

EFI 2026 Annual Conference

Conference Programme & Practical Information

16 – 18 September 2026

Växjö, Sweden

16 SEPTEMBER 2026

Annual Conference

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Venue: Linnaeus University, Växjö Campus, House M (Hus M) · Georg Lückligns väg 1, 352 56 Växjö

09:00–13:30

Members' Dialogue Session

- 09:00 Welcome — Follow-up from 2025; EFI Action Plan 2026–2030; EFI Network Fund Calls 2026 incl. Q&A; Competence mapping
- 11:00 Member pitch talks
- **11:10–11:45 Coffee break with member posters / roll-ups**
- 11:45 EFI's Policy Support in a nutshell
- 12:55 Swiss Chairmanship of the EFI Council 2026–2029: Priority Topics and Activities
- 13:15 Member pitch talks
- 13:25 Official group photo

13:30–15:00

Lunch

With member posters / roll-ups

15:00–17:05

Ordinary Plenary Session

- 15:00 — Item 1: Opening of the Conference ordinary plenary session (participant/voter count; adoption of agenda — voting item)
- 15:10 — Item 2: Election of the Officers of the Conference (10') — voting item
- 15:20 — Item 3: Board's report to the Conference (10')
- 15:30 — Item 4: EFI Reports and Plans (45') — Annual Report 2025, audited financial statements 2025, Work Plan 2027 (voting items)
- 16:15 — Item 5: Auditors of Accounts for 2027 (10') — voting item
- 16:25 — Item 6: Board members 2026–2029 (10') — voting item
- 16:35 — Item 7: Annual Conference venues (10') — 2027 venue; 2028–2029 venues
- 16:50 — Item 8: Conference and membership issues (10') — welcome to new members; membership fees 2027 (voting item)
- 17:00 — Item 9: Any other business (5')
- 17:05 — Item 10: Closing of the ordinary plenary session

19:00–22:00

Conference Dinner

Venue: PM & Vänner · Västergatan 10, Växjö, Sweden. Entrance through the hotel lobby.

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Scientific Seminar

Thursday, 17 September 2026

Venue: Linnaeus University, Växjö Campus, House M (Hus M) · Georg Lückligns väg 1, 352 56 Växjö

Forest Frontlines: From Conflicts to Diplomacy

The 2026 EFI Scientific Seminar "Forest Frontlines: From Conflicts to Diplomacy" will explore how forest conflicts emerge, how they are governed, and how they can be constructively addressed through mediation and diplomacy. The overarching objective is to deepen participants' conceptual understanding of forest conflicts while exposing them to concrete tools and mindsets for conflict transformation and forest diplomacy.

The programme is structured into three interconnected blocks. Block 1, "Seeing forest conflicts", focuses on concepts and empirical insights through three extended keynotes on patterns of forest conflicts, power and justice dimensions, and human–wildlife conflicts in forested landscapes. Block 2, "Negotiating forests", links these conflicts to policy, law and diplomacy via short impulse talks on science/forest diplomacy and on EU Forest Strategy and Nature Restoration Law, followed by a panel discussion with science, policy, practice and youth voices. Block 3, "Transforming conflicts", translates insights into practice. A concise introduction to the Collaborative Learning approach and mediation principles is followed by short presentations of three flagship conflict cases, which then feed directly into a world café. The expected outcome is that participants leave with clearer conceptual frames for understanding forest conflicts, concrete ideas for using collaborative and diplomatic approaches in their own work, and strengthened connections across science, policy, practice and youth.

09:00–09:50

Opening: Why forest conflicts, why diplomacy?

Opening moderator: Maria Engelbrektson (Linnæus University)

- 09:00-09:15 Welcome — Maria Engelbrektson (Linnæus University), Peter Aronsson (Vice-Chancellor, Linnæus University), Robert Mavsar (EFI Director)
- 09:15-09:30 Opening keynote: From Conflicts to Diplomacy
Anders Persson (Linnæus University)
- 09:30-09:50 The conflict that keeps me awake
Jerbelle Elomina (BOKU University), Antonio Basilicata (University of Freiburg)

09:50–10:20

Block 1 — Seeing forest conflicts

Moderator: Antonio Basilicata (University of Freiburg)

- 09:50-10:05 What is a forest conflict? Patterns and actors
Annette Löf (Stockholm Environment Institute)
- 10:05-10:20 Power, justice and forest struggles
Agata A. Konczal (Wageningen University)

10:20–11:00

Coffee & Impression Collection

Youth representatives Raghav Sharma (IFSA) and Albert Seitz (Croatian Forest Research Institute) collect impressions: What is the forest conflict that keeps you up at night?

11:00–12:00

Block 2 — Negotiating forests

Moderator: Jerbelle Elomina (BOKU University)

- 11:00-11:20 From science diplomacy to forest diplomacy
Magda Bou Dagher Kharrat (EFI Mediterranean)
- 11:20-11:25 Buzz with your neighbour — one question for any speaker
- 11:25-11:40 Q&A with keynote speakers
- 11:40-11:50 What keeps this room awake — voices from the break
presented by Raghav Sharma and Albert Seitz
- 11:50-12:00 Gold or Green Forests — PechaKucha: An Artistic Research Project
Anna-Karin Arvidsson (Linnaeus University)

