



Yemen-German Cooperation Days

and the 25th Annual General Friends of Socotra Meeting

**Celebrating international cooperation and outlook
towards the future**

Berlin, 23–25 September 2026

Agenda

Wednesday, 23th September 2026 Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Hiroshimastraße 28, 10785 Berlin	
9.30	Registration at Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES)
10.00	FES Podium Discussion*
12.00	Lunch Snack at FES

* English only, no translation provided. Prior [registration](#) needed.

Thursday, 24th September 2026 Embassy of the Republic of Yemen, Schmidt-Ott-Straße 7, 12165 Berlin	
8.30	Registration
9.00	Welcome and Opening remarks • H.E. Loai Yahya Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen • H.E. Tawfiq Al-Sharjabi, Minister for Water and Environment, Republic of Yemen • H.E. Deputy Minister Parliamentary State Secretary Rita Schwarzelühr Sutter, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

9.20	Presentation on the current situation of the island of Socotra • Current challenges to the environment of Socotra and 25 years Friends of Socotra, Dr Kay Van Damme • Ismael Keybani, Socotra Dragon Blood Association (Shibehon Socotra)
9.30	Panel I: Opportunities and challenges for sustainable development in Yemen/ Socotra <i>Moderated by Ellen von Zitzewitz, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)</i> <i>Panellists:</i> • H.E. Tawfiq Al-Sharjabi, Minister for Water and Environment, Republic of Yemen • Christian Resch, German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AA) • Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (tbc) • Astrid Becker, Director of the Yemen Office of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) • Dr. Kay Van Damme, Friends of Socotra • Stephan Krämer, President of Vision Hope
10.30	Presentation about Yemeni coffee by Bashir Al-Maznai, Embassy of the Republic of Yemen Coffee break
11.00	Panel II: Socioeconomic development on Socotra/ Yemen <i>Moderated by Abdulaziz Al-Mikhlaifi, Secretary General of the Arab-German Association for Commerce and Industry</i> <i>Panellists:</i> • H.E. Tawfiq Al-Sharjabi, Minister for Water and Environment • H.E. Loai Yahya Abdulrahman Al-Eryani, Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen • Dr. Michael Beckereit, Interim Manager of Deutsche Wasser • Amar Bamatraf, Head and founder of the Organisation Socotra Planet • Ellen von Zitzewitz, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

12.00	Panel III: Awareness and education on heritage in Yemen <i>Moderated by Prof. Dr. Fabio Attore, Sapienza University of Rome/ Botanical Garden of Rome and Friends of Socotra</i> <i>Panellists:</i> • Gudrun Orth, President of the German-Yemen Society • Tom Leiermann, German architect • Marie-Christine Heinze, Co-Founder and Chairperson of CARPO • Ismael Keybani, Socotra Dragon Blood Association (Shibehon Socotra)
12.40	Lunch – Yemeni Food
13.40	Roadmap for the future – opportunities for cooperation <i>Open panel</i>
14.40	Climate impacts and Other Challenges on Environment in Yemen • Dr. Musaed Aklan, Senior Researcher on Environment and Water at Sana'a Center
14.55	Tree conservation on Socotra • Progress in tree conservation (<i>Boswellia</i> and others) on Socotra Island - the Franklinia Project, Prof. Dr. Petr Maděra and Franklinia Team
15.10	Coffee break
15.40	Endemic plants on Socotra • Plant endemism and functional diversity of Socotra, Dr. Dario La Montagna, Dr. Nathaly Guerrero Ramirez, <i>et al.</i>
15.55	Human impacts on biodiversity • Effect of urban development on vegetation at Socotra Island, Kateřina Jagošová and Franklinia team • Nature-based solutions in Socotra as a good practice example - Prof. Dr. Fabio Attorre, Dr. Danilo Mollicone <i>et al.</i> • Soils on Socotra Island as an important resource, Dr. Dana Pietsch
16.40	Conservation of Socotra's Fauna and Water Resources • Sea Turtle Project in Yemen, Dr. Manjula Tiwari • Freshwater Conservation efforts and needs in Socotra, Dr. Kay Van Damme

17.10	Closing remarks
17.30	End

Informal dinner at 18.30 at *Hoppegarten Berlin*, Schloßstraße 56, 12165 Berlin-Bezirk Steglitz-Zehlendorf.

