## PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS

... are home to over 4000 plant species, some of them not found anywhere else in the world. They also provide habitats for Europe's biggest populations of large carnivores, such as brown bears, wolves, and lynxes.

ARE IMPORTANT FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION



.. give us a rare chance to interact directly with nature in educational programmes. They allow for scientific studies on ecological processes and interactions, helping us understand the region's natural and cultural heritage, the impacts of climate change, pollution, natural resource extraction and much more.

# THE CARPATHIAN PROTECTED AREAS...

SUPPORT LOCALS

... create value by providing opportunities for local businesses, jobs, and skills, and offer training Possibilities to build and develop local expertise for a promising future for the Carpathians.

MAINTAIN TRADITIONS

... have preserved a cultural heritage rich in customs, traditional clothing and festivals, historic places, old skills, knowledge, and practices. This living folklore links us to our history, our present and our future.

The Carpathian Mountains are a 1,500 km long mountain range across Central and Eastern Europe. They stretch through eight countries: Austria, Czechia, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, Serbia, and Romania and cover an area of 190,000 km<sup>2</sup>. About 36,000 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 19 % of the whole area, are designated areas protected by law. They are home to a large variety of plants, animals, and many people. They have also preserved local, regional and national traditions, as well as unique habitats such as forests, mountains, grasslands and wetlands, which benefit local communities and visitors.

The Interreg Centralparks project supports Carpathian protected areas and local communities, and works towards a future for the Carpathians, where both nature and people can thrive.

## PROTECTED AREAS

YOU CAN ALSO HELP PROTECT AND PRESERVE CENTRAL EUROPE THE CARPATHIAN PROTECTED AREAS! Centralparks

### CONNECT NATURE

... connect diverse habitats. Like a corridor, they allow the natural and safe passage of wildlife, making it possible for them to rest, feed and interact with each other while they roam through nature.

KEEP US HEALTHY

... provide us clean air and water to energise our body and mind, whereas healthy soil gives us plenty of crops, meadows, wetlands, forests, and productive grazing land.

LET US APPRECIATE THE OUTDOORS



. attract us with their inspiring lakes, magnificent mountains, flowering meadows and unique old forests. Every year, many visitors and locals come here to enjoy recreational activities, such as hiking, camping, swimming, canoeing and winter sports.