

Project Update: May 2017

In December 2016 we conducted a presentation of the project at the science festival in Belgrade, which lasted from 15th to 18th December. We took the chance to talk about the aims and goals of our project to several experts in the field of biology and conservation ecology. For more information you can visit the official site of the Science Festival: <http://festivalnauke.org/>

During January and February 2017, we conducted laboratory work. Laboratory work consisted of processing the field material from Vlasina Lake and Mountain Stara planina collected during the first phase of the project: cleaning and preparing the material for further determination. All the participants and volunteers were included in the lab work so that they could learn laboratory work for further research.

Because of winter and snow we could not work at the field but we took advantage of that and prepared new promotional material and educational texts.

First fieldwork we conducted in March, with which the third phase of the project started. We conducted fieldwork in Vlasina Lake and Mountain Stara planina. The same as before, we collected samples of macrozoobenthos, made lists of present amphibians in water bodies and took pictures.



On 25th March 2017 was "The Earth Hour", which is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF (<http://www.wwf.rs/>). The local event in the city of Niš was also supported by the team members of the project "Local community as an alarm system for preserving high mountain aquatic habitats of Serbia impacted by climate change". Our team members together with volunteers from Biological Society Dr Sava Petrovic and local ecological organization "ZOO Planet" educated participants and visitors of the event about our project and distributed informative brochures. Also, we made an educational poster with important information about the climate change and its influence on high mountain aquatic habitats in Serbia (Designed by Marko Nikolić). For more information please visit: <http://aqueousserbia.com/en/sat-za-nasu-planetu-2017/>

Earth Hour was accompanied by huge media attention, Magazine "Sana" wrote about this event and our project. For more information you can visit: <http://magazinsana.rs/desetogodisnjica-sata-za-nasu-planetu/>

The portal "Juznevesti.com" also wrote about Earth Hour, our project and volunteering of Biological Society Dr Sava

Petrovic in this event. More information you can see at: <https://www.juznevesti.com/Drushtvo/I-Nislije-gase-svetlo-za-planetu.sr.html>

Our team member Dimitrija Savić was a guest in the online radio show of the local radio station Super radio where she talked about what we achieved with our project, Rufford Foundation, climate change and Earth Hour.

At the end of March 2017, Biological society Dr Sava Petrovic together with our team members conducted a 1-day excursion to visit Museum of Natural History at Svilajnac city, Zoo at Jagodina city and Resavska cave. Team members and volunteers wore t-shirts with a goal to promote our project and distributed informative brochures to the visited institutions. For more information please visit: <http://aqueouserbia.com/en/ekskurzija/>

At the beginning of April 2017, we took the chance to conduct promotion of our project in the big local science festival "Nauk nije bauk" in Niš. The promotion was conducted together with the biology students from University of Niš, Faculty of Science and Mathematics. For more information please visit: <http://aqueouserbia.com/en/promocija-projekta-na-festivalu-nauke-u-nisu/>

Fourth part of the project took place in April and May 2017: we conducted fieldwork at the end of April and the beginning of May. We visited Vlasina Lake and Mountain Stara planina. We collected samples, took pictures and wrote about amphibians in the field.

This part of the project we directed towards the collaboration with local residents and local organizations: we discussed about our project and conducted survey about new water bodies and animals seen in them, about changes in the water bodies they noticed, about fisherman etc.

Photos from some of the activities:



