



PROPARK
FOUNDATION FOR PROTECTED AREAS

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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OUR MISSION

We provide life-long learning and training opportunities for protected area practitioners and conservationists and support them to better conserve nature for the benefit of society.

OUR GOAL

By 2040, access to dependable high-quality life-long learning and training opportunities has enabled the protected area and conservation sectors to diversify and professionalise in Romania and beyond, positively impacting nature, people and climate.



MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADER

Year by year, the decline in species and habitats leads to a decline in quality of our living environment. We should take urgent action to prevent facing the severe impacts consequences of climate change. In this context Protected Areas are beginning to be recognized as catalyzers and models for responsible development.

In 2022 we continued our work to strengthen the capacity of protected area teams, so they may fulfil their important role for the future of our society. We are promoting best practice models for protected area designation and management and environmental education programmes; also we are demonstrating practical management approaches related to ecological reconstruction and nature friendly green space management.


Our educational programmes and outdoor events contribute to raising awareness on the importance of protected areas. These topics were incorporated in our capacity building programmes for protected area practitioners and conservationists organized in 2022.

We are very grateful to all our supporters and collaborators, especially our Board, our trainers and funders for making the results presented in this report possible.

Tiberiu Chiricheș
Executive Director



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2022

- 
- ✓ Coordinated the development of 2 global competence registers :
 - **Global Ranger Competences**
 - **SMART Competences** (The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool).
 - ✓ **Training events:**
 - **protected area management:** 12 events for 165 participants.
 - **strategic planning and responsible use of natural resources:** 3 events for 63 participants.
 - **Nature Education** course for 21 teachers.
 - ✓ **Preparing future leaders for nature conservation:** 120 young people mobilized to learn about and support 5 national and nature parks.
 - ✓ Contributing to the establishment of the **European Nature Academy** (ENA).

HOW ARE WE BRINGING CHANGE

Our work is focused on 5 pillars:

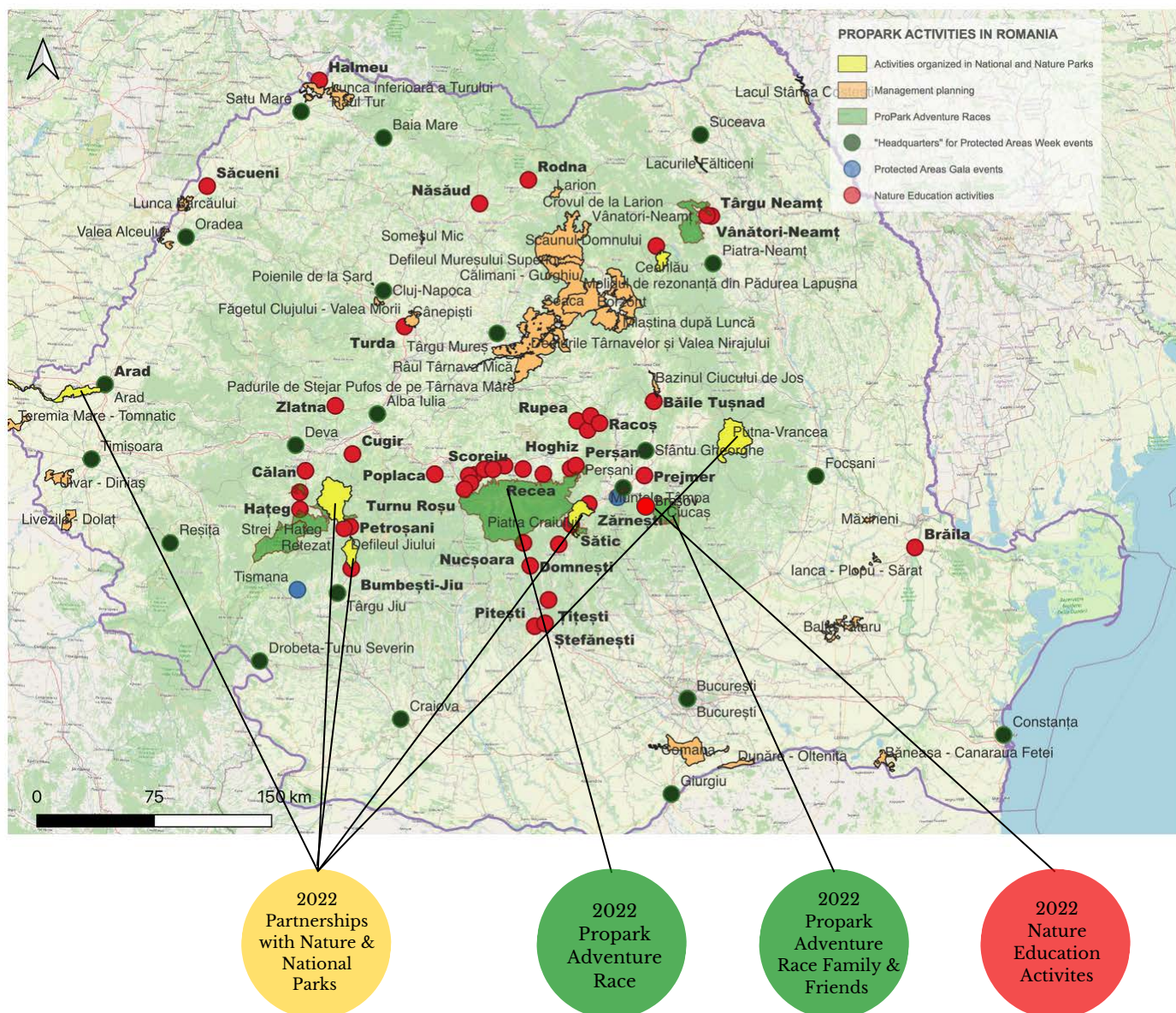
- 01 INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUILDING**
Building the capacity of protected area practitioners and staff of key stakeholders
- 02 ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CONSERVATION**
Building the capacity of conservation entities
- 03 SECTORAL CAPACITY BUILDING**
Enable decision makers
- 04 COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS**
Enabling society to better understand our organisation's mission and protected areas
- 05 PROPARK ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Building Propark's capacity to achieve mission





