

Project Update: July 2018

The final field trip of this project took place at Ludaš Lake, at very north of Serbia. We had 89 captures (67 individuals, some of which were caught several times), with 39 being new. With this season, after eight years of capture-mark-recapture studies at this locality, we reached recapture rate of 44%. Four biology students and six primary-school pupils were involved in the field activities, learning about biology and conservation of the European pond turtle.

Unfortunately, high water level at the lake submerged majority of natural basking places, leaving turtles most of the time in water. This resulted in thriving of fungus and bacteria on their skin and shell in 56.7% of caught European pond turtles (Photo 1). We alarmed rangers of Public Enterprise "Polić-Ludaš", and with their great support, we made and set artificial basking places (Photos 2 and 3).



European Pond Turtle overgrown by fungi. ©Ana Golubović



Artificial basking spot placed at Ludaš Lake. ©Marko Maričić



Another type of artificial basking spot placed at Ludaš Lake. © Marko Maričić