

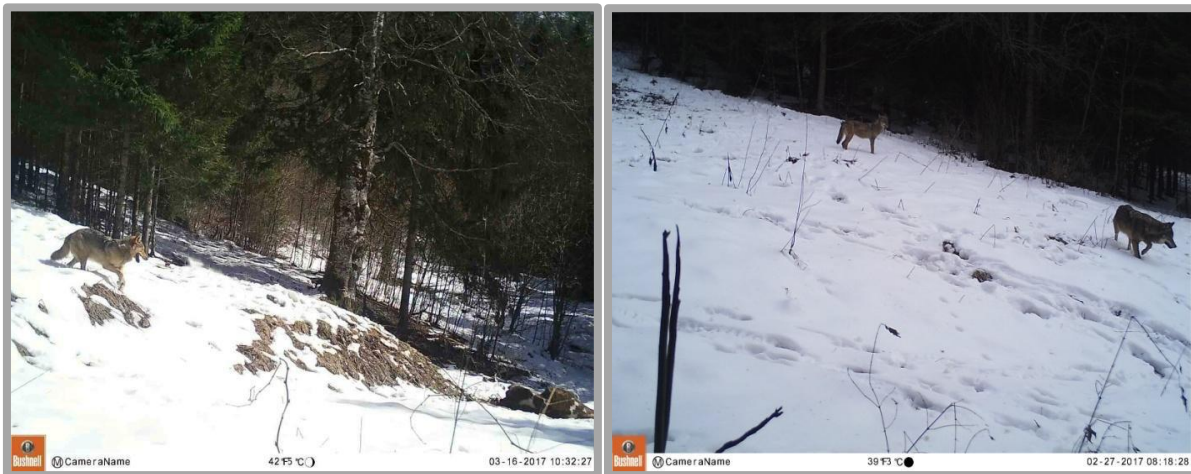
Project Update: April 2017

Activities for *"The Grey Wolf Conservation in Bosnia & Herzegovina: The Next Step"* project started after project was approved. Necessary equipment for the field work (three photo traps and tablet) was ordered; activities about preparing brochures and promotional material - needed for activities about raising public awareness about wolves in Bosnia & Herzegovina, were conducted.

I Field monitoring

New locations

In the current project we enlarged monitoring locations and managed to detect wolves' presence at each of them. At the Tisovac Mountain we detected presence of only one individual during the period from the beginning of the project (November, 2016) until now. At the second location, Vitoroga Mountain, we managed to detect presence of wolves, as well. After we observed their presence, we received information from the local land managers that four individuals (two adults and two pups) at this location were killed. These individuals had specific morphology differences (white stripes across the back) comparing to the wolves inhabiting monitoring locations. It is very possibly that the killed individuals were one migratory pack. We managed to collect samples from the killed animals and in summer 2017 we will do genetic analyses with the aim to determine their origin. We continued with non-invasive sampling (wolf hair), as well.



Left: Tisovac Mountain. Right: Vitoroga Mountain

Locations from the previous project

Situation at the previous two locations (Čemernica, Vlašić) haven't change significantly. Despite the information that two adult wolves threat livestock at the monitoring part of the Vlašić locality, we still didn't manage to record them. From the March 2016, when wolves were killed at the Čemernica locality, we haven't detected presence of new individuals.

On the other hand, at the location Janj we managed to record a presence of one whole pack with around seven animals; the packs presence has been recorded for the first time ever at this location. We assumed the presence of two packs (according traces and paw prints) at this location and reported our observation in the first report of the previous project and now confirmed that with photo record, respectively.



Janj location

The fact that is still devastating is number of killed animals for all this period. Last month, at the Ozren Mountain, five animals were killed in one day.

II Activities about raising public awareness

Along with the monitoring in the field we have performed activities about raising public awareness about wolves' position in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

- In November 2016, we participated in The 5th International Hunting and Game Management Symposium, in Debrecen, Hungary, where we exchanged information about wolves from Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia with the participants (*Šnjegota D., Stefanović M., Veličković N., Ćirović D., Đan M., 2016. Comparative analyses of Serbian wolf population structure employing different Bayesian clustering methods. Book of Abstracts and Proceedings from the 5th International Hunting and Game Management Symposium, 10-12. November, Debrecen, Hungary, p.53*).
- In February 2017, we visited Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Science, Białowieża, Poland where we had an opportunity to talk with the eminent experts in conservation and to gain a very worth information regarding the creating of a conservation management plan, as one of the long term and outermost object of our projects. We were invited and we hold a lecture to inform their scientists about

wolves from Bosnia & Herzegovina. Furthermore, we made cooperation that a part of genetic analyses (along with the Laboratory in Novi Sad) will be done in June 2017 in the Mammal Research Institute.

- In March 2017, we held a lecture in the Club for the employment of young people (YEP - youth employment project) with the aim to i) introduce young local people with the possibilities which Rufford Foundation offers and ii) introduce young local people with the wolves presence in Bosnia & Herzegovina and the unenviable position in which they are.



Left: Brochures and promotional material.



Right: Some of the participants in the Club for the employment of young people (during the lecture)



Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland. A lecture "First steps in wolf research in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Genetics and monitoring of the population"