WHERE WE WORK

Protected Area related activities - 2008 - 2022



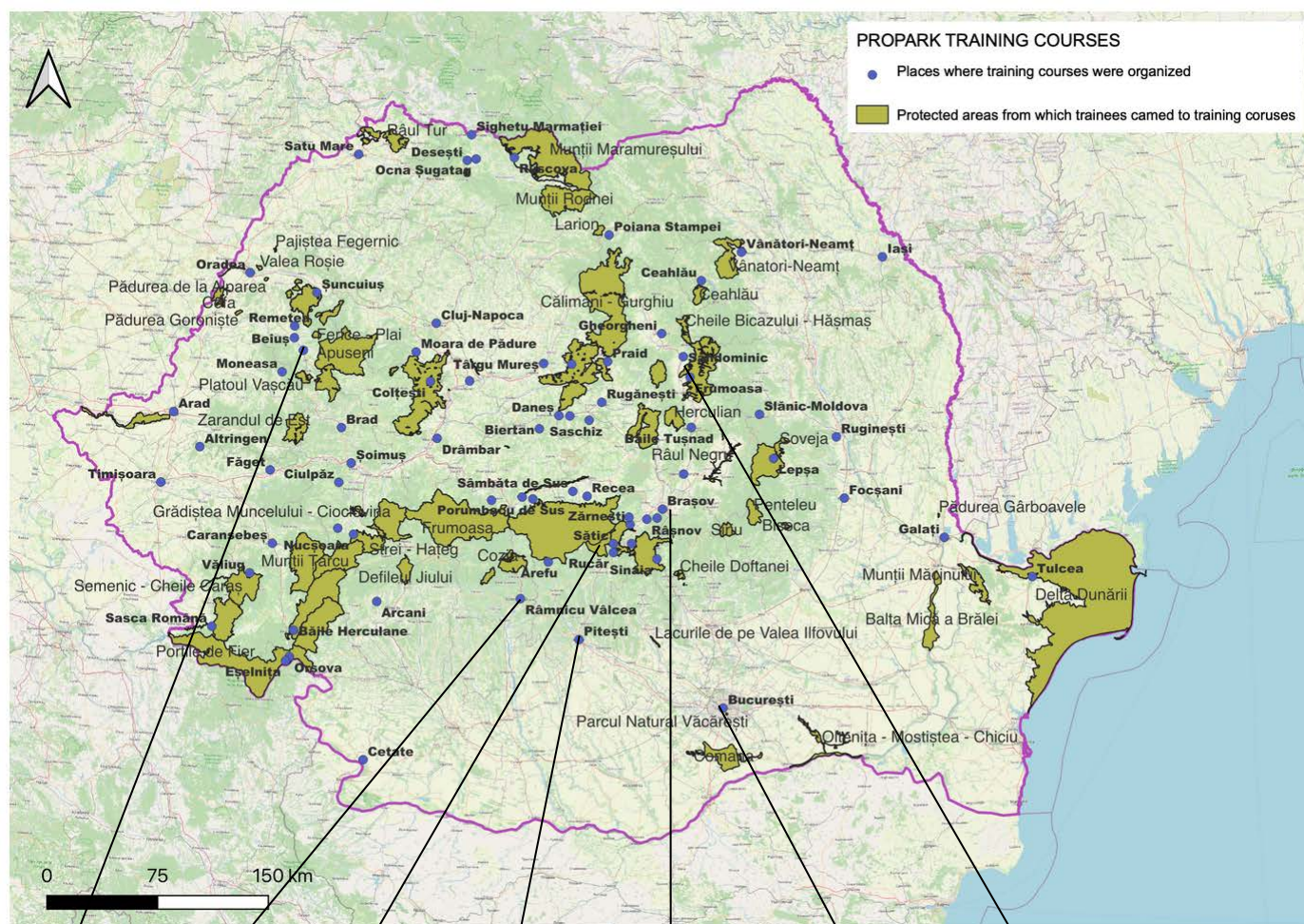
2022

- Partnerships with 5 National & Nature Parks - through education and activism for young people
 - Piatra Craiului National Park
 - Putna Nature Park Vrancea
 - Lunca Mureșului Nature Park
 - Grădiștea Muncelului - Cioclovina Nature Park
 - Defileul Jiului National Park
- Two Adventure Races (for professional athletes, in Făgăraș Mountains & for families in Brașov, Tâmpa Mountain)
- One 5 day session for Nature Educators in Brașov



WHERE WE WORK

Training events - 2008 - 2022



2022

2022

2022

2022

2022

2022

2022

We organised training events for Protected Area practitioners and stakeholders in 7 cities:

