

Critical levels of ozone for vegetation: an update on international developments

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A workshop on the critical levels of ozone and further applying and developing the flux-based concept took place on 15-19 November 2005 in Obergurgl, Austria. It was attended by nearly 100 people from 18 countries together with representatives of the International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on Forests, ICP Vegetation, the EMEP Meteorological Synthesizing Centre – West (MSC-W) and the UNECE secretariat.

The overall aim of the workshop was to validate the flux concept and the primary objectives were to:

- Further develop methods for applying flux-effect relationships for impact assessments at different geographical levels including consideration of uncertainties;
- Review the provisional flux-based critical level for forest trees, and to consider progress in establishing flux-based critical levels for additional crops not currently included in the mapping manual;
- Assess progress with the development of canopy and stand level ozone flux-effect models and methods for crops and forest trees;
- Assess progress with the development of flux-effect models for (semi-) natural vegetation;
- Identify areas of further work for crops, (semi-) natural vegetation and forest trees.

The outcomes from this meeting will be described together with the ways in which the new and existing critical levels and methods for ozone will be used within the LRTAP Convention¹ to further develop European air pollution control policy.

¹Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention