Factsheet A.4.4: Véneki islands **(Hungary, HU166, HU154, HU155)**

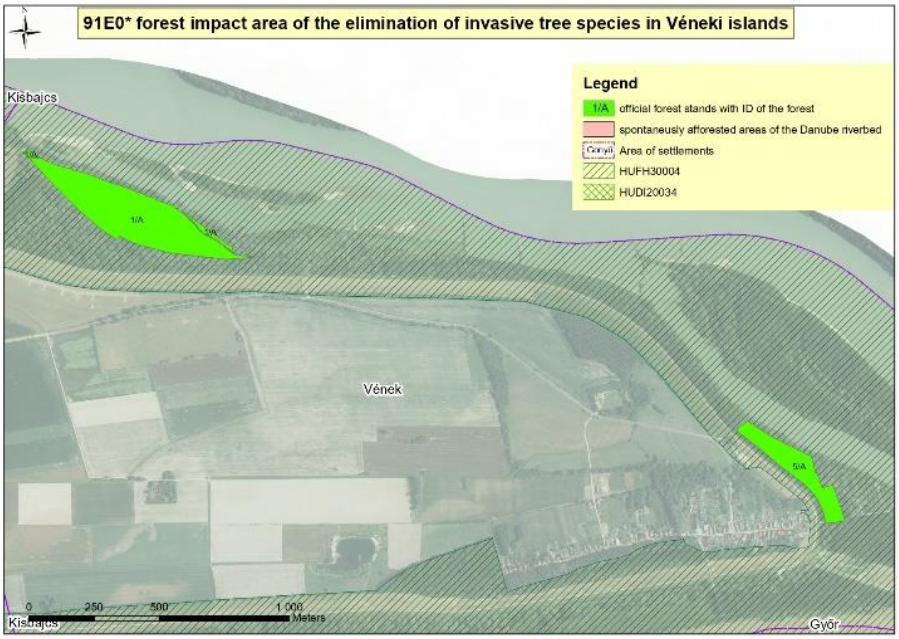
Location: right bank of the Danube at river km 1799 – 1795

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

Proposed action: Elimination of invasive tree species (IAS) in the Véneki islands area

Background:

The total action area covers 14,97 hectares, from which 11,16 hectares 91F0 forests are managed by Kisalföldi Forestry Corporation (KAEG Zrt.) and 3,81 hectares 91E0* forests are managed by the Észak-Dunántúli Water Management Directorate (EDUVIZIG). The target invasive species of this project action is mainly *Acer negundo,* which has a total average rate of coverage of 15-40%. The site of this project action is situated directly on the Danube river bank. The elimination of IAS on this site is crucial to improve the habitat conditions, to ensure natural rejuvenation of 91E0* habitats, and also to interrupt and to stop the spreading of *Acer negundo* to the nearby Véneki-islands' 91E0* forests.



The 11,96 hectares of 91F0 forests are managed by the KAEG Zrt: 1/A

*The 3,81 hectares 91E0*forests are managed by EDUVIZIG: 5/A*

Methodology:

- The elimination of invasive tree species (in particular *Acer negundo*) from the entire 14,97 hectares area is primarily implemented by mechanical measures. If it is necessary, follow-up treatments will be done including biological technology with Chondrostereum fungi. This biological methodology is of pilot character for Hungary and, consequently, has to be done in close cooperation with the representatives of the Hungarian forestry scientific sector and forestry authorities. As Chondrostereum fungi is not used in Hungary yet to counteract the effects of IAS, a very strong control and intense and continuous monitoring of the effects of the fungi has to be done and is ensured within LIFE WILDisland. Positive findings and positive experiences could result in the establishment of this method in Hungary, as follow-up of this pilot action.
- Planting of native willow shrubs will take place in the locations where *Acer negundo* trees were cut, especially on the areas where the forests meets with the Danube water. The fast growth of willows will not give enough spaces for potentially re-growing Acer negundo trees.

Objective:

After the LIFE WILDisland action, in the forest layer above five meters in height, all *Acer negundo* will be eliminated, and there will be no *Acer negundo* any more in the area with a diameter >5 centimeters.

Pre- and post-monitoring of vegetation, including the initial coverage rate of invasive tree species in the project area and the composition of the 91E0* forests concerned, will demonstrate and prove the effects and results of the field work carried out during the project and in the follow-up periods after project closure, too.