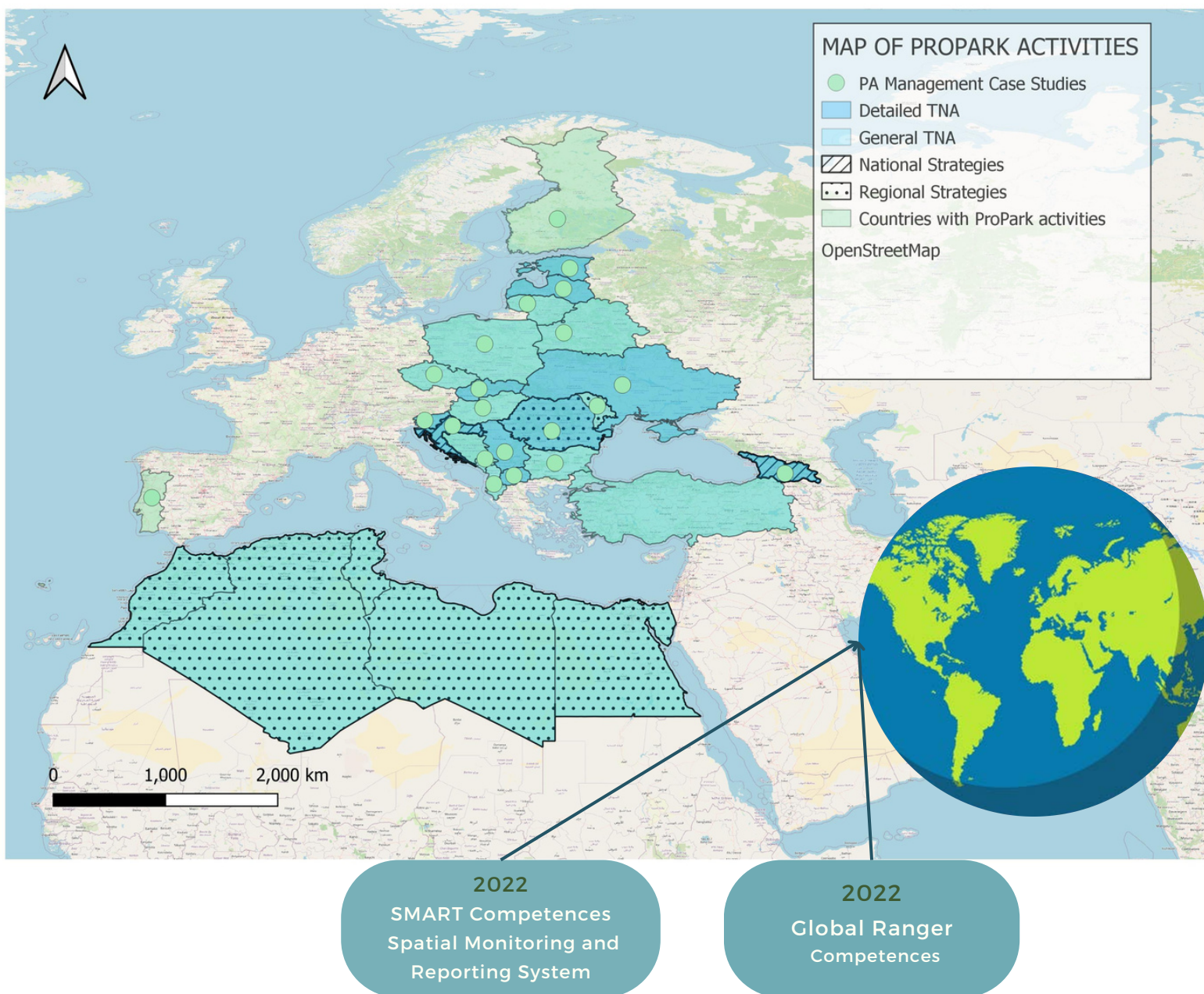
2022

- Sătic (Argeş)
- Râmnicu Vâlcea
- Piteşti
- Braşov
- Sudrigiu (Bihor)
- Bucureşti
- Sândominic (Harghita)



WHERE WE WORK

International Activities - 2008 - 2022



Coordinated participatory development processes of 2 global competence registers:

2022

- Global Ranger Competencies
- SMART Competences (SMART - Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool)

Contribution to the establishment of the European Nature Academy



1. INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2022 we conducted training programmes on the following topics:

- Protected Areas Specialist - accredited courses
- Courses for stakeholders on key topics for protected areas: planning for sustainable development, sectoral planning (forests, water, agriculture etc)
- Training courses for Protected Area practitioners
- Nature Educators

2

*accredited courses for
Protected Area Specialists*

3

courses for stakeholders

10

*training courses for
Protected Area
practitioners*

1

*Nature Educators
Training*

1

*Nature Interpretation
Course*



30

participants

63

stakeholders

135

practitioners

21

teachers from Braşov county

15

participants (guides)

2/1. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR CONSERVATION

- Adapting and implementing SMART (The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) - support provided for Ceahlău National Park to adopt this planning, monitoring and reporting tool.
- Organizational assessment and support provided for strategic planning for the Milvus Group
- Youth Education Programme initiated for Protected Areas - Activating future leaders for Nature protection - in partnership with 5 National & Nature Parks from Romania



1

SMART Tool adapted for a National Park



1

Strategic planning process facilitated



5

schools

5

National and Nature Parks



120

high-school students involved in Youth Advisory and Scientific Councils

79

students in 4 youth activism and nature education camps

2/2. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR CONSERVATION

Awareness raising and Education activities were developed and implemented to test and promote management approaches for these important protected area domains. Through these activities our organization promoted the role and importance of protected areas in Romania.

- Local stakeholders learned about the establishment and practical management of Hohe Tauern National Park (Austria)



1 STUDY TRIP

18 participants - stakeholders from the Făgăraș Mountains, Sibiu county

