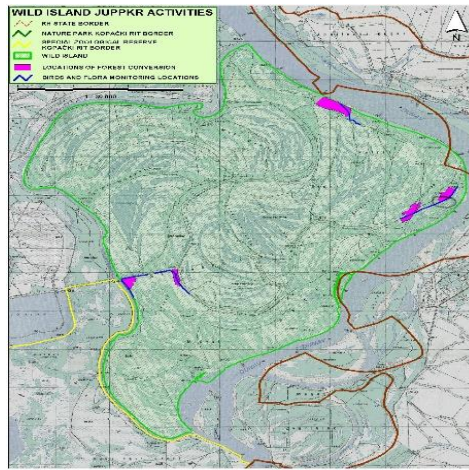


Factsheet : Action 4.8. for 91E0* restoration on 37.01ha HR21, Nature Park Kopački rit & Hrvatske Šume, Croatia

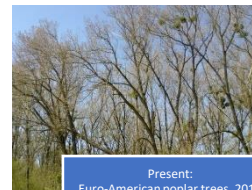
Location: right bank of the Danube at river km 1410km - 1390 km

Responsible Partner: Croatian forests Ltd. Zagreb

Background: Forests and wildlife in the area marked on the map are determined by flooding the Danube River. The Danube flooding regime is vital in the project's area. The height and duration of retention of floodwaters condition the appearance of individual plant communities and the surface area they occupy. This regime determines the overall rhythm of life of flora and fauna in this area. Danube islands have optimal conditions for softwood forest and its rejuvenation. Due to human intervention in the past (planting Euro-American poplar plantation) and invasive alien species, these natural riparian forests are endangered (see photo below).

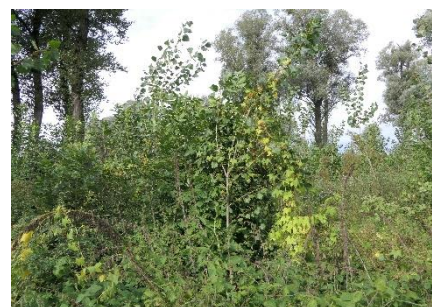


Wanted:
Black poplar seedlings



Present:
Euro-American poplar trees, 2019.

Objective: Croatian Forests Ltd. aims to restore the island of Danube. Flood forests on Danube islands do not meet the qualifications for 91E0* sites. The goal is to turn 37,01 ha of the foreign, vitally weakened Euro-American poplar monoculture into a mixed forest of native species (poplar and willow). Converting the existing poplar plantation into stable mixed forests of autochthone species will increase the resilience of the forest ecosystem to biotic and abiotic factors, increase ecological value and general beneficial forest functions and increase biodiversity. According to environmental assumptions, invasive species will be removed mechanically (manually and by machine) as long as seedlings grow strong enough to overcome invasive species (which is, depending on site conditions, approximately 3 - 5 years). The tree layer of invasive flora is dominated by *Acer negundo* L., *Ailanthus altissima* Mill. Swingle), *Robinia pseudoacacia* L. and *Fraxinus americana* L. Also invasive species are mostly heliophytes and will not have good conditions for development under the canopy of a mixed indigenous forest.





Black poplar seedlings occupied by invasive species *Echinocystis lobata* (Michx.) Torr. et A. Gray and *Fraxinus americana* L.

More facts about sustainability:

1. The exact implementation of the Forest Management Plan, which is also a plan for managing the Ecological Network will ensure the sustainability of the project. According to the Croatian Forest Act FMP has to be every 10 years approved by the Min. competent for forestry. Croatian Forests Ltd., owned by the State, develops FMPs whose implementation is regularly controlled by forest inspection.
2. The partners involved in the project agreed and signed the Partnership agreement regulating their roles, duties, and responsibilities. After project implementation, the Croatian Forests Ltd. and the JU PPKR will be the operator of the area developed under the project and will ensure the durability of the project. The overall eligibility of the project components has been verified, confirmed, and accepted by the national authorities. The project will have a positive influence on the overall economy and environment of the region, as well as on the improvement of the quality of life of the people in the region. The project will have a clear positive contribution to sustainable socio-economic development by protecting natural resources, biodiversity increase, and monitoring of achieved results. The obligations for area revitalization are clearly defined. The project reforested area belongs to Croatian Forests Ltd. and the company budget has provisions for efficient and sustainable operation of the project assets. The applied legal and financial measures will ensure the durability of the project's outputs and results.