Friday, 25th September 2026 Botanical Garden of Berlin, Königin-Luise-Straße 6-8, 14195 Berlin (Open also to non-FoS members)	
9.00	Welcome & coffee
9.30	FoS AGM – Committee Activity, Financial Reports and Future Projects
11.15	Coffee break
11.30	FoS AGM – Committee Activity, Financial Reports and Future Projects
12.30	Lunch
Friday, 25th September 2026 Botanical Garden of Berlin, Königin-Luise-Straße 6-8, 14195 Berlin	
14.00	Guided Tour at the Botanical Garden of Berlin <i>Custom guided tour by Dr. Norbert Kilian and Dr. Gerald Parolly (Botanic Garden Berlin) showcasing the South Arabia/Yemen collection, the succulent collections (public greenhouses and behind the scenes) + herbarium and the Schweinfurth drawings (Socotra).</i>
16.00	End

Please find the link for the online participation below:

Thursday:

<https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/98030585207?pwd=BDI9F89uaFZtCRdds1p2e3uvQsFHRE.1>

Friday:

<https://cesnet.zoom.us/j/99567446712?pwd=emfPXHCVqFAZREjMMAfCapBtwwWxXu.1>

Some practical information for your stay in Berlin

Key contacts:

Dr. Kay Van Damme, Mail: kay.vandamme@gmail.com; Tel. +32 486964621

Martha Bösch, Mail: boesch@ghorfa.de; Tel. +49 15901185224

Emergency/ **Ambulance: 112**

Emergency/ **Police: 110**

Some numbers you can call in case you need a **taxi**:

+49 30 44 33 22 Taxi Funk Berlin

+49 30 26 10 26 Funk Taxi Berlin

+49 30 26 30 00 Quality Taxi

+49 30 21 01 01 Würfelfunk

+49 30 21 02 02 City Funk

+49 30 210 10 20 EcoTaxi

You can find relevant information about taxi services [here](#).

Venue information:

Embassy of the Republic of Yemen

Schmidt-Ott-Straße 7, 12165 Berlin-Bezirk Steglitz-Zehlendorf

Botanical Garden Berlin

Königin-Luise-Straße 6-8, 14195 Berlin

Public transportation:

You can find **all information** regarding tickets for the public transportation [here](#). There is also a **smartphone app (BVG App)** where you can buy tickets directly and view journey details.

Please note that you must **validate your ticket** by inserting it into a **small yellow box**, which you will find either on the platform (for subway) or in the entrance area (for tram and bus). If you do not validate your ticket, you will be travelling without a valid ticket and **risk a fine of at least 60€**. To avoid this, please remind each other to validate your tickets when you're travelling together.

Arrival in Berlin:

Depending on where you arrive in Berlin you will need different tickets. If you arrive at **BER Airport** you need to buy a ticket for the **fare zone ABC for 5,00€**. In case you arrive by **bus or train** (at Berlin Hauptbahnhof, Berlin ZOB/Messe Nord, Berlin Südkreuz, Berlin Ostbahnhof) a ticket for the **fare zone AB/ normal ticket for 4,00€** is sufficient.

Getting around in Berlin:

As one single ticket already costs 4,00€, we recommend **buying a 4-trip ticket for 12,40€**. You will then receive 4 tickets for 4 single trips, that are not linked to a single person, so you could also share a 4-trip ticket with several people, e.g. meaning that two people can get 2 tickets for single trips from the 4 tickets.

If you plan to travel several times within a day (at least 3 times), it is more beneficial to buy a **24-hour ticket** for 11,20€. Another option might be a **24-hour small group ticket for 35,30€**. It is valid for 24 hours from validation, for up to 5 people and as many trips as you want.

Berlin Basics & Practical Tips:

- Language: German – but literally everybody speaks English
- Time Zone: CEST, UTC+2
- Opening hours: Supermarkets are most often open until 9 or 10 PM, on Sunday supermarkets and other shops remain closed; restaurants are often open until 10 PM.
- In Germany it is common to leave a tip of 10% in restaurants, coffee shops, etc.
- Smoking is generally forbidden inside of buildings, it is permitted outdoors, unless there are signs prohibiting it (e.g. near to playgrounds or schools).