

Project update: July 2025

The period since the last project update we used to finalize the initiated project activities following "Activities and timeline" in the project proposal. Therefore, we have created an online repository on Google Drive with all the necessary reviewed documentation that will be useful to the authors when creating the manual.

Furthermore, we managed to visit all the planned Institutions during the "Surveys and meetings with protected area managers" phase of the project and to collect much more information than we initially planned to. The exchange of experiences with managers of protected areas, representatives of the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and other relevant institutions significantly contributed to enriching the manual with valid information in the field of wildfire protection in protected areas.

As far as the "*Lycaena helle* research" item is concerned, we used the previous period to realize all the field activities, to statistically process the large methodologically approached database collected in the previous years and to finalize a scientific paper with the title: "Securing a future for Serbia's newly discovered *Lycaena helle*: Conservation recommendations from population study and ecological niche models", in November 2024. The paper is still in the peer review process, which is a normal process when publishing papers in prestigious scientific journal, such as the "Journal of Insect Conservation". Nevertheless, the already received reviews from the editors of the journal assure us that the work is almost ready for publishing, and until then preprint is available on the link: <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-5387150/v1>.



Finally, creation of the "Protected areas - Dealing with fires" manual is a long-term process that requires the participation of a large number of experts in order to achieve the expected results. The manual is currently in the process of multiple reviews and we expect soon to be ready for publishing!

Until the next project update.

Sincerely,

Milan



Picture 1. Project team members during the implementation of the project item "Surveys and meetings with protected area managers". Photo by: Milan Ilić



Picture 2. Meeting of project team members during the implementation of the project item "Surveys and meetings with protected area managers". Photo by: Milan Ilić



Picture 3. Project team members during the implementation of the project item "Surveys and meetings with protected area managers". Photo by: Ana Samardžić



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