



We are glad you are here and we would like to invite you to explore with us the journey of an intense and challenging year. This annual report captures not just the numbers, but the energy and vision that define us.

# ANNUAL REPORT

AGENT  GREEN

# 2024



# SUMMARY



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# FOREWORD

By Gabriel Păun

Greetings to all green agents,

Here's a glimpse of the wonders achieved by the Agent Green team in the past year made possible thanks to your support.

But before the movie starts, I want to share with you that the United Nations (UN) has decided to honor me in December 2024 with the highest title: "Champion of the Earth". I have thus become the first Romanian to receive this title, which comes after more than 20 years of uninterrupted fight for Romania's nature and is a recognition of the importance of the fight to protect primary and secular forests, stop desertification and adapt to climate change. It is a title that would not have been possible without Agent Green's team of specialists and wonderful volunteers. This honorary title tells us that our mission is of Planetary importance and that we are doing it well. It also motivates us to continue the fight for Romania's forest.

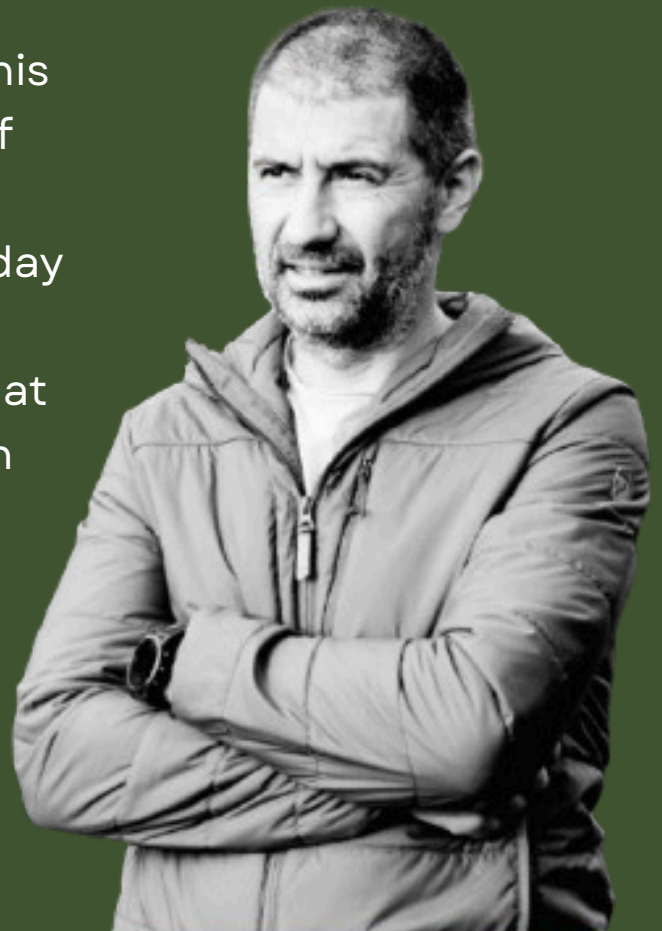




Aridization is an imminent problem that worries scientists. 3.2 billion people are already affected by aridization. Unless we change public policies and personal habits then three quarters of the population will suffer acutely from aridization before 2050.

In March 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution dedicating the decade 2021-2030 to ecosystem restoration. As a consequence, the European Commission adopted a biodiversity strategy by which each EU country (including Romania) would put 10% of terrestrial and 10% of marine territory under strict protection and 30% under partial protection (Natura 2000 protected areas).

At the height of the pandemic, in May 2020 we informed the Prime Minister of Romania and the Minister of Environment about this strategy, an extensive process of identifying areas for strict and partial protection began and today the study is almost ready. If the government will not mutilate what the scientists have mapped then we will have our most precious ecosystems saved and we will increase Romania's resilience to climate change.







# AGENT GREEN

## VISION

Agent Green is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of nature in Romania.

We focus on:

- Protecting virgin forests and national parks
- Combating illegal logging and environmental abuse
- Defending mountain rivers and biodiversity
- Promoting the enforcement of European and national environmental laws

Through investigations, public campaigns, legal actions, and international collaborations, Agent Green fights for the future of nature.





# AGENT GREEN

## CONTEXT

The climate crisis and the collapse of biodiversity have accelerated in 2024. Romania, home to the last old-growth forests of Europe, stands at a critical crossroads.

Agent Green took action to protect nature in a context marked by:

- Economic pressure on protected areas
- The weakening of environmental legislation
- Judicial threats (SLAPP cases) targeting environmental NGOs



## **SLAPP DIRECTIVE**

Another victory for our cause: the SLAPP directive was adopted by the European Parliament.

This law provides EU-wide protection against baseless and abusive lawsuits targeting individuals and organizations working in the public interest—such as those defending fundamental rights, fighting corruption, protecting democracy, or combating disinformation. This is an important win for Agent Green in the intimidation and discrediting campaign waged against us by the company Ameco, which is demanding millions of euros from us.

FEBRUARY

## **THE NEW FORESTRY CODE ISSUE**

Agent Green took part in the public debate in Parliament regarding the new Forestry Code, presenting a document containing observations from our experts. The draft law, approved by the Government, represents a direct attack on Romania's forests, already degraded and vulnerable due to abusive, large-scale exploitation over the past 20 years. The forest has already lost its resilience in the face of climate change, even though it should be the main shield to mitigate it.

APRIL

## **AGENT GREEN CONTRIBUTIONS**

We participated in the public consultation process organized by the European Commission on the future of forests.

We also submitted a comprehensive document addressed to the President of Romania concerning the law that authorizes the killing of 972 bears. We explained why this law fails to protect human lives, the bears themselves, or our country from costly infringement proceedings by the EU.

