

## Bees & Greens:

Evidence-based advocacy for pollinator-friendly best management practices in protected areas of the Green Belt in Serbia



### 1. The Challenge

Many important food crops depend on insects to pollinate them. Without pollinators, many plant species would decline and eventually disappear along with the organisms that depend on them, which would have serious ecological, social and economic implications.

*Pollinators are an integral part of healthy ecosystems which are essential for the health and welfare of human society.*

Serbia is an EU accession country with an EU candidate country status. However, it lacks a lot of nature conservation regulation, enforcement practices and citizens' behaviour that would provide high quality of EU membership.

*Protected areas managers do not have national policy framework nor guidelines at local level on how to manage pollination services conservation.*



Butterfly species *Lycaena tityrus* feeding on a flowering plant species *Ranunculus acris*, the locality of the Subotica Sandlands, May aspect.  
Photo credits: Milica Zlatić

### 2. Project Objectives and Results

**Specific objective** of the project is to provide recommendations for protection of pollinators and their important habitats within targeted protected areas (PAs) in Serbia.

**Main results (outputs)** of the project are:

1. conducted desk and field research on pollinator diversity in selected PAs in Serbia;
2. identified main threats and problems for conservation of pollination services identified by relevant local and national stakeholders;
3. prepared evidence-based recommendations for pollinators and their habitat conservation in investigated PAs in Serbia;
4. presented recommendations to relevant local and national decision makers and stakeholders;
5. conducted public campaign on conservation of pollination services on social networks.

### 3. The Approach

In order to achieve project specific objective and results, we have been conducting the following activities:

- WP1 Coordination and management activities;**  
**WP2 Development of evidence-based pollination services conservation and management recommendations:** engagement of experts, conduction of desk and field research, analysis of results, analysis of PA manager capacities and main threats to pollination conservation at respective PAs, preparation of recommendations for best management practices for pollinator conservation in protected areas  
**WP3 Public campaign:** running promotional campaign on social media, preparing user-friendly design of recommendations, organising advocacy meetings with decision-makers and PA managers

**Project duration:** 2022-2024

**Project location:**

Landscapes of outstanding features Upper Danube (Gornje Podunavlje) and Subotica sandlands (Subotička peščara), Nature park Stara mountain (Stara planina)

**The project is implemented by Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals - ORCA**

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**BESTbelt**



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