



LifeWatch Belgium

www.lifewatch.be

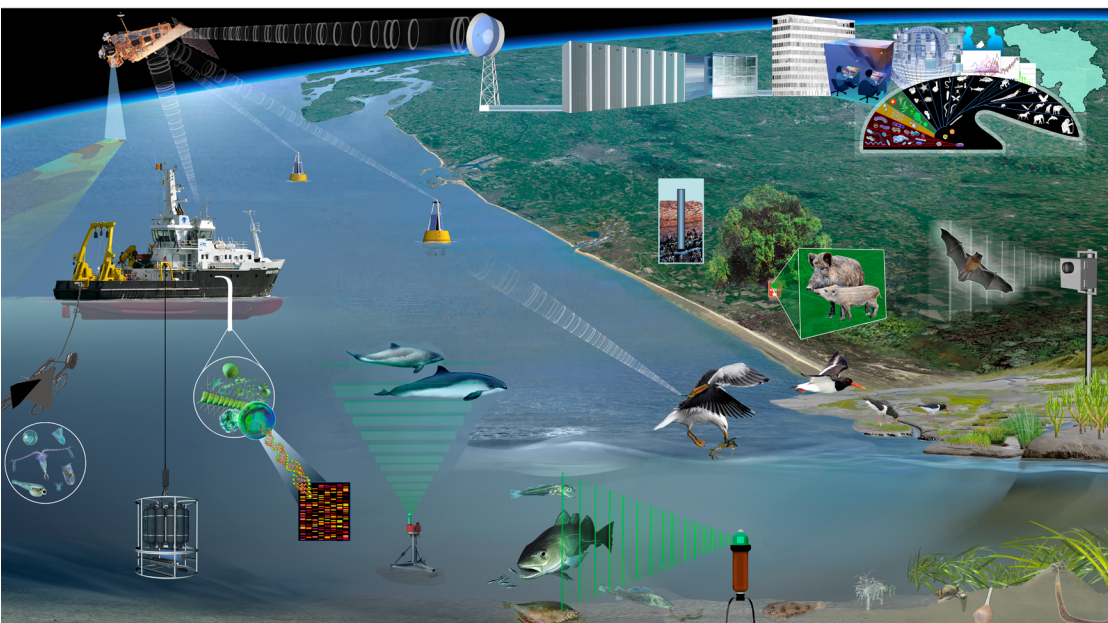
LifeWatch Belgium

LifeWatch Belgium is one of the seven national nodes composing LifeWatch ERIC, the e-Science European Infrastructure consortium providing data resources, web services and Virtual Research Environments (VRE) to biodiversity and ecosystem research.

Notwithstanding its relatively small territory, Belgium has a remarkable diversity of habitats and species, and has a rich tradition of biodiversity and ecosystem research, both within and outside of its borders. Since the start of LifeWatch, Belgium has been a committed country that actively contributes through a number of long-term projects managed by different research centres and universities across the country and supported by the respective political authorities.

The national distributed centre for LifeWatch in Belgium develops and operates a number of essential and complementary infrastructure components:

- a species information backbone as a central European component;
- a regional marine, freshwater and terrestrial observatory;
- a facility for habitat mapping from remote sensing;
- an Antarctic virtual lab for biodiversity;
- and a barcoding facility for species of policy concern.



What we do



Species Information Backbone

Central LifeWatch service that facilitates the standardisation and integration of species data and provides access to information on species taxonomy, biogeography, genetics and traits (habitat, morphology, vulnerability, etc.).



Marine Freshwater Terrestrial Observatory

Integrated observation systems that generate long-term and openly accessible biodiversity data applying innovative approaches (imaging, acoustics, genomics, tagging and tracking, artificial intelligence, citizen science).



Thematic remote sensing

An interactive geoportal provides thematic pan-European remote sensing data. An object-based ecotope database integrates geographic data for Belgium. Moreover, biophysical variables are available for the South Pole.



Antarctic Biodiversity Portal

The Antarctic Biodiversity Portal (biodiversity.aq) works closely with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to provide access to data and tools for understanding Antarctic marine and terrestrial biodiversity.



BopCo

The Barcoding Facility for Organisms and Tissues of Policy Concern (BopCo) provides, upon request, identifications of organisms or derived tissues and products of policy concern.

The Consortium

The Flemish contribution is shaped by the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) and the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO), and funded by the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO).

The contribution of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation is a collaborative research program between scientists of the Earth and Life Institute (Université catholique de Louvain) and the Biosystems Engineering Department (Université de Liège/Gembloux-ABT).

The federal contributions (Biodiversity.aq, BopCo) are coordinated by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) and are funded by the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO). The federal authority also supports the Belgian Biodiversity Platform to set-up and animate a LifeWatch scientific node. BELSPO also funds the annual monetary contribution to the ERIC.



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