

Project Update: August 2022

We used the period since the previous project update for further field research on project-defined species. We investigated the remaining localities for the species *Lycaena helle* and found that the situation with its populations on localities Vražja glava and Tri Čuke – Stara Planina Mt., where the fires occurred in 2019, still does not change or improve i.e., we haven't confirmed the presence of the species in those localities. The populations of the species *Boloria eunomia* and *Erebia orientalis* have been significantly reduced on locality Jabučko ravnište (where the hotel was built earlier), so these species have partly expanded their distribution area between the localities Babin zub and Midžor, where they occur in larger numbers last few years.

As far as the species *Eupydryas maturna* is concerned, using all previously available data on it in the Biologer database on the territory of Geopark Đerdap, we investigated the state of its populations with the aim of determining whether and to what extent they were affected by the fires that occurred there in 2021. The data we obtained are encouraging, since none of the localities of the species is significantly threatened by fires. However, bearing in mind that even this year on the territory of the Republic of Serbia new uncontrolled fires are happening too often, which are caused mainly by human negligence, it is necessary to "keep an eye" continuously on such centers of biodiversity in our country in order to react in a timely manner in case of need.

Furthermore, we used the last part of July to realise the Biologer camp, which was organised for the first time in 2021. in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This year, we organised the camp in Serbia, in a small village named Temska, only 15 km from the city of Pirot, at the foothill of Stara Planina Mt. In this way, we plan to start the tradition of organising a camp every year in one of the neighboring countries that use the Biologer application and database for biodiversity data collection. Such a thing is great opportunity for every one of us to learn more about the species we are dedicated to. In this regard, we agreed in advance that next year camp will be organised in Croatia and left it to our colleagues to determine the date and location of the camp.

The administrators and editors of the Biologer database that participated this year's camp were divided into several research groups, depending on their interests. There were groups for herpetology, lepidopterology (for nocturnal butterflies and moths and for diurnal butterflies), ornithology, as well as a group for bird ringing. During the 5 days that the camp lasted we visited different localities by vehicles, to find as many species as possible. We took many quality photos which will later be used to improve the Biologer quiz photo base, as well as to illustrate the scientific paper in the upcoming period of the project. Before each field day began, the participants were divided into groups so that all groups contained one expert from each section. During the camp, we explored many localities of Stara Planina Mt., collected a large amount of data on species of butterflies, birds, reptiles, etc. Also, we used this time to learn a lot of new practices and methodologies of work on and off the field through field work itself, which will be of great use to us in further period.

We will devote the next period to the completion of field research, collection of even more quality photos, followed by writing a scientific paper and work on improving the

quiz for identifying diurnal butterflies that we created during the implementation of the first Rufford Small Grant project.



Picture 1.1. Part of the team that participated the Biologer camp 2022. (© Danilo Penić)



Picture 1.2. Bird ringing and data collection (© Danilo Penić)



Picture 1.3. The youngest participant of bird ringing section (© Marko Nikolić)



Picture 1.4. Catching a bird from a net (© Danilo Penić)



Picture 1.5. Part of the entomological section on the field (© Danilo Penić)



Picture 1.6. Entomological section during night fieldwork on locality Jabučko ravnište (© Danilo Penić)