

9th European Conference of
Tropical Ecology (ECTE)
SPECIES-ECOSYSTEMS-PEOPLE
Passau, 23 - 27 February 2026

Conference Booklet



Society for
Tropical Ecology
(gtö)



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Welcome to Passau!

9TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF TROPICAL ECOLOGY (ECTE)
37TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR TROPICAL ECOLOGY (gtoe)
“SPECIES – ECOSYSTEMS – PEOPLE”
23 – 27 February 2026

On behalf of the entire organising team, we are delighted to welcome you to the 9th European Conference of Tropical Ecology at the University of Passau!

This year's conference has its focus on the diverse interactions between species, ecosystems and people that take place at different spatial and temporal scales. In line with this theme, the conference offers an interdisciplinary perspective on tropical ecology spanning from purely ecological topics to issues such as the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of tropical ecosystems. We are very pleased to count more than 240 participants from 32 countries, as well as roughly 180 oral presentations and 40 posters across 17 thematic sessions. This variety of participants and contributions promises an inspiring week full of new insights and valuable exchange.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to the session chairs and the Scientific Committee for their support in creating such an exciting programme. Moreover, we thank our six main speakers for their invaluable contribution to this conference: Dr. Bea Maas holds the public Elisabeth Kalko Memorial Lecture, while Prof. Alexandre Antonelli, Dr. Maria Fungomeli, Dr. Viola Heinrich, Prof. Rob Marchant and Dr. Alfredo Romero-Muñoz contribute keynote lectures throughout the conference. We also gratefully acknowledge the German Research Foundation (DFG) for providing funding, as well as sponsoring by the University of Passau, the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences and further partners.

Lastly, we thank you for joining us in Passau this week. We hope you enjoy your time here and take the opportunity to explore the city's rich cultural heritage, its beautiful riverside atmosphere, and the surrounding landscapes. Have a productive and memorable conference, and many rewarding conversations with colleagues old and new.

Welcome to the ECTE 2026 – and welcome to Passau!

The Conference Organisers



The Organisers

Local organisers

Chair of Physical Geography with a focus on Human-Environment Research
University of Passau, Germany

- **Prof. Dr. Christine B. Schmitt**
- **Dr. Gregor Mathes**
- **Liesa Cosman, M.A.**
- **Kerstin Hikel, M.Sc.**
- **Michael Hübel**
- **Anna Kellermann**
- **Jovanka Radomir**
- **Eva Stempel**
- **Jonas Wagener**

Scientific Committee

- **Prof. Dr. Christine B. Schmitt**, *University of Passau, Germany*
- **Dr. Chris Barratt**, *Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN), Animal Breeding and Genomics (ABG) Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands*
- **Prof. Dr. Jan Christian Habel**, *Paris Lodron University Salzburg, Austria*
- **Dr. Gregor Mathes**, *University of Passau, Germany*
- **Prof. Dr. Martina Padmanabhan**, *University of Passau, Germany*
- **Dr. Katerina Sam**, *Head of the Department of Ecology, Head of the Laboratory of Multitrophic Interactions, Institute of Entomology Biology Centre of Czech Academy of Science, Czech Republic*
- **Dr. João de Deus Vidal Jr.**, *LeipzigLab, University of Leipzig, Germany*

Interns and volunteers

Chidi Prince Emenike	Kevin Burger	Luca Hilbert
Elisabeth Book	Kilian Seiberl	Luca Perl
Ifeanyi Stephen Akudike	Lena König	Nicca Baptista
Ina Voshage	Leon Bögel	Nirvany Daraley Cordones Victoria
Katja Elsberger		

Organisational and technical support

- Manuela Deuber, Mario Helm and Ogarit Uhlmann, F&U confirm
- Günther Sprödhuber, Technical Services, University of Passau



Catering

- Studierendenwerk STWNO

Layout and social media

- Conference posters: Noah-Emanuel Galler
- Cover page: Liesa Cosman, Noah-Emanuel Galler
- Pictures: Christine B. Schmitt
- Social media design: Luca Perl, Kilian Seiberl, Lena König
- Website: Ogarit Uhlmann, F&U confirm



Sponsors

We would like to thank the following institutions, partners and sponsors for their support.

