



## Towards an International Nitrogen Management System

Update and newsletter

December 2015

Dear Colleague

This is the second newsletter regarding the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase of the GEF funded project *“Targeted Research for improving understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System”*.

Our first Full Partner Meeting (Lisbon) was held in late Spring and the side project INMS Pump Priming project (INMSpp, focused on integrated assessment modelling), held its first workshop in Edinburgh the following week. Subsequently we circulated the first details of the INMS Project Activities and started gathering information from you. Over 70 partners have now responded with their interests in specific activities and supplied letters of commitment. Our co-financing total has exceeded that offered at PIF stage, and is now around 50 million USD. We extend our thanks to you for your help with the paperwork and co-financing total.

In parallel with these efforts, further development of the plans for the six demonstration activities have taken place, thanks to the hard work of our regional teams.

Our original target to submit the full paperwork by the end of the summer was an ambitious one! Collating and utilising the information from 70+ partners in the proposal documents has been an essential but time consuming process. This information is now being translated into the necessary proposal documents which will be circulated for your comments, before final submission to UNEP and GEF.

Thanks for all you inputs over the year, and we look forward to working with you further in 2016.

Clare Howard, *on behalf of the ‘Towards INMS’ Team*



‘Towards INMS’ is a developing initiative in cooperation with many partners. The following is just a few of the groups involved.

## Towards INMS. Newsletter No. 2, Nov 2015

### *INMS Mission Statement*

As we discussed in our last newsletter, as we move through this process we need to be clear to distinguish between an eventual International Nitrogen Management System and the present GEF Project which we are currently preparing.

During our First Plenary Meeting we made progress in sharing the vision of 'Towards INMS'. It was also useful to clarify the distinction between 'Towards INMS' as a project and an eventual International Nitrogen Management System as a science-policy support process.

Participants concluded that the following Mission Statement best describes the aspirations of the 'Towards INMS' project:

*"To improve the understanding of the global and regional N cycle and investigate practices and policies to maximise sustainable production of food, goods and energy while reducing negative impacts of reactive nitrogen on the environment and human health."*

This summary can help give us a clear steer in our work for the project, counting the co-benefits of a joined-up nitrogen approach.

### *Meeting Reports*

Reports from INMS (and related) meetings can be downloaded from the INMS website [www.inms.international](http://www.inms.international). We include only brief summaries of the meetings below.

#### *INMS Plenary Meeting, Lisbon*

The First INMS Plenary meeting took place in Lisbon, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April with over 100 participants from 37 countries. This meeting was the first real chance to engage with our wide stakeholder base and go into more detail about Towards INMS. The two day meeting was hosted at the Portuguese Ministry of the Environment and was held back-to-back with the tenth meeting of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, allowing further engagement between both communities.

The meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to give their responses to the plans for the project so far and to discuss the wider engagement needed with intergovernmental processes. Time was also given to allow the regional demonstration groups to meet and further develop their plans.

The meeting report can be downloaded at:

[www.inms.international/documents/report-inms-first-plenary-meeting/view](http://www.inms.international/documents/report-inms-first-plenary-meeting/view)

## *INMSpp Meeting, Edinburgh*

The INMS Pump Priming (INMSpp) project is addressing the integrated assessment modelling needs of a future International Nitrogen Management System. The first workshop of the project was held in Edinburgh, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May and considered three questions relevant to the INMS process and integrated assessment modelling:

- **Prioritising Nitrogen Threats and Benefits:** Which issues need to be linked when developing integrated modelling capability?
- **Policy Linkages:** What are the priority measures needed for better nitrogen management that should be included in models?
- **Issue/Compartmental Linkages:** How should different compartments of the nitrogen cycle be linked when formulating nitrogen integrated assessment models?

