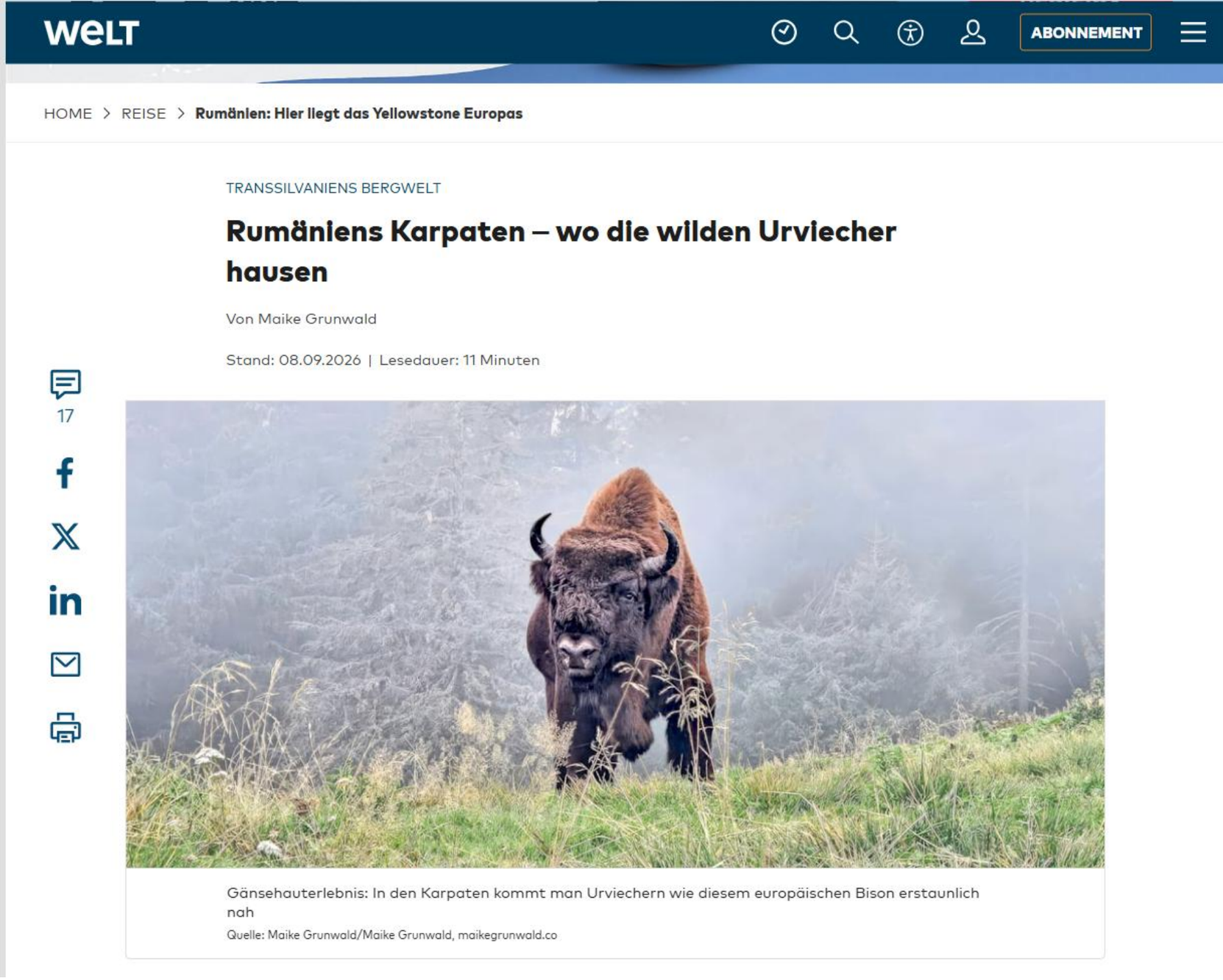
The campaign is a project developed by Foundation Conservation Carpathia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, with the support of the Romanian Ranger Association.

The Făgăraș Mountains in *Welt am Sonntag*

“You don’t have to travel all the way to the US to experience true wilderness.”

Journalist Maike Grunwald tells the story of a journey with Travel Carpathia, from Cobor Biodiversity Farm to forest hikes, wildlife watching and nights in hides and mountain cabins.

Read the full article here.



WELT ABONNEMENT

HOME > REISE > Rumänien: Hier liegt das Yellowstone Europas

TRANSSILVANIENS BERGWELT

Rumäniens Karpaten – wo die wilden Urviecher hausen

Von Maike Grunwald

Stand: 08.09.2026 | Lesedauer: 11 Minuten

17

Gänsehauterlebnis: In den Karpaten kommt man Urviechern wie diesem europäischen Bison erstaunlich nah

Quelle: Maike Grunwald/Maike Grunwald, maikegrunwald.co

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Community Relations



©

We launched MeșterEȘTI!

Together with the ASTRA Museum in Sibiu, we launched the campaign “MeșterEȘTI” for the Community, helping craftspeople around the Făgăraș Mountains gain formal certification for their skills.

The programme offers 15 grants towards certification costs in five traditional trades: carpentry, woodcraft, log cabin building, adobe construction using sun-dried bricks and stonework.

