Project Update: September 2022

Plans for field work during the vegetative season June-September 2022 of our project were successfully implemented in following order:

- June 2022 – field, 7 days
- July 2022– field, 7 days
- August 2022– field, 7 days.

In total, we have processed (completed field protocol) 20 localities, out of which 17 were new; we had three repeated samplings at the localities from the previous year. Charophytes in a vegetative state were detected in very few localities, in contrast to the previous seasons when detected in all searched localities, and in some localities even dominating submerged vegetation. Drying of many of water bodies in search area was the strongest impression from the field, convincing us that the methodology we are implementing and sediment surveys are to be of greater importance in future than we could have foreseen. At each locality, sediment samples were collected and hydro-morphological features of the water bodies were observed and noted in terms of a customised Lake Habitat Survey form, where water was present - water quality parameters were measured in the field and water samples were collected for laboratory analyses. During June 2022, we focused on long-dry habitats, which used to serve as watering holes for wild animals in Deliblato sands - all of these localities had been dry for the last 20+ years. Among the repeated localities was Dulin pond, subjected to the severe drying this year (photo below).

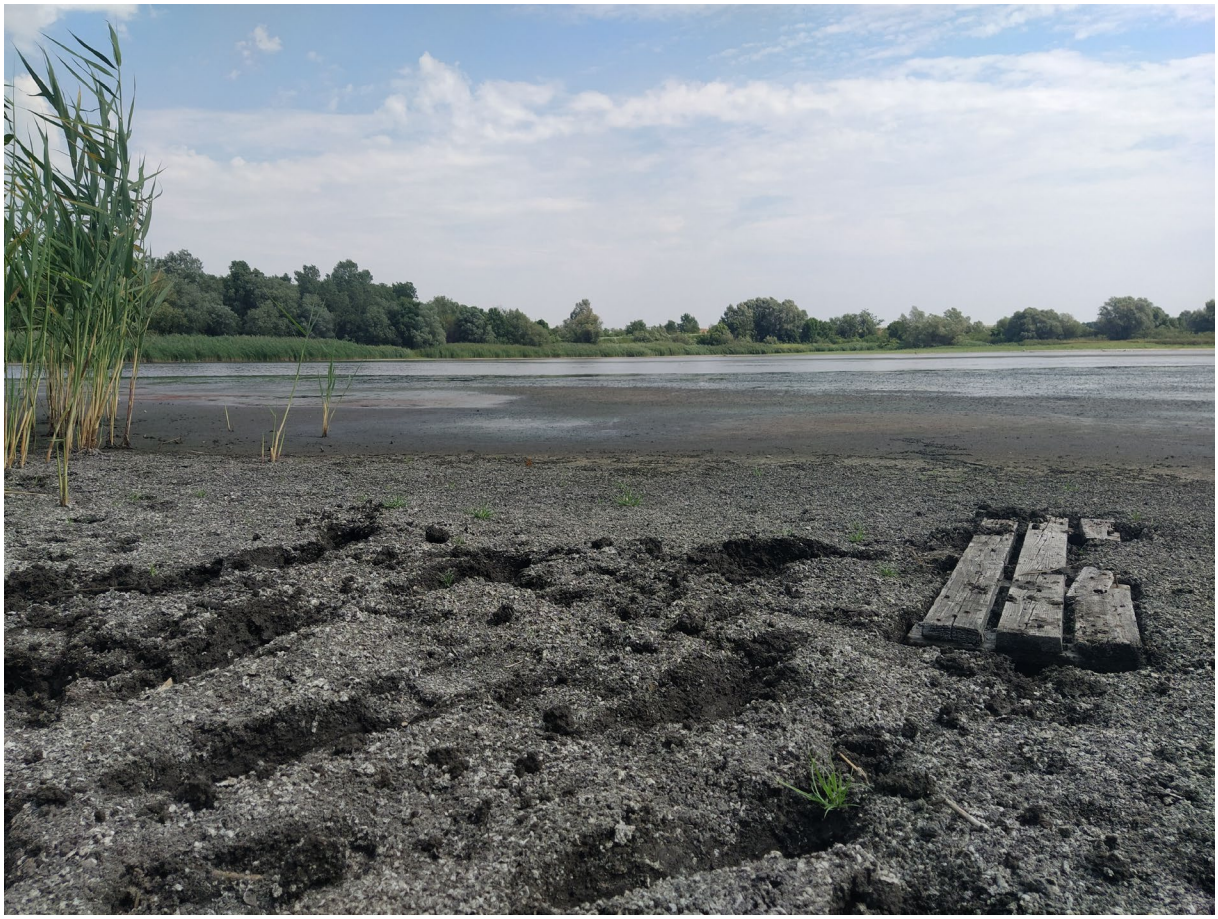
We were also active in the field of project promotion. Our project and preliminary results were presented at the Science Fair organised for the Faculty of Biology students, where Vanja Milovanović presented our project idea, goals and perspectives aiming to get students engaged in the in the project (for Master thesis and research projects within courses in bachelor studies) (photos below). We also attended 14th Symposium on the flora of southeastern Serbia and neighbouring regions in Kladovo, where preliminary project results were presented, and project was promoted (photos below). Colleagues from our and neighboring countries were introduced to our work, perspectives were highlighted, and collaboration is offered to all interested parties.

