

## Project Update: October 2019

Considering that our project was approved in July 2019 we had to make some changes in timescale. Officially, start of the project is planned for 1st May 2019 but we move some activities for the next year.

During the first period of the project all known habitat of *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screens and ravines in the area have been studied in order to collect material (herbarium, photos) as well as to collecting about 35 phytocenological relevés and place five permanent sample plots, studying floristic composition of the target habitat type.



Left: Terrain reconnaissance using the boat. Right: Research team are collecting vegetation relevés on the fieldwork.

In each of the two canyons, five permanent sample plots are established at each locality, photographed and its center recorded by GPS device.



Trees marking on the permanent sample plots.

Previously, we organized introductory meetings with administrations of the Forest Management Agency „Lisina“ and „Čemernica“ where introduced them to our activities and taking the appropriate maps and permits. The initial meeting with the two management agencies showed great interest and need for the upcoming research activities.

Local and scientific community are informed about our activity's through the Rufford project thanks to friendly organisation "Arbor Magna" and Faculty of Forestry. They published the news on web pages which can be seen on links below:

- <http://arbormagna.rs.ba/?p=1349&script=lat>
- <http://sf.unibl.org/index.php/cyr/aktuelno-2/vijesti/1535-rufford-tilio-acerion>

Center for environment organised the event "Fight for the Vrbas river" which was part of the campaign "Save the Blue Heart of Europe". We were participants via a presentation about our project (<https://www.facebook.com/CentarZaZivotnuSredinu/posts/2878842025478510>) after which it we concluded that the two selected canyons are a rich habitat who needs to be preserved and protected, especially from the construction of hydroelectric power plants.

The next period (until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020) will be used for preparing the herbarium material, presentation and other promotional material.



Srđan Bilić talking about Rufford Foundation.