

Video Series: Out of Control

Episode #2: Semenic National Park

EuroNatur and Agent Green publish the second episode of the investigative online video documentary series, “Out of Control”, showing evidence of fresh and brutal logging of primeval forests within the Semenic – Cheile Caraşului National Park.

Film synopsis

The investigation team of Agent Green documents the deliberate destruction of supposedly protected nature and massive chaos in Semenic - Cheile Caraşului National Park. This beautiful national park is located in the Anina and Semenic mountains, covering an area of 36,000 of hectares with unique and rich virgin forests. But this rare beauty is in danger...

Access roads were built in an unprofessional, disastrous way – well-established practices and binding rules not being followed. Up to two meter deep roads were cut into the forest ground, damaging adjacent trees and seedlings. At the end of these roads, the investigators faced an area of 3,000 hectares of brutally logged virgin beech forests. In Carasului Gorges Nature Reserve: massive tree logs were pulled through river beds with huge machinery, leaving behind destruction and oil slicks, a clearly forbidden practice.

With a hidden camera Agent Green investigators confront the director of Semenic National Park, Nicolae Ifca, with those discoveries. He argues that the loggings are legal and that the logging area is not part of the nature reserve. A ministerial order clearly states, however, that the Carasului Gorges Nature Reserve is under strict protection.

Even more disturbing is that the head forester of the Caras Forest Department, Mr. Mihai Gutu, when asked about the nature reserve, denies that there is a nature reserve in the logged area at all. Thus, illegally issued permits lead to the perception that these logging activities are legal. The manager of the environmental agency states in an interview that he is well aware of this problem.

The logging in Carasului Gorges Nature Reserve took place although the national park’s advisory board and the former national park director did not agree on issuing logging permits. Therefore the members were dismissed, as the former chief says.

„Out of Control“ is part of the campaign „Save Paradise Forests“. This international campaign aims to protect the most valuable old-growth forests of the Carpathian Mountains, particularly in Romania. It is jointly coordinated and carried out by EuroNatur and Agent Green. Find more information under: www.saveparadiseforests.org