

Project Update: November 2023

The plan of activities included the education and training of volunteers and their involvement in searching for signs of the presence of lynx on the mountains Maglić, Volujak and Bjelasnica; field collection of samples for DNA analysis and setting of photo-traps in the field.

The activity of education and training of volunteers could not start in April 2023, due to worsening weather conditions, so everything was done in July 2023. Other activities were started within the stipulated period.

From July 15 - 20, 2023, 11 volunteers were educated. School and training were held on Volujak and Bjelasnica mountains (fig. 1.).

Efforts to find footprints and photographs were redoubled, and this resulted in great success. Two lynx individuals were photographed. One lynx (fig. 2.) was photographed on the Volujak mountain (43.233615°; 18.682819°) in an area that is not protected, and the other (fig. 3) was on the Bjelasnica mountain (43.153317°; 18.419928°), which is also not a protected area. Both individuals were photographed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the fact that the individual lynx photographed on Volujak mountain moved from the direction of the Piva Nature Park (Montenegro). Camera traps are still working in the field.

We did not manage to find a DNA sample of a lynx, which was to some extent expected, considering that the best conditions for such finds are snowy conditions. Therefore, this activity will continue, hopefully in December and January.

All other species that live in this area have been recorded, and the most interesting species for the project are the gray wolf, brown bear, chamois, roe deer, and hare, i.e., predator competitors and lynx prey.

Photo documentation:



Figure 1. Education, training and field work of volunteers. Installation of camera-traps and scent baits with hooks for DNA sampling.



Figure 2. Lynx on the mountain Volujak



Figure 3. Lynx on the mountain Bjelasnica.