UN Environment Launches the
Technical Helpdesk for National LCA Databases

> *UN Environment is launching a new forum for LCA data experts, developers of new national databases, managers of existing databases, and other interested individuals. This 'Technical Helpdesk' will provide stakeholders wishing to establish and operate LCA databases with both training and support by international experts. Focused on national level databases, the Helpdesk is nevertheless a valuable resource for all database and repository activities. Read on for more information.*

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.

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 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/ (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.

Name:	
Organizational Affiliation:	
Email:	
Mobile No.: (optional)	

Expertise Areas: (check all that apply)

❑ Roadmap development or strategic planning	❑ Database software development
❑ Database query, user filters, or macro creation	❑ Data collection template development
❑ Data collection effort design and execution	❑ Dataset modeling
❑ Inventory data and impact assessment linkages	❑ Documentation and meta-information
❑ Database management and curation	❑ Training delivery
❑ Data review and verification	❑ 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.