

ARBORETA AROUND THE WORLD

Share your knowledge of biodiversity

An international conference on the history, value and future prospects of arboreta

Together for the future of biodiversity

Firenze e Vallombrosa, Italy

10 - 11 - 12 October 2019

On the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Forestry Institute and Experimental Arboreta in Vallombrosa, the Carabinieri Biodiversity Group (the current managing authority) wishes to celebrate, with a 2-day conference, the historical and conservation value of arboreta at the global level. The Congress will also provide an opportunity to debate the benefits of networking and partnerships and discuss future challenges, providing a forum to exchange best practices in management, conservation and education. The celebrations will take place in Firenze, and in Vallombrosa (35 km east of Firenze), the birthplace of Italian Forestry School, in the historical Benedictine Abbey. A unique setting and opportunity to share the experience and science in Vallombrosa Arboreta, a favourite place through the years for many of researchers and scholars in Forestry and Tree Heritage.

The conference will include of a series of Panels focussing on different aspects of the work of arboreta. Each panel will include a number of invited speakers to address the panel theme.

Panel 1

Botanic gardens and arboreta through time

Botanic gardens and arboreta are places of excellence for the study of plants, traditionally linked to medicinal plants and to the assessment of the potential use of new plants to be introduced into cultivation. In the current global context a new important focus is on ex-situ conservation of threatened species. Environmental education is also a contemporary task for arboreta, aiming at raising awareness of biodiversity and sustainability.

Panel 2

Management of tree collections

Arboreta include mature specimens of trees that strike visitors with their size, age and shape. While striving to preserve such specimens, it is important to ensure the safety of both visitors and staff. The frequent occurrence of extreme weather phenomena poses a serious threat to their conservation and requires urgent coordination and careful planning to put in place effective approaches for the assessment of mature trees and the reduction of the related risks.

Panel 3

Networking and partnerships

A well-organized national network and a wider global network are key features of working together in partnership to optimise resources and maximise results for the benefit of trees and plant conservation. Modern technologies allow easy connection and networking, to facilitate the coordination, exchange and sharing of expertise and development of common approaches among key institutions managing plant collections.

Special focus

Environmental education and outreach: The history of botanic gardens and arboreta is linked to the desire to share knowledge and reach out to a wider public. Over time, tree collections have matured and became increasingly important for the study of plant diversity.

Panel 4

In-situ and ex-situ conservation

Arboreta contribute to plant conservation with a special focus on threatened trees, producing and updating red lists and safeguarding their genetic diversity with carefully selected collections. An integrated in-situ /ex-situ approach making use of nurseries and plant propagation and micropropagation facilities can act and protect where most needed.



*“A conservare ed accrescere
Con giusto concetto
Con sapiente governo”*

*“To preserve and increase
With fair study
With wise management”*



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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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*Palazzo della Borsa - Firenze
Abbazia di Vallombrosa - Reggello (Firenze)*