- Awareness raising activities targeted to young people, part of the ~ Activating future leaders for Nature protection ~ project



2523

high-school students from 16 schools and 7 counties (including Bucharest)

543

students & teachers from 9 schools

110

students & teachers on 5 nature trips

76

students in 5 nature education camps



- Environmental education activities in schools
- Nature trips
- Environmental education camps, part of the ~ Discover the Treasure of the Făgăraș Mountains ~ education program



2/3. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR CONSERVATION

We implemented awareness-raising activities on the role and importance of protected areas in Romania and useful case-studies for protected areas management organizations.



2 NATURE ADVENTURE RACES

- *Propark Adventure Race Family&Friends - 84 participants & 10 protected areas promoted in Braşov County*
- *Propark Adventure Race - 19 teams & 76 participants in Făgăraş Natura 2000 Site, event organised as part of Făgăraş Fest - Nature Festival*



FĂGĂRAŞ FEST

- *a sustainable community festival, that promotes the uniqueness of the Făgăraş Mountains.*
- *awareness raising for protecting the continent's largest natural forest area*
- *support local communities in finding solutions for the production and promotion of quality local products and the preservation of this special rural landscape*



2500
participants

24
local producers

3. SECTORAL CAPACITY & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Sectoral capacity:** we contributed to the advocacy activities of the Natura 2000 NGO Coalition i.e, to developing proposals for a better legal framework for protected area management and governance.



30 MEETINGS
> 130 HOURS

- **International activities:** involvement in European protected area management capacity building programmes:
 - we developed the online Competences Needs Assessment Platform for Natura 2000 management teams, as a contribution to the European Nature Academy (an initiative of the Europarc Federation and partners)
 - we coordinated the participatory development of 2 global competence registers



2 COMPETENCE REGISTERS

*Global Ranger Competences & SMART
Competences*

1 ONLINE PLATFORM

*for assessing the competences of Natura 2000
site managers - European level*

4.COMMUNICATION & AWARENESS

We had communication & awareness-raising activities on different media channels, on the role and importance of protected areas and protected area professionals.

- Increased visibility, social media followers and number of published posts on Facebook & Instagram accounts (compared to 2021)



+ 55%

social media followers (Facebook & Instagram)

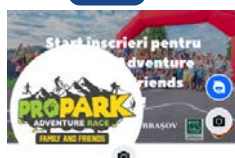
+100%

increased visibility of social media posts



**Propark-Fundatia
pentru Aarii Protejate**

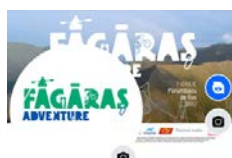
5.9K likes · 6.4K followers



**Propark Adventure
Race Family & Friends**

137 likes · 164 followers

"Propark Adventure Race Family & Friends" - o competiție de aventură prin natura Brașovului.



Făgăraș Adventure

3.1K likes · 3.3K followers

Competiție epică de aventură de 250 km, în 50 de ore prin sălbăticie. Alergare, bicicletă, trekking.



< **propark.arii.protejate** 🔔 ...



139 Posts 462 Followers 322 Following

ProPark
We are the main capacity building provider for protected areas and conservation in Romania.
[Strada Lungă, nr.175, Brasov, Romania](https://www.stradalunga.ro)
smart.bio/propark



PROPARK Fundatia pentru Aarii Protejate

@proparkfundatiapentruarii753 837 subscribers 47 videos

Misiunea ProPark este de a îmbunătăți capacitatea de management a ariilor...

5. PROPARK - ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2022 provided opportunities for the team to grow in numbers and capacity:

- 2 new colleagues in the team
- improved capacity in communication
- building capacity for fundraising
- worked on the new organizational strategy developed for 2023 – 2030 with the team and our Board



9 FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

1 NEW POSITION
communication specialist

FUNDRAISING

- *building internal capacity*
- *planning process initiated*

2023 – 2030 STRATEGY DRAFT

- *Many creative discussions, a lot of work*
- *A new vision, new approaches*
- *Draft strategy developed*

We continued our work with the extended Propark Team, involving trainers & experts in various domains in our activities:



24 TRAINERS

for our training activities

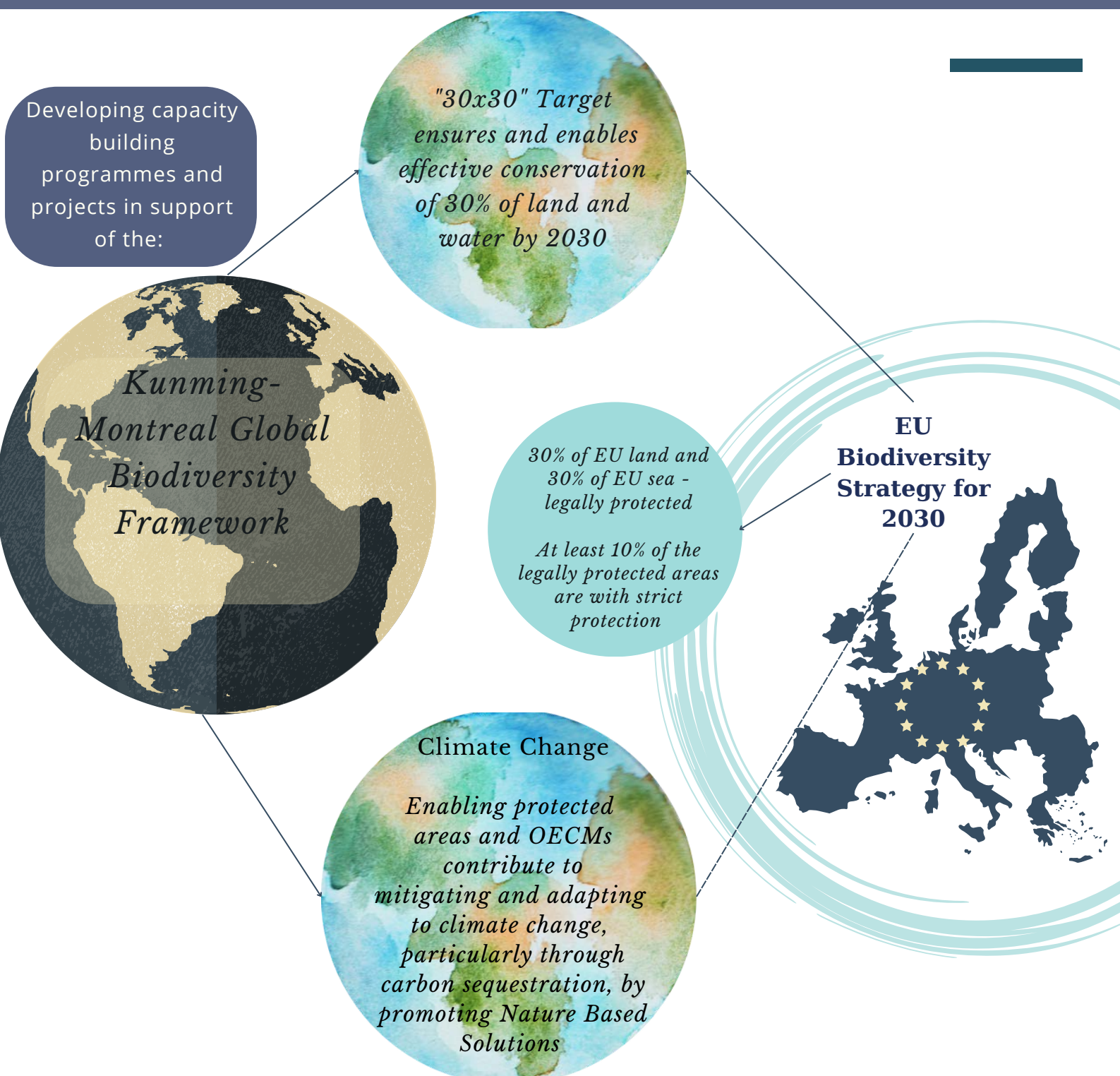
8 COLLABORATORS

on different educational programmes

2

Protected Area / biodiversity experts

WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE OF CONSERVATION



And acting in line with the principles of:

- equality - meaning respect for the rights and the full and effective participation of local communities;
- inclusive approach - with participation of all stakeholders, including women, youth, civil society, local authorities, the private sector, academia and scientific institutions.

PROPARK TEAM



Tiberiu Chiricheș
Executive Director



Erika Stanciu
Founder



Laura Florescu
Financial Director



Andra Croitoru
PA Management
Approaches -
Coordinator



Mara Bulea
PA Professionalization
Coordinator



Renate Cornici
Fundraising & Technical
Support



Ioana Duică
Ecological Education -
Coordinator



Roxana Iordăchescu
Project Manager



Alina Paraschiv
Financial Department
Assistant



Daniela Agache
PA Professionalization
Assistant



Dana Dragomirescu
Communication specialist

PROPARK - FOUNDATION FOR
PROTECTED AREAS

PROPARK BOARD



Roger Laird De
Freitas
President



Paul Hotham
Member



Tobias Garstecki
Member



Bogdan Micu
Member



Cristina Irimia
Member

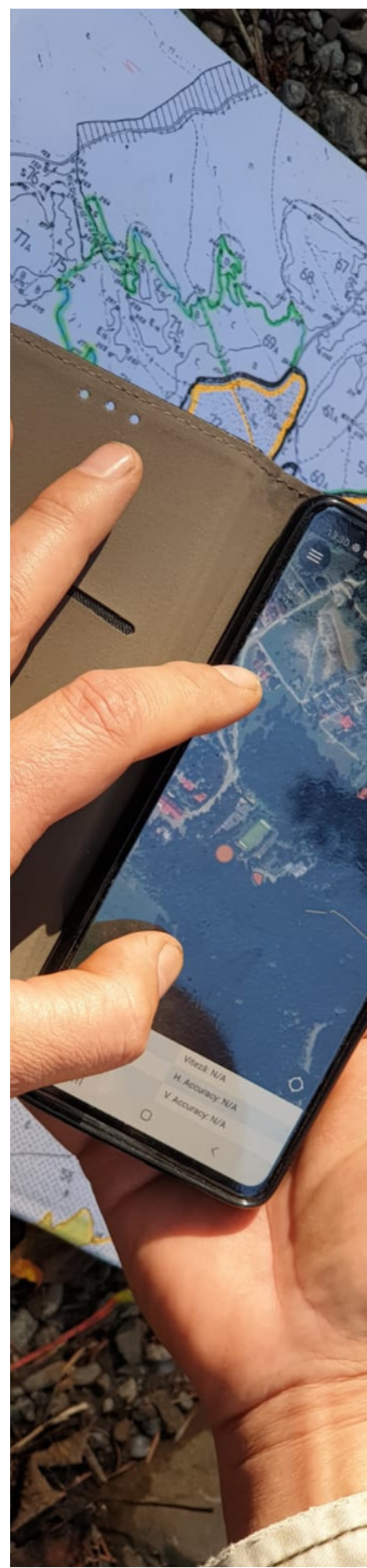
BENEFICIARIES & COLLABORATORS

The main beneficiaries of our work in Romania are:

- Management entities of National & Natural Parks and other Protected Areas,
- Environmental NGOs,
- Schools and Universities,
- Natural resource management entities,
- Private companies,
- Regional and local public authorities.

