

To the Ministry of Environment,
Water and Forests of Romania

13. November 2024

Dear Minister,

The Făget area south of Cluj with its biodiversity rich forests and grasslands is in imminent danger of destruction!

While the proposal for the new Natura 2000 protected area ROSCI “Făget Sud – Colonia Făget” (adjacent to the already existing protected area “Făgetul Clujului – Valea Morii”), endorsed by the Romanian Academy since February 2024, is locked in the drawer of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, postponed and delayed, species are struggling to survive attacks on their integrity from all sides – illegal logging, grassland burning, uncontrolled real estate development.

We therefore call on the Minister of Environment, Water and Forests to:

- **urgently designate the Făget Sud – Colonia Făget area for temporary protection;**
- **speed up the procedures for official designation of the Făget Sud – Colonia Făget protected area.**



Romania is fast approaching a trial in the EU Court of Justice for failing to protect its habitats and species. In October 2024 the European Commission issued a reasoned opinion in which:

“The Commission calls on ROMANIA to ensure protection of habitats and species

Today, the European Commission decided to send a reasoned opinion to Romania (INFR(2020)2297) for failing to fully transpose the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) into national law.”

Meanwhile, protected habitats and species both inside and outside protected areas are threatened by grassland fires, illegal logging, illegal digging, and uncontrolled real estate developments without environmental permits.



All this is happening with the approval of local authorities who have created a network of approvals without environmental assessments or accountability. This network is made up of Environmental Protection Agencies (APMs) and Environmental and Forest Guards, among others, who are not doing their duty to protect these habitats and species, as required by law and their mission as public authorities.

The Făgetul Clujului area, its forests and grasslands, rich in rare biodiversity, are in this situation. *“The Commission has therefore decided to send a reasoned opinion to Romania, which has two months to reply and take the necessary measures. Otherwise, the Commission may decide to refer the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union.”*

We urge the Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests to take advantage of the 2-month grace period granted by the European Commission to:

- **designate as a matter of urgency the temporary protection of the Făget Sud - Colonia Făget area, and**
- **speed up the procedures for the official designation of the Natura 2000 ROSCI Făget Sud - Colonia Făget.**

A road that may open the floodgates to destruction of the rare habitats of Făget is now in the works WITHOUT BUILDING PERMIT!

Illegal works (construction, felling, burning) are taking place which may endanger habitats.



Allegedly illegal works are taking place even in the alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) habitat inside the ROSCI0074 Făgetul Clujului - Valea Morii Natura 2000 protected area, as confirmed by the Agency for Natural Protected Areas (ANANP) Cluj.



Please stop the destruction and protect the RARE NATURE of Făget!

Please designate temporary protection and start the designation procedure for the Natura 2000 site ROSCI Făget Sud - Colonia Făget!



Signatories:

Alina Chiriac, Romania, and the signatories of the public petitions: 1) [Stop the tacit destruction of Făget and the last traditional rural community around Cluj | MyCampaign on Declic](#) 2) [Designate Natura 2000 site ROSCI Făget Sud - Colonia Făget | MyCampaign on Declic](#)

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