



# "Friends of the Forest" Year-end Summary 2022

Bringing nature back to life and people back to nature





European spruce and sycamore saplings ready to be planted during our November planting season in the Carpathian Mountains

## December 2022

As we look back on the year of 2022, Forests Without Frontiers is extremely proud of what we have achieved towards our mission to harness the power of music and the arts to inspire people, highlight the plight of nature and fund conservation and tree-planting programmes in Europe and the UK.

The year began with our spring projects in both [Romania](#) and [Sussex](#) and ended on a high as we reached our autumn fundraising goal and headed back to the Carpathian mountains for a [second round of planting](#). This has resulted in **53,700 trees planted in 2022** and a **grand total of 148,700 trees since our inception!**

This autumn we also [visited previously planted trees in the Carpathian mountains](#) and were happy to see a high survival rate, even in the face of drought and climate change. This reminded us that reforestation is about much more than planting the trees, but also ensuring their and the local communities' long-term health and survival.





Healthy young trees planted in 2019 by FWF with our partners FCC growing well and helping to regenerate a severely deforested landscape

To that end, we are proud of how we have continued to support forest communities, including providing income to local workers during the planting seasons and preserving local culture by hiring local musicians to play and record traditional music related to nature. This has both inspired and influenced Nicoleta's INTERBEING project, funded by grants from Cambridge's Endangered Landscapes Programme and the Romanian Cultural Arts Fund (AFCN) and with all proceeds going back to fund our work in the region. This artistic achievement is a beautiful, moving example of how art and music can be used to holistically regenerate people and planet.



Father and daughter flute players Vasile Stănciulescu and Ana-Maria Stănciulescu, along with a young music student Rareș Ștefan Stoiciu, play traditional music out in nature to help preserve and highlight local arts and traditions and its connection to landscape





We are grateful to our wonderful project partners on the ground that have helped us reach our goals this year. This includes our UK partners Farm Under the Radar in Devon and our newest partnership with Springham Grove Farm in Sussex, which we launched this year, as well as our support of outdoor youth education with the Children's Forest and our on-going work with Foundation Conservation Carpathia (FCC) in Romania.

Tree planters including paid local and FCC planters, Nicoleta of FWF, and Sarah from our partners at GoForest ready to plant young saplings in Romania that were fundraised for this autumn







FWF hosted and attended several events this year that helped bring people closer to nature and offered opportunities to share our passion and vision with new audiences, including tree-planting events, [festival appearances](#) and events in Brighton and beyond.

On an organisational level, FWF welcomed several new team members this year (who will be introduced in future communications) and moved into a cosy office in central Brighton where our small but growing team can welcome partners and more effectively collaborate.

All of this success would not have been possible without the support of all of you, the 'Friends of the Forest'. This includes the generosity of the Ruhemann family in creating a legacy forest in the Carpathian mountains and that of two donors, Alex and William de Winton and Declan and Sophie Reddington, who doubled the impact of our fundraising campaign through matching funds.

We also excitedly welcomed new artistic support this year, including the band [Hot Chip](#) and artwork donated by the [artist Stanley Donwood](#) and [photographer Jasper Goodall](#), both of which are for sale through [Art for a Better World](#) and the purchase of which will go towards supporting our work.



As we look to the new year, FWF is excited to explore emerging opportunities, including new sites within the UK to plant and protect trees and ways to bring people back to nature. We are also looking into creative ways to combine the dynamism of music and art to protect forests, all of which we are excited to share with you soon. With all we've accomplished in 2022, we feel we have never been in a stronger position to achieve our mission.

We wish you all the healthiest and greenest of holidays and ask that you please kindly considering donating any amount this season to support our work. We will be sending out a full Annual Report in the summer, as usual, and welcome you all to get in touch or join us at events and plantings in the new year!

For the forests,  
**The FWF Team**

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