

Project Update: June 2013

During the previous month we visited eastern parts of Serbia. Although this area is agriculturally developed, in some districts Hermann's tortoises are abundant. Through conversation with local residents we spotted several problems. Local people are aware of occasional illegal commercial use of tortoises from their regions, but they missed to adequately react to such felonies. Another common problem in these and the other visited areas is that tortoises often feed on cultivated plants. Farmers try to get rid of the animals by literally throwing them away or sometimes even killing them. Unfortunately, this cruel practice is not restricted only to eastern parts of Serbia. People we talked to are generally unaware of vulnerability of this protected species. We proposed garden fencing as a solution to keep the animals out. Altogether, there is a lot of room for improving farmers' attitude considering tortoises and the surrounding nature in general.

