

Guide on doing biodiversity observations using iNaturalist app



Interreg



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CoCoRiCo

Estonia – Latvia

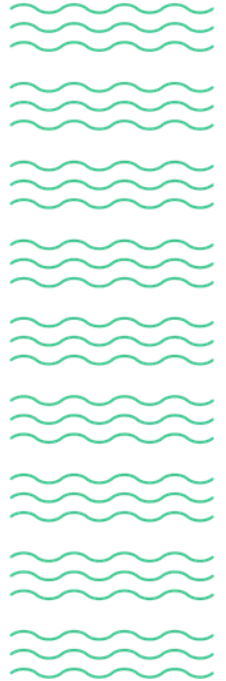
STEP 1: Download the app



1. Take a
smartphone

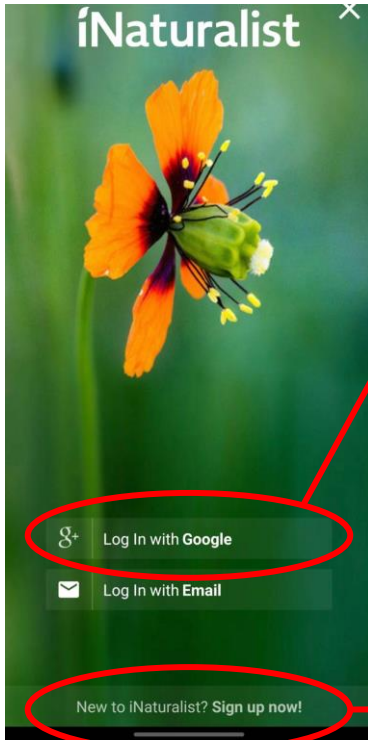


2. Download
iNaturalist app



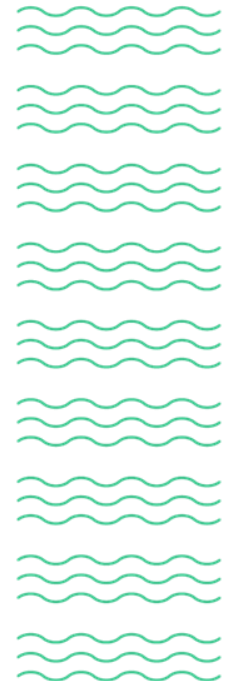
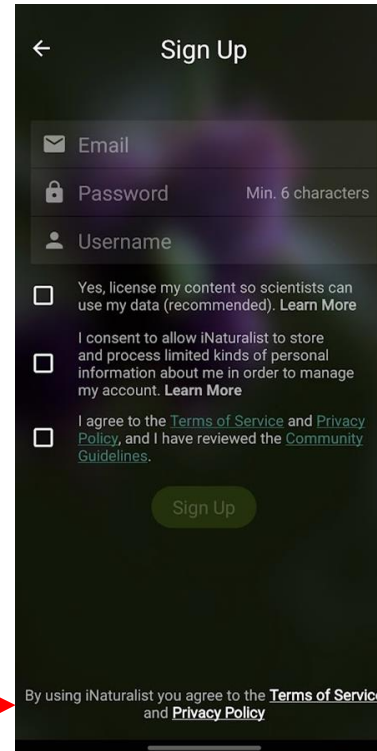
STEP 2: Sign up and log in

NB! Students younger than 13 years must obtain an adult's permission before submitting any personal information to iNaturalist.



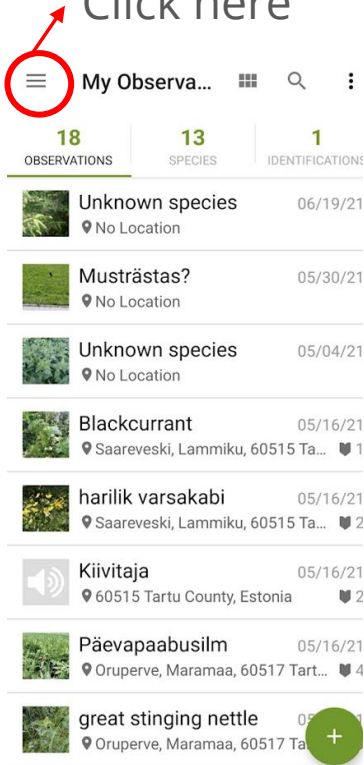
If you have google account, click here and the app will ask you to choose an account to sign in with.