JULY

## **VICTORY AFTER 5 YEARS**

Following a complaint submitted by Agent Green in 2019, the European Commission issued an ultimatum to Romania for failing to fulfill obligations under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Romania is now required to halt logging in protected areas unless thorough scientific studies are conducted, and to ban clear-cutting. The decision was taken because national legislation does not ensure adequate protection of habitats and species through management plans.

OCTOBER



## **JOINT ACTIONS WITH OTHER NGOS**

The Energy Minister attacks NGOs and the Romanian justice system. Energy Minister Sebastian Burduja has filed a criminal complaint against environmental NGOs, undermining their efforts to ensure that the constitutional right to a healthy environment is respected. By diverting attention from the real problems we face, he is trying to silence important voices trying to fight for a cleaner future.

OCTOBER

## **RETEZAT NATIONAL PARK**

After submitting a detailed document with our comments on the new management plan of the Retezat National Park in June this year and after 20 years of uninterrupted struggle we finally achieved a great victory: the new management plan of the park was published in the official gazette and thanks to our efforts the area of strict protection has increased from 56.71% to 75.66% of the entire 38,047 ha of the park.

NOVEMBER

## **THE NEW FORESTRY CODE - STILL A PROBLEM**

In April we participated in the dramatic public debate in the Romanian Parliament on the New Forest Code where we "fought" harder than ever for the fate of forests. We then submitted a robust document with dozens of proposals to improve the legislation. The Code was adopted and promulgated in December

DECEMBER





An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. The trees are tightly packed, creating a textured canopy of various shades of green. In the center of the image, there is a semi-transparent, light-colored rectangular area that serves as a background for the text. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font, with the title in large, bold, dark letters and the body text in a smaller, dark font. The overall composition is balanced and visually appealing, emphasizing the natural environment.

# LEGAL ACTIONS

This year brought many complex challenges: historic victories, but also suspicious defeats pointing to political interference in the judiciary. From Rodna to the Bucegi and from Retezat to Făgăraș, through protests, studies and court cases, Agent Green has managed to save more than **twenty thousand hectares** of forest from being cut down again this year. In other words, **we provided oxygen for 3.4 million people** and ensured **the absorption of 2 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.**



# THE AMECO CASE



Agent Green faced a complex lawsuit with the Swiss company Ameco, involved in timber exploitation in Romania's national parks. Our action was aimed to defend the integrity of protected areas and pointing out logging in breach of national and European environmental legislation.

For more than a year, the case has been the subject of a dispute over the territorial jurisdiction of the courts. Initially opened before the Harghita court, the case was transferred to Bucharest, then sent back to a higher court for clarification.

Eventually the High Court of Cassation and Justice definitively ruled that the court in Harghita had jurisdiction to hear the case.

At the same time, our case was supported by an important decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union, which ruled that in environmental litigation, court costs must be reasonable and proportionate to the general interest of nature protection. This decision supports the defense of NGOs against legal intimidation and reinforces the principles of access to justice in environmental cases..

# **THE RETEZAT CAMPAIGN**

Agent Green had a new court hearing in February for the case involving Retezat, Romania's first National Park established in 1935.

In this lawsuit we fought with the Environmental Protection Agency and Romsilva over the new management plan which is insufficiently ambitious in terms of strict protection.

Throughout the campaign, we have already managed to place the lower half of the Lăpușnicul Mic valley (towards the Gugu de la Godeanu peak), the forests under the Borăscu plateau and the entire Râu-Șes valley under strict protection.

We have not yet managed to save the Râul Alb valley where in 2015 I was the victim of an attempted murder for which we went to the European Court of Human Rights in Strabourg.

But we are not giving up. We campaign for a 100% strictly protected Retezat







## VICTORY IN RETEZAT AND VÂLCAN

Agent Green won an important victory at the High Court of Cassation and Justice, where the court has definitively annulled the logging authorizations illegally issued in the Retezat and Valcan Mountains.

The permits issued by the Ministry of Environment, Romsilva, and the Environmental Protection Agency were granted without proper environmental impact assessments, violating obligations under the Habitats Directive.

This victory is highly significant:

- It confirms that national parks cannot be exploited abusively under the cover of formal administrative acts;
- It establishes a strong legal precedent for other cases of illegal logging in protected areas;
- It demonstrates that court actions can correct illegal administrative decisions that endanger biodiversity and natural heritage.



# **INJUSTICE** **FOR** **BÂRNOVA-** **REPEDEA** **FOREST IN** **IAȘI**



Unfortunately, the court ruled that the Bârnova-Repedea forest in Iași can be logged, and the lawsuit filed by Agent Green 4 years ago was definitively dismissed. We had requested the annulment of the two orders of the Ministry of Environment approving the forest management plans. The High Court of Cassation and Justice decision allows logging without imposing strict environmental protection measures. In September 2020, Agent Green published a report on the situation of two protected areas, the Barnova Forest and the Barnova-Repedea Forest. We discovered that within 10 years, 180 ha of old-growth forest had been harvested from the protected areas, while Iasi is recognized as one of the most polluted cities in the country and Romania is in infringement proceedings due to the environmental protection situation. The two forests totaled about 13,000 ha, with only 102 ha being strictly protected areas. There were no management plans and conservation measures for vulnerable or endangered bird, animal and insect species in the two forests. A management plan had not been drawn up for the Barnova Forest and a set of minimum conservation measures had not been adopted, although 13 years had passed since its designation as a protected area. The Barnova-Repedea Forest should have been designated as a special area of conservation, but this had not happened.





Although we manage to cancel the court authorization to build an illegal construction in Bucegi Nature Park, the judge decides that the landscape should not be restored to its original state

## **BUCEGI NATURAL PARK**



The Court of Appeal surprisingly rejects our request asking the MMAP to apply the national action plan for the conservation of the brown bear population in Romania. We have appealed and will ask the European Commission to open infringement proceedings against the Ministry of Environment.

## **PROTECTING THE BEARS?**



# LOGGING IN RESERVATIONS

We lost a crucial case against the Ministry of Environment, Romsilva and the National Agency for Protected Areas. We will appeal. It is about the illegal management contract of the Semenice - Cheile Carasului National Park where Romsilva has continuously violated the park's protection objectives for the last 18 years. The contract expired in 2014 and Romsilva had an obligation to realize and implement a management plan for the conservation of the national park within two years, that is by 2006. A plan has never been approved, which has allowed the park to be degraded piece by piece through brutal logging even in the reserves located in the park: the Cheile Carasului, Bârzăvița and Buhui Marghitaș reserves. Logging in the reservations has been facilitated by Romsilva's falsification of their boundaries, even though these were precisely drawn by the Inspire project. Furthermore, a forest management plan for the Văliug OS was recently approved which foresees logging on the whole area of the Bârzăvița reserve, although Agent Green has written to Agent Green to request its inclusion under strict protection when the new forest management plan is being drawn up.







## **AGENT GREEN & BANCKWATCH** **VS** **HIDROELECTRICA**

We took Hidroelectrica and the Romanian Government to the Bucharest Court of Appeal to let the Jiu River flow freely. It is an absolutely aberrant case in which Hidroelectrica has spent years of illegal public funds to mutilate a gorge located in a national park and Natura 2000 site. We have had a definitive decision for several years, but the corrupt government has resumed the procedure despite the prohibition of this construction by all European institutions. In the file, the national environmental protection agency and hidroelectrica have stated that they have dropped the environmental assessment procedure on the Defileul Jiului hydropower plant because under oug 175/2022 they no longer need an environmental assessment. This is a process in which we are teaming up with Bankwatch Romania.



# **THE TAIA RIVER**

Although in 2018 a final decision of the Alba Iulia Court of Appeal ruled that the construction works for a micro-hydropower plant on the Taia river were illegal and that the landscape must be restored to its original state, the authorities ignored this ruling.

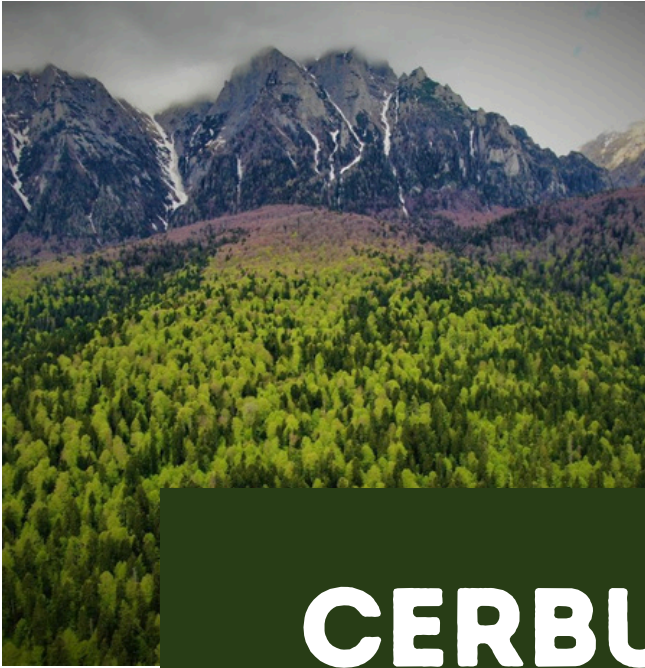
In August 2022, the Hunedoara Environmental Protection Agency issued a new authorization for the same project, ignoring the previous decision, and Agent Green, together with Bankwatch Romania, challenged the legality of the act in court.

The Bucharest court rejected the request to suspend and annul the authorization. Even worse, the court ordered Agent Green to pay about 180,000 lei as compensation for the developer's legal costs - a disproportionate and intimidating amount, typical of SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) tactics.

This case is emblematic of the risks that environmental NGOs take in defending the public interest against economic interests and administrative abuses. Although Taia has already been affected by illegal interventions, Agent Green continues to fight on appeal to definitively annul the authorization and restore legal order.







Agent Green has obtained a definitive victory in court, managing to stop the exploitation of a centuries-old forest in Valea Cerbului, located in the Bucegi Natural Park, an area that is part of the Royal Domain

## CERBULUI VALLEY



The court decision was final and the forest was saved from destruction.

A private company has improperly started logging works with the approval of the Azuga Forestry Office and the Ministry of Environment, in violation of the protection regime of the natural area.

Agent Green took both the logging company and the forestry authorities responsible for approving the logging to court. In the first stage, the Bucharest court ruled in our organization's favour, ordering a halt to logging on the plots.

The defendants appealed and tried to move the case to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, but all their claims were rejected.





## **OXYGEN FOR 2 MILLION PEOPLE**

We end the year with another definitive court victory. An ancient forest saved in the Făgăraș Mountains that produces oxygen for 2 million people every year. Agent Green won its case against the Ministry of Environment, Romsilva and the Environmental Protection Agency at the High Court of Cassation and Justice. They approved illegal logging in the Avrig area, where the Negoiu hut is located. We challenged the approval and won. They made appeal after appeal and we won all the way.



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An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. The trees are tightly packed, creating a textured canopy of various shades of green. In the center of the image, there is a semi-transparent, light-colored rectangular area that serves as a background for the text.

