1\textsuperscript{st} Announcement

FRIENDS OF SOQOTRA

21\textsuperscript{st} International Socotra Conference and Annual General Meeting

Botanical Garden of Rome, Italy
Friends of Soqotra AGM and Conference 16.09 – 18.09.2022
The Friends of Soqotra Conference Aim

The “Friends of Soqotra” (or “Friends of Socotra”, both spellings are possible) meet every year gathering naturalists, botanists, marine biologists, geographers, sociologists, linguists, archaeologists, explorers, writers, travellers interested in Socotra from all over the world. Presentations and discussions occur for ongoing projects and scientific research about Socotra. 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. FoS is a UK-registered Charity (#1097546) consisting of an international group of volunteers with a heart for Socotra nature and culture. The vision of FoS can be found at https://www.friendsofsoqotra.org/

The conference is open to all, whether a registered member of FoS or not.

Theme

Restoration ecology applied to fragile ecosystems in the Socotra Archipelago

Conference Venue

The conference will be held from September 16th to 18th (FoS AGM) at the Botanical Garden of Rome, La Sapienza University, Largo Cristina di Svezia, 24, 00165 Rome, Italy.

Travel Grants

The Friends of Soqotra 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 organiser (email below).

Covid regulations

We expect all participants to inform themselves about the covid regulations when traveling. Please take into account that these regulations may change. If there are any urgent changes that are specifically applicable to the venue, we will include it on the conference website.
Online Attendance

Participants (speakers as well as observers) during the conference will also be able to attend online, through Zoom. Only registered participants can participate through zoom, or in person. The link will be shared by email with the registered attendants by September.

Call for Papers

Participants are kindly invited to submit abstracts of papers and posters. Each submitted abstract will be subject to peer-review and the conference organizers 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 (+5 minutes questions), with or without PowerPoint slides. Please take into consideration that the PowerPoints can be asked to be shared online. The organizing committee reserves the right to refuse a presentation if it is not deemed appropriate to the theme of the conference, as the time slots are limited.

Preliminary Programme

FoS AGM and Socotra Conference

Friday 16th September 2022 - Registration, Welcome and Conference dinner

Saturday 17th September 2022 - Conference and Open Discussion Forum

Sunday 18th September 2022 - FoS AGM (open to all members), Excursion (tbd)

Timeframe

May 20th 2022 - 1st Announcement

June 20th 2022 - deadline for early registration, paper and poster abstracts submission

July 15th 2022 - 2nd Announcement (with preliminary conferences programme) and late registration

August 31st 2022 - notification of paper and poster acceptance, 3rd Announcement
Conference Proceedings

All accepted abstracts will be part of the proceedings when at least one author is registered.

Proceedings will be provided to the participants in printed form as well as online, through the conference webpages.

Fees and registration

Registration via conference web site (fosrome2022.org). Participants who join only online (by Zoom) do not pay a registration fee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FoS Conference Fee</th>
<th>Conference Dinner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Normal</strong></td>
<td>120 EUR</td>
<td>30* EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FoS member</strong></td>
<td>70 EUR</td>
<td>30* EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accompanying person</strong></td>
<td>30 EUR</td>
<td>30* EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student, retired</strong></td>
<td>20 EUR</td>
<td>30* EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*the price can still change

The conference fee includes:

- Conference organisational costs
- Basic lunches and coffee breaks during the conference and AGM
- Participation in all plenary sessions
- Conference materials and conference proceedings

The conference fee does not include:

- excursion costs (tbd)

Payment:

Payment must be done by bank transfer. The bank account will be indicated as soon as possible.
All bank charges for remittances are the responsibility of the participant. As soon as you make the bank transfer, please send proof of payment (pdf format) together with your institutional address, Tax registration or VAT number to fos.rome2022@gmail.com.

If you need to issue an invoice before sending the money, please provide us such information (name of institution, address, VAT Number) as soon as possible.

**Steering and Organizing committee (incl. AGM Subcommittee and committee volunteers)**

The Socotra Conference and FoS AGM will be organized by La Sapienza University of Rome (host) in collaboration with Friends of Soqotra, Ghent University and Mendel University of Brno.

**Steering/Organizing Committee FoS Conference and AGM 2021:** Dario La Montagna, Michele De Sanctis, Kay van Damme, Francesca Pella, Fabio Attorre, Luca Malatesta, Petr Maděra, Hana Habrová, Haifaa Abdulhalim, Salem Hamdiah.