Otherwise you can create an account with your email address.

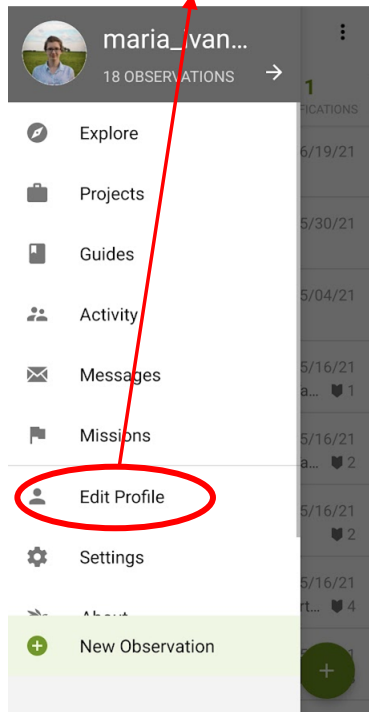


STEP 3: share your username with your teacher

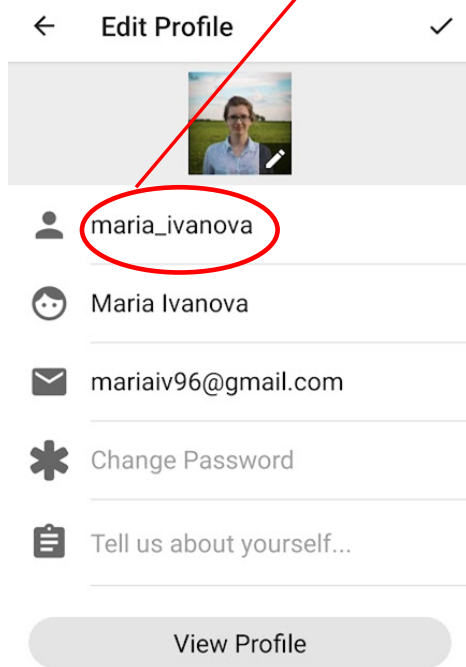
Click here



Go to "edit profile"



And get your username!



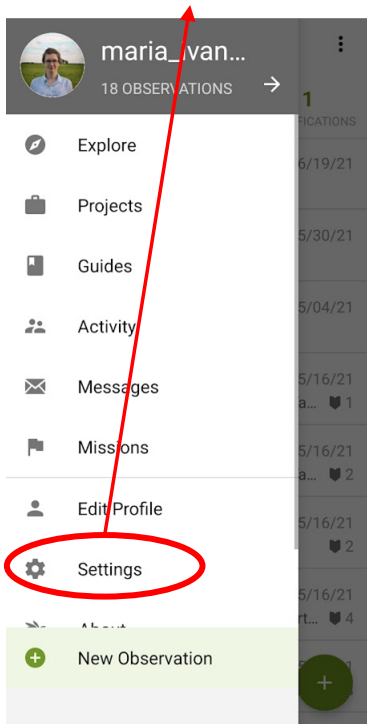
Give your username to your teacher, who will send the information to project managers. We will add you to the project where we can collect all observations together.

