

A Case For Support

Wild Europe: Carpathia

Based in Romania, The Conservation Carpathia Foundation is a group of biologists, conservationists, and philanthropists. With extensive experience in Europe, North and South America, and Africa – we are focused on the critical issues that threaten the delicate ecosystems of the Carpathian Mountains. Our aim is to create a large wilderness area that is capable of preserving the habitats of vital species indigenous to the area, many of which are endangered.

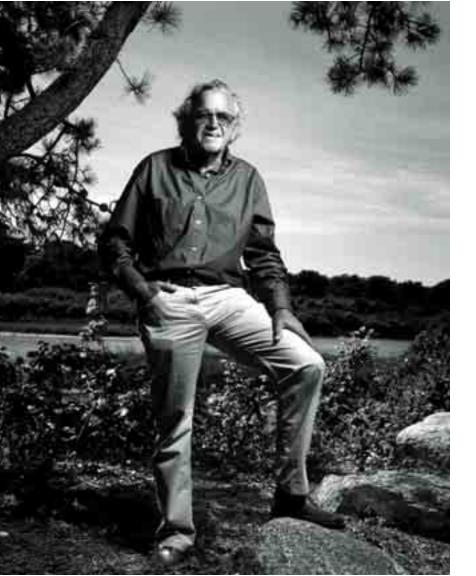
Over the last century, a number of world-class wilderness reserves have been created and have become famous for their wild, natural landscapes. These include the Kruger National Park in South Africa, Yellowstone National Park in the USA, and the Torre del Paine National Park in Patagonia. Yet, while Europe considers itself the leader in global conservation, it has nothing that can compare. With the formation of Wild Europe: Carpathia, ve aim to change this — and create e largest forest wilderness on this erse continent.

By acquiring and administrating forests and natural grasslands, this new National Park will be large enough to support significant numbers of large carnivores. It will also allow evolutionary processes to continue without human interference and will contribute to the conservation and restoration of the natural ecosystems of the Carpathians. This will not only be of benefit to biodiversity, but also to the individuals and communities living in the local area.

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THE CONSERVATION CARPATHIA FOUNDATION The largest ever conservation project in the Carpathians.



The Big Idea By Hansjoerg Wyss

Help to protect the last virgin forests in Europe! I personally, and through my Foundations, have a long history in land conservation. Therefore, back in April 2007 when I was approached for assistance by Barbara and Christoph Promberger, the Romania based conservationists, I realized the unique opportunity we have to save and restore one of the last true wilderness areas on the European continent.

Hansjoerg Wyss is CEO of Synthes, and founder of the Hansjoerg Wess Foundation

Through his Foundations Hansjoerg is a lifelong supporter of education, research and the arts by providing substantial financial backing to universities museums, artists, musical groups, dance troops etc

Furthermore, Hansjoerg gives significant financia assistance to hundreds of charitable organizations in t United States and Europe, providing daily assistance The Carpathians, located in Romania, are indeed the largest tracts of unfragmented forests left in Central Europe. A good deal of this area is untouched wilderness, housing the largest surviving population of great carnivores in Europe – wolves, bears and lynxes – representing an extremely impressive amount of biodiversity. I feel that the chance to protect this natural wealth is a once-in-a-fiftenine opportunity.

However, with the changing economic and political situation in Romania, the forests in the Carpathians are at great risk. Romanian and international conservationists have been working to create a National Park in this area. At the present time Romania does not have the means to administer and protect a large park. Therefore, it is our desire to create a privately owned park with the eventual goal of converting this land into a state-owned National Park.

This is a very ambitious project – too ambitious for one single person or organization. Other foundations and companies have now joined us, but it is vital that we obtain the assistance of many more philanthropists and conservation foundations in order to realize the big picture. Together with Markus Jebsen, another great philanthropist, we have already allocated more than E125 million for the purchase of forests for this park.

Yet this is not enough, and we only have a short time to safeguard these wonderful forests and the magnificent wildlife living there. Please join us in this unique project and help us to preserve some of the most beautiful forests still remaining in Europe.



A Word From Abroad By Doug & Kristine Tompkins

Conservation biologists put it rather simply. The only way to save the Earth's biodiversity is by preserving natural environments in reserves or parklands large enough to sustainably maintain wild populations. That puts it all in a nutshell.

Dong Tompkins has zwaked on more than 700,000 heteres under high standard conservation in Chile and Argentina, including the creation of the Correcord Arabima Park in southern Chile. In addition to this he has worked on approximately 300,000 heterars of separation of the second and formlands the Chile and Argentina. Doug has conserved refrestation programs with native forest tree museries, restoration, referentiation programs, with native forest tree museries, restoration. Fundation of conservation to Profession Programs, and arguing guidens. He has founded two convertations not perform fundations Promision P

Kiri Tompkins is the founder and principal of 'Conservacion Patagonica', a non-profit conservation foundation dedicated to high quality conservation projects in Patagonica, Argentina and Chile. Kiri also created the 'Monte Leon National Park' on the south Atlantic coast of Argentina. Currently, Kiri is working on a large of Argentina. Currently, Kiri is working on a large patagonica. Patagonica Parking Servad as CEO of Patagonica, Inc. for 15 years in California before moving That is to say, unless we understand and conform to the 'laws of nature' the world will simply continue to lose its biodiversity, the fundamental mainstay which supports all life, all biological production, including agriculture that makes human societies viable or even possible.

There should be no doubt about it, that the conservation of large wilderness areas is a top priority, even beyond the all-important work to slow greenhouse emissions. Extinction is forever, and although global climate change is critical and must be dealt with simultaneously, the real danger to the world (and a monumental moral dilemma) is the extinction crisis.

For those of us working expressly in the area of conservation of habitats and large wildernesses this is evident and urgent. It is a nightmare that leaves us worried and perplexed in the small hours of the morning. This nightmare of extinction has not penetrated the broad society's consciousness, but it must if we are to face up to the immense challenge of changing our way of understanding the world and therefore modeling our economies such that they will make biodiversity thrive, rather than creating conditions which are driving species to extinction.

To that end, we support this large and important project to create large wild areas for conservation, in the form of new national parks in Romania, which is still blessed with all the creatures that belong in the ecosystem. We hope that not only will the biological integrity of the landscapes remain intact and prosper, but that society will also come to recognize the essential and fundamental importance of biodiversity and a sea change of human consciousness will occur that will head civilization back from catastrophe.

The Carpathian Mountains are carpeted with dense, vast, unfragmented old growth forests. Dramatic snow-covered peaks rise high above. This is one of the last truly wild places in Europe and it begs our intervention before it risks being lost forever.

Wild Europe: Carpathia

A Photographic Essay

Wild Europe: Carpathia A Photographic Essay

The wonder and breathtaking beauty of the Carpathians lies in its untamed wildness. Bears, wolves, and lynxes inhabit this landscape, alongside many other endangered animals, birds and plants unique to the area. With Romania's accession to the EU, this critical ecosystem – and its ancient forests in particular – have come under increasing threat. Now, it is the responsibility of us all to make sure that they are protected for future generations.

WILD WONDERS OF EUROPE

Wild Wonders of Europe is a unique multi-national European initiative, including 68 of Europe's top nature photographers with the mission to reveal the amazing natural heritage of Europe, and to inspire the desire to save it. Amongst its 118 assignments in 48 European countries, Phatra Craisluia and Cheile Bicazului-Hasmas in Romania were featured by German photographer Cornelia Doerr, in Autumn 2008. Wild Wonders of Europe and Cornelia Doerr have given their permission to use their photos free of charge for this monograph to help save one of the most precious forest ecosystems in Europe.

Staffan Widstrand Managing Director, Wild Wonders of Europe

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ROCK FORMATIONS IN PIATRA CRAIULUI

The limestone ridge of Piatra Craiului is not only spectacular, but also a paradise
for rock climbers. (MHOTO: CORMBILE BURER, WILD WORDHER OF HEADER)





