

Project Update January 2026

Rufford I.D.: 46791-1

The project officially started in October 2025 following receipt of funds on 19 September 2025. The revised project end date is September 2026. In December 2025 and January 2026, extreme rainfall and flooding in the Skadar Lake basin significantly limited access to karst springs and caused delays in planned winter field activities.

Despite these challenges, substantial progress has been achieved in accordance with the approved project objectives:

Objective 1: Karst spring assessment

Field surveys were initiated during the summer season, following the proposed ecological and physico-chemical protocols. Habitat characteristics and anthropogenic pressures were recorded at selected karst springs.

Objective 2: Endemic hydrobiid species

The presence of two endemic and conservation-important species, *Travunijana djokovici* and *Radomaniola elongata*, was confirmed in the field. These findings directly contribute to improving knowledge on population distribution and habitat status of target species identified in the project proposal.

Objective 3: Education and outreach

- Poster presentation at the 10th International Symposium of Ecologists of Montenegro (Budva, 13-14th October 2025).
- Establishment of EcoKarstMNE social media pages (Instagram and Facebook) with regular project posts [Eco Kras Montenegro \(@ecokrasmne\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#).
- Publication of one article on the project leader's institutional website and one media promotional appearance [link](#).
- Development of educational and promotional materials: posters, notebooks, pens, cotton bags and social media campaign content.
- Organization of a biology student workshop with 12 participants (10 female, 2 male). The workshop included a guest lecture by Dejan Dmitrović, expert in karst spring ecology and Rufford Grant alumnus.

These activities directly support the project goal of strengthening conservation awareness and stakeholder involvement in karst spring protection.



Fig 1. Field activities during summer season (late June 2025)



Fig 2. Field activities during summer season (late June 2025)



Fig 3. One media promotional appearance



Fig 4. Organization of a student workshop



Fig 5, 6 and 7. Materials developed – cotton bags, notebooks and pens).