



Partnership Profile

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences – Operational Direction Natural Environment RBINS - OD Nature

Contact details

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Phone	+32 2 773 21 11 (secretariat)
Organisation type	Federal Scientific Institute
Organisation size	OD Nature Marine Environment: ± 68
Research disciplines	Earth, Biological and Chemical Sciences; Information and Computer Sciences; Geomatics

Participant details



Dr. Vera Van Lancker (marine geologist; coordinator)
Ir. Dries Van den Eynde (physical modeller)
Dr. Nathan Terseleer Lillo (ecosystem modeller)

Organisation Details

OD Nature studies both biotic and abiotic components of the marine environment. An ecosystem-oriented approach is followed, most often underpinned by modelling studies and with an important physical component. This research extends far beyond the Belgian boundaries.

OD Nature is partner or coordinator in many national and international marine research projects, such as EMODNET (European Marine Observation and Data Network), MyOcean (Ocean monitoring and forecasting), and SEAS-ERA.

OD Nature ensures a permanent monitoring programme of the North Sea and reports to the official services. Several databases are managed, amongst which the Belgian Marine Datacenter, available for scientists and the broader public. It also coordinates and manages the Belgian oceanographic vessel RV Belgica.

Areas of Activity related to Resource Management

Contributions to TILES relate to the following expertise: marine geology, management of oceanographic and marine geological and geophysical data, habitat mapping, sediment- and morphodynamics, oceanography, and marine aggregates. Integration of environmental datasets into the TILES decision-support system, and realistic modelling of the long-term resource potential is the main challenge. The backbone is the quantification of natural and man-made changes to define sustainable exploitation thresholds, an important asset within Europe's Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the environmental pillar of Europe's Maritime Policy.