

### Association Hyla





Association Hyla (former Croatian Herpetological Society - Hyla) is an NGO founded in 1997 by biologists and nature enthusiasts in order to become a platform for conservation of bio- and geodiversity. We also aim to raise public awareness in that regard and to promote sustainable development.









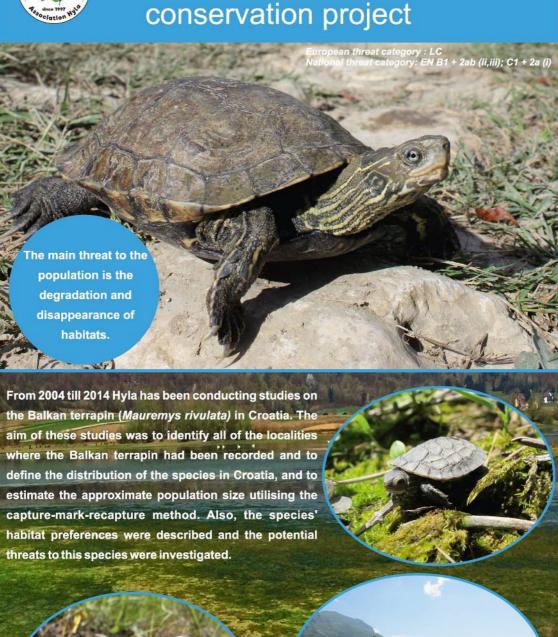




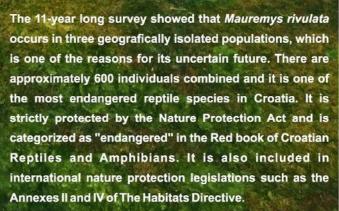




### The Balkan terrapin conservation project



















## Proteus anguinus conservation project



The olm (*Proteus anguinus*) is one of the most evolutionarily distinct amphibian species in the world and the only European cave dwelling vertebrate that can be found in freshwater underground karst habitats.

The distribution of the species stretches over approximately 100 000 km² from Trieste in Italy, through Slovenia and Croatia to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



It can grow to a total body length of 40.6 cm. Growth and development are slow, with adulthood being achieved after 14-18 years. It is the amphibian with the longest life span and can live for more than 60 years. It breathes using gills and through its skin, while in hypoxic conditions it breaths using lungs.

The olm is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Top 50 Evolutionarily Distinct Amphibians EDGE List.















### Reptiles and amphibians of Croatia



Croatia is a small country, with a total land area of 56 538 km² and can be divided into three major biogeographical regions: Continental, Alpine and Mediterranean. The extant flora and fauna of the region is the result of a number of geological, geographical, climatic and biological influences that dominated in the past. The Alpine and Mediterranean regions are particularly rich in flora and fauna, and over the past represented glacial and interglacial refugia for the northern species. For this reason, these regions are recognized as part of one of the world's centres of biodiversity.



Croatia is characterized by a large number of endemic species and subspecies due to its geographic position. With its 59 species of reptiles and amphibians, it is one of the countries with the highest number of amphibian and reptile species in Europe. As much as 67% of the total number of species are reptiles, and most of that number consists of two large families: lizards (20%) and colubrids (20%). Among the amphibians the most numerous are the Ranidae (12%) and Salamandridae (10%) families.











# Lepidoptera survey project



With 197 butterfly species on a land area of just above 56000 km2, Croatia is one of the richest European countries in regards to butterfly diversity. The country is the meeting point of the Continental and Mediterranean biogeographical regions, with elements of the Alpine and Pannonic regions. Although no endemic species occur in the country, several very localised subspecies evolved in Croatia (e.g. *Proterebia afra dalmata*, *Erebia stirius kleki*).





About 3000 species of moths are assumed to occur in Croatia. However, the moth fauna is poorly known, due to the lack of experts, amateurs and continuous moth surveys. Almost every faunistic survey reveals new records for the country, with at least one newly recorded species being published each year.









