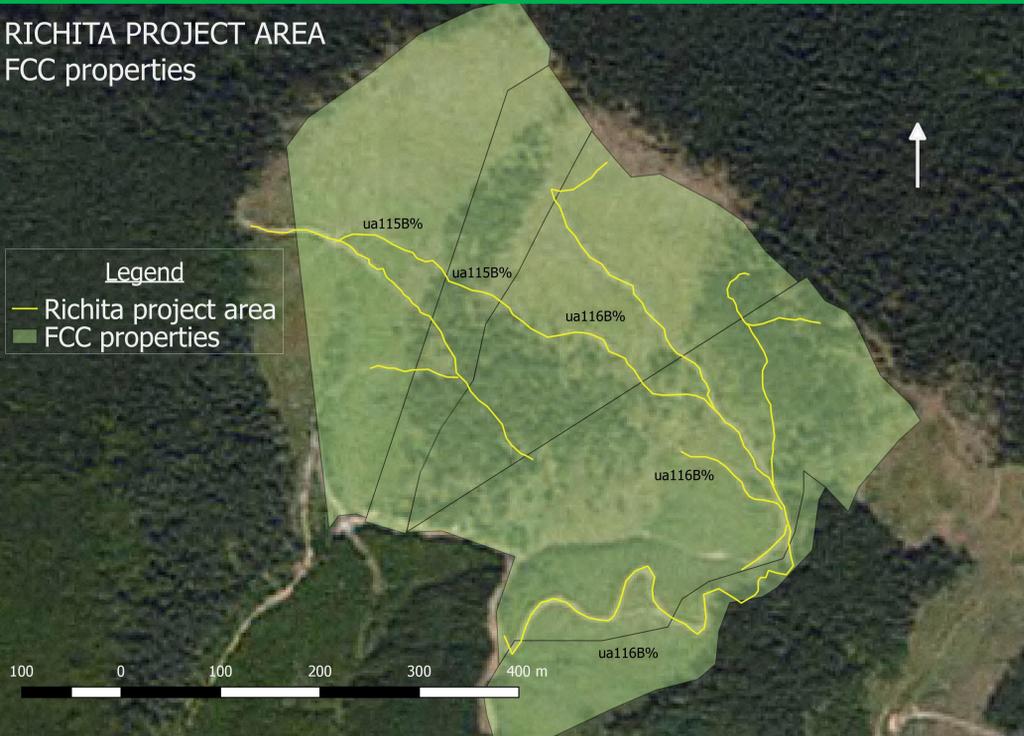


# ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION OF FOREST HABITATS

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The information in this poster are the results of the project “*Restoration of forest habitats on Dambovita Valley in severe erosion areas caused by inadequate logging*”, founded by SEE Grants through NGO Fund in Romania. The project was focused on restoring the forest bed and replanting tree samplings on illegal clear felled areas. The forest plots were purchased by FCC and we used the knowledge of a Life+ project. Fieldwork was conducted in three areas along the Dambovita valley (Richita, Baltatu and Berevoiu).



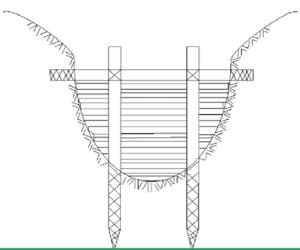
A thorough survey of the tractor tracks has been undertaken using GPS and GIS technology, to establish the necessary of work load. One of the main activities consisted of manual and mechanized works on the tractor tracks generated during forest exploitation and that were deepened by rainwater flows. These ditches were filled with wood and stones and covered with a layer of soil using a mini excavator. Where the slope was too steep, we placed wooden fences to avoid slipping or soil washing, following a technical guide developed through our Life+ project. The forest plots were considered to be part of 9110 Luzulo – Fagetum beech forests habitat with the Romania classification R4102 *Picea abies* South – Eastern forests. Therefore, the planting structure included tree species according to the forest management plans. We also researched old forest management plans, to see how forest structure has changed during communist times and revive the old forests with deciduous species towards a rich biodiversity.

The targeted forest composition is a mixture of spruce, fir and beech with elements of sycamore, ash and elm.

Project Area	Forest plot	Old composition of species	New proposed composition of species
Richita	115%	10 MO	5MO2BR2FA1DT
	116%	10 MO	8MO1DR1DT
Bălțatu	24C%	10MO	5FA2BR2MO1DT
	25A%	10 MO	6MO2FA1BR1PAM
	26A%	10 MO	8MO2DT
Berivoiu	102C%	10 MO	3MO3BR3FA1DT
	103D%	10 MO	8MO1FA1DT(SR)

The results of the project consisted eventually in planting 5 ha of restored tractor tracks and an additional of 4 ha on areas with severe erosion and weak chances of natural regeneration. In the years to follow we continued planting on the entire area of 100 ha.

The necessary time span was 12 months, in which preparatory actions were developed. The manual works were performed by local people and with a 5 tones excavator we covered the harder parts of the work.



The saplings came, from our own tree nurseries, natural regeneration plots and from other forest district near the project area. As an experiment we also planted fir seeds on 1,5 ha.

Above: a map of roads and ravines measured for inventory. Left: a schematic of a wooden dam, mend to disrupt the flowing of rain water across the surface of the soil bed, especially on steep slopes. Below: working team in Baltatu area. Right: tractor tracks before and after restoring.



Richita plot 2015

