



INSTITUTI I POLITIKAVE MJEDISORE
INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Conservation and propagation of the Albanian tulip

FLASH REPORT

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This project is financially supported by Birdlife International, DOPPS, and Agir pour la Biodiversite, through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, in the frame of “Conservation and propagation of the Albanian tulip ” project.

“The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.”

CEPF Web, www.cepf.net



IEP managed to conduct an expedition on the 3rd of May at the *Tulipa albanica* area in Kolsh-Surroj, Kukës area. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it has been impossible to conduct expeditions during April, and this expedition was conducted only after the easing of some restrictions in movement within Albania.

The aim of this field trip was to check the germination of the test areas planted with seeds last September, to conduct searches in other areas for new sub-populations of *Tulipa albanica*, to check for three other endemic plants which are reported to be found in this area, *Dioscorea balcanica*, *Colchicum macedonicum*, and *Epimedium alpinum subsp. Albanicum*, and to check for suitable other areas for *Tulipa albanica* propagation.

Two new smaller groups consisting of 10-30 individuals were found around 500m-800m far from the main population.

High germination was observed in the small test-plots that were planted with seeds in September 2019. This shows that the species can be propagated in other areas to form new small populations, which can guarantee the survival of the species if something goes wrong in the main area where *Tulipa albanica* grows.

During this field trip we managed to find the rare and endemic *Dioscorea balcanica* growing very close to the core area of the *Tulipa albanica* population. 7 individuals of *Dioscorea balcanica* were counted during this field trip.

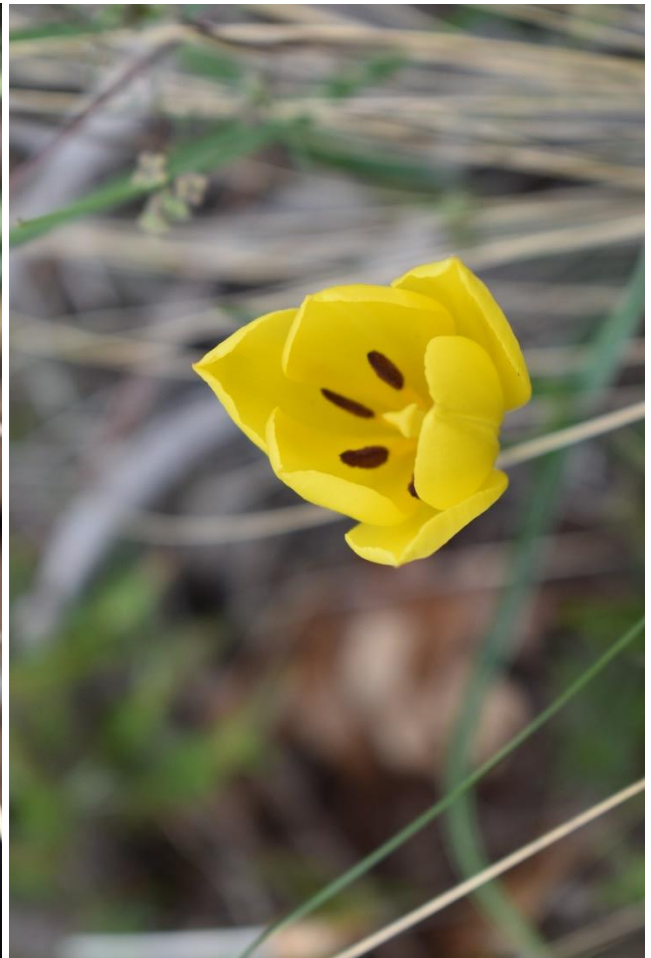
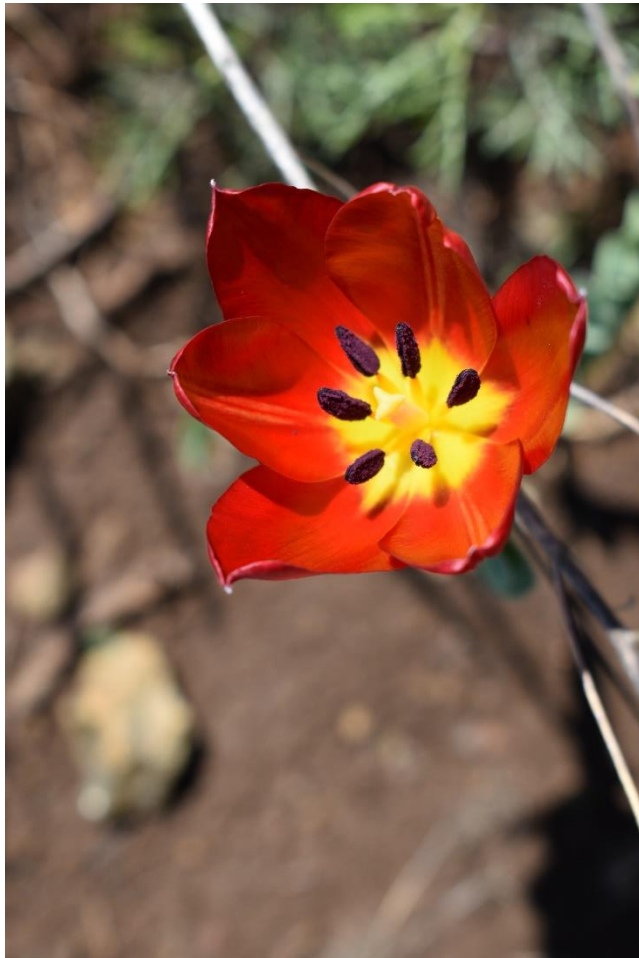
Most of the tulips in blossom observed during this field trip were yellow *Tulipa albanica* variants with few being in blossom from the red variant. The yellow variant blossoms earlier than the red one. The population was partially in blossom, therefore another expedition is planned for the 17th or 24th of May 2020.

We also scouted the area 5 km to the direction of Surroj village to look for individuals or populations of *Tulipa albanica* or other endemic plants. Only 10 individuals of *Tulipa sylvestris* were observed close to Fusharrë village. This species is not endangered in Albania and occurs also in other areas of Albania.

Suitable places were checked for future planting of *Tulipa albanica*. As the border of the Munella proposed National Park will be just 7-8 south of the *Tulipa albanica* area, new potential places for propagation will be checked in the next field trip within the Munella proposed protected area.



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Tulipa albanica with its two variants



Germination of the seeds planted in September 2020. Note the small, grass-like small tulips.



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The rare Dioscorea balcanica found in small numbers in the Tulipa albanica area