

Factsheet A.4.1 Sap (Slovakia, SK032)

Location: left bank of the Danube at river km 1807,6 - 1806,9

Responsible Partner: BROZ

Background: In the past decades, intense forestry took place in this project area. The location is dominated by hybrid poplar plantations, including also problems with invasive (tree) species. This forestry practice causes negative effects on biodiversity and result in the loss of characteristic species of floodplain forests. Keeping the hybrid poplar plantations without any management is usually leading to their step by step replacement by invasive species. Native trees species have limited possibilities to spread due to the overall lack of mature trees in the (surrounding) area.

Ownership of the area is mostly public but also private. Private land owners will be targeted with land purchase (see LIFE WILDIsland Act. B.1).



Based on this dynamization of the area (C.2.2), LIFE WILDIsland aims to restore the floodplain forest which today is dominated by plantations in poor ecological status.

Objectives:

- The restoration action creates “disturbance” of the soil for natural forest rejuvenation on 7 ha.
- 12 ha of the area area will be renewed by planting native tree species (e.g. domestic poplars (*Populus nigra*,) and willows (*Salix alba*, *Salix fragilis*), oak, ash, grey alder, etc.).
- Transformation of a hybrid poplar stands. Diversification of forest stands structure and species composition.

Methodology:

Removal of non-native trees species, including hybrid poplars (selected trees will be left for shading and future dead wood). Planting native tree species (e.g. domestic poplars, willows, oak, ash, elm, grey alder, etc.) will occur in areas where natural rejuvenation will not succeed.

Monitoring of vegetation, including the initial coverage rate of invasive tree species in the project area, the composition of the 91E0* forests concerned and the results of field works carried out during the project.