ITALY



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  		Vallombrosa Abbey, Sala del Capitolo			
		15:00	Official welcome address by local authorities Padre Giuseppe Casetta - OSB , General Abbot of the Vallombrosa’s congregation Cristiano Benucci , Mayor of Reggello		
			Panel 1 Botanic Gardens and Arboreta through time Chair: Consolata Siniscalco , Società Botanica Italiana, Italy	10.45	coffee break
			Francesco Maria Raimondo , Italian Botanic Gardens Network, Italy <i>“Botanic Gardens and Arboreta in Italy”</i> Sergio Castalbolognesi , Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, Italy <i>“KKL and Trees”</i> Alessandro Chiarucci , University of Bologna, Italy <i>“Sacred natural sites in Italy – A cultural treasure conserving groves, forests and biodiversity”</i> Patrick Huvenne , Geographical arboretum Tervuren, Belgium <i>“Revival of Forest Arboreta in Western Europe - The case of Tervuren”</i> William Hinchliffe , Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland, UK <i>“The plant collectors and their influence on the tree collections in Europe”</i> Erika Pénteszé Kónya , Eszterházy Károly University, Eger, Hungary <i>“Botanical knowledge elements making trees more attractive in environmental education”</i>	11:10	Special focus - Environmental education and outreach Luisella Meozzi , Green Accord Claudia Pregno , Rai 3 - TG Leonardo Maria Luisa Cocozza , TG 5 - Arca di Noè Luca Liverani , Avvenire Corrado Zunino , La Repubblica
				12.30	Lunch
				14:00	Planting ceremony of two special trees for Vallombrosa arboreta - Introduced by Paolo Grossoni Pinus Leucodermis, one of the few Italian endemic trees and Pseudotsuga menziesii, a tree of special importance for the Vallombrosa collection, the first exotic experimental tree planted in Vallombrosa by Benedictine Monks back in 1861
		16:15	coffee break	15:00	Panel 4 In-situ and ex-situ conservation Chair: Alessandro Chiarucci , University of Bologna, Italy Giovanni Vendramin , Institute of biosciences and bioresources of CNR, Italy <i>“Distribution and conservation of forest genetic resources”</i> Raffaello Giannini , Accademia dei Georgofili, Firenze, Italy <i>“The role of arboreta in the conservation of genetic diversity of forest ecosystems”</i> Stefano Amore , Constitutional Court, Italy <i>“Brief remarks on law and environment in Italy”</i> Chuck Cannon , Center for Tree Science of the Morton Arboretum, USA <i>“Assisting trees to thrive in the Anthropocene”</i> Martin Gardner , Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Scotland, UK <i>“The International Conifer Conservation Programme”</i>
9:00	Official welcome address by the national and local authorities	16:30	Panel 2 Management of tree collections Chair: Costantino Bonomi , Italian rep. in the European Botanic Garden Consortium Fausto Cardella , Attorney General of Perugia, Italy <i>“Mafia and environment”</i> Chris Malumphy , Fera Science, England, UK <i>“Trees pests, diseases and citizen science monitoring programmes and The International Plant Sentinel Network”</i> Raffaele Cavalli , University of Padova, Italy <i>“Historical garden of Revedin Bolasco Villa of University of Padova: recovery, restoration and management”</i> Piermaria Corona , Research Centre for Forestry and Wood - Italian Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, Arezzo, Italy <i>“CREA’s role in tree management”</i> Alessandro Bottacci , Carabinieri Forestale Toscana, Firenze, Italy <i>“History and evolution of management of arboreta”</i> Franco Pedrotti , University of Camerino, Italy <i>“30 years of experience with a recent Arboretum: the Arboretum Appenninicum of Camerino”</i> Giuseppe Brundu , University of Sassari, Italy <i>“The European code of conduct on invasive alien trees”</i>	16:30	Coffee Break
10:00	Welcome addresses Ciro D’Angelo , Chief of Unità Forestali, Ambientali e Agroalimentari of Carabinieri Orazio Ciancio , President of Accademia Italiana Scienze Forestali, Firenze, Italy Massimo Vincenzini , President of Accademia dei Georgofili, Firenze, Italy Consolata Siniscalco , President of Società Botanica Italiana Eilon M. Adar , Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel <i>“The Water Miracle in Israel: planning, innovations, development and comprehensive water management that allow the returning of water to arid nature for preserving biodiversity”</i>			16:50	David Neale , University of California, USA <i>“The Conifers: Genomes, Complex Traits and Adaptation”</i> Kirsty Shaw , Botanic Gardens Conservation International , England, UK <i>“The BGCI global tree conservation programme”</i> Jinfeng Zhou , China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, China <i>“The China Biodeversity Experience”</i> Gianluca Piovesan , Professor at the Università of Tuscia, Italy <i>“On tree longevity”</i>
10:45	Coffee break	20:00	Social dinner at Abbazia di Vallombrosa	18:30	Presentation of the “Vallombrosa Charter” and conclusions
11:00	Panel 1 Botanic Gardens and Arboreta through time Chair: Mario Tozzi , geologist, scientific divulger Davide De Laurentis , Chief of Comando Carabinieri per la Tutela della Biodiversità e dei Parchi <i>“The 150 years of Vallombrosa Arboreta”</i> Maria Carmela Giarratano , General director of Direzione Generale per la protezione della natura del Ministero dell’ Ambiente e della tutela del Territorio e del Mare <i>“The ministry’s role in the management of botanical gardens”</i> Alessandra Stefani , General director of Direzione foreste del Ministero delle Politiche agricole, alimentari, forestali e del Turismo <i>“Census and conservation of monumental trees in Italy”</i> Simon Toomer , Westonbirt National Arboretum, England, UK <i>“The historical context of ‘the arboretum’ as a landscape component and the adaptation of historical tree collections in response to climate challenges”</i>			20:00	Dinner
13:00	Light lunch				
13:45	Transfer to Abbazia di Vallombrosa			8:30	Return to Firenze
				10.00	Guided visit to the Botanical Garden “Giardino dei semplici”, Firenze
		Friday 11 October 2019		Saturday 12 October 2019	