

## Call to host MMV13

**The MMV Steering Committee seeks a host institution for the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas (MMV) in 2026.**

The MMV conference provides a forum for research presentations and exchange of new knowledge related to monitoring and management of visitors in recreational and protected areas. The conference covers a broad range of topics in the fields of outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism. Emphasis is on policies, problems, practices and innovative solutions, and the MMV conference should be relevant to both managers and researchers.

The first MMV conference was organised in Vienna (Austria) in 2002 and has since then been held bi-annually in Rovaniemi (Finland) 2004, Rapperswil (Switzerland) 2006, Montecatini Terme (Italy) 2008, Wageningen (The Netherlands) 2010, Stockholm (Sweden) 2012, Tallinn (Estonia) 2014, Novi Sad (Serbia) 2016, Bordeaux (France) 2018, Lillehammer (Norway) 2021 (digital), Jūrmala (Latvia) 2022. The next MMV will take place in Schneverdingen (Germany) 2024.

**Proposals to host the MMV13 conference should address the following:**

**Local partnership and organization** (*the host institution, conference chair(s), local planning committee, local partners etc.*): The main applicant should be an academic institution, or other organization closely connected with such an institution. A consortium of local organisations can consist of research organisations and local or regional institutions engaged in the topics covered by MMV. The consortium should have demonstrated capacity to organise a conference of this size. We do not accept applications from companies that organize events in a commercial way only.

**Location** (*proposed location of the conference, travel and local transport*): MMV conference sites should be located in areas relevant for the MMV conference topic, so that participants can experience local development challenges and solutions. The site should be accessible by public transport from an international airport in reasonable time.

**Conference venue** (*plenary and break out rooms, facilities, equipment, lunch and refreshments*): An MMV venue should have a plenary hall for about 250 participants and at least four additional rooms for parallel sessions with about 50 participants. Standard technical infrastructure (video projection) and internet access for participants should be available in all rooms. Catering for lunch breaks, refreshments etc. should be provided on site or in close vicinity.

**Digital capacity** (*flexibility to organize the conference in a digital format*): The idea behind the MMV conference is a physical meeting where researchers and professionals meet, discuss and share ideas in a creative atmosphere. However, due to pandemic and other conditions, it may be necessary to organize the MMV conference partly, or completely, in a digital online format. It is also recommended that keynote lectures, and other featured sessions, are made available online also for a physical conference. The host institution should demonstrate both capacity and flexibility to make digital arrangements.

**Conference theme** (*proposed theme, sub-themes, ideas about keynote speakers*): While not excluding presentations from the full range of MMV topics, individual MMV conferences can highlight particular sub-themes, reflecting current scientific or societal debates.

**Key dates and preliminary schedule** (*proposed conference dates, an overview schedule, key dates for abstract submissions, registration etc.*): MMV includes approximately 3 days of sessions plus field trip(s). The timing should be convenient with regards to the seasonal travel situation in the host region and not collide with other similar conferences. There is no fixed date for MMV, however, most previous conferences were within the August-October time frame.

**Social events and field-trips** (*proposed in-conference field trip(s), pre- and/or post-conference field trips, welcome reception, conference dinner etc.*): The tradition of MMV is to have a welcome reception the first evening, a half-day in-conference field trip, a conference dinner and optional pre- and/or post conference field trips. Expressions of interest should identify possible destinations for these tours.

**Accommodation**: There should be accommodation available for the expected number of participants (at least 200) close to the conference venue or well connected via public transport. Low-cost accommodation should be offered for participants with limited budget.

**Funding** (*proposed conference fees, funding opportunities, draft budget*): MMV is a non-commercial conference series and fees should be kept at the level of former MMV conferences. Reduced fees and, if possible, scholarships should be offered for participants with limited budget (students, participants from developing countries). Local organisers will need own funds and/or support from external organisations to cover part of the expenses needed for organising

the conference. Options for such support should be mentioned in the proposal and a formal commitment should be provided after the decision of the steering committee. The local consortium will have the total financial responsibility for the conference.

### **Proposals to host the MMV13 are due May 31, 2024**

Decision to host MMV13 is done by the International Steering Committee and candidates are requested to present their proposal to the committee at an online meeting. The selected host should give a presentation at the closing plenary session of the MMV12 conference in September 2024.

The MMV steering committee will be available for consultation for the selected host regarding key aspects of the organisation, provide the address database from former conferences, review and select submitted papers and identify potential keynote speakers.

Information about previous MMV conferences and members of the steering committee:

<http://mmv.boku.ac.at/index.php?nav=mmv>

Proposals to host MMV13 should be sent to [peter.fredman@miun.se](mailto:peter.fredman@miun.se)

On behalf of the MMV steering committee, and for further information, please contact:

**Peter Fredman**, Chair, Mid-Sweden University ([peter.fredman@miun.se](mailto:peter.fredman@miun.se))

**Marcel Hunziker**, Co-chair, Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research ([marcel.hunziker@wsl.ch](mailto:marcel.hunziker@wsl.ch))