

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF FOREST AND GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEMS

Strategic tools for addressing the environmental crisis

Friday 4th December 2020, 8.45 -13.00 CET (Zoom Webinar)

Free registration at: <https://rb.gy/xwlc0s>

Deadline: December 3rd, 5 pm CET

Info: difilippo@unitus.it



A workshop organized by the SAFE-Med Work Package #1
Nature, Forests and Sustainable Management of Ecosystems



Heather Keith, Griffith University (Australia)

Carbon stocks in primary forests and accounting of ecosystem services

Heather's research is aimed at understanding the functioning of terrestrial ecosystems, particularly forests, to improve their management for conservation and climate change mitigation. Field and experimental data are integrated with spatial data to scale up information about ecosystems across landscapes. Current work is focussed on an international collaboration on primary forests, their identification, assessment of carbon stocks, provision of ecosystem services, role in climate change mitigation, and policies for their protection and restoration.



Giovanni Giuseppe Vendramin & Andrea Piotti

Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources - National Research Council (Italy)

Molecular signature of climate adaptation at different spatial scales in Mediterranean conifers

Giovanni Giuseppe Vendramin is Director of the IBBR at CNR, he is a forest geneticist with a 30-years' experience in studying the demographic and evolutionary dynamics of Mediterranean forest tree species. His main research interests are population and conservation genetics and genomics of forest trees, spanning from phylogenomic patterns at the biogeographical scale to adaptive and neutral processes within populations.

Andrea Piotti is Researcher at IBBR-CNR, he is a population geneticist with a particular expertise in statistical analyses for ecological and evolutionary genetics studies. His main research interests gravitate towards gene flow and dispersal in plants and the conservation genetics of Mediterranean forests, with a particular focus on the evolutionary dynamics of marginal and fragmented populations.



Donato Chiatante, Università degli Studi dell'Insubria (Italy)

High-quality seedlings to improve forest resilience to global changes: from Pinus ponderosa forests in USA to the "Green Belt Project" in Mongolia

Donato Chiatante is Emeritus Professor of Environmental and Applied Botany at the Department of Biotechnology and Life Science of Insubria University. He has been President of Italian Botany Society and the Italian Society for Forest Restoration. He has been Deputy Rector, Director of a University Department and a Centre for Microscopy. His main scientific interest is focussed on tree root adaptation to environmental factors. He has been the recipient of scholarships (NATO, OECD, UK Royal Society, Accademia Italiana Lincei) and research grants (EC, MIUR, MIPAF). His scientific activity counts more than 200 papers published in peer-reviewed journals.



Valentin Klaus, ETH Zürich (Switzerland)

Conservation and restoration of biodiversity in European grasslands

Valentin Klaus is an ecologist working on questions of biodiversity, land use and ecosystem services with a focus on grassland ecosystems. Valentin works in both agricultural and urban grasslands, searching for ways to effectively restore plant diversity and simultaneously optimize ecosystem service provisioning. Current projects include the sustainable management of permanent grasslands in Europe and effects of farming systems on the multifunctionality of grasslands in Switzerland. Valentin achieved his PhD in landscape ecology at the University of Münster, Germany. Since 2017 he is member of the Grassland Science group at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences at ETH Zürich, Switzerland.



Zoltan Kun, Frankfurt Zoological Society (Germany)

The current development of forest and biodiversity related policies, the role of science and NGOs

Forest cover in the EU increased in the past years, this increase cannot hide the problem our forests face! The recent EEA State of Nature in the EU found that only 15% of the EU's forests in the Natura 2000 network has favorable conservation status. According to the roadmap document the new EU Forest Strategy will set the policy framework to deliver the forests we want in the EU. However there are several other policy field from biodiversity to energy which NGOS and science should try to influence in order to guarantee the health of our forests for future generations.



Michael Jungmeier, University of Carinthia (Austria)

Hanns Kirchmeier, E-C-O- Institute (Austria)

Management of conservation areas, with focus on UNESCO sites

Michael Jungmeier holds an UNESCO chair for "Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas" at Carinthia University of Applied Sciences and senior research fellow at ECO Institute of Ecology. His research focuses on the planning and management of conservation areas in the context of changing societies.

Hanns Kirchmeier is a biologist and forest ecologist. He started his career at the department of vegetation ecology and nature conservation at the University Vienna followed by a position as researcher and project manager at E.C.O. Institute of Ecology in Klagenfurt Austria. His research focuses on the naturalness of forest ecosystems, forest ecology, ecosystem services and nature protection. He and his team were involved activities in feasibility studies, planning and designation procedures of protected areas in Europe and abroad. Since 2020 he is CEO of E.C.O.