



LESY Slovenskej republiky, š. p., generálne riaditeľstvo
Námestie SNP č. 8, 975 66 Banská Bystrica



Európsky fond regionálneho rozvoja
Budujeme partnerstvá

PRESS REPORT

State foresters have launched a project for renovation of natural forests

- **LESY SR, štátny podnik (state enterprise) is starting to continue in a successful project focused on renovation of natural forests in Štiavnické vrchy, Krupinská planina and Hungarian Börzsöny and Cserhát mountain range.**

LESY Slovenskej republiky, štátny podnik together with Hungarian foresters from IPOLY ERDŐ Zrt. started a two-year cross-boundary project called „Common assistance to natural forests“. As part of the project the partners will stabilise endangered cross-boundary homogenized and same-age forests and will transfer them into original, various-in-type, heterogenous and different-age forests. Besides this they will promote places of project execution by way of compete building of tourist infrastructure in the area of Počúvadlo and in Hungarian Romhány and this way they will increase the attractiveness and visit-rate of the region. Expected budget of the project represents a financial amount of 778 106.52 € (from this amount for LESY SR, š. p. a financial sum of 366 782,32 €) and 85 % of the budget (661 390,54 €) will be provided to partners from the European Regional Development Fund.

The primary objective of the forest management and LESY SR state enterprise lies in permanently sustainable management of forests in order to preserve the characteristics of forest ecosystem in the respective are through its ecological stability. This mainly concerns preservation of the soil characteristics, structure and dynamics of forest ecosystems, which will provide for continuous fulfilment of all functions of the forest.

The project „Common assistance to natural forests” in the area of Štiavnické vrchy and Krupinská planina, but also in the Hungarian forests of Börzsöny and Cserhát mountain range by way of transformation of damaged and abandoned forests by silvicultural interventions preservation and development of forest sources shall be provided. *„The main purposes of the project lies in increasing of attractiveness of the border natural area by way of increasing the visit rate through renovation of natural values. This can be achieved through continuous sustainable management of forests by way of stabilization of endangered same-age homogenous forests and their transformation into heterogenous forests comprising of various natural types of wood pulps so that they shall comply with all functions of forests for various target groups“*, Marian Staník, the Director General of LESY SR štátny podnik defines.

With regard to original composition of the forest on the territory of Štiavnické vrchy and Krupinská planina representation of main deciduous species (oak, beech) has significantly decreased. High number of hoofed game which have at these areas ideal conditions for their living cause continuous damage of young forests by way of nibbling and snapping off. At some places some oak and beech growth are damaged in such extent that they started to be overgrown

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by hornbeam, acatia and ash tree. However, there is the potential for renovation of original forest species there, as there is a good quality ecotype of oak and beech in the respective area.

„Our objective lies in growing and protecting the stability, power and efficiency of natural forests; stabilise homogenous and even-aged endangered forest species and transfer them gradually into mixed rich-in-species, differentiated by height and thickness and ecologically mores table forest species“, Marian Staník, the Director General of LESY SR štátny podnik explains.

As part of planned measures on four forest administrations in Štiavnické vrchy and Krupinská planina cutting out of grass / weed shall be performed on 109.32 hectare area through which about 776 600 pcs of young trees will be protected, on area of 189.95 ha about 950 000 pcs of species will be protected against game / animals by repellents, netting fences will be constructed in total of 12 475 m length through which an area of 32.84 ha of young forests will be protected. Wooden fences of 12 890 m length within 52.40 ha area. Old and already not required fences will be removed and disposed of in a 28 200 m length at 67,79 ha area. 362 300 pcs of shrubs at 126.67 ha area will be cut out. 1 087 400 pcs of weed tree species and undesirable species will be removed at an area of 306.08 ha. This way the health condition of ecologically stable and biologically diversified forest ecosystems will improve as the main prerequisite of sustainable management.

The project also includes renovation of forest educational path Počúvadlo – Lipová locality. The aim of the forest educational path reconstruction is focused on providing information to the visitors of this locality and increase number of interesting places, number of offered programmes. It also creates conditions for free time activities of visitors of this attractive area with natural forests.

On the Hungarian side, in the forests under cultivation and management of IPOLY ERDŐ Zrt., invasive types have spread (acatia, ailanthus, fallopian japonica) in such extent that the original types of forest species and communities created by them can't be renewed by natural way. Besides this a playground for children in the area of Romhány has been built in order to increase the visit rate of the region.

The result of the complete project shall represent protection and renovation of biotopes, revitalization of actual condition of delimitated areas, creation of natural communities, their preservation, provision of conditions for reproduction of original wooden species at the area exceeding 1 000 ha. Similarly as part of the project a 3.8 km (2.3 + 1.5 km) long „green path“ shall be created. By way of mutual promotion the visit rate shall increase within the concerned area (annually for 3.000 persons). LESY SR, š. p. and IPOLY ERDŐ Zrt. As partners shall, through the project, preserve and promote natural values of the boundary area for people living in that area as well as for visitors.

The project „Common assistance to natural forests“ represents the third successful project of LESY SR štátny podnik as part of the INTERREG V-A Slovak Republic – Hungary partnership programme in

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which Slovak and Hungarian foresters have participated. Total budget of the project represents 778 106,52 EUR, from which 661 390,54 EUR comes from sources of EFRR, 80 037,74 EUR from the state budget and 36 678,24 EUR represents own co-financing of the project partners.

The project is co-financed by the European Union from funds of the European Regional Development Fund. The content of this report does not represent an official statement of the European Union“.

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