

## **Project Update: April 2022**

Planned activities started little later than expected, because our project was approved in the beginning of April 2021. The first phase of activities was completed at the beginning of the project before the introduction of rigorous measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first phase, the team meeting in the National Park "Đerdap" was organised, and the members of the project team made a detailed plan of activities. Research activities have been agreed upon, and contracts have been signed for co-financing research in the protected natural areas of the Nature Park "Radan", Natural Monument "Resavska Cave" and Natural Monument "Lisine". In the first phase of the project, the procurement of equipment necessary for the project team members was realised.

The planned monitoring programmes, i.e., research activities, were successfully implemented during 2021, and most of the activities will continue in 2022, with the modification of the contract and the introduction of additional activities. Ornithological monitoring programme and sociological research at Nature Park "Radan" was successfully organised in collaboration with protected area managers of the area. Data were collected not only on the composition of the ornithofauna of the area but also about their threats within this protected area. In parallel with field research, we have been conducting a survey with local inhabitants. The results of this research were presented at a large annual conference of protected area managers held in Ivanjica in December 2021. In agreement with protected area managers, we will continue the monitoring programme and sociological research during 2022.

Research of bat fauna at protected area Natural Monument "Resavska Cave" and Natural Monument "Lisine" has been organised during 2021. Our research team started the monitoring programme of bat fauna at those protected areas in collaboration with chiropterologist, PhD Ivana Budinski. In agreement with the managers of the protected area, the contract was extended so that the research team in cooperation with other experts from Biological Society "Dr. Sava Petrović" conducted research on flora and other faunal groups in these localities. The cooperation will be continued during 2022 and we will organise a promotion for our project deliverables (documentary and new book) for visitors to these areas, which are also popular tourist destinations in Serbia.

Part of the material recorded during the turtle research was used in the series "Wild Interviews" within the project "Hidden Corners of Serbia - bridging the gaps" (ID 30561-2) led by Dimitrija Savić-Zdravković. The episode is available at the link:  
<https://youtu.be/Re2m2NFs6zA>

Also, in the second phase of the project, work began on creating a series of films under the working title "the trap of Heritage" (sr. "zamka nasledja"). Planning and scenario making, organising the movie creation team and contacting stakeholders (local inhabitants, protected area managers, related institutions, NGOs) were performed before the video recording of the material began. Filming began before the introduction of rigorous measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in our country. The project team recorded shots of nature, statements of individual stakeholders and material collected during the mentioned research at protected areas Nature Park

“Radan”, Natural Monument “Resavska Cave” and Natural Monument “Lisine”. Created material has been provided to the team for further montage of the video material including video design, editing, music and narration. However, the recording of interviews with relevant experts and representatives of state institutions has not yet been completed, due to their field obligations, several months of lockdown due to the suppression of COVID-19 virus, when institutions were not open, personal unforeseen obligations of team members, but also health problems of team members (COVID -19). Due to the improvement of the situation with the pandemic in our country and the beginning of the normal work of the institutions, the recording of the interviews was agreed for May 2022.

Part of the promotional material was prepared and printed at the beginning of the project with an already recognizable project design.



Design by: Dimitrija Savić-Zdravković



Project team members presenting at the annual conference organized by State Enterprise for Forest Management "Srbijašume"

