

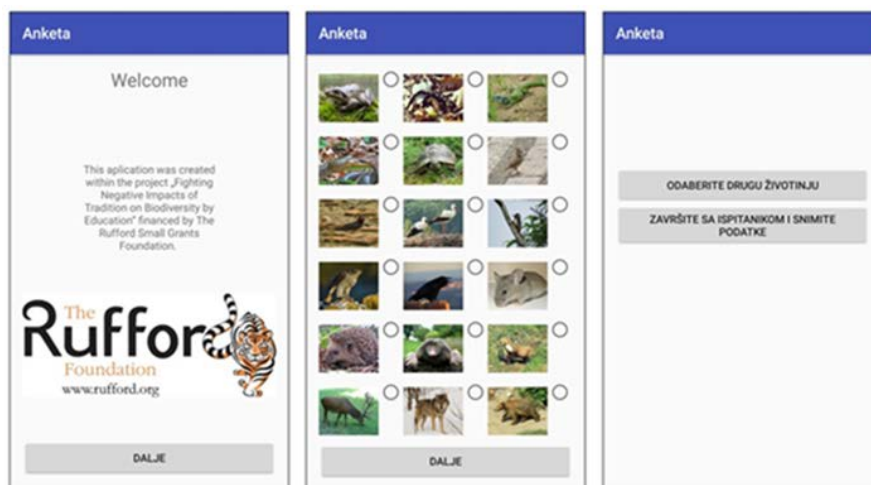
Project Update: March 2018



Logo of the project.
Design by Dimitrija Savić

Implementation of project activities started in May 2018. The first phase of the project began with the formation of the team and purchase tablets. We bought five tablets for the purpose of the survey on local inhabitants. Also, we have hired android developers to create an application that will make the survey easier. The reason for this is that in some rural parts of Serbia there is no Internet connection, so we needed an application that does not require it. Applications can be downloaded at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tj7cvlzd19sxqfd/app-release.rar?dl=0> or can be downloaded from the website www.wildbalkans.com



App screenshots
(Anroid developer:
Aleksandar Rajić)

Group of student volunteers from four NGOs was established during the first phase of the project. Our designer (Dimitrija Savić) has created the logo of the project and we printed 50 t-shirts for volunteers and team members. T-shirts were designed and printed for the purposes of the project. Front side of the shirt contains illustration of project trademark and Rufford Foundation logo.



Mockup of T-shirts

The project team members and volunteers conducted a survey of the local inhabitants in the vicinity of four planned city on the east and south of Serbia: Donji Milanovac, Kladovo, Leskovac and Niš.



Interviewing local residents in Donji Milanovac. The project team members in front of the monument mammoth in Donji Milanovac

During the survey participants were supplied by promotional and educational material in the form of three-fold brochures. Link to pdf:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/cy3yg0nh3mbzq6c/RFSG_2_brochure.pdf?dl=0



Three-fold brochures

During the project, we have created a site wildbalkans.com. The goal of this site is to promote the project and project activities. In addition, the site will aim to present wealth of wildlife of this part of the Balkan Peninsula. We have created photo gallery, articles about the regional biodiversity, but also folk beliefs, myths and legends about wildlife. The site is intended for education and presentation of wildlife diversity. In this way we want to attract new users such as hikers, campers and nature admirers to visit site and read our educational material. Also, the website will serve to present other conservation projects. We have presented the platform biologer that is created within the RFSG booster grant "Turtles in Serbia - Population Status, Conservation and Distribution of the understudied European Pond Turtle and Tortoise Hermann's", by Ana Golubović. The development of this platform will continue through RFSG booster grant "Endangered Serbian Butterflies - Working Together", by Miloš Popović. This site will be a place to gather all conservation activities on the territory of Serbia, and also the whole Balkan Peninsula. Finally, the online survey is placed on the web site (available on the home page of the site, or on this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/hg7hmuy1Ovx1nbfk2>) that will be distributed through social networks and web pages of partner organisations. In this way, we try to continue our work on collecting information on local beliefs, myths and legends throughout Serbia. The collection of this data is very important because during the survey we have learned that many folk beliefs originated from Slavic mythology are still present today and they may be one of the reasons for local harvesting and killing protected animal species.

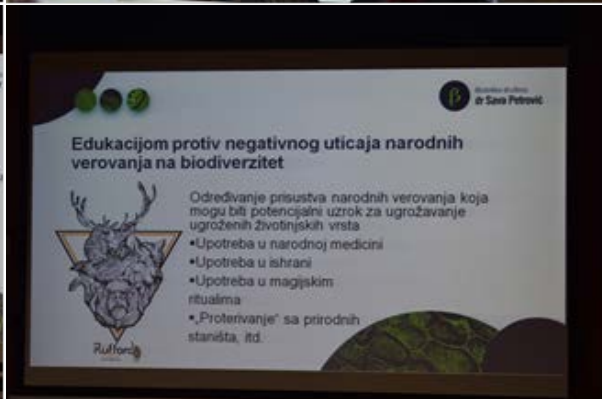
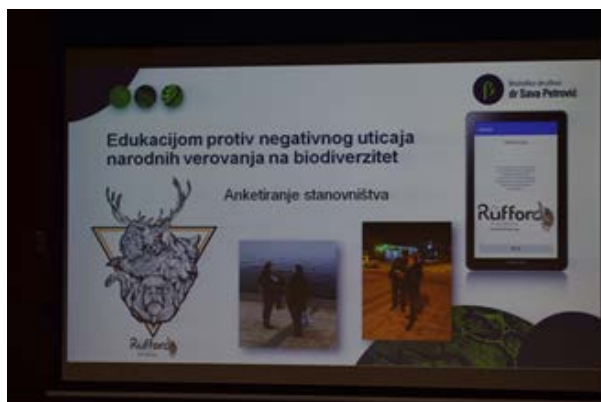
At the beginning of the year we printed 100 calendars and sent to partner organizations and schools where we realised the education of students. We also sent this promotional material to the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. The rest will be awarded by the end of the project in lectures that will take place.



Design by: Dimitrija Savić



Our calendar in the laboratory at the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, University of Nis



Top left, top right and bottom left: We promoted our project at four Universities in Serbia. Also, in Novi Sad, we presented our activities at the "3rd conference of students of biology, ecology and environmental protection - EkoBioMorfa 2017". Bottom right: We held a lecture for students of Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics in Niš via Biological Society "Dr Sava Petrović".



Presentation at the event "Earth Hour 2018", City of Nis, Serbia