

1st Announcement

FRIENDS OF SOCOTRA

23^d International Socotra Conference and Annual General Meeting



Vienna Natural History Museum (NHM), Vienna, Austria

Friends of Socotra AMG/Conference 27–29th of September 2024



● Mendel
● University
● in Brno
●



The Friends of Socotra Conference Aim

The Socotra Conference is an event organized annually by FoS. The “Friends of Socotra” (or Friends of Soqotra, both spellings are possible) consists of volunteers who meet every year, gathering naturalists, botanists, marine biologists, geographers, sociologists, linguists, archaeologists, explorers, writers and general travelers interested in Socotra from all over the world. Presentations and discussions are moderated about ongoing projects and scientific research about Socotra mainly. Attendees actively promote awareness for the conservation of the unique culture and nature of the Archipelago and its sustainable development. The aim is to create an event that brings together all people with a heart for the Socotra Archipelago, its biodiversity, its myths and traditions, its history and future. The meetings are entirely focused on scientific topics, political topics are not welcome. The vision of FoS, a registered UK Charity (reg. n° 1097546), can be found at www.friendsofsoqotra.org

Theme

Science, Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Socotra Archipelago (Yemen)

Registration

ALL participants should register at the following link (Google Forms) :

<https://forms.gle/sqKMeKYonjJpBr5Q7>

Conference Venue

Historically, the NHM contributed significantly to the natural history of Socotra through the first expeditions to the islands in the end of the 19th Century, leading to key research on the local animals, plants and geology of Socotra, in both marine and terrestrial environments. During the Conference, this historical link will be highlighted by the Museum staff.

The conference will be held from September 27th to 29th (FoS AGM) at Vienna Natural History Museum, Burgring 7, 1010 Wien, Austria. The meeting will take place in the lecture room.



Travel Grants

The Friends of Socotra Charity unfortunately does not have the funds to cover any travel expenses for visitors. Invitation letters can be provided and should be requested from the Chairperson of FoS (email below).

Call for Presentations

Participants are kindly invited to submit the title for their talk or poster related to science, sustainable development, natural history, nature, culture and conservation of the Socotra Archipelago. Each submitted topic will be subject to peer-review by the conference organizers who reserve the right to allocate the appropriate means of presentation to submitted contributions, depending on the number of time slots. A presentation should be aimed at 15 minutes maximum (+ 5 minutes questions), with or without powerpoint slides. Please take into consideration that the powerpoints can be asked to be shared online by participants. Posters should follow the regular format as for conferences (A0).

We also welcome artists to present/showcase their work (photographs, etc).

Attendance in person or online

It will be possible to attend online or in person. Online will be free, and a Zoom link for the conference will be provided by you in the days before the conference, once you registered. You need to be registered in order to join the meeting online, so that we can foresee the number of participants.

Preliminary Program

FoS AGM

Friday 27th September 2024

Early Registration & Welcome (afternoon, exact starting time tbd)

Meet & Greet & Open Discussion Forum

Informal Dinner

Saturday 28th September 2024 Registration
 Official Opening by the Natural History Museum, the
 Ambassador, and the Chair of FoS
 Conference / Presentations & Discussion
 Excursion (tbd)
 Conference Dinner

Sunday 29th September 2024 9am-1pm Annual General Meeting FoS Committee &
 Members (open to all)

Timeframe

July 2024 1st Announcement
 31th July 2024 deadline for early registration online, presentation titles (and
 authors + affiliations) submission
 1th August 2024 2nd Announcement (with preliminary program)
 31st August 2024 deadline for regular registration
 15th September 2024 3rd Announcement, final program
 27-29th September 2024 Conference

Conference Proceedings

There will be a small booklet with the conference program, titles and some general info. These will be provided to the participants in printed form as well as online, through the conference webpages.

Special Issue

Selected papers could be suggested for publication within a special issue of Rendiconti Lincei (still actively receiving papers within the topic of Socotra Conservation), edited by F. Attorre & K. Van Damme. Contact the editors for more info.

Fees and registration

Registration via conference registration page: <https://forms.gle/sqKMeKYonjJpBr5Q7>

Conference fees (only for participants in person – for ONLINE participants it is FREE).

	FoS Conference fee	Conference dinner
Normal	80 EUR	30* EUR
FoS members	40 EUR	30* EUR
Accompanying person	20 EUR	30* EUR

Student or Retired Individual	20 EUR	30* EUR
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* The price can still change, we will arrange the dinner place with the participants who come in person.

The conference fee includes:

- Conference organizational costs
- Basic lunches and coffee breaks during the conference and AGM
- Participation in all plenary sessions
- Conference materials and conference proceedings
- T-shirt!

Payment:

All fees will be paid by registration desk by cash. Please have the correct amount with you.

Steering and Organizing committee (incl. FoS Committee Volunteers)

The Socotra Conference and FoS AGM will be organized by the Vienna Natural History Museum (NHM), Vienna, Austria (host) in collaboration with Friends of Socotra, and with logistic support by Mendel University (Brno).

Steering/Organizing Committee FoS Conference and AGM 2024: Kay Van Damme, Francesca Pella, Petr Maděra, Hana Habrová, Lukáš Karas, Natálie Holešová, Salem Hamdiah, Dario La Montagna, Haifaa Abdulhalim.

From NHM: Andreas Hantschk, Wolfgang Runda, Ingrid Viehberger, Verena Hedberg and Andreas Hantschk

If you need more information, please contact the organizers through the conference website or this e-mail: kay.vandamme@gmail.com or fos.secretary@gmail.com

If you wish to make a donation to FoS or you wish to become a member, please contact treasurers.fos@gmail.com (cc to emails above)

See you there!