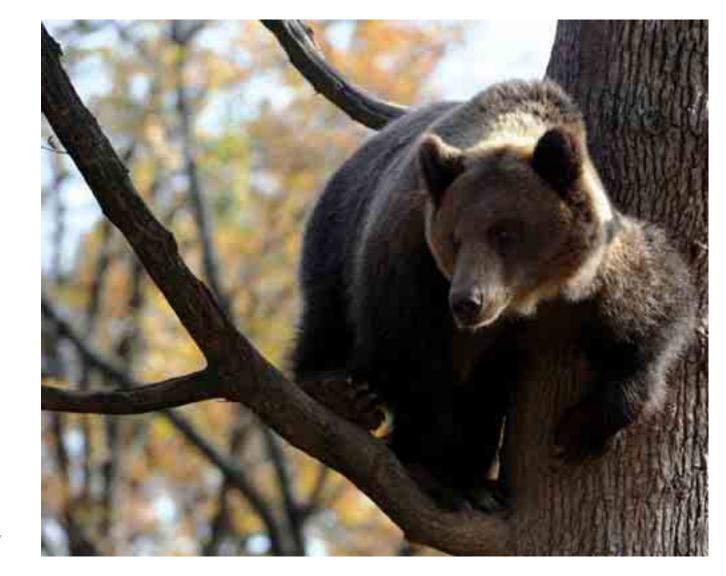
CANIS LUPUS (II)
An impressive row of teeth helps make the grey wolf Europe's top predator.

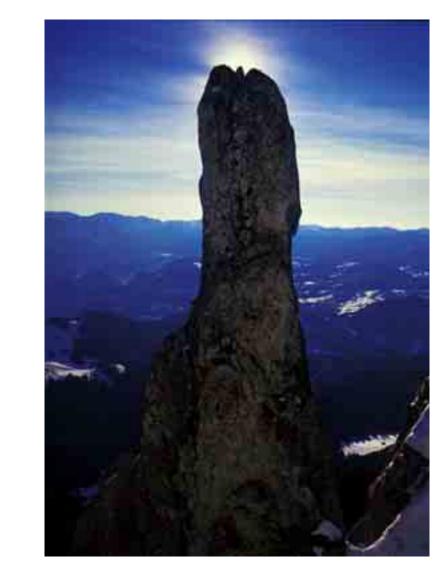


















The Reality & Our Vision

Wild Europe: Carpathia

Wild Europe: Carpathia *The Threat*

As a result of a restitution process that started in 2004, the Romanian government began handing back all the forests that were nationalised during communism. Unfortunately, this process continued irrespective of whether the forests were inside or outside protected areas – and the result has been disastrous. Most of the old and new landowners have no relationship whatsoever with their area of the forest, since they live far away – and almost all are in urgent need of cash.

CLEAR-CUTS FOR FAST CASH

Logging companies have been quick to move in, to capitalize on the situation – buying the standing timber and clear-felling any area they could access. Many hundreds of hectares have already been logged – even within the spectacular Piatra Craiului National Park. We now face a very serious challenge – if nothing is done soon, logging will continue to escalate and the wild forests will be gone forever.









Unsustainable logging has caused severe damage to the Carpathian forests.

(PHOTOS CLOCK WISE FROM LEFT FRUE: CORNELLS BORRE - WILD WONDERS OF MEROPE XI, HORATTU HANGANU)



Conservation Carpathia Our Vision

The restitution process in Romania has created a tremendous change in land ownership. Just five years ago, all forests were still state owned. Today, the state retains almost nothing in the Piatra Craiului area. While grave, this dramatic situation also offers a unique opportunity – to purchase large tracts of unspoiled forests and safeguard them forever. Romania's political stability offers security for foreign investors and its place in the EU ensures increasing international attention.

Boasting a mountain range with an area of or 209,000km², there are wat tracts of curren unspoilt ancient forest that will be destroyed when it are restituted. Timber is highly profitable and, with much land wavilable for logging, it is easy for own to facus purely on the short-tern profit. But large we forests in Europe are a heritage for future generation Within the next few years, the balance of nationalised forests will be restituted to the old and new owners. Without intervention, most will be logged for profit. We have the chance to keep the forests wild forever – but the window of opportunity is very short. We must act now.

PROTO: CORNELLA DOJER, WILD WONDERS OF SURGOPE



Conservation Carpathia Our Vision: Continued

We have identified approximately 50,000 hectares of forest in the area around Piatra Craiului, which could be purchased over the next few years. With an average price of €2,500 per hectare, this is a total investment of approximately €130 million. It is most certainly an ambitious project. In fact it is one of the largest private conservation projects in the world.

