

IUFRO Phytophthora 2026 Conference Programme

Sunday, 13 September 2026

Time	Programme
14:30 – 17:00	Conference Registration at City Lodge Waterfront
17:00	Transport to Cabo Beach Club, Evening function

Monday, 14 September 2026

Time	Programme
08:00 – 09:00	Check-out and Departure to Kirstenbosch
09:30 – 14:00	Kirstenbosch visit and lunch at Moyo Restaurant, Kirstenbosch National Gardens
14:00	Departure to Houw Hoek Hotel via Stony Point Penguin Colony
18:30	Dinner

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

Time	Speaker	Presentation title
08:00 - 08:05	Tanay Bose	Welcome
08:05 - 08:15	Nari Williams	Introduction to the IUFRO Working Party 7.02.09
08:15 - 08:45	Clive Brasier	Plenary lecture: A sideways look at concepts and terminology in <i>Phytophthora</i>
Session 1: Oral Presentations Chair: Hazel Daniels		
08:45 - 09:00	Amy Eacock	Development of a rapid, field-based detection method and a quantitative multiplex PCR (qPCR) for simultaneous detection of multiple forestry <i>Phytophthora</i> species
09:00 - 09:15	María Rodríguez-Solís	Climate and soil as environmental filters of <i>Phytophthora</i> soil communities in Australia
09:15 - 09:30	Richard O'Hanlon	Insights into the spread of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> in Ireland
09:30 - 09:45	Nari Williams	Baseline biodiversity of <i>Phytophthora</i> in the Green Triangle Forestry Region and its role in strengthening biosecurity preparedness
09:45 - 10:00	Treena Burgess	<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> interacts with fire and drought to shape soil carbon and fungal functional guilds across a Mediterranean forest
10:00 - 10:30	Refreshment Break	
Session 2: Oral Presentations Chair: Anna Harris		
10:30 - 10:45	Thomas Jung	The evolution and biogeography of <i>Phytophthora</i> Clade 7a including 11 new species
10:45 - 11:00	Felippe Balocchi	Unrecognized risks: <i>Phytophthora</i> species and biosecurity gaps in South Africa
11:00 - 11:15	Joan Webber	Impacts of <i>Phytophthora pluvialis</i> and likely risk to conifer forestry in Britain
11:15 - 11:30	Viola Papini	Detecting <i>Phytophthora × cambivora</i> : A qPCR approach implementing an LNA-modified probe
11:30 - 11:45	Andre Drenth	Anton de Bary and <i>Phytophthora</i> in the 21st Century
11:45 - 12:00	Bruno Scanu	From nursery pathways to wild olive decline: monitoring emerging <i>Phytophthora</i> spp. across Mediterranean olive ecosystems through field surveys and spatial risk assessment
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break	

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

Time	Speaker	Title
Session 3: Oral Presentations		
Chair: Duccio Migliorini		
13:30 - 13:45	Sophie Eccersall	Towards the development of high-throughput screening protocols for red needle cast disease
13:45 - 14:00	Alejandro Solla	Breeding <i>Quercus suber</i> and <i>Quercus ilex</i> trees for <i>Phytophthora</i> disease resistance in Spain
14:00 - 14:15	Hazel Daniels	Impacts of cuprous oxide treatment on red needle cast-infected pine plantations of Aotearoa New Zealand
14:15 - 14:30	Ian Horner	Integrated <i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i> Management Based on Research to Drive Kauri Protection
14:30 - 14:45	Dang Nhu Quynh	The first report of <i>Phytophthora cactorum</i> causing disease in Vietnamese Lai Chau ginseng (<i>Panax vietnamensis</i> var. <i>fuscidiscus</i>) and preliminary results on biological control using endophytic microorganisms under <i>in vitro</i> conditions
14:45 - 15:15	Refreshment Break	
Session 4: Poster Flash Presentations		
Chair: Islem Yangui		
15:15 - 15:20	Belén Mendoza-Chamizo	Intraspecific variability in <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> isolates from <i>Quercus suber</i> , <i>Quercus ilex</i> and <i>Castanea sativa</i> in south-western Spain
15:20 - 15:25	Richard O'Hanlon	Searching for <i>Phytophthora pluvialis</i> in Ireland
15:25 - 15:30	Joan Webber	What species of magnolia are likely transmissive hosts of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> ?
15:30 - 15:35	Joan Webber	Can recreational mountain bike activity forests contribute to the spread of <i>Phytophthora</i> ?
15:35 - 15:40	Felipe Balocchi	New records of <i>Phytophthora</i> on native trees in South Africa
15:40 - 15:45	Jonàs Oliva	Litter decomposition by <i>Phytophthora lacustris</i> and <i>Ph. gonapodyides</i> species along an Alpine–Mediterranean stream gradient
15:45 - 15:50	Irene Barnes	First report of oomycetes in kiwifruit orchards in South Africa
15:50 - 15:55	Ian Horner	Assessing kiwifruit rootstock responses to <i>Phytophthora</i> : development of disease screening protocols for orchard resilience
15:55 - 16:00	General discussion of the Day 1 oral presentations and poster session	
Post Dinner Panel Discussion		
Co-Facilitators: Clive Brasier, Thomas Jung & Michael Seidl		Broad subject area: taxonomy, evolution, biosecurity, host-pathogen genetics
18:30	Dinner	

