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Top scientists in forest invasions heading to Prague. CZU to host international symposium on forest risks.

Prague, 5 May 2025 – The Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (FLD CZU) will host an exceptional international symposium on forest biological invasions from 6 to 8 May 2025. The event is organized by the newly established Forest Invasion Synthesis Centre, Prague (FISC), and will bring leading experts in invasive species research and management to Prague.

„Biological invasions represent one of the most significant ecological threats of our time. They are primarily a byproduct of globalization. Non-native species such as plants, insects, or tree pathogens are unintentionally transported beyond their natural range, altering native forest ecosystems, disrupting biodiversity, weakening the economic value of forests, and increasing their vulnerability to climate extremes. In response to this, FISC aims to contribute to the scientific efforts to address these global challenges,” said Dr. Andrew M. Liebhold, the leading initiator of this extraordinary scientific gathering and one of the most respected experts on invasive species. A recipient of the prestigious EU ERA Chairs grant, Dr. Liebhold now heads FISC. His vision of connecting top-level research across continents is becoming a reality—right here in Prague at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, CZU.

The symposium will take place at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences of CZU in Prague–Suchbát. The program will offer three days of lectures, thematic discussions, and presentations that will bring together the perspectives of ecologists, entomologists, plant epidemiologists, and experts from other scientific disciplines.

Among the speakers:

- **Prof. Petr Pyšek** – a leading expert in invasion ecology from the Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences
- **Dr. Martin A. Nuñez** – from the University of Houston (USA), a key figure in global research on tree invasions in forests
- **Dr. Eckehard Brockerhoff** – from the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, a prominent forest entomologist
- **Prof. Michael Wingfield** – from the University of Pretoria (South Africa), an internationally respected mycologist and forest pathologist

About the Forest Invasion Synthesis Centre, Prague:

The Forest Invasion Synthesis Centre, Prague (FISC), based at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences, specializes in the ecology and management of biological invasions in forests. The centre was established through the European HIVE project (Horizon Europe, project no. 101187384) with the aim of connecting domestic and international research on invasive plant, insect, and pathogen species. More at: <https://forestinvasion.cz>

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Czech University of Life Sciences Prague**2**

CZU is the fourth or fifth largest university in the Czech Republic. It combines nearly 120 years of tradition with cutting-edge technologies and progressive science and research in agriculture and forestry, ecology and the environment, engineering and technology, economics, and management. Its state-of-the-art laboratories, excellent facilities, and university-run enterprises provide outstanding education with opportunities for personal growth, including participation in scientific projects both at home and abroad. CZU offers full university degree programs, summer schools, special courses, and a University of the Third Age. According to international rankings, CZU is among the top three percent of universities worldwide. In the 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (the so-called Shanghai Ranking), it was placed in the 801st–900th range globally and ranked joint 5th among Czech universities. In 2024, CZU was also ranked the 31st most environmentally friendly university in the world in the UI Green Metric World University Rankings.