# INVESTIGATIONS

In 2024 Agent Green carried out several investigations, on its own and together with foreign investigative journalists, with the aim of exposing environmental crimes in Romania's forests



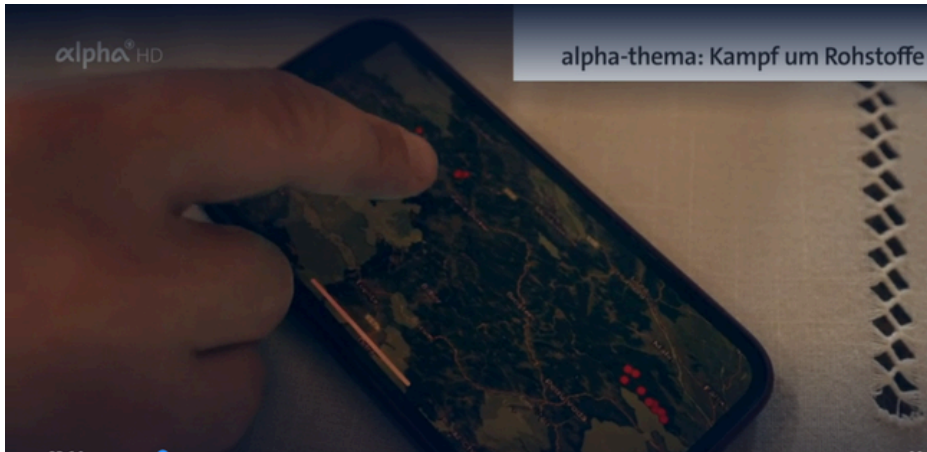
# FEBRUARY 2024

## Das Brutale Geschäft Der Holzmafia

A report from the German ARD TV in which we exposed 2 mafia groups in Suceava that have built a real empire out of illegally cut timber: hotels, gas stations, restaurants, logistics companies. A policeman tried to get a bribe for the leadership in Bucharest to turn a blind eye, but was caught and put in jail for years.

## Wild Europe Movie Premiere in Freiburg

The movie shows the problem of illegal logging in Romania's forests and the fight to protect the last remaining centuries-old forests. At the end there were dozens of questions and hundreds of congratulations and wishes of support in the efforts to save the forests and the animals that live there.





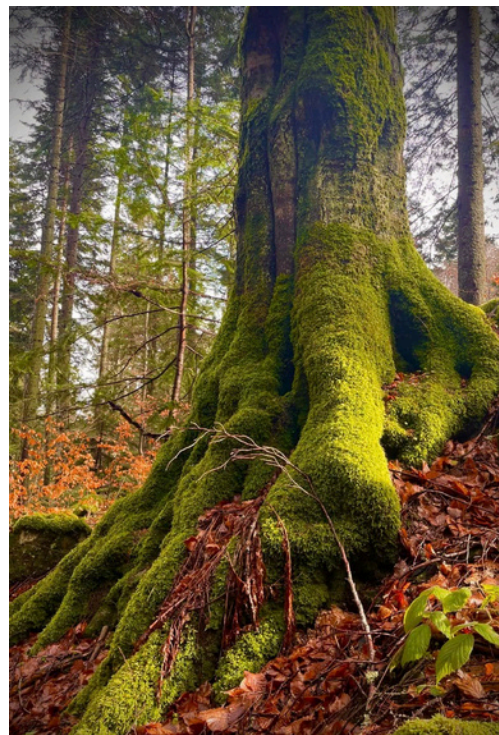
## FEBRUARY 2024

### **CERBULUI VALLEY INVESTIGATION**

Agent Green managed to temporarily block logging in the Bucegi - Cerbului Valley Natural Park, but the loggers have started work on another patch. It's a never-ending battle: when we stop them on one side, they start work on another. Unfortunately, the Bucegi Nature Park does not have a management plan approved by the minister, which is why we could not challenge this document in court to stop all logging in the park. Our only chance to do something was to challenge the VPAs, but these are far too many for Agent Green to fight. We would have needed too many human and financial resources to challenge in court all the VPAs in Bucegi. That is why this fight in the Bucegi Mountain is not over and the destruction of the secular forests continues. Agent Green investigators went there again to expose the felling of the most valuable and thickest trees in this iconic valley. On March 13 we went again to the Bucegi Nature Park ( Cerbului Valley) and exposed new felling in the plots adjacent to the one where we had initially blocked the work. They want to remove 7000 cubic meters of wood (giant trees like the one in the picture). They made new logging roads that deeply wound the Bucegi Mountains up almost to the alpine abyss.



**OR**





# FEBRUARY 2024

## The massacre in National Parks

A series of 6 mini-documentaries in which the environmental organization followed the path of the wood and showed who profits from the destruction. The authorities appear to have joined hands to destroy Romania's natural treasure for the sake of money, even though the forests in all 13 national parks account for just 1% of the country's surface area.

## IKEA, the Tree Hunter

The most comprehensive movie about the environmental crimes committed by the Swedish company in the planet's forests, including in Romania. Agent Green filmed for the ARTE documentary in which we presented the case of Ikea, which does not practice what it preaches. We talked about our heightened concern about the fate of Romania's forests and the loss of biodiversity. In Romania, where IKEA owns 50,000 hectares of forest and activists risk their lives mobilizing against the timber mafia. This movie tells the story of a secretive forest predator's expansion as it confronts the limits of the planet's resources. A resource at the heart of the fight against climate change.