June-September 2022 was very successful and project goals well accomplished; we hope for valuable results and looking forward to summarising all findings. Plan for the next period is following:

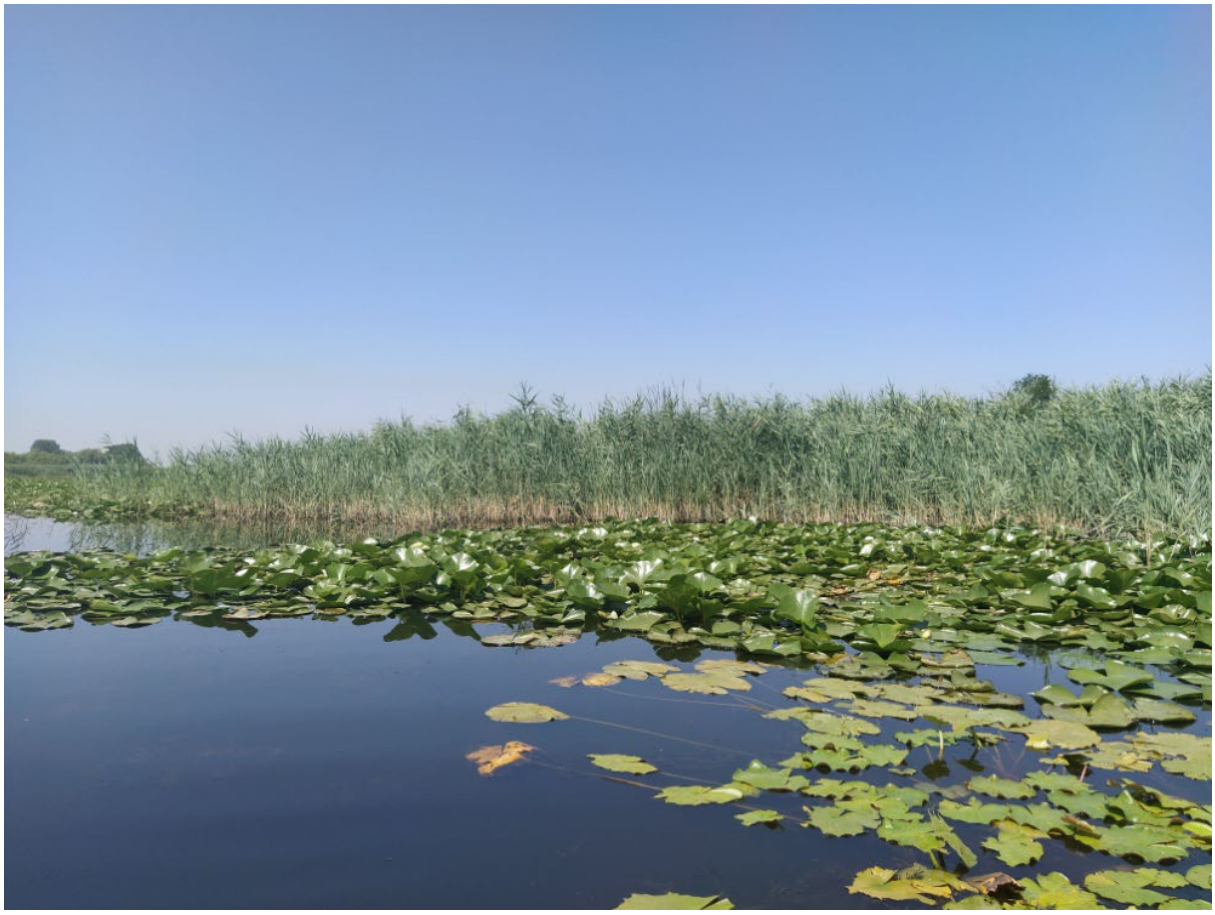
October 2022 to May 2023 – laboratory work on plant material identification and sediment diaspore bank processing in terms of seeds and oospore identification/categorisation (detailed photography and measurements) followed by viability estimation using TTC test. Compiling of datasets on recorded plants, oospores morphometry and viability and water chemistry in selected localities. Preparation of the local identification key i.e., field guide for identification of stoneworts in project area. Preparation of presentation of project results to interested parties – protected area managers, local authorities, NGOs and interested parties. Public lectures to students and school children.

June 2023 – Final report and presentation of project results. Providing the field guide for identification of stoneworts in project area (PDF and printed version).

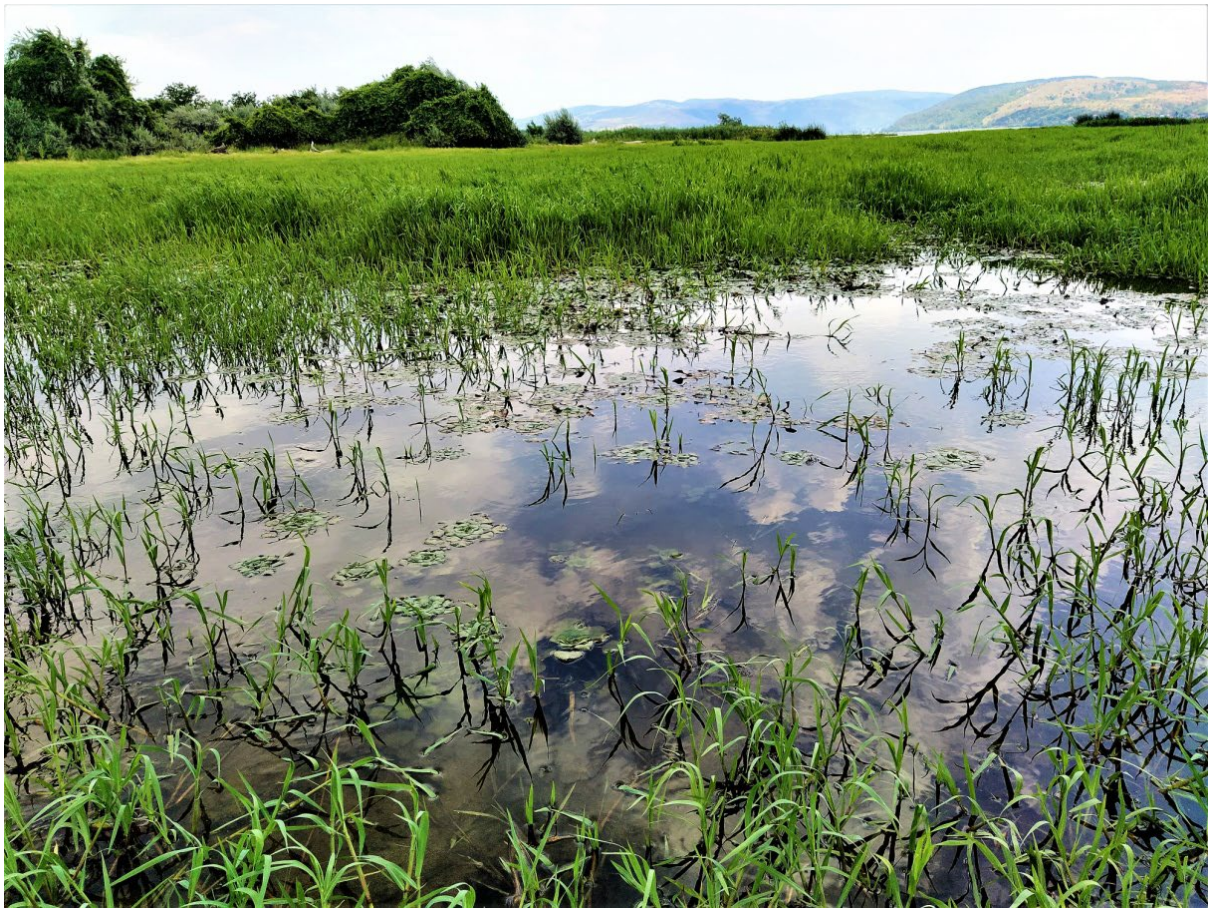
Photos from the field and promotions 2022



