

Final Evaluation Report

Your Details	
Full Name	Ognjen Lukić
Project Title	Research and promotion of Tilio-Acerion forests in the Crna Rijeka and Ugar canyon recognized as a priority habitat type (*9180) under Habitats Directive of EU
Application ID	28037-1
Date of this Report	09.07.2022

1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Studying of existing published data				We have found all the existing literature about forest vegetation of canyons and chosen habitat type. All we found was useful.
Field work				Field work included: terrain reconnaissance, collecting phytosociological relevés (through excursions - Crna Rijeka and Ugar canyons), placing and marking permanent sample plots at each of the listed localities, taking photos and collecting herbarium of the endemic, endangered and rare vascular species.
Data processing and analysis GIS mapping of habitat type				Data processing and analysing successfully done on the Turboveg and Juice programmes within Training School on Diversity and development of phyto-coenological databases and using of different numerical methods for analysis of vegetation data". Work on the GIS mapping of habitat type are in the process and will be present on final master thesis.
Preparing the promotional materials				At the beginning of the workshop, we handed printed brochures to all participants.
Presentation				We held the workshop and achieved all scheduled goals.

2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- a). The mapping of 9180 habitat type and completing data on Tilio-Acerion forests within NW Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- b). Raising awareness of the importance of preserving these habitats, especially among students and the local community.

c). The project produced solid scientific basis in promoting the conservation status and helped a lot in completing the data for the master's thesis.

3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.

Considering that the work officially started at 25th June 2019 (instead of May 15), we were forced to change the dynamic of our project.

4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project.

The local community was introduced to the importance of the habitat type through the project. Our data and outreach materials (brochure, promotional and herbarium material) helped to educate the local community and all ecological NGOs on Tilio-Acerion forests conservation issues.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

In the future, we plan to research this habitat type in other parts of the country so that they can take protection measures in the entire area where they are present.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

We published the research results in the Bulletin of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Banja Luka, also through the local pages of non-governmental organisations and the faculty websites.

7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

It is very important to continue research on a wider territory and to determine the presence of Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, scree and ravines in B&H. The data obtained by the proposed project would provide necessary information for monitoring the impact of various factors on the chosen localities and the species in order to identify appropriate management actions and to measure their effectiveness in our future work.

8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?

During the project we used The Rufford Foundation logo in all our materials (presentations, leaflets, labels into herbarium of archived plant material and for the promotional materials as a t-shirts, caps, pencils and lighters).

9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.

Ognjen Lukić (Project Coordinator), management of the project activities and all other technical arrangements.

Srđan Bilić: Master student of Forestry Faculty, had big role in project. He supported all phases of project such are: field research, logistic support and was responsible for the editing of the project materials and helped me in media promotion.

Vladimir Stupar (Project Supervisor), Professor at University of Banja Luka on Forestry faculty (department of Forest Ecology) was included from the beginning of the project: helped with choosing the most suitable methodology, scientific and technical consultancy, results and publication of the project, education in the area of GIS mapping, data processing and analysis.

Dordije Milanović: Expert associate on Forestry faculty, shared useful suggestions and help with plant determination.

Viktor Bjelić: Center for Environment, workshop organizing

Branislava Dukić, Master of Forestry (ŠG "Borja" Teslić/Šume RS a.d. Sokolac), get useful advice from the beginning of the project.

Miloš Miletić: forestry master student, was present and support the most fieldtrips. His experience helped us on terrain recognize and define habitat type.

Ilija Čigoja: forestry student, volunteer

Milorad Pekez: biology student, volunteer

Stefan Stojanović: young researcher, volunteer

And more than five volunteers from local communities on field works.

10. Any other comments?

Support from The Rufford Foundation was fundamental to the success of this project. We are extremely grateful for providing funding support for the research. It helped a lot in collecting very valuable data and it helped me and my team to develop our skills and improve our knowledge.

We hope to continue the collaboration in next years!





