

Project Update: October 2015

During the past few months we visited Orjen, Lovcen and Rumija several times. On Orjen we found great locality/habitat for karst viper (*V. ursinii macrops*), and all locals confirmed that karst viper is present there, but because of the bad weather (two and a half months without rain, period between July and August was with average daily temperature 37°C, that's why karst viper was hiding almost all day) and the size of locality we couldn't make a detail research.

On Orjen we saw that the biggest threatening factors to populations of karst viper are fires, and inability of firefighters to extinguish it because of the poor condition of the roads, also a great reduction of livestock that maintains an open habitat, and due to the healing and the absence of grasshoppers (because there is no grass) is reduced their habitat and consequently the number.

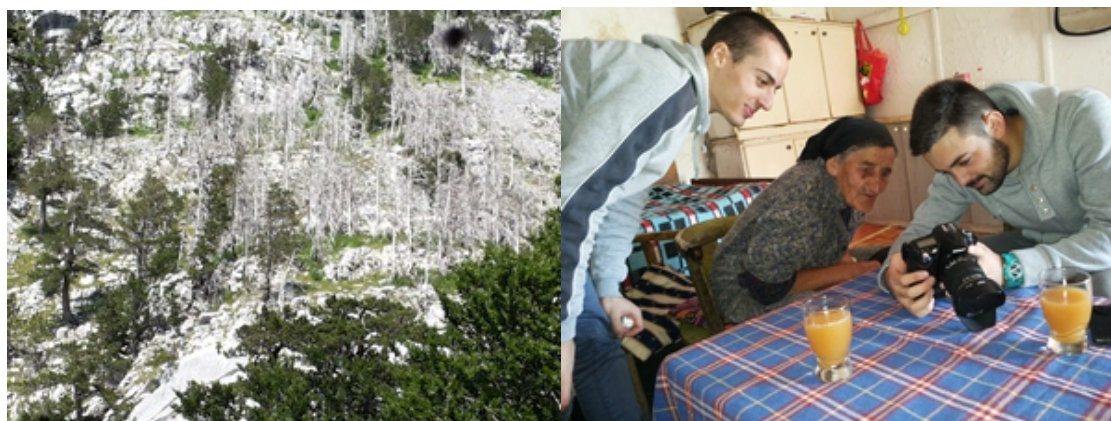
On Lovcen we found second locality where karst viper is present, and because of low influence of people, we believe that this locality is one of the best opportunities for preservation of karst viper in south of Montenegro.

We also done a lot on educating population, so we conducted an online survey, determining people knowledge of snakes, and by survey we informed them about karst viper, convincing them that snakes are almost harmless.

We visited two primary schools and college where we talked about our project and essentiality of preserving of karst viper, and we made special lecture in primary school where we talked about all false legends about snakes.

We also participated in "Days of science 2015" organised by Ministry of science, which is held in Podgorica (MNE), for the last 7 years. There we distributed leaflets and met most of the Montenegrin children from the primary and high schools and introduced them with karst viper.

Participation in a television program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArJfTmBNHT4>



Left: Effect of fire on Orjen. Right: Educating locals on Lovcen