We are also working with collaborators across Europe:

- Europarc & other 6 entities: TESAF Dipartimento Territorio e Sistemi Agro-Forestali UNIPD, E-C-O Institute of Ecology, Alfred Toepfer Akademie für Naturschutz, MedPAN-network, Suomen kansallispuistot, Fundación F.G. Bernáldez para los espacios naturales - for the establishment of The European Nature Academy.
- Sport associations, environmental NGOs and Universities on the topic of environmentally friendly outdoor sports.



OUR FUNDERS

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway



**Active
citizens fund**

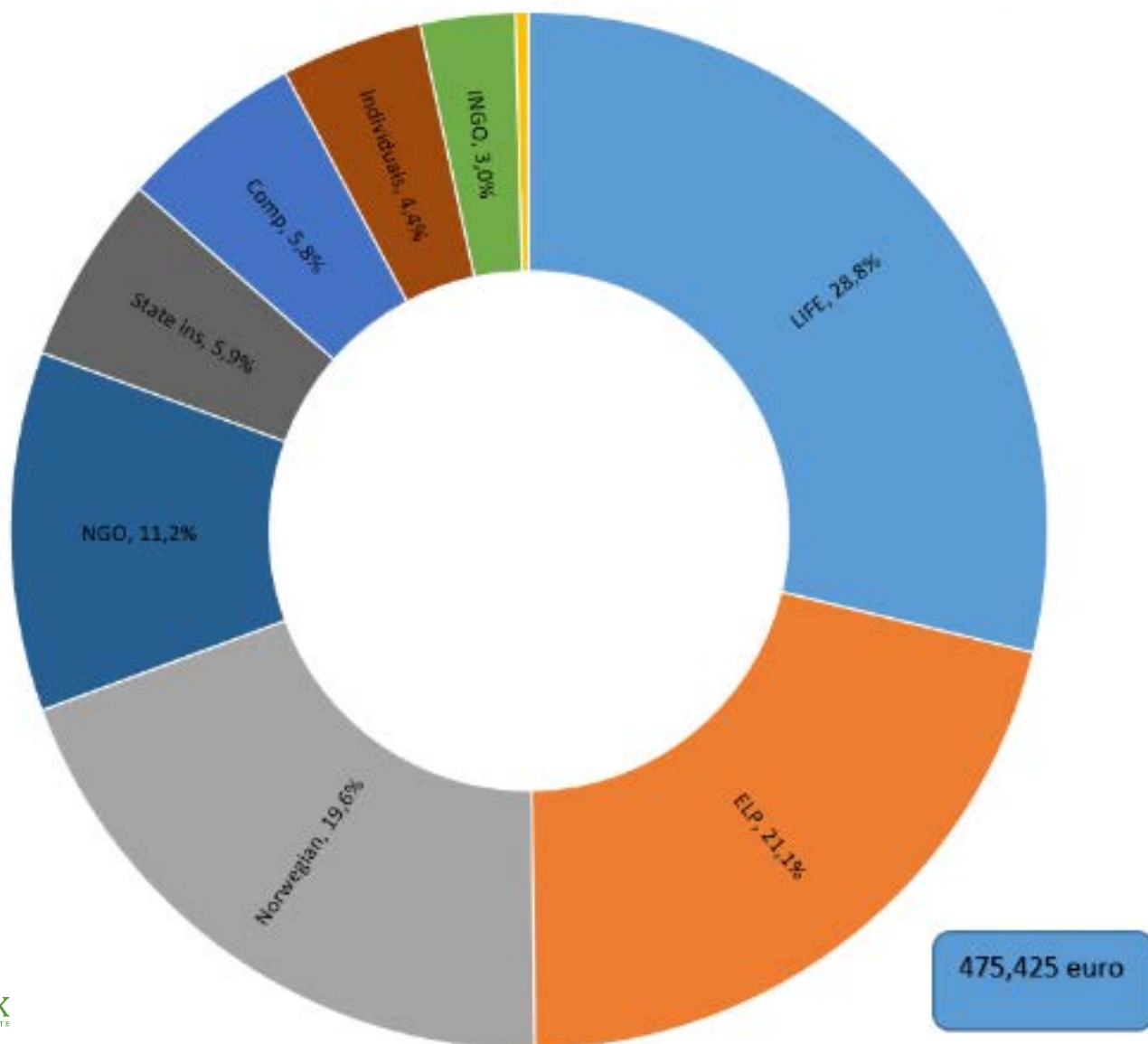


**PRIMĂRIA
MUNICIPIULUI
BRAŞOV**



**Fundația pentru
Dezvoltarea
Societății
Civile**

FINANCIAL REVIEW - FUNDING SOURCES 2022

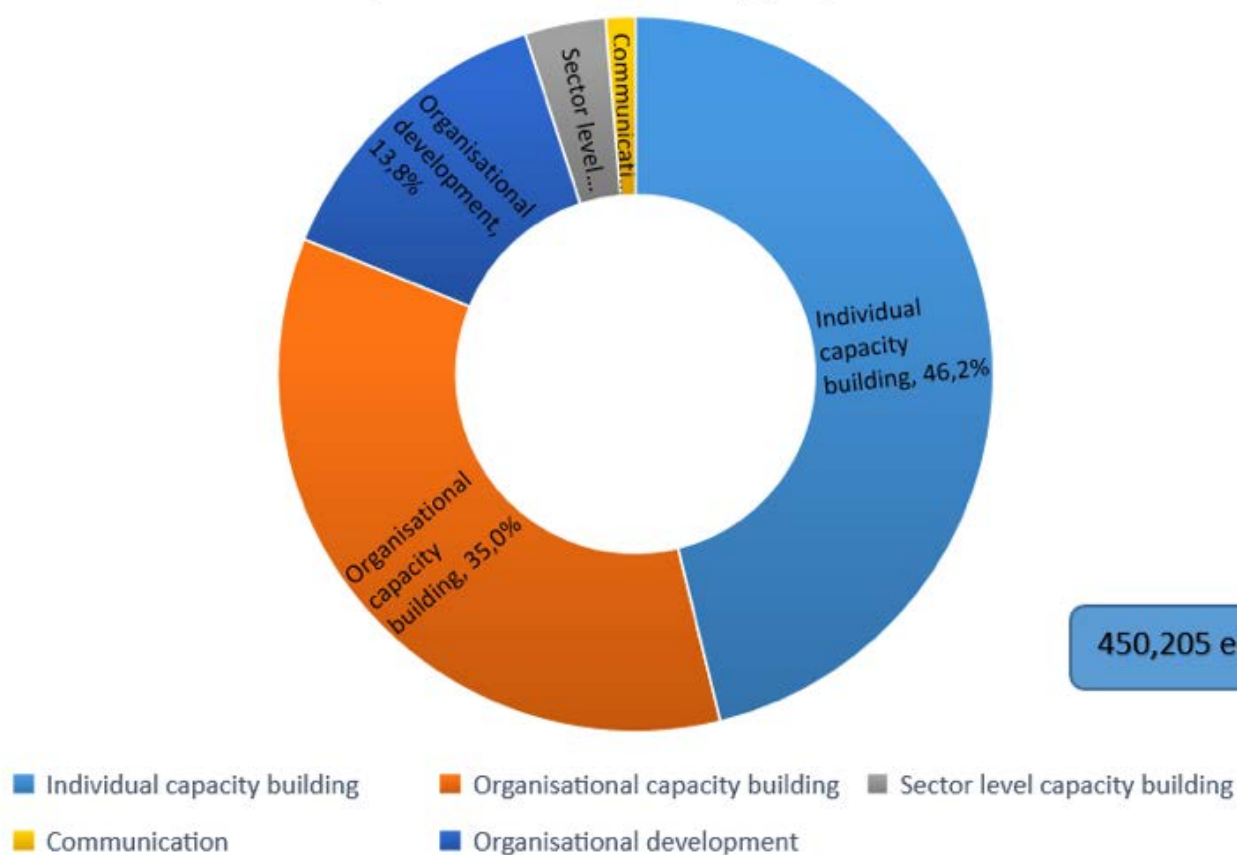


OUR FUNDING SOURCES IN 2022:

- LIFE Programme - 28,8%
- ELP Programme - 21,1%
- Norwegian Funds - 19,6%
- NGO - 11,2%
- Romanian Government - 5,9%
- Companies - 5,8%
- Individuals - 4,4%
- International NGOs - 3%

FINANCIAL REVIEW - EXPENSES BY STRATEGIC PILLARS

Expenses on strategic pillars



EXPENSES BY STRATEGIC PILLARS

- Individual capacity building - 46,2%
- Organisational development - 13,8%
- Sectoral capacity - 3,7%
- Organisational capacity building - 35%
- Communication - 1,3%

PLANS FOR 2023



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR NATURE

We will start developing this center, which will offer continuous learning programmes and management tools tailored to the needs of Protected Areas practitioners in Romania.



FUTURE LEADERS FOR NATURE PROTECTION

We'll continue working with the youth group assembled in 2022 to further develop their understanding and capacities as future activists for nature and protected areas.



ADVOCACY

We'll continue to be active members of the Natura 2000 Coalition, aiming to strengthen protected area policies and initiate the professionalisation process of protected area management.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are going to invest in our core team and in the extended Propark team i.e. in our trainers through capacity building and experience exchange events. We aim to extend Propark's core team to meet the needs identified in our new Strategy.





**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
PHOTOGRAPHERS: DAN DINU & MIHAI
DONEA FOR THEIR CONSTANT
SUPPORT**