12:00–13:30

Lunch

13:30–17:15

Block 3 — Transforming conflicts: Mediation & collaborative learning

- 13:30–14:30 Panel: Negotiating forests — from conflicts to diplomacy in practice.
 - Moderator: Alex Giurca (EFI)
 - Panellists: Agata A. Konczal (research), Ola Kårén (Chief Forester, SCA — industry), Zoltan Kun (Wild Europe Foundation — NGO), Mia Crawford (Federation of Swedish Family Forest Owners — policy)
 - 14:30–14:45 Introduction to the interactive session
 - facilitated by Sarah Adams (EFI)
 - **14:45–15:15 Coffee break**
 - 15:15–17:05 Interactive session — facilitated by Sarah Adams (EFI)
 - 17:05–17:15 Closing — Maria Engelbrektson (Linnæus University)
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18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Field Trip

Friday, 18 September 2026

Attsjö super test site, southern Sweden

The Attsjö super test site is located on an estate owned by Södra and consists of a mosaic of forest stands, dominated by Scots pine. The site brings together several types of advanced research infrastructure, including remote sensing tools, flux measurement systems, a radar tower, drone-based monitoring, in-situ sensor networks, and 5G-enabled data transfer. Together, these technologies make it possible to study forest water and carbon dynamics, tree vitality, biodiversity, forest damage, and ecosystem services at very high spatial and temporal resolution.

The core research area includes contrasting Scots pine stands, a birch stand, and a peatland, providing opportunities to investigate key questions related to forest health, carbon balance, greenhouse gas emissions, rewetting of drained peatlands, climate adaptation, and resilience under changing environmental conditions. The site also supports research on precision forestry, early detection of forest damage, genetic diversity, biodiversity promotion, and synergies and trade-offs between different forest ecosystem services.

• **Dressing code:** Dress comfortably and appropriately for the outdoors, with sturdy, comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate layers. We recommend bringing a waterproof jacket, as Swedish weather can be unpredictable.

08:30

Departure by coach from Elite Stadshotellet, Växjö

Transport: Bus — pick-up outside Hotel Elite Stadshotellet, Kungsgatan 6

09:00

Arrival at the Attsjö Super Test Site

09:00–09:15

Welcome and Introduction

Henrik Holmberg, Head of Forest Management, Södra

Johann Trischler, Raw Material Leader, IKEA

Johanna Witzell, Professor of Forest Health, Linnaeus University

- Introduction to the Attsjö Super Test Site and its role as a new forest research infrastructure, including perspectives from industry partners IKEA and Södra, the landowner and host of the site.

09:15–10:00

The Forest's Immune System

Johanna Witzell, Professor

Daniel Knapp, Senior Lecturer

- Forest health, stress detection and early warning systems for forest damage
- Ongoing research on Scots pine and soil microbiology in forest ecosystems

10:00–10:30

Coffee break in the field

10:30–11:15

The Forest's Heartbeat

Johan Fransson, Professor

Esra Sengun, PhD student

- Demonstration of monitoring systems, including the radar tower, drone-based remote sensing and in situ sensor networks
- High-resolution data and digital tools for future forest management and climate adaptation
- AI-detection of individual trees and tree species classification

11:30–12:15

The Forest's Breath

Achim Grelle, Professor

Johan Fransson, Professor

- Flux mast measurements of carbon, water and energy exchange between the forest and the atmosphere
- Water and carbon dynamics in forest ecosystems
- Peatland restoration and its implications for climate and ecosystem functioning
- Tree sensors, sap flow and dendrometers

12:30

Lunch at Kattesloft + Drone Fleet Demonstration

13:45–14:15

The Forest's Breath

Achim Grelle, Professor

- Effects of wetland restoration on forest greenhouse gas fluxes

14:30

Departure from Attsjö

15:00

Arrival at Elite Stadshotellet, Växjö

Practical Information

Conference venues

- 15 Sep — Pre-conference reception, 19:00-21:30: Governor's Residence, Stortorget, Växjö (doors open at 18:50)
- 16 Sept — Annual Conference (decision-making + members' dialogue): Linnaeus University, [House M](#), Georg Lückligs väg 1, 352 56 Växjö. How to reach [the venue](#).
- 16 Sept — Conference dinner, 19:00–22:00: PM & Vänner, Västergatan 10, Växjö
- 17 Sept — Scientific Seminar: Linnaeus University, [House M](#), Georg Lückligs väg 1, 352 56 Växjö. How to reach [the venue](#).
- 18 Sept — Field trip: Attsjö super test site (bus pick-up at Elite Stadshotellet, Kungsgatan 6)

Here you will find a map of Linnaeus University in Växjö: [Find your way at Linnaeus University in Växjö](#)

Dress code:

- Pre-conference reception: smart casual
- Conference & dinner: smart casual
- Field trip: Comfortable, weather-appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy shoes; a waterproof jacket is recommended

Travel & logistics

- Train: Stockholm–Växjö ≈3.5 hrs; Gothenburg–Växjö ≈3 hrs; Copenhagen–Växjö ≈2.5 hrs
- Air: Bromma Stockholm → Växjö Småland Airport, or via Copenhagen Airport + connecting train
- Local bus: Bus 3 (direction "Universitetet") from Växjö Central to Linnaeus University; buy tickets on board or via the "Länstrafiken Kronoberg" app. Check for [a search on Länstrafiken Kronoberg](#).
- Time zone: CET / UTC+1 · Electricity: 230V, 50Hz, type C/F plug
- Weather (mid-September): ~16–18°C daytime, ~7–10°C mornings/evenings; rain showers are common — bring a waterproof layer
- Currency: Swedish Krona (SEK); cards widely accepted; small cash useful for markets
- Check [here](#) for things to do in Växjö

Contact

- Voting/membership questions: memberships@efi.int and Ulla Vanttinen (ulla.vanttinen@efi.int)
- General questions: Shan (shangqing.gao@efi.int) or Ulla