

Under the Auspices of: **HE Mr. Haytham Shoja'aadin, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen in Vienna, Austria,**

organised by FoS (Friends of Socotra Charity) Committee Members & Mendel University (Brno), in collaboration with the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (Vienna Natural History Museum, Austria) hosting the meeting,

We kindly invite you to the

23^d SOCOTRA CONFERENCE and FRIENDS OF SOCOTRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) NATURHISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN SEPTEMBER, 27-29th, 2024



Attendance **in PERSON** - **Lecture Hall**, Natural History Museum Vienna/Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, AUSTRIA (SIDE ENTRANCE). Attendance in person is possible (but not obligatory, of course) for the entire duration of the conference (Friday 27 - Sunday 29/09/2024).



Attendance **ONLINE** - a **Zoom link** will be sent before the meeting by **email** to all participants who have registered. Online attendance is available from the Saturday (28th, 09h30) until the Sunday (29th, 13h00) **only, not on the Friday** (our apologies). All times below are in CET (Central European Time, which is the standard time for Austria)

PROGRAMME



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27th, 2024 - WELCOME

(The Zoom link will NOT be active on Friday; for people attending in person, meet at the museum side entrance, Lecture Hall)

18h00-18h30 Early Registration



18h30-19h00 Welcome Address Speeches

- **DR ANDREAS HANTSCHK**, Naturhistorisches Museum Wien/Vienna Natural History Museum

- **DR KAY VAN DAMME**, Friends of Socotra

19h00-20h30 Informal Meet and Greet

(note: dinner is not foreseen at the Museum)



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28th, 2024 – FOS CONFERENCE

(NOTE: the Zoom link for ONLINE participants will be open from 09h00 onwards on the Saturday, please come online before 9h30. Participants who will present online should upload their presentations before 09h30 on the laptop connected to the beamer)



09h00-10h00 REGISTRATION & WELCOME

09h00-09h30 Registration + Technical Zoom Check/Set-up

09h30-10h00 Opening Speech HE MR. HAYTHAM SHOJA'AADIN, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen in Vienna

Welcome by **Representatives VIENNA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, FoS**

(coffee/tea available from 08h45)



10h00-11h45 SATURDAY SESSION 1

(presenters underlined)

1. 10h00-10h15 Thoughts on nature conservation in Socotra, with a focus on freshwater habitats (KAY VAN DAMME et al.)
2. 10h15-10h30 Conservation of the endemic endangered trees and shrubs of Socotra Island (PETR MADĚRA & FRANKLINIA PROJECT TEAM)
3. 10h30-10h45 In situ conservation in arid islands: the role of shrubs as nurse species on tree regeneration in Socotra (Yemen) (DARIO LA MONTAGNA, MICHELE DE SANCTIS, SALEM HAMDIAH, PETR MADERA, KAY VAN DAMME, FABIO ATTORRE & LUCA MALATESTA)
4. 10h45-11h00 Population assessment of Socotra's amazing trees, including a new survey of *Sterculia africana* ssp. *socotrana* (PETR VAHALÍK, DARIUS BRÜMMER & FRANKLINIA PROJECT TEAM)
5. 11h00-11h15 25 years of planting trees in Socotra (HANA HABROVÁ et al.)
6. 11h15-11h20 Presenting "SCENT", a new initiative to support local people and nature conservation in Socotra using sustainable certified forestry products (PETR MADĚRA & KAY VAN DAMME)



11h20-11h45 COFFEE BREAK (+ experience some SCENT products)



11h45-13h00 SATURDAY SESSION 2

1. **11h45-12h00** *Overgrazing impact on natural seedlings of the endemic *Boswellia* (Frankincense Tree) species of the Socotra Archipelago* (**SALEM HAMDIAH** et al.)
2. **12h00-12h15** *Volatiles in the genus *Boswellia** (**JANA TULKOVÁ** et al.)
3. **12h15-12h30** *Effects of hydrogels on *Boswellia* growth* (**NATÁLIE HOLEŠOVÁ** et al.)
4. **12h30-12h45** *Seed Germination in *Boswellia* species* (**LUKÁŠ KARAS** et al.)
5. **12h45-13h00** *Rapid conservation assessment of *Boswellia sacra* in Oman reveals complex threat- and population patterns* (**FRANS BONGERS**, STEPHEN JOHNSON, ALI BAIT SAID, PETR VAHALÍK, LUKÁŠ KARAS, MAÏA SARROUF WILLSON)



13h00-14h00 LUNCH



14h00-15h30 SATURDAY SESSION 3

1. **14h00-14h15** *Progress in Dragon Tree Estimation* (**LUCIE BAUEROVÁ** et al.)
2. **14h15-14h30** *Socotra Ecotourism (?) and Garbage* (**ROMAN LOIMEIER**)
3. **14h30-14h45** *The Unique Biodiversity of Socotra* (**FADHL QASEM**)
4. **14h45-15h00** *Preserving the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Socotra: Strategies for Sustainable Development - A study on how to protect the cultural heritage and traditions of the archipelago while promoting economic and social development* (**ABDULFATTAH MOHAMMED AL-MASAHLI**)
5. **15h00-15h15** *Socotra should have a museum* (**RIYADH BAKARMOM**)
6. **15h15-15h30** *Discussion and Concluding Remarks* (**ALL PARTICIPANTS**)



15h30-16h00 COFFEE BREAK

16h00-17h30 GUIDED TOUR TO THE MUSEUM (tbd)

18.30h-Late DINNER IN THE CITY (at own expenses, location tbd, no transport arranged)



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29th, 2024 – FOS AGM

(NOTE: the Zoom link for ONLINE participants will be open from 09h00 onwards on the Sunday; the AGM is open to everyone, also those who are not a member of FoS)



9h00 – 10h30

FoS AGM – Committee Activity and Financial Reports



10h30 – 11h00

COFFEE BREAK



11h00 – 12h30

FoS AGM – Committee Activity + Future Projects



12h30 – 13h30

LUNCH



Travel

Conference Fees (please pay the **exact** amount at registration; note that online participation via Zoom is free):

- "Normal"	80 EUR
- FoS Member	40 EUR
- Accompanying Person	20 EUR
- Student	20 EUR
- Retired	20 EUR

Note: Conference Fees cover venue hire and coffee breaks at the museum as well as a special Conference T-Shirt designed for the occasion, which you will receive at registration; conference dinner is not included, it is at personal expense/optional; any surplus from registration fees will be considered as a donation to FoS. If you wish to support the Charity by becoming a FoS member, see link below.

If you wish to become a member of FoS, see:

<https://www.friendsofsoqatra.org/About/Membership.html>

For questions, contact Dr Kay Van Damme at kay.vandamme@gmail.com