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Time	Speaker	Presentation title
08:00 - 08:30	Michael Seidl	Plenary lecture: Evolutionary genomics of Peronosporaceae: Towards understanding pathogenic successes
Session 5: Oral Presentations Chair: Felipe Balocchi		
08:30 - 8:45	Agnes Simamora	<i>Landscape-level dynamics of Phytophthora spp. in Indonesia</i>
08:45 - 09:00	Sanzida Hoque	Biotic suppression of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> across contrasting soil environments
09:00 - 09:15	Carmen Morales-Rodríguez	Illumina mRNA-seq analysis of defence-inducing treatments in Mediterranean woody hosts of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> .
09:15 - 09:30	Tanay Bose	IDphy <i>Phytophthora</i> : the online resource for molecular and morphological identification based on the types
09:30 - 09:45	Andrea Vannini	A three-year assessment of the efficacy of K-phosphonate trunk injection to mitigate the impact of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> in a cork oak forest in Italy
09:45 - 10:15	Refreshment Break	
Session 6: Oral Presentations Chair: Matthew Arnet		
10:15 - 10:30	Anna Harris	Emergence of <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> associated with larch decline in Britain
10:30 - 10:45	Zhi Xu	Dissecting the genetic control of antagonistic microbial bioactive compounds in <i>Pinus radiata</i> pathogen suppression
10:45 - 11:00	Sarah Green	Genomic insights into the evolution and virulence of <i>Phytophthora austrocedri</i>
11:00 - 11:15	Nari Williams	Population structure of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> in New Zealand
11:15 - 11:30	Bruno Scanu	A survey of oomycete diversity in West African mangrove river forests reveals three novel <i>Phytophthora</i> taxa
11:30 - 13:00	Lunch	
Session 7: Oral Presentations Chair: Carmen Morales-Rodríguez		
13:00 - 13:15	Sarah Green	Metabarcoding sheds light on <i>Phytophthora pluvialis</i> outbreaks and co-existing <i>Phytophthora</i> spp.
13:15 - 13:30	Jonàs Oliva	The effect of nitrogen fertilization on the symbiosis between <i>Frankia</i> and <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and its susceptibility to <i>Phytophthora × alni</i>
13:30 - 13:45	Kylie Ireland	Dieback detector dogs
13:45 - 14:00	Mnqobi Zuma	Interacting effects of fire, drought and <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> on plant-soil relationships
14:00 - 14:15	Simone Prospero	Testing the potential of <i>Pseudomonas</i> bacteria for the biocontrol of ink disease of chestnut
14:15 - 14:30	Marília Horta Jung	Diversity of oomycete species in marine and brackish-water ecosystems in Europe and their potential involvement in widespread seagrass declines
14:30 - 15:00	Refreshment Break	
15:00 - 15:30	Mike Wingfield	Tree diseases in South Africa: A broad perspective

