



## **24th International Socotra Conference and Annual General Meeting**

ZRC ATRIUM, ZRC SAZU (The Research centre of  
the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts),  
Institute of Biology, Ljubljana, SLOVENIA

Friends of Socotra AGM/Conference 19-21<sup>st</sup> of  
September, 2025



**ZRC SAZU**



**24th FOS meeting and Socotra Conference 2025**  
**ZRC SAZU, Atrium, Novi trg 2, Ljubljana,**  
**Slovenia**

**FRIDAY, September 19th 2025 (Welcome)**

16.00 - 17.30 City Walk (organised by Janja Benedik and Tina Zorman - optional, see below; start from ZRC Atrium at 16.00)  
 18.00 - 18.30 Registration  
 18.30 - 19.00 Welcome Address  
     • Dr Urban Šilc, Head of Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, ZRC SAZU Ljubljana  
 19.00 - 19.30 Shortfilm Socotra (by Miran Hvala)  
 19.30 - 22.00 Reception and informal meeting, catering

## SATURDAY, September 20th 2025 (Presentations)

9.00 - 9.30 **Registration + Zoom Set-up**  
 9.30 - 10.00 Introductions and welcome speeches  
 Dignitaries of the Republic of Yemen (HE Mohammed Abdullah al-Hadrami and Mr. Fadhl Ali Ahmed Al-Maghafi)  
 Mr Esmail Keabanni (Socotra)  
 Dr Urban Šilc, Head of Jovan Hadži Institute of Biology, ZRC SAZU Ljubljana  
 Dr Kay Van Damme, FoS Chairman  
 10.00 - 10.15 Kay Van Damme - Updates on Conservation and Science in Socotra  
 10.15 - 10.30 Dario La Montagna - Socotra's non-endemic flora as a biogeographic baseline  
 10.30 - 10.45 **Break**  
 10.45 - 11.00 Jana Tulková - The Sacred Frankincense  
 11.00 - 11.15 Lukáš Karas - Variability in cotyledon morphology in *Boswellia*  
 11.15 - 11.30 *bullata*  
 Radim Jan Vasut - Preliminary results on genome size variation in Socotran *Boswellia*  
 11.30 - 11.45 **Break**  
 11.45 - 12.00 Natálie Holešová - Effect of organic superabsorbents on the growth of *Boswellia* species in Socotra Island  
 12.00 - 12.15 Petr Madeřa - What is hidden in goat's milk on Socotra?  
 12.15 - 12.30 Abdalgamil Mohammed - Ecotourism Sustainability and Livelihoods vulnerability in Homhil and Firmihin Forests  
 12.30 - 12.45 Janja Benedik - Experiences of guiding in Socotra in the last ten years  
 12.45 - 13.00 Dušan Nolimal - Qat use in Socotra  
 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch (individually - lunchboxes are provided for anyone who attends the excursion)  
 14.00 - 19.00 \*Excursion (bus starts at 14.00): Morostig (exhibitions about explorations of Ljubljana Marshes, biodiversity and pile dwellings), visit the reconstruction of pile dwellings (UNESCO site), driving across Ljubljana Marshes to Bistra.  
 19.00 - 21.00 \*\*Dinner at Restaurant Bistra, next to Technical Museum of Slovenia, Vrhnika

Coffee will be available from 9.00am; \*Lunch boxes will be organized for all attendees of the excursion; \*\*Organized dinner for all attendees of the excursion, it is possible to attend only the dinner but separate transfer should then be organized individually!

NO EXTRA COSTS FOR THE EXCURSION AND THE DINNER.

URGENT! Please, confirm the attendance to the excursion and the dinner to email [janja.benedik@gmail.com](mailto:janja.benedik@gmail.com) till Thursday, October 18th!

## **SUNDAY, September 21st 2025 (FoS AGM)**

9.00 - 9.30	Coffee
9.30 - 11.00	FoS AGM - Committee Activity and Financial Reports
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 13.00	FoS AGM - Committee Activity + Future Projects
13.00 -	Lunch - to be organized for those who want to join

The city walk will be organized on **Friday** before the conference **at 16.00**. Those who wants to join can come to Atrium and keep the luggage there. They should confirm their arrival on [janja.benedik@gmail.com](mailto:janja.benedik@gmail.com). The city walk will include the most famous places in the city center.

**ZOOM LINK FOR THE CONFERENCE (9.30am-13.00pm Saturday; 9.30am-13.00pm Sunday) :**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82031122244?pwd=Lo12O1bgv3iT951z7xtWn5bcIwbD8a.1>

Meeting ID: 820 3112 2244

Passcode: 682122