

**Invitation to the**

# **Expert Workshop on Empirical Critical Loads for Nitrogen**

**held under the UN/ECE Convention on Long-Range  
Transboundary Air Pollution**

Dear Sir or Madam, dear Sir, dear Colleagues

The Coordination Centre for Effects CCE and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment FOEN are pleased to invite you to the Expert Workshop on Empirical Critical Loads for Nitrogen, held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in Bern, Switzerland. This meeting is held under the UN/ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution under the auspices of the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends.

## **Background**

Critical loads are a quantitative estimate of an exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge. Empirical critical loads for nutrient nitrogen are based on field observations and experiments (i.e. empirical evidence) with the aim to establish dose-response relationships between the deposition of reactive nitrogen compounds and ecosystem impacts.

The first workshop under the UN/ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution addressing empirical critical loads for nitrogen was held at Skokloster, Sweden, in 1988. A fully referenced assessment was agreed upon at the 1992 workshop on critical loads for nitrogen held at Lökeberg, Sweden. Afterwards, updated empirical critical loads based on new scientific evidence have been published in 1996, 2003 and 2011<sup>1</sup>. The updating and reviewing procedures are described in chapter V of the [Mapping Manual](#) of the UN/ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

## **Aim of the workshop**

Since the last update of the empirical critical loads for nutrient nitrogen in 2011, a substantial amount of new data and scientific papers have become available. Coordinated by the CCE, seven ecosystem specific expert groups reviewed the new scientific evidence and elaborated a draft updated report based on the publication from 2011<sup>1</sup>. The main goals of the expert workshop are to discuss the content and findings summarized in the draft updated report and agree upon revised empirical critical loads for nutrient nitrogen.

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<sup>1</sup> Bobbink R, Hettelingh JP (eds.) (2011) [Review and revision of empirical critical loads and dose-response relationships](#). Proceedings of an expert workshop, Noordwijkerhout, 23-25 June 2010. CCE, Bilthoven, The Netherlands.

The draft updated report will be sent to participants by 1<sup>st</sup> October to facilitate an adequate preparation of the discussion at the meeting. Following the workshop, the report will be finalized on the basis of the workshop results and published as proceedings.

### Format of the workshop

On day one of the workshop the progress of each ecosystem specific expert group will be reported in plenary. Day two is designated to discussions within the expert groups that will report back for final conclusions on day three. For more detailed information refer to the draft agenda.

### Venue

The workshop will be held at the Sorell Hotel Ador, Laupenstrasse 15 in Bern, Switzerland. Today, we are confident that a physical meeting will be possible. We will, nevertheless, evaluate possibilities to allow remote participation *via* videoconference.


For detailed information about the venue, please refer to the enclosed document. Please note that accommodation has to be arranged by the participants. We encourage you to make your hotel arrangements as soon as possible.

### Registration

Please fill in the registration form and send it to Reto Meier ([reto.meier@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:reto.meier@bafu.admin.ch)) and Christin Loran ([christin.loran@uba.de](mailto:christin.loran@uba.de)). The maximal number of participants is 60. Priority is given to experts involved in the review process and external reviewers as well as representatives of scientific working programs and other bodies of the UN/ECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Bern!

Kind regards



Alice James Casas

Chair of the ICP Modelling & Mapping  
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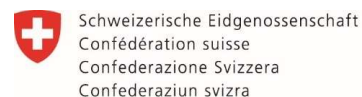
Christin Loran

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Reto Meier

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Enclosure(s):

- Information on venue
- Registration form
- Draft agenda

# Expert Workshop on Empirical Critical Loads for Nitrogen

Information on meeting location, public transport and hotel recommendations.

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**Venue** Sorell Hotel Ador  
Laupenstrasse 15  
3001 Bern

**Arrival by train** Bern is located in the heart of Switzerland and easily accessible by public transport. For arrival by train see [train timetable](#).

Leave the Bern main train station from the exit on the western side. From here, the Sorell Hotel Ador is only a five-minute walk away:  
[How to get to the hotel Ador | Sorell Hotels](#)

**Arrival by air** Bern can be reached from Zurich Airport (ZRH), EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse (BSL) or Geneva Airport (GVE). Rail travel time to Bern is about 75 minutes from Zurich Airport, 90 minutes from EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse or 120 minutes from Geneva Airport.

