

HOW TO BE A

Citizen Scientist

Plants & iNaturalist

What is Citizen Science?

Citizen science is when everyday people contribute to real scientific research. You help scientists collect data, monitor biodiversity, and understand ecosystems. Your observations can help protect plants and natural habitats in your community!

Tools that you will need:

A smartphone or camera to take clear photos of plants.



Notebook or app to record observations (date, location, plant description).

iNaturalist account (free app and website) to submit and share observations.



Optional: field guides for identifying local plants.



BOTANICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANBI

Biodiversity for Life

South African National Biodiversity Institute



NATIONAL LOTTERIES COMMISSION
LOTTO FUNDED

How to observe plants on iNaturalist:

1 Find a plant:
In your garden,
local park, nature
reserve, or school
grounds.

2 Take a photo:
Capture the
leaves, flowers,
fruits, and overall
shape.

3 Record details:
Location (GPS),
date,
habitat type,
and any notes.

4 Submit on
iNaturalist:
Upload your photo and
details; the community
helps identify it.

Scan this QR code with your
smartphone camera to
download the iNaturalist app



Why It Matters

Your observations help scientists track rare or endangered plants and support research on climate change, invasive species, and ecosystems. Importantly, it makes you an active part of your community and protecting your environment.