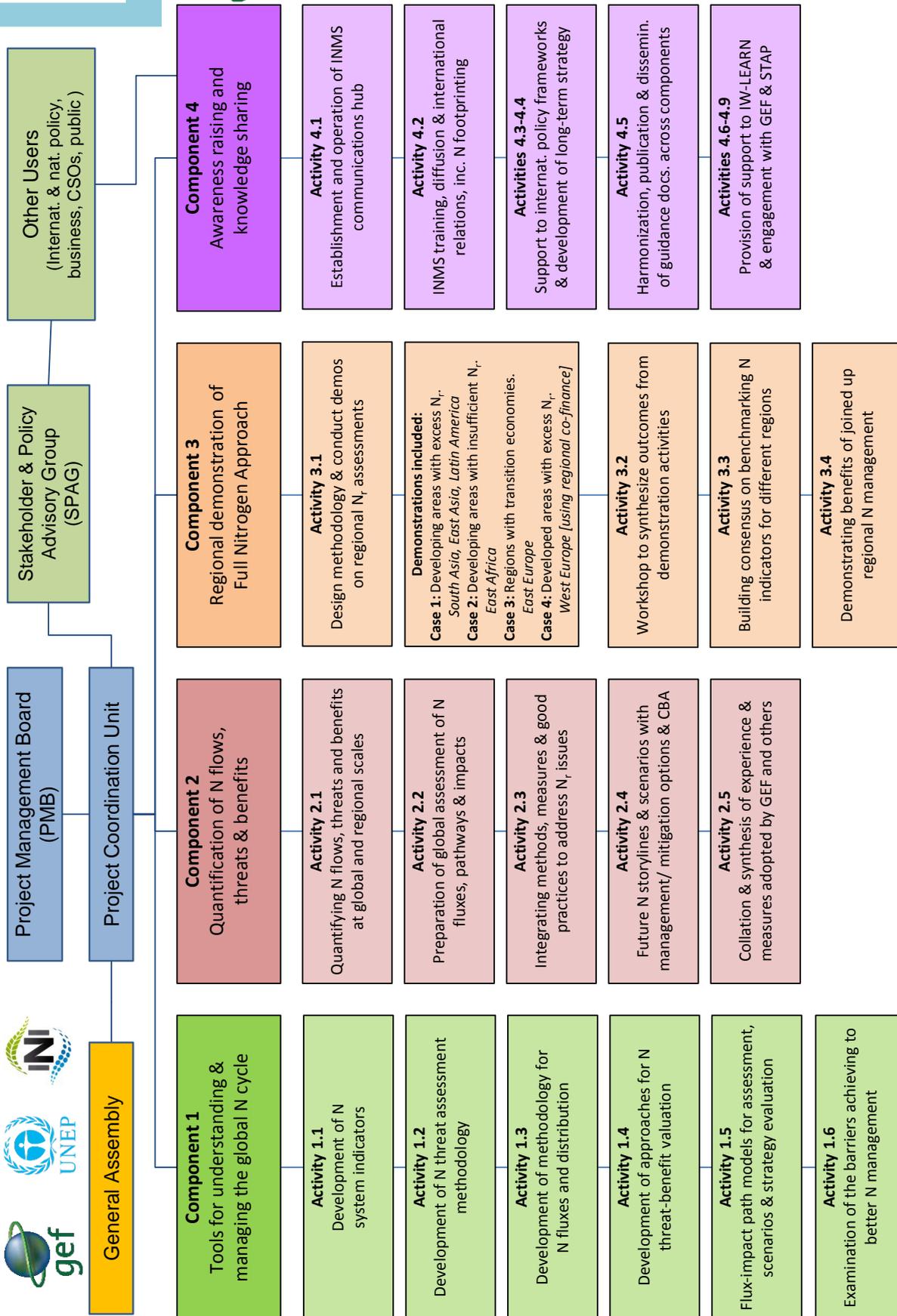
The participants also considered a fourth cross-cutting theme - **Nitrogen and Other Data Needs:** What and where are the data needed for nitrogen integrated assessment modelling at global and regional scales?

The meeting report can be downloaded at: <http://www.inms.international/documents/inmspp-first-workshop-may-2015-report>

## *INMS Project Insights*

### *What will the work of the INMS Project be?*

The diagram below (Figure 1) shows the planned Activities within the four Components of the Towards INMS project. Information on the Tasks in each Activity can be downloaded at the following page: [www.inms.international/guidance-on-inms-proposal-documents/guidance-on-inms-proposal-documents](http://www.inms.international/guidance-on-inms-proposal-documents/guidance-on-inms-proposal-documents). Many partners have already expressed their interest and potential co-financing against the different Activities listed, enabling us to refer to these in the proposal documents. Project partners have expressed interest in either leading, contributing, advising or reviewing, in each of the Activities.

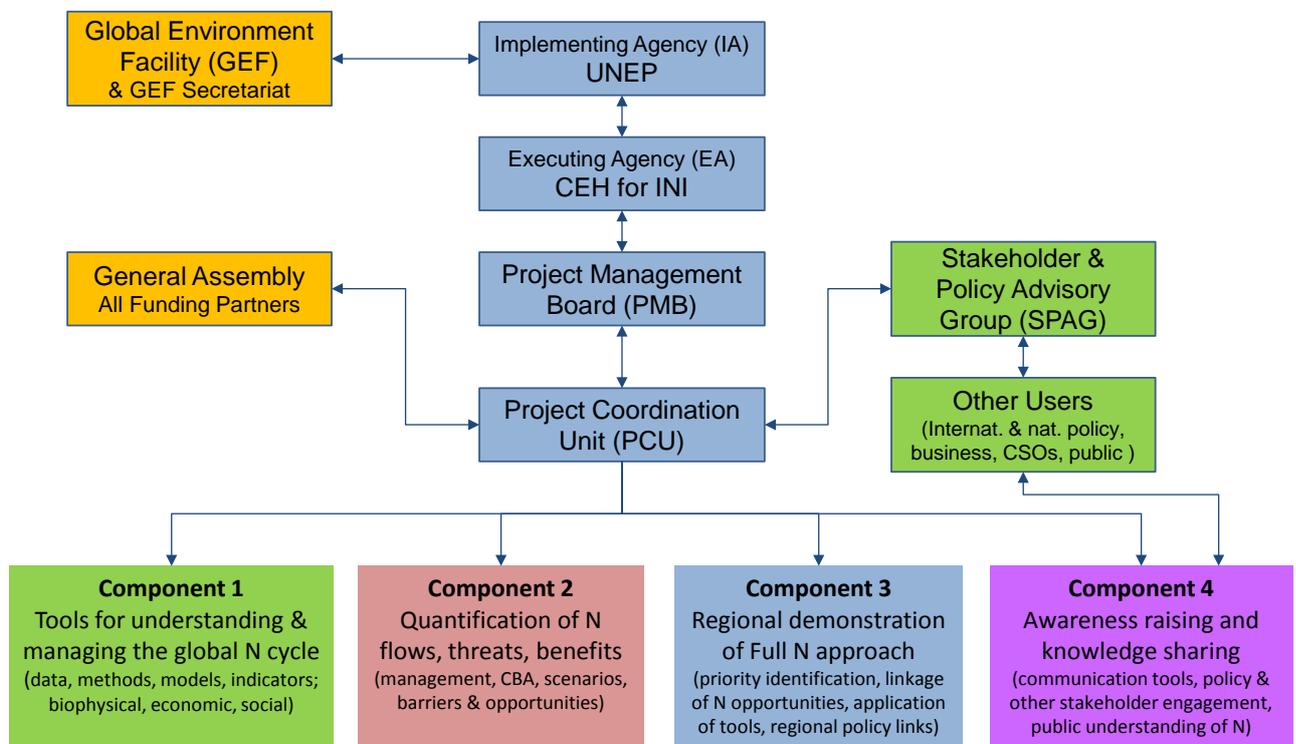


**Figure 1:** Summary of Components and Activities in *Towards INMS*. Boxes for the IA, EA and GEF are not shown in this figure to optimize space.

## What is my role in the INMS Project?

The INMS project is ambitious in that it aims to bring together multiple stakeholders and capitalize on a wealth of research, data and stakeholder knowledge. As such, partners will be engaged in a variety of roles within the project. So what might that mean for you?

As described above, partners can engage with the Activities in a variety of ways, from getting involved in the core work through to advising on and reviewing materials and concepts. The work of the partners will be organized within a number of groups (Figure 2). This shows the communication and governance structure of Towards INMS as agreed at the Towards INMS Plenary Meeting in Lisbon. Each partner will be represented in the General Assembly, which will meet once a year to endorse the outputs and review the Workplan for the next year. Partners may then contribute to other groups, such as the specific Activities (as described in Figure 1) or in advisory roles, sharing expertise in policy, business and civil society perspectives.

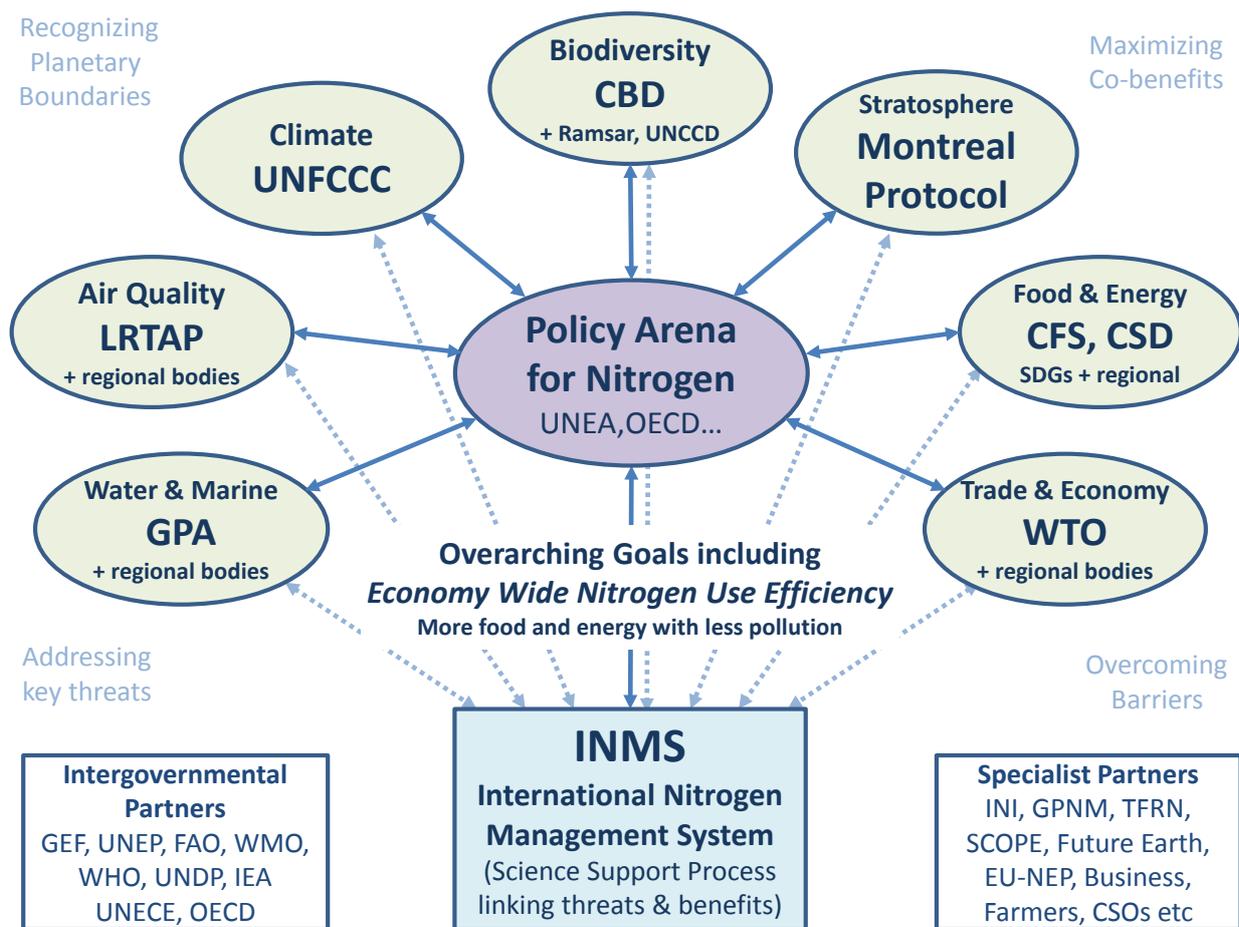


**Figure 2:** Towards INMS communication and governance structure.

Catalytic funding is provided by the Global Environment Facility, while all funding partners are represented in the General Assembly. UNEP is the Implementing Agency (IA), while CEH/NERC on behalf of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) is the Executing Agency (EA). The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) is the team that actually manages the project coordination (based at the EA), who work closely with the Project Management Board (Component Leaders, IA and EA). The project direction is supported by the Stakeholder and Policy Advisory Group (SPAG), which consists of key users, which may also be project partners. Membership of the SPAG will be proposed during project Inception Phase by the EA and IA, for agreement by the General Assembly. Further details of the project components are shown in Figure 1. The lines indicate key communication routes.

### Visualising our wider network of engagement

During the Towards INMS Plenary meeting in Lisbon, participants discussed the INMS approach and its relationships with global and regional intergovernmental processes. The comments from this have been used to further develop the following diagram, which visualizes the INMS engagement network. The diagram shows groups who are already engaged, and those we need to strengthen our links with, to maximize the success of the INMS work.



**Figure 3:** Summary of how INMS may link with international nitrogen policy frameworks (Revised by Mark Sutton following the requests made in Session 7 of the First, Towards INMS plenary meeting). UNCCD is the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; CFS is the Committee on World Food Security; CSD is the Commission on Sustainable Development, under which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being developed; WTO is the world trade organization. IEA is the International Energy Agency, EU-NEP is the EU Nitrogen Expert Panel; CSOs is civil society organizations. { This diagram can also be found in the INMS Lisbon minutes, at: [www.inms.international/documents/report-inms-first-plenary-meeting/view](http://www.inms.international/documents/report-inms-first-plenary-meeting/view) }

## *INMS Timelines and Next Steps*

### *Toward INMS: Updated Preparation timeline 2009 to 2016*

Here we provide some background on the timeline of events that have brought us to the present point and on the next steps through to 2016.

#### *Major Past Milestones*

- Scoping Workshop for a Global Nitrogen Assessment (GNA), Paris (Apr. 2009)
- Scoping Workshop for GNA, during launch of European Nitrogen Assessment, Edinburgh (Apr. 2011).
- Engagement with UNEP and GEF toward an international nitrogen project, GPA 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Review, Manila (Jan. 2012)
- First Stakeholder Workshop toward Global Nitrogen Assessment, London (July 2012).
- Detailed INMS concept developed (Nov 2012)
- Invitation for partners to express interest in INMS (Feb. 2013)
- Submission of the INMS Project Identification Form (PIF) (Summer 2013)
- Negotiation of INMS Scope with UNEP & GEF Secretariat (through 2013)
- Workshop on INMS development, at N2013 INI conference, Kampala (Nov. 2013)
- Final sign-off of the accepted PIF (Feb. 2014)
- Workshop on TFRN engagement within INMS, Madrid (Mar. 2014)
- Start of the 'Toward INMS' PPG Phase (Autumn 2014)
- Plenary workshop on 'Toward INMS' all partners (Lisbon, April 2015)
- Workshop to develop global integrated assessment modeling for nitrogen, co-sponsored between Towards INMS and the 'INMS pump-priming' project funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) (Edinburgh, May 2015)
- INMS Activities and outline budget circulated for comment (June 2015)
- Partners drafted and submitted 'Letters of Commitment' and expressed their interest in specific activities (Jul-Oct 2015)
- Agreed demonstration activities drafting proposal documents and refining concept (Jun-Oct)

