



International Nitrogen Management System

Project Newsletter, August 2020

First e-briefing for the UN Environment Nitrogen Working Group

On 8th & 9th June 2020, the UNEP-CEH/GEF 'Towards INMS' Project (INMS) hosted the 'First e-briefing for the Nitrogen Working Group of the United Nations Environment Programme'.

The e-briefing was the first of its kind, building on the progress made during the historic signing of the [Colombo Declaration](#) in October 2019 as part of the Launch of the Global Campaign on Sustainable Nitrogen Management in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The e-briefing also follows the adoption of the [Resolution on Sustainable Nitrogen Management](#) (UNEP/ EA.4/ Res.14), during the Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) in March 2019. The e-briefing was the first time that National Focal Points had met together to agree and discuss the next steps, including the establishment of a Terms of Reference Task Team for the Nitrogen Working Group.

Session 1 of the meeting focused on a briefing from INMS on the International Nitrogen Assessment (INA), a major output for the INMS Project scheduled for publication in 2022.

Session 2, focused on what is needed from the Inter-convention Nitrogen Co-ordination Mechanism (INCOM), with input from UN Conventions and Programmes. This presented an opportunity for Member States to provide interventions, with several countries contributing comments, including: India, Sri Lanka, Romania, and Germany.



Nitrogen is everywhere, yet invisible, across the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What is the UNEP Nitrogen Working Group?

UN Member States:

- Working to follow up UNEA Resolution 4/14 (March 2019)
- Identify National Focal Points (NFPs) to the Working Group (40 countries so far; 24 Member States registered today)
- Working with **Intergovernmental Conventions and Programmes** to establish the **Interconvention Nitrogen Coordination Mechanism (INCOM)**

Prof. Mark Sutton outlines the purpose of the UNEP Nitrogen Working Group during the first e-briefing.

With over 160 delegates representing more than 50 countries in attendance, the e-briefing was a very successful step in the implementation of the Resolution on Sustainable Nitrogen Management.

Further information including: the agenda, briefing documents, presentations, and recordings of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Thank you to all who participated! We look forward to meeting with you at the next e-briefing of the Nitrogen Working Group, provisionally planned for the Autumn of 2020.

An Update from INMS on the COVID-19 Crisis

We hope that all of our colleagues are keeping safe and well during this very difficult and uncertain time.

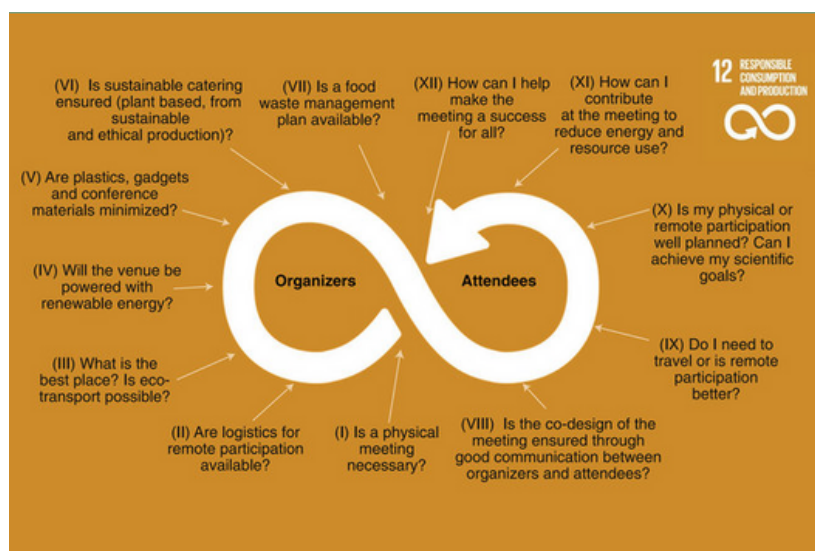
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed working circumstances for many people, which now means that members of the INMS Project Co-ordination Unit are also working from home. We understand that colleagues may be facing increased childcare or carer responsibilities, limited internet connectivity, and a range of other challenges due to fluctuating restrictions and uncertainties. We hope to make all of our meetings as accessible as possible as we move them to a virtual setting. If you have any suggestions or concerns on accessibility please email us at inms@ceh.ac.uk

A Statement from INMS on Black Lives Matter

We stand with all of our colleagues, friends, loved ones, community members, and partners in full support of anti-racism and in the unequivocal belief that Black Lives Matter. As a project we are committed to doing better and are actively looking at ways that we can improve. We are here to listen and act for change. If you have suggestions on how we can improve, please email us at inms@ceh.ac.uk

INMS also endorses the statements of [UKCEH](#) and [UKRI](#) on Black Lives Matter.

