

## CASE STUDY CZ-3

### RESTORATION OF FOREST: GUIDED SUCCESSION (CZECH REPUBLIC)

#### BRIEF PROFILE OF THE CASE STUDY

- The case study area « **Nový prales** » is located in Ještěd ridge, the region of Liberec, North Bohemia. Forest covers 44,2% of the total area of the Liberec region of Liberec. Natural species structure of the forest has been historically changed into **mostly coniferous with a predominance of spruce**. There is still **very high defoliation** due to past pollution and subsequent **low stability of forests**. Recently, **climatic excesses and infestation of bark beetles have also a negative influence**.
- The NGO Čmelák (form of land trust) coordinates the collective action, raises funds from public resources and motivates public and potential donors to support biodiversity of forest (by financial donations or in kind – e.g. by work).
- The **process of conversion of a commercial forest to a semi-natural forest** consists of cutting some old spruces, planting different species of trees, protecting them, letting old trees to die and educating the public.
- Environmental and social benefits provided: **increasing species biodiversity, ecological stability, and landscape attractiveness**.



#### KEY FACTORS IMPACTING THE PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

- **Governance system:** the leader is the NGO, operating under national policy rules (e.g. the Forest law)
- The key drivers are national **public policy tools** focused on environment, forest restoration and support of non-governmental organisations, support for environmental education, private financial support – both individual and company (jointly with good public relations); no market driver was identified but one can be (partly) considered: selling of timber from removed trees.
- Common aim of all actors is **increasing species biodiversity, ecological stability, and landscape attractiveness**. Conflicting interests are between the NGO Čmelák and foresters, and the hunters, who fail to reduce numbers of deer, destroying tree seedlings. It was necessary to introduce new rules on national level to contribute to the solution on the local level.



#### EMERGING FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- The main institutional change is the **property rights change** – NGO bought the forest land in order first to **get right for the conversion of the forest** (in compliance with the Forest Law) and second to **build trust and reputation** (also through transparency) in order to get support from general public to raise funds.
- The greatest recent task is **how to ensure economical sustainability of the project activities**, which is dependent also on finding an **optimal compromise between “pure” ecological and non-profitable character of the organization and a need of ensuring the long-term viability of the organization**. There is a need to assist to the process with **long term professional management**.

