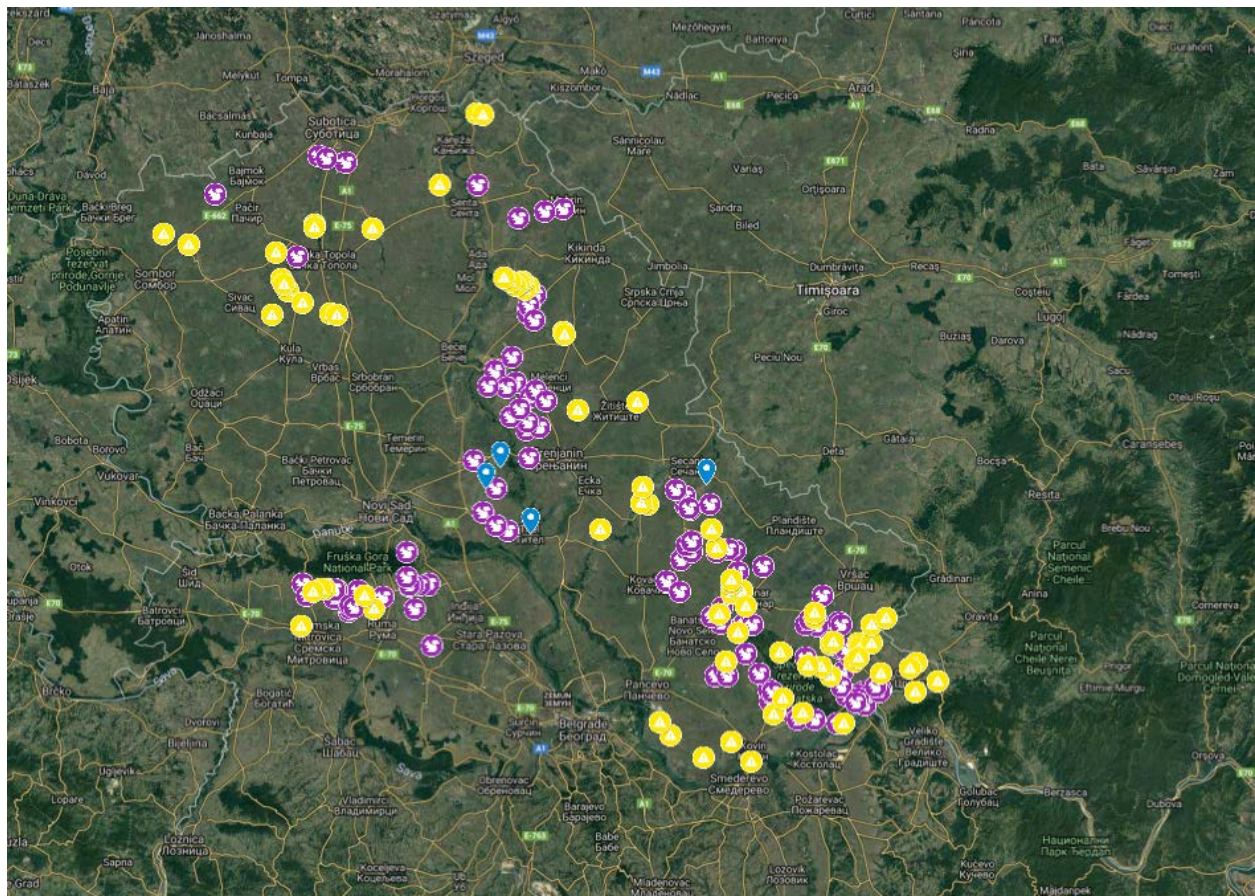


## Project Update: November 2019

During summer and early autumn, we have conducted first phase of the project, field mapping. We were mapping all previously identified open grassland areas (from 2014 and dozens of new sites) by using a Garmin eTrex Venture to detect the occupancy distribution of the local population. We also collected qualitative data on site management practices [grazing, mowing (grass cutting) or marginal], and the presence or absence of surface water on each mapped habitat patch. Currently we are preparing ground truth data for gathering additional information from satellite images, which will serve as input for the next phase of the project.



Filed data base map for 2019 campaign showing: in purple active and in yellow inactive colonies for the year 2014, and in blue potential new active sites (2019).

The first exploratory analysis of the collected data revealed following:

- Deterioration of habitat condition on 38 sites.
- Same habitat condition on 52 localities.
- Improvement in colony size on 34 localities.
- No presence of colony on 25 previously active localities.
- Ten reactivated localities (four of which in use only as transit area).
- Nine localities converted to new land use type.
- Eight new mapped sites.



As for habitat condition, we marked following issues: medium to severe vegetation succession spotted on 20 localities, nine sites with local waste deposition, fires from local burning on several sites (a large scale issue with local farmer's crop management), three localities converted to arable land, and two that are now in use for water management (area in use for new water channel construction). Additionally, one more locality is potentially threatened by road construction. We confirmed that two colonies on two artificial fields are still stable: one on a small sport aerodrome and one on a football field.



Localities with stable condition in Lok (use for grazing) and Donji Petrovci (use for mowing).





Fruska gora mountain with severe and medium vegetation succession in Neradin and Pavlovci.





Local waste deposition on Fruska gora and South Banat.





Local (anthropogenic) burnings in south Banat sites.





Localities previously (2014) abandoned and now (2019) converted for other purposes in Bačka region.