The Cercedilla Manifesto



Our colleagues, Adrian Leip (European Commission) and Alberto Sanz Cobeña (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid), have shared with us a recent publication in the journal, *Nature Food*, where colleagues from the Expert Panel on Nitrogen and Food (as part of the UNECE Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen) have proposed 12 points that could guide the organisation of more sustainable scientific meetings, with a strong focus on reducing nitrogen losses. Together, these 12 points form the 'Cercedilla Manifesto'. To access the publication in *Nature Food* click [here](#).

Cercedilla Manifesto: Research meetings must be more sustainable

To sign the Cercedilla Manifesto petition click [here](#). Please share!

Fifth Plenary Meeting of 'Towards INMS' (INMS- 5)

From 7-10 July, the INMS Project successfully held its virtual Fifth Plenary Meeting of the 'Towards INMS' Project (INMS-5).

With over 100 participants joining the meetings daily from around the globe, INMS-5 provided an update to the INMS community on progress in INMS by Component, with each day focusing on a different Component and associated Activities. Updates were also provided on the International Nitrogen Assessment and the UNEP Nitrogen Working Group.

What will INMS deliver?

A platform for better cooperation across science and policy helping to overcome the barriers.

Guidance on joining up mitigation and adaptation options and strategies, linked to circular and green economy thinking.

A global assessment of the threats and benefits of human alteration of the nitrogen cycle and the opportunities for improvement.

A forward look of what may happen if the problem is ignored.

Other Products Guidance Documents, Special Reports, Databases, Event engagement & mobilization etc.

INMS is delivering a range of important products and outputs, but it is also a process that aims to connect science and policy. We believe that a 'joined-up' approach across the nitrogen cycle is the only way forward in solving many of the challenges facing us today.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

Presentations and outputs of the meeting will be available very soon at www.inms.international

INI-8

8th Global Nitrogen Conference Virtual Event & Poster Session



On 4th May around 300 scientists participated in the curtain-raiser for the 8th Global Nitrogen Conference, originally scheduled to be held in Berlin in late April. The two keynote speakers, Prof. Xin Zhang (University of Maryland, USA) and Prof. Mark Sutton (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK) gave an introduction to the scientific and political status quo of nitrogen issues around the globe. Six representatives of the continents brought in their perspectives and different regional challenges during a round table discussion.

If you would like to review the meeting, or parts of it, the digital archive can be accessed [here](#).

The **Poster Session** is still taking place and authors can be contacted via the [digital poster wall](#). Topics include, improvements of critical load calculations, the impacts of nitrogen deposition in times of drought, public involvement and communication strategies and many more.

The in-person meeting of INI-8 has now been scheduled for 30th May-4th June 2021 in Berlin. More details will be provided in September.

Calls for Papers and Abstracts

Current World Environment International

[Special Issue: Reactive Nitrogen](#)

Additional Information: This Special Issue is led by our colleague and INI South Asia Deputy Director Prof. Umesh Kulshreshtha

Deadline: August 31 2020

Frontiers in Plant Science (Plant Physiology)

[Special Issue: Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Sustainable Nitrogen Management in Crop Plants](#)

Additional Information: This article collection is recognized by the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) as a resource to highlight the importance of the Nitrogen Use Efficiency in crops

Deadline: October 15 2020

Sustainability

[Special Issue: Nitrogen: Too Much of a Vital Resource](#)

Additional Information: Guest Editors for this Special Issue include our colleagues Prof. Dr. Jan Willem Erisman (Louis Bolk Institute (LBI), Netherlands) & Dr. Enrico Dammers (Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO))

Deadline: December 1 2020

Nitrogen Around the World

Watch Prof. Mark Sutton and Prof. Sandy Tudhope explore the coral reefs at Thoddoo, the Maldives, in August 2019 [here](#).

You can also watch Greg Foot's interview with Mark Sutton and Daze Aghaji on UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate Action, at the Cheltenham Science Festival in June 2020 [here](#).



Prof. Mark Sutton explores the coral reefs at Thoddoo, three years after the 2016 wide-spread coral bleaching event.

Future Newsletters

We would like to hear from you!

Please email inms@ceh.ac.uk with any updates that you would like us to include in future newsletters.



UK Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology

