

Name of the place:			
Męcikał forest – restored community forest			
Basic information			
Cadastral zone	Męcikał village, Brusy commune, Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland		
Land register reference	220202_5.0015.276/74		
Owner	Las na Zawsze Foundation		
Contact	www.lasnazawsze.org.pl		
Latitude GPS	53.808473, 17.682948		
Area	3,8 ha		
Altitude	132 m above sea level		
Description of wider relations			
Growing culture	Remains of a pine forest.		
The nature of the land	Forest degraded after a hurricane in 2017. Tree stumps and other remains, a large amount of dead wood with only a few pine trees left.		
Current use	Private forest land, no trees	Comm.:	
Water or water source	Water canal in the nearby surroundings, as well as two lakes: the Rytosice Lake and the Moczadło Lake		
Territorial relations	Private forest land of the Las Na Zawsze Foundation		
Forest management plan (FMP)	n/a	Valid through	n/a
Age: in %	Deciduous trees and shrubs	Up to 5 years old	x
	Young seedlings that do not need to be watered after planting as well as self-sown plants		

Biota – forest cover and its inhabitants

Vegetation as from resources			state
Phytocenology	Pine forest land after hurricane, almost no trees, typical mixed coniferous forest land		
Original natural vegetation	Pine forest		
Potential natural vegetation	birch (<i>Betula</i>), beech (<i>Fagus</i>), oak (<i>Quercus</i>), spruce (<i>Picea</i>), hornbeam (<i>Caprinus</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus</i>), linden (<i>Tilia</i>)		
Forest stand: in %	Tree layer:	oak (<i>Quercus</i>), hornbeam (<i>Caprinus</i>),	

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		linden (<i>Tilia</i>), rowan (<i>Sorbus</i>), birch (<i>Betula</i>)	
	Shrub layer:	hawthorn (<i>Crataegus</i>), broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>), blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), sea buckthorn (<i>Hippophaë</i>), rowan (<i>Sorbus</i>)	
	Herb layer (description):	heathers (<i>Calluna</i>), blueberries (<i>Vaccinium</i>)	
Fauna – remarkable, known-but-not-seen			state
Vertebrates	roe deer (<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>), fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>), European badger (<i>Meles meles</i>)		
Insects	ticks (<i>Ixodida</i>), ants (<i>Formicidae</i>), wasps (<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>), ladybugs (<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>), dung beetle species (<i>Anoplotrupes stercorosus</i> and <i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>)		
	Snails (<i>Gastropoda</i>) - presumed common species of the middle Europe forests		

Forest as a cultural aspect of the landscape

PAST

Culture

What has influenced the forest so far, is it somehow connected with the culture of the surrounding environment, is it part of the cultural development of the landscape?

- A hurricane in 2017 which completely destroyed over 10 000 ha of forest in the Pomeranian Voivodship.
- Because of the hurricane, over 99% of trees on this land were destroyed, and only few pines were left standing

Civilization

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What is the relationship between the forest and civilization now, how does the civilization reflect on its state and development?	The Pomeranian Voivodeship is one of the most forested voivodeships in Poland, with the most common type of forest in the area being pine forests. As such, people who live there often live close to forest land. Furthermore, timber economy is a very important part of the region development.	
Story		
Origin of the relation	This area used to be a state managed forest, populated mostly by pine trees. After the hurricane in 2017, the forest was completely devastated. This plot was then sold to the Foundation for the purpose of reforestation and to give the forest back to people.	
PRESENT		
The Foundation's mission is to restore a working forest system at the site. As there is already forest soil there, all that is really needed is to restore the forest and ensure biodiversity, which, unlike monocultures, will protect the forest from collapse under strong winds.		Notes and questions
Natural side of present development		
	<p>Poor quality, soil - sand</p> <p>Seedlings introduced:</p> <p>North Dominant species: Sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) (2100) Supplemental species: Small-leaved linden (<i>Tilia cordata</i>) (400), rowan (<i>Sorbus</i>) (100)</p> <p>South Dominant species: European hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus</i>) (600) Supplemental species: Common hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) (200), rowan (<i>Sorbus</i>) (100)</p> <p>Shrubs (150)</p>	
Threats and limits		
	Roe deer may prevent young seedlings from growing by damaging or eating them.	
FUTURE		

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A community forest with a therapeutical aspect. There are plans to restore biodiversity in this region of Bory Tucholskie, particularly considering the 2017 catastrophe.		Notes and questions
Natural side of future development		
	The forest system and biodiversity will be restored.	
	The water level will be regulated.	
Threats and limits		
	The deer that might damage the seedlings.	
	Lack of understanding from people on the importance of reforesting the area; illegal logging (for firewood) might occur.	
Intention of the forest activities		
Expectations	Restoration of the forest system and biodiversity, water level regulation, restoration of recreational areas for the local community.	
What will my forest provide to people	The forest will provide recreational space for the local community – walking trails and space for practicing outdoor sports. Additionally, the restored biodiversity will enrich the region.	
Plan – in 10 years	Young forest conservation and the monitoring thereof, creation of forest trails.	
Plan – in 100 years	Protecting the mature forest from logging and the monitoring thereof.	
Who do we need to reach the goal?	We need the local communities to support the Foundation in looking after the area.	
Proposals and steps		
What	Legend	Who
Measuring the land	Measure the forest land so that an appropriate number of seedlings can be prepared.	Landowner
Planting of seedlings	Prepare the land and plant tree and shrub seedlings.	Landowner
Fencing	Fence the area for 5 years to protect the tips of the seedlings from being damaged by animals.	Landowner
Removing the fences	Remove the fences to connect the area with the surroundings, giving back the forest to nature and local people.	Landowner

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Preparing paths	Prepare the paths and signs for local people, so that they can use this area for recreation.	Landowner
Monitoring	Monitor how the forest is doing and if any work is needed to ensure its wellbeing.	Landowner

Monitoring the development

Time		
05.2021	Measuring the land	
11.2021	Planting the seedlings	
12.2021	Fencing	
04.2026	Removing the fences	
05.2026	Creating paths	

Inspiration

Literature		what
Heard around	Dominika Zub	
Meetings	05.2021	
Discussions within the project team	10.2022	