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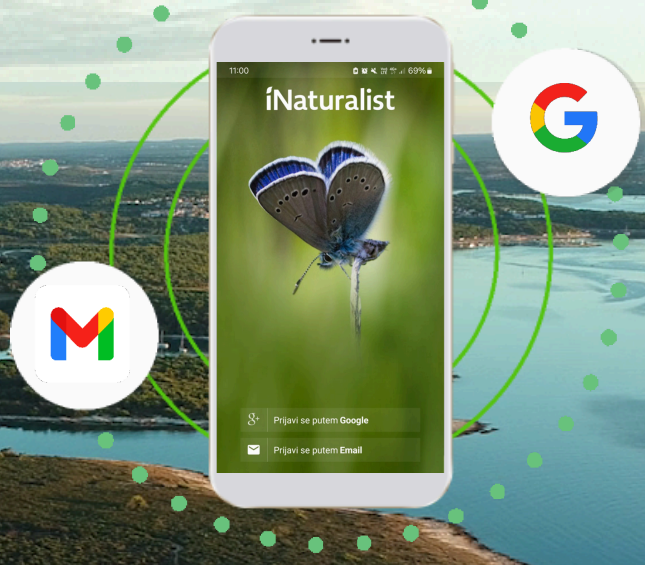
HUMANITA

Using iNaturalist for Monitoring Invasive Species

Invasive Plants in Focus: A Guide to Participation in Lower Kamenja

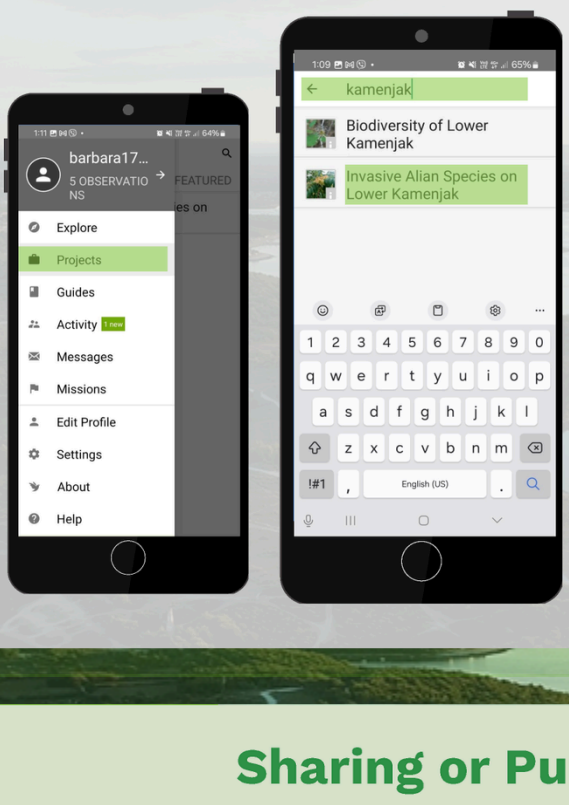
Kamenjak
JAVNA USTANOVA KAMENJAK

1. Installing iNaturalist on Your Smartphone



You can also access iNaturalist through a web browser at https://www.inaturalist.org/

Searching for Invasive Species



In the app's main menu, select the "**Projects**" option.

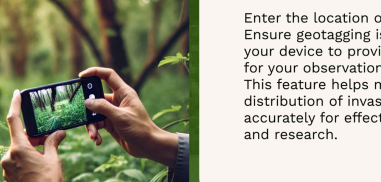
Type "**Kamenjak**" or species of interest in the search bar.

Filter results by location to focus on the **Lower Kamenjak area**.

Sharing or Publish Observations

If you notice any invasive species, you can document them:

1. Select the "Observe" option.
2. Choose the species (you can search for it) or mark it as "unknown" if you're unsure.
3. Take a photo of the plant (or animal) and add a description. Add one or more photos as evidence.
4. Where you saw it should be added automatically. If this doesn't happen, check app permissions in the Settings app.



Taking Photos and Identifying Plants

Documenting invasive plant species is essential.
Add one or more photos as evidence.
Use your smartphone to take clear photos along the trails, then identify the species using AI suggestions or your own knowledge for accuracy.

Geotagging Your Observations

Enter the location of your observation.
Ensure geotagging is activated on your device to provide location data for your observations.
This feature helps map the distribution of invasive species accurately for effective monitoring and research.

Interacting with the Community

Comment and ask questions about observations made by other users.

Participate in discussions about invasive species and their impacts on the Lower Kamenjak ecosystem.

Notifications and Education

Follow projects or groups focused on invasive species to receive notifications about new observations and events.

Utilize the resources and guides available within the app for additional information on identifying invasive species.

Spatial distribution of invasive species in the area of the significant landscape of Lower Kamenjak and the Medulin Archipelago

List of foreign invasive species:

1. Ailanthus altissima
2. Aster squamatus
3. Carpobrotus acinaciformis
4. Conyza canadensis
5. Phylostachys sp.
6. Robinia pseudoacacia Linnaeus

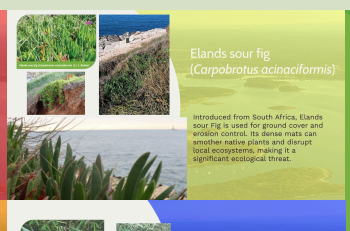
Source: Public Institution for the Management of Protected Natural Values in the Area of the Municipality of Medulin "Kamenjak" Active Monitoring and Removal of Invasive Species in 2021. Report -Premantura, December 2021

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Originating from China, the Tree of Heaven was introduced to Europe in the 18th century. It thrives in disturbed urban areas and can dominate native vegetation, producing allelopathic chemicals that inhibit nearby plants' growth.

Squamated Aster (*Aster squamatus*)

Native to North America, Squamated Aster has spread widely as an ornamental plant. It prefers open fields and roadside areas, competing vigorously with native species for resources, thus reducing local biodiversity.



Elands sour fig (*Carpobrotus acinaciformis*)

Introduced from South Africa, Elands sour Fig is used for ground cover and erosion control. Its dense mats can smother native plants and disrupt local ecosystems, making it a significant ecological threat.

Horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*)

Originating in North America, Horseweed has naturalized across Europe and other continents. It thrives in disturbed soils and exhibits rapid growth, outcompeting native plants and reducing biodiversity.

Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia Linnaeus*)

Black Locust, introduced from North America to Europe in the 17th century, thrives in sunny, disturbed areas. Its rapid growth and ability to fix nitrogen give it an advantage over native plants, promoting further invasiveness.

Bamboo (*Phyllostachys sp.*)

Various species of Bamboo, originally from Asia, are cultivated worldwide for ornamental and practical purposes. Its aggressive underground rhizome spread can alter habitats and compete effectively with native flora.

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN LOWER KAMENJAK

We look for and monitor invasive alien species in the area of Lower Kamenjak and the Medulin Archipelago.

Join us!

How?

- Install the iNaturalist app.
- Find an invasive species in Lower Kamenjak.