climada module elevation models[[1]](#footnote-1) 24 Dec 2015

<https://github.com/davidnbresch/climada_module_elevation_models>

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This module implements a global digital elevation model (DEM), based on ETOPO, a global bathymetry (and topography) dataset[[2]](#footnote-2) or based on SRTM, a global digital elevation data[[3]](#footnote-3). It’s a separate module, since topographic (and bathymetry) information can be used in various contexts – and since the dataset is quite large (ETOPO1 is 933 MB, ETOPO2 still 233 MB).

There are two relevant codes, **etopo\_get** and **climada\_srtm\_get**.

For ETOPO, there are two datasets, ETOPO1 in high-res and ETOPO2 in mid-res. See <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/global.html> and the readme files in .../dem/data. Since ETOPO1 is globally consistent, its use is highly recommended (use ETOPO2 only if e.g. running into memory issues)

If there is no ETOPO data file, means no file .../dem/data/ETOPO1.nc, proceed as follows:

1. Download the file <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/relief/ETOPO1/data/ice_surface/grid_registered/netcdf/ETOPO1_Ice_g_gmt4.grd.gz>
2. Move it to .../dem/data/
3. Unzip it (it might do so automatically, e.g. on a Mac)
4. Rename it to ETOPO1.nc
5. Test it using **etopo\_get** without any argument

For SRTM, there are different tiles across the globe. See <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/SELECTION/inputCoord.asp>.

1. Type **climada\_srtm\_get('El Salvador')** or any other country name into the command line.
2. The command line will tell you what tiles you need to download from <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/SELECTION/inputCoord.asp>
3. Move it to .../dem/data/
4. Unzip it (it might do so automatically, e.g. on a Mac)
5. Do not rename the file
6. Test it using **climada\_srtm\_get('El Salvador')** or any other country name

1. Named climada\_module\_etopo until 20151224 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. It uses ETOPO dataset, see <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/global.html> and the readme files in .../dem/data/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. SRTM dataset consists of global digital elevation data on a 90 m resolution, it stands for Shuttle Radar Topographic Mission and is provided by NASA, see <http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/Index.asp> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)