



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY 30. JANUARY 2026



**Welcome !**

# Program General Assembly



09:00 – 09:05	Arthur Gessler	Introduction
09:05 – 09:15		Current Status of the SwissForestLab
09:15 – 10:00		SwissForestLab Events in 2025/26
10:00 – 10:15		Upcoming SwissForestLab Events in 2026
10:15 – 10:45	SFL Members	Election of the Steering Committee
10:45 – 11:00	SFL Members & Partners	Varia

# Current status of membership numbers



## The SwissForestLab as off December 2025:

- 192 (-11) active members (normal fluctuation in PhD population)
- All previous research groups continue to be represented.
- All previous partner institutions continue to be represented.

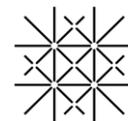
University of Applied Sciences and Arts  
of Southern Switzerland

**SUPSI**

**ETH** zürich

## Three variants of annual membership fees:

- Group of >10 members: 1'500 CHF per year
- Groups of ≤10 members: 1'000 CHF per year
- Individual: CHF 200 per year



Universität  
Basel



Bern University  
of Applied Sciences



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>



**EPFL**

**u<sup>b</sup>**

**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**



VOGELWARTE.CH



# Current status of membership numbers

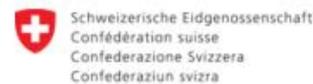
- Continued support of all partners:



SwissForestLab > About Us > Partners and networks

## Partners and networks

### Partner organisations



Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU



Schweizerischer Forstverein  
Société forestière suisse  
Società forestale svizzera



### Research networks



Phenology

TreeNet

## TRINATIONAL FORESTLAB

- acquired in 2024
- funded by the Velux Foundation for the period 2025–2028
- cooperation between the SFL, NFZ.forestnet, and waldwissen.net
- Topic: "Adapting forests to climate change – the potential for Europe."
- Goal: implementation of the successful concept of the SFL beyond national borders in Germany and France.
- Synergies between the TriNational ForestLab and the SFL are to be exploited to ensure the success of both networks.
- Jointly held events in Switzerland and abroad with mutual support.
- Opportunity for the SFL to deepen international cooperation and bring experience from abroad into Swiss forestry practice.

WSL will further **be the host** of the SwissForestLab.

We can **use the remaining funds** to keep coordination and events going.

In collaboration with the Trinational Forestlab we can work for another two years.

Internal structure (program, centre, platform etc.) at WSL to be decided

BAFU interested to continue to support SwissForestLab

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## SFL ScienceDay 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 University of Basel

- Title "Forests in the face of accelerating environmental change".
- 77 participants.
- 20 presentations and 17 poster contributions.
- Overview of current research at the partner institutions with focus on young scientists.
- The entire event was very well received.
- Two articles from the ScienceDay were published in the Swiss Journal of Forestry.
- The ScienceDay format fulfills its function as a central networking event.
- The involvement of individual senior researchers will be considered to further strengthen the generational exchange.



- First call for thematic workshops in 2024.
- Resulting in two events being held.



## Beech Genomes for the Future 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 University of Zurich

- “Beech Genomes for the Future” took place on April 4, 2025, at the University of Zurich as a hybrid event.
- Led by Sofia van Moorsel (University of Zurich).
- International experts discussed current research results at a high level.



## Anniversary Workshop 40 years Sanasilva and 30 years LWF 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Swiss Federal Institute WSL

- The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary workshop of LWF and Sanasilva, was held on June 17, 2025, at WSL.
- Led by Peter Waldner (WSL).
- A comprehensive insight into long-term research.
- Closing statements from research and politics emphasized the central importance of long data series despite cost-cutting measures.
  
- The successful format highlighted the high organizational effort required by the coordination team.
- Future workshops should therefore possibly be proposed by members and only receive financial support from the SFL.



