



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA NARAVNE VIRE IN PROSTOR

IAS control and the national list of IAS in Slovenia

dr. Branka Tavzes

**Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Directorate for Nature,
Biodiversity Division**

**Invasive alien species in the Danube Region – IAS of regional concern
Hungary, Tata, 4. - 5. 3. 2026**

Legislation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species in Slovenia

- Amendments to the Nature Conservation Act (December 2025)
 - provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for the implementation of EU Regulation 1143/2014;
 - expand the scope of the Act to include measures aimed at preventing, reducing, and mitigating the harmful impacts of both intentional and unintentional introduction and spread of invasive species on biodiversity;
 - define the competent authorities and organisations responsible for implementing the measures, as well as the related procedures, measures, offences, penalties, and inspection-related sanctions.

Definition of invasive species

An **invasive species** is an invasive alien species as defined Article 3 of the EU Regulation 1143/2014, which is:

- an invasive alien species of Union concern;
- an invasive alien species of Member State concern;
- an invasive alien species designated under emergency measures in accordance with the Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 1143/2014.



Avtor: Stefan Hageman



Avtor: Darja Erjavec



Avtor: Steve Garvie

MEASURES AGAINST INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Prevention, eradication and management

1. Obligations of holders (owners, users)

- Regular inspection of land, plants, animals, means of transport, and other objects for the presence of invasive species with the aim to prevent introduction and spread of invasive species.

2. Obligation to permit the implementation of measures by holders

- Holders are required to permit the implementation of measures in accordance with Regulation (EU) 1143/2014.
- Measures must be carried out in a manner that minimizes any potential damage to the holders.
- Holders must be informed in advance of the intention to carry out these measures.

3. Special measures and exemptions

- The use of firearms is also permitted on non-hunting lands; inspection decision, the area must be secured, and the police must be notified,.
- Hunting or fishing: prohibitions under relevant regulations do not apply if the action is an urgent measure in the public interest.
- Bird nesting season: measures are permitted with the prior opinion of the competent organisations.
- Water permits: not required for physical removal of plants without the use of machinery.
- Forest reserves: prohibitions do not apply to the implementation of measures.
- Invasive species are not subject to general biodiversity protection regimes.

4. The Government may, by decree, determine a list of invasive alien species relevant to the Republic of Slovenia and define measures in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1143/2014.

Competent Authorities

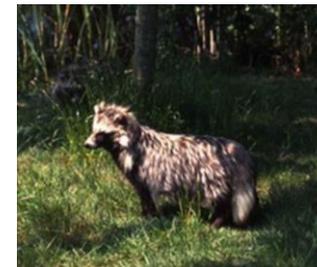
- **Ministry responsible for nature conservation:** the main authority responsible for implementing Regulation (EU) 1143/2014.
- **Institute for Nature Conservation:** scientific tasks.

Implementing organisations

- **Slovenia Forest Service:** responsible for plants and invertebrates in forests; and for birds and mammals (excluding game species) in special-purpose hunting grounds.
- **Fisheries Research Institute:** responsible for fish and crayfish in inland waters.
- **Ministry responsible for water management:** responsible for plants on water and riparian land.
- **Infrastructure managers:** responsible for protective zones and public surfaces on land owned by the state or municipalities.
- **Protected area managers or the Institute for Nature Conservation:** responsible for all other species.

Management of widely spread invasive species also included in sectoral planning documents (hunting, fisheries, forest: measures are carried out by the competent organisations in accordance with sectoral legislation).

Establishment of permits and authorisations systems (detailed procedures)



Avtor: Paul Veenvliet



Avtor: Paul Veenvliet



Avtor: Nejc Jogan



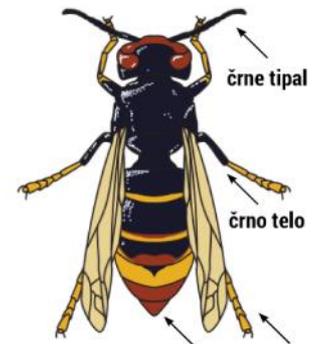
Avtor: Zavod Symbiosis

Early Detection and Rapid Eradication

- The detection of an invasive species is confirmed by the **Institute for Nature Conservation** (taxonomically, and in the field if necessary).
- Upon confirmation **Institute for Nature Conservation**:
 - **notifies the ministry.**
 - issues an **opinion specifying measures for rapid eradication** (or for preventing further spread, if conditions for derogation are met).
- The opinion includes the evaluation of **technical complexity** of implementation and is forwarded to the competent **inspection authority**.
- The competent inspector orders the rapid eradication and determines both the method of eradication and the entity responsible for implementing the measures:
 - The **person responsible for introducing** the invasive species (if known);
 - The **landowner**, if the person responsible for the introduction of the invasive species is not known;
 - An **implementing organisation**, if the removal of the invasive species is technically complex and requires specialised professional expertise.



Avtor: Zavod Symbiosis



Avtor: Paul Veenvliet

Competence of Inspection Services

- **Hunting inspectors:** invasive animals (game species), mammals and birds intended for removal using firearms.
- **Fisheries inspectors:** invasive animals defined as fishery resources.
- **Water inspectors:** invasive plants on water or riparian land.
- **Inspectorate for Food Safety, Veterinary and Plant Protection:** control of the introduction of invasive species into the Republic of Slovenia; informs the nature conservation inspectorate in case of non-compliance.
- **Nature Conservation Inspectorate (IRSNVP):** all other matters.

Management of Widely Spread Invasive Species

- The government adopts an **operational programme**, unless their management is already included in specific planning documents in the field of natural resource use.



Avtor: Breda Ogorelec

Penalties

- **Serious offences** (intentional release): Legal entities: €75,000–€125,000, individuals: €1,600–€2,500
- **Offences** (intentional introduction into the EU, possession without permits, cultivation, transport, placing on the market, use or exchange without a permit, enabling reproduction, growing or cultivation): Legal entities: €40,000–€75,000, individuals: €1,000–€2,000

Seizures and confiscations

- For offences involving invasive species, the specimens are confiscated in addition to the imposed fine; this is typically followed by euthanasia or destruction.
- In exceptional cases, the animals may be transferred to a permit-holding organisation or to a zoo, provided that all necessary safety measures are ensured.

Invasive alien species present in Slovenia – management

Species whose presence had been recorded before their inclusion on the Union list of invasive alien species (EU IAS list) and that are already widely distributed across Slovenia.

Scientific Name

Ailanthus altissima

Ameiurus melas

Elodea nuttallii

Impatiens glandulifera

Lepomis gibbosus

Myocastor coypus

Ondatra zibethicus

Pacifastacus leniusculus

Pseudorasbora parva

Reynoutria × *bohemica*

Reynoutria japonica

Reynoutria sachalinensis

Trachemys scripta



Avtor: Breda Ogorelec



Avtor: ZZRS



Avtor: Christian Fischer



Avtor: Paul Veenvliet



Avtor: Paul Veenvliet



Avtor: Zavod Symbiosis



Avtor: Paul Veenvliet



Avtor: Nejc Jogan



Invasive alien species present in Slovenia – management

Species whose presence had been detected before their inclusion on the EU IAS list and that are in the early stage of invasion

Scientific Name

Asclepias syriaca

Broussonetia papyrifera

Gambusia holbrooki

Pistia stratiotes



Avtor: Darja Erjavec



©amiv Zavoda Symbiosis, www.invazivke.si



Avtor: Paul Veenvliet



Species whose presence had been detected recently – local distribution

Scientific Name

Heracleum mantegazzianum

Orconectes limosus (*Faxonius limosus*)

Pueraria montana var. *Lobata*

Celastrus orbiculatus

Procambarus clarkii

Myriophyllum aquaticum



Avtor: Zavod Symbiosis



Avtor: Zavod Symbiosis



Avtor: ZRSVN



Avtor: ZZRS



Avtor: ZRSVN

Invasive alien species present in Slovenia – management

Species present occasionally

Scientific Name

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Threskiornis aethiopicus



Avtor: Zavod Symbiosis



Avtor: Steve Garvie

Erradicated species

Scientific Name

Lysichiton americanus



Avtor: Zavod Symbiosis

Invasive alien species present in Slovenia – management

Some species under management in Slovenia not included on the EU IAS list

Scientific Name	Common name
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Common Pokeweed
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Chocolate Vine
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry
<i>Hielanthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem artichoke
<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Giant goldenrod
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canadian goldenrod
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush
<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Princess tree
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder
<i>Phyllostachys spp.</i>	Bamboo
<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Laurel
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cutleaf coneflower
<i>Astacus leptodactylus</i>	Narrow-clawed crayfish
...	



Avtor: Sonja Rozman



Avtor: Nejc Jogan



Limiting the spread of ornamental invasive alien plants from urban areas into natural habitats:

- Preparing lists of invasive and potentially invasive ornamental plants.
- Identifying alternative native and non-invasive ornamental plants.

<https://invazivne-tujerodne-vrste.si/eng-life-ornamentalias/>