Conference Programme

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Time	Speaker	Presentation title
Session 8: Poster Flash Presentations Chair: Sophie Eccersall		
15:30 - 15:35	Tanay Bose	Urban green spaces are critical nodes in global <i>Phytophthora</i> biosecurity
15:35 - 15:40	Anna Harris	Sporulation and pathogenicity of <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> on conifers
15:35 - 15:40	Richard O'Hanlon	Evolutionary relationships and a tree-based alignment selector interactive phylogeny of the emerging lineages of the plant pathogen <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
15:45 - 15:50	Thomas Jung	Modelling disease expression of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> to estimate potential economic impacts in European forests
15:50 - 15:55	Anna Harris	Monitoring impact of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> on an avenue of mature beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) in England from 2021 to 2024
15:55 - 16:00	Anna Harris	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> and <i>Phytophthora pseudosyringae</i> in larch (<i>Larix</i>): Associations with <i>P. ramorum</i> -infected bilberry (<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>) and evaluation of spore-based sampling methods in England
16:00 - 17:00	General discussion of the Day 2 oral presentations and poster session	
Post-Dinner Panel Discussion		
Co-Facilitators: Treena Burgess, Nari Williams and Alejandro Solla		Broad subject area: risk assessment, influences on pathogen introduction and spread, detection methods, pathogenicity and host range testing, management and control via various processes including site conditions, biocontrol and resistance breeding
18:30	Dinner	

Thursday, 17 September 2026

Time	Speaker	Presentation title
08:00 - 08:30	Ronald Heath	Plantation forestry in South Africa Success and Challenges
Session 9: Oral Presentations Chair: Maria Vivas		
08:30 - 08:45	Monica Gerth	Detecting <i>Phytophthora</i> in forest soils: A simple, sensitive PCR workflow
08:45 - 09:00	Almuth Hammerbacher	Tolerance to Phytophthora root rot is associated with increased sesquiterpene and reduced flavonoid contents in <i>Eucalyptus benthamii</i>
09:00 - 09:15	Tanay Bose	A non-invasive approach for early detection of Phytophthora root rot in <i>Eucalyptus</i> using hyperspectral leaf reflectance and machine learning
09:15 - 09:30	Ian Horner	Testing efficacy of sterilants for <i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i> elimination
09:30 - 10:00	Refreshment Break	
Session 10: Oral Presentations Chair: Viola Papini		
10:00 - 10:15	Joan Webber	Changing distribution of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> lineages in Britain
10:15 - 10:30	Max Hayhurst	Decoding infection of European beech by <i>Phytophthora</i>
10:30 - 10:45	Anna Harris	Host specific sporulation and seasonal dynamics of <i>Phytophthora pluvialis</i> on key conifers in the UK
10:45 - 11:00	Matthew Arnet	Monitoring <i>Agathis australis</i> (kauri) health using sap flow and trunk dendrometer sensors
11:00 - 11:15	María Vivas	Modelling Phytophthora cinnamomi spread to enhance Dehesa resilience in Extremadura (Spain)
11:15 - 11:30	Islem Yangui	Distribution of <i>Phytophthora</i> species associated with <i>Quercus suber</i> and <i>Q. canariensis</i> decline in Tunisian Forest
11:30 - 13:00	Lunch	

Conference Programme

Thursday, 17 September 2026		
Time	Speaker	Presentation title
Session 11: Oral Presentations Chair: Dang Nhu Quynh		
13:00 - 13:15	Michelle Thompson	Developing HTS surveillance methods for <i>Phytophthora</i> detection in plant nurseries
13:15 - 13:30	Treena Burgess	Managing Phytophthora invasions: linking pathogen functional traits, invasiveness, and stage-specific management
13:30 - 13:45	Duccio Migliorini	Community composition of root-associated oomycetes in the south-western Australian hyper-diverse chronosequence ecosystems
13:45 – 14:00	Carmen Morales-Rodriguez	Holistic management of chestnut ink disease in <i>Castanea sativa</i> : field results from the LIFE FAGESOS project
14:00 - 14:15	Alessandra Benigno	Phytopathogenic oomycetes affecting oak trees in Tuscany, central Italy
14:15 - 14:45	Refreshment Break	
14:45 - 15:45	Panel discussion on <i>Phytophthora</i> research	
15:45 - 16:15	IUFRO Business Meeting	
16:15 - 17:30	IUFRO Phytophthora Football Game	
19:00 - 22:00	Gala Dinner & Award Ceremony	