

IAS control and the national list of IAS in Serbia, harmonization with the EU IAS regulation

Legislative Framework and planes for the future

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РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
Министарство
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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Ministry of
Environmental Protection

Legislative Framework

The Law on Nature Protection

- The primary law that concerns invasive species and their management is the Law on Nature Protection.
- Current national legislation is not aligned with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014.
- Articles 82 and 94 of the Law on Nature Protection provide the legal mandate for the Ministry to issue secondary legislation (bylaws) concerning invasive species.

IAS List

- The Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia has developed a preliminary technical list of invasive species, containing 89 invasive taxa, based on scientific monitoring and field data, that has not yet been formally ratified by the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

Legislative Framework - Systems of Control

Prohibitions and Exceptions

- The introduction of non-native species and their hybrids into the wild is strictly forbidden.
- Introduction may be allowed by the Ministry of Environmental protection only if scientifically proven to be acceptable and safe for autochthonous (native) species and their habitats.
- Introduction under controlled conditions requires a permit from the Ministry of Environmental Protection. This is only granted if the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia or the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, present their opinion that this introduction is no threat to native species in the event of an accidental or unintentional escape.

Classification of Invasive Species

The Ministry of Environmental Protection is responsible for the proclamation of an allochthonous species as invasive based on:

- If the species introduction and/or expansion threatens other species or overall biodiversity of the Republic of Serbia.
- The generally accepted international standards, scientific knowledge, and international treaty obligations.
- Proposals made by the Institutes for Nature Conservation (Serbia/ Vojvodina) or other expert organizations, followed by a formal opinion from the Ministry responsible for agriculture, forestry, and water management.

Legislative Plan

Administrative & Strategic Foundations

During 2025 the Republic of Serbia has formed a working group for drafting of a new Law on Nature Protection.

This Law is intended to bring national legislation into full alignment with Regulation (EU) No. 1143/2014, ensuring national laws meet international standards for prevention and management of invasive species.

In addition to the provisions that must be prescribed by law, all technical aspects of the regulating of invasive alien species (IAS) will be prescribed by appropriate secondary legislation.

Planned secondary legislation

- **Conducting risk assessments:** Identifying the potential threats posed by specific species.
- **Adoption of the national list of IAS:** Formally identifying species that require regulatory attention.
- **Adoption of action plans:** Targeting priority routes of introduction and spread to prevent new invasions.
- **Stricter national rules:** Implementing “Black list” (Invasive species of Union concern), “White list” (Invasive species of national concern), and strict regulations on cultivation, import, and market placement.
- **Restrictions on use:** Governing the import, possession, and use of IAS, including defined protocols for any deviations from these rules.
- **Emergency measures:** Creating protocols for IAS not yet on the national list to ensure rapid response to unforeseen threats.

Planned secondary legislation

- **Surveillance and official controls:** Establishing a system to monitor species and enforce compliance.
- **Rapid eradication:** Implementing immediate removal measures for invasive species.
- **Management of widely distributed IAS:** Applying ongoing control measures for species that are already established.
- **Ecosystem restoration:** Repairing habitats that have been damaged or altered by invasive species.
- **Liability and compensation:** Defining legal responsibility and financial recovery for damages caused by IAS.
- **Public participation:** Involving the community in the adoption of action plans and management measures for IAS.

Case study

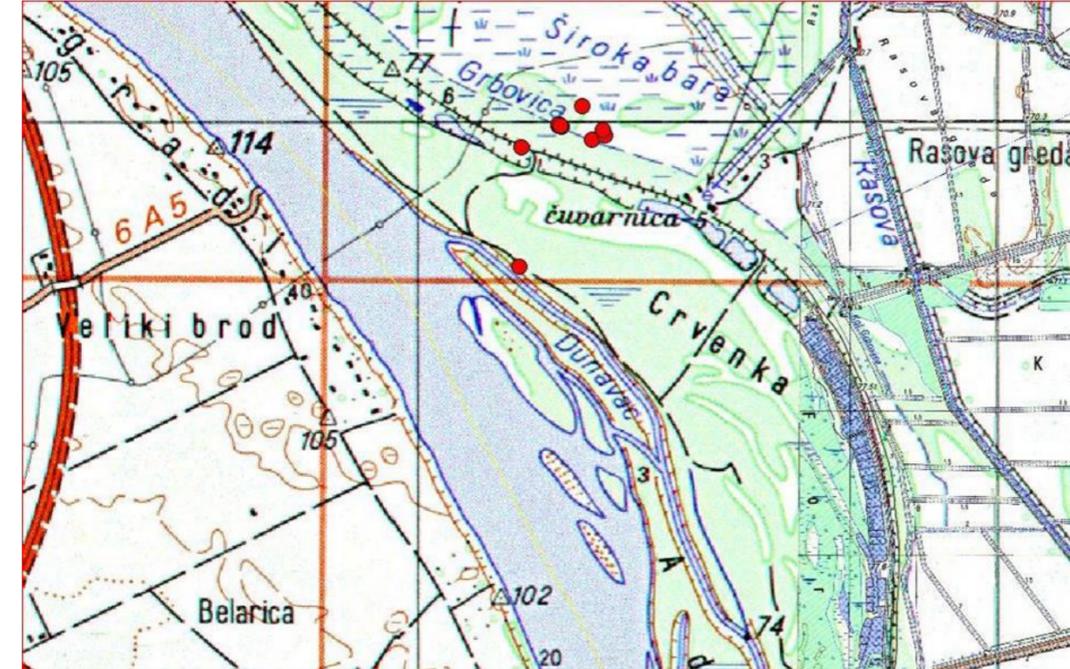
Heracleum Sosnowskyi Manden

Heracleum sosnowskyi (Sosnowsky's Hogweed) is a highly aggressive, non-native invasive species. It is widely categorized as one of the most hazardous plants in Europe, not only for its ability to outcompete native biodiversity but also for its phototoxic properties.

Contact with the plant's sap, combined with UV exposure, causes severe skin inflammation and chemical burns in humans and animals.

In 2024, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province formally alerted the relevant Ministry to the presence of *H. sosnowskyi* within the territory of the province along the bank of the Danube river.

This notification triggered an immediate situational assessment and the development of a comprehensive national response strategy.



Case study

Strategic Framework for Eradication

To address the infestation, the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, in collaboration with the Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, has developed a multi-phase action plan consisting of:

- Utilizing field surveys to identify the exact coordinates and density of the infestation.
- Implementing an awareness campaign to inform local communities about the health risks and to prevent accidental contact or spread.
- Employing mechanical and chemical methods tailored to the specific environment to eliminate existing populations.

Responsibility and Compliance

A minister instruction (legal act) has been established regarding land stewardship: owners, users, and stakeholders of the affected land are legally responsible for the management and removal of *H. sosnowskyi* on their property. The Institutes will provide technical guidance, but active containment is a mandatory duty for those managing the land.



Thank you