#### *Present*

- Collation of partner information (Aug-present)
- Translation of partner submissions into proposal documents and supporting annexes (Aug-present)

#### *Next Steps*

- Circulation of proposal draft to project partners (early 2016)
- Endorsement of the project by the GEF Secretariat and STAP Committees, early 2016
- Launch of the project at the 8th International Waters Conference (IWC8), (Spring 2016)
- Second INMSpp workshop, Spring 2016 (tbc)
- Provisional project start date, 2016 – duration four years.
- Towards INMS Inception meeting in the first 1-2 months of the project.

## ***What should partners be doing now?***

If you have not yet submitted a letter of commitment and an excel spreadsheet detailing your interests by activity (including an indication of co-finance), then please do so as soon as possible or we may not be able to include this in the proposal.

If you have already submitted these documents, many thanks. We will be in touch if we have specific queries. A draft of the proposal will be circulated to all partners in the New Year.

## ***Website***

### ***Documents***

The website is the first place to visit for documents relating to the INMS project. Posted items include the original Project Identification Form (PIF), background documents, minutes and guidance on proposal submission information requirements.

### ***Partner Logos***

We have started to collect and post logos and links to our many partners. Please help us to improve this part of the website, by submitting your logo and link to your website, to the INMS mailbox, [inms@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:inms@ceh.ac.uk), mark the subject as 'Website Logo Images' and include the full name of your organization in your e-mail.

## ***Partner Activities and Events***

In this section we have a chance to highlight activities of some of our partners, including new projects, key papers, communications, meetings and conferences. Please let us know if you have anything you would like us to focus on for future issues of the Towards INMS Newsletter.

### ***GPNM***

The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management has issued its first 'Chairs Update', detailing the recent accomplishments of the Partnership. The document can be downloaded from here: <http://staging.unep.org/gpa/Documents/GPNM/GEFProject/GPNM%20Update.pdf>

### ***NitroPortugal***

NitroPortugal is a European Commission twinning Project linking two faculties of the University of Lisboa in Portugal, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) of the Natural Environment Research Council in UK, and The University of Aarhus in Denmark. The project will strengthen science training and development for Portuguese partners, including improving science and technology skills and sharing demonstrated approaches to nitrogen environmental assessment. In particular, it will focus around applying the WAGES concept adopted in the European Nitrogen Assessment. The project starts on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

## Towards INMS in Canada

As part of its Deputy Minister Speaker Series, Environment Canada recently invited Mark Sutton to speak to staff on the global nitrogen challenge, at its offices in Ottawa.

The presentation and ensuing discussion on 8 October 2015 was attended by about 70 staff mainly from the Ottawa offices, plus about 185 others who tuned into the live webcast. The presentation featured impressive dual screen Powerpoint in French and English, with simultaneous interpretation beamed out to Environment Canada's offices across Canada.

The meeting provided a great opportunity to flag the multiple environmental, food, energy, transport and health opportunities of developing a joined-up approach to nitrogen management. It highlighted the challenges faced and the recent developments in new thinking, such as about "Economy-Wide Nitrogen Use Efficiency", overcoming barriers and the current developments in preparing Towards INMS.

It was clear that a huge amount of preparatory work had already been done. Environment Canada used the opportunity to bring together experts from different nitrogen source sectors (transport, energy, agriculture) and impact domains (water, air, climate, biodiversity, soils), and also made the links by including invited participants, such as from Agriculture Canada.

The meeting was capably organized by Environment Canada's Céó Gaudet, who commented: "We appreciated the opportunity to have Mark Sutton take us through the architecture of the nitrogen cycle – there is clearly much food for thought here!"