STEP 4: important settings

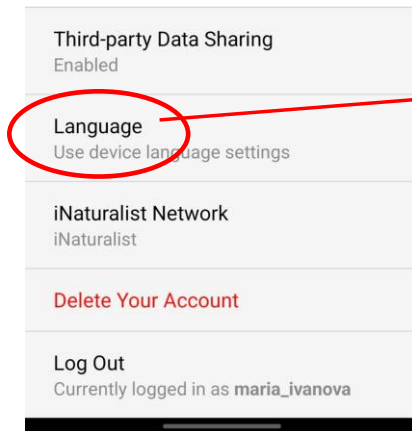
Click here



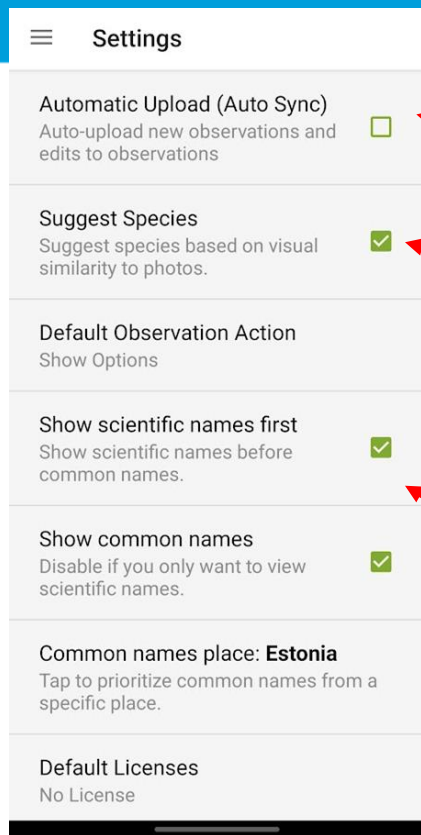
Go to "Settings"



If you scroll down you can find a place where you can choose the language of the app (Estonian and Latvian are supported)



STEP 4: important settings



Deselect this option if you don't want to upload observations while outdoors. You'll save your mobile data this way, and upload everything when in wifi.

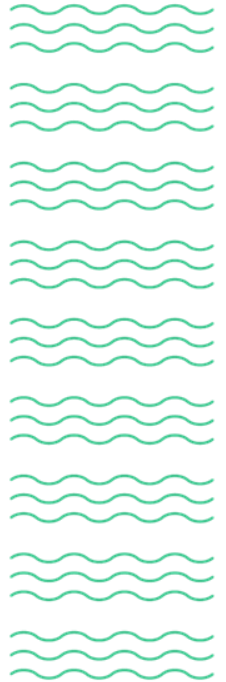
Make sure you selected this one.

You can choose whether to show scientific names (in latin) first or show common names. For our project it might be a good idea to have scientific names.

