

Project Update: October 2018

Field research of oak forest sites – Almost done

Nearly 200 old oak forest sites were visited by at least one team member; Red List species are found in 101 oak forest sites. Orchids are most common target species which are present on majority of identified sites with Red List species. Among them are: the lesser butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*), the greater butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*), the broad-leaved helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), the narrow-leaved helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*), the common twayblade (*Listera ovata*). nine nests of threatened birds were found: four nests of the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), four nests of the lesser spotted eagle (*Clanga pomarina*) and one nest of the short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*). Identified Red List insects are represented mainly by the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), but most interesting find was the *Megarhyssa vagatoria* who are proposed to be included in new edition of Red List of Ukraine. From point of view of bats, it seems that trees with colonies of bats are situated mainly in forest sites not far from river or lakes, while old oak sites in areas distant from water are almost «empty». Totally nine species of bats were recorded; most common species was the noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), and most threatened one, the pond bat (*Myotis dasycneme*). Red List Fungi currently are not found.

Estimation of dead wood amount in target forest sites will be done during October-November.



Providing the results of the research to forest enterprises – Partly done

This step means involving state forest enterprises staff to joint field visits with aim to show Red List findings and to provide confidence for foresters about their existence. 44 places with Red List species were shown to foresters during eight of joint field visits with foresters.



Promoting protected status establishment – Not started

This step means providing results to forests authorities, responsible for considering our data in forestry documentation. This step will be done after finishing of all field research.

Development educational materials about importance of oak forests – Just started

This step means creating of poster about importance of oak forests. We are in the beginning of such process.

