High-resolution Carbon cycling data from 2019 to 2021 measured at six

Austrian Long-Term Ecosystem Research sites

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19 Abstract

- Seven long-term observation sites have been established in six regions across Austria, covering major
- 21 ecosystem types such as forests, grasslands and wetlands across a wide bioclimatic range. The
- 22 purpose of these observations is to measure key ecosystem parameters serving as baselines for
- 23 assessing the impacts of extreme climate events on the carbon cycle. The data sets collected include
- 24 meteorological variables, soil microclimate, CO₂ fluxes and tree stem growth, all recorded at high
- 25 temporal resolution (15 60 minutes) between 2019 and 2021 (including one year of average
- 26 climate conditions and two comparatively dry years). The DOIs of the dataset can be found in the
- data availability chapter. The sites will be integrated into the European Research Infrastructure for
- 28 Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, Critical Zone, and Socio-Ecological Research (eLTER RI).
- 29 Subsequently, new data covering the variables presented here will be continuously available through
- its data integration portal. This step will allow the data to reach its full potential for research on
- 31 drought-related ecosystem carbon cycling.

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1. Introduction

- Climate change has been affecting ecosystems globally with strong implications for the terrestrial
- 35 carbon (C) cycle, which in turn feeds back to the climate system (Heimann and Reichstein, 2008). As
- an emerging feature of climate change, extreme climatic events (ECEs) are expected to occur with
- 37 increasing frequency and intensity in the coming decades (IPCC, 2021). ECEs are considered to exert
- 38 stronger impacts on ecosystems and the services they provide to mankind than gradual changes in
- climate (Frank et al., 2015; Reichstein et al., 2013; Grünzweig et al., 2022; Anderegg et al., 2020).
- 40 Understanding, predicting and managing extreme climate events and their consequences for

ecosystems and societies will therefore be one of the big challenges in the coming decades. To detect and attribute impacts of ECEs on ecosystem processes and services they need to be evaluated on the background of the typical interannual range of these processes (Ciais et al., 2005; Bernal et al., 2012; Fu et al., 2020; Schindlbacher et al., 2012) and analyses of ecosystem resilience to ECEs require a robust quantification of baselines of ecosystem functioning (Bahn and Ingrisch, 2018; Ingrisch and Bahn, 2018). For deriving such baselines as well as interannual variability of ecosystem carbon cycling, coordinated and representative observation networks need to be in place to enable data retrieval as well as rapid-response scientific campaigns to study after-effects and post-disturbance trajectories resulting from ECEs (Kulmala, 2018; Mahecha et al., 2017; Mirtl et al., 2018; Dirnböck et al., 2019; Müller and Bahn, 2022). Datasets obtained through such observation networks are also essential for benchmarking models (Futter et al., 2023; Baatz et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2018) and for comparison with ecosystem experiments (Kröel-Dulay et al., 2022).

Within a research infrastructure project focusing on ecosystem carbon, nitrogen, and water fluxes (Long-Term Ecosystem Research for Carbon, Water, and Nitrogen (LTER-CWN, https://www.lter-austria.at/cwn/), we equipped seven long-term observation sites in six regions, which are part of the existing Long-Term Ecological Research Network of Austria (LTER-Austria), with high temporal resolution (30-60 minutes) C cycle measurements. The sites cover three major ecosystem types occurring across Austria (forests, managed mountain grassland, wetlands) and most of them are part of socio-ecological research platforms for transdisciplinary studies (Figure 1Figure 1). Here, we provide observational ecosystem response data capturing naturally-occurring ECEs from the first three years after the onset of the infrastructure, 2019 to 2021. These data sets include meteorological variables, soil microclimate, CO₂ flux measurements using automated chambers (soil CO₂ efflux) and eddy covariance techniques (net ecosystem exchange), respectively, and tree stem radial increments and shrinkage in forested plots.

2. Site descriptions

The sites are key research infrastructures for ecosystem-related greenhouse gas observations in Austria. They include forests (Klausen-Leopoldsdorf and Rosalia in Lower Austria, Zöbelboden in Upper Austria, and Stubai in Tyrol), mountain grassland (Stubai, Tyrol), and wetlands (Pürgschachen Moor, Styria and Lake Neusiedl reed belt, Burgenland). This network of sites covers typical forest, alpine and wetland ecosystems of Central Europe (Figure 1Figure 1). Furthermore, the sites represent different geological characteristics, from crystalline rock in the central Alps to the limestone in the northern Alps to unconsolidated Holocene sediments in lowlands. All sites are part of the Austrian LTER network and, once officially launched, will be included in the European eLTER research infrastructure (https://elter-ri.eu/). For a detailed description of the sites, we refer to the Dynamic Ecological Information Management System - Site and dataset registry (DEIMS-SDR) (Table 1).

2.1. Rosalia Forest Demonstration Centre (Mixed beech forest)

The Rosalia Forest Demonstration Centre was settled in 1972, as a cooperation between the BOKU University, Vienna, Austria, and the Austrian Federal Forests, and has approximately 1000 ha in the western slopes of the Rosalia Mountains (Rosaliengebirge) in Lower Austria (Figure 1 Figure 1, Table 1). The forest hosts all major tree species occurring in Austria, i.e. European beech (Fagus sylvatica L.), Norway spruce (Picea abies (L.) H.Karst.), Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris L.), Larch (Larix decidua Mill.), and Fir (Abies alba Mill.). The altitude ranges from 320 to 725 m a.s.l., and mean annual temperature and mean annual precipitation are 6.5 °C and 796 mm, respectively. Substrate is mainly composed by crystalline rocks, and soils are predominantly cambisols (Working Group WRB 2015);

sporadically in combination with planosols (in plains and moderate slopes), with fluvisols (in valleys) or podzolic cambisols (steep slopes) (Fürst et al., 2021).