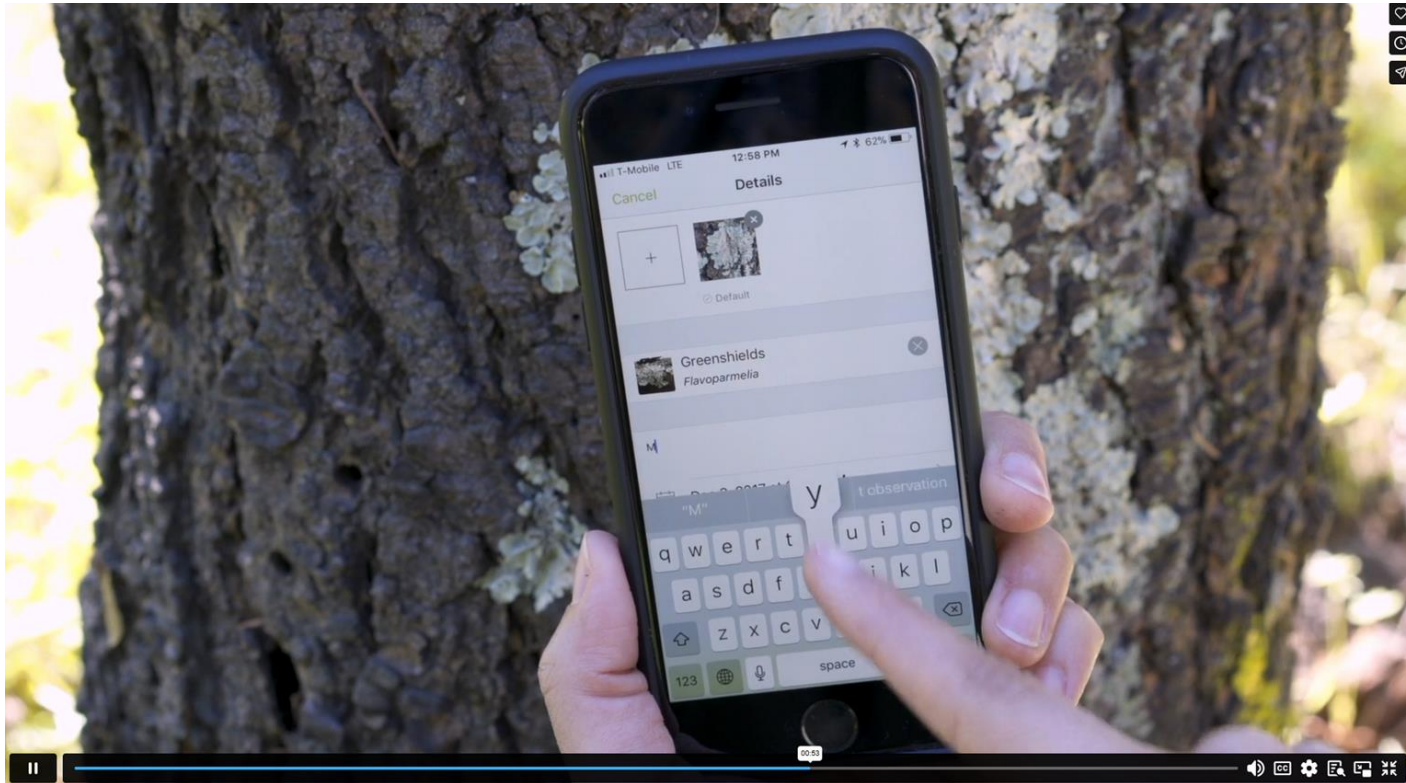
It is a good idea to have the local names prioritised. But the app still can suggest foreign species, so be careful!

STEP 5: important principles

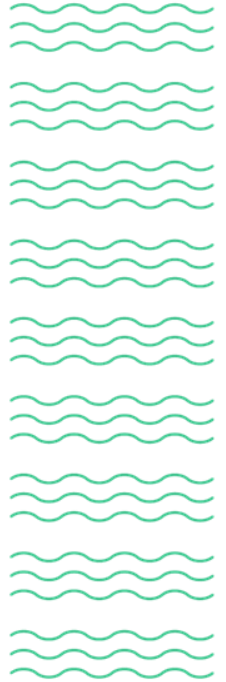
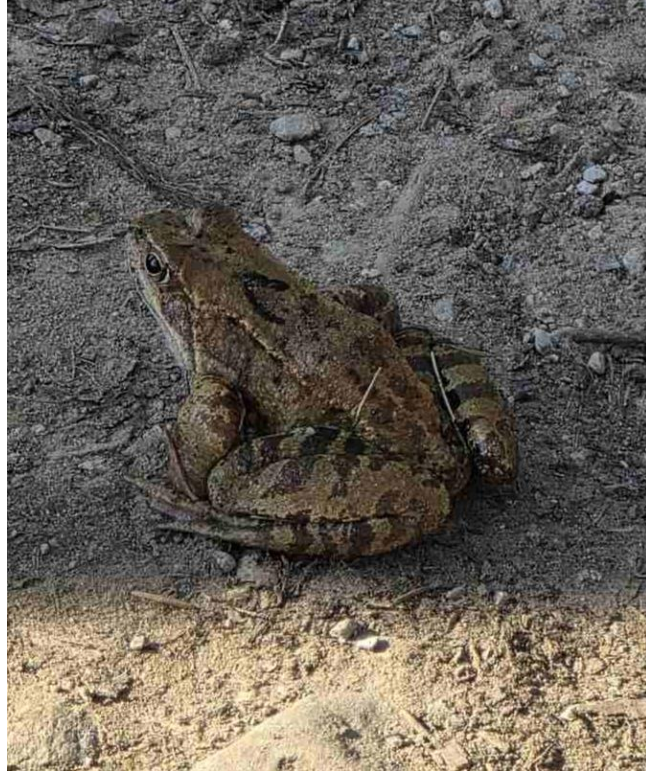
- **Don't do an observation of the same plant/animal twice.**
Work in a group and divide responsibilities - who catches the animals, who identifies them, who takes pictures and uploads observations.
- **Do some easy species observations before a study day to practice to identify any technical issues.**
- Make sure you have your **location turned on** and the app can use the location (this you can check in the phone settings in the Apps section - find iNaturalist and check the app permissions).



