



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURAL
AND FOOD SCIENCES



CLEANFOREST



EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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FINAL CLEANFOREST ANNUAL MEETING

16-18 June 2026

Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna and online

**All times are in Central European Summer Time **

Day 1 - Tuesday 16 June 2026

Management and WG meetings

Location: *Complesso S. Cristina (University of Bologna), Piazza Giorgio Morandi 2, Bologna*

8:30-11:00 Registration

9:00-10:00 Core group meeting (restricted to core group) - *link will be shared via email*

10:00-11:00 MC meeting (restricted to MC members) - *link will be shared via email*

11:00-11:30 Coffee break and welcome to the other participants

11:30-13:00 WGs plenary session – Aula Magna (Auditorium, 150 seats)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/320483215445514?p=FznmrlacWUhR5MtQON>

13:00-14:00 Lunch break (*)

14:00 -17:30 WG meetings – below details for each WG

WG1 – Aula 3 (Classroom 3, 25 seats)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/39950879749490?p=3hfCmaoV6RMAhMbbon>

14:00-15:30 Writing session

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:30 Preparation for the conference presentation



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WG2 - Aula 2 (Classroom 2, 50 seats)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/391496795380209?p=ebzdO8J79Q6bkhIPTV>

14:00-14:15 Deliverable progress discussion
14:15-15:30 Brainstorming on future collaborations
15:30-16:00 Coffee break
16:00-17:30 Manuscript writing session

WG3 – Aula 1 (Classroom 1, 40 seats)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/314657669176134?p=rsvDU1uzsl8Ck3nFNv>

14:00-14:45 Deliverable progress discussion
14:45-15:30 Data harmonization discussion *meta-analysis on *nitrogen deposition and litterfall**
15:30-16:00 Coffee break
16:00-17:30 Manuscript writing session

WG4 // meta-analysis – Aula Magna (Auditorium, 150 seats)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/359027104778793?p=CxFsocS4LGGmJrkRI3>

14:00-14:45 Manuscript writing session
14:45-15:30 Manuscript writing session
15:30-16:00 Coffee break
16:00-17:30 Preparation for the conference presentation

WG4 // review on forest resilience – Aula Magna (Auditorium, 150 seats)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/361100322258992?p=bReFxTfECXNvHAJRfG>

14:00-14:45 Deliverable progress discussion *Aula 4 (Classroom 4, 25 seats)*
14:45-15:30 Data extraction
15:30-16:00 Coffee break
16:00-16:45 Data extraction
16:45-17:30 Preparation for the conference presentation

Young researcher core team meeting – Aula 4 (Classroom 4, 25 seats)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/357092259007426?p=pwjJGkKbemZWJnVfj3>

16:00-16:45 Finalizing reports from previous workshops
16:45-17:30 Brainstorming on future collaborations

20:30 Icebreaker dinner (*) at the restaurant *Cantina Bentivoglio* (Via Mascarella 4/b, Bologna)



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Day 2 - Wednesday 17 June 2026

Conference: Towards resilient European forests under climate extremes and atmospheric deposition: from fragmentation to integration

Location: *Complesso S. Cristina (University of Bologna), Piazza Giorgio Morandi 2, Bologna Aula Magna (Auditorium)*

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/369294855095627?p=bZYAVGZzGfbVx71SCg>

8:45-9:15 Registration

9:15-9:45 Welcome and Conference opening

9:45-13:00 **Plenary session - Scientific Achievements of CLEANFOREST: key results from the working groups** (*Moderators: Elena Vanguelova and Andrei Popa*)

9:45-10:00 *Climate hotspots affecting European forests* (Mário Gonzalez Pereira, WG1)

10:00-10:15 *Long-term hotspots of drought and air pollution extremes over European forests* (Maria Alexandra Oliveira, WG1)

10:15-10:30 *Deposition of inorganic nitrogen and sulphur in European forests in 1969-2024* (Arne Verstraeten, WG1)

10:30-10:45 *Review of deposition monitoring techniques and operational guidance* (Ajinkya Deshpande, WG1)

10:45-11:15 Coffeebreak and poster session

11:15-11:30 *Forest responses to global change: reconciling evidence from tree to continental scales in Europe* (Danielle Creek, WG2)

11:30-11:45 *Effect of global change drivers on carbon fluxes and resilience of European forests* (Mana Gharun, WG3)

11:45-12:00 *Forest soil microbial carbon cycling, carbon pools and stocks are influenced by nitrogen deposition pathways and loads* (Kate Buckeridge, WG3)

12:00-12:10 *Exploring relationships between nitrogen deposition and litterfall in European forests* (Javier Reyes Millalon, WG3)

12:10-12:25 *Guidelines for future forest management for maximizing climate and nitrogen mitigation* (Lora Stoeva, WG3)

12:25 -12:40 *Europe's current capacity and future needs to monitor forest resilience: a review* (Natasia Kiorapostolou, WG4)