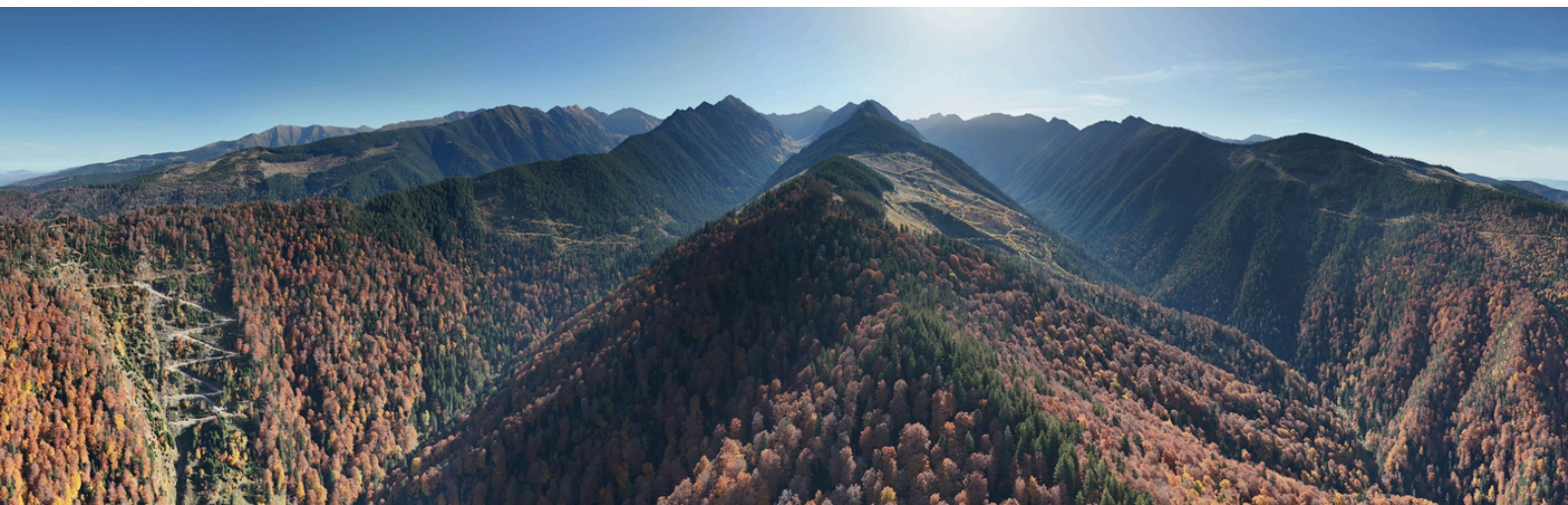




# MARCH 2024

## **The Timber Mafia's brutal business**

Deutsche Welle documentary on the illegal timber trade. Last year alone, 120 million tons of timber in Europe had no official certificate of origin. It is estimated that half of Romania's trees are illegally felled. After all, as the documentary shows: one of the biggest buyers of timber from Romania is furniture and DIY stores in Germany.



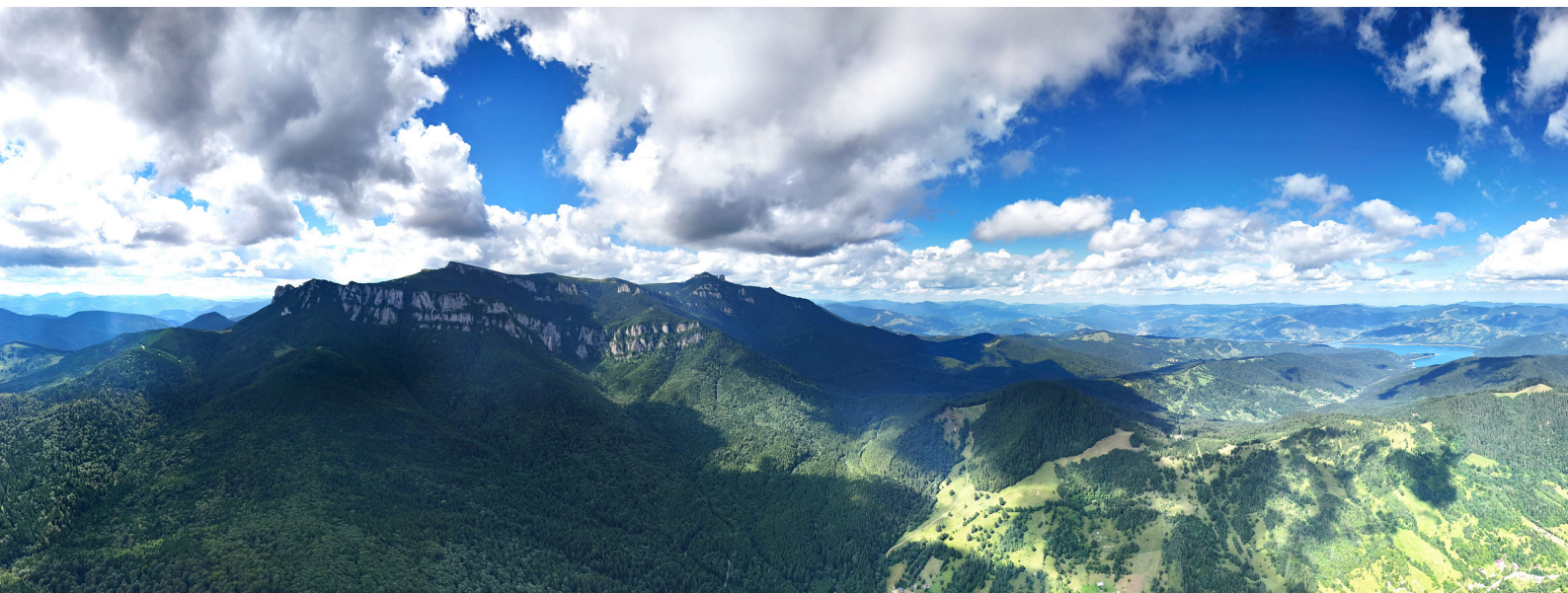
## **Ikea and “fast furniture”**

At our press conference in Bucharest, we published a detailed report on the giant Ikea and their damaging "fast furniture" strategy that results in a huge loss of both biodiversity and carbon storage.

We showed how their business model is based on transforming irreplaceable native and functional ecosystems, which cannot be restored by planting trees and which have taken nature thousands of years to form, into short-lived furniture. Following the publication of the report, a first high-level meeting with Ikea followed at their headquarters where the corporate leadership conditioned further dialogue in a broad group that includes Agent Green and partner organization BMF becoming FSC members.



But for us it's not an option because this compromised standard has favored the destruction of forests all over the world and represents nothing more than cheap greenwashing. In Romania, too, it has led to the clear felling of virgin forests in national parks. On September 26, 2024 negotiations with them failed because they still refuse to take responsibility for the forest crimes committed and for improving forest policies. Agent Green together with the BMF sent them a letter in which we again highlighted the issues raised in the April report and informed them that we would intensify our actions to expose forest crimes.



