

ALIEN AND INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN LOWER KAMENJAK

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

Join us!

How?

- Install the iNaturalist app.
- Find an alien or invasive alien species in Lower Kamenjak.
- Take a photo and upload it to the Alien Species in Lower Kamenjak project.
- By reporting invasive species, you become a part of our extensive community of iNaturalist explorers.

What are alien and invasive alien species?

Alien and invasive alien species are organisms that have been introduced - either intentionally or accidentally - into ecosystems that they do not naturally inhabit, often as a result of human activities. Invasive alien species tend to grow and reproduce rapidly, then spread easily, impacting negatively on local biodiversity, the economy and human health.



Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia* Linnaeus)

Which alien and invasive alien species can be found in the protected landscape of Lower Kamenjak?

The area of significant landscape of Lower Kamenjak and the Medulin Archipelago is an example of well-preserved biodiversity, but at the same time it faces the threat of invasive species. Overall, 5 alien and 1 invasive alien species (Tree of heaven) have been found in the Lower Kamenjak and the Medulin Archipelago area of significant landscape.



Bamboo (*Phyllostachys* sp.)

How can invasive alien species affect biodiversity?

Because of their rapid spread, invasive alien species squeeze out native plant species, and they change natural habitats and reduce biodiversity due to their density. For example, the tree of heaven (ailanthus) has a vigorous root system that allows it to spread and through which it secretes toxic chemical compounds that inhibit the growth of other plants nearby.



Horseweed (*Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronquist)



Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle)



Elands sour fig (*Carpobrotus acinaciformis* (L.) L. Bolus)



Eastern annual saltmarsh aster (*Aster squamatus* (Spreng.) Hieron)

Join us!

Help us preserve biodiversity on Kamenjak!

Report findings of alien and invasive alien species through the iNaturalist app!

Given the recorded trend of how invasive species spread, it is crucial to recognise, map and remove them wherever possible, as well as to spread awareness about preventing them from spreading.



QRcode iNaturalist - scan me!

The HUMANITA project develops evidence-based and participatory management tools that allow regions to better monitor and evaluate the impact of tourism in protected areas. This project is supported by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2021-2027 with co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund.

The Public Institution Kamenjak is a partner in the international project HUMANITA. The goal of the project is to identify visitors' impact on our protected area. Invasive plant species can spread in various ways - for example, through seeds carried on visitors' shoes or car tires. This is just one of the ways human activity can unintentionally contribute to the spread of these species and threaten local biodiversity. Understanding these pathways helps us protect our natural environment more effectively.



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HUMANITA

Official Information about the HUMANITA Project



Visit the official HUMANITA project website.

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