



5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Old-growth forests: policy and practice

October 16 - 17, 2025

Pārupes iela 5, Jaunkalsnava, Latvia

**Organized by the Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava" in in cooperation
with IUFRO and supported by Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry
Sciences and The Forest Research Station**

AGENDA

October 16

8:30 – 9:30 Morning coffee and registration

9:30 Opening

(10 min) *Jurgis Jansons, Director of Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava (Latvia)*

**9:40 A global perspective on temperate old-growth forest ecology, conservation, and
(50 min) restoration**

*William S. Keeton, Professor of University of Vermont, Deputy Coordinator of
IUFRO working group on old-growth forests (USA)*

**10:30 Compilation of a set of criteria for identifying "sacred forests" of high natural
(30 min) value: identification, testing, and analysis of usable data, recommendations for
practical use**

Tibor Standovár, Associate Professor of Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary)

**11:00 Utilizing Diverse Geospatial Datasets for Identifying Different Types of High
(30 min) Conservation Value Forests**

Ewa M. Grabska, Assistant Professor of Jagiellonian University (Poland)

**11:30 Tree biomass changes over the last century in old-growth forest stands: case
(30 min) from Slītere National Park**

Laura Kēniņa, Researcher of Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava (Latvia)

**12:00 Lunch break
(60 min)**

13:00 TreMs in Romania old-growth forests (online)
(25 min) *Ana Mary Petritan, Researcher of National Research and Development Institute in
Forestry "Marin Dracea" (Romania)*

**13:25 Gliding towards an uncertain future: Conservation of the old-growth mixed
(25 min) forest adapted Siberian flying squirrel in Europe**
Stefan Prost, Assistant Professor of University of Oulu (Finland)

- 13:50 **Understanding bryophyte ecological characteristics in deciduous forests, Latvia**
(25 min) **(online)**
Anna Mežaka, Senior Researcher of Daugavpils University and Associate Professor in Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (Latvia)
- 14:15 **Biodiversity in primary vs. managed forests: Biological legacies of old living and large dead trees drive lichen diversity (online)**
(25 min) *Daniela Dúhová, Czech University of Life Sciences (Czech Republic)*
- 14:40
(20 min) Coffee break and poster session
- 15:00 **Forests for biodiversity in Latvia role of old-growth forests in this system**
(30 min) *Gita Strode, Director of Department of Nature Conservation, Nature Conservation Agency (Latvia)*
- 15:30 **EU forest habitat improvement – lessons from old-growth forest stands in Latvia**
(30 min) *Āris Jansons, Director of Forest Department, Ministry of Agriculture (Latvia)*
- 16:00 **Closing of the conference**
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- 18:00 **Farewell dinner**
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October 17

- 9:00 – 14:00 Visiting old-growth forest stands research sites in Latvia
Forest habitat reconstruction (*JSC Latvia's State Forests*)

Forest Development Fund Project “The role of old-growth forests in climate change mitigating: Information for forest sector policymakers in Latvia and the European Union” (No. 25-00-S0INZ03-000019).

