

Factsheet A.4.2 Kližská Nemá (Slovakia, SK040)

Location: left bank of the Danube at river km 1790,7- 1791,2

Responsible Partner: BROZ

Background: Ownership of the area is mostly private. Private land owners will be targeted with land purchase (see LIFE WILDIsland Act. B.1). Part of the area is already currently owned by BROZ.

In the past decades, intense forestry took place in the project area, and as already stressed for Act. 4.2.1, both locations are dominated by hybrid poplar plantations, including also problems with invasive (tree) species, including negative effect on biodiversity like 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.



Today, hybrid poplar plantations are dominating forest structure in the area. LIFE WILDIsland will restore 91E0 stands, to improve ecosystem services and biodiversity.*

Objectives:

- The main objective is the dynamization of the landscape, to initiate river dynamic processes and to create a dynamic riverine landscape with high value for 91E0* habitats.
- With restoration actions, the disturbance of the soil will initiate forest rejuvenation on 3 ha.
- 8 ha of the area will be renewed by planting native tree species: domestic poplars (*Populus nigra*, *P. x. canescens*, willows (*Salix alba*, *S. 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 tree species, including hybrid poplars. “Disturbed” areas will be checked for natural rejuvenation of native trees. 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. Selected trees will be left for shading and future dead wood. Planting native tree species.
- 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.



The homogenous plantations will be restored and replaced by a diverse and natural soft wood forest. The river restoration action in this area (C.2.3) improves the hydrology and morphological conditions in the area, to support the rehabilitation of 91E0.*