12:40-12:55 *A new database for complex forest responses to interacting nitrogen deposition and extremes* (WG4 team)

12:55-13:00 Key messages and wrap-up

13:00-14:00 Lunch break (*)

14:00- 15:50 **Plenary session - Forest challenges across the European continent: stakeholder perspectives** (*moderator: Rossella Guerrieri; rapporteur: Wojciech Kędziora*)

14:00-14:20 *State of play of EU policies relevant for forests* (Agyro Zerva, European Commission, DG-Agri)

14:20-14:40 *Italian forests under global change: challenges, policy responses and future priorities* (Enrico Pompei, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests, Italy)

14:40-15:00 *Regional Directorate of State Forests in Poznan as an example forestry unit representing nowadays problems of European forestry, ways of facing future* (Adam Całka, Regional Directorate of State Forests in Poznań, Poland)



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15:00-15:20 *Forest management and conservation in Cyprus - Policy and Practice* (Areti Christodoulou, Department of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus)

15:20-15:40 *Great Britain's National Forest Inventory: current and future roles in policy development* (Mark Broadmeadow, Forestry Commission, UK)

15:40-15:50 Key messages and wrap-up

15:50-16:25 Coffee break

16:25-17:45 Short presentations in two parallel sessions- Assessing forest resilience to global changes: lessons from monitoring initiatives and manipulation experiments

16:25-16:55 - *Young researchers supported by CLEANFOREST via STSM, YRC and ITC (moderators: Klaudia Ziemblińska and Ajinkya Deshpande) – Aula Magna (Auditorium)*

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/369294855095627?p=bZYAVGZzGfbVx71SCg>

16:25-16:30	Stavroula Zacharoudi	Linking ecosystem drivers and modelling of soil respiration in Mediterranean oak-dominated ecosystems
16:30-16:35	Paulina Puchi	Reconciling intrinsic and ecosystem water-use efficiency across scales: disentangling stomatal regulation and hydrological partitioning in a temperate beech forest
16:35-16:40	Ivan Limić	Tree Pollen as an Active Component of Forest Nitrogen Cycling: A Laboratory Study
16:40-16:45	Georgios Xanthopoulos	Drivers of carbon storage in a Mediterranean <i>Pinus halepensis</i> ecosystem
16:45-16:50	Jakub Jeleń	Climate sensitivity of pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i> L.) and red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i> L.) across Central and Eastern Europe in the context of climate change
16:50-16:55	Lucia Mondanelli	Effects of prescribed fire on growth, physiology, and wood formation in <i>Pinus pinaster</i> : evidence from tree rings, stable isotopes, cambial activity, and Quantitative Wood Anatomy

16:25-16:55 - *Ecosystem responses to global changes (moderators: Caitlin Lewis and Arne Verstraeten) – Aula 2 (Classroom 2)*

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/341280214060289?p=6bYVZvn7tROeljjJox>

16:25-16:30	Popa Andrei	<i>Quercus robur</i> response to climate in Central and Eastern Europe
16:30-16:35	Pascal Schneider	Early Warning Signals for Tree Mortality: A Review of Indicators, Limitations, and Emerging Opportunities
16:35-16:40	Line Nybakken	BorealNet – A Norwegian Growth and Forest Health Monitoring Network
16:40-16:45	Zorica Popović	Trait Variability and Resilience of Endemic <i>Picea omorika</i> Populations in Edaphic Microrefugia
16:45-16:50	José Grünzweig	Can livestock grazing mitigate drought stress in Mediterranean forest trees at the desert margin?
16:50-16:55	Midori Yajima	Detecting phenology in European forests through the integration of multi-stream monitoring data, model simulations and citizen science



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17:00-17:40 - Projects connected to CLEANFOREST (moderators: Mariangela Fotelli and Pál Balázs)
– Aula Magna (Auditorium)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/369294855095627?p=bZYAVGZzGfbVx71SCg>

17:00-17:05	Petr Fišer	Effects of acidic deposition on drought resistance and resilience of major Central European tree species
17:05-17:10	Wojciech Kędziora	Does fertilization effort pay off at harvest? A case study from 50 years old birch plantations for sustainable bioeconomics
17:10-17:15	Roxanne Schinas & Hongshan Zhang	Responses of European Forests to Global Change: Building synergies among flagship manipulation experiments through a network of next generation scientists – FutureForests
17:15-17:20	Valentina Vitali	Adaptation, Acclimation, and Physiological Responses for Resilient Forests in Europe
17:20-17:25	Yu Zhou	Atmospheric Deposition Outweighs Dryness in Regulating Ecosystem Productivity Across Europe
17:25-17:30	Patrick Schleppei	Unraveling interactions of climate and N dynamics in European forest ecosystems (project UniCaN)
17:30-17:35	Claudia Guidi	Understanding Soil Organic Matter Turnover and Sources in European Forests under Global Changes: The RootForC project
17:35-17:40	Barbara Moser	Soil microbial communities' compositional and functional responses to climate change: the role of forest soil conditions and tree species

