Federation Newsletter August 26



Monitoring ecological corridors in Hosman

News and updates

Meeting of the Saxon community in Movile / Hundertbücheln

In August, a large number of Transylvanian Saxons who had emigrated from Romania returned to Transylvania for one of the larger gatherings that take place every few years. We took the opportunity to accept an invitation to Movile, where, together with our partner organisation Churchfortress e.V., we presented our initiative and had the opportunity to discuss it with former residents of the village. Some of them had already supported our crowdfunding campaign «The 100 Hills Need Your Help», while others still own land in the surrounding hills. We were grateful to Hermann Ongert for inviting us to give a short presentation and were particularly encouraged by his own strong interest in and support for the initiative.



Presenting to the Members of the Saxon Community in Movile

Partnership Gherdeal / Gürteln

In August, we were glad to continue the partnership between Peisaj Deschis and Venetics Festival. As part of the festival programme, we offered a guided tour to the ancient oak tree in Gherdeal. The walk attracted a great deal of interest, with participants engaging in discussions about the value and uniqueness of the cultural landscape, the threats it is facing, and the ecological and cultural importance of veteran trees and old forests. One concerning development in Gherdeal is the increasing number of electric fences, which, unfortunately, are progressively affecting the landscape character and restricting free movement through the landscape. This year's Festival programme also included a screening of the film «IKEA Loves Wood», followed by a discussion with festival participants. Against the backdrop of the large clear-cut carried out by one of IKEA's suppliers in the neighbouring village of Șomartin / Martinsberg, which we have formally raised as a complaint and brought to the attention of the press, we considered it particularly important to screen the film and create space for discussion about responsible forestry, sourcing and the impacts of timber production.

***Update on the Forest Management Plan in Bruiu / Braller**:* Good news — the Private Forest district (Dealul Sibiului) accepted 213 ha of forest as strict protection areas, representing more than 13% of its total forest area. This includes the forest where the ancient oak of Gherdeal stands. The oak was also specifically marked in the management plan, together with a designated zone allowing for conservation cuttings around the tree. This will enable the surrounding trees that currently limit the oak's access to light to be gradually removed over the coming years, helping to restore its growing space and support its long-term vitality.

Electric Fences and Wildlife Monitoring

This month, we had the first kick-off meeting for the project on monitoring and investigating electric fences and their effects on wildlife around Hosman / Holzmengen. Together with the journalist and biologist involved in the project, we visited and showed them the area and the main wildlife corridors we want to monitor. The journalist and biologist also started speaking with local people in Hosman to gather their experiences and perspectives. During the site visit, we checked the wildlife corridors and installed wildlife cameras to monitor animal movement around the electric fences.