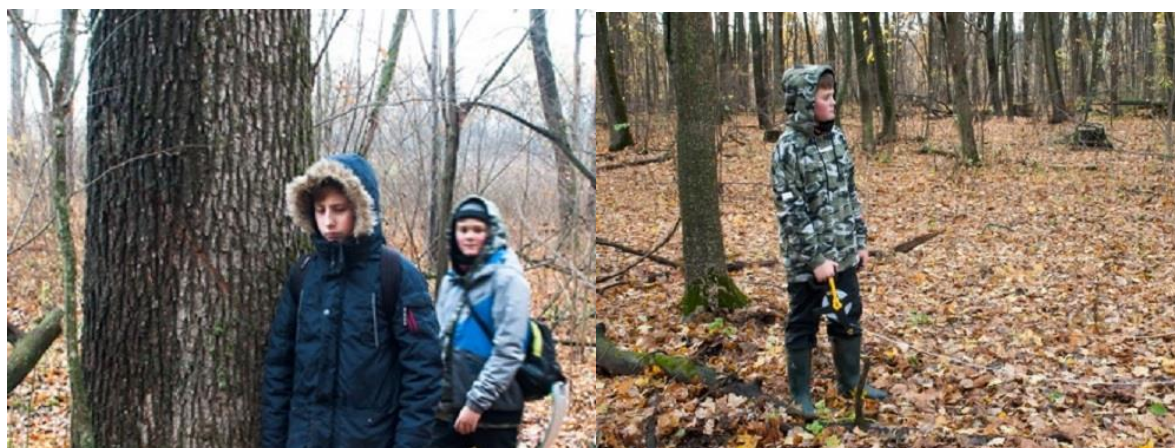


## Project Update: January 2018

Our project started in July 2017 and up to December 2017 we concentrated mainly on field activities. The first task was to check territories surveyed by us in previous years. Information about all locations of protected animal species earlier was transferred to forest taxation organisation with recommendations to restrict forestry activities there. In 2017 we visited 88 territories of 296 (30%). All localities of National Red Data Book or IUCN species were undisturbed. However on 22 localities of locally protected species we observed different disturbances varying from complete clear cutting to thinning or illegal selective logging. We have prepared requests to forestry districts and forest taxation organisation asking whether our recommendations has been brought to notice of forestry districts and taken into account in cutting plans. In parallel as a part of our research of indicator species we collected 24 samples of land snail fauna in seven woodlands.

Volunteers, students and schoolchildren took part in our field activities. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 we reported some preliminary results of our project on a Conference of young naturalists in The Museum of Nature of Kharkiv National University.



Left: Tree labelled for cutting in the old-growth forest plot. Right: Measuring dead wood volume with a transect method.



Left: Measuring dead wood volume with a transect method. Right: Presentation about conservation of oak forests.



Old growth oak forest plot with high amount of fallen wood and beaver colonies along the stream.