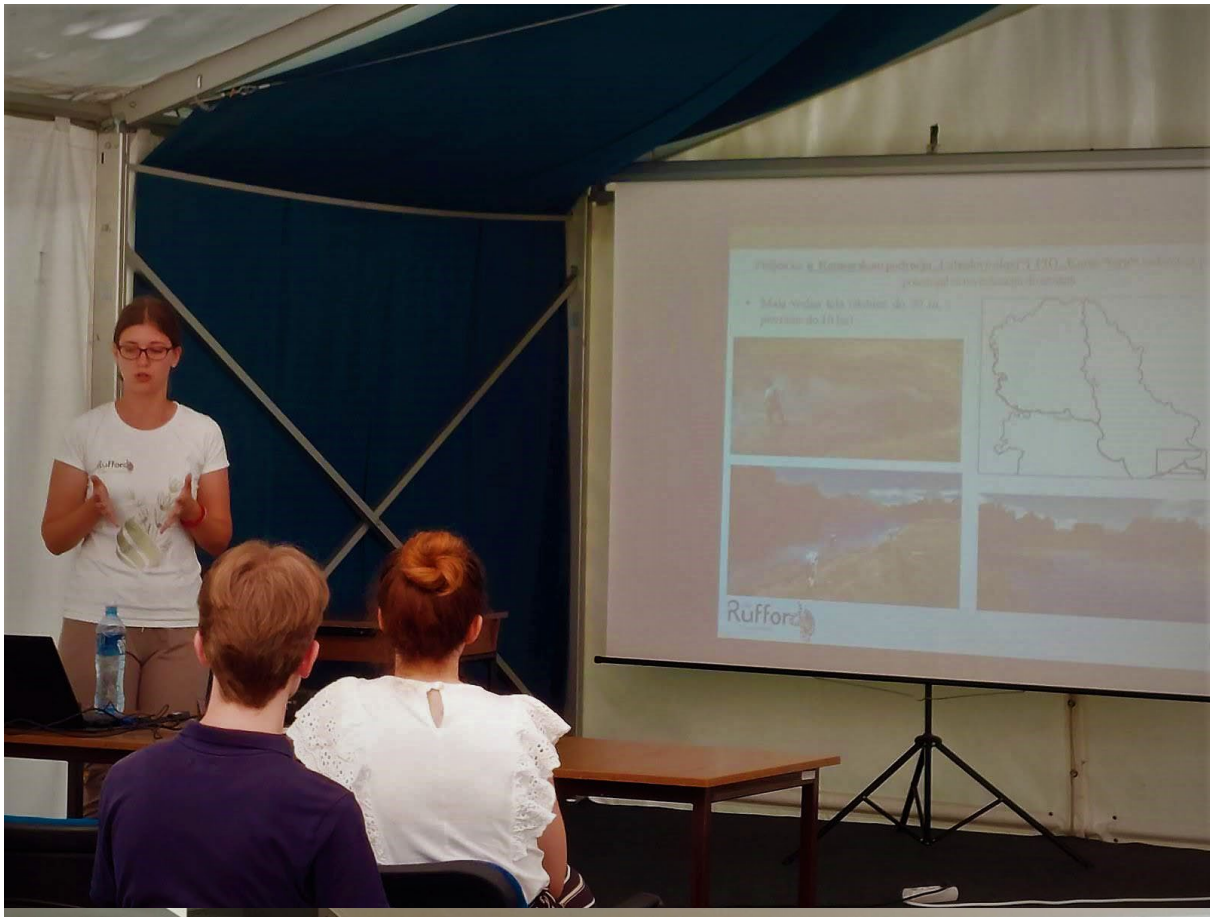
Dulin pond dried up.

