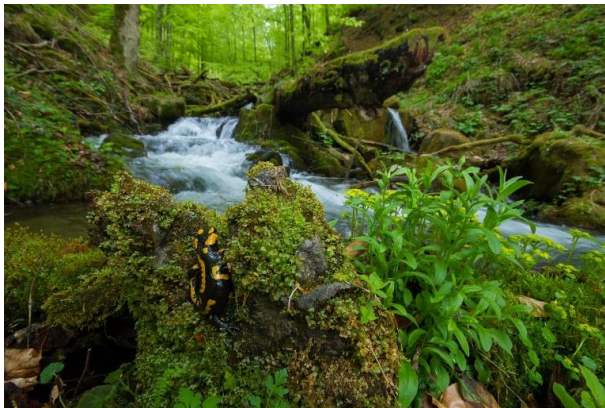




The future of our forests is at stake now!

The Romanian state has the necessary European funds to support forest conservation works, but it seems to have forgotten its responsibilities included in the reform plan of the new [European Green Pact](#). It either doesn't understand the forests' importance and role for us all, or it indulges itself into a lethargy from which nothing seems to wake it up. Doesn't it care at all that we will continue to be finger-pointed by the whole civilized world about the way we manage our forests?



The games are made now, by the end of the year, when the funds of the National Strategic Plan (PNS) are distributed. Conservation works for the Romanian forests need funding, otherwise **any protection idea is just a beautiful dream and any strategy remains powerless**. As many of us as possible need to express concern about this issue.

The reform for sustainable forest management, which is so necessary, needs resources. Increasing forest area and its resilience to climate change or including more forests into a strict protection regime **cannot be done only on paper**. Romania wants forest conservation, but it must also offer an alternative to forest owners or to local wood-dependent communities. Otherwise they are "pushed" to enter **a gray or even black area**.

Forests have once again lost the competition for the European funds in the PNS. The money is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, which has no direct interest in forest conservation, and the Ministry of Environment (to which the forests belong) has not done its homework and fails to be convincing. Therefore, **only 0.46% of the funds have been allocated to forests at this time**. **It is a joke, given that at least 10% is needed** to put into practice what we have agreed with the European institutions. The European Commission's recommendations in this regard were neglected, as well as the interest the civil society showed for forest protection.

This is a problem that affects us all, no matter if we work in a forest-related area or not, if we live in the countryside or just like to take a walk into the woods. We all need nature, water, fresh air and want our children to inherit nature as we know it. **It's not fair to use forests only as a**

political campaign. Politicians must put their promises into practice especially now, when the solutions to be implemented are decided.

Without money, many forest-related problems will remain unsolved, no matter if we talk about illegal logging, the destruction of forest habitats, the superior use of timber harvested from forests or the protection of valuable forests. We will not be able to solve these problems without investing in conservation efforts, without compensating owners who face restrictions when cutting wood, without supporting a green and fair transition for local wood-dependent communities.

Let's convince politicians to wake up and put into practice what they promised during the election campaigns and in their governing plan. Let's put European money to work for forest conservation and for the sustainable development of local communities.

If you care about the future of our forests, [sign the petition!](#)