Federation Newsletter October 26



Two young bears making their way through one of the ecological corridors near Hosman

News and updates

Legal Action on Fences
The hearing held on 28 October 2026 in the proceedings against Altana Municipality and Sibiu County Council focused on the further submission of evidence. Following the hearing, the court ordered the Mayor to submit a comprehensive list of all land belonging to the municipality, covering both its public and private domain. Failure to comply may result in a fine. This is an important step, as it will allow the exact locations of the electric fences to be identified and matched against the municipality's land plots. Where fences are located on municipal land, the court may order the Mayor directly to remove them, with potential daily penalties for non-compliance. Once the list has been submitted, our lawyer will coordinate on-site checks to establish the precise locations of the fences. The next court hearing is scheduled for 17 February 2027.

Logging Activities near Apoș / Abtsdorf
Following concerns and with help by the Villa Abbatis team, which offers guided horseback riding tours for tourists in the forests around Apoș, we submitted six formal complaints on 30th October 2026, one for each of the six logging permits issued for progressive logging operations in the area. The six logging sites, covering a total of approximately 91 hectares, are located within a radius of just 1.8 km and are all being exploited simultaneously. Our field inspections revealed significant concerns, including the concentrated removal of more than 3,500 m³ of oak and sessile oak, insufficient natural regeneration of these species, damage to trees and forest soils, and potential breaches of environmental permit conditions. Four of the six logging sites are located within areas of high biodiversity value, affecting protected Natura 2000 sites. We have called on the relevant authorities to carry out coordinated inspections, suspend ongoing logging operations where necessary, and assess the cumulative environmental impact of all six permits.

Visit from Switzerland
We were delighted to welcome two visitors from Switzerland for three days, who came to learn more about our project and the region's biodiversity. We had many interesting discussions and an intensive programme of visits, including to clear-cut logging sites and areas affected by extensive fencing. It was particularly rewarding to see them impressed and inspired by our work, despite their many years of experience in nature conservation and having seen so much already.

Shepherding & Wool at Astra Festival
This year, Astra Film Festival dedicated a special day to shepherding, transhumance and wool, highlighting their importance



Woodtrucks loading in Apos



Incomplete footage of the transport vehicles



Visiting a logging site with our Swiss visitors

for our cultural heritage and landscapes. On 22nd October, films including On the Road (Dumitru Budrala, 1997), The Milky Way (Dumitru Budrala, 2026) and Wool Man Sheep (Walter Aigner, 2026) were screened, followed by a discussion on the future of shepherding and transhumance. Traditional pastoralism faces growing challenges: wool has lost much of its economic value and is often simply discarded; traditional migration routes are increasingly fragmented by infrastructure and fencing; and access to grazing land is becoming more difficult as private landowners and public authorities show decreasing tolerance towards the movement of flocks. Shepherding, and transhumance in particular, is far more than a cultural tradition. It is one of the most important forms of landscape management, helping to maintain biodiversity and the open cultural landscapes that define the Hârtibaciu Highlands. It is also an essential part of the region's identity. We are therefore very pleased that Astra Film Festival has given visibility to these issues and created space for an important public discussion. We warmly recommend watching these films!



Milky Way, a documentary by Dumitru Budrala



Wildlife captured by our camera traps: a large male red deer.

Monitoring Ecological Corridors around Hosman

As part of our project to monitor ecological corridors around Hosman, we have installed camera traps at several locations, covering both corridors we consider functional and those that appear blocked or significantly disrupted. This work is particularly relevant given that the area lies within two overlapping Natura 2000 protected areas. Their official management plan explicitly recognises the importance of ecological connectivity, identifying forest corridors, tree and shrub lines along watercourses and other natural landscape structures as essential pathways for wildlife. It also identifies habitat fragmentation and the loss of connectivity as significant threats. Unfortunately, the condition of many of these corridors is far from ideal. The removal of trees and shrubs, infrastructure development and extensive fencing – which cuts across the corridors at multiple points – severely restrict wildlife movement. The presence of dogs and livestock adds to the disturbance. Nevertheless, our camera traps are revealing an encouraging diversity of wildlife using these corridors, including bears, wolves, golden jackals, wildcats and red deer. Particularly exciting are the recordings of beavers and otters. These findings highlight just how important the remaining connections are for wildlife and why protecting and restoring them is essential.



Two otters



A wildcat with two kittens



Two golden jackals



A pine marten