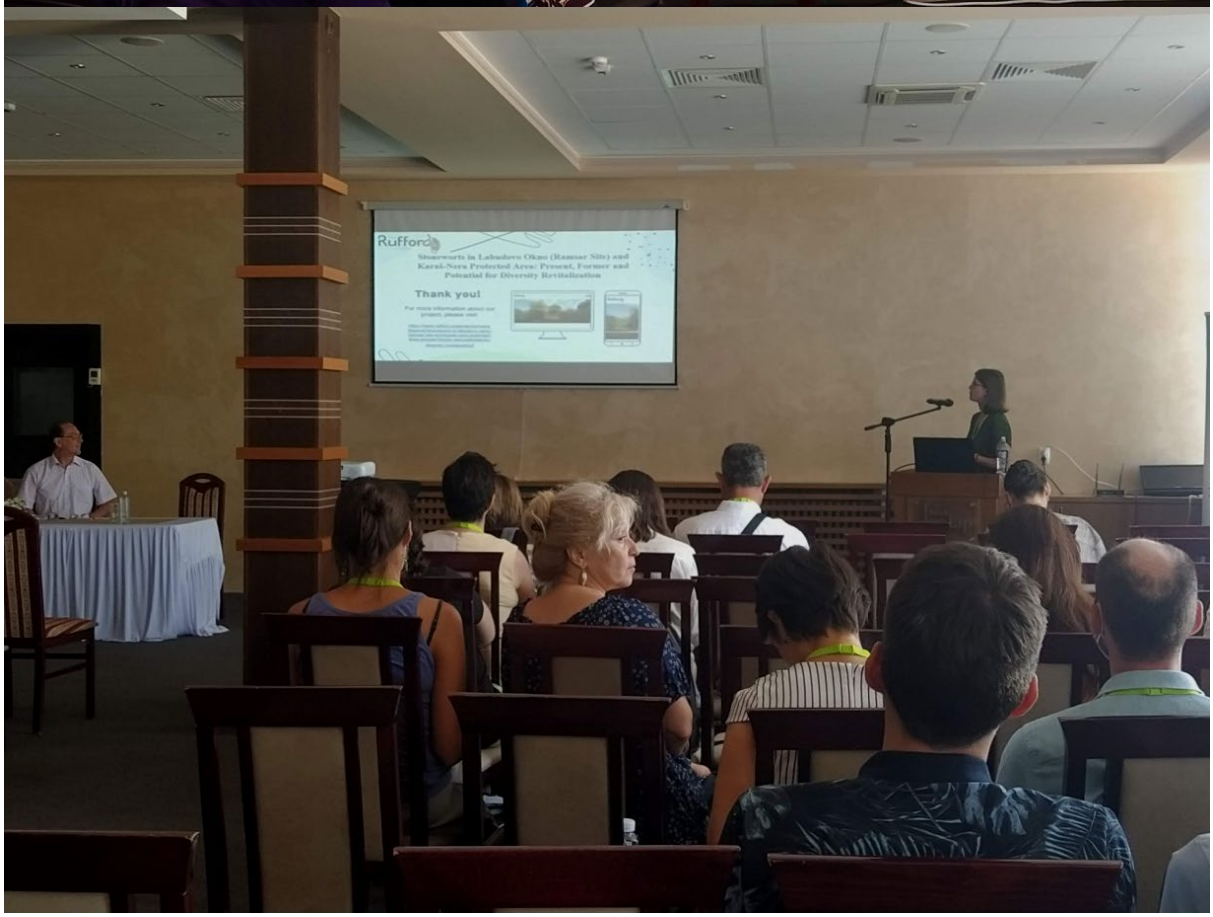


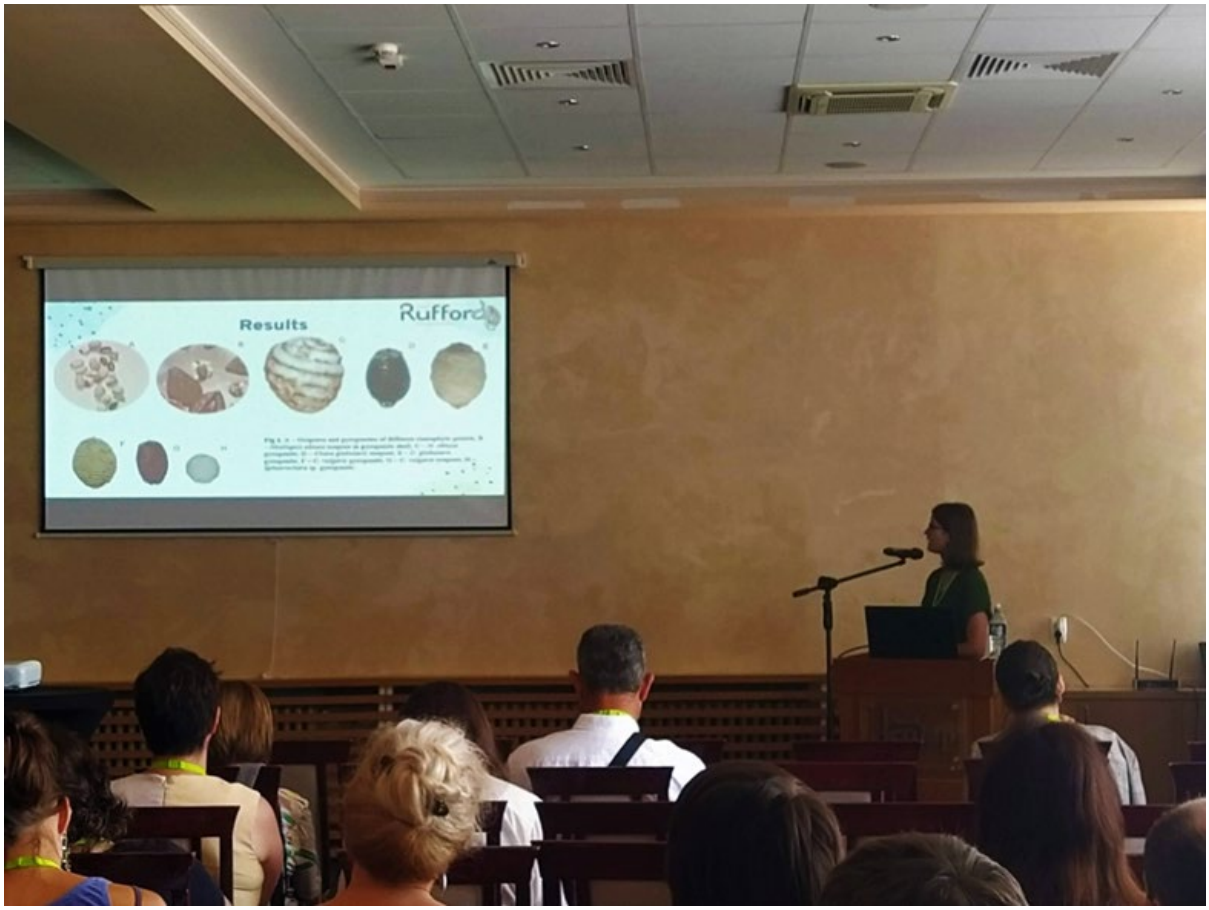
Above: Dubovac marsh. Below: Stevanove ravnice.



Above: Chara sp. in Šljunkara lake. Below: Project promotion at the the Science Fair Faculty of Biology 2022.


Rufford


Rufford
Stonewarts in Labudovo Oko (Ramsar Site) and Karaš-Nera Protected Area: Present, Former and Potential for Diversity Revitalization
Thank you!



Project promotion at the 14th Symposium on the flora of southeastern Serbia and neighbouring regions in Kladovo.