

Project Update: July 2016

A survey of important roosts and habitats of bats in the Landscape of outstanding features, the Ovcar-Kablar Gorge, located in central Serbia has been conducted from July to October 2015 and in February 2016. The survey has been conducted with the support of the protected area manager – Tourist organisation of the City of Čačak. During the first part of the project, periodic surveys of more than 20 sites have been organised. Identification of summer and winter roosts, as well as active and passive ultrasound detection techniques have been used in order to make more detailed inventory of bat species and identify relevance of different roosts and habitats for identified species. Preliminary analysis of gathered data shows that so far minimum of 14 bat species have been identified for the area. Having in mind that total of 30 bat species have been officially recorded in Serbia, and the size of the territory of the protected area, the Ovcar-Kablar Gorge may represent area of high diversity of bat species for central Serbia. The following species listed in the Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive have been recorded: barbastelle (*Barbastellus barbastellus*), long-fingered bat (*Myotis capaccinii*), greater (*Myotis myotis*) and lesser mouse-eared bat (*Myotis blythii*), common bent-winged bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*), Mediterranean (*Rhinolophus euryale*), greater (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) and lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*).

From 1st May to October 2016 I am doing an internship at Swiss federal institute for forest, snow and landscape - WSL in Switzerland.

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I am currently working at the conservation biology group as part of the biodiversity and conservation biology research unit of WSL and my internship is regarding participation in two projects related to the institute's ongoing research of bat ecology.