But with the support of a small network of hugely generous individuals and organisations we raised over €12.5 million in our first year alone. With this help we have made significant steps towards creating the largest fully protected forest wilderness area in Europe. We know our goals are achievable. But we need your support to create this most wonderful legacy – for the next generation and many more to come.

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The Carpathians Our Focus

Many have long held a dream of a European National Park spanning the North Carpathians in Romania, right down to the Danube at the 'Iron Gates' to the south. In reality, however, the scale of such a project – and the inevitable complexities of working across borders – mean it is likely to remain just a dream for a long time yet.

In the meantime, there are buge areas of the Carpathians under immediate risk. If we act soon, we can grasp the opportunity to buy much of this land and stop the logging that poses the greatest threat to the area. If we do this, we would not only extend the scale of the existing National Park, but also rejuvenate its management and create a model of best practice. We might even take a few steps towards that grand vision described above.

The maps on the next two pages illustrate, firstly, the full extent of the Carpathians and, in more detail on the following page, the area of focus around Piatra Craiului that needs our immediate attention.

A mountain range of over 209,000 square kilometres

Extending 1,500 km over seven European countries

One of Europe's largest mountain ranges

Europe's most extensive tracts of natural mountain forests

Over 33,000 square kilometres of high biodiversity areas – two thirds of it without any protection status

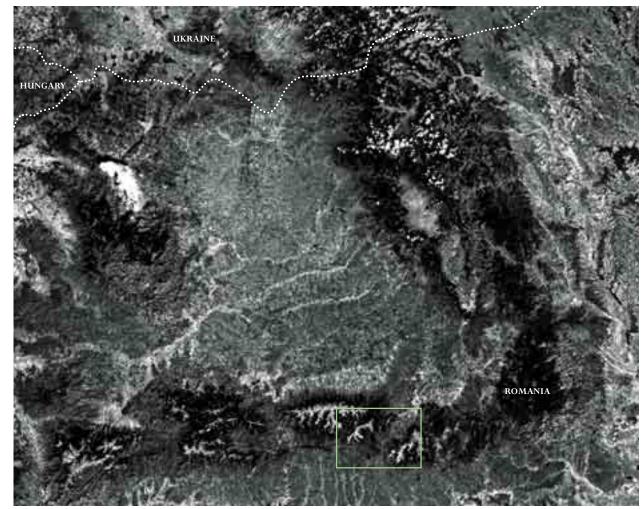
Largest area of virgin forest left in Central Europe

3,988 plant species

Home to 45% of Europe's large carnivores

The green backbone of Europe

See the following page for a detailed look at the area we are working in.



Piatra Craiului A Wilderness Reserve

Piatra Craiului is the jewel of the Southern Carpathians

One of the most diverse and fascinating geological records in the Romanian Carpathians

The Transylvanian Alps are a priority area for biodiversity conservation

Elevation from 700m up to 2,238m on La Omul Peak

Vast mixed mountain forests and alpine meadows

A riparian habitat with prosperous rivers and streams teaming with life

Rich flora due to high diversity of microclimatic conditions

More than 1,100 species of vascular plants, with a high number of endemic species and subspecies

Over 3,500 animal species

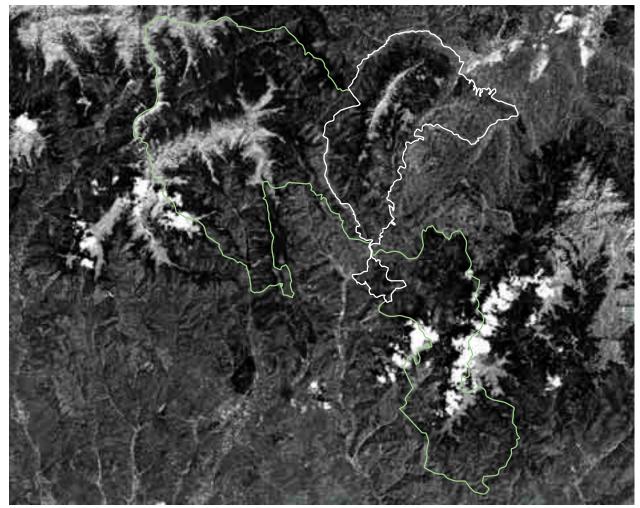
Over 110 bird species, out of which 50 are strictly protected according to Bern Convention and Romanian law

Over 35 endemic invertebrate species

A large refuge for numerous bears, wolves, and lynx

The current Piatra Craiului National Park.

— The envisaged Piatra Craiului Wilderness Reserve.



Why Carpathia? An Overview

- 01 European Wilderness
- 02 Conservation Carpathia
- 03 Own Park Administration

OI. EUROPEAN WILDERNESS

Wild old growth forests, where natural processes hold sway, are becoming more and more scarce on this planet. In Europe, nearly all such forests have been cut down or are heavily exploited.

A study by Greenpeace revealed that only two areas of more than 50,000 no of unspoiled forests remain in Europe, one of them being in the Western Carpathian Mountains of Romania. In fact, the largest tract of unfragmented forests in Europe exists in Romania. Despite taking a lead role in global conservation initiatives, most of Europe's own original ecosystems have been altered and destroyed over the centuries. Much of the continent is, today, an ecological desert. There can be no doubt—we have a moral obligation to saw what is left and to restore what we can.

02. CONSERVATION CARPATHIA

The Conservation Carpathia Foundation is a nongovernment, non-political, and non-profit organisation under Romanian law. The primary and fundamental aim of the Foundation is to create a new National Park in the Southern Carpathians of Romania by using private, corporate and public finance.

The Foundation will contribute to the conservation and restoration of the natural ecosystem in the Carpathians for the benefit of biodiversity and local people. The area is large enough to support significant numbers of large carnivores and – by acquiring protecting and administering it – we will enable natural, evolutionary processes to function unhindered.

Goals of the Foundation are:

To purchase or lease forests, grasslands, and rights to manage wildlife for biodiversity conservation in Romania.

To manage forests, grasslands, and wildlife for biodiversity conservation in Romania.

To take necessary measures to restore the original ecosystem.

To commission research on related biodiversity issues.

To ultimately return the landholdings to the public domain for permanent protection in the form of a National Park, — once the State is adequately prepared to receive and manage this natural heritage and the public access infrastructure that will come with it. To improve the quality of life of local communities, create opportunities for sustainable economic development in the area, and work in partnership with local people.

So far, we have raised £12.5 million, which has been used to save over 5.150ha of forest. Soon, several larger pieces of forest will come onto the market and we need investment from more partners to help protect this incredible wilderness area.

3. OWN PARK ADMINISTRATION

Due to a lack of resources, qualifications, and motivation of staff, state administrations in Romania usually do not work very efficiently. For this reason, we plan to establish our own protected area administration, which will follow three major goals:

Protection of forests and alpine meadows

Research and restoration (e.g. re-introduction of black grouse, vultures, marmots)

Community involvement and development of eco-tourism

The administration of the reserve would be paid through revenues of an endowment fund, which will be set up with EU grants, donations, sponsorship, and a percentage of the money given for the purchase of forest. Annual basic costs are estimated at ca. &500,000. This endowment fund will cover the basic costs for protection and administration. Further programmes and projects will also seek funding through foundations, EU grants, and sponsorship.

Wild Europe: Carpathia Species of Note

The Carpathian Mountains, with their tremendous biodiversity (including 3,988 plant species recorded so far), are the green backbone of Europe, and home to 45 percent of all of Europe's large carnivores. Piatra Craiului is a jewel amongst the Carpathians. Due to its diversity of geological and microclimatic conditions, it has a tremendously rich flora - with more than 1,100 species of vascular plants, many of which are endemic to the area. Further to this, there are 3.500 animal and 110 bird species, out of which 50 are strictly protected according to the Bern Convention and Romanian law. There are also over 35 endemic invertebrates. Here a few of the characteristic species seen in Carpathia:



BROWN BEAR (Ursus arctos)

The most powerful and magnificent of all European mammals. Can weigh up to 450 kg, yet mainly vegetarian. The Carpathian Mountains are home to almost 50% of all European brown bears west of Russia, and within the planned wilderness reserve there are an estimated 80-100 individuals.



WOLF (Canis lupus)

Europe's top predator, hunted to extinction in most of the continent. The Carpathian Mountains remain Europe's most important stronghold for wolves, and within the planned wilderness reserve alone, there are an estimated 4-5 packs.



LYNX (Lynx lynx)

Europe's elusive large cat, lives mainly off roe deer and chamois. Has returned to some areas of Europe thanks to reintroduction programmes, but the Carpathian Mountains still hold the most important natural population



RED DEER

(Cervus elaphus carpaticus) The king of the forests, misused for trophy hunting over centuries. The Carpathian subspecies is the largest red deer in size. It still roams the mountains in densities determined by natural process rather than human management,



CHAMOIS

(Rupicapra rupicapra carpatica) Europe's mountain goat, well adapted to the altitudes above the timber line. The chamois can withstand winter storms and temperatures below -30°C. Once widespread in the Carpathian Mountains, the chamois is under heavy pressure from hunting and poaching.



PINE MARTEN (Martes martes)

Pine Martens are good indicators for intact mountain forests, and indeed, they are widespread in the Carpathian Mountains - especially in the planned wilderness reserve. They hunt mainly mice, shrews, birds, and squirrels.



NORWAY SPRUCE (Picea abies)

The typical coniferous tree of a mixed mountain forest. With a height of up to 70m, it is Europe's tallest tree species. Spruce is widely used in forestry for timber, but the evergreen, dense forests it produces are also especially important for a diverse bird life.



GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos)

Considered by many as part of Europe's Big Five, the golden eagle is one of the most powerful and majestic avian predators in Europe. Can hunt prey up to the size of red fox and young chamois. Although once present in all of Europe, it is now mainly restricted to mountain areas.



BEECH (Fagus silvatica)

Can be found up to 1,500m and, in Central Europe, is the predominant climax species. In the Carpathians, large, old trees with impressive diameters are still common. In autumn, beechnuts are a very important food source for rodents. birds, brown bears, and wildboar.



BLACK STORK

(Ciconia nigra)

A key indicator species for undisturbed forests. Contrary to its white cousin, the black stork dislikes human presence and is restricted to forest ecosystems. Eats mainly fish, but also amphibians and insects



LADY'S SLIPPER (Cypripedium calceolus)

Habitat destruction and over-collecting has taken its toll on this beautiful orchid. Well adapted to the cooler regions of the Northern hemisphere it can still be found in Piatra Craiului and the Fagaras Mountains.



THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

(Picoides tridactylus) Linked to old-growth spruce forests at higher altitudes. Just one example of several locally occurring woodpecker species that find ideal breeding and foraging conditions in the remote mountain forests of the Carpathian range.



DWARF PINE (Pinus mugo)

Pioneer species of the mountains that forms the upper margin of the timberline. A shrub-like tree, which branches from ground level, only reaching heights of 1 to 5m. Extremely robust and tenacious.



ROSALIA LONGICORN

(Rosalia alpina)

A large, blue-grey beetle that depends on exposed beech forests, Suffering from "modern" forestry practices with dead wood being removed, this beetle and its habitat is now of special conservation interest. Still abundant in the Piatra Craiului area due to its undisturbed forests



MOUNTAIN ARNICA (Arnica montana)

The yellow flower with an aromatic smell can be found on mountain meadows up to 3,000m. Intensively collected as a medical plant, it has become rare in most of its distribution, The Carpathians and particularly the project area still hold a good population.

Sponsors & Partners

01	Hans	joerg	M	Vyss	F	oun	dai	tion
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- 02 Markus Jebsen
- 03 Rainforest Concern
- 04 The European Nature Trust
- 05 Jack Wolfskin Ltd
- 06 Ciconia Foundation

FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE CONSERVATION CARPATHIA FOUNDATION

Hansjoerg Wyss, Markus Jebsen, Douglas Tompkins, Kris Tompkins, Hedi Wyss, Paul Lister, Peter Bennett, Toby Aykroyd, Manfred Hell, Horatiu Hanganu, Barbara Promberger-Fuerpass, Christoph Promberger

AT HANGIOEDC WYSS EQUINDATION (HSA).

Hansjoerg Wyss has a long record in philanthropy and has set up two private charitable foundations for land conservation in the Intermountain West, and for education, research and the arrs. Hansjoerg has enabled many land conservation achievements resulting from the Foundation's activities since 2006, including over 400,000 acres of land becoming protected through acquisitions, and the designation of over 3,000,000 acres as wilderness.

The Hansjoerg Wyss Foundation, 1302 Wrights Lane East, West Chester, PA 19380, USA

Tel (+1) 610 719 5217 Fax (+1) 610 719 5141

2. MARKUS JEBSEN (HONG KONG)

Markus F Jebsen focuses mainly on acquiring land for the purpose of protection from development and degradation, and tries to motivate others to do the same – either through private and/or public funds. MFJ Itd has already contributed over €2.5 million to the Carpathia project.

MF Jebsen International Limited, Hong Kong SAR, PR China

Tel (+852) 292 373 33

www.mfjebsen.com

3. RAINFOREST CONCERN (UK)

Rainforest Concern protects threatened natural habitats, the biodiversity they contain, and the indigenous people still dependant on them for their survival. It has 19 conservation projects in 13 countries for both tropical and temperate forests. Peter Bennett, founder and director of Rainforest Concern, is also a founding member of the Conservation Carpathia Foundation.

8 Clanricarde Gardens, London, W2 4NA, England

Tel (+44) 207 229 2093 Fax (+44) 207 221 4094

info@rainforestconcern.org www.rainforestconcern.org

04. THE EUROPEAN NATURE TRUST (UK):

The European Nature Trust's mission is to preserve and restore the last remaining wild habitats in Europe. The charity, which was initiated in 2001, has agreed to support the fundraising for this project. Paul Lister, trustee of The European Nature Trust, is also a founding member of the Conservation Carpathia Foundation.

The European Nature Trust, High Street, Dornoch, Sutherland, Scotland, IV25 3SH

Tel (+44) 1862 810079

 $in fo @the europe annature trust.com\\www.the europe annature trust.com$

c. IACK WOLFSKIN LTD. (GERMANY):

Jack Wolfskin is one of the largest outdoor equipment manufactures in the world, with very high environmental awareness and standards. The company has agreed to become a long-term partner in the project and has committed to providing financial support. Manfred Hell, President and CEO of Jack Wolfskin Ltd, is also a founding member of the Conservation Carpathia Foundation.

Jack Wolfskin Ausruestung für Draussen GmbH & Co. KGaA Limburger Straße 38-40, D-65510 Idstein/Ts, Germany

Tel (+49) 612 695 40 Fax (+49) 612 695 415 8

info@jack-wolfskin.com www.jack-wolfskin.com

6. CICONIA FOUNDATION (LIECHTENSTEIN)

The Ciconia Foundation has agreed to support the project through its contacts with HNW individuals for fundraising

CICONIA Foundation, Im Bretscha 22, 9494 Schaan, Liechtenstein

Tel (+42) 323 248 19 Fax (+42) 323 328 19

ciconia@ciconia.li

What You Can Do To Help

With the generous support of our sponsors we have already acquired 5,150 hectares of land, and it is critical that we move quickly to take responsibility for the rest – before logging and clear felling destroy this incredibly rich wilderness. With your financial support, this project has a chance of success. If we can purchase 50,000 hectares of this vast Carpathian forest, we could transform it from threatened wilderness to one of the largest fully-protected forest ecosystems in Europe. And leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.



CHRISTOPH PROMBERGER
As a wildlife biologist, Christoph has lived and worked
in Romania for over 15 years, and has founded and
co-directed the Carpathian Large Carnivore Project.
His fields of expertise are large carnivores and protected
areas: Christoph is the founder of the Carpathia Initiative.



BARBARA PROMBERGER-FUERPASS
Barbara is zoologist and wildlife biologist, and has
lived and worked in Romania for 13 years. Barbara
has co-directed the Carpathian Large Carnivore Project
– her field of expertise is large carnivore research
and management, and biodiversity monitoring,



HORATIU HANGANU
Horatiu is a forester and surveyor, and was director of
the Piatra Craiului National Park from 2004 to 2007.
He had the original idea for this project.

The Wild Europe: Carpathia initiative – spectacular in itself – could, in turn, spark the creation of a visionary European National Park across the Carpathian-Danube region. For more information, or to discuss your own support of the project, please contact:

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