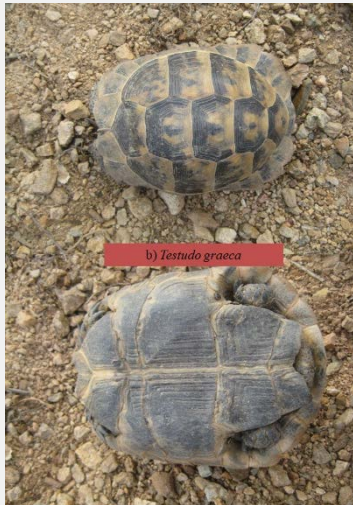


June 2016 saw the start of the monitoring process of the biodiversity status within the scope of the Project for the Mining Complex Kazandol. At the request of SARDICH MC, the monitoring was performed by the qualified biologist Lazar Nikolov. During the investigations, various data on living organisms present on the project territory were collected. The majority of the flora and fauna are found in similar habitats within the southern parts of the Republic of Macedonia.



*Among the various species, there is only one that, according to the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), falls into the category of vulnerable species (Vulnerable - VU), namely the spur-thighed tortoise (or Greek tortoise) (Testudo graeca).*

In order to reduce the impact on this species (Testudo graeca) prior to the start of construction, the Biodiversity Department developed a standard operating procedure that must be followed by employees in SARDICH MC and contractors in the event of discovery of the above named species within the project territory. In accordance with the procedure, upon identification of the Greek tortoise, it must be transferred to another location, outside of the project area.

On 29.09.2016 a training course was held for the employees in SARDICH MC's branch office in Pirava, and on 21.11.2016 a training course was held for the employees of the contractor, FABRIKA KARPOSH, on the biodiversity status within the project area. At the request of SARDICH MC, the training was conducted by Lazar Nikolov, who is responsible for biodiversity monitoring.

**Photo: Training of SARDICH MC's employees**



Photo: Training of FABRIKA KARPOSH's employees



The training involved several aspects:

- ✓ **D**escription of the territory
- ✓ **D**escription of the procedure for determining the biodiversity status on the territory
- ✓ **D**escription of the habitat types within the project area
- ✓ **P**resentation of fieldwork results
- ✓ **P**resentation of the threatened species (Greek tortoise)
- ✓ **D**escription of the algorithm of the standard operating procedure for reducing the impact on the Greek tortoise