**Accommodation** **Sorell Hotel Ador**  
Laupenstrasse 15  
3001 Bern

A number of rooms are pre-reserved (25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October) until 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Afterwards rooms are subject to availability.

Daily rates:      Single room CHF 160.30  
                         Double room (single occupancy) CHF 190.30

Phone: +41 31 388 01 11

E-Mail: [ador@sorellhotels.com](mailto:ador@sorellhotels.com)

Website: <https://sorellhotels.com/en/ador/bern>

## **Hotel Bern**

Zeughausgasse 9  
3011 Bern

Phone: +41 31 329 22 22

E-Mail: [reception@hotelbern.ch](mailto:reception@hotelbern.ch)

Website: [www.hotelbern.ch](http://www.hotelbern.ch)

## **Hotel Bären am Bundesplatz**

Schauplatzgasse 4  
3011 Bern

Phone: +41 31 311 33 67

E-Mail: [reception@baerenbern.ch](mailto:reception@baerenbern.ch)

Website: [www.baerenbern.ch](http://www.baerenbern.ch)

**Hotel Savoy**

Neuengasse 26

3011 Bern

Phone: +41 31 328 66 66

E-Mail: [info@hotelsavoybern.ch](mailto:info@hotelsavoybern.ch)

Website: [www.hotelsavoybern.ch](http://www.hotelsavoybern.ch)

**Hotel National**

Hirschengraben 24

3011 Bern

Phone: +41 31 552 15 15

E-Mail: [info@nationalbern.ch](mailto:info@nationalbern.ch)

Website: <http://www.nationalbern.ch/>

For further accommodation please visit <https://www.bern.com/en/where-to-stay>

For general information about Bern visit <https://www.bern.com/en/home>

If you need any other information, please contact:

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We are looking forward to welcoming you in Bern.

## Registration form

Family Name	
First Name	
Institution	
E-Mail	
Phone (incl. country code)	
Expert group (if applicable)	
Dietary requirements	
Participation at workshop dinner on 27 <sup>th</sup> October	yes / no
Remarks	

Please return to

[reto.meier@bafu.admin.ch](mailto:reto.meier@bafu.admin.ch) and [christin.loran@uba.de](mailto:christin.loran@uba.de)

## Preliminary Agenda

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

8:30	<b>Welcome coffee / Registration</b>	
<b>Welcome and introduction</b>		
<i>Chair: Reto Meier</i>		
9:00	Welcome Address and Organizational Information	FOEN (to be defined)
9:15	Objectives of the workshop	CCE / Christin Loran
<b>Presentation of scientific background information</b>		
<i>Chair: Roland Bobbink</i>		
9:30	Review and revision procedure	Roland Bobbink
10:00	Marine habitats (EUNIS class A)	Roland Bobbink
10:20	Coastal habitats (EUNIS class B)	Laurence Jones
10:40	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
11:00	Inland surface waters (EUNIS class C)	Christin Loran
11:20	Discussion (EUNIS class A, B, C)	
11:40	Mires, bogs and fens (EUNIS class D)	Chris Field
12:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:30	Grasslands and lands dominated by forbs, mosses or lichens (EUNIS class R)	Carly Stevens
13:50	Heathland, scrub and tundra (EUNIS class S)	Leon van den Berg
14:10	Discussion (EUNIS class D, R, S)	
14:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:00	Woodland, forest and other wooded land (EUNIS class T)	Sabine Braun
15:20	Discussion (EUNIS class T)	
15:40	Aspects of application	CCE
16:00-17:00	Discussion	

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021

<b>Working group specific discussions</b>		
<i>Discussions chaired by lead authors</i>		
8:30	<b>Coffee</b>	
9:00	Working group 1 (Proposal: EUNIS class A, B, C)	Room ...
	Working group 2 (Proposal: EUNIS class D, R, S)	Room ...
	Working group 3 (Proposal: EUNIS class T)	Room ...
10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	

11:00	Working group 1	Room ...
	Working group 2	Room ...
	Working group 3	Room ...
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>	
14:00	Working group 1	Room ...
	Working group 2	Room ...
	Working group 3	Room ...
16:30	<i>Local excursion (city tour / museum?)</i>	

**Dinner (location to be defined)**

## **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

<b>Concluding session</b>		
<i>Chair: Christin Loran</i>		
8:30	<b>Coffee</b>	
9:00	Reporting of working groups to plenary	
10:40	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
11:00	Discussion	
12:00	Conclusion	
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>	