Newsletter of the ICP Modelling and Mapping (M&M) of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution - *July 2026*

Issued by CCE, CDM and ICP M&M Chair

Save the Date: next ICP M&M Task Force Meeting, 13–15 Apr 2027, Bern (CH)

Dear ICP Modelling and Mapping members and friends,

We are pleased to announce that the 43rd Task Force Meeting of ICP Modelling & Mapping, together with the 34th Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE) Workshop and the 8th Centre for Dynamic Modelling (CDM) Workshop, will take place from 13–15 April 2027 in Bern, Switzerland. The meeting will be kindly hosted by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and is planned as an in-person event, with the option for online participation. Please save the date. Further details, including the official invitation, registration information, and a preliminary agenda, will be shared in early 2027. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

ICP M&M Task Force Meeting, April 2026, Rome (I)

The 42nd Modelling and Mapping Task Force meeting, held jointly with the 32nd CCE meeting and the 7th CDM Workshop, took place in Rome, Italy, from 15 to 17 April 2026. A total of 45 participants from 21 countries attended, including representatives from National Focal Centres, Convention bodies, and scientific institutions. Discussions focused on key priorities of ICP M&M which currently are supporting the **revision of the Gothenburg Protocol**, improving **critical load datasets**, and advancing **dynamic modelling approaches** to better understand ecosystem recovery. Participants also exchanged views on open data practices, the ongoing revision of the Mapping Manual, and preparations for the **next workplan period** beyond 2027.

Preliminary findings from **ex-post analyses** suggest that more ambitious emission reduction scenarios could substantially reduce risks to ecosystems. At the same time, some high-risk areas persist, particularly in parts of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The results also highlighted the significance of already agreed emission reduction commitments, which are projected to deliver considerable improvements by 2040, demonstrated by substantially decreased area with critical loads exceedance and decrease in accumulated average exceedance under the Current Legislation scenario.

The findings further emphasize the continued **importance of national contributions** in enhancing data quality, transparency, and geographic coverage. In parallel, work is progressing on the **revision of the Mapping Manual**, ensuring it reflects the latest scientific developments while remaining the core methodological reference for critical load and level assessments. At the same time, the programme is adapting to the Convention's evolving **open data framework** and planning future calls for data and workshops.

- **2026 annual report** on **activities** including the **meeting proceedings** will be available at the **CCE website**



Any question? @ alice.james@ineris.fr @ cce@uba.de @ cdm@ivl.se

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Recent activities of the ICP since early 2026 and upcoming events

03/2026	EMEP SB/WGE Extended Bureaux meeting
04/2026	ICP M&M TF meeting, CCE, CDM workshop in Rome
05/2026	ICP IM & Waters in Windemere, UK (meeting website)
05/2026	ICP Forest online (website)
06/2026	3rd FONDA Summer School (Faro, Portugal)

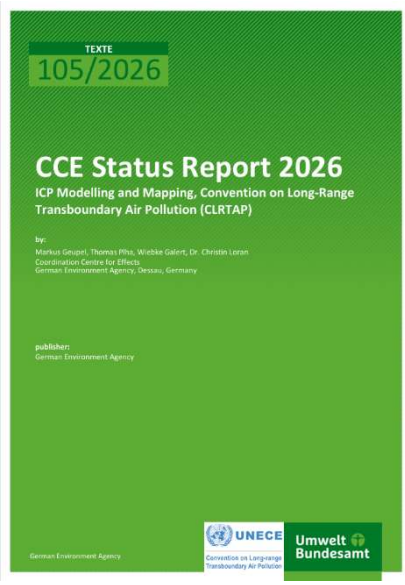
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Ecosystems at Risk: Modelling Reactive Nitrogen, 3rd FONDA Summer School

As an outreach activity, the CCE contributed to the 3rd FONDA Summer School "Ecosystems at Risk: Modelling Reactive Nitrogen" (Faro, Portugal, June 2026), where a lecture and practical training on land-use, vegetation and critical loads (modelling and mapping) were delivered to postgraduate students and early-career researchers. The summer school, organized by the University of Aveiro (Portugal), aimed to provide hands-on training in reactive nitrogen assessment and environmental modelling. Link: https://fonda.web.ua.pt/en/activities-x/summer-school-2026/welcome

Any question? @ cce@uba.de

CCE Status Report 2026 is published



The CCE has released its Status Report 2026, offering a comprehensive assessment of how nitrogen deposition is impacting ecosystems across the UNECE region. Spanning 246 pages, the report brings together harmonized critical load maps, national datasets, and scenario modelling to evaluate which ecosystems remain at risk under future emission pathways – and whether the 2040 target for reducing biodiversity risks is still within reach. It provides an essential scientific foundation for informing air pollution policy under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP).

