

## LIFE Project Abstract

1. **Sub-programme:** LIFE Nature and Biodiversity
2. **Sector:** Biodiversity
3. **Member State of the coordinating beneficiary:** Hungary
4. **Expected duration:** 5 years (2018. 07.03. - 2023. 07.01.)
5. **Coordinating beneficiary:** Mecsekerdő Zrt.
6. **Associated beneficiaries:** Eszterházy Károly University, SM Consulting Ltd., Matyas Wood Dealer and Carrier Ltd., State Enterprise Forests of the Slovak Republic Banská Bystrica
7. **Expected total project budget – EU financial contribution requested:** 2,7 million EUR – 1,6 million EUR
8. **Short summary of the project:** 89% of forest areas managed by Mecsekerdő Zrt. are occupied by forest stocks of indigenous species. The native forests are located in larger forest blocks (Mecsek, Zselic, Ormánság). This status is unfortunately endangered and we can say that it cannot survive by itself. The problem is complex: due to climate change, the health status of forests is deteriorating, new pathogens are emerging, an increasingly hectic breeding distribution and an accelerating expansion of invasive plant species can be observed. The deepening of the riverbed on the Dráva Plain further aggravates the situation. In order to preserve native forest associations (mainly that of oak trees), it is necessary to reduce the number of invasive trees in the woods, improve the water supply of the forests and to preserve/increase the water resources of the Drava Plain. As proper monitoring is crucial to be effective, it is important to apply modern airborne LIDAR technologies. The know-how of eradication of invasive alien species would be transferred to Slovakia, where a sample area would be designated for applying the Hungarian technology.
9. **Main project goal:** The aim of the project is to promote the reconstruction of native forests by reducing the number of invasive species, in line with the provisions of Regulation No. 1143/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and by the hydropower of the Drava Plain and by means of aerial LIDAR technology for monitoring the forest renewal.
10. **EU and Hungarian legislation background:**
  - Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species
  - Government Decree No. 408/2016. (XII. 13.) on the prevention and management of the introduction or introduction and spread of invasive invasive species
  - Council Decision 93/626/EEC of 25 October 1993 concerning the conclusion of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- Council Decision 82/72/EEC of 3 December 1981 concerning the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

**10. Projects whose results the project is planned to be built on:**

- Protection of the English oak in the cross-border area (INTERREG Interreg V-A HU-HR Co-operation Programme 2014-2020 HU-HR Joint Secretariat Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit LLC (Reference number of the CfP: HUHR/1601/2.2.1/0002)
- Restoring Ecological Diversity of Forests with Airborne Imaging Technologies (INTERREG Interreg V-A HU-HR Co-operation Programme 2014-2020 HU-HR Joint Secretariat Széchenyi Programme Office Nonprofit LLC (Reference number of the CfP: HUHR/1601/2.2.1/0004)
- „Preservation of the Bánát peony, complex habitat protection in the Eastern Mecsek Landscape Protection Area and its immediate surroundings" (Environment and Energy Operational Programme – reference number: 3.1.2/1F-2008)
- LIFE Biodiscoveries
- LifeTicinoBiosource
- LIFE IAP – RISK
- INSPECTED.NET (H2020)
- Effective Management of Pests and Harmful Alien Species (H2020)