

Date: 10th February 2023

To:

National Focal Centers of the ICP Modelling & Mapping (ICP M&M)
of Critical Loads & Levels and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends

Subject: 2023 Call for Data on empirical Critical Loads

Dear Madam or Sir,

The International Co-operative Program on Modelling and Mapping (ICP M&M) is pleased to invite you to participate in the Call for Data (CfD) 2023 on empirical Critical Loads, which has been agreed at the 38th meeting of the ICP Modelling and Mapping Task Force along with the 29th meeting of the Coordination Centre for Effects on 3–5 May 2022 ([ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2022/16–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2022](#)).

The main objective of this Call for Data is to implement the recently reviewed and updated empirical Critical Load and to prepare a future item in the WGE/EMEP workplan 2024-2025 on applying next risk assessment including the CL_{emp}N. The proposed deadline for the data delivery is the end of March 2024. Below you find information on the envisaged process to plan your activities and resources until then.

Application of the recently reviewed empirical Critical Loads

The recently reviewed and revised empirical Critical Loads have been adopted by the Working Group on Effects (WGE) during the 8th joint Session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 12 – 16 September 2022)¹.

The report about the review process and its results including the new table with the revised empirical Critical Loads (table 1 of the report) can be downloaded following this link:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/review-revision-of-empirical-critical-loads-of>

The aim of the present call for data is to apply these new values to your national receptor maps and provide the results as plain text files (e.g. *.CSV) so that the data can be included by CCE in the European database for CL_{emp}N. A more detailed description of the technical requirements can be found in the attached document ("Instructions_CfD_2023.pdf").

¹ https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/Report%20ECE_EB.AIR_GE.1_2022%20clean%20advance.pdf

For documentation purposes and for potential publication within a future CCE Status Report (planned in 2024) NFCs of the ICP Modelling and Mapping should provide a short report containing the following information:

- a. Description of the national approach for implementing the new empirical Critical Loads
- b. Key findings of the application of the new empirical Critical Loads values
- c. Identified obstacles to use and apply the new empirical Critical Loads values
- d. Gap analysis regarding available ecosystem types and proposals for potential improvements of the data and the documentation

The first findings of the response to this CfD can be discussed at the next ICP M&M Task Force meeting in Prague. Following the event, NFCs are kindly asked to send first draft results and reports to the CCE by **1st August 2023**. This updated data will be used to inform the other bodies of the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) on the progress on the application of new empirical Critical Load in risk assessment under the remit of the CLRTAP. The final submission of the contribution should be delivered by 31st March 2024 at the latest.

In 2024 the national results will be integrated by CCE in the European map for Empirical Critical Loads based on the latest receptor data available. This map will be provided to the LRTAP Convention for further application to assess air pollution effects on sensitive ecosystems. Please note that the CCE will use the updated harmonized receptor map of CLRTAP to map CL_{empN} by default for those countries who do not respond to the present Call for data.

The Chair of the Task Force of the ICP Modelling & Mapping and the CCE expect national results of this call to be an important step in meeting the requirements of the Long-Term Strategy of the Convention. Please send any input to both CCE and the Chair of ICP Modelling and Mapping (contact details below) and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best regards,

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