



7TH WORLD  
CONFERENCE ON  
**MARINE  
BIO  
DIVERSITY**  
17-20 NOVEMBER 2026  
BRUGES (BELGIUM)



**World Conference on Marine Biodiversity**  
**17-20 November 2026**

**SPONSORSHIP DOSSIER**

## About the conference

### WCMB 2026

The 7th edition of the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity will take place at the **Concertgebouw** in **Bruges** from **17 to 20 November 2026**.

The WCMB 2026 has been recognized as an official event within the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**. The overarching theme of the conference is: *"The marine biodiversity insights we need for the ocean we want."*

As the conference will happen slightly past the halfway point of the UN Ocean Decade, it provides an excellent opportunity to evaluate ongoing actions and initiatives, as well as to identify what still needs to be addressed by the end of the decade.



### Previous editions

The WCMB is organized every three years. It is a prestigious international event focused on the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. The conference serves as a platform for **policymakers, scientists, conservationists, industry representatives**, and other stakeholders to discuss current and emerging issues related to the management and protection of marine ecosystems.

Previous editions were held in 2008 (Valencia, Spain), 2011 (Aberdeen, Scotland), 2014 (Qingdao, China), 2018 (Montreal, Canada), 2020 (Auckland, New Zealand), and 2023 (Penang, Malaysia).

## Organization

This edition is organized by the **Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)**. VLIZ is a **leading research institution** based in Ostend, dedicated to the study and sustainable management of the marine environment. The institute serves as a **central hub for marine science**, supporting research initiatives, data management, and international collaboration.

VLIZ focuses on **multidisciplinary research**, covering topics such as marine biodiversity, oceanography, and climate change. Additionally, it works closely with policymakers and the public to promote marine conservation and awareness. With its **extensive networks and resources**, VLIZ plays a crucial role in advancing marine science both regionally and internationally.

## WCMB 2026

### Participants

For the first time in fifteen years, WCMB 2026 brings this conference back to **Europe**. Hosting the event in Bruges ensures a **central location** and **easy accessibility** for participants. Additionally, Bruges' **touristic appeal** plays a role in attracting attendees to the conference.

As one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe, Bruges offers a unique and inspiring setting. Organizing a world-class conference in this location makes the event particularly appealing to international policymakers, scientists, and other stakeholders. This combination of professional content and a memorable cultural experience enhances interest and participation in WCMB 2026.

Thanks to the unique location and the strong, content-rich program, we anticipate **between 600 and 750 participants**. The conference attracts a diverse and global audience, including **scientists, academics, policymakers, and industry representatives**, fostering a wide exchange of knowledge and ideas. This mix of disciplines and perspectives highlights the international and multidisciplinary nature of the event.

### Location

Bruges, often referred to as the **Venice of the North**, is a city full of medieval charm, renowned for its winding canals, cobblestone streets, and well-preserved architecture. Over the centuries, the city has maintained its historical significance and allure. In 2000, the historic center of Bruges was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

The Concertgebouw is located at 't Zand, near this historic city center. Completed in 2002, when Bruges held the title of European Capital of Culture, the building was designed by Paul Robbrecht and Hilde Daem. Since its opening in 2002, the Concertgebouw Bruges has become an icon: it is featured in the book *"1001 Buildings You Must See Before You Die."* Its renowned architecture, exceptional acoustics, and impressive programming have made it a vibrant meeting place, attracting over 150,000 visitors annually.

## Themes

Under the overarching theme “The marine biodiversity insights we need for the ocean we want,” **seven key topics** will be addressed during the conference:

1. Challenges to achieve UN Ocean Decade goals
2. Data and trends in marine biodiversity
3. Data processing and technologies to bridge knowledge gaps
4. Outreach, communication, education and training
5. Marine taxonomic research challenges
6. Supporting knowledge-based policies
7. Monitoring the marine environment

## Sponsorship packages

WCMB 2026 offers sponsors the opportunity to **showcase their commitment** to the protection and sustainable management of our seas and oceans. As a sponsor, you will not only gain **visibility** among a **global audience of experts and decision-makers** but also actively contribute to the goals of the UN Ocean Decade. Your support enables **groundbreaking research, innovative solutions,** and **international collaboration**. Additionally, the conference provides a platform to position your organization as a **leader in sustainability and social responsibility**.

The organization offers four attractive sponsorship packages tailored to different budgets and ambitions.

Looking to achieve **maximum visibility** during all activities, at every location, and across all media? The **Platinum Package** is the ideal choice. With a slightly smaller budget, you can still enjoy excellent visibility through the **Gold or Silver Packages**, perfect for spotlighting your brand among our international participants. Even with a modest budget, you can make a valuable contribution and gain visibility through our **Bronze Package**.

No matter which option you choose, your support **makes a difference** and **positions you as an important partner of** this prestigious event.

Sponsorship benefits	Platinum € 15.000	Gold € 10.000	Silver € 5.000	Bronze € 1.000
Logo <sup>2</sup> on sponsor page of conference website	x	x	x	x
Sponsor mention <sup>2</sup> on social media platforms	x	x	x	x
Logo <sup>2</sup> on plenary screen (between presentations)	x	x	x	x
Logo <sup>2</sup> displayed on venue screens	x	x	x	x
Logo <sup>2</sup> on name badges	x	x	x	
Booth at the venue (platinum: double size)	x	x	x	
Banner at the venue	x	x	x	
Promotional material <sup>3</sup> in the goodie bag	x	x	x	
VIP-reception at Bruges City Hall (17 Nov)	2p	1p	1p	
Conference participation (incl. dinner)	2p	1p	1p	
Banner at conference dinner	x	x		
Plenary presentation (5') during the conference	x	x		
Tickets for the public event	10p	5p		
Banner at the icebreaker receptie (16 Nov)	x			
Logo featured on pralines in the goodie bag	x			
Logo on the photos from the photo booth	x			

<sup>1</sup> Mentioned amounts are exclusive of VAT

<sup>2</sup> Size and placement vary according to sponsorship package

<sup>3</sup> Flyer or gadget, no catalogues or extensive printed materials

## Contact us

Interested in showcasing your company or brand at this event? Let us know, and we'll be happy to explore how you can create the greatest impact.

Contact: Heidi Coussens, email [info@wcmb2026.org](mailto:info@wcmb2026.org), phone +32 (0)474 66 61 57.

*The organizing committee reserves the right to reject sponsorship applications if the company does not comply with, or makes efforts to comply with, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (specifically SDG14), or if it engages in activities that conflict with the core focus of the conference: the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.*