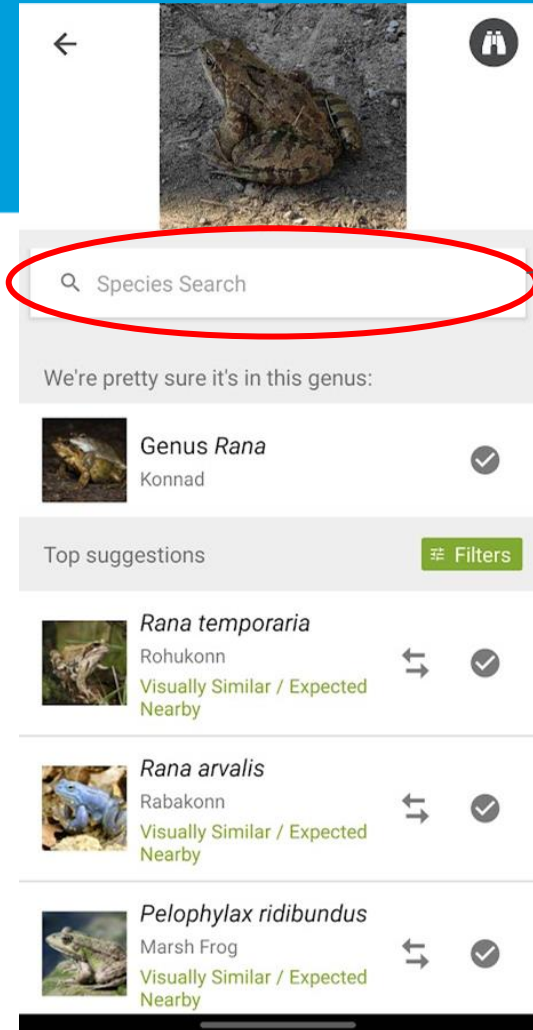
STEP 5: how to add observation video tutorial (click on the picture)



STEP 5: make pictures as close as possible or crop them before uploading



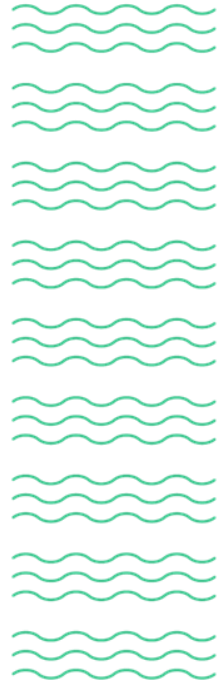
STEP 5: be careful with suggestions of the app