It looks like we can look forward to exciting developments as Canada gets to grips with the nitrogen challenge.

## *Future Meetings*

### *Spring 2016*

#### **INMSpp Second Workshop: Nitrogen and Integrated Assessment Modelling – Terrestrial and Marine Integration**

*Scope:* A second workshop for the INMSpp project is currently being planned for Spring 2016, with a possible focus on linking the terrestrial and marine modelling communities.

*Attendance profile:* Open to all members of the INMS network

*Opportunities:* Engage with other scientists on the interactions between nitrogen, integrated assessment modelling, and the INMS concept, with a special focus on linking terrestrial and marine modelling.

#### **United Nations Environment Assembly 2nd (23-27<sup>th</sup> May)**

*Scope:* The 2nd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly: Delivering on the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030, will be held in Nairobi, Kenya <https://www.myunepa.org>

*Attendance profile:* National ministerial representatives, Business, Civil Society, science-policy interface

*Opportunities:* Highlight the relevance of the nitrogen issue and INMS to your national representatives before this meeting, so that they are briefed ahead of UNEA

#### **INMS Inception Meeting (date tbc)**

*Scope:* At the start of the INMS project, we will hold an 'Inception' meeting, to which all partners are invited. This meeting will kick-start the project, allowing the development of more detailed workplans, once the project has been endorsed by the GEF Secretariat. The date will be set when we have further information on the project start date.

*Attendance profile:* Open to all members of the INMS network

*Opportunities:* Engage with Towards INMS partners on the workplan for the project

## Summer 2016

### **Joint TFRN-11 & workshop on ‘Joined up approaches to N management’ (May 2016, with support from the EC)**

*Scope:* The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen represents a regional science-policy support process, under the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, (CLRTAP), of the UN- Economic Commission for Europe (which includes North America). TFRN-11 will discuss the achievements of the past year (through the work of its Expert Panels) to be reported to the UNECE and update its workplan for the coming year. TFRN often organizes its meetings jointly with other groups and projects which share common goals. In this case, it is anticipated that TFRN-11 will be held back-to-back with an EC funded workshop on ‘Joined up approaches to N management, for air, water and climate co-benefits.’

*Attendance profile:* Open to all members of the INMS network

*Opportunities:* Engage with members of the air pollution science community and expert panels on mitigating agricultural nitrogen, nitrogen and food issues, nitrogen budgets and nitrogen in EECCA countries. Join the discussion on how best to manage nitrogen in an integrated way to maximize the co-benefits.

### **Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, Bautumi, Georgia (June)**

*Scope:* The “Environment for Europe” process and its Ministerial Conferences provide a high-level platform for stakeholders to discuss, decide and join efforts in addressing environmental priorities across the 56 countries of the UNECE region, and is a regional pillar of sustainable development.

*Attendance profile:* National representatives in the UNECE area (Europe, plus North America and parts of Central Asia)

*Opportunities:* Highlight the relevance of the nitrogen issue and INMS to your national representatives before this meeting, so that they are briefed ahead of ‘Environment for Europe’

## Winter 2016

### **7th International Nitrogen Conference (INI 2016): ‘Solutions to improve Nitrogen Use Efficiency for the World’**

*Scope:* The next INI Conference will be held 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at Melbourne Cricket Ground, Victoria, Australia. Further information can be found at: [www.ini2016.com](http://www.ini2016.com) .

*Attendance profile:* Open to all members of the INMS network

*Opportunities:* Showcase your nitrogen science and join the debate on ‘Solutions to improve Nitrogen Use Efficiency for the World’.

## *Contributions for Next Issues*

We welcome short contributions, news updates etc for future issues. Just email your ideas to [inms@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:inms@ceh.ac.uk)

## *Logo Competition*

A competition has been set up to develop a logo for the 'Towards INMS' project, more information can be found on the INMS website at: [www.inms.international/inms-logo-competition](http://www.inms.international/inms-logo-competition)

Please send us your entries before **3 February 2016**.

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