Minority tree species 2027



Minority Tree Species for Climate-Resilient Forests

1st International Conference on the Ecology, Conservation and Management of Rare, Endangered and Threatened Tree Species

24-27 May 2027 – Aalborg, Denmark

Second announcement and call for abstracts

Conference background

Trees are the foundation of many of our ecosystems and hold immense cultural and economic value. Yet, according to IUCN, around one-third of the world's tree species currently face extinction. This is driven by climate change, low genetic diversity, pests, deforestation and overgrazing. When a rare tree species vanishes, fauna, flora, fungi and, ultimately, entire ecosystems that evolved alongside it are also at risk of being lost. Conversely, rare tree species often hold unique evolutionary traits that can buffer forests against climate change. Join us at ***Minority tree species 2027*** to explore how we can protect these vital species, restore threatened habitats, and harness their potential for climate resilience.

Conference themes

The conference will focus on a wide range of issues relating to all aspects of the ecology, conservation and management of rare, endangered and threatened tree species. These include, for example:

- mending of major gaps in tree conservation efforts,
- promoting rare or under-represented tree species in forest management,
- using alternative tree species in forest adaptation for climate change,
- assisted migration and transformational forest restoration,
- integration of rare tree species into afforestation projects,
- gene conservation, seed procurement and production of nursery stock,
- biotic and abiotic risks, invasive tree species and risk management,
- utilizing the potential for production of timber, fruit or other products derived from rare tree species,
- biodiversity, forest recreation and landscape aesthetics.

These and other related issues will be presented and discussed during a four-day conference in Aalborg, Denmark during 24-27 May 2027. Scientists, conservationists, field practitioners and policy makers from around the world will present and discuss their experience and research results. In addition to basic scientific questions, presentations and discussions will emphasise practical problems for which scientific approaches or solutions are needed.



Meeting format
The conference will include invited keynote speakers as well as voluntary contributions. Technical presentations and demonstrations will be followed by discussion sessions to promote maximum exchange of ideas. Two field trips to experimental plots will focus discussions on practical issues. The official conference language is English.

Call for abstracts
Papers, posters and computer demonstrations are welcomed within the theme of the conference. Participants are invited to contribute problems and ideas as well as potential solutions. Extended abstracts (max. one printed page, including one figure or illustration) for all invited speakers, voluntary presentations, posters and demonstrations will be available in electronic proceedings format at the beginning of the conference.

Timeline

15 January 2027	Abstracts should be submitted no later than 15 January 2027 and should be prepared according to guidelines presented on at https://www.slu.se/MinorityTreeSpecies2027.
1 February 2027	Notification of acceptance will be issued by 1 February 2027.
15 February 2027	Early registration rate ends.
28 February 2027	Final, extended abstracts, including specific results, should be received by the secretary of the scientific committee no later than 28 February 2027.

Additional conference outputs
Selected contributions will be invited for review and inclusion in a special issue of an international science journal. Acceptance of a paper for presentation at the conference does not guarantee journal publication.

Conference excursions
Two excursions will be offered during the conference. Both will focus on the establishment and management of rare or alternative tree species for climate-smart afforestation, assisted migration and transformational forest restoration. The excursions will visit scientific experiments as well as practice-oriented tests of lesser-known tree species and will showcase research on *Corylus*, *Juglans*, *Malus*, *Pyrus*, *Sorbus, Taxus* and other genera. The excursions are included in the conference fee and are available for all participants.

Conference venue and registration
The conference will be held at the Utzon Center, located on the waterfront of the Lime Fjord strait in the centre of Aalborg (https://utzoncenter.dk/en). Registration can be done with the registration form found on https://eventsignup.ku.dk/2027minoritytreespecieskonference/signup . Early registration rates (525 EUR incl. VAT) end on 15 February 2027 and includes lunch and refreshments during the day and a conference dinner.

The conference venue is conveniently located near the airport of Aalborg with regular connections to Copenhagen, Amsterdam, London and other international hubs (https://aal.dk/see-direct-travels).

Block bookings of hotel rooms are available at the nearby Pier 5 Hotel (https://pier5.dk/), Radisson Blu Limfjord (https://www.radissonhotels.com/da-dk/hoteller/radisson-blu-aalborg-limfjord) and Cab Inn Aalborg (https://www.cabinn.com/hotel/cabinn-aalborg). Details of transport, lodging and other practical arrangements are available on the conference website at https://www.slu.se/MinorityTreeSpecies2027.



Selected presentations

Søren Hoff Brøndum (SHBnature): Balsa plantations to combat over-harvesting and illegal logging in Ecuador.

Julia Schmucker (SLU): Near-natural nemoral forests of oak, hornbeam, maple, wild service tree and hazel: the influence of planting pattern on growth and competition in young stands.

Jens Peter Skovsgaard (SLU), Christopher Guest & Hampus Jörning: Testing nine seed sources of wild service tree collected along a north-south gradient from England to Italy.

Khosro Sagheb-Talebi (Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, Iran): Early survival and growth of Caspian and European tree populations in field trials established in the Caspian Region of Iran.

Ole K. Hansen (Univ. Cph.) & Palle Madsen (InNovaSilva): Caspian tree species for climate-smart afforestation in northern Europe.

Additional information on keynote speakers and voluntary sessions is available on the conference website.

Organizing committee

Jens Peter Skovsgaard (chairman), Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU)
Palle Madsen, InNovaSilva, Denmark
Vivian Kvist Johannsen, University of Copenhagen
Kjersti Holt Hanssen, Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research
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This conference is a joint venture of IUFRO Div. 1 *Silviculture*,
Div. 8 *Forest Environment* and Task Force T47 *Stand Complexity in Planted Forests*