17:00-17:35 - Ecosystem responses to global changes (moderators: Silvana Munzi and Richard Nair)
– Aula 2 (Classroom 2)

Link for online participants:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/341280214060289?p=6bYVZvn7tROeljjJox>

17:00-17:05	Sami Ullah	Faster and Tighter Nitrogen Cycling Supports Carbon Sequestration under Elevated CO ₂ at BIFoR-FACE
17:05-17:10	Natasa Kiorapostolou	PineOptim: Integrated Monitoring and Climate-Adapted Management of Low-Elevation Mediterranean Pine Forests
17:10-17:15	Anna Andreetta	Carbon and Nitrogen Dynamics in Forest Soils: Insights from the Italian ICP-Forests Network
17:15-17:20	Douglas Godbold	Does meta-barcoding of soil DNA really represent the ectomycorrhizal fungal community
17:20-17:25	Alena Havrdová	Seasonal climatic context shapes understory diversity responses to environmental heterogeneity
17:25-17:30	Emilia Pers-Kamczyc	Long-term fertilization and the reproductive potential of dioecious woody plants, studies on common yew and common juniper
17:30-17:35	Jacek Kamczyc	Soil mite communities in Scots pine forests across a European latitudinal gradient



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17:35-17:40 *Maria Glushkova*

Initial Growth and Physiological Response of Hybrid Poplar Clones
under Different Type of Substrate and Water Regime

17:45-18:45 Plenary session - Beyond research: legacy, capacity building and stakeholder engagement

17:45-17:55: Inspiring future generation (Silvana Munzi, Midori Yajima and Nada Hamdani)

17:55-18:15: Empowering young researchers (Mariangela Fotelli and Klaudia Ziemblinska)

18:15-18:30: Insights from the CLEANFOREST Stakeholder Survey (Elena Vanguelova)

18:30-18:45: Closing remarks (Rossella Guerrieri)

20:30 - Social dinner (*) at the restaurant *Il caffè della corte* (Corte Isolani 5b, Bologna)

Day 3 – Thursday 18 June

Workshops (running in parallel)

Location: [Orto botanico \(University of Bologna\), via Filippo Re 42, Bologna](#)

Workshop 1. *Empowering Forest Science with AI: From Data Analysis to Academic*

(moderators: Klaudia Ziemińska, Elena Vanguelova, Wojciech Kędziora)

Edificio (Building) 209 – Aula (Classroom) B (70 seats)

9:00 – 11:00 **Theoretical Part: "From Data Analysis" - presentations on an actual use of AI tools in research with hints on how to use them cautiously**

Root pictures analysis (Marili Sell, University of Tartu)

Developing a machine learning system for automated mesofauna identification (Tim Lukin, Forest Research)

Introduction to agentic AI and scientific workflows (Carlos Ladivar, Bundesforschungszentrum für Wald)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Hands-on experience "AI in Academic Workflow"- PART 1 (Guided hands-on development, testing, and refinement of the research agent)

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:00 Hands-on experience "AI in Academic Workflow"- PART 2 (Discussion, troubleshooting, and exchange of experiences)

15:00-15:30 *Trustworthy AI in Science: Ethical Principles, Trade-offs, and Societal Impact* (Roberta Calegari, University of Bologna) and open discussion

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:00 Wrap-up session

Workshop 2. *Science-for-Policy Communication Lab*

Speaker and moderator: Simon Clark (European Geosciences Union policy division); moderators: Rossella Guerrieri, Mariangela Fotelli, Caitlin Lewis and Silvana Munzi.

Edificio (Building) 211 – AULA A EST (70 seats) + Edificio 210 – AULA D (50 seats)



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9:00-11:00

Introduction

Identifying & addressing policy challenges

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Finding policy solutions

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30

How to write a policy brief

Distributing your policy brief & pitching to policymakers; Opportunities for continued engagement

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:00 Wrap-up session

18:45 – 20:00 Launching of the Illustrated children book produced within CLEANFOREST
(event in Italian for children - optional)

Link to the event: <https://serramadre.art/evento/presentazione-del-libro-piu-forti-insieme-impariamo-dalle-nostre-foreste/>

20:45: Farewell pizza (*) – the name of the restaurant will be provided

Local organizer

Rossella Guerrieri (DISTAL, Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, UNIBO -
contact: r.guerrieri@unibo.it)

Alessandro Vrizz and Veronica Trapani (Fondazione Alma Mater – contact:
gh.manager@fondazionealmamater.it)

Scientific committee

Rossella Guerrieri (UNIBO), Elena Vanguelova (Forest Research, UK), Silvana Munzi (University of Lisbon, Portugal), Klaudia Ziemblinska (Poznań University of Life Sciences, Poland), Mariangela Fotelli (Hellenic Agricultural Organization Dimitra, Greece), Caitlin Lewis (Forest Research, UK), Pál Balázs (University of Sopron, Hungary) and Wojciech Kędziora (Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland).