UN Environment Launches the Technical Helpdesk for National LCA Databases

The Technical Helpdesk for National LCA Databases will: facilitate communication, provide key informational resources, including training materials, support existing and emerging guidance on responsible management practices, as well as technical requirements database set-up and operation – such as:

- Strategy roadmapping through regional/national LCA networks for data development/sharing;
- Raw data acquisition, both primary and secondary;
- Creation and verification of data sets from raw data;
- Modeling to create unit and aggregate datasets;
- Understanding of database or data repository structure, curation, and exchange capabilities;
- Data documentation, including basic interoperability meta-information for the Global LCA Data Access Network (GLAD Network); and,
- Dataset and practices management review.

Open Exchange Space @ www.scpclearinghouse.org

Hosted under the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Clearinghouse, the Helpdesk consists of an open exchange space for interested professionals, and a private space that experts in LCA data and database set-up/operations can access to communicate with Helpdesk management. The functions and features of the Helpdesk include:

- ‘Desktop’ area with ongoing activities and accomplishments;
- ‘Agenda’ which provides a shared events calendar;
- ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ forum for dialogue among the community;
- ‘Tasking’ function where you can submit requests for action to other members;
- A moderated ‘Ask an Expert’ forum for questions by members to knowledgeable experts;
- ‘Document repository’ including downloadable training materials;
- ‘Member Directory’ at the Clearinghouse level.

The Technical Helpdesk is a UN Environment project and implemented with the financial support of the European Commission.
Join the Technical Helpdesk as a Member!

To access the Helpdesk to become a member (or any other SCP Clearinghouse area), you will need to create an account:

- Go to [http://www.scpclearinghouse.org/user/register](http://www.scpclearinghouse.org/user/register) and create an account for the SCP Clearinghouse.
- Once logged in, you can modify or update your profile or explore the various SCP topic areas.
- After your account is created, go to [http://spaces.scpclearinghouse.org/](http://spaces.scpclearinghouse.org/) (you can also access directly from your MySCP profile in the Clearinghouse through the My Spaces tab). Here, you will find access to all the Exchange spaces under the SCP Clearinghouse.
- Log in to the Exchange spaces with the user account previously created.
- Go to ‘Choose a space’ and then to ‘Life Cycle Approaches’ where you will find the ‘LCA Databases Helpdesk’. In order to become a member of the Technical Helpdesk, click on ‘Request space membership’. You will automatically be added as a member to the Technical Helpdesk. As a member you will be able to use the features of the Helpdesk, contribute to its content and subscribe to notifications!

Become an Expert!

If you wish to become a registered expert, please complete the attached expression of interest form (which includes further information on your role as an expert) and send it, along with a CV or brief bio, to Kristina Bowers, UN Environment, Economy Division, Email kristina.bowers@un.org.

Your application will be reviewed and you will receive a communication providing your access to the closed portion of the exchange space.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact either of us. We look forward to your participation.
Expression of Interest for Participation in the Technical Helpdesk for national LCA Databases as an Expert

The success of the Helpdesk depends on the participation of technical experts. The experts will support inquiries from stakeholders, particularly those who are beginning to develop national databases or who need assistance with enhancing their existing databases. If you wish to be considered to support the Helpdesk as an expert, please complete the following information and send it to Kristina Bowers, UN Environment at kristina.bowers@un.org. Also attach a CV or biographical summary. Helpdesk management will evaluate your qualifications and, if approved, will add you to the private exchange space for experts.

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**Expertise Areas: (check all that apply)**

- [ ] Roadmap development or strategic planning
- [ ] Database query, user filters, or macro creation
- [ ] Data collection effort design and execution
- [ ] Inventory data and impact assessment linkages
- [ ] Database management and curation
- [ ] Data review and verification
- [ ] Database software development
- [ ] Data collection template development
- [ ] Dataset modeling
- [ ] Documentation and meta-information
- [ ] Training delivery
- [ ] Independent database evaluation
- [ ] Other data/database expertise—please describe.
Your role as an expert:

- Within your indicated expertise areas, your role will be to provide thoughtful and informed responses to submitted questions in the Ask an Expert space;
- Participate in forum dialogues, possibly in point-counterpoint discussion with other experts, to inform less-technically knowledgeable Helpdesk members;
- Identify and if possible provide additional resources (documents, software, templates) for the members of the Helpdesk; and
- Suggest locations (virtual or otherwise) and additional activities to support further development of national databases.

Your contributions to the Technical Helpdesk are subject to your convenience.

As an expert you commit to:

- Support the helpdesk in a neutral, non-commercial manner.
- Identify and work to resolve any potential conflicts of interest that may occur.
- Take guidance from helpdesk oversight group and helpdesk manager.
- Agree to work collaboratively with other experts engaged in helpdesk activity.
- Provide feedback on support activities to improve functionality and respond to customer feedback as required.
- Assist with the development and improvement of helpdesk resources, such as training materials, as mutually agreed upon with helpdesk governance (and as necessary appropriately compensated).

Registered experts will receive a certificate of participation from UN Environment.