

Invasive Alien Species in National Park Galicica, North Macedonia

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The National Park Galicica (NPG) is situated on Mountain Galicica, which is a part of the mountain range of Sara-Pind. Due to its exceptional natural beauty and extremely rich flora and fauna, both with high endemism, in 1958 the Macedonian section of the mountain was designated as a National Park. The Park covers an area of approximately 227 km² between the lakes Ohrid and Prespa, and it stretches in a meridian direction. The goal of this work was to provide the first report on the distribution of invasive alien species within the NPG based on various information sources in order to assist future decisionmaking concerning management strategies for these species. The occurrence of such species in the Park was determined from diverse sources, such as: internal reports, survey questionnaires and literature review. The lists of registered archeophytes and neophytes in the national flora have not been compiled precisely yet. Nevertheless, rough estimations show that there are more than 110 species and this number is continuously increasing. Out of these, 46 are considered invasive plant species. The following species were registered on Mountain Galicica: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Populus canadensis*, *Ailanthus altissima*, and *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

Key words: Invasive species, alien species, protected area, conservation.