# Integrate Workshop

- 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2025.
- Locations: ETH Höggerberg and Zurich Forest Laboratory.
- The workshop was actively supported by the SFL and the TriNational ForestLab.
- It included specialist presentations and an excursion on the topic of “Integrated Forest Management,” with a focus on promoting biodiversity in commercial forests through near-natural management.
- The SFL organized an excursion to three different forest labs presenting “Forestlabs as an interface between researchers, practitioners, and the public”.
- Successful event with strong international participation.



- From August 25 to 29, 2025.
- "Challenges and Latest Tools for Forest Planning and Management in the 21st Century"
- Took place in Nancy (France).
- The event was organized in collaboration with TriNational ForestLab and NFZ.forestnet.
- Frédéric Bonin (AgroParisTech) was responsible for the scientific management.
- The program included specialist lectures and an excursion to the Fôret de Verdun.
- 29 international students from Switzerland, France, Germany, the UK, Luxembourg, Norway, and Australia.
- Lecturers from the SFL came from WSL and ETH Zurich.
- Consistently positive feedback from participants and speakers.
- Very successful collaboration between NFZ.forestnet and TriNational ForestLab.



A decorative logo for SwissForestLab ScienceDay, consisting of a cluster of colorful dots (green, orange, red, yellow) and small white asterisks.

## SwissForestLab ScienceDay 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 University of Berne

- Title "Understanding the carbon balance at organ, tree and forest ecosystem level".
- 47 participants.
- 14 presentations and 4 poster pitch talks.
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sebastiaan Luyssaert, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- The entire event was very well received.
- Two articles from the ScienceDay are about to be published in the Swiss Journal of Forestry.



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## Events

- **Summer School 26**
- **Dialog 26**
- **ScienceDay 27**

## Further Activities

### – **Communication/Outreach**

Articles SFZ (2 articles from ScienceDay26, 1 article from ETH Montagskolloquium für die Praxis)

- **Workshop Support**
- **Info-Mails**

- Preparations for Summer School 2026 have already begun.
- It will take place from **August 16–21**, 2026, on Monte Verità.
- The scientific partner is the Joint ETH Initiative SCENE, TriNational ForestLab and NFZ.forestnet supported by the Congressi Stefano Franscini .
- Focus will be on research into carbon dioxide removal (CDR).



- Partner for the next SFL Dialogue is the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Forest Division.
- It was decided jointly to continue the theme of the "Integrate Workshop" in a dialogue in Switzerland.
- The aim of the planned SFL dialogue is to take up the results presented in the workshop and deepen them in the context of Swiss forestry practice.
- The focus is on the questions:
  - What can we learn from the results?
  - How can these be transferred and implemented in Switzerland?“
- The Conference of Cantonal Foresters (KOK) will be the target audience as well as partner.
- The organizing committee: BAFU, KOK, WSL, and ETHZ.
- To promote practical discussions specialist presentations and a Marteloskop exercise in the forest is planned.
- The dialogue will take place on **10<sup>th</sup> September 2026** in Basel.

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# The steering committee 2025 – 2026



Andreas Rigling  
**ETH Zurich**  
Forest growth and Global Change; climate-smart and integrated forest management



Arthur Gessler  
**WSL**  
Biogeochemical cycles, ecosystem ecology and long-term forest monitoring



Charlotte Grossiord  
**EPFL**  
Ecophysiology and species interaction



Dr. Günter Hoch  
**Uni Basel**  
Ecophysiology of trees, Carbon reserve functions in plants, Drought stress physiology, Cold limits of trees and alpine treelines



Prof. Dr. Benjamin Stocker  
**Uni Berne**  
Geocomputation and Earth Observation

## Steering Committee Members already confirmed last General Assembly



Andreas Rigling

**ETH Zurich**

Forest growth and Global Change; climate-smart and integrated forest management



Arthur Gessler

**WSL**

Biogeochemical cycles, ecosystem ecology and long-term forest monitoring



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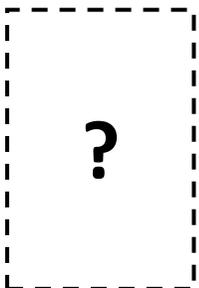
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Ecophysiology of trees, Carbon reserve functions in plants, Drought stress physiology, Cold limits of trees and alpine treelines



