Federation Newsletter September 26

German film crew at the clear-cut in Rodbav / Rohrbach

News and updates

Increased Media Interest

September brought significant media interest in our work. First, we were visited by a German film team working on a feature film in which two women, who are also activists, travel across Europe to meet other activists fighting for forest and climate protection. The filming with them was a very pleasant experience, as the concept was based on a natural conversation in which we spoke with the two activists about the challenges surrounding deforestation and forest protection in Romania. Besides this, we had another visit from a journalist who came to produce a report that is intended to be broadcast on ARTE. The focus was once again on the clear-cutting in Șomartin / Martinsberg and on the activities of Silva Grup SRL, which we have been documenting and challenging. We hope that both productions will reach a broad audience, raise awareness of the ongoing problems surrounding forest protection in Romania, and ultimately help increase public and political pressure for stronger action to protect our forests.

Group Visits & Environmental Education

We also welcomed two groups of visitors, one from Switzerland and another consisting of tourists from England and the US. Both groups stayed with us for several days, during which we provided guided tours and presentations about the activities of our federation and the challenges facing Romania's forests and rural landscapes. Together, we visited Movile / Hundertbücheln, met local shepherds, and explored the oak pastures around Hosman /Holzmengen. These visits led to intense discussions about the changes taking place in the region and the growing threats posed by industrial agriculture and large corporations involved in forest exploitation. We believe it is important for people to see what is happening on the ground and to understand what lies behind products they encounter in their everyday lives — whether it is a wooden chair bought at IKEA or a Black Angus steak from Romania sold in a Swiss supermarket.

Swiss tour group visiting Movile / Hundertbücheln

Monitoring Wildlife Corridors

As part of our wildlife corridor monitoring project, we retrieved the camera traps for the first time and were delighted to discover that they had captured some wonderful footage. Among the highlights were a wolf, several bears, a wild cat with 3 kits, and even a baby beaver. It is always fascinating and encouraging to see how much wildlife is still living around us despite the increasing threats to their habitats. The images are a reminder that, even in a landscape increasingly affected by fences, roads, development, and habitat destruction, animals continue to find ways to move and survive. At the same time, the footage shows just how important it is to understand and protect the remaining connections between habitats. We are excited to see what the next round of monitoring will reveal and to continue learning about how wildlife usew these corridors. We look forward to seeing how the project develops and what other species and stories we will discover along the way.