



AGENT
GREEN

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





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FOREWORD

Dear Friend,

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We welcome you to our adventure of 2022, which we hope will motivate and intrigue you enough to get increasingly more involved in nature conservation. **Why increasingly more? Because time is running out.** We are experiencing the effects of climate change more brutally than ever around us, not on TV. We feel we cannot hide from them. **Nature is wounded or even mutilated. We have exhausted the resources it can offer us for the whole year since June.** We are in debt to nature and continue to waste its resources. 2022 was a very representative year for this period of massive destruction, but **we have again had considerable wins for nature, both in Romania and globally in teaming with others.**

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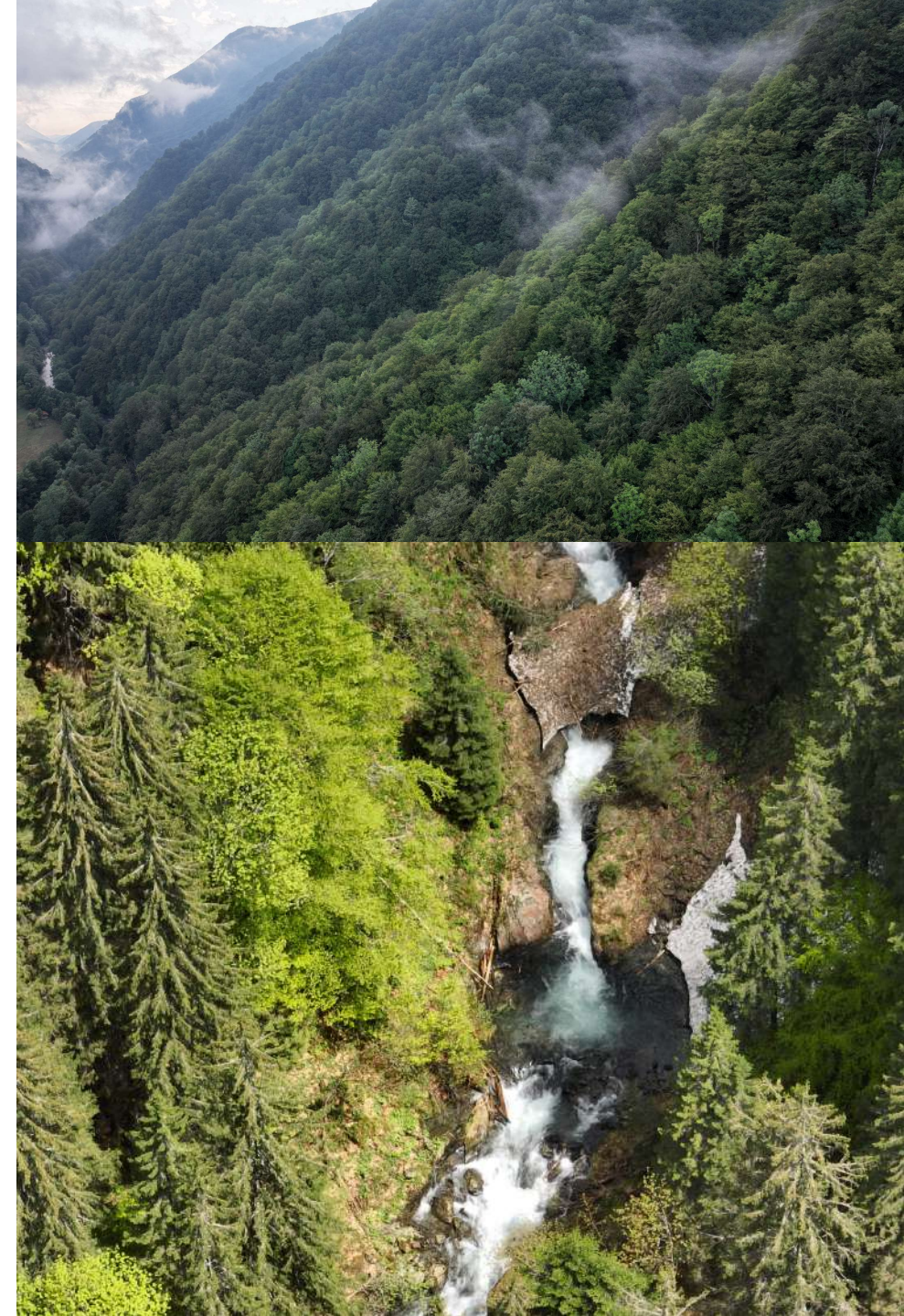
Trigger warning, the following images from Romania may be emotionally disturbing. Who would have thought that we would so soon have landscapes that could be mistaken for deserts from other places on the planet? **Lake Amara in Buzău has evaporated and with it all the flora and fauna.** An apocalyptic image of extreme drought, with thick cracks in the earth and no living creatures, **had taken the place of an oasis of greenery, crystal clear water and life.**

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In the next pages, you will find the full story, as well as the rest of the stories that made 2022 a year we won't forget soon. **It has been a year in which government and parliament representatives have tried through orders and laws to trample everything we have achieved for nature over the last 25 years.**

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They tried to silence us by trying to pass laws to restrict our access to justice and our right to protest freely. We didn't relent and fought back. We came together and mobilised several organisations. We stopped many of these attempts.

