

Project Update: June 2022

First project activities were the preparation of project t-shirts (designed by Dimitrija Savić-Zdravković) with the logo of The Rufford Foundation and Biological Society "Dr. Sava Petrović", as well as the purchase of necessary equipment for the upcoming field activities.

Furthermore, a team meeting was held in late April 2022. At that meeting team members were additionally acquainted with all activities related to the project and they participated in creating the schedule for the implementation of certain activities, which we will adhere to in the continuation of the project. As the most important item at this meeting, all members were acquainted in detail with the MRR combined with transect count method, fieldwork methodology and the statistical data processing necessary for the proper conservation data analysis and further creation of scientific publications.



Picture 1.1. T-shirt logo.

After that, we started with fieldwork activities. We conducted the study of MRR combined with a transect count method. During the study, using the transect count method, we firstly determined the peak-period i.e. period with the highest population size of *Lycaena helle* species in the locality Ponor - Stara planina Mt. Then we started marking the species on two isolated populations at that locality. After some period of time, when a significant decrease in the number of marked individuals per day (<10 individuals per locality) had been observed, we terminated the marking activities. After that, we finished the field work for that project activity as we started, i.e. with the transect count method. By combining those two methods, we confirmed the flight length of individuals of this species during the season. Finally, we did a preliminary statistical processing of data to gain insight into the validity of the data we received in the field and the results were surprisingly good considering the altitude at which the species lives at the investigated locality (1300-1400 m.asl.) and unstable weather conditions at mountain each day. As soon as the final statistical analysis is done, we will inform the foundation about the outcome.



Picture 1.2. Team members during the study of MRR and transect count method. Locality: Ponor – Stara planina Mt. © Maja Jovanović.

Also, we conducted a preliminary research of the *Euphydryas maturna* sites on the territory of National Park and Geopark "Đerdap" in order to predict the peak activity period for this species and plan further activities accordingly.

We will use the period until next project update for further realisation of field activities for the remaining species defined by the project, as well as the implementation of the first of two workshops - Workshop "Biologer".



Picture 1.3. *Lycaena helle* marked during the study of MRR and transect count method on the locality Ponor – Stara planina Mt. © Milan Ilić.



Picture 1.4. *Lycaena helle*.



Picture 1.5. Top: Investigated locality on Ponor-Stara planina Mt. Bottom: Locality Stražnja
čuka-Stara planina Mt.



Pictures1.6. Fieldwork.