**APRIL 2024**

**BBC Documentary.**

Agent Green has captured for the first time a crime in progress in the primeval forests of the Fagaras Mountains. It is an intact forest on an extremely steep slope where there is no justification whatsoever for felling trees. On the contrary, strict emergency protection is needed. In reality, a company has created a breach in the forest from the bottom of the valley to the top and declared it an accident. But the accident is human. After the field team showed up, the thieves fled and abandoned their cars, and the police, instead of catching them, questioned journalists and the Agent Green team.



**MAY 2024**

## **Fighting against the 'Timber mafia' on CHANNEL 4**

Amelia Jenne presents on Channel 4's TV show - Unreported World, follows conservationists risking their lives to stop the illegal logging business in Romania. Agent Green starred in this report.



**JUNE 2024**

## **Oekoreich Article**

Devastated landscapes: What the real state of forests in Europe is?



## JUNE 2024

### How many?

Every two days someone dies protecting the environment, according to data collected by campaign group Global Witness. Even more people are being attacked or threatened. To understand why this is happening, BBC Eastern and Central Europe correspondent Nick Thorpe travels to the foothills of Romania's Carpathian Mountains to show how important the forests are here in the fight against climate change, why they are subject to high levels of illegal logging and, in consequence, clashes with environmentalists. Activist, Gabriel Păun from Agent Green, describes the many brutal attacks he experiences while documenting illegal logging. We also hear from a mother whose son was killed when confronted by a "timber thief" in 2019. Global Witness' Laura Furones tells host Graihagh Jackson why this is happening around the world and what we can do about it.



## JULY 2024

### Domogled- Cerna Valley National Park

We have investigated the development of illegal roads to exploit the area



# AUGUST 2024

## Cutting down the last Giant Trees

New investigations bring to light the cutting of the last giant trees in Romania's forests. These forests are the country's only climate shield. They are virgin forest giants that the government refused to include in the Catalog of Virgin Forests because they decided that the catalog would include no more than 1% of Romania's forest even though we had 8% of such old-growth forests. These investigations formed the basis of the report on the panic felling of the last remaining giant trees.



## Moldoveanul Peak

Moldoveanul Peak

New drone footage from Agent Green shows why the forest road leading to Moldoveanu Peak was ripped up by the rains and led to tourists in the area being stranded: because more than 80% of the forest lining the upper slopes of the upper Rea Valley had been cut down, obviously illegally.



# AUGUST 2024

## **111 million trees cut down**

Officially 111 million trees have been cut down in 10 years. The annual rate is 11 million. Then there are those that have disappeared without trace, which number 12 million a year. That means for every tree that is officially felled but illegal under EU law, another one falls completely illegally and disappears without trace.

## **Bucegi Natural Park**

In a short investigation we have shown that the boundary of the Bucegi Nature Park has moved out of the pen, and the trees in the old forest are falling one by one: while the resort of Busteni is growing, the area of the Bucegi Nature Park is shrinking. This is the area at the entrance to the Bușteni-Pichetul Roșu-Mălăiești hut.





## AUGUST 2024

### Route blocked by logging

On the access route to the Urlea area of the Făgăraș Mountains ridge, we found multiple violations of national and European legislation: the route is blocked by logging in a centuries-old forest.



Also, along the trail leading to Cabana Suru, we identified illegal activity: logging within a strictly protected forest that had been included in the Official National Catalogue of Virgin Forests. The purpose of the logging was to build a road to the cabin. In both cases, we filed complaints with the competent authorities, and in the second case, the Forest Guard stopped the illegal logging, with the thieves managing to cut down only 14 trees.





## SEPTEMBER 2024

### Trail Blocked by Logging Operations

New field visits by the Agent Green investigation team show that the Ministry of Environment is not stopping the logging on the slopes that border the Vâlsan River, not even at the eleventh hour. The entire Vâlsan Valley is becoming a desert where life is disappearing rapidly. The last individuals of the asprete species still live only in this river in the Făgăraș Mountains. The species will soon become extinct due to logging operations.

Following our complaints at the end of September, there were raids by the Gendarmerie and inspections by the Ministry of Environment, and at the end of November the sanctions came: 10 fines totaling 49,000 lei for illegal logging, 22 hectares of forest were saved because two logging permits were withdrawn for parcels with illegally approved cuts that had not yet started, ongoing logging activities on 58 hectares of forest were also stopped immediately, a criminal complaint was filed for unauthorized tree cutting.





# NOVEMBER 2024

## **Greenwashed? - IKEA and Sustainability**

A short and to-the-point report produced by German television channel ZDF, exposing IKEA's crimes to millions of viewers. Agent Green joined forces with Protect The Forest from Sweden to help produce this report.

## **Primary And Secondary Forests**

Together with EuroNatur and the Environmental Investigation Agency, we submitted to the European Commission the new REPORT on the deliberate destruction of Romania's last remaining primary and ancient forests. The data collected between 2021 and 2024 point to a planned massacre unfolding right before the eyes of the European Commission, which in February 2020 launched infringement case CHAP(2019)02656 against the Ministry of Environment for the degradation of protected areas.





# DECEMBRE 2024

## IKEA LOVE S WOOD – Sustainability or deceit?

Throughout the year, we continued the international awareness campaign on the crimes committed by IKEA in Romania's forests, and the film "IKEA LOVE WOOD – Sustainability or Deceit?", which we worked on for more than three years, was broadcast for the first time on Denmark's national TV channel DR 1.

The documentary was so well received that it was also picked up by the American publication New York Times.





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An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a variety of green trees. A large, semi-transparent light green rectangle is centered over the image, serving as a background for the text.

# **CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIONS**

Throughout 2024,  
Agent Green  
continued to bring  
nature's voice into the  
public sphere,  
mobilizing citizens,  
partner organizations  
and local communities  
through various direct  
actions and peaceful  
protests.



## SOLIDARITY AGAINST INTIMIDATION

At the Harghita court, Agent Green, together with volunteers, was present at the first hearing of the SLAPP lawsuit filed by the company Ameco. The public presence sent a strong message against court abuses and the intimidation of environmental organizations.

## INTERNATIONAL PROTEST IN BRUSSELS

In front of the European Commission headquarters, together with EuroNatur, Agent Green called for the Romanian Government to be brought before the EU Court of Justice for the destruction of forests. This action marked the end of the term of the Commissioner for the Environment and resonated strongly with the public.





# THE PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE GIANTS OF THE ȚARCU MOUNTAINS

More than 600 hectares of virgin forest (approximately the size of 1,200 football stadiums) are listed in the national catalogue of virgin forests thanks to Agent Green's efforts: investigations, exposures, protests, lawsuits, and studies. This victory would not have been possible without the courage and support of Alex Teleagă from Banat, who eight years ago wrote to us about the virgin forests marked for logging in this protected area. We immediately got involved, and together we permanently saved these magnificent native forests of mountain maples, beeches, and firs in the area called "Olteana."





## **SYMBOLIC PROTEST AT THE IKEA CONSTRUCTION SITE**

In collaboration with organizations from Romania and Sweden, activists organized a tree-planting event right at the IKEA construction site to denounce the company's involvement in the destruction of Romania's forests. The campaign's message: "Let the Trees Grow."

## **PUBLIC APPEALS AND ONLINE PETITIONS**

In December, Agent Green launched a digital campaign to save an urban green space in Bacău threatened by a real estate project. The petition quickly gathered thousands of signatures.





An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a variety of green trees. A large, semi-transparent light green rectangle is centered over the image, serving as a background for the text.

# OTHER AGENT GREEN ACTIONS

**2024** was an  
extremely  
challenging year,  
but no great victory  
comes easily.



## **ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS DEFENDER**

Agent Green has further drawn attention to its mission and the dangers faced by its members: Gabriel Păun was named an Environmental Rights Defender by Front Line Defenders (FLD), an international human rights organization dedicated to protecting endangered human rights defenders, in accordance with the United Nations resolution of 1999. His campaigns often trigger intense backlash from governments and corporations. He has been subjected to highly sophisticated physical and cyber attacks that resulted in identity theft, loss of data and equipment, public defamation by companies and politicians both online and in the media, physical surveillance, judicial harassment, and much more.



**GABRIEL PAUN**  
HRD, ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS DEFENDER

### **MOMENT.AT**

In April, Gabriel Păun spoke in an interview with MOMENT.at at a press conference held by the COMÚN Foundation about his commitment to preserving Romania's forests, how he risks his life in this process, how corporations are destroying Europe's last primary forests, and how the "timber mafia" threatens and even kills environmental activists.



# EARTHTALK

We participated in the EarthTalk event in Vienna, hosted by Federal President Alexander van der Bellen, where we delivered a speech –in the presence of the presidency, the press, and a large audience–about Romania's forests, animal rights, and the risks faced by environmental activists.



EHRENSCHUTZ  
Bundespräsident  
ALEXANDER VAN DER BELLEN

## DIE DIESJÄHRIGEN VORTRAGENDEN



LINA BURNELIUS  
Expertin für Klima und  
Landnutzung,  
"Protect the Forest  
Sweden"



GABRIEL PAUN  
Natur- und Tierschützer,  
Gründer von "Agent  
Green", Rumänien



BEN RAWLENCE  
Menschenrechts- und  
Umweltaktivist, Autor und  
Gründer des "Black  
Mountains College", Wales



LAURA BRAUN  
Liedermacherin,  
ProtestSongContest  
Winner



MASENGU KANYINDA  
mit einem Klima-Monolog  
von Regisseur Michael Ruf

# COURAGE GALA - FIRST EDITION



At the Romanian Athenaeum on June 3, 2024, we celebrated together 15 years of Agent Green and 10 well-known and lesser-known leaders whose decisions change lives. The Courage Gala was an event that called for initiative and inspired courage. It was the first edition and was spectacular and moving.



You may have been among the nearly 600 people in the audience, or among the tens of thousands who watched the livestream, or perhaps you stood with the awardees, volunteers, or the team in spirit. Maybe every day you step onto your own stage without fear of upsetting others through your decisions. Whatever the reality, together we form a community we are proud of.

We organized the **Courage Gala** because we need an active society, built on values and bravery, capable of continuing the fight for a healthy environment in Romania. We hope to hold future editions as well. We invite you to watch a short video showing how the Courage Gala unfolded.

## THE COURAGE GALA - MAKING OF



## YOU CAN BECOME AN OFFICIAL PARTNER FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE COURAGE GALA.

Support courage alongside us [office@agentgreen.org](mailto:office@agentgreen.org)

The partners and media partners who supported us in making this moment possible are Prismus Healthcare, MMM Consulting, Friends for Friends Foundation, Scheherazade Foundation, the Romanian Athenaeum, and media partners.



# I AM NATURE

Since the beginning of Agent Green's eco-educational program I Am Nature, 367 teachers, 92 schools, 57 communities, and over 7,000 children have been involved. The program started during the pandemic and has continued in person both in schools and out in nature. I Am Nature is a wonderful journey where teachers and children understand the invisible connections between all the wonders of nature—plants, animals, and people. Let us be kind to nature and all its beings. Unfortunately, donations for education have declined, and we have temporarily paused this wonderful project. We believe education is essential for a healthy society, but we need financial support and must reorganize.



Gabriel Paun is a 2024 Champion of the Earth in the Inspiration and Action category.

**The year ended with the awarding of an honorary prize from the UN.**



An aerial photograph of a dense forest with a variety of green trees. A vertical, semi-transparent light green band runs down the center of the image, serving as a background for the text.

# **2024 KEY DATA**



## MEDIA COVERAGE

Even though we don't have a dedicated team for media monitoring, we counted:

- **Over 150 appearances** in local press and environmental interventions on national TV
- One appearance on the online news site **Lo Spiegone** (Italy)
- One appearance on the online news site **profil.at** (Austria)
- One appearance in **NewYork Times**
- **10 video documentaries** produced in collaboration with foreign TV stations

## INVESTIGATIONS AND LEGAL ACTIONS

- **16 investigations** conducted by the Agent Green team resulting in reports and measures by authorities
- **3 documents** with expert observations **sent to authorities** (Forestry Code, Retezat and Domogled Management Plans)
- **2 published reports** (IKEA and the one with EuroNatur on forests submitted to the Commission)

## WHAT WE CELEBRATE

- Gabriel Paun's designation as **Environmental Right Defender** by the Front Line Defenders
- Over **20.000 ha of forest saved** from logging
- Gabriel Paun's nomination as **UN Champion of the Earth**

## OTHER KEY STATISTICS

- **117 volunteers** involved in Agent Green activities
- **7 offline meetings** with volunteers and supporters (protests in Freiburg, Harghita, Tarcu, Vienna, Bologna)
- **7,000 children** involved in the **I Am Nature project**, together with 367 teachers from 32 schools and 57 communities

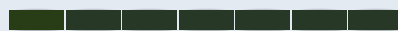


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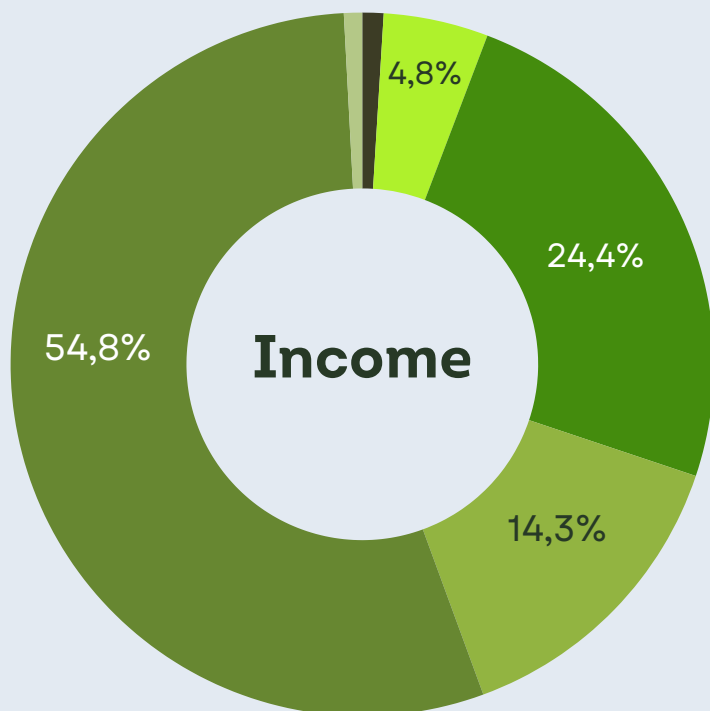
# **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR 2024**



**Total Income**

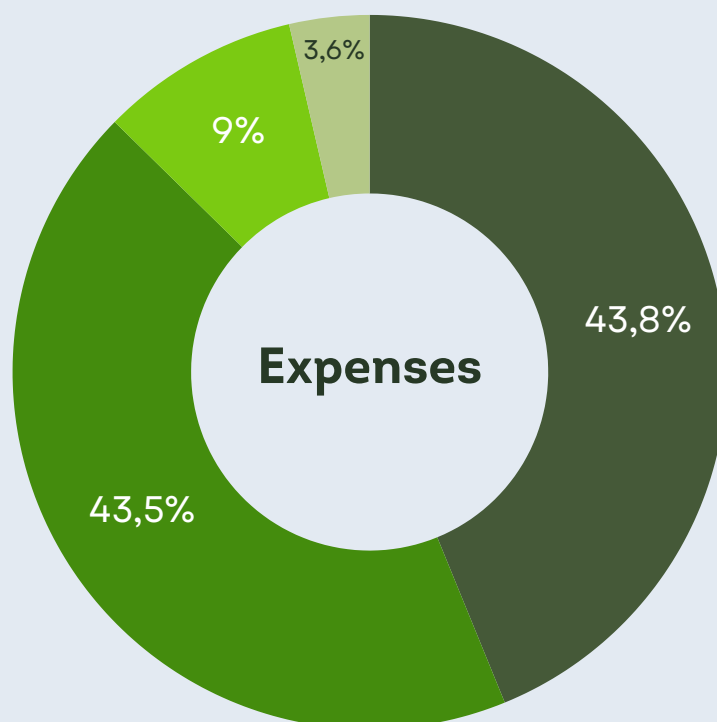


**Total Expenses**



- Grants – 54.8%
- Individual Donations – 24.4%
- Sponsorships – 14.3%
- 20% Tax Redirected – 4.8%
- 3.5% Tax Redirected – 1.0%
- Compensations – 0.8%

- Salaries – 43.8%
- Campaigns – 43.5%
- Legal Expenses – 9.0%
- Other Expenses – 3.6%





# AGENT GREEN

## Thank you!



### IF YOU WANT TO, HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Redirect **3,5%**

Redirect **20%**

**Donate directly on our  
website**

Be a corporate partner!

### CONTACT

Email

[office@agentgreen.ro](mailto:office@agentgreen.ro)

Website

[www.agentgreen.ro](http://www.agentgreen.ro)

### Social Media



Agent Green



[agentgreenro](https://www.instagram.com/agentgreenro)



Agent Green



[agentgreenro](https://www.tiktok.com/agentgreenro)



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Romania