The demonstration forest holds several experimental and observation sites distributed along its area, including water, soil, vegetation and air observations (e.g. Gillespie et al., 2023). A watershed (220 ha) is subject to hydrological observations (Fürst et al., 2021), and the forest is regularly monitored on permanent plots (Gollob et al., 2020). The meteorological data presented here originates from three stations located at 385 (Mehlbeerleiten), 500 (Kuhwald) and 640 m a.s.l. (Heuberg). The C cycle data was measured on a long-term experimental site launched in 2012. The site is located in a pure mature beech stand at 600 m a.s.l. (47° 42′ 26" N; 16° 17′ 59" E). It faces north-west, with a slope of approximately 20 %. This experiment focuses on investigating the effect of changing precipitation patterns for selected on soil nitrogen fluxes, soil microbial changes, greenhouse gas efflux, and soil water processes biogeochemical and microbiological processes (Leitner et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2019; Schwen et al., 2015; Gillespie et al., 2024). Monitoring is performed on control and on manipulated plots. The data from both natural and manipulated plots is published with this paper. Manipulation involves the use of rain-out-shelters (for simulating drought periods of different length) and of an irrigation system (for recreating rainfall events of different intensity). The monitoring infrastructure involves the measurements of greenhouse gases (GHG) (N2O, CH4 and CO2) fluxes, soil nutrients (suction cups) and microclimate parameters.

2.2. Klausen-Leopoldsdorf (Beech forest)

The site, Klausen-Leopoldsdorf, is located about 40 km south-west of Vienna on a NNE-facing slope and was founded in the 1990s as one of Austria's site contributing to the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests) (Neumann and Starlinger, 2001). The site is divided into four different sub-areas within a small catchment: 1) the ICP Forests site, 2) a weather station, located 2.7 km from the ICP Forests intensive plots at 398 m a.s.l., 3) a catchment runoff weir (475 m a.s.l.), and 4) the LTER-CWN measurement plot (520 m a.s.l.), where the C-cycle data presented here was measured (Figure 1Figure 1, Table 1). The forest within the measurement plot is a pure beech (Fagus sylvatica L.) stand. The mean annual temperature is 8°C, mean annual precipitation is 801 mm (2010-2022). The geological substrate is sandstone, the soil type is mainly stagnic cambisol/dystric cambisol (Working Group WRB 2015). Instruments installed on the LTER-CWN measurement area include a sap flow and dendrometer measurement system on 10 trees, 12 GHG automated measurement chambers for CO₂ respiration, soil moisture and soil temperature sensors in different soil depths (5 – 30 cm).

In addition to the data presented here, many other data sets are available. Soil GHG fluxes (manual sampling) were measured starting in the year 2001 (Kitzler et al., 2006). On the ICP Forests site, instruments for long-term monitoring (since 1996) such as soil moisture, air temperature and relative humidity, soil temperature, soil solution with suction cups, throughfall deposition, litterfall traps, stemflow, and manual and automatic dendrometers are installed and the data is available under https://bfw.ac.at/lims/level2.daten or via the ICP Forests Program Centre.

2.3. Lake Neusiedl (reed belt)

The measurement site is located in the eastern reed belt of the lake and as such inside the National Park Lake Neusiedl - Seewinkel (Figure 1 Figure 1, Table 1). The region (average altitude: 120 m.a.s.l.) is characterized by a (sub)-continental Pannonian climate with a mean annual precipitation of 576 mm (2013-2022). The reed belt is a dynamic ecosystem consisting of a mosaic of reed stocks (*Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.), sediment and open water areas. Increasing dry periods and thus successive drying of the reed belt since 2018 have led to an increase in reed stocks within

- the belt, as well as an increase in sediment areas and a strong decline in open water areas, according 131
- 132 to a 2021 study that investigated the spatial and temporal variations within the reed ecosystem at
- 133 Lake Neusiedl (Buchsteiner et al., 2023). Processes driving CH₄ emissions from the reed belt have
- 134 recently been investigated in detail (Baur et al., 2024).
- 135 The data presented here stems from devices permanently installed on site. They include an eddy
- 136 covariance tower for CO₂, CH₄ and water vapor fluxes and relevant accompanying meteorological
- 137 parameters as well as soil heat flux, soil moisture, and soil temperature sensors.
 - 2.4. Pürgschachen Moor (peat bog)
- 139 The Pürgschachen Moor is located on the bottom of the Styrian Enns valley at an altitude of 632 m
- 140 a.s.l. (Figure 1Figure 1, Table 1). It is a pine peat bog with an extent of about 62 ha. Thus, it is the
- 141 largest (to a large part) intact valley peat bog in Austria with a closed peat moss cover and a good
- 142 example of the formerly widely distributed peatlands of inner-alpine valleys of the European Alps.
- 143 The mean average temperature is 8.2 °C and mean annual precipitation is 1233 mm (2013-2022). The
- 144 typical vegetation of the peat bog is constituted of three associations of plants Pino mugo-
- 145 Sphagnetum magellanici (pine peat bog association), Sphagnetum magellanici (coloured bog moss
- 146 association), and Caricetum limosae (bog sedge association), depending on the prevailing
- 147 hydrological site conditions. The current mean water table depth is about 14 cm below soil surface at
- 148 the central peat bog area. Peat decomposition and related CO2 and CH4 fluxes were subject of a
- 149 series of research studies (Drollinger et al., 2019; Knierzinger et al., 2020; Müller et al., 2022; Glatzel
- 150 et al., 2023).

- The data presented here stems from devices permanently installed roughly in the center of the peat 151
- 152 bog. They include an eddy covariance tower for CO₂, CH₄ and water vapor fluxes and relevant
- 153 accompanying meteorological parameters as well as soil heat flux, soil moisture, and soil
- 154 temperature sensors.
 - 2.5. Stubai (subalpine hay meadow, Larch and Spruce forest)
- 156 The two observation plots used in this study are part of the LTER Site Stubai (Table 1), which is
- 157 located in the Stubai Alps in Tyrol, Austria (Figure 1 Figure 1). Research at the study site was
- 158
- established in 1993. The two observation plots are a mountain grassland and a subalpine forest at an 159 alpine pasture area called "Kaserstattalm". The underlying rock is siliceous and calcareous. The
- 160 average air temperature is about 3°C and the precipitation approx. 1100 mm. About 35% of the
- 161 annual precipitation occurs as snow during winter months.
- 162 The grassland site is located at an altitude of 1810 -1850 m a.s.l on a south-east facing slope with an
- 163 inclination of ca. 20°. The site is an extensively managed meadow that is harvested once a year in
- 164 early August and grazed lightly in late summer. The soil is a dystric cambisol (Working Group WRB
- 165 2015). The vegetation type is a Trisetetum flavenscensis and consists of perennials grasses and forbs
- dominated by Agrostis capillaris L., Festuca rubra L., Anthoxanthum odoratum L., Ranunculus 166
- 167 montanus Willd., Leontodon hispidus L., Trifolium repens L. and T. pretense L. (Bahn et al., 2009;
- Schmitt et al., 2010). 168
- The forested observation plot is located close to the tree line at 1960 m a.s.l. on a slope with an 169
- 170 inclination of 20-35°. It is dominated by the two common tree species European larch (Larix decidua
- 171 Mill.) and Norway spruce (Picea abies (L.) H.Karst.). In former years, the plot was a pasture and it was
- 172 reforested in the 1980s (Oberleitner et al., 2022).
- 173 Both observation plots are equipped with micrometeorological stations, soil environment monitoring
- 174 (soil moisture, soil temperature), and soil CO₂ devices. At both observation plots, we measured soil

CO₂ fluxes with automated chambers during the summer. The forest plot is additionally equipped with tree dendrometers and tree sapflow sensors. In the grassland, land use and drought related carbon cycle research was carried out over the last two decades (Fuchslueger et al., 2014; Hasibeder et al., 2015; Ingrisch et al., 2020; Ingrisch et al., 2018). Research using the forest plot started only recently (Oberleitner et al., 2022).

2.6. Zöbelboden (mixed Beech forest)

The site LTER Zöbelboden is located in the National Park Kalkalpen in the Northern Limestone Alps, Austria (Figure 1Figure 1). The measurements were established in 1992 as part of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP IM) covering a 90 ha catchment with an elevation range of 550 to 956 m a.s.l. (Table 1). The main underlying rock type is Norian dolomite (*Hauptdolomit*), partly overlain by limestone (*Plattenkalk*). According to long-term meteorological measurements (1993-2022), mean annual air temperature and precipitation are 8.2 °C and 1645 mm, respectively. Maximum precipitation occurs in summer and snowfall usually between December and April.

The data presented here was measured at the Intensive Plot II situated on a steep (36° on average) north-westerly exposed slope at 880 m a.s.l. The soils of the plot are lithic and rendzic leptosols (Working Group WRB 2015). The plot is dominated by beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) with intermixed sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus* L.), European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.) and spruce (*Picea abies* (L.) H.Karst.). Since the year 1995, this plot is equipped with a number of field measurement devices for long-term monitoring (throughfall deposition, litter fall traps, lysimeters, soil moisture and temperature sensors, manual dendrometers) and supplemented by other monitoring activities (tree inventory, needle and leave chemistry, soil chemistry, etc.; see e.g. Leitner et al., 2020; Kobler et al., 2019; Dirnböck et al., 2016; Dirnböck et al., 2020). Drought-impacts on carbon allocation in the forests of the catchment is currently one of the research foci for which long-term observation data exists (see e.g. Hartl-Meier et al., 2014) as well as experimental plots with rainout shelters.

The instruments and data included here are soil respiration automated chambers, soil water potential and temperature sensors as well as automated dendrometers. The meteorological data stems from a station in close proximity at the plateau at 890 m a.s.l.. The site is also equipped with an Eddy covariance tower, but this data will be published elsewhere.



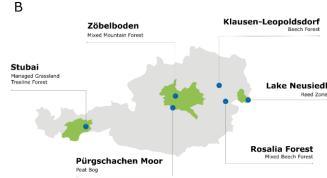


Figure 1. Location of sites in A) Europe and B) Austria. Blue dots indicate the sites; green areas are long-term socio-ecological research platforms (LTSER) (from left to right: LTSER Tyrolian Alps, LTSER Eisenwurzen, and LTSER Lake Neusiedl) within the LTER Austria network. For site information concerning altitude and climate see Table 1.

Table 1. $\underline{\textit{Ecosystem type, altitude, climate and M}}_{\textit{metadata } \underline{\textit{links}}}$ of the sites and observation plots. Geographic boundaries, linked data sets, etc. can be found in the site and dataset registry system DEIMS-SDR.

| Site | Ecosystem type | Altitude (m a.s.l.) | Annual temperature (°C) | Annual precipitation (mm) | Site and Oobservation plot | DEIMS.iD |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| Rosalia Forest Demonstration Centre (ROS) | Mixed beech forest | 600 | 6.5 | 796 | Heuberg Meteorological Station Kuhwald Meteorological Station Mehlbeerleiten Meteorological Station | https://deims.org/77c127c4-2ebe-453b- b5af-61858ff02e31 https://deims.org/locations/44854b32- 64c3-4c9d-9aec-9b0b74f8ac70 https://deims.org/locations/1225d57e- 02da-47fd-9760-ab39d64999ef https://deims.org/locations/0becf0ce- 98d7-4f64-a074-f89046083e5e https://deims.org/locations/b7008603- fca2-452f-9b3d-aad30cdafc7a |
| Klausen- Leopoldsdorf (KLL) | Beech forest | 520 | 8 | 801 | Site Measuring station | https://deims.org/bb472a51-f85f-4de0- 8358-f21ecbe2a102 https://deims.org/locations/d5cba3ce- 7489-46d1-8d97-61641ffb5758 |
| Lake Neusiedl (NSS) | reed | 120 | 11.5 | 576 | Same as site | https://deims.org/locations/4234987b- 9031-4332-9bdd-f869d503ac51 |
| Pürgschachen Moor (PUE) | peat bog | 632 | 8.2 | 1233 | Same as site | https://deims.org/locations/ab2d021b- f318-487a-a85b-ab34566e4c02 |
| Stubai (KAS) | grassland | 1830 | 3 | 1100 | Site Kaserstattalm meadow | https://deims.org/324f92a3-5940-4790- 9738-5aa21992511c https://deims.org/locations/cf7843b7- 32d6-44e9-ba82-9a8d915036a7 |
| Stub | Treeline forest | 1960 | 3 | 1100 | Kaserstattalm forest | https://deims.org/locations/af2afdad- d6fb-4580-b6e3-be7d07b56f8e |
| Zö bel bo | d x Bi | 880 | 8.2 | 1645 | Site | https://deims.org/8eda49e9-1f4e-4f3e- b58e-e0bb25dc32a6 |

3. Dataset description, measuring methods, QA/QC

We followed routine quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) procedures to ensure functionality of the sensors and data quality comprising remote function control, on-site check of sensors and cables, regular sensor calibration, data checks through different quality assurance procedures (e.g. exceedance of thresholds, outlier detection, deviations from other measurements), and data quality flagging.

3.1. Meteorology, soil temperature and soil moisture

All meteorological stations are located within the boundaries of the respective sites except for Klausen-Leopoldsdorf, where the station is at a distance of 2.7 km from the site. Meteorological measurements in the wetland sites were implemented next to the Eddy Covariance tower. In addition to the routine data checks, we compared the measurements with nearby stations where appropriate. Meteorological measurements were detected in a one-minute-interval and averaged over half-hour periods while rain data was summed. The measurements include air temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, air pressure, and several radiation variables (at least global radiation, but also short- and longwave radiation, photosynthetic active radiation, etc.).

Table 2. Meteorological parameters measured at the six sites during 2019-2021. Availability is indicated using grey boxes. For parameter names we refer to the thesaurus at http://vocabs.lter-europe.net/EnvThes/

Meteorological parameters

| | KAS | KLL | NSS | PUE | ROS | ZOE |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| air relative humidity | | | | | | |
| air pressure | | | | | | |
| air temperature | | | | | | |
| precipitation amount | | | | | | |
| global radiation irradiance | | | | | | |
| net radiation irradiance | | | | | | |
| photosynthetically active radiation | | | | | | |
| sunshine duration | | | | | | |
| wind direction | | | | | | |
| wind speed | | | | | | |

We used different types of soil temperature and soil moisture or soil water potential sensors, respectively (PT100 or thermoelements for soil temperature, TDR or FDR-sensors for soil moisture, and soil water potential sensors). Before we buried the soil temperature or soil moisture and soil water potential sensors into the soil, they had been calibrated or at least tested for consistency. Mostly, we used gravimetric samples to calibrate the TDR and FDR soil moisture sensors. At Zöbelboden, where stony, organic rich soils occur, we corrected the TDR values using water potential sensor data installed in the same soil profiles together with soil water retention functions derived from undisturbed soil cores. In addition to the regular QC procedures, we checked the data for consistency of the values

across sensors (e.g. along the soil profiles) and compared them with other measurements (air temperature and precipitation). Half-hourly to hourly values are presented.

3.2. Carbon fluxes

3.2.1. Soil CO2 efflux

We measured soil CO_2 efflux at five of the seven observation plots. The automated soil CO_2 respiration measurement systems are capable of operating autonomously during the snow-free periods The measurement chambers and measurement systems collected air from the chamber headspace continuously to determine the exchange of CO_2 between soil and atmosphere at the observation plots. In all sites, we used non-steady state, non through-flow chambers (Pumpanen et al., 2004). The chambers at each site measured consecutively every half-hour to hour. In addition to the automated systems, manual flux measurements were also performed which served to validate the automated measurement systems. Table 3 provides detailed information on the measurement systems used at the sites.

Two different automated chamber systems were used: a LI-COR System and custom-made chambers in combination with LI-COR trace gas analysers (Table 3). The custom-made soil chambers are equipped with a fan and a thermometer. The controlling unit and the gas analyzer (either a CH_4/CO_2 LI-COR 7810, a LI-COR 840, or a LI-COR 8100A, LI-COR Biosciences, USA) are located in already existing measurement containers. Remote access to the devices allows for checking plausibility of the data and chamber leakage in real time. We visited the instruments at weekly to monthly intervals, with maintenance and supervision works including a check of the tightness of the gas lines, connections and chamber lids, the correct closing and opening of the chambers and the functioning of ventilation fans inside the chambers, ingrowth of plants, and the gas analyser. The gas analysers were calibrated once a year in the laboratory with calibration gases. We de-installed and serviced the chambers during winter but frames stayed permanently on site to avoid disturbance of the soil.

At Klausen-Leopoldsdorf, the gas fluxes of readings were determined using the R package "gasfluxes" (Fuss, 2020). At Rosalia, a custom-made Python script was used. Zöbelboden and Kaserstattalm process the data with SoilFlux Pro Software (LI-COR Biosciences, 2019). We used the R² of the fitted empirical models to select valid data. We refer to Table 3 and the metadata published with the data for the detailed specifications.

Table 3. Specifications of the different soil CO₂ flux systems following the standard of (Bond-Lamberty et al., 2021).

| Field Name | Description | Unit | Klausen- Leopoldsdorf | Stubai grassland | Rosalia | Zöbelboden |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| System | | | auto | Auto | auto | auto |
| GHG | | | Custom-made | LI-8100-104 | Custom- | LI-8100-104 |
| chambers | | | (n=12) | (n=4) | made (n=12) | (n=6) |
| INSTRUMENT | Measurement instrument model | | LI-COR LI-7810 | LI-8100A | LI-840 | LI-8100A |
| MSMT_VAR | Type of flux measured | | | Soil respira | tion (Rs) | |
| AREA | Soil surface measurement area | cm ² | 2500 | 317.8 | 2500 | 317.8 |

| VOLUME | Volume of measurement chamber | cm ³ | 37500 | 4076.1 | 37500 | 4076.1 |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| V/A | Volume/Area ratio | cm | 15 | 12.83 | 15 | 12.83 |
| COLLAR_DEPT H | Depth of collar insertion | cm | 5 | 2 | 10 | 2 |
| OPAQUE | Opaque chamber | | no | Yes | no | yes |
| chamber system | static chamber - closed or open | | non-ste | eady state, non th | rough-flow char | mbers |
| closing time | closing time of chamber (=time used for flux calculation) | sec | 175 | depending on year | 1620 | 210 |
| PLANTS_REM OVED | Plants removed from inside the collar | | no, but hardly any | Yes | no, but hardly any | no plants |
| flow_rate | sample flow rate through tubing | l min ⁻ | 1 | 1 to 2 | 0.25 | 1.7 |
| FAN | Mixing fan in chamber? | | yes | No | yes | no |
| CRVFIT_CO2 | Flux computation method ("Lin" or "Exp" for linear and exponential, others) | | linear | automated ¹ | Lin/HMR ² | Automated ¹ |
| R2_CO2 | R ² of flux computation | fracti on | 0.90 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.99 |
| Calculation of flux | | | R Package gasfluxes | LI-COR Soilflux Pro | custom- made python script | LI-COR Soilflux Pro |

¹ "Exp" in the data indicates that the exponential fit was better than the linear fit (Exp_SSN<Lin_SSN). "Lin" indicates that the linear fit was better after the maximum number of iterations; the non-linear coefficients have therefore been derived from the linear fit.

${\bf 3.2.2.}\ Eddy\ Covariance\ measurements\ at\ wetland\ sites$

In both wetland sites, the Pürgschachen Moor and Lake Neusiedl, fully equipped Eddy-Covariance systems are in place. Wind speed and direction were measured using a three-axis ultrasonic anemometer (WindMaster Pro, Gill Instruments, Lymington, UK). CO_2 and H_2O mixing ratios were measured using the closed-path infrared gas analyser LI-7200 while CH_4 was detected with the open path gas analyser LI-7700 (both LI-COR Inc, Lincoln, USA). The measurements were performed with a sampling rate of 10 Hz. We installed the devices at a vegetation dependent height, 3.05 m above ground in the Pürgschachen Moor and in the reed belt of Lake Neusiedl 8.6 m, respectively. The Eddy Covariance devices were checked daily via remote access, calibrated once a year in the lab, and monthly in the field.

² Hutchinson and Mosier (1981)

The EC data contains half-hour eddy covariance flux measurements for CO₂, CH₄ and water vapor. We calculated the fluxes with the EddyPro® Software package in the Express mode with default settings (double rotation, block averaging, covariance maximization, etc.) as part of the SmartFlux® 2 System, providing fully corrected and valid fluxes with quality flags ranging from 0-2. The final flags are based on a combination of partial flags accounting for steady state and turbulent conditions. Only fluxes flagged with 0 (best quality fluxes) or 1 (fluxes suitable for general analysis such as annual budgets) are shown in the data. Gaps in the data-set result from missing micro-meteorological conditions, from data cleaning due to the quality flags or from power breakdowns.

3.3. Radial tree stem growth at forest sites

Zöbelboden, Klausen-Leopoldsdorf, Rosalia used the DR26 sensor (EMS, Brno, Czech Republic), Stubai used Ecomatic DC2 (Germany) for registering the radial stem increment in a 15 minutes to 30 minutes interval. Maintenance involved avoiding any shift of the sensor during the operation. Concerning data quality and control methods the Mini32 software (EMS, Brno, Czech Republic), includes graphical features to process the measured stem increment data. Data processing comprises outlier detection by visual assessment based on expert knowledge. Ecomatic raw data was treated with custom-made R scripts. In both cases, unrealistic values beyond the slowly increasing linear growth rates were visually assessed and deleted.

4. Data file structure

 We used the eLTER Data specification, which is available on Zenodo (www.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6373409). Apart from the data files, the measurement locations (Station files) and the sensors (methods) are included.

5. Data validation

Table 4. Comparison between long-term (1980-2010) meteorological drought (SPEI - Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index) and the measurement years during the growing season (May-September). Significant differences between these years and the long-term averages are shown: *** p<0.001; ** p<0.001 according to a Mann-Whitney U Test. SPEI was calculated using a 30 days window in a daily resolution using gridded data: https://data.hub.geosphere.at/dataset/winfore-v2-1d-1km (Haslinger & Bartsch, 2016). Negative values indicate dry years.

| Site Code | 1980-2010 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| ZOE | -0.05±0.94 | -0.49±1.22*** | 0.42±0.69*** | -0.02±1.39 |
| KLL | -0.01±0.99 | -0.23±1.22 | 0.39±0.86*** | -0.02±1.24 |
| KAS | -0.05±0.97 | -0.1±1.17 | -0.12±0.78 | 0.23±1.07** |
| PUE | -0.02±0.94 | -0.54±1.26*** | 0.17±0.59** | -0.12±1.2 |
| NSS | -0.01±1 | -0.22±1.13* | 0.2±0.87** | -0.2±1.34 |
| ROS | -0.03±0.98 | -0.34±1.01*** | 0.17±0.83 | -0.28±1.08 |

We used gridded SPEI (Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index) from the Austrian Meteorological Service (https://data.hub.geosphere.at/dataset/winfore-v2-1d-1km; Haslinger & Bartsch (2016)) to compare the long-term average water availability during the growing season (1980-2010; May to September) with those occurring in the measurement years (Table 4). The advantage of the SPEI is that it accounts for precipitation and temperature via evapotranspiration and integrates over a given temporal window (we used 30 days) (Vicente-Serrano et al. 2010). https://data-hub.geosphere.at/dataset/winfore-v2-1d-1km; Haslinger & Bartsch (2016) to compare the growing season (1980-2010); May to September) with those occurring in the measurement years (Table 4). The advantage of the SPEI is that it accounts for precipitation and temperature via evapotranspiration and integrates over a given temporal window (we used 30 days) (Vicente-Serrano et al. 2010). https://data-set-is-based-on-meteorological data-for-the-period-1960-to-2021. Accordingly, the 2021 was closest to the long-term average, the year 2020 was a particularly wet year, and the

year 2019 was drier than the average. However, there were differences between the sites: particularly the mountain station in the Tyrolian Alps (KAS) did not experience significant deviations in SPEI as compared to the long-term average apart from a wet growing season in 2021. The SPEI at the site in the Viennese Forest (KLL) does not indicate that in 2019, the growth period was particularly dry.

The monthly precipitation and temperature patterns are shown in Figure 2-Figure 2, and soil water content and soil temperatures in Figure 3-Figure 3 and Figure 5. Differences in the seasonal precipitation patterns between the measurement years vary a lot between sites. In sum, lower precipitation occurred in 2019 and 2021 than in 2020 in all sites. The mean annual temperature maxima (90 percentile) were between 0.3 °C (KAS) and 2.3 °C (ZOE) higher in the year 2019 than in 2020. These differences were lower when comparing the year 2021 with 2019 (\leq 0.6 °C). In accordance with SPEI, precipitation and temperature, soil water content showed the lowest values during the years 2019 followed by the year 2021, and soil temperature were higher during these years (Figure 3-Figure 4).

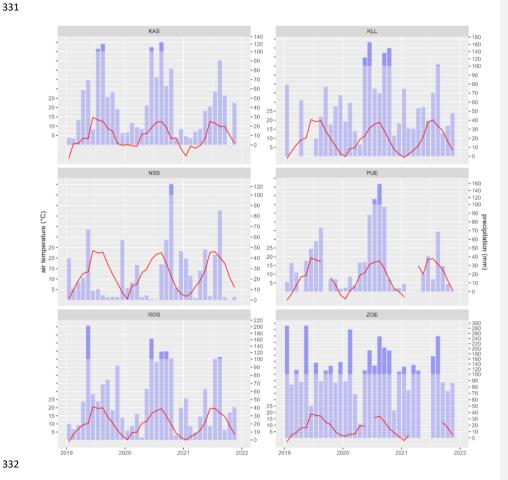


Figure 2. Monthly mean air temperature (red line) and monthly precipitation sums (blue bars; different scale > 100 mm) at the six regions.

We measured soil CO₂ respiration at four sites (Figure 4). The complexity of automated chamber measurements resulted in some data gaps: at KAS and ROS during the years 2019 and 2021 respectively; at KLL and ZOE, the respiration data covers most of the snow-free period (see Table 2).

At Klausen-Leopoldsdorf (KLL) and Zöbelboden (ZOE), we compared the automatically measured soil CO_2 flux rates with manual measurements. For both sites, we used a portable infrared gas analyzer (EGM-4) connected to a manual soil respiration chamber (SRC) (PP Systems International Inc., Amesbury, MA, USA). The two measurement sites were equipped with permanently installed collars (KLL: randomly distributed within the site in immediate vicinity of the automated chambers (n = 12); area = 284 cm² and 2 cm insertion depth; Zöbelboden: regular grid covering the entire plot (n = 30), area = 78 cm² and 1.5 cm insertion depth). The chamber closure time was 60 and 100 seconds in KLL and ZOE, respectively. Manual measurements took place in monthly intervals from Oct. 2019-Jun. 2020 at Klausen-Leopoldsdorf and from Jun. 2019 until Oct. 2019 (monthly interval) and in July 2020 (diurnal variation) at ZOE. Soil respiration (Rs) was calculated automatically by fitting a linear (KLL) or quadratic function (ZOE; quadratic fit for flow rates > 0.2 ppm s⁻¹, otherwise a linear fit was used) to the increasing CO_2 headspace concentration.

The mean CO_2 fluxes of the automated chambers correlated well with the manually measured fluxes during the measurement campaigns (Figure 3-Figure 3). At KLL, the R² was 0.95 (p-value < 0.05, t-test), at ZOE it was 0.85 (p-value < 0.05, t-test). In both sites, neither the intercept nor the slope was significantly different from 0 (p-value > 0.2, t-test) and 1 (p-value > 0.49, t-test), respectively. At ZOE, the spatial flux variation was much higher than at KLL (Figure 3-Figure 3-A and 3B). This reflects the heterogeneity of the soil conditions (shallow rendzic leptosols with interspersed fine-scale patches of deeper soils), the canopy gaps (with lower root density), and the uneven distribution of litter due to the steep slope at the plot (Kobler et al. 2019)₇. This heterogeneity is more effectively captured in the manual measurement (n=30) than by the automated chambers (n=6). In summary, we conclude that the spatial variation in CO_2 fluxes was higher at both sites than the difference in fluxes caused by the measurement devices (Figure 3-Figure 3-Fig

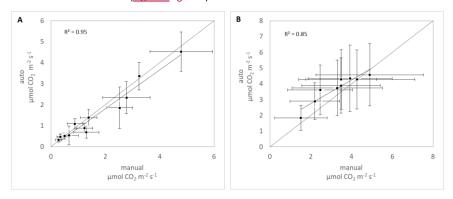


Figure 3. Comparison of automated and manual soil CO_2 fluxes at A) Klausen-Leopoldsdorf and B) Zöbelboden. See Table 3 for the specification of automated chamber data. Error bars indicate spatial variation (standard deviations).

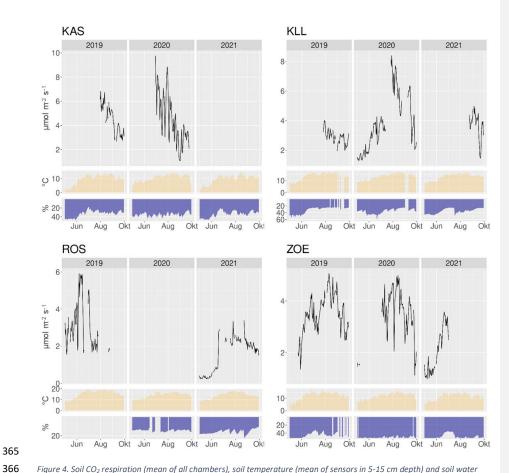


Figure 4. Soil CO_2 respiration (mean of all chambers), soil temperature (mean of sensors in 5-15 cm depth) and soil water content (mean of sensors in 5-15 cm depth) in the forested sites Kaserstattalm forest (KAS), Klausen-Leopoldsdorf (KLL), Rosalia (ROS), and Zöbelboden (ZOE).

Soil CO_2 fluxes are temperature dependent, thus follow the seasonal changes in soil temperature (Figure 4). Their additional limitation through soil water availability for plant metabolism and microbial activity is usually much less pronounced in these temperate zone ecosystems (Bahn et al. 2008; Chen et al. 2014). For detailed interpretation of the CO_2 respiration fluxes and their limiting factors, we refer to the citations listed in the site description chapter. Drollinger et al. (2019) provides interpretations of the patterns of CO_2 and CH_4 fluxes, measured using Eddy covariance techniques at the bog site Pürgschachen Moor (PUE), and likewise, Baur et al. (2024), for the reed belt of Neusiedler See (NSS). Stem growth limitations can, on the other hand, be closely related to soil water content, particularly at sites with relatively low precipitation such as Klausen-Leopoldsdorf (KLL) (Figure 6). For an in-depth study of drought related effects on tree growth at the treeline forest at Kasterstattalm (KAS), we refer to Oberleitner et al. (2022).

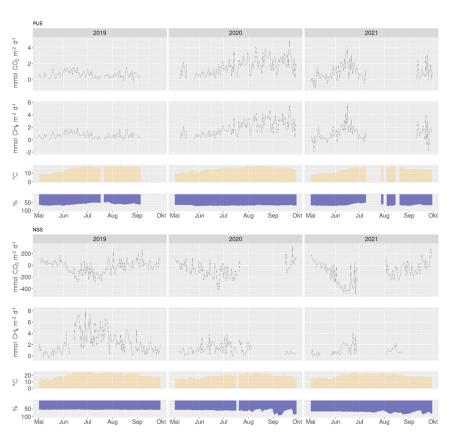


Figure 5. CO_2 and CH_4 fluxes in the sites <u>Pürgschachen Moor peat bog (PUE)</u> <u>Lake Neusiedl reed zone (NLL)</u> and <u>Pürgschachen Moor peat bog (PUE)</u> <u>Lake Neusiedl reed zone (NLL)</u> as well as <u>temperature</u> and soil water content and temperature

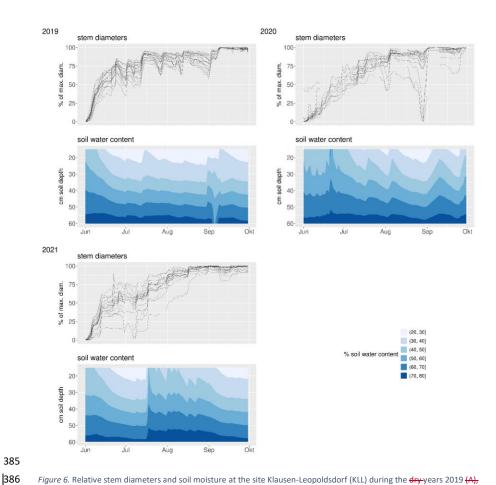


Figure 6. Relative stem diameters and soil moisture at the site Klausen-Leopoldsdorf (KLL) during the dry-years 2019 (A), 2020 (B), and 2021 (C). Stem diameter values were scaled to an annual amplitude of 100.

6. Discussion

We provide baseline ecosystem data related to the carbon cycle and capture naturally occurring ECEs across various ecosystem types typical for Austria and other regions of Central Europe. Such data sets are scarce because the measurements are demanding in terms of maintenance and funding. Automated soil respiration data in high temporal resolution, as we report it here, is rare too owing to a lack of dedicated monitoring or research infrastructures (Bond-Lamberty et al., 2021). However, soil CO₂ respiration constitutes the second-largest flux in the global carbon cycle, hence is key in estimating ecosystem response to ECEs (Bond-Lamberty and Thomson, 2010). In addition, we provide soil temperature and moisture measurements in the same resolution, being key variables determining soil respiration (Pumpanen et al., 2015). High-resolution measurements of tree stem circumference have been developed as complementary data to relate drought stress with changes in carbon allocation in trees (Zweifel, 2016; Zweifel et al., 2021). The microclimatic, soil, and tree

physiological data is complemented by CO_2 and CH_4 fluxes between the vegetation and the atmosphere measured with Eddy covariance techniques of the two wetland sites.

Our data is particularly useful for drought-related research. Triggered by the pan-European drought of 2003 (Ciais et al., 2005), a key scientific question has been how droughts affect greenhouse gas sinks and sources in ecosystems (Rödenbeck et al., 2020; Reichstein et al., 2013; Anderegg et al., 2020). Droughts usually reduce soil respiration due to the decrease in autotrophic respiration but also because soil microbial activity drops due to water limitation (Grünzweig et al., 2022). Furthermore, rewetting can result in pulses of high soil respiration (Borken and Matzner, 2009). Drought effects on the ecosystem C cycle can persist for years (Kannenberg et al., 2020; Müller and Bahn, 2022) and novel approaches are being developed for assimilating high-resolution data for understanding and quantifying such legacies (Yu et al., 2022; Fu et al., 2020). In this context, the availability of long-term, high-resolution measurements of key ecosystem parameters is key for understanding and quantifying the effects of recurrent droughts (Oberleitner et al., 2022). While the three-year data with the usual measurement gaps occurring in field campaigns in rather difficult terrain can only to some extent capture aspects of drought related effects, it represents a valuable baseline.

The sites presented here are currently being upgraded towards their implementation in the European Research Infrastructure for Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem, critical zone and socio-ecological Research (eLTER RI), together with another ~200 sites in Europe (Mirtl et al., 2018). Climate change impacts on ecosystem processes including the carbon cycle are among the targeted research areas the eLTER RI will focus on. The measurements resulting in the data presented here will continue in future under the umbrella of eLTER RI. Compiling longer-term data series depends upon the availability of already validated data sets - as it is presented here - before the RI is being operational. Furthermore, long-term ecosystem observations already exist in these sites with regard to water and nitrogen cycle allowing for a contextual interpretation of the trends seen in C related parameters.

Combining several research and monitoring activities at already heavily instrumented sites not only saves money but widens the data analyses portfolio (Futter et al. 2023; Kulmala 2018). Even though we provide Eddy covariance data for two of our sites, Austria is not part of the Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS). A combination of data capturing long-term boundary layer exchange of C together with soil C fluxes, microclimate, and, in forests, tree physiological data obviously holds great potential (Zweifel et al., 2023; Ramonet et al., 2020). Hence, using the sites simultaneously for other research infrastructures, such as ICOS, providing high-quality Eddy covariance measurements would obviously be ideal. The more so because European Research Infrastructures follow the FAIR data

While the eLTER RI data infrastructure is still under development, we comply with the standards already implemented. We used DEIMS-SDR (https://deims.org/) as the catalogue documenting the sites (Wohner et al., 2019; Wohner et al., 2022). It issues persistent identifiers for sites (see Table 1) that allow to uniquely identify sites across research projects and networks. Tools are being developed to query available information about sites programmatically (Oggioni et al., 2023; Wohner, 2023) providing contextual ecosystem information.

principles to make data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (Wilkinson et al., 2016).

7. Data availability

7.1 Data access

The data and metadata is accessible at B2SHARE (https://b2share.eudat.eu/), a service provided by the EUDAT Collaborative Data Infrastructure. DOIs of the datasets are listed in Table 5. The site metadata in DEIMS-SDR (Table 1) is part of the data metadata so that site information can easily be accessed. In chapter8, we provide a jupyter notebook to download and merge the single datasets, and to visualize parameters.

451 Table 5. Dataset DOIs

| Site | Dataset | DOI | Reference |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | Meteorology | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.8f872a3 7513c4768b16ce755eca4bb57 | (Gartner et al., 2024a) |
| Klausen- | Soil climate | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.8d49c0b 557f1455a9e66689e035b8cce | (Gartner et al., 2024b) |
| Leopoldsdorf | Soil CO ₂ | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.5286bd | (Kitzler and Hofbauer, |
| | respiration | 1bc6aa491f874b9bb12d1c5673 | 2024) |
| | Stem | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.68d84a9 | (Gartner and Gollobich, |
| | increment | 13f0c4875be5c680ad4d6959e | 2024) |
| | Meteorology | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.96c52c2 47eb846deb2a3ec5e2c27b4f1 | (Diaz-Pines, 2024a) |
| Rosalia Forest | Soil climate | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.c68143f c11224c44ae5529bd6a35a76d | (Diaz-Pines, 2024c) |
| Demonstration Centre | Soil CO ₂ | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.d167e72 | (Diaz-Pines, 2024b) |
| Centre | respiration | 7abe947abbc8efc04057557f6 | |
| | Stem | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.d0d185f | (Diaz-Pines, 2024d) |
| | increment | 1eb184ae48f6d06ea9aa8dbdf | |
| | Meteorology | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.762e665 273234b129d09ef017416bcfb | (Kobler et al., 2024a) |
| Zöbelboden | Soil climate | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.46e1919 1ce9c427d90f48ce38f56a0e1 | (Kobler et al., 2024c) |
| Zobelbodeli | Soil CO ₂ respiration | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.4f44006 b932142e68981106a016f1f56 | (Kobler et al., 2024b) |
| | Stem increment | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.2de5b3 7a0cad4f82a19f477531d6af24 | (Pröll et al., 2024) |
| | Meteorology | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.7746291 4dc0b43cb8c24a967e6851665 | (Ingrisch and Bahn, 2024d |
| Stubai - | Soil climate | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.026d760 94e8f4512b09b35b7a0d2a9d7 | (Ingrisch and Bahn, 2024c |
| Kaserstattalm | Soil CO ₂ respiration | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.cfe8c7a d1965433484650ea9026512ca | (Ingrisch and Bahn, 2024a |
| | Stem increment | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.0e3eed5 4ff30418f8720806b5f05cca9 | (Ingrisch and Bahn, 2024) |
| Pürgschachen Moor | Meteorology | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.5442510 ad03e4968afb4e2108e85a64d | (Maier and Glatzel, 2024 |
| | Soil climate | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.9380364 098d14978b876a87517652d62 | (Maier and Glatzel, 2024f |
| | Eddy | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.4f783e3 | (Maier and Glatzel, 2024d |
| | Covariance | ff2884abca5c59960db0b7955 | |
| Lako Novojedi | Meteorology | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.f7176c9 ee982464f947d2fe9fb8f389d | (Maier and Glatzel, 2024) |
| Lake Neusiedl | Soil climate | https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.4e6474c d55f9487d97e3d31e83baa530 | (Maier and Glatzel, 2024) |

452 453 7.2 Data visualization, workflow integration 454 The software stack used to store, import and quality control the provided data is built on PostgreSQL 455 database with a Post-GIS extension. The database structure is derived from the Time Series 456 Management (TSM) system developed by the Research Center Jülich (Wohner, C., Dirnböck, T., 457 Peterseil, J., Pröll, G., Geiger, S., 2021) and originally deployed during the LTER CWN project but was 458 repurposed to better fit the needs of the data management and working group. Now, for the import 459 and quality control of data, a number of Python scripts deployed in a Jupyter environment are used. 460 This is also includes scripts to visualise the data on the fly in Jupyter. 461 462 8. Code availability 463 A Jupyter notebook to access, merge, and visualize the data from all sites is available at 464 https://gist.github.com/10/9bbe44a03f12801c6c742202b005db57. 465 466 9. Author contribution 467 DT, BM, DPM, DI, EM, GK, GG, MA, IJ, KB, KJ, MA, PG, VS, ZBS, ZA, and GS designed the 468 measurements and carried them out. WC, PJ designed and constructed the database. KK, VS, and PG 469 customized and filled the database. OI developed the Jupyter notebook. DT prepared the manuscript with contributions from all co-authors. 470 471 472 10. Competing interests 473 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. 474 475 11. Acknowledgements 476 We want to thank Manfred Bogner, Thomas Lehner, Christian Holtermann, Thomas Kager, and Josef 477 Gasch for technical implementation and assistance. 478 479 12. Funding 480 The infrastructure and its implementation was funded by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency 481 (FFG, project LTER-CWN: Long-Term Ecosystem Research Infrastructure for Carbon, Water and 482 Nitrogen, grant no. 858024). The Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) supported all authors for data 483 compilation and writing of the manuscript through its eLTER 2022 call (Earth System Sciences (ESS)). 484 T.D., J.K., K.K., J.P., C.W. and E.D-P. received additional funding from the EU Horizon 2020 project 485 eLTER PLUS (grant no. 871128), and E.D-P. also from the project EXAFOR (Austrian Climate Research 486 Programme 12th Call, grant no. KR19AC0K17557).

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https://doi.org/10.23728/b2share.b83caca (Maier and Glatzel, 2024a)

Eddy

Covariance

488 13. References

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