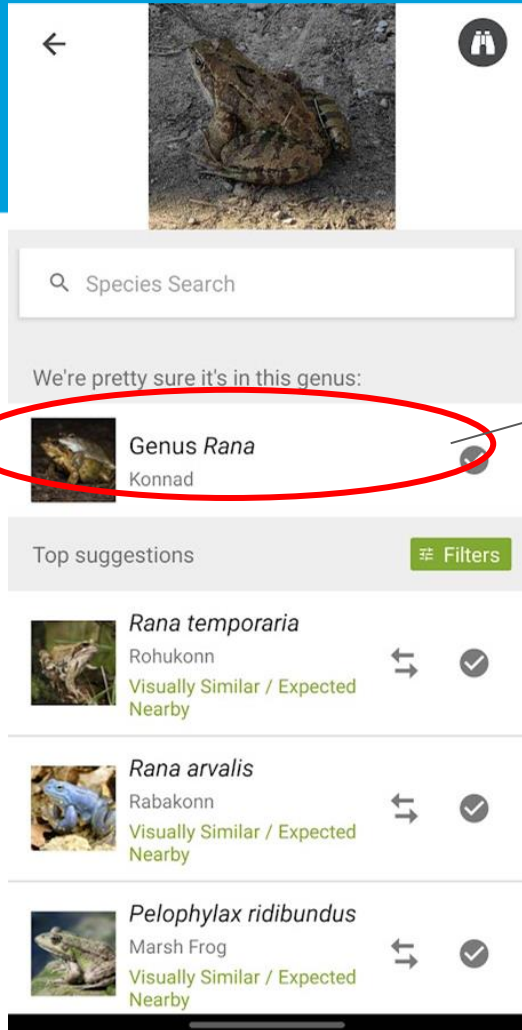
Use this field to search for the name

Make sure to use alternative identification tools to identify species - **books, websites with detailed explanations, etc** you can even use AI to ask about what species are similar and what you need to be sure of identification and **may need to add additional pictures.**

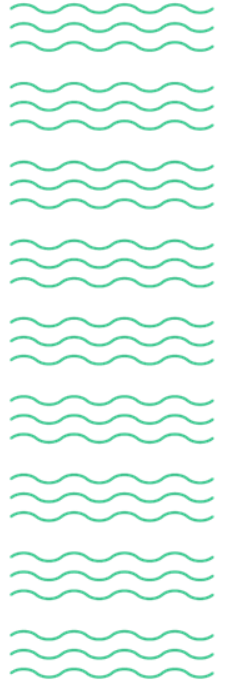
For example, to be 100% sure that the species on the picture is *Rana temporaria* and not *Rana arvalis* I would need to take a picture of the belly of the frog.

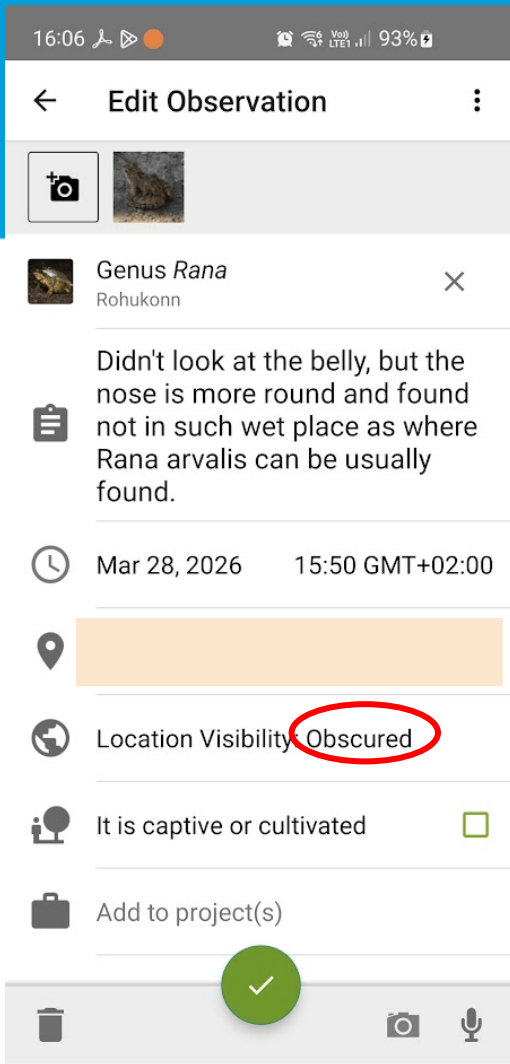


STEP 5: be careful with suggestions of the app



If you don't know the species for sure just leave the identification on the genus level or even higher levels like kingdom (plants, animals, fungi etc).





