

8 April 2018

**ICRP TG-99 Letter of Support for the TREE project consortium to apply for a UK Impact Award**

The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) has developed, maintained, and elaborated the International System of Radiological Protection used world-wide as the common basis for radiological protection standards, legislation, guidelines, programmes, and practice. Since 90 years, the work of the ICRP has contributed to prevent cancer and other diseases and effects associated with exposure to ionising radiation, and to protect the environment.

Regarding protection of the environment, Task Group 99 (TG-99) is improving the use of the concept of Reference Animals and Plants (RAPs), mainly by quantifying their representativeness of wider wildlife groups. The TG-99's work is dealing with all the components needed for radiological risk assessments to non-human species, radionuclides transfers to biota, dosimetry and biological and ecological effects of ionising radiation. Thanks to the tremendous contribution of the TREE project, the "transfer" component of TG-99 has been advanced in several ways, (i) by providing the largest amount of data available for poorly studied Reference Animals and Plants; (ii) by analysing the newly collated data for RAPs vs. those characterising other wildlife groups or species; (iii) by providing a new less uncertain approach to estimating the activity concentrations/exposure of wildlife through various inference models (e.g., taxonomically-based models or statistically-based models) which represent a scientifically sound approach to extrapolation in case no data are available.

Additionally, TREE also supplied effects data useful for TG-99, mainly for poorly studied RAPs, most especially for bees – which suggests, among other results, that ICRP may have to consider reviewing some of its current dose rate criteria used as reference benchmarks to protect wildlife.

In brief, TG-99 work (and hence the international environmental protection framework) would not have been so advanced without the outcomes from the TREE Project.

To whom it may concern,



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