Main Sponsors



*Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
(DFG, German Research Foundation) – 575853546*



Other Sponsors



Neumarkter
Lammsbräu





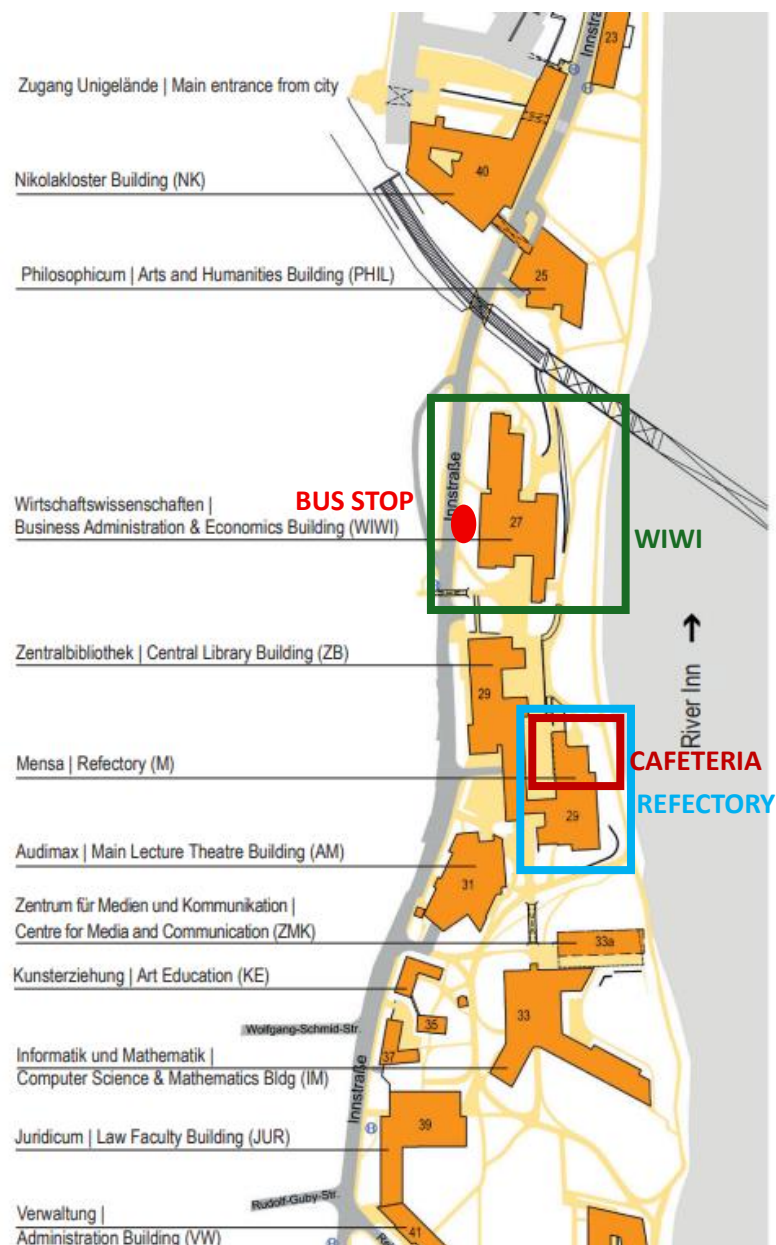
Conference Facilities

The Conference takes place at the **Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, Innstraße 27 (WIWI building)**. The building is in the middle of the campus (marked in green on the map). A detailed campus plan with information on accessibility is available under this [link](#).

The registration desk is located in Room 026 (ground floor, WIWI building). Please note that registration on site is mandatory in order to participate in the conference.

The main auditorium, HS 5, where all keynote lectures are held, as well as the three other auditoria (HS 6, 7 and 8) are located upstairs in the WIWI building.

The conference dinner takes place at the Refectory (Mensa), Innstraße 29 (marked in blue on the map), just a short walk from the WIWI building.





Scientific conference schedule

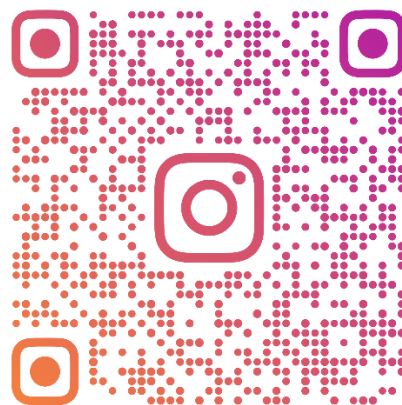
	Monday, 23rd February	Tuesday, 24th February	Wednesday, 25th February	Thursday, 26th February
06:15 - 09:00		Opening remarks and Registration	Registration	Registration
09:00 - 10:00		Keynote: Prof. Antonelli (WWI) HS 5	Keynote: Dr. Heinrich (WWI) HS 5	Keynote: Dr. Romero-Muñoz (WWI) HS 5
10:00 - 10:30		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
10:30 - 12:00		Session 18 Part 1 Session 13 Part 1 Session 16 Part 1 Session 2 Part 1	Session 11 Part 1 Session 3 Part 1 Session 7 Part 1 Session 8 Part 1	Session 9 Part 1 Session 1 Session 19 Session 8 Part 4
12:00 - 13:15		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:15 - 14:15		Keynote: Dr. Fungomelli (WWI) HS 5	Keynote: Prof. Marchant (WWI) HS 5	Session 9 Part 2 Session 5 Session 12 Session 15 Part 1
14:15 - 14:30		Group Picture	Short break	
14:30 - 14:45		Session 18 Part 2 Session 13 Part 2 Session 16 Part 2 Session 2 Part 2	Session 11 Part 2 Session 3 Part 2 Session 7 Part 2 Session 8 Part 2	Coffee break
14:45 - 15:15			Session 19	Session 9 Part 3 Session 10 Session 19 Session 15 Part 2
15:15 - 16:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Session 18
16:00 - 16:30	Registration Wink-Foyer Welcome Mixer (17:00)	Poster Session	Session 6 Part 2 Session 19 Session 17 Session 8 Part 3	Closing Ceremony/Prizes Starting 16:15 (WWI) HS 5
16:30 - 18:00		gtoe members assembly (WWI) HS 6	Break	
18:00 - 19:00	Memorial Lecture: Dr. Maas (WWI) HS 5		Conference Dinner	
19:00 - 20:30	20:30 Get-together (at your own cost)		Food, drinks and music (Munich)	
20:30 - 22:00	Bayerischer Löwe			
22:00 - 23:00				
23:00 - 00:00	Dr. Hans-Kapfner-Straße 3, 94032 Passau			



The scientific conference programme is still subject to small changes and updates. The final schedule will be published shortly before the conference. The full programme is available on the [conference website](#). You will receive a printout of the latest schedule and full programme on site during the registration process.

Social media

Follow us on Instagram for updates during the conference:



SOCTROPECOL

Tag us on photos @soctropecol and use the conference hashtag #ECTE2026 to stay connected.



Special events

Monday, February 23rd

Conference venue: Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (WiWi), Innstraße 27

16:15 – 19:00 Registration (Room 026, available throughout the conference)

16:15 – 19:00 Presentation upload (Room 029) and **Mounting posters** (Rooms 033, 034)

Please upload your presentation to the conference laptops (USB connection) as early as possible and latest during the coffee break before your session starts. For those presenting on 24 February we recommend uploading presentations on 23 February.

17:00 – 19:00 Welcome Mixer (included in conference fee)

vegetarian / vegan snacks and drinks

live music by *Ohrwaschlschinder*

19:00 – 20:15 Elisabeth Kalko Memorial Lecture (public lecture, HS 5)

by Dr. Bea Maas, University of Vienna, Austria

This lecture honours the work of late Prof. Elisabeth Kalko, University of Ulm, Germany, a renowned tropical ecologist, bat expert and former vice-president of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtoe). The lecture is a public event. You are welcome to invite friends and colleagues.

20:30 Get-Together at Bayerischer Löwe (Dr.-Hans-Kapfinger-Straße 3, 94032 Passau)

Bayerischer Löwe is located 600 m from the venue. If you are interested in joining the get-together, please inform our team at the registration desk. Please be aware that the get-together is at your own expense.

Tuesday, February 24th

Conference venue: Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (WiWi), Innstraße 27

08:15 – 16:30 Registration (Room 026)

08:45 – 09:00 Opening remarks (HS 5)

Katerina Sam – President, Society for Tropical Ecology (gtoe)

Jan Hendrik Schumann – Vice President for Research, University of Passau

Christine B. Schmitt – Local Organiser

09:00 – 10:00 Keynote talk by Prof. Alexandre Antonelli (Kew Gardens)

Illuminating a Global Biodiversity Darkspot

13:15 – 14:15 Keynote talk by Dr. Maria Fungomeli (National Museums of Kenya)

Biodiversity Patterns in the Kenyan Coastal Forests and Conservation Implications



16:30 – 18:00 Poster session (main hall)

Authors are expected to attend their posters during the poster session. You can mount your poster on the poster boards starting from Monday, 23 February (Rooms 033, 034). Please follow the guidelines listed on the [conference website](#).

18:00 – 19:00 GTOE Members Assembly (HS 8)

Please join us for this meeting, if you are a gtoe member! By [becoming a gtoe member](#) you support the work of the society and contribute to making these conferences possible.

Wednesday, February 25th

Conference venue: Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (WiWi), Innstraße 27

08:30 – 16:30 Registration (Room 026)

09:00 – 10:00 Keynote talk by Dr. Viola Heinrich (GFZ Potsdam)

Putting B before C? Rebalancing Earth Observation for Biodiversity and Carbon

13:15 – 14:15 Keynote talk by Prof. Rob Marchant (University of York)

Embedding the Past for Balanced Future Tropical Mountain Social Ecological Systems

Refectory/Mensa: Innstraße 29

19:00 – 24:00 Conference Dinner (registration required)

Do not miss out on the conference dinner, which is a great chance for networking! You will enjoy vegetarian/vegan food, drinks and live music by *At the diner*.

Thursday, February 26th

Conference venue: Faculty of Business Administration and Economics (WiWi), Innstraße 27

08:30 – 13:00 Registration (Room 026)

09:00 – 10:00 Keynote talk by Dr. Alfredo Romero-Muñoz (Humboldt-Universität Berlin)

Impacts of Multiple Threats on Mammal Diversity across a Global Deforestation Hotspot

16:15 – 17:15 Award and Closing Ceremony (HS 5)

Please join us for the award and closing ceremony, especially if you have run for the [Merian Awards](#) and the [photo competition](#). Prizes are sponsored by the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtoe), Pensoft, Wildlife Acoustics and the Journal of Tropical Ecology.



Lunch Options

Good news! You will receive vouchers for the refectory (Mensa) during the registration process. One voucher is valid for a main dish, plus salad or dessert and a drink (max. 12 Euro).

In any case, the refectory (Mensa) is the most affordable and quickest choice, with prices ranging from 3.60 to 8 Euros for guests. Another quick option is the Cafeteria Mensagebäude (marked in red on the map, p. 5), where you can buy sandwiches or other snacks. Please note that you can only pay by EC card or credit card at both the refectory and the cafeteria. There are further restaurants and coffee shops within **10-minutes walking distance** from the conference building that offer a variety of food options:

- Akropolis Athen, Greek restaurant
- M2 – Viet Spice
- Café Stopover
- Padu, Pizza and Pasta
- Die Küche
- Café Lounge Diwan
- Café Amsl
- ZOB Döner, Döner kebab/ Dürüm
- Jento Asia Imbiss
- Café Fränz
- Farmstead

Reaching the conference venue from within Passau

By bus

There is a bus stop called “Universität” next to the conference building (marked in bright red on the map, p. 5). Lines 8 and 9 go to the central bus station (ZOB). Make sure that ZOB is written on the front of the bus if you want to go in that direction. If you want to go from ZOB to the conference building, take line 8 Kohlbruck/Erlebnisbad or line 9 Kohlbruck/Erlebnisbad and get off at the “Universität” bus stop.

A single ticket costs 2.50 EUR. If you want to take the bus more often, it is advisable to buy a multi-trip ticket. You can use it to take the bus four times and then you have to buy another ticket. This ticket costs 8 EUR. Unfortunately, there is no weekly ticket available. If you already have a Deutschland Ticket or a Bayerticket, you can simply use it to go by bus, but please be aware that you cannot buy these two tickets in the bus. Under this [link](#) you will find a map with the bus network. Line 8 is marked in pale pink and line 9 in darker pink.

On foot

You can easily reach the site on foot. Distances are mostly not far. The main bus station (ZOB) is 600m, the train station is 1.1 km from the conference venue.

By taxi

If you prefer a taxi, call +49-851-57373 (taxi-zentrale-passau.de). They roughly cost around 10 to 15 EUR for a ride from the train station to the venue.



Good to know

ATM

The closest ATM is located just outside the upstairs entrance of the conference building on the right side.

Code of conduct

The Society of Tropical Ecology (gtoe) has given itself a Code of Conduct that also applies to the European Conference of Tropical Ecology. It can be viewed [here](#). If you want to report a breach of the Code of Conduct, or need related advice, please contact the Person of Trust of the Society of Tropical Ecology (gtoe), Simone Pfeiffer, who is attending the conference. Her email address is: Simone.Pfeiffer@zentr.uni-goettingen.de

Drinking water

In Germany, tap water is of high quality and can therefore be drunk straight from the tap. Therefore, it is helpful to have your own drinking bottle with you.

Excursions

If there is still space, you can register for our excursions on site until Wednesday, 25 February 2026. Please ask at the registration desk.

Information for presenters

For oral presentations as well as posters, please follow the guidelines listed on the conference website: <https://gtoe2026-passau.de/information-for-presenters.html>

Information for session chairs

As a session chair, please follow the guidelines listed on the conference website: <https://gtoe2026-passau.de/information-for-presenters.html>

Inquiries

If you have questions about the conference, conference programme and logistics, you can ask our staff and volunteers. They wear green T-Shirts with “Geographie Uni Passau” print and are available at the registration desk and in the conference rooms.



Pharmacy

In case of a small medical emergency, there is a pharmacy – Nibelungen-Apotheke – within 10-minutes walking distance from the conference building.

In case you need a doctor, you will find a list of English-speaking doctors under this [link](#) or call +49 116117, a medical patient service for urgent but non-life-threatening health problems. Their staff will direct you to the nearest doctor on duty (medical on-call service).

Registration

Please visit the registration desk upon arrival. You will receive your name badge and a printed conference schedule. The name badge serves as your entry ticket to the conference presentations, coffee breaks and events that you booked. The registration desk is located in Room 026 (ground floor, conference building). Registration starts on Monday, 23 February, at 16:15h and is available throughout the conference.

Supermarket

There are two supermarkets near the conference building, at about 600m from the venue:

- Edeka
- REWE

Weather

In February, temperatures at Passau are 5°C during the day and -3°C during the night on average. It can rain at any time. Please check the local weather forecast prior to arrival and expect cold and wet weather. We recommend warm clothes, heavy shoes and an umbrella.

WI-FI

- **Eduroam:** If your home institution is participating in eduroam, you can simply connect to eduroam at the University of Passau. For more information [click here](#).
- **BayernWIFI:** This is quick and easy internet access for everyone available at the University of Passau. Select @BayernWLAN from the WLAN options and connect on the respective starting page that will pop up in your browser.