Applications are open until 31 October.



© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

Creativity and tradition for everyone

- Over the last two weekends of August, we held two family events at the Beaver House in Rucăr and the Bison House in Lerești.
- **90 children and 110 adults** discovered local crafts – clay, wooden roof shingles, spinning and weaving – and stories about beavers and bison.
- Camelia Bragă, Codruț Simene and Nicoleta Vorovenci introduced them to traditional crafts, from clay and wooden roof shingles to spinning and weaving.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia









A new generation of Junior Rangers in the Făgăraș Mountains

- **31 children** from Rucăr, Lerești, Stoenești, Dragoslavele and Cepari **joined our two Junior Ranger camps in August**.
- Together with rangers, educators and Foundation specialists, they learned about wildlife, monitoring, forest restoration and nature conservation.
- This year, five former Junior Rangers returned as volunteers, while Cristiana Simene, from the programme's first generation, joined the Foundation team as a nature educator.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

From a corner of nature to Bavarian Forest National Park

- **12 children from communities around the Făgăraș Mountains** travelled to the Bavarian Forest National Park in August, after winning the trip through the **‘Adopt a Corner of Nature’** programme.
- For six weeks, each child cared for a place in their community: collecting litter, observing wildlife and involving family and friends.
- In Germany, they slept in the heart of the forest, hiked, discovered how a national park works and saw how forests regenerate naturally.









© Foundation Conservation Carpathia



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Conservation Enterprise Programme

© CROProject

August, in the rhythm of the Făgăraș Mountains

In August, Travel Carpathia guests spend their days outdoors, enjoying nature excursions and nights close to the wild.

- **199 overnight stays at wildlife hides**
- **79 guests discovered Equus Silvania**

Presence in the Wild returned to the Făgăraș Mountains, while a group of children from WWF Germany spent three days at Poiana Tămaș, exploring and learning in nature.







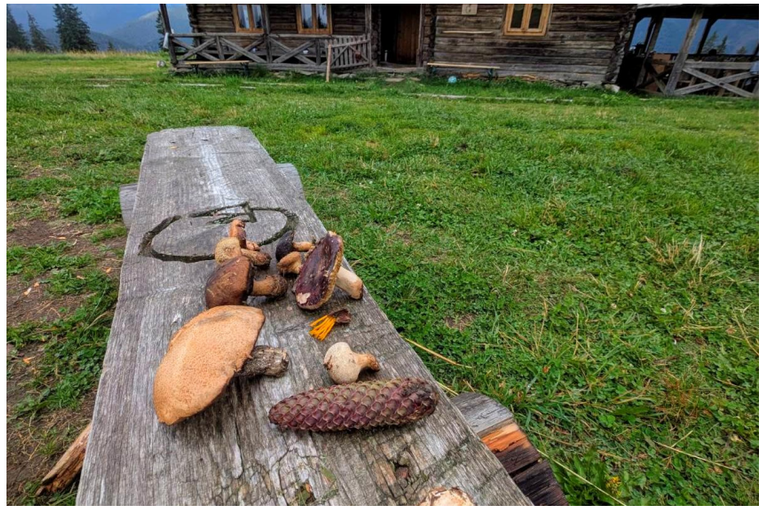


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A summer at Cobor Biodiversity Farm

This season, Runa Feddersen and Claudia Scholler joined the farm team as volunteers, sharing in the daily rhythm of Cobor: caring for animals, accompanying guests on the pastures, sharing stories and discovering new places.

Thank you for all your help and for sharing this summer with us at Cobor.

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

August harvest, from the Făgăraș Mountains

In the forests of the Făgăraș Mountains, August brings a variety of wild mushrooms, including porcini (*Boletus edulis*), and berries.

Some of the summer harvest finds its way into jars made by local producers: *zacuscă*, and jams made from bilberries, raspberries, and other treats that tempt you from the very first spoonful.

You can find them at our food-hub Roadele Munților Făgăraș. A way to keep a taste of summer for later while supporting local people and producers.



© Liviu Ungureanu

© Foundation Conservation Carpathia

#Upcoming events

Cycling around the Făgăraș Mountains

We have announced **‘Cycle & Visit – Bike Tour around the Făgăraș Mountains’**, a new event building on four previous editions of the Carpathia Bike Tour.

On 10th October, we’ll cycle 60 km through Sibiu County, bringing people closer to the Făgăraș Mountains and to the nature, culture and communities around them.

More information and tickets here.

Organised by Sibiu County Council and Foundation Conservation Carpathia, in partnership with Avrig City Hall.



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#Upcoming events

Climate Change Summit 2026

13th–17th October, Bucharest

Five days of ideas and conversations about the infrastructure we need for the future and the role of nature in building more resilient societies.

We are pleased once again to partner with Climate Change Summit for this year's edition and invite you to join us in Bucharest.

Programme details and registration:

https://climatechange-summit.org/

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Results

4,913,229

trees planted

79,000 ha

protected for wildlife, with no sport or trophy hunting

353 people from local communities

earn income from CARPATHIA project activities

28,679 ha

of forests and mountain pastures under permanent protection for future generations

10,572

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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or access Donations – Carpathia