

Factsheet A.4.3: Erebe islands (Hungary, HU159, HU230, HU232, HU233, HU234)

Location: right bank of the Danube at river km 1790-1786

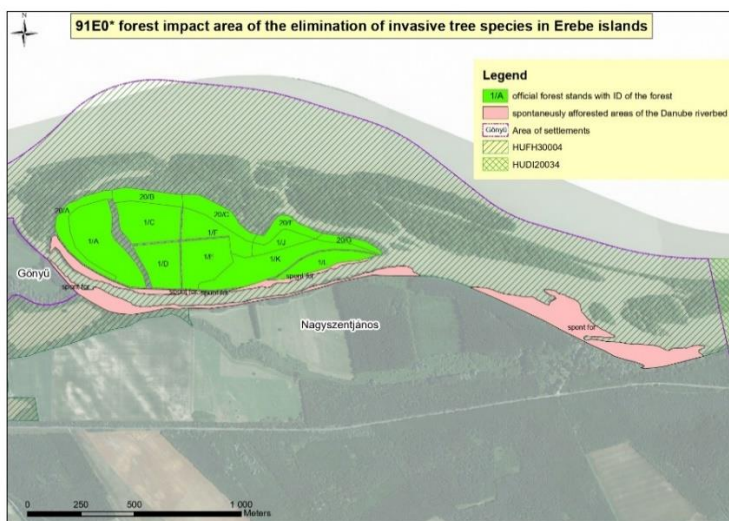
Responsible Partner: Fertő-Hanság National Park Directorate (FHNPD)

Proposed action: Elimination of invasive tree species in the Erebe islands area

Background:

The total area is 59,91 hectares of 91E0* forests. These forests are partly managed by the FHNPD, by the Kisalföldi Forestry Corporation (KAEG Zrt.) as well as by the Észak-Dunántúli Water Management Directorate (EDUVIZIG).

The habitat quality of 91E0* sites in this area are strongly negatively impacted by invasive alien species, in particular by *Acer negundo*, which has an average coverage of 15-30% at this location. Natural rejuvenation of the native flood plain forest is endangered, management is needed to counteract.



Following 91E0* forests are under management of FHNPD: number 20/A, 20/B, 20/C, 20/F, 20/G (green zone)

KAEG Zrt manages the number 1/A, 1/C, 1/D, 1/E, 1/F, 1/J, 1/K, 1/L (also shown in green).

All areas in the Danube riverbed, spontaneously afforested 91E0* sites, are managed by EDUVIZIG (pink colour on the map).

Methodology:

- Elimination of invasive tree species (*Acer negundo*) from the entire area covering 59,91 ha, primarily implemented by mechanical measures. If necessary, follow-up treatments will be done by applying biological technology with *Chondrostereum* fungi. The use of this biological material can be done only as pilot action, because the *Chondrostereum* fungi is not used in Hungary yet.



Thus, very strong control is needed, including continuous monitoring of the effects, to be done in close cooperation with the representatives of the Hungarian forestry scientific sector and forestry authorities. In case of positive experiences with this biological methodology, this pilot action could result into an officially licenced process in Hungary.

- Planting of native willow shrubs in the place where *Acer negundo* trees has been cut, especially on areas close to the Danube banks: the fast-growing willow shrubs will not give enough space for potentially re-growing of *Acer negundo* trees.

Objective:

This action aims to have the total area free of any *Acer negundo* which is higher than five meters and over 5 centimeters of diameter at the end of the project.

Together with the large-scale dynamization and the hydrological improvement of the Erebe islands (implementation of river restoration C.2.4), high valuable sites for 91E0* will be restored.

Pre- and post-monitoring of the vegetation - including the initial coverage rate of invasive tree species and the composition of the 91E0* forests - takes place during project period, to demonstrate the effects of the restoration action. After project closure, it will be continued to monitor the maintenance work and the long-term effects.