We have continued the legal trials with the corrupt authorities who are themselves enemies of nature. As usual, we have been successful in most of these trials, showing that the government is wrong. But they do not take responsibility for their crimes and continue their plan of destruction against a background of general indifference of the Romanian people. **A legitimate disinterest as the economic crisis is pushing us to rethink our priorities. But an immoral and illogical disinterest because without nature we will have no priorities to begin with.**

So nature is calling us and we must come to its help every day, the same way nature meets our need. Make a resolution that not a day goes by that you don't show nature your gratitude through simple gestures and thoughts. Stop throwing food away. Turn off the light and turn off the engine when you don't need it. Walk more. Plant a tree. Sign petitions. Come to the protests. Donate. **Nothing is insignificant** - if we all did this, nature could heal itself, bit by bit. **We are part of nature and we get sick with it, so the responsibility lies with each of us, including ourselves**

Best regards,
Gabriel Păun President Agent
Green





VISION



If Nature can be so beautiful, then try to imagine humanity in full bloom. This would include the best version of each of us in a healthy society, leading a conscious, meaningful life, free from the fear and divisiveness we experience now. **Our collective consciousness would be as light as a flower petal and nature would feel safe in our care.**

If we truly want to reach the better world we talk about, then we need to pave our way with kindness, compassion and solidarity, starting from today! Let us be the best we can be, wherever we may be, as part of Nature, not as its masters. Nature knows no boundaries and no religion. **For her we are a single civilization born of stardust that can only be saved by a chain of goodness.**



A dusting of stars from which the entire Universe was formed, including our solar system. A series of impossible events of extreme violence caused the same chemical elements that make up the entire Universe, including the non-living part of our wonderful Earth, to evolve into splendid living beings. **The Universe is 13.8 billion years old. The Sun and Earth are 4.6 billion years old. The oldest humanoids are at most 0.003 billion years old and recycle the same stardust that was at the origin of the Universe from generation to generation.** **We have the privilege of a rich country and the responsibility to respect animals, to keep the air, water and soil clean for ourselves and for those who come after us.** Our mission is never over, but every step forward for nature is an honour and a vital necessity for us, not only in the long term.



april 2022
**Pădurea lui
Vlad Teodor**



SUMMARY

2022 was a challenge in itself, as we expect it will be for many years to come. **It was a cause for concern, both climatically and politically. We have seen natural disasters on TV that we have been warning about for years.**

Although there is so much information about climate change having more extreme consequences, **politicians and the public remain active only on a declarative level, but not on a factual one.**

In the age of the cruellest ministry of environment, the challenges are high because we have found no link between environmental protection and the work of this institution that acts like it has only hate for nature.

Bears are more persecuted than ever, and the forest is struggling in court, with huge efforts, when culpability is crystal clear.



We have litigated hundreds of new forest trials and we carried out investigations with huge efforts and risks to support with evidence the actions of the European institutions of correcting the corrupt political system in Romania.

Desert-like drought and efforts for the poor wild animals, but also two notable international victories – this is how we can sum up 2022.

We invite you to look at the negative events of the past year only as a source of motivation to get more involved from now on. So that together we can save the last remaining magical places and restore the degraded ones for us, for last generations and for future generations.

Thank you for being here!





CAMPAIGNS



#TOGETHER4FORESTS

An international victory that counts! After 2 years and a lot of effort, the law becomes reality. **We are deeply grateful if you are among the signatories and we congratulate you on your victory.** It was not easy to reach the signature threshold in Romania given the requirements of citizens' initiatives, but the magnitude of the campaign convinced enough people to cross the threshold and validate our country in this process. **It is a law that bans products associated with the destruction of the Amazon and other important habitats from the shelves of the European Union, the world's second largest consumer of these products.**



#Together4Forests

#Together4Forests



#Together4Forests



#Together4Forests



Thank you!

As the signature threshold has been reached, the initiative must be considered for debate. Fortunately, the majority understood how these destructions affect us and how absurd it is to destroy our home and the most valuable resources.

We welcome the fact that the European Union has taken on this responsibility, which will considerably lessen the huge impact if the implementation of the law is done with the same degree of responsibility. Once again we see how the union of voices produce change and we get the motivation to think even bigger, because just like last year and every year from now on – there is only one Planet.

#MYFOREST



Romania's forest belongs to every Romanian and each of us has at least one personal reason for loving it: the pure air and clean water, the fairy-tale landscapes, the coolness on hot summer days, the relaxation and peace during hectic weeks, because it is a source of artistic inspiration. The forest is part of our human nature and we need it very much.

Until now, a small group of people have decided the fate of the forest without considering the many roles it plays in our lives and why we love it. **We all feel the consequences of these decisions.**

Society is disillusioned and lawmakers are counting on this to continue to decide on their own. The cost for our generation is unacceptable and for the next generation it is immoral. You have the right and the duty to say what you want to happen to Romania's forest.

We have launched a comprehensive petition that would give us our forests back once and for all. Sign it too!



An aerial photograph of a waterfall cascading over a rocky ledge into a pool of water. The waterfall is surrounded by dense, vibrant green foliage. The water is white and frothy as it falls. The surrounding forest is thick with trees, and the overall scene is lush and natural.

PROJECTS

NATURE'S LAWYER



Forests still need justice in the court, so our Forest Advocate colleague Catalina has been working around the clock in 2022. In fact, forestry lawsuits are strictly a question of resources, because we could open hundreds or thousands of environmental lawsuits if we could.

We hope that this direction will become of interest to as many supporters as possible - we all have a duty to do justice and honour nature.

So the highlights of 2022 in the legal department are the following:

- 1. The boundaries of protected areas are clearly a source of conflict.** We had to fight a long battle for several years to get a transparent and fair version from the Ministry to the public. We recommend you to enjoy them in your free time, they are very exciting and you will learn, as you research more, a lot of interesting information about the rich country that is Romania.

NATURE'S LAWYER



Following our complaint to OLAF and other actions regarding the lack of transparency about the controversial INSPIRE, the project to digitise the boundaries of protected natural areas, the Ministry of Environment was finally forced to publish the Government Decision referring to INSPIRE on the website. It was a battle that lasted many years and was settled in 2022, but we are glad that the authorities have finally agreed to be transparent with the public. The lack of enforcement of these correct protected area boundaries has led to many abuses: building and logging.



2. We were sued by Romsilva for our entire activity over the last 7 years, and after they lost, they appealed. Basically, our work has been about proposing solutions for forests and pointing out the abuses to anyone, but they took it personally, aimed to ruin their reputation, not as a fight for the wealth and health of the country.

We won the appeal too. We believe that Romsilva's action was one of intimidation and we continue to assert that this state-owned company needs fundamental reform, including a change in mentality. Just taking into account the dozens of lawsuits won by our organization, which have led to stop the abusive felling planned by the company and approved by the Ministry of Environment on tens of thousands of hectares of forests, the urgent need to make Romsilva more efficient is obvious.



3. The fight continues in court to protect the Bârnova forest near Iasi.

Although in July 2021, Agent Green had won in court to stop logging in the Iasi Codrii, Romsilva and the Ministry of Environment appealed, and the High Court of Cassation and Justice sent the case back to the Bucharest Court of Appeal for retrial.

So the trial continues. The same goes for the long-standing approach that our partners from the Iasi Codrii have started for the establishment of the Iasi Codrii Nature Park. A scientific substantiation study is underway. The community in Iasi is impressive and we are confident that together we will be able to make positive changes for the forests, people and animals of Iasi.

4. Another major victory is the referral for review of the Jiu Gorge hydropower plants. The High Court of Cassation and Justice has decided to reopen the case for the annulment of the decision of the classification stage for the Bumbești-Livezeni project. The associations Bankwatch Romania and Agent Green have pointed out to the court that the classification stage, a basic environmental procedure for approving projects, was not legally issued. In December 2017, for the same project, the Court of Appeal annulled the building permits due to the lack of environmental assessments required by law.

The current capacity of the Jiu River and the context in which we find ourselves no longer justify these works and the area urgently needs protection. Water must be protected as a primary resource. We hope that the fight is almost over and that the obvious will become clear to all the decision makers in this project, especially as it affects us all, as everything in nature always does.



NATURE'S LAWYER

NATURE'S LAWYER

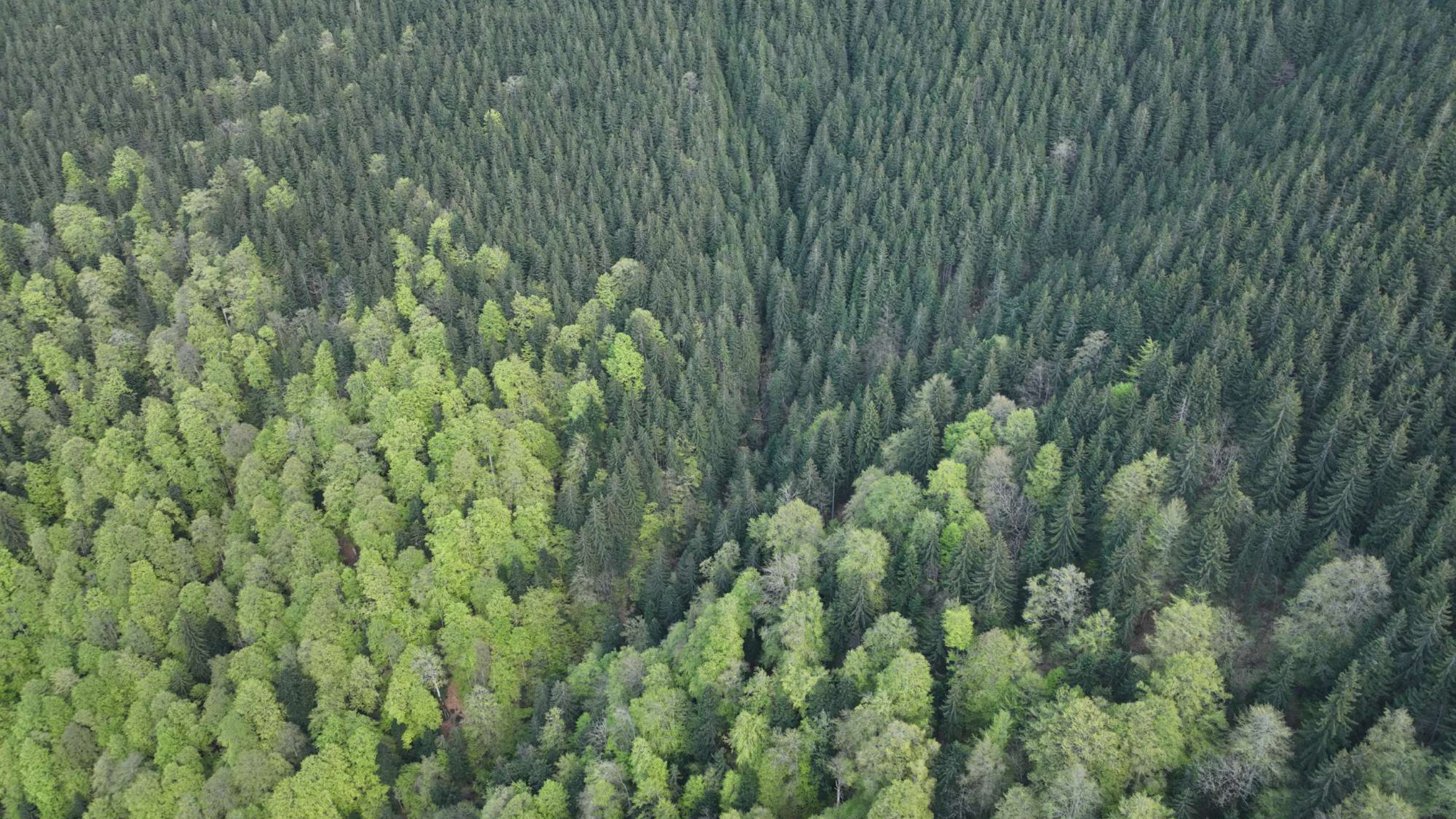
Domogled National Park, always in danger, instead of being protected as a priority for the natural wealth it hosts. This time, we are talking about the Baia de Arama Forestry Office.

Although its old development in Domogled National Park was blocked thanks to court cases brought by Agent Green, a new development was created in 2022 that plans new logging in long-saved primary and secular forests.

We did not give up and after several months of raising concerns, sending comments, insisting and consulting with the public, we managed to influence the authorities' decision and to get the planning to start from scratch so that our comments would be taken into account. We also managed to get the Minister to go to the area and remind the park administration that the Government's objective is the strict protection of national parks, starting with Domogled - Cerna Valley.

Without good management, we will degrade areas of unique beauty and biodiversity; the area has portions that are degrading for this reason, as we have seen in previous years, and Romania needs this national park. **We will not back down until it is safe.**





PEACE NATIONAL PARK



In the first days after the war started in Ukraine, we thought about both the people and the nature of this country with whom we share the Carpathian Mountains.

We tried to transform our indignation into action according to our statute. This was what ignited the idea to establish the future National Park of Peace at Izvoarele Sucevei. A park that will unite two neighbouring countries, now friends and the historical region of Bucovina where the wonderful community of Hutuli lives.



We have already made several field trips to identify the area of the future park, but also the partners to turn this vision into reality. In Romania, we have joined forces with Geoconcept, a NGO from Suceava made up of scientists from the University of Suceava. In Ukraine we have joined forces with the University of Chernivtsi, but also with the administrations of the two national parks Vinita and Cernovschi, which we have proposed to unite and extend to the Romanian border where the Suceava valleys are. We have already signed a cooperation protocol for this project.

It is a project that will take a few years and will probably encounter a lot of bureaucracy but also sympathy, we hope.



I AM NATURE

You already know our soul project, eco-education for the next generation, I AM NATURE. **The textbooks and booklets are ready**, and we are so glad to be able to make direct contact with the children after many online classes! Needless to say, we are impressed by the curiosity and insight of the little ones, who are a constant inspiration. The next generation is promising!

This year, we took the kids out of the classrooms and taught directly in nature! Here's what we did in 2022:

- **75 teachers** from all school cycles have signed up ;
- The activities were carried out by **36 teachers from 27 schools in 20 cities. More than 500 students;**
- The activities were based on the manuals 1-8 and the High School Guide. Because the manuals are not yet public, we have created 8 booklets ("Activities for Understanding and Protecting Nature") that contain only concrete activities for the little ones to do;
- **I AM NATURE was organized in 47 localities so far.**



SUNT NATURĂ



PLANTING

We continued planting in Făgăraș, where we have been planting **for 4 years with your help. In total, we planted almost 20 hectares.** Bears, wolves, lynx and deer are thankful for giving them their home back! We won't give up until the apocalyptic image dissapears! **The 100 hectares of clear-cutting was a wound that had a major impact on one of the most important areas in Europe in terms of biodiversity.**







ADVOCACY

INFRINGEMENT

We would have hoped that this 2019 win would have found its way to the end on its own, given the **plethora of impossible-to-counter evidence that has been the subject of complaints and subsequent infringement cases.**

Unfortunately, 3 years later the process is cumbersome and we are still documenting and collecting field data to reinforce the conclusions that emerge from the analysis.

As you may remember from past years, **complaints to the European Commission about illegal logging and deliberate destruction of Natura 2000 protected areas** have triggered a series of infringement proceedings.

Since then, the Ministry of the Environment has been making small changes in form but nothing fundamental has changed, **and the destruction on the ground continues.**

The problem is that after every minor change the government makes, **we have to come up with new evidence that nothing has changed.** That means lots of field trips and careful analysis. The government thinks it is making a mockery of us, the forests and the Commission, but we are confident that it will end in nature's favour.

In February 2022, the organisations Agent Green, Client Earth and Euronatur published a new report presenting shocking new evidence of illegal logging in protected areas and calling on the European Commission to immediately refer the case to the EU Court of Justice.

Nearly three years of waiting and watching Romania's old-growth forests disappear has been enough.



INFRINGEMENT

The release of the Agent Green report was picked up by international media such as the Telegraph, AP News, Washington Post, US News, ABC News.

On the one hand, the environment minister has not taken any responsibility for his criminal actions and tries to play down the serious situation of illegal logging in Romania, claiming to the Commission that the situation is under control. On the other hand, Agent Green is constantly bringing new evidence to prove that the illegalities continue and have even worsened, despite pressure and efforts. Romania has indeed developed new rules requiring, among other things, environmental impact assessments in planned felling in Natura 2000 sites. Instead of addressing legislative loopholes with a law passed in Parliament, the **Romanian government has issued three ministerial orders - all of which have been hotly contested in court by the forestry industry.** Meanwhile, logging permits **continue to be issued in Natura 2000 sites without prior environmental impact assessment**, 10-year forest management plans have not been revised, and the destruction of forests and habitats continues unabated.

In April 2022, we met in Bucharest with Virginijus Sinkevičius, the European Commissioner for the Environment, who criticised Romania for its slow implementation of EU environmental legislation and called on the government to remedy the problems as soon as possible, with a deadline of the end of 2022. Romania's forests are of international interest and the legislative levers offered by the European Commission are to everyone's advantage, an opportunity that if we seize, we all stand to gain from. Finally, we all need a healthy and a clean environment.





INVESTIGATIONS

DEER VALLEY



Bucegi Natural Park, Deer Valley. Probably one of the best known and most loved tourist trails in Romania - **the road to Sphinx and Babele** - the Deer Valley is a place full of emotions, history and impressive biodiversity. We can even say that it is one of the emblematic areas of Romania's nature, being the **path to natural tourist attractions known all over the world and the path that most of us have paved with memories from our childhood or adolescence.**

Last but not least, the Deer Valley is home to centuries-old, impressive, monumental trees; we were not a little surprised to learn that this oasis of health and life is the property of the Royal Family, which allows these harmful and illegal works. **We documented, protested, documented again, went to court, made public appeals to the Royal Family.** We've taken every step available to save this gateway to Romania's wildest places and we're not stopping until we make sure it's completely safe. So far we have won the court case with Romsilva and the company that was felling the forest and we have annulled the logging permit. Video story is available on our website.

IASI FORESTS



Surely you remember the investigation and campaign for the Iasi Codrii, which I mentioned a little earlier, which has been going on for several years now and has been remarkable for the exemplary mobilization of the local community, but also for the tough actions in court. We could take an example from the most civilised capitals in the world, which have preserved the forests surrounding the city in a special way, their importance being vital. In Iași, although we have the local community next-door and not many options for recreation or environmental services near Iași, the fight is tight and unjustified.