**Getting There:**

**Airport Fiumicino – Botanical Garden of Rome (‘Orto Botanico’)**

The **main airport**, Leonardo da Vinci (also known as “Fiumicino airport”), is located 26 km west of the city centre. A train connects the airport and the central railroad station “Stazione Termini”. This shuttle train, the Leonardo Express, leaves every 30 minutes for the main station, Stazione Termini. The journey lasts about half an hour and costs 14 €. It operates every 30 minutes between 6:36 am and 23:36 pm (no intermediate station stops). There are also trains leaving every 15 minutes between 5:57 am and 23:27 pm and stopping at many intermediate local stations. Get off at “Stazione di Trastevere” (the 6th stop). The cost is about 5,50 €. This station is close to the Workshop venue.

The **second airport** of Roma is Ciampino, about 20 km SE from the city centre. Ciampino mainly serves “Low Cost” flights. Ciampino airport is connected to the train station Roma Termini by Cotral/Schiaffini and Terravision buses. Tickets can be bought on board and cost about 5 Euro.

**Public coaches:** the ticket price is 1,50 €. This ticket is valid for 100 minutes after the initial
validation on the buses/trolleybuses and only for 1 ride on the subway. From ‘Stazione Termini’
(Rome’s main railway station) to the Botanic Garden (‘Orto Botanico’) (address: Largo Cristina
di Svezia, n. 24): line H. Get off at the bus stop in Piazza Belli (after Ponte Garibaldi), walk along
the river in the direction of St. Peter’s (with the river on your right) until you reach Piazza Trilussa.
Walk along Via P. Sisto and via S. Dorotea, turn right, go through the arch, and you will be on
Via della Lungara. Turn first left after the arch to get in Largo Cristina di Svezia, where the Orto
Botanico is located. From ‘Stazione di Trastevere’ to the Botanic Garden (‘Orto Botanico’)
(address: Largo Cristina di Svezia, n. 24): tram 8 or lines H or 780 (direction Piazza Sonnino).
Get off at the bus stop in Piazza Belli (before Ponte Garibaldi), and follows the above-described
indications.
**Taxi:** from Fiumicino to the city centre (‘ancient walls’) the price is 40 € and from Ciampino it is 30 € (up to 4 people, luggage included). The location of the Workshop (Orto Botanico di Roma, Largo Cristina di Svezia, 24) is to be considered “city centre”. All licensed taxi cabs are white and have a taxi sign on the car’s roof and their own license number inside the car. In every official taxi, a card explains - in English - the extra charges for luggage, late-night travel, Sunday and holiday travel, and airport journeys. Be careful of unlicensed and illegal taxi drivers approaching you at the train station or the airport. They usually are costly and unpredictable.

Taxi cabs leave you in front of the main entrance of the Botanic Garden at the taxi stop.

**Where To Stay:**

A list of accommodations near the venue (Botanic Garden of Rome) can be found here. Book in time!

**Where To Eat:**

A selection of nearby restaurants can be found on this map.

**What To Visit:**

The most famous tourist highlights of Rome can be found here.

The principal underground lines are 3, line A, line B and line C, which connect perfectly all the parts of the city (the ticket is the same as for the buses). If you are going to move many times during the day, it is better to buy a daily or weekly ticket or monthly card. Schedule: 05:30 - 23:30 (Sat 00:30) Frequency: 3 - 6 minutes, Ticket: € 1,50 (for one train), BTI (Touristic 3 days): € 11,00, CIS (Touristic 7 days): € 16,00, Monthly Card: € 30,00.

Buses and tram (http://www.atac.roma.it) The bus and tram lines reach every street of Rome, € 1,50 for the ticket (validity 100 minutes), or daily ticket or monthly card. Ticket: € 1,50 (for 100 minutes), BTI (Touristic 3 days): € 11,00, CIS (Touristic 7 days): € 16,00, Monthly Card: € 30,00.
ADRESSES

Event venue
Orto Botanico di Roma, Largo Cristina di Svezia, 24, 00165 – Roma
https://goo.gl/maps/qPa1tSH98udDLfcJ6

Conference room
Sala Aranciera https://goo.gl/maps/fzzfhiwUtKqV1gFh6

CONTACT

For all communication regarding the 2022 FoS AGM in Rome, please contact fos.rome2022@gmail.com - the organizers will not respond to individual emails about the conference, only through the conference website or this email.

More information concerning the FoS conference and the registration will be available on the conference website (under construction) – fosrome2022.org