*STEP 5: make sure you don't share location of endangered species

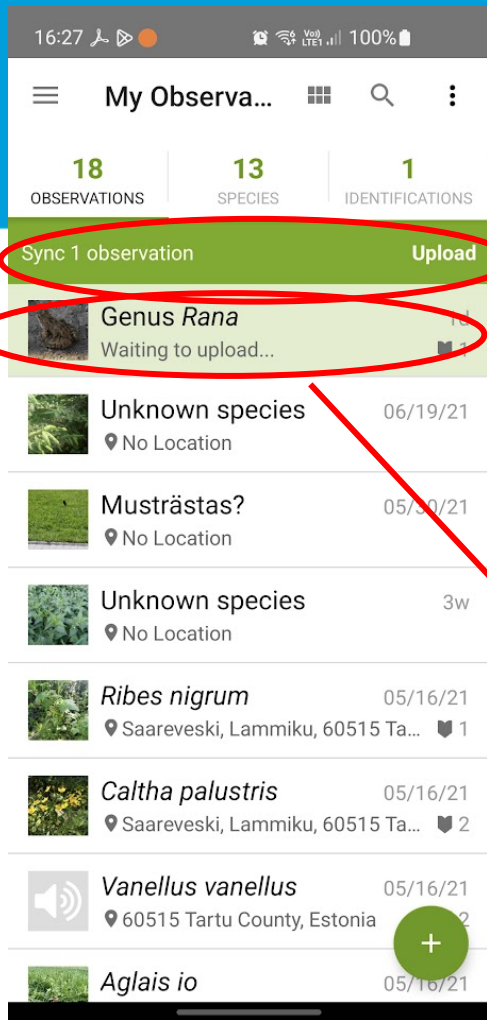
Choose location visibility "Obscured" - this protects sensitive data by hiding exact coordinates from the public, replacing them with a random point within a ~500km² area.

All frogs are endangered in Estonia, common frog is III level of protection and its location can be shared publicly.

I and II level of protection species location must be hidden!

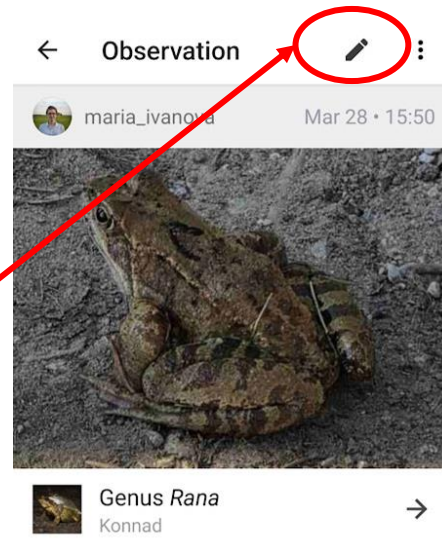


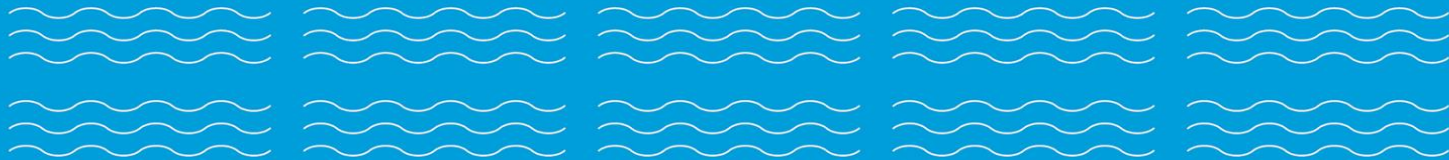
STEP 6: Upload the observations and wait for others to confirm them!



If you chose to not upload observations automatically in the settings you will need to click the button "Upload" once you're ready (back in wifi, have checked the observations are correct, etc).

To make any **edits** you need to click on the observation and then click on the pencil icon.





Happy observations!



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