Monumental trees from historic times and a natural laboratory of biodiversity are being replaced by aggressive logging and roads damaged by forestry machinery, just as people's health will be replaced by pollution-related diseases, and their little paradise near the city will be replaced by a desolate landscape that most likely will not be restored to its original state, if we watch how almost all logging in the country evolves.

The people of Iasi do not want their city's lung to disappear, and we will support them until we manage to protect it and turn it into a natural park. The Barnova forest is a symbol and the last bodies of old trees must remain standing. In 2022, intensive work was done on the scientific study for the future Iasi Coves Nature Park.

IKEA

This is not our first clash with Ikea either, **but we will certainly be there until the last one - the danger that the largest private forest owner poses to our country is proportional to the number of hectares of forest owned by the Swedish colossus in Romania, but also to their direct interest in large old trees.**

In fact, they told us quite frankly in a meeting that the ones **we are trying to protect are the last trees they can cut down.**

The extensive story in the American magazine The New Republic about Ikea's dealings in Romania's forests is a new investigation with frightening conclusions. **Journalist Alexander Sammon came to Romania and together with Agent Green investigators revealed Ikea's race for Europe's last remaining ancient forests.**





IKEA was also accused in Switzerland of systematically violating environmental standards and thus violating not only its own policies, but also FSC regulations as well as European, international and national standards.

Last but not least, we also released another comprehensive article about Agent Green's surveys of the forests bought by Ikea in Romania. **For a year, the Agent Green team analysed data from various company-owned forest areas in and around Natura 2000 areas.** Secular forests have been cut down, affecting local biodiversity. Environmental standards as well as European and international legislation have also been systematically violated.

IKEA

AMARA LAKE



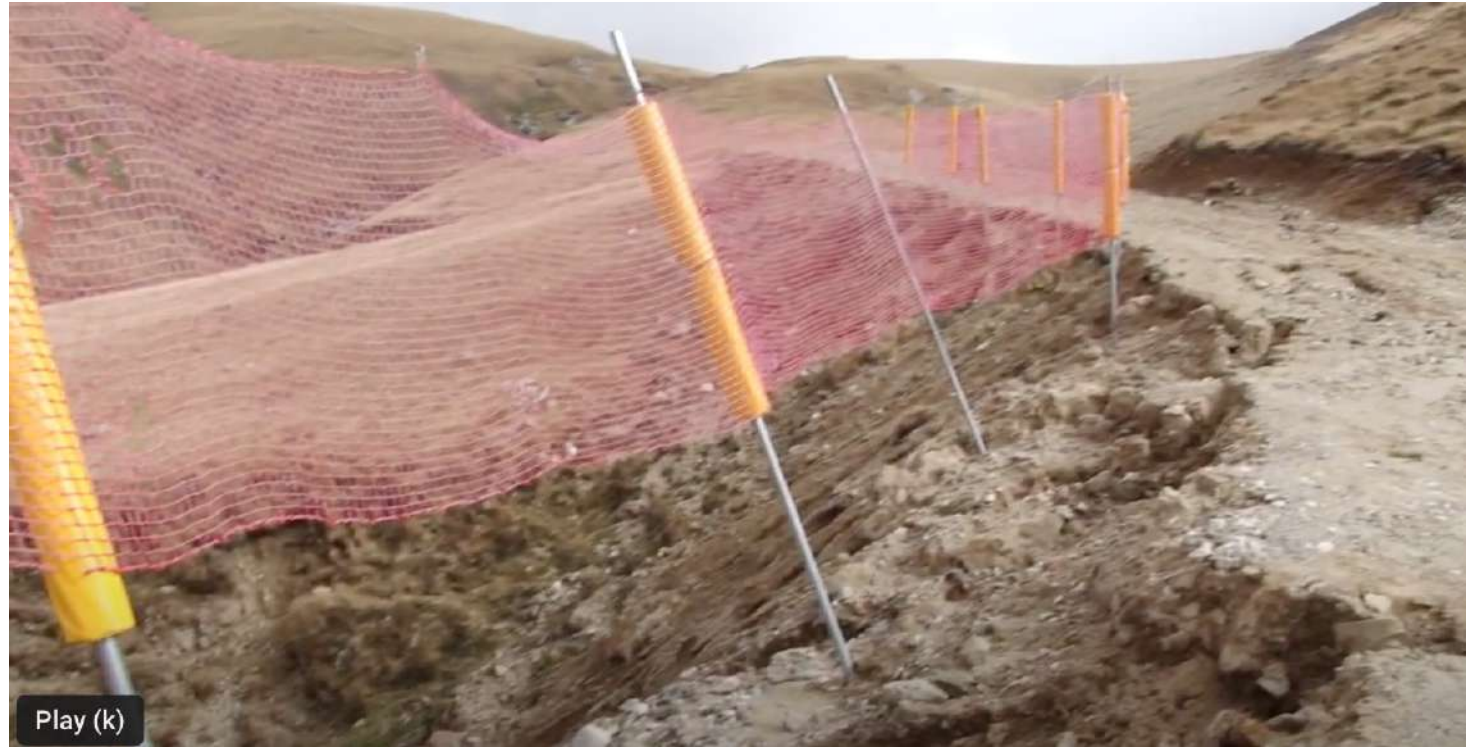
As mentioned at the beginning of the report, Lake Amara in Buzău has turned into a dystopian landscape of a future we don't want but which threatens our existence with clear signs like this. A place full of iconic species and nature's riches now lost forever.

The Amara Pond Nature Reserve has completely dried up. All the protected species disappeared with the lake, which was a natural boundary of the Buzău River. The reasons that led to the loss of this protected area are both the multi-year drought and the consistently bad administration of the authorities under the Ministry of Environment, who hoped year after year that heavy rains and snows would come and who did not ensure the maintenance of the direct connection of Lake Amara with the Buzău River, the main source of water supply.

The reserve was crucial because it was home to important flocks of protected bird species and a wintering ground for migratory birds. The former stretch of water was located on the huge main bird migration corridor, which runs from the wetlands of the 1000 lakes of northern Europe to the heart of Africa, near Lake Tanganyika, after about 5000 km.

