PROGRAM

PSC Symposium 2026

From Genes to Landscapes

3 December 2026 · ETH Zurich, HG F 30 (Audi max)

Registration 08:30–09:00

Welcome 09:00–09:10

SESSION 1 09:10–10:40

The big picture: monitoring biodiversity at a grand scale

Prof. Dr. Christoph Schwörer 09:10–09:35
University of Bern
Reconstructing past plant diversity in the European Alps

Prof. Dr. Alejandra Morán-Ordóñez 09:35–10:00
University of Basel
The missing links in European biodiversity monitoring: coverage, integration, and EBV generation

Prof. Dr. Saskya van Nouhuys 10:00–10:25
Indian Institute of Science
Host plant availability drives the spatio-temporal dynamics of interacting metapopulations across a fragmented landscape

FLASH TALKS 10:25–10:40

Anish Kirtane
ETH Zurich & Eawag
One landscape, three kingdoms: eDNA reveals biogeographic patterns across eight Swiss catchments

Ting Tang
University of Zurich
When and to what extent can leaf spectral variation be used to monitor genetic variation in European beech trees?

Anita Weissflog
ETH Zurich
Insect herbivores and fungi alter seedling dynamics in recovering tropical forests

Coffee break 10:40–11:10

SESSION 2 11:10–12:40

Zooming in: genetic adaptations to the changing environment

Dr. Thanvi Srikant 11:10–11:35
ETH Zurich
Rewriting the epigenome: how an alpine plant scales new heights

Dr. Gal Ofir 11:35–12:00
Max Planck Institute for Biology
Monsters and treasures of plant genomic islands

Prof. Dr. Meredith Schuman 12:00–12:25
University of Zurich
Scaling up genetics: from organisms to ecosystems

FLASH TALKS 12:25–12:40

Barbara Emmenegger
ETH Zurich
Microbiome richness drives pathogen colonization resistance in plants independent of protective strains

Songyuan Zhang
University of Zurich
Toward the engineering of plant pattern recognition receptors for durable disease resistance

Oliver Selmoni
University of Zurich
Genomic repetition in climate adaptation across different crop species

Lunch and poster session 12:40–14:15

SESSION 3 14:15–15:45

Moving forward: policy pathways to foster biodiversity in the face of climate change

Prof. Dr. Millie Chapman 14:15–14:40
ETH Zurich
From data to decisions: biosphere governance in an age of algorithms

Prof. Dr. Robert Finger 14:40–15:05
ETH Zurich
Harnessing agricultural policy to support biodiversity outcomes

Dr. Katalin Csilléry 15:05–15:30
WSL
Beyond nativeness: how European stakeholders evaluate future tree species

FLASH TALKS 15:30–15:45

Katharina Runge
ETH Zurich & WSL
Ecological signatures of tree functional diversity vulnerability and implications for biodiversity finance

Jasmin Liedtke
University of Basel
Soil health monitoring across protected areas

Dr. Martina Occelli
ETH Zurich
WE SEED: farmers and scientists for better seeds

Best poster award 15:45–15:55

Closing remarks 15:55–16:00

Apéro 16:00–17:00