

Project Update: September 2018

Project activities started as planned, with the collaboration establishment, field activities and equipment purchase planning. Our primary team was expanded because a lot of researchers and artists were interested to join and participate in the fieldwork and the creation of the video material. The following steps for the promotion were taken:

- Designing the visual identity of the project
 - Project logo and t-shirt design: Djordje Vukojević
 - Animation: Novak Jovanović
- Creation of the project website: <http://hiddenserbia.bddsp.org.rs>
- YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNEPoEm47DexvbpICyUHbeg>
- Instagram profile: <https://www.instagram.com/hiddenserbia>



T-shirt and logo. ©Djordje Vukojević

We created our first promotional video, which was premiered at the largest festival in South Serbia “Nisville Jazz Fest” in collaboration with the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia. Audience response was greater than expected and many visitors showed interest in joining our team. The head of the Institutes office in Niš, Mr. Danko Jović, introduced us to the protected area managers and we agreed on further collaboration.

Promotional video is available online at our YouTube channel in 1920 x 1080 full HD resolution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8os8U3cYZI&t=2s>

Original nature animation created by Novak Jovanović is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTIOolz-i-w>

Promotion at the local TV and radio stations was organized as soon as the visual identity was designed.



Promotion at the Nisville Festival

We visited several planned sites for the preliminary scanning of the areas and connecting with the locals and protected area managers: "Krupajsko vrelo", Žagubica; "Dolina potoka Bigar", Knjaževac, Pirot; "Bigrena akumulacija Beli izvorac", Majdanpek; "Bigrena akumulacija kod manastira Tumane", Golubac. After this, fieldwork was organised at the following sites:



Sopotnica waterfalls. ©Dimitrija S.Z.

Fieldwork at the protected area "Slapovi Sopotnice" in collaboration with NIDSB "Josif Pančić" from Novi Sad that organizes a science camp at the area. Our team consisted of Jelena Stanković, Olivera Stamenković and Aca Djurdjević, and me, who did the hydrobiology research; Marko Nikolić, Slobodan Marinković, Milan Ilić, Dunja Ćirić, Miljan Ristić and Djordje Vukojević who did the filming and interviewing. This camp was also attended by the biological society „Dr Sava Petrović" from Niš, and geographical society „Mladen Karaman" from Belgrade. Around 30 people participated in the camp.

Fieldwork at the protected area "Dolina potoka Bigar". We took the chance to organise a field lecture by the protected area managers (JP "Srbijašume") for the members of biological society "Dr Sava Petrović".



Research camp "Stara Planina - Crni Vrh". ©Danilo Penić

We participated in the research camp "Stara Planina - Crni Vrh", organised by the Biological society "Dr. Sava Petrović" form Niš, which was attended by 40 participants. Our team members organised the hydrobiology section, within which we were teaching the participants about the SVAP (Stream Visual Assessment Protocol), RHA (Rapid Habitat Assessments) protocols and principals of determination of MZB groups (macrozoobenthos). We took the chance

to promote our project and interest the people in future collaboration. Within this camp we met with the project leaders of 3 RFSG to discuss possible future collaboration on future conservation actions in South Serbia.



Team members at the Vlasina Lake. ©Marko Nikolić

In September 2018, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia invited us to a field trip to Stara Planina mountain (The Balkan mountains), organized for the revision of one of the largest Protected areas in Serbia.

The field trip was attended by experts of different fields, within which our team member Marko Nikolić and our volunteer Slobodan Marković had the chance to learn about nature filming, research methods and conservation strategies.

Vlasinsko Jezero Lake was visited as a possible additional site for further research and filming. Our team witnessed the closing of the dam at the lake, which happens only once in many years, for the purpose of dam renewal. We filmed the discharge process and discussed with the protected area managers the possible impacts of this procedure on the environment. We were invited by the managers to organize a research camp next year and take part in the monitoring activities at the area.



Devastation of aquatic habitats in Serbia and protests against it. ©Danilo Penić and Marko Nikolić

At the moment there is an enormous pressure on small rivers in Serbia because of hydroelectric plant building. To support the fight against river destruction in Serbia, Aleksandra Trajković, a member of BDDSP wrote an educational text for our website:

<http://hiddenserbia.bddsp.org.rs/mhe-na-zasticenim-podrucjima-u-srbiji/> , and made a call for participation in the largest environmental protest in south Serbia. We took part in the protests and provided t-shirts for participants as a donation from the “Wibbly wobbly” print store.

We are now working on assembling and sorting the obtained data and video material editing.

Follow us and discover more! **#hiddenserbia**

I would like to take the chance to thank the wonderful crew of people who made the idea of "Hidden Serbia" come to life and who are trying to preserve the beauties of our nature from oblivion.

Video editing:	Miroslav Mitić	MMD Studio Niš (https://www.facebook.com/mmdstudio/)
Music and sound:	Nenad Tasić	
Narration:	Bratislav Prolović	
Logo design and animation:	Djordje Vukojević & Novak Jovanović	(http://synezis.com/)
Video material:	Miloš Popović, Marko Nikolić, Milan Marković, Jelena Živković, Dimitrija Savić-Zdravković & Miroslav Mitić	