Lake Amara was declared a nature reserve by Decision no. 13/23.06.1995 of the Buzău County Council, the status being consolidated by Law no. 5/2000 on the approval of the National Territorial Planning Plan, Section III - Protected Areas, covering, before its disappearance, an area of 803 ha and a perimeter of about 11800 ha. With the accession to the EU in 2007, Lake Amara was also designated as a Site of European Importance for the protection and conservation of the continental salt marsh habitat, a priority in the Habitats Directive - 92/43/EEC and the restoration to a favourable conservation status of specific habitats designated for the protection of wild migratory bird species. We hope that this sad story will be a wake-up call for the authorities in charge of such strategic areas. They can be protected and we need them to be protected.

ILLEGAL SLOPE IN BUCEGI



Sinaia Municipality has illegally built new ski slopes on the Bucegilor Plateau, on the border between Dâmbovița and Prahova counties. The Lăptici trail was carried out through fragile priority habitats where there is no environmental agreement. Bulldozers dug deep, directly into *4070 rhododendron, juniper and juniper habitat, which they completely removed. We visited onsite to assess the environmental impact. We also invited the Dâmbovița senator, Mr Dragoș Popescu, who will take the necessary steps in Parliament.

ILLEGAL SLOPE IN BUCEGI



Agent Green filed a criminal complaint against the authorities who signed the regulation acts for constructions in the sustainable management area of Bucegi Natural Park, i.e.: the director of APM Prahova, the mayor of Sinaia - the beneficiary of the project and a criminal complaint for habitat degradation and for building a ski slope and roads without regulation acts in the sustainable management area.



The criminal complaints continued with the Environmental Guard for complicity and abuse of service as they were officially notified and did not react. We have also taken action in civil court for the annulment of the existing acts, we will ask for the restoration of the degraded habitats to their original state. We have a lawsuit with the municipality, the mayor and the Bucegi Natural Park administration.

It is absurd to destroy nature for new ski slopes that will soon become useless. Winter is a lottery game and the number of days with good snow for skiing decreases every year. The capacity of ski slopes around the world has decreased as climate change intensifies, and building new ones is certainly not Romania's priority. The solutions we need now must always start from the long-term interest of man and nature, not from seasonal gains for those who choose to destroy nature for all of us.



ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS



A priest builds a monastery and his residence in the mountain peaks on the tourist trail of the Sâmbetei Valley. It destroys an entire ecosystem in its path, including the river and forest crossed by a new access road.

The authorities are powerless against the priest and tolerate the works in this protected natural area. If the priest can what stops anyone from building in the middle of nature? Asphalt, dirt, more construction and the gradual destruction of an already troubled area will follow.

We have done our part in this case, now we are waiting for the authorities to realize the illegal and unnecessary enormity that has destroyed yet another area of Făgăraș. We are really curious if the place will be restored to its original state.

We know the area well because **we have planted with you next door, in a clear cut of over 100 hectares, a desolate area that has not recovered in over ten years.** Because of the incredible richness of the Făgăraș Mountains, we chose to restore this destroyed habitat that fragments the native species' path and has left this deep wound in the mountain.

The fight to turn the Făgăraș Mountains into a national park seems unlikely to end soon, but we are confident that all the cries will be heard in the end. It is so hard to believe that such a wealth of biodiversity is not strictly protected but systematically destroyed.

ILLEGAL PENNED HUNTING



The investigation that shows how the citizens of Bucharest have been deprived of another piece of nature that is theirs, reveals other irregularities, such as an entire, well-coordinated system that operates unhindered near the capital. This is Branesti forest. We won't comment on the issue, penned hunting, where the animals really don't stand a chance, being penned. Because we cannot understand what can make a man resort to such methods that do not even fit into the declared coordinates of hunting is also beyond our understanding.

In the video on the site you will see the exemplary organisation that makes things run smoothly in this illegal business, and the relationships between the people involved. This investigation went viral online because of the action, as funny as it is tragic, and it is also a topic of public interest for the citizens of Bucharest who live in a polluted environment and want the nearby forests to remain strictly for recreation and the environmental services they provide.



The organization's investigators caught Cezar Raduta, former head of the Ilfov Forestry Department and deputy managing director of Romsilva, carrying a hunting rifle although he was arraigned by DNA (National Anti-corruption Directorate) and the police withdrew his right of possession and use.

The law says that every citizen must enjoy 300 square meters of recreational forest. In Bucharest, the authorities instead of doing something to give these forests to the citizens, they fence them with expensive fence to kill for pleasure hopeless wild animals.

Agent Green investigators observed near the first part of the organized in October just after the installation of the new Romsilva fence in the Pasarea area of the Braneti forest. The first observation was the armed presence of Mr. Cezar Raduta, who was arraigned by DNA in November 2021 for bribery and abuse of office. Investigators also observed the presence in the enclosed forest of chasers paid under the table by the organiser.

The Agent Green crew requested the presence of police who could not handle the situation, both Mr. Cezar Raduta and the chasers fleeing in different ways, most of them in front of the police officer and the crew that arrived later as reinforcement.

We are waiting for the conclusion of this case and especially for the dismantling of the fences that restrict the citizens' right to leisure and of animals to their lives.

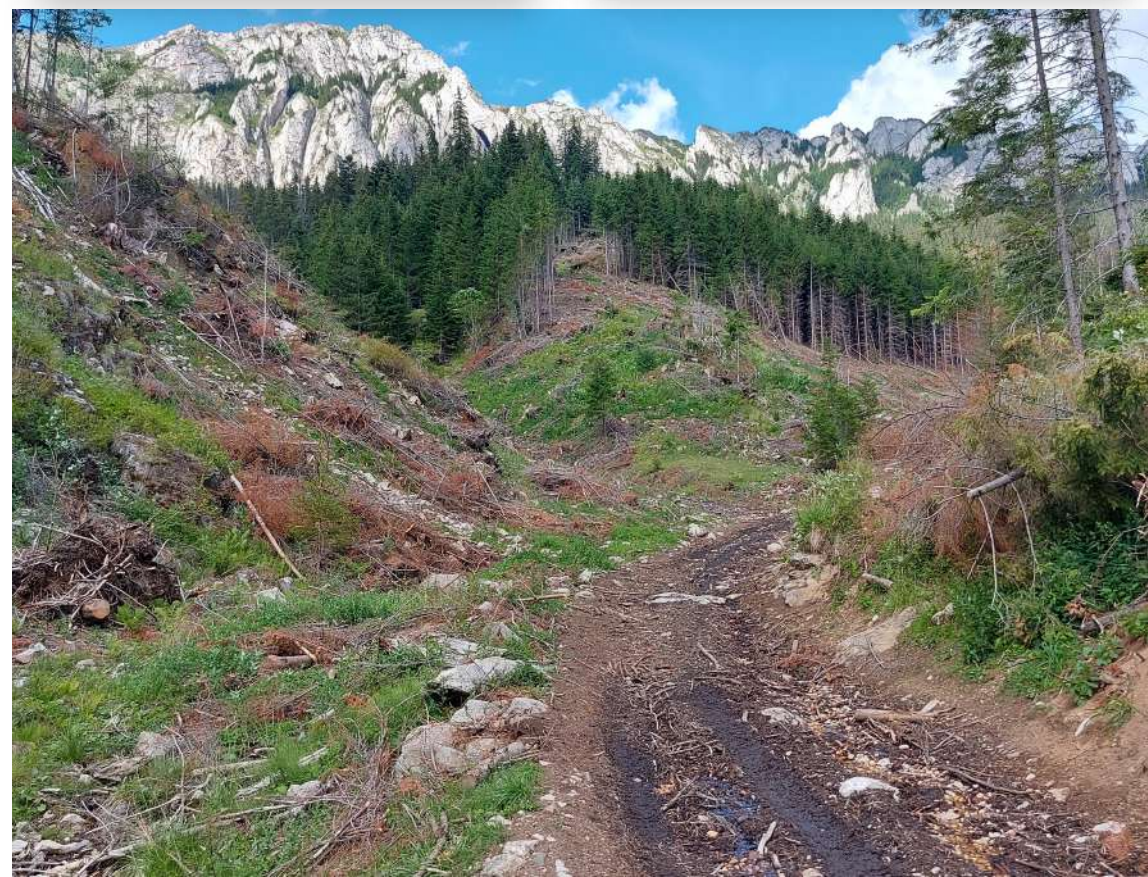
A NATIONAL DISASTER

The series A National Massacre / Out of Control continued in 2022 with a new episode. The forest massacre has not slowed down, but has intensified. You can see it both on the ground and from the satellite. The Ministry of Environment persists in lying and insists that everything is under control. This attitude of the Romanian officials is risky as there are two advanced infringement proceedings by the European Commission following complaints by Agent Green, Client Earth and EuroNatur. One on illegal logging and the other on the illegal exploitation of Natura 2000 protected areas. Romania risks going to the European Court of Justice soon.

We have launched the 7th part of this series documenting the systematic destruction of protected areas, after focusing on one national park in the first editions. The investigation spanned several months and was designed to support the authorities in intervening in the disaster in protected areas.

Protected areas aim to conserve species and habitats, and therefore human health and access to nature. Although there are international standards and sites of at least European interest, protected areas in Romania are under siege and not protected.

The risk that we may pay an exorbitant sum of public money every day until we become legal does not seem to interest Romanian officials, who claim, despite much obvious evidence, that things are fine and the phenomenon is under control.



SUMAL



Because the most important options proposed by SUMAL have been excluded from the new variant, timber theft has been left to chance. We have conscientiously studied the new version of the app, so that we could prepare an explanatory report for the Ministry of Environment and the Police, showing at least 10 ways to steal through the new version that could have performed well, if the requirements of bona fide specialists were implemented. We have discovered that not only the imagination of the timber thieves is fertile but also that of the ministry we accuse of deliberately distorting the role of the Forestry Inspector to facilitate theft.

It's a text we invite you to read to see how far this addiction to wood theft can go. The new variant has certainly inspired the air thieves and put their creativity to work, and we've managed to unravel, we hope, most of the ways to steal wood directly from the forest.

The Ministry and the Police ping-ponged this report and were not very impressed in the first instance, although we were pointing out something very serious: t-e-c ways to steal. If you think that we were satisfied and quickly started testing the application to verify the veracity of the information provided, we inform you that this was not quite the case. Finally, after further efforts by the team, it was concluded that at least a few methods were tested and allow theft.

Most of these possibilities can be very easily blocked by simple programming efforts or legislative updates. We also had to do the convincing and documentation work to prove these things, but at the time of writing, the ten possibilities remained available to timber thieves.

It was not an easy investigation, on the contrary. Because we are not in the position to use SUMAL as operators, we had to spend a lot of time and document the finer observations and strategies used, and then verify them.

Thank you once again to the team who made this very difficult but necessary report possible.



ROMANIA IS DESTROYING ITS FORESTS

NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE

Agent Green became concerned by the allegations of this investigation, therefore we decided to pursue it by notifying the law enforcement agency responsible for this, the Forestry Guard. They informed Agent Green that they found issues with 100 wood shipments that entered the biomass plant exposed by New York Times. The Forestry Guard fined the company with more than 80 000 lei.

Note: The investigation published in New York Times was performed by Environmental Investigation Agency and Euronatur. It involved tracing large amounts of wood from protected areas. The trees are being turned into biomass material for industrial burning in a factory located in Harghita county, where also Tanczos Barna (former Environmental Minister) has his residence. Without any proof, he dismissed the allegations and accused the New York Times of fake news despite the fines given by the law enforcement agency that is under his line-management.





MOBILISATION



MOBILISATION

- **Double protest in Semenic.** We are suing Romsilva for the deliberate chopping up of the Semenic - Cheile Carașului National Park but in the meantime, the destruction continues. We exposed a clean and non-regenerated cutting and continued at the park administration office in Reșița.

- **We launched the petition for sacking the minister,** following his scandalous or lack of reaction to any environmental problem that occurred or been reported, but also following his parliamentary activity, which we do not find to have been aiming at all towards the good of society. The Parliament used the petition to make a simple vote of no-confidence against Taczos Barna, but unfortunately he received the political support needed to remain in office.
- **When the war started, part of our team joined the relief efforts for people and animals in Ukraine.** We took in families who had managed to escape the war and brought them to safety. We did the same with those who came with pets. Together with the Casa lui Patrocle Association from Suceava, we went to the border point where each animal was microchipped, dewormed and received a European passport, as well as enough food for the journey. Our fellow journalist, Mircea Barbu, remained involved for the rest of the year in reporting the truth from Ukraine and was replaced by Claudiu Postelnicu at Agent Green, a journalist who worked for more than 10 years at ProTV.
- **We have launched the #PĂDUREAMEA campaign and we invite you to watch the video, sign the petition and tell us what is your favourite forest.** Help us succeed to implement the goals of this petition, and Romania's future will be better and healthier. Sign and share. The campaign continues.

MOBILISATION



- **Protest in the Deer Valley**, where investigators discovered deep wounds in the forest and monumental trees missing, the last bodies of primeval forest to go to ground. Through non-violent direct action, we mobilise the civil society and send strong messages to those who govern us, because civil solidarity, inspired by love for nature or fellow human beings and not by economic interests, is the most powerful form of organisation.
- **The year ended with defending our existence and nature.** A legislative package initiated by the Parliament, the Government and ANAF would have restricted our access to justice, and our right to protest freely. The package also aimed to approve any environmental destruction without environmental assessments, whether on rivers or mountains. We informed the European Commission who reacted promptly. So did many other NGOs that we managed to mobilize during the winter holidays when the corrupt assault took place. In the first phase, there were only three of us in the Romanian Parliament trying to stop this assault by dialogue: Cătălina, our lawyer, and Raluca and Gabi, founders of Agent Green.



FINANCIAL DATA

REVENUE



3,5%

61.101 lei

Individual
donations

290.154 lei

Sponsorships

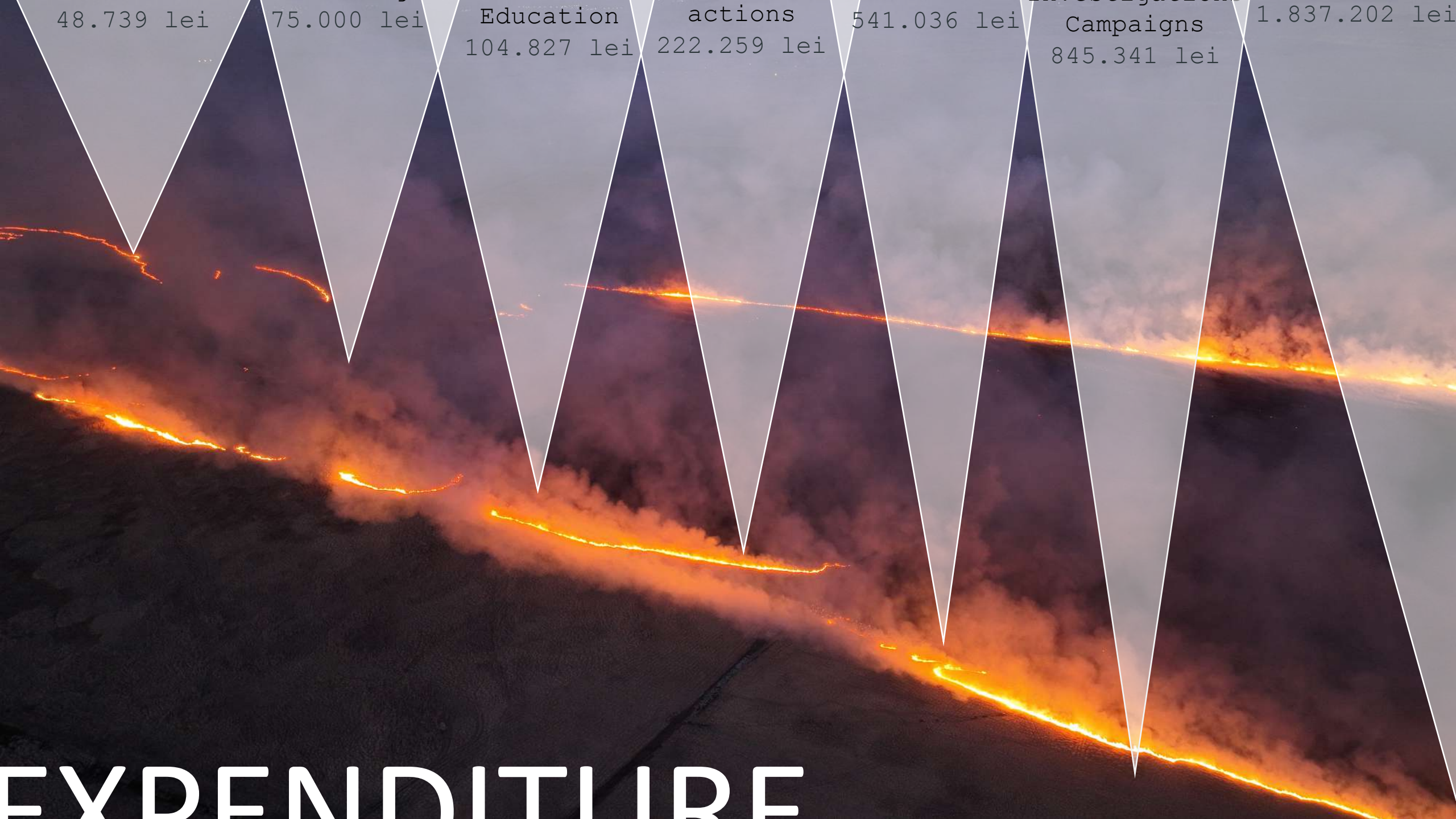
628.728 lei

Foundation
Grants

823.341 lei

Total

1.803.324 lei



EXPENDITURE





THANK YOU