New Member



Dr. Petra D'Odorico  
**Swiss Federal Research Institute  
WSL**

Land Change Science  
Remote Sensing

## Education

- 2012 PhD in Remote Sensing, Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Switzerland

## Employment

- 2020 SNF-Spark Research Fellow. Capturing a forest's invisible stress Project. Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Switzerland
- 2017-2019 PostDoc with the SpruceUp Project, at Department of Biology, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2013 -2016 PostDoc at Department of Environmental Systems Science, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

## From Petra's WSL site:

I study how forests respond to their environment and how the complex interplay of phenotypic traits determines tree response variation.

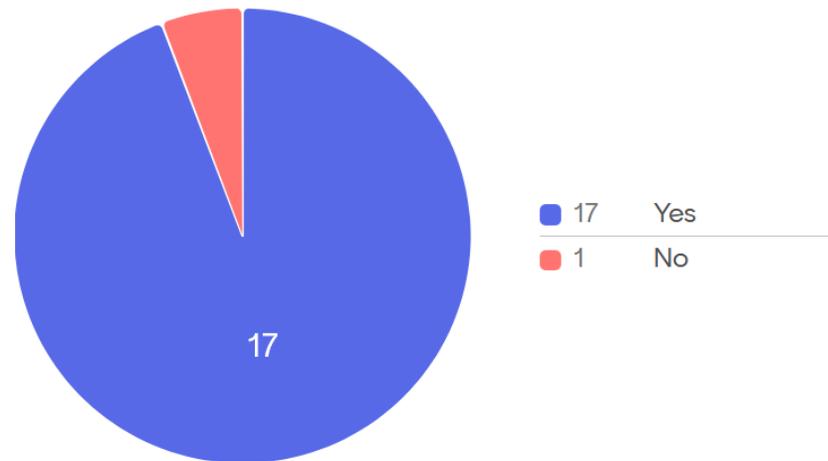
Motivated by the general quest of finding tree species, provenances and genotypes coping well with the changing climate, I am interested in answering questions such as which individuals benefit the most from an earlier start of the growing season? Which suffer the least from the increasing frequency of droughts or beetle infestations? And which show the highest potential for assisted migration at critical sites?

To answer these and other questions, I make use of proximal and remote sensing techniques, e.g., leaf-level spectroscopy, drone-based imaging, air- and satellite-borne data time series. I combine these with statistical methods and machine learning, to develop scalable, high-throughput, phenotyping approaches that alleviate the challenges of traditional measurements of plant traits and physiology.

Join at [menti.com](https://menti.com) | use code **6639 0083**

Mentimeter

Do you want to elect Petra D'Odorico to the SwissForestLab Steering Committee?



menti.com  
**6639 0083**

18 of 18 responded



→ End presentation



Charlotte Grossiord

**EPFL**

Ecophysiology and species interaction

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## Ehrenurkunde

Für aussergewöhnliches Engagement, einen langen Atem und beeindruckende Koordinationskunst verleihen wir

**Julia Born**

die lebenslange Ehrenmitgliedschaft des SwissForestLab.

Seit den Anfängen des SwissForestLab und in ihrer Rolle als Koordinatorin hat sie das Netzwerk mit viel Herzblut, Übersicht und Beharrlichkeit aufgebaut, zusammengehalten und kontinuierlich weiterentwickelt.

Mit ihrem Gespür für Menschen, Themen und Timing brachte sie Forschung, Praxis und Institutionen zusammen – und behielt auch dann den Überblick, wenn die Aufgaben eher einem dichten Wald als einem klaren Weg glichen.

Das SwissForestLab trägt ihre Handschrift. Als Zeichen unserer grossen Wertschätzung – und weil man auf Menschen wie sie einfach nicht verzichten möchte – ein herzliches Dankeschön und einen kleinen Applaus!

Birmensdorf, 30. Januar 2026



WSL and BAFU for financial support

Members and partners for their contribution to workshops, summer schools, projects, activities...