The report's primary goal is to deliver a robust, policy-relevant assessment of ecosystem and biodiversity risks linked to atmospheric nitrogen pollution and related air pollutants across Europe and the EECCA region. It is designed to directly support the ongoing revision of the Gothenburg Protocol by linking emission reductions to measurable improvements in ecosystem health through harmonized data and impact indicators.

Key contributions of the report include:

- Updated maps of empirical critical loads for nutrient nitrogen ($CL_{emp}N$) across the UNECE region, based on a harmonized ecosystem receptor framework;
- Integration and analysis of national data submitted by National Focal Centres through the 2023/2024 Call for Data;
- Ex-post scenario analyses to quantify remaining ecosystem risks under future emission scenarios;
- Expansion of steady-state and simple mass balance critical load modelling to a wider geographical scope;
- Development and testing of a harmonized method for assessing critical levels of atmospheric ammonia.

Overall, the Status Report 2026 strengthens the scientific basis for protecting ecosystems under European air pollution policy, while presenting its findings in a transparent and accessible way for both experts and informed readers. The report is available online https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/cce-status-report-2026

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Dynamic Modelling part of the CfD 2024/25 summarized

The CDM has summarized response to the Dynamic Modelling part of the Call for Data (CfD) 2024/25 in the CDM status report, which will be published before the September 12th joint meeting of EMEP and WGE. Six countries responded to the CfD part related to Dynamic Modelling. The work reported has been in model development and model applications, in several cases in co-operation with ICP Waters and with ICP IM. The atmospheric deposition scenarios used by the modellers were those developed for the ex-post analysis. The report will be made available online through the CDM home page (wge-cdm.se).

Any question? @ cdm@ivl.se

Call for Data (CfD) on Critical Loads extended into 2026/27

The ongoing Call for Data (CfD) on critical loads – covering acidification (Steady State/Simple Mass Balance model) and eutrophication ($CL_{nut}N$ from Simple Mass Balance and/or $CL_{emp}N$) for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems – has been extended into 2026/27. The extension gives National Focal Centres (NFCs) more time to contribute new data, update existing national datasets, and improve documentation, supported by **revised reporting templates and data-sharing agreements** (Call for Data | Umweltbundesamt).

National datasets remain the preferred source wherever available, while the updated Background Database (BGDB) ensures consistent coverage across the UNECE region – together offering a strong example of how national expertise and harmonized European-scale modelling complement each other. Continued cooperation between NFCs and the CCE remains essential – improving data availability, enhance transparency, and keeping the assessment of eutrophication and acidification risks robust and policy-relevant.

Any question? @ cce@uba.de

Revision of the Gothenburg Protocol

The revision of the Gothenburg Protocol is currently the main focus of collaborative activities under the Air Convention. To support political discussions at the Executive Body, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling is working on cost-optimized emission scenarios to evaluate the feasibility of achieving overarching 50% reduction of risks for health and biodiversity. The latest scenarios are published in Version 6 of the Policy brief on potential targets to reduce risks for health and ecosystems and in the related Summary for Policy Makers (CIAM-Website). To evaluate the influence of the projected emission reduction on various effect indicators under the Working Group on Effects (WGE) ex-post-analyses were conducted. The results of the ex-post-analyses are documented in a report and related annexes provided to the 45th Executive Body Meeting in December 2025 (report, annexes). CCE contributed to the ex-post analyses by assessing the development of the exceedance of Empirical Critical Loads and related risks for biodiversity, and of the exceedances of Critical Levels for ammonia under the different scenarios for the whole European and Asian domain of the CLRTAP. Furthermore, CCE looked into the trends of acidification for the European domain and the exceedances of Critical Atmospheric Inputs to the Baltic Sea. Currently CIAM is working on updates of the optimized emission scenarios, which will be taken up by the WGE through updated ex-post-analysis towards the end of 2026. Political discussions to revise the Gothenburg Protocol will be continued at a Head of delegations meeting in Leiden (NL) in October and at the 46th Executive Body meeting in Geneva (SUI) in December 2026 with the overall objective to agree on revised Protocol in 2028.

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