

Guide application iNaturalist



What is iNaturalist?

iNaturalist is a social **network** of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists based on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity around the world. Using the **app** of the same name, plants and animals in the environment can be identified. The observations can be recorded and shared with other participants. This produces high-quality research data for scientists working to better understand and protect the natural world. iNaturalist is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society.

What is being measured and why?

Every observation can contribute to biodiversity research, from rare butterflies to common urban plants. The results are shared with scientific data collections like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, so researchers can find and use data. All you can do to help is: observe! iNaturalist is based on the principle of a social network, where anyone can take and share their photos of living things. When you share a photo on iNaturalist, it becomes more than just a picture - it becomes an observation. It is a record of an organism, in one place, at one time.

But it's not just photos that can be recorded, it's also sound recordings or descriptions of species found. Each observation is shared with a global community of naturalists, where it can be identified, discussed, and used to give us a better understanding of life on Earth.

Why do we want to collect data in ParKli using the iNaturalist app?

Within the framework of our research project ParKli, we would like to **contribute to the adaptation of biodiversity to the consequences of climate change**. To do this, we first need a good database on the current state of our local environment so that we can investigate short- and long-term changes. In order to achieve the broadest possible and regular monitoring of biodiversity, we depend on the support of committed climate detectives. Together with you, we would like to go on a trail and use the iNaturalist app to collect data on biodiversity.

You can contribute now by **downloading the iNaturalist app!** Using the app, you can record observations at your location, which are then published in the data summary on the website.

Since using the app can be a bit overwhelming at first due to a relatively large amount of information, we have put together a guide for you that explains how to use the app in clear sub-steps.

A "**ParKli project**" has been created in the iNaturalist app to better collect and aggregate local data together with you. If you can't find ParKli as a project in the app, we recommend you to search for it on the website www.inaturalist.org/projects/parkli and follow the project there.

Quick Guide iNaturalist

Download the application (app):

You can download the app via [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#):

More information can be found on the iNaturalist website:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations>

Once you have downloaded the app, you can immediately create your account.

If you're unsure how to use the app, here's a video to guide you: [video introduction to iNaturalist english](#)

In general, this guide is based on app version 3.2.4 and uses the display on mobile devices with the Android operating system, so minor deviations may occur on devices with a different operating system or version.

Goals of the app:



By recording the observations, lists are kept and the overview can be maintained.



Through the observations and attentive attitude towards nature, knowledge can be expanded. Many different observations can be determined.



Participation and active involvement can collect data that will advance research.



The exchange with experts can lead to the determination of observations of fauna and flora.



Become a Citizen Scientist. Find the ParKli project and join other climate detectives to collect important data in Stuttgart.

Step 1: Registration

Once the app has been downloaded, registration takes place in the app.

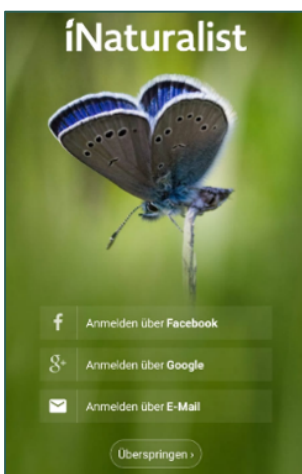
This can be done via Facebook, Google or email. It is also possible to make observations without logging in, but this limits the general use of the app.

Step 2: Add new observations

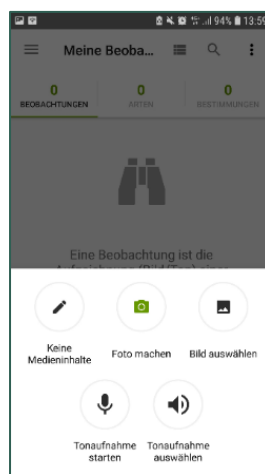
- A new observation can be made by clicking on the green plus. *On Apple devices, this requires a click on the center "Camera" button.*

- Images can be inserted from the photo library as well as instantly with the camera.
- In addition, sound recordings can also be recorded or selected and inserted instantly.
- You take a picture of a plant or animal, upload the photo, and iNaturalist automatically generates suggestions for name, genus, etc. based on your picture and location.
- The app can be used worldwide. This is made possible by a social internet network of over 400,000 biologists, scientists and nature lovers who support the project.

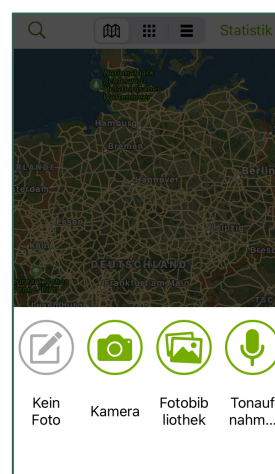
Key features:



1 registration



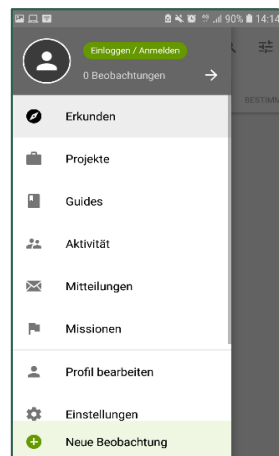
2 display Android



3 display Apple

Explore: Projects:

Here all observations, species, observers and determiners of the observations are listed.



5 display „menue“ Android

Projects can be started here as well as participating in projects like our ParKli project mentioned above.

Profile design

The profile can be customized by, for example, changing the username or the photo.

Roles for app users

There is the role of the "observer" and the role of the "determiner". Observers upload their observations to the app and can use iNaturalist's suggestions to guide their identification. Determiners, on the other hand, can look at the observations of others and agree with the determination or make another suggestion as to which animal or plant species is present.

Determination of the data quality

When uploading, the observation is initially only classified as a "hobby quality" photo. Other users, who take on the role of "determiners", can confirm the observation and thus give it a so-called "ID". When the "ID" is added to an observation, it is given the status of "research quality". With this new status, the observation can now be used by researchers.

Watch out!

In order for your discoveries to be of research quality, you must provide all the information of your observation.

- First you need to register and create an account for yourself.
- Indicate what you have observed. Select the category, for example, butterflies or the exact species monarch butterfly.
- Indicate exactly where you made your observation.
- Be sure to include the date your observation occurred, not the date you are making the post on iNaturalist.
- Add a picture or audio recording to your observation to support your discovery. High quality images taken from different angles support the community.
- **Remember that a separate observation should be made for each individual organism you encounter.**
- **If you observe something that does not occur in the wild at your current location, such as a garden plant or a lion at the zoo, it is imperative that it be labeled as captive/bred so that it is not used for research purposes.**
- In practice, the app works reliably. Most plants and animals are recognized immediately or several options are displayed for selection. Thus, iNaturalist improves your knowledge of the animal and plant world and promotes the mutual exchange of knowledge.

By documenting your observations and sharing them with the community, you produce additional useful data and help understand and protect nature. You can also view other observations and make additions.

Even though iNaturalist offers a good way to identify plants and animals quite reliably, you should not blindly rely on the app's results. Especially when it comes to the identification of poisonous plants and animals, caution is advised.

For more questions about the app and or about what ParKli does with the data collected through iNaturalist, feel